



# Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

August 2016, Vol 492

## **Victorian Branch ASM:**

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Victorian Branch  
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**Submission Deadline: 4<sup>th</sup> of the Month**

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**Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/250340155042466/>**



# Public Health Night

Join us for an evening of presentations by Doherty Scientists and invited speakers on Antimicrobial Resistance Topics.

**Venue:** Ground Floor Auditorium  
The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity  
Corner Grattan and Elizabeth Streets, Melbourne

**Date:** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2016  
6:15 pm finger food & refreshments, presentations from 7:00pm

**Chair:** Tim Stinear

**Keynote Speaker:**

John Turnidge - National Antimicrobial Surveillance System

**Presentation Topics:**

Update on Carbapenemase-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* (CPE) in Victoria

*Kerrie Stevens and Courtney Lane*

HIV Drug Resistance Update in Victoria-a Lab Perspective:

*Doris Chibo*

The Victorian Vancomycin Resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE) Snapshot Study

*Janet Strachan and Anders Goncalves da Silva*

Antiviral Resistance in Influenza Viruses

*Aeron Hurt*

Trends in Enteric Pathogen Surveillance and Resistance

*Mary Valcanis*

**Cost:** This is a free event for ASM members (student or full members), or \$40 non-ASM member & \$15 student non-ASM member

**For catering purposes, please RSVP for this event by 5pm Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 by registering at: <https://www.trybooking.com/LYBP>**

For further details, please contact **Mary Valcanis** ([valcanis@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:valcanis@unimelb.edu.au)) or **Karena Waller** ([kiwaller@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:kiwaller@unimelb.edu.au)).

The Doherty Institute is a joint venture between the University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital  
Certificates of attendance available upon request

# SAVE THE DATE!

ASM VIC Branch brings to you

## 2016 Trivia Night with a Microbiological Twist!

Challenge your neighbouring Lab, University, Hospital or Company to a night of Trivia - sign up a Table and let the games begin!

Proudly MC'ed by SPASIM (Special Postgraduate Association for Students in Immunology and Microbiology, from the University of Melbourne)

When: **Tuesday 13th September 2016**

Arrive at 6.30pm

Trivia commences at 7.00pm

Where: City of Melbourne Bowls Club

Flagstaff Gardens

Dudley Street

West Melbourne

Google maps: <http://goo.gl/maps/1ZffP>



Details: BYO food / nibbles for your table

All drinks available for purchase from the bar - No BYO drinks

Reservations: Tables of 8 - \$10 per person (ASM Member) or \$15 per person (non-ASM Member)

Reservations for Tables are required and can be made via:

<https://www.trybooking.com/MNSM>

For more details, please contact Jacqueline Heath ([jhea@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jhea@unimelb.edu.au)) or Jaelyne Birrell ([jaelyne.birrell@gmail.com](mailto:jaelyne.birrell@gmail.com)).

**Tables are limited, so get in quick!**

**Everyone welcome! Great Prizes!**

**ASM Victorian Branch and ASM Food  
Microbiology SIG are pleased to present**

# Save the Dates

## 2016 Bi-State Conference, Victoria / Tasmania

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> / Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

**Peppers Seaport Hotel,  
Launceston TAS**



Peppers Seaport Hotel, Launceston TAS  
<http://www.peppers.com.au/seaport/>

### What you can expect:

- A diverse and engaging scientific program of invited speakers at a picturesque location
- Great networking opportunities
- Catering, with an optional dinner opportunity on Friday night

**Poster Presentations:** Would you like to present a poster at Bi-State? If so, contact Dr Ed Fox ([edward.fox@csiro.au](mailto:edward.fox@csiro.au)) for abstract and application instructions. **Abstract submissions close: August 29<sup>th</sup> 2016.**

### Enquires:

Christine Seers ([caseers@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:caseers@unimelb.edu.au)), or Karena Waller ([klwaller@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:klwaller@unimelb.edu.au))

## Going with the Flow

### The Application of Flow Cytometry to Microbe Analysis

Wednesday July 27<sup>th</sup> ASM members were given the opportunity to hear some talks from several people knowledgeable in the field of flow cytometry. The use of flow cytometry for analysis of bacteria has been increasing rapidly in recent years. The audience had student and academic researchers, as well as professionals from diagnostic and environmental areas.

The first speaker was **Alexis Gonzalez**, (Flow Cytometry Platform Manager, The Univ. of Melbourne). Alexis arrived at the University earlier this year, having been at EMBL in Heidelberg Germany for 9 years. Alexis spoke about the principles behind how flow cytometers work. Alexis made mention of the various types of flow cytometers available across the University and how he is available to help out anyone who wishes to use this technique. He can help people identify collaborators and discuss how best to approach your problems.

Following Alexis was **Dr Antonio Castillo**, (Technical Sales Specialist, Thermo Fisher Scientific) who gave an informative presentation regarding the use of various dyes to aid in the identification/analysis of bacterial and other small microbe populations using flow. Antonio has used flow to analyse yeast as part of his doctoral and postdoctoral pursuits. Antonio also explained the principle of Acoustic flow cytometry and showed a short video demonstrating the benefits of this method.

Unfortunately due to ill health **Assoc. Professor Neil O'Brien-Simpson** (Oral Health CRC and Bio21 Inst) was unable to give his presentation: Monitoring bacterial membrane changes in response to antimicrobials using flow cytometry. However the other speakers were able to touch on this topic and answer questions.

The final speaker, **Dr Jason Lenzo**. (Oral Health CRC and Melbourne Dental School) gave an excellent presentation: Flow cytometry as a tool for measuring bacterial aggregation/co-aggregation and opsonisation. Jason showed that as a researcher he has used this technique to analyse dental plaque bacteria, in isolation and as mixed populations. Jason gave tips based on his experience. He also showed how using flow he can complete a screen for antibody binding in less than 3hrs, whereas if he had determined this antibody binding using the traditional ELISA approach it would take two days. He mentioned that he has been able to complete screening of 70 different monoclonal antibody hybridomas in just one day using flow.

In all the presentations gave an informative view into the usefulness of flow cytometry in bacterial analysis.

Contributed by: Christine Seers

# Visiting Speakers Program

**Do you know of an outstanding speaker coming to Australia?**

**If so, consider them for the Visiting Speakers Program (VSP).**

**Further information about the VSP and the speaker  
recommendation form can be found at:**

**[http://www.theasm.org.au/events/visiting-speakers-  
program/](http://www.theasm.org.au/events/visiting-speakers-program/)**

**Alternatively, contact Catherine Satzke  
([catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au](mailto:catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au)), who is the VSP Coordinator  
for the ASM VIC Branch.**



# ASM History SIG – Column

Today the issue of quarantine is still very relevant. Note the recent court case regarding the dogs, Boo and Pistol, belonging to Johnny Depp and Amber Heard.

The New Quarantine Act [post Federation] did not come into force until July 1909, when all of the quarantine stations Australia-wide were taken over by the Commonwealth. However the actual transfer of individual stations did not occur immediately.

**ASM Inc is putting together a together a permanent microbiology display for the Point Nepean Quarantine Station.**

**Do you have any historical microbiological items to donate to the ASM History SIG for this ASM Inc display?** If so, please contact Dr Di Lightfoot ([dlight6@bigpond.com](mailto:dlight6@bigpond.com))

## **ASM memorabilia:**

If any ASM members have significant ASM memorabilia that they would like to donate to the ASM archives or would like to suggest topics suitable for possible symposia at future ASM Annual Scientific Meetings, please send details of the memorabilia or suggested symposia topics to:

History SIG convener  
c/o Australian Society for Microbiology Office  
9/397 Smith Street  
Fitzroy VIC 3068

# **Advertise in the ASM VIC Branch Newsletter!**

Would you like to advertise your event, job vacancy or other news item in our newsletter?

Advertising rates are:

Not-for-profit adverts: free of charge

For-profit adverts: \$50 per advert

If so, please contact Karena Waller  
([klwaller@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:klwaller@unimelb.edu.au))



# PARASITOLOGY

& TROPICAL MEDICINE S.I.G

Organised by

A.S.M. Victorian Branch

In collaboration with Doherty Institute

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The annual meeting of PTM SIG for 2016 will be held at Doherty Institute Auditorium

**Venue:** PDI Auditorium, 792 Elizabeth St, Melbourne 3000 (University of Melbourne)

**Date & Time:** Tues 16 Aug 2016, 6-9 pm

## Program

**Meet and greet over Drinks/Dinner:** 6 – 7.30 pm

(Chandra's curries are back!)

**Talks:** 7.30 to 9 pm

Drinks sponsored by:  
**ThermoFisher**  
SCIENTIFIC  
The world leader in serving science

- Evaluation of protozoa PCR in Netherlands: Dr Bert Mulder
  - Perils of a Peripatetic Pursuit: Dr Andrew Steer (RCH)
  - Getting sick far away from home. A review of amoebic liver abscess: Dr Mark Tang (Austin)
  - Pins and threads – not all the same: Dr Norbert Ryan (VIDRL)
- 

**Register through TryBooking**

<https://www.trybooking.com/LXUT> OR <https://www.trybooking.com/209423>

**Note: Confirmation will be on payment only**





Victorian Infection  
& Immunity Network

Friday 14 October 2016

8:30am – 6:00pm

Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Parkville

# Young Investigator Symposium

The purpose of this symposium is to provide current PhD students, RAs and post-docs a forum for career networking and scientific exchange

Keynote Speakers:

**Professor Vicky Avery**

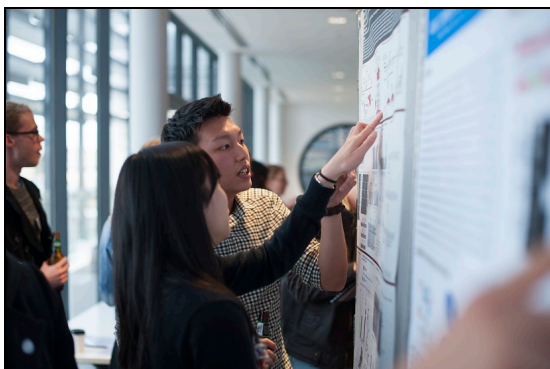
Eskitis Institute for Drug Discovery at Griffith University

**Associate Professor Jason Mackenzie**

Peter Doherty Institute at the University of Melbourne

Please submit abstracts for oral/poster presentations by **Friday 26 August**

Prizes will be awarded for best presentations – two invitations to speak (one student and one post-doc) at the [2017 Lorne Infection and Immunity Conference](#) will be awarded this year



Registration is **free**, open to all and closes **Friday 30 September**  
Food and drinks will be provided on the day

For further details visit:

<http://viin.org.au/event/viin-young-investigator-symposium-2016>

# ASM VIC CALENDAR 2016

When planning meetings, please book dates with Karena Waller  
(Phone: (03) 8344 0045, Email: [klwaller@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:klwaller@unimelb.edu.au))

- **Public Health Night – 10<sup>th</sup> August 2016, Melbourne**
- **Parasitology and Tropical Medicine SIG Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2016, Melbourne**
- **ASM VIC Branch Trivia Night – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016, West Melbourne**
- **VIIN Young Investigator Symposium – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016, Parkville**
- **2016 Bi-State Conference, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Launceston TAS**

**Submission Deadline for September ASM Victorian  
News:  
September 4<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Email submissions to: [klwaller@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:klwaller@unimelb.edu.au) or  
[asmvicbranch@gmail.com](mailto:asmvicbranch@gmail.com)