



Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

May 2017, Vol 500

In this Issue:

- **ASM Contact Details**
- **Building your Public Profile – Event Report**
- **Southern News and AGM – Call for Abstracts and Audience**
- **AGM - Call for Committee Nominations**
- **ASM Vic Clinical Serology and Molecular SIG Meeting – Register Now**
- **ASM EduCon – Microbiology Educators' Conference – Register Now**
- **ASM Annual Scientific Meeting & Exhibition – Register Now**
- **Tri-State Scientific Meeting & Parasitology Master Class – Save the Date**
- **ASM History SIG – Column**
- **Visiting Speakers Program (VSP)**
- **ASM Member Awards – Apply Now**
- **Micro News and Views**
- **Calling all Women Superstars of STEM Eager to Smash Gender Stereotypes**
- **PgMelbourne 2017 – Register Now**
- **NSW Health Pathology Parasitology Masterclass – Register Now**
- **19th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Otitis Media – Register Now**
- **ASM VIC Calendar**

Submission Deadline: 4th of the Month

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

Contact Details

Victorian Branch ASM:

The Australian Society for Microbiology
Victorian Branch
c/o: 9/397 Smith Street, Fitzroy VIC 3065
Weblink: <http://victoria.theasm.org.au/>
Email: klwaller@unimelb.edu.au or
asmvicbranch@gmail.com

ASM National Office:

9/397 Smith Street, Fitzroy VIC 3065
Tel: 1300 656 423
Fax: 1300 655 841
Email: admin@theasm.com.au
Weblink: www.theasm.org.au
ABN 24 065 463 274

Victorian Branch Committee:

Chair: Karena Waller
Email: klwaller@unimelb.edu.au
Tel: +61 3 8344 0045

Deputy Chair: Catherine Satzke
Email: catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au

Secretary: Christine Seers
Email: caseers@unimelb.edu.au

Treasurer: Priscilla Johanesen
Email: priscilla.johanesen@monash.edu
Tel: + 61 3 9902 9153

VSP Coordinator: Catherine Satzke
Email: catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au

Newsletter Editors:
Jacqueline Heath
Email: jhea@unimelb.edu.au
Catherine Butler
Email: cbutler@unimelb.edu.au

Student Affairs: Karena Waller
Email: klwaller@unimelb.edu.au
Tel: +61 3 8344 0045

Mary Valcanis
Email: valcanis@unimelb.edu.au

Jaelyne Birrell
Email: jaelyne.birrell@gmail.com

Edward Fox
Email: Edward.Fox@csiro.au

Seema Kanade

Helen Stefanatos

All notices should be emailed to: jhea@unimelb.edu.au or cbutler@unimelb.edu.au



Event Report:

Building your Public Profile

Our highly successful event for postgraduate students and early career researchers 'Building your Public Profile' was held at The Clyde Hotel, on the evening of the 3rd May. Both ECRs and PhD students attended, with a mixture of ASM members and non-members. The overwhelming response from the attendees was that it was an inspiring and insightful event that they would recommend to others.



Our speaker, Dr Mel Thomson gave us a very honest, open and humorous account of her experiences of academia and how her 'hobbies', such as posting on Twitter as @DrMel_T, gave her tools and connections that were valued outside of academia, and helped her enter a new career engaging with industry. Mel stated that using a forum such as Twitter allows you to network globally from the comfort of your own lounge, and doing just that has provided her with amazing opportunities. Other advice included having your own personal brand; for her it is wearing the colour red (and

crazy patterned tights), and to take advantage of the opportunities that are out there. For example, students and ECRs can apply for the ASM Communication Ambassador Program, where they are rostered to be in charge of ASM's online communication channels.

Thank you to Dr Mel Thomson from MTPConnect (MedTech and Pharma Growth Centre) for her wonderful talk, and to The Clyde Hotel for supplying the venue, feeding us and looking after us so well.

Event Report by Catherine Butler.





ThermoFisher
S C I E N T I F I C

Southern News

Call for Abstracts

Apply NOW to participate in Southern News 2017

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

Where: Lecture Theatre 1, Monash Medical Centre, Clayton

When: 6.30pm to 9.00pm on Tuesday 23rd May, 2017

Food/drinks served from 6.30pm

ASM VIC Branch AGM at 7.15pm

Presentations from 7.30pm

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 Seema Kanade (seema_rknz@yahoo.com) & Helen Stefanatos (helen.stefanatos@biomerieux.com)

For further details contact Karena Waller (klwaller@unimelb.edu.au)

Abstract submission closes: 5pm Thursday 18th May 2017



ThermoFisher
S C I E N T I F I C

Southern News

Call for Audience

Come along for an evening of clinical/diagnostic presentations from the Hospitals, preceded by the ASM VIC Branch Annual General Meeting

Confirmed Speakers: Amanda Murdoch (RMH) presenting “A case of a ghost in the brain”

Chairperson: Dr Maryza Graham, Monash Health

Where: Lecture Theatre 1, Monash Medical Centre, Clayton

When: 6.30pm to 9.00pm on Tuesday 23rd May, 2017

Food/drinks served from 6.30pm

ASM VIC Branch AGM at 7.15pm

Presentations from 7.30pm

Cost: Free event for ASM Members (Student or Full Members)

\$40 - Non-ASM Member

\$15 - Student Non-ASM Member

For catering purposes please RSVP for this event by 5pm Thursday 18th May 2017 via: <https://www.trybooking.com/PQSW>

For further details contact:

Seema Kanade (seema_rknz@yahoo.com)

Helen Stefanatos (helen.stefanatos@biomerieux.com) or

Karena Waller (klwaller@unimelb.edu.au) or asmvicbranch@gmail.com

AGM of the ASM VICTORIAN BRANCH COMMITTEE

The Victorian Branch will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 23rd May 2017 at Monash Medical Centre in conjunction with Southern News, and is calling for nominations or re-nominations to the committee. The commitment includes attending a regular meeting once a month and assisting with the organization of Branch activities.

If you are interested in becoming involved, contact Karena Waller (Chair) at klwaller@unimelb.edu.au or asmvicbranch@gmail.com

Karena Waller
Victorian Branch Chair

I wish to nominate for the ASM Victorian Branch Committee

NAME: _____

CONTACT DETAILS: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Proposed by

NAME _____ (MASM or FASM)
SIGNATURE _____

Seconded by

NAME _____ (MASM or FASM)
SIGNATURE _____

Please scan and email to: Karena Waller (ASM VIC Branch) at: klwaller@unimelb.edu.au

Victorian Clinical Serology and Molecular Special Interest Group Meeting

Thursday 8th June 2017
6pm for a 6.30pm start

Light refreshments will be provided

Location TBA

Program TBA

Please RSVP by Monday 5th June to Megan Wieringa

Phone: 95944583

megan.wieringa@monashhealth.org

Hope you can make it!



EduCon

Microbiology Educators' Conference

1st July 2017

(Preceding the ASM Annual Scientific Meeting)

Time: 10.30 am – 5 pm.

Venue: University of Tasmania, Medical Sciences Building 1, Room 206, 17 Liverpool Street, Hobart, Tasmania.



International Guest Presenter: Dr Sue Merkel, Cornell University, USA.
Chair: Undergraduate Education Committee, ASM.
Closing the Loop: Using assessments to improve teaching and learning.



National Guest Presenter: Dr Raina Mason, Southern Cross University, QLD.
Cognitive Load Theory and the Cognitive Assistance Factor Evaluation (CAFÉ) tool.

Registration:

- ASM - Members: \$100
- Non - Members: \$150
- ASM Student Member registration: \$50
- Student Non-members: \$100

Inclusive for registrants are lunch and afternoon tea.

EduCon registrants will be able to attend the opening session the ASM Annual Scientific Meeting and the welcome reception.

Want to present a poster at EduCon? A poster session will be held as part of the program in 2017. If you would like to present your educational research at EduCon, please contact Dr Karena Waller (klwaller@unimelb.edu.au) for abstract and application instructions. Abstract submissions close: May 30th 2017.

To register, please go to: <http://www.trybooking.com/PKRR>

For conference information contact Assoc. Professor Priscilla Johanesen (priscilla.johanesen@monash.edu) or Helen Cain (hmccain@unimelb.edu.au).

Sponsored by:



MONASH
University



UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA

The Australian Society for Microbiology



bringing Microbiologists together



Planetary Health

2-5 July 2017

Hotel Grand Chancellor, HOBART

Microbial impacts on human health and the natural systems that sustain civilisation



Annual Scientific Meeting & Exhibition

Experience the superb Food, breathtaking wilderness and cultural diversity that is Van Diemen's Land



www.theasm.org.au



The Australian Society
for Microbiology 
bringing Microbiologists together

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

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 History SIG – Column

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

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), who is the VSP
Coordinator for the ASM VIC Branch.**

ASM Member Awards Apply Now

The ASM offers a variety of awards to its members. Take full advantage of your membership by applying now for one of the awards listed below with deadlines approaching. For more details and additional awards please refer to the National webpage <http://www.theasm.org.au/awards/>

- ASM Honorary Life Membership Award – Nominations close 30th June
- NZMS Postgraduate Research Travel Award – Application due 31st August
- ASM Distinguished Service Award – Nominations close 30th November

MICRO NEWS and VIEWS

- Zapping bacteria with sanitizers made of paper
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/05/170501150755.html>
- Plague Bacteria Take Refuge in Amoebae
<http://www.sciencenewsline.com/news/2017042917260001.html>
- Bacteria with Midas touch for efficient gold processing
<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/news/news91742.html>
- Novel antibiotic resistance gene in milk
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/04/170426123004.html>
- Frog slime contains a molecule that could help us fight the flu
<https://www.theverge.com/2017/4/18/15339688/frog-mucus-urumi-peptide-flu-vaccine-antibiotic-resistance>

Unprecedented progress against neglected tropical diseases, WHO reports

The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced unprecedented progress against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in the 10 years since a group of global partners agreed to address the problem. NTDs targeted include Dengue, Rabies, Trachoma, Buruli ulcer, Yaws, Leprosy, Chagas disease, Leishmaniases, Taeniasis and neurocysticercosis, Dracunculiasis, Echinococcosis, Foodborne trematodiasis, Lymphatic filariasis, Mycetoma, Onchocerciasis (river blindness), Schistosomiasis. According to the WHO, 70% of countries and territories that report NTDs are low or lower-middle income economies. The report listed providing access to care and medicines (especially chemical prophylaxis) as key achievements. In 2015 alone, the WHO estimated that 1 billion people were treated for at least one NTD. For further information and to read the report follow this link: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2017/ntd-report/en/>

MICRO NEWS and VIEWS

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

for accelerating and sustaining progress on Neglected Tropical Diseases



**Neglected
Tropical
Diseases**

affect more than 1 billion
of the world's poorest
people in 149 countries



**2.4 billion
people
lack access
to improved sanitation
facilities**



**663 million
people
lack access
to improved water
sources**



**946 million
people
practice
open defecation**

WASH is critical in the fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases

NTDs and poor water, sanitation and hygiene conditions
contribute to a
vicious cycle of disease and poverty



**WASH play a critical role in preventing
and caring for NTDs**

Prevention

- ✓ sanitation to reduce contamination of the environment
- ✓ safe water supply for consumption, enabling hygiene practices, and reducing contact with surface water
- ✓ water resource and waste management for vector control and contact prevention
- ✓ hygiene practices

Treatment and care

- ✓ water for treatment and care at home and in healthcare facilities
- ✓ accessible WASH services for individuals with physical impairments
- ✓ prevention of stigma-based exclusion from WASH services

A Global Strategy 2015 - 2020



**Improve
awareness**
of the co-benefits
of joint WASH
and NTDs action by sharing
experience and evidence
from improved delivery.



**Use WASH
and NTDs
monitoring**
to highlight
inequalities, target
investment, and track
progress.



**Strengthen
evidence**
on how to
deliver effective
WASH interventions for NTD
control and elimination and
embed findings in guidance
and practice.



**Plan, deliver
and evaluate**
WASH and NTDs
programmes
with mutual inputs from
WASH, health and NTDs
stakeholders at all levels.

Calling all Women Superstars of STEM Eager to Smash Gender Stereotypes



Science & Technology Australia is engineering an exciting future for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Superstars of STEM will smash gender assumptions about scientists and increase the public visibility of women in STEM. The program will empower 30 of the nations most inspiring scientists and technologists to become highly visible role models for girls and young women.

Participants will be part of a 12-month professional development program that will provide training and opportunities to use their new skills.

Applications are now open, and will close at 5pm on 23 May 2017. Be sure to apply!

For more information visit <http://bit.ly/StarsofSTEM> or contact brodie.steel@sta.org.au.

Media enquiries:

Dion Pretorius
Communications and
Engagement Manager
02 6257 2891
dion.pretorius@sta.org.au

Program/applicant enquires:

Brodie Steel
Project Officer
Superstars of STEM
02 6257 2891
brodie.steel@sta.org.au



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)



The 3rd International Conference on Porphyromonas gingivalis and Related Species in Oral and Systemic Diseases.

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

A unique opportunity to hear the world's leading periodontal researchers present the latest research on periodontal microbiology and inflammation, and the translation of research into clinical applications.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

- Professor George Hajishengallis – Penn Dental Medicine, USA
- Professor Mike Curtis – Barts and London, Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry, UK
- Professor Koji Nakayama – Nagasaki University, Japan
- Professor Eric Reynolds – University of Melbourne, Australia
- Professor Philip Marsh – University of Leeds, UK
- Professor Richard Darveau – University of Washington, USA
- A/Professor Patricia Diaz – UConn, USA
- Professor Richard Lamont – University of Louisville, USA
- Professor Mark Bartold – University of Adelaide, Australia
- Professor Jan Potempa – University of Louisville, USA

REGISTRATION

- Full: \$1,100
- Student: \$660
- Day rate: \$550

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION BY 17 MARCH 2017

Information and registration: <https://pgmelbourne2017.com/>





Health
Pathology



NSW Health Pathology

Concord Hospital Microbiology

PARASITOLOGY MASTERCLASS

6TH – 7TH JULY 2017

The program will consist of lectures outlining the identification and characteristics of medically significant parasites supplemented with clinical and veterinary case studies. Each participant will be provided with a microscope for the examination of both Helminth and Protozoan parasites.

Cost: \$500 (gst incl)

Places are strictly limited.

If you would like a booking form please contact:

Janet.Osborn@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

For any further information

Graham Robertson (Graham.Roberston@sswahs.nsw.gov.au) or

Thuy Phan (Thuy.Phan2@sswahs.nsw.gov.au) or

by phone on 02 97676904



19TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON RECENT ADVANCES IN OTITIS MEDIA

Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre,
Gold Coast, Australia **4-8 June 2017**



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
OTITIS MEDIA

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

On behalf of the International Society for Otitis Media we are very privileged to announce the 19th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Otitis Media (RAOM 2017) to be held on the Gold Coast, Australia from 4 – 8 June 2017

For further information on the detailed program, please visit www.otitismedia2017.com.au

Hosted by



Supported by





BD GasPak™ EZ Gas Generating Systems

Convenience in a complete integrated system

Pouch Systems

BD GasPak™ EZ Pouch Systems are single use systems complete with everything you need to generate a rapid pouch based anaerobic, microaerophilic or CO₂ enriched environment.

Includes:

- Complete set of pouch, sachets and anaerobic indicators
- Large pouch capacity:
 - i) 1 - 4 Petri dish capacity for Anaerobe Pouch System
 - ii) 2 Petri dish capacity for CO₂ and Campy Pouch Systems
- One step resealable pouch. No sealing bars needed!
- Multi-layered plastic pouch material preserves environmental integrity and performance

Container Systems

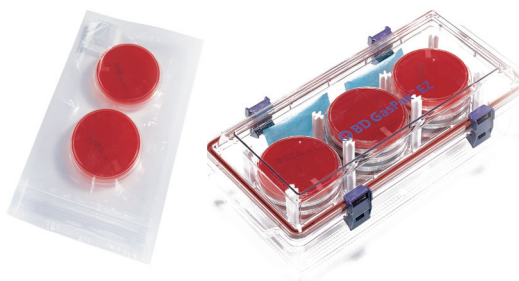
BD GasPak™ EZ Container Systems offer waterless, catalyst-free convenience for producing rapid anaerobic, microaerophilic or CO₂ enriched environments.

The containers are:

- Non-breakable and chemically resistant for ensured safety
- Easy-close latch assures a secure airtight seal
- Removable Petri dish racks for easy workflow

Included anaerobe sachets have an indicator attached for efficiency and convenience.

Contact your local BD representative for more information.



bd.com

Becton Dickinson Pty Ltd, 4 Research Park Drive, North Ryde NSW 2113, Australia, Toll Free: 1800 656 100

Becton Dickinson Limited, 14b George Bourke Drive, Mt Wellington Auckland 1060, New Zealand, Toll Free: 0800 572 468





BD GasPak™ EZ Gas Generating Systems available in Australia & New Zealand

Description	Catalogue No.
GasPak™ EZ Small Incubation Container 10 plates	260002
GasPak™ EZ Standard Incubation Container 15 plates	260671
GasPak™ EZ Large Incubation Container 30 Plates	260672
GasPak™ EZ Anaerobe Container System Sachets with Indicator. 20 Sachets Per Box	260001
GasPak™ EZ Anaerobe Container System Sachets 20 Sachets Per Box	260678
GasPak™ EZ CO2 Container System Sachets 20 Sachets Per Box	260679
GasPak™ EZ Campy Container System Sachets 20 Sachets Per Box	260680
GasPak™ EZ Anaerobe Pouch System 20 Sachets, Resealable Pouches w/indicator	260683
GasPak™ EZ CO2 Pouch System 20 Sachets and Resealable Pouches	260684
GasPak™ EZ Campy Pouch System 20 Sachets and Resealable Pouches	260685
GasPak™ EZ Small Incubation Container Rack Holds 8 - 10 Petri Dishes	260003
GasPak™ EZ Standard Incubation Container Rack Holds 15 - 18 Petri Dishes	260673
GasPak™ EZ Large Incubation Container Rack Holds 30 - 33 Petri Dishes	260674
BBL™ GasPak™ Dry Anaerobic Indicator Strips Package of 100	271051

Australia

NSW & ACT

Nicolý Polizogopoulos

m: +61 407 900 553

e: nicoly.polizogopoulos@bd.com

VIC & TAS

Geremie Ganino

m: +61 409 719 170

e: geremie.ganino@bd.com

QLD & NT

Dijana Davidovic

m: +61 409 323 128

e: dijana.davidovic@bd.com

SA & WA

Michelle Keir

m: +61 429 910 061

e: michelle.keir@bd.com

New Zealand

North Island

Laura Macdonald

m: +64 21 242 2595

e: laura.macdonald@bd.com

South Island

Suzanne Montocchio

m: +64 275 365 116

e: suzanne.montocchio@bd.com

bd.com

Becton Dickinson Pty Ltd, 4 Research Park Drive, North Ryde
NSW 2113, Australia, Toll Free: 1800 656 100

Becton Dickinson Limited, 14b George Bourke Drive, Mt Wellington
Auckland 1060, New Zealand, Toll Free: 0800 572 468

© 2017 BD. BD, the BD Logo and all other trademarks are property of Becton, Dickinson and Company. BD-2517



ASM VIC CALENDAR 2017

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

- Southern News and AGM – 23rd May 2017
- PgMelbourne 2017 Conference – 14th to 16th May 2017
- ASM Vic Serology SIG Meeting- 8th June 2017
- 19th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Otitis Media – 4th to 8th June 2017, Gold Coast QLD
- ASM EduCon Undergraduate Educators' Conference – 1st July 2017, Hobart TAS
- ASM Annual Scientific Meeting and Exhibition – 2nd to 5th July 2017, Hobart TAS
- NSW Health Pathology Parasitology Masterclass – 6th to 7th July 2017, Sydney NSW
- Tri-State Scientific Meeting & Parasitology Master Class – 22nd to 25th September 2017, Darwin NT

**Submission Deadline for May ASM Victorian News:
June 4th 2017**

Email submissions to: jhea@unimelb.edu.au or
cbutler@unimelb.edu.au