



# Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

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## **Victorian Branch ASM:**

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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/>**

# Register Now

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:

<http://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!**

**ThermoFisher**  
S C I E N T I F I C



**SPASIM**



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

## 2016 Bi-State Conference, Victoria / Tasmania

**Date:** Fri 25<sup>th</sup> & Sat 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**Venue:** Peppers Seaport Hotel, Launceston TAS

**Topics include:**

- *MALDI-TOF MS: is it all bells and whistles ... Our experiences with the MALDI-TOF MS since 2011*
- *Outbreak of an exotic herpesvirus affecting oysters in Tasmania*
- *Using genomics to track and reduce foodborne disease in Australia*
- *'The Pertussis Perplex – Shifting Schedules and Strategies'*
- *Bacteriophage formulated into a range of semi-solid and solid dosage forms maintain lytic capacity against isolated cutaneous and opportunistic oral bacteria*



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: 5pm Friday 14th October 2016.**

**Conference Fees and Registration via: <https://www.trybooking.com/MRZZ>**

<i>Early Bird (register before 5pm 14<sup>th</sup> Oct)</i>	<i>After 5pm 14<sup>th</sup> October (Registrations close 11<sup>th</sup> Nov)</i>
ASM Member \$180	ASM Member \$200
Non-member \$220	Non-member \$240
<i>Student (no early bird)</i>	
ASM Member \$145	
Non-member \$170	
<i>Single Day Registration</i>	
ASM Member \$145 (full) and \$120 (student)	
Non-Member \$170 (full) and \$145 (student)	

**Accommodation**

A number of discounted rooms are available at Peppers Seaport Hotel from Thur 24th - Sat 26th. To secure your discounted room, please contact the Hotel directly (03 6345 3333), being sure to mention your attendance at this meeting.

**Dinner on Friday night?**

When registering, please indicate your interest in attending a dinner with other attendees on the Friday evening. This dinner will incur an additional cost (ie. it is not included in the registration fee), but will held at a (yet to be determined) restaurant near the conference venue.

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

# Northern News

## Call for Abstracts

### Apply NOW to participate in Northern News 2016

Do you have interesting microbial discoveries to share? If so, then you should apply to present at this year's Northern News!

**Where:** Education Precinct Lecture Theatre, Level 4 Austin Tower  
Austin Hospital

**When:** Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**Presentations:** Each speaker will deliver a 12 minute presentation and receive 3 minutes of questions from the audience

**Prize:** A prize will be awarded for the best presentation by a Medical Scientist (up to Grade 1 Yr 4). The prize will consist of a 1 year membership to the ASM and a certificate

**Applications:** Will include the submission of a 250 word abstract

**Application forms and instructions** can be obtained from Karena Waller ([klwaller@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:klwaller@unimelb.edu.au))

Please see future newsletters for full event and registration information, or contact Helen Stefanatos ([helen.stefanatos@biomerieux.com](mailto:helen.stefanatos@biomerieux.com)) or Seema Kanade ([seema.kanade@dorevitch.com.au](mailto:seema.kanade@dorevitch.com.au))

**Abstracts submission closes: 5pm Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016**



# Public Health Night - Event Report -

On the evening of Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August, approximately 80 people attended Public Health Night at the Doherty Institute. The theme for the presentations was Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in microorganisms. Professor Tim Stinear stepped in at short notice and skilfully chaired the event.

The keynote speaker, Professor **John Turnidge** summarised the content of '**AURA 2016: first Australian report on antimicrobial use and resistance in human health**' which provides a comprehensive picture of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), antimicrobial use and appropriateness of prescribing in Australia to date. This report sets a starting point from where AMR trends will be monitored over time and highlights areas where future work will inform action to prevent the spread of AMR.

**Kerrie Stevens** and **Courtney Lane** presented an update on **Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) in Victoria**. Carbapenemase-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* (CPE) are bacteria that can produce enzymes that degrade carbapenems, antibiotics used to treat infections due to multi-drug resistant (MDR) gram negative bacteria. CPE infections are associated with high rates of mortality and pose serious infection control risks within healthcare facilities. In December 2015, the Victorian Guideline on CPE was released, which require clinical microbiology laboratories to refer all suspected CPE to MDU for confirmatory testing, and characterisation through whole genome sequencing. All confirmed cases also undergo epidemiological follow up. Between 01 Jan and 30 Jun 2016, 40 CPE infections or colonisations were identified in Victoria, of which 21 (53%) were associated with overseas travel, particularly to Asia, including India. Local acquisition of KPC-2 and IMP-4 producing organisms has been observed, with centralised epidemiological and microbiological investigation pivotal in early identification of transmission within healthcare facilities, allowing targeted intervention.

**Dr. Doris Chibo** gave an overview on the mechanisms that drive the development of resistance to current **HIV antiretrovirals** which included laboratory aspects of HIV drug resistance

genotype testing to identify the presence of drug resistance mutations guiding clinicians to make targeted treatment choices.

**Janet Strachan and Dr. Anders Goncalves da Silva** reported on the findings of the **Victorian Vancomycin Resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE) Snapshot Study conducted in November 2015**. The study looked at all vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus faecium* from all specimens from all Victorian laboratories for one month, plus any vancomycin-susceptible *E. faecium* from blood cultures. Whole genome sequencing was performed on the isolates to define resistance determinants and phylogenetic relatedness. Overall there were 323 VREfm: vanA (59); vanB (262) and vanA+B (2). There were 10 vancomycin-susceptible *E. faecium* from bacteraemia. The predominant VREfm strain type was a highly clonal ST796 vanB VREfm (202/323, 63% of all VRE isolates).

**Associate Professor Aeron Hurt** conveyed antiviral resistance in influenza viruses. Currently, circulating influenza viruses are virtually all resistant to the M2 ion channel inhibitors, an old class of influenza antivirals, thereby creating a reliance on the neuraminidase inhibitors (NAIs) for the treatment of influenza virus infections. The frequency of resistance amongst circulating viruses to the most commonly used NAI, oseltamivir (Tamiflu), is currently low (<2%), but local clusters of cases in the last few years involving oseltamivir-resistant viruses both in Australia and Japan have demonstrated the potential for these viruses to spread amongst the community. Understanding why some antiviral-resistant viruses are able to readily transmit and spread is important to help reduce the chances of this occurring in the future.

**Mary Valcanis** covered trends in **AMR in Enteric Pathogens**. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing of enteric organisms was introduced in the 1970s at MDU PHL for epidemiological purposes to monitor antimicrobial resistance (AMR) trends and detect emerging resistances. In Victoria, the level of resistance in *Salmonella* (2000-2013) and *Shigella* (2000-2016) isolates was moderate and high, respectively. In *Salmonella*, MDR ( $\geq 3$  antimicrobials) and resistance to ampicillin and ciprofloxacin are of concern; the latter because may result in treatment failure. Resistance in non-human *Salmonella* isolates was highest in animal sources. Emergence of a third generation cephalosporin ESBL was first noted in a *S. Typhimurium* strain isolated from dairy cattle and humans in 2012 which highlights importance of a One Health approach to the AMR problem. Almost all *Shigella* isolates were resistant to at least one antimicrobial and most were MDR. Resistance in *Shigella* to ciprofloxacin and azithromycin emerged around 2003 and late 2014, respectively. Ongoing testing is vital to identify critical AMR in these organisms and to inform treatment.

Contributed by: Mary Valcanis

# 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/>**

**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))

# **NSW HEALTH PATHOLOGY**

## **CONCORD HOSPITAL MICROBIOLOGY**

### **MYCOLOGY MASTERCLASS**

#### **19<sup>TH</sup> – 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**

This workshop will consist of 2 days advanced medical mycology - lectures and practical hands-on laboratory sessions, that will reflect current clinical and laboratory practices for the diagnosis and identification of invasive fungal infections.

Invited speakers: Dr David Ellis, Dr Sarah Kidd and Dr Catriona Halliday

Cost: \$275 (gst incl)

Places are strictly limited.

If you would like a booking form please contact:  
[Bronwyn.Bailey@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Bronwyn.Bailey@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)

For any further information

Evanthia Tambosis ([Evanthia.Tambosis@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Evanthia.Tambosis@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)) or

Charlotte Webster ([Charlotte.Webster@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Charlotte.Webster@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)) or

by phone on 02 97676904

***This event is kindly sponsored by MSD and Olympus***



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**

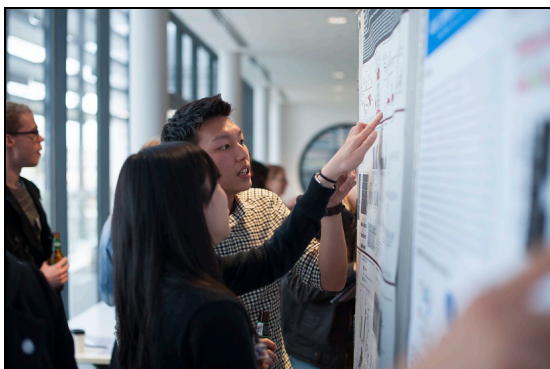
Eskitis Institute for Drug Discovery at Griffith University

**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>



SA/NT BRANCH of ASM  
and  
PARASITOLOGY & TROPICAL MEDICINE SIG  
proudly present

**BACK-TO-BACK**  
**2017 TRI-STATE**  
**SCIENTIFIC MEETING**

&  
**PARASITOLOGY MASTERCLASS**

**Darwin**

**22-25 September 2017**

**— Save the Date —**



The Australian Society  
for **Microbiology**   
bringing Microbiologists together

[www.theasm.org.au](http://www.theasm.org.au)



# What you can expect?

Tri-State meetings have been initiated and supported by ASM branches in SA, WA and NT for over 25 years. The aim is to bring delegates together in an intimate and unique environment and provide good food, social and networking opportunities. You can expect a varied and engaging scientific program presented by some of Australia's top microbiologists.

The Parasitology Masterclass began with its inaugural meeting in Tasmania in 2009, In this, the 6th Parasitology Masterclass, it aims to again provide an excellent blend of wet workshops, classroom teaching, and formal presentations.

# What you need to know?

## Registration

- Places may be strictly limited so we will encourage to book early and to avoid disappointment (when registrations open).
- You can register for one, or both. Registration for both provides great cost savings.
- Register your interest to receive updates and early meeting details.



# 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))

- **ASM VIC Branch Trivia Night – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016, West Melbourne**
- **Mycology Masterclass – 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016, Sydney NSW**
- **VIIN Young Investigator Symposium – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016, Parkville**
- **Northern News – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016, Austin Hospital**
- **2016 Bi-State Conference - 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Launceston TAS**
- **Tri-State Scientific Meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Darwin NT**

**Submission Deadline for October ASM Victorian  
News:  
October 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)