



Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

June 2017, Vol 501

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Submission Deadline: 4th of the Month

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

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A warm welcome to our new committee members Neil O'Brien-Simpson and Sarah Baines

Neil O'Brien-Simpson
Email: neil.obs@unimelb.edu.au

Sarah Baines
Email: bainess@unimelb.edu.au

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



ThermoFisher
S C I E N T I F I C

Southern News

Event Report

This year saw another successful Southern News, held at Monash Medical Centre on Tuesday 23rd May, with over 45 people in attendance from all microbiological fields and levels of experience. The event gave attendees the opportunity to listen to excellent talks, enjoy good food (catered by Zouki) and network with their peers and colleagues. The event was generously sponsored again this year by ThermoFisher and was made possible by the contributions of the outstanding speakers and Dr Maryza Graham from Monash Health who kindly chaired the meeting. A thank you is also extended to Helen Stefanatos and Seema Kanade for organising the speakers, venue and catering.

The night began with the ASM VIC Branch AGM and a warm welcome from the Chair of the ASM VIC Branch, Karena Waller. What followed were three fantastic talks covering a variety of clinical microbial disease cases including those caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Yersinia enterocolitica* and *Clostridium spiroforme* as well as a talk about the research and development of novel antimicrobial agents extremely relevant in the current era of antimicrobial resistance.

Congratulations are in order for Zhidong (Patrick) Wang, who was awarded the ASM VIC Branch prize (one year's ASM membership and a certificate) for the best presentation by a Medical Scientist up to Grade 1 Year 4.

A summary of the presented topics is found below in order of presentation:

Amanda Murdoch (RMH) - A case of a ghost in the brain

Abstract: I am planning to present a case that we had out of hours over Christmas. The patient was an Australian born HIV +ve patient that presented with weight loss, a productive cough and a brain abscess. The diagnosis clinically was either Toxoplasmosis or TB. Gram stain of the pus from the brain tissue and skull bone showed ghost like structures resembling bacilli. ZN stain was positive.

I would like to present the case with relevant clinical information and expand on the connection between HIV and TB positivity. I would also like to present some general information about TB for all of those that do not work in the TB laboratory.

Zhidong (Patrick) Wang (Monash Medical Centre) - The bullseye

Abstract: A 59 year old male presented to Monash Medical Centre Emergency Department with the presence of fever, chest pain and neutropenia. A set of blood cultures were sent to Microbiology lab for investigation. Subsequently, both aerobic and anaerobic bottles of blood cultures became positive on the first day of incubation. Following the positive blood culture protocol, a direct gram stain indicated gram negative bacilli in the patient's blood, meanwhile subculture plates were set up for further investigation. Grey, convex colonies grew on the chocolate plate. The isolate was identified as *Yersinia enterocolitica* by MALDI-TOF Mass Spectrometry. With the rapid diagnosis and correct treatment, the patient is now in a clinically stable condition. *Y. enterocolitica* present as distinctive bullseye looking colonies on its selective media- CIN plate. Following this case, general information regarding *Y. enterocolitica* and the current and future laboratory diagnostic methods will be discussed in this presentation.

Michelle Francis (Monash Medical Centre) - A tale of rabbits and reservoirs

Michelle discussed an interesting case of *Clostridium spiroforme* infection which presented at Monash Medical Centre.

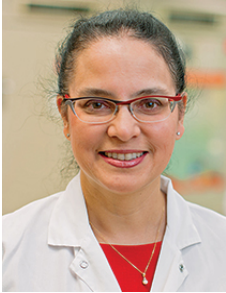
Neil O'Brien-Simpson (Melbourne Dental School (UoM) – Combating multidrug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria

Neil is a peptide chemist/immunologist/microbiologist who presented his research on the development of new structurally nanoengineered antimicrobial peptide polymers and how they have been shown to be effective at killing Gram negative bacteria including the ESKAPE pathogens.

Report written by Seema Kanade and Jacqueline Heath



ASM Vic Branch proudly present a Visiting Speaker Program Event



Professor Robin Patel, MD

Chair of the Division of Clinical Microbiology and a
Consultant in the Clinical Microbiology and Infectious
Diseases Laboratories at Mayo Clinic, USA

Topic: TBA

AND

Associate Professor Christian Voolstra

Associate Professor, Marine Science
Biological and Environmental Science and
Engineering Division, King Abdullah University of
Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia



Topic: The metaorganism imperative - we are not alone

Thursday 6th July 2017

6.15pm Finger food, 7.00pm presentations

Ground Floor Auditorium, The Doherty Institute

Corner Grattan and Elizabeth Streets, Melbourne

Register via Trybooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/QOHO>

For catering purposes please RSVP by: 5 pm Tuesday July 4.

This event is **FREE for ASM members**. Non-members \$40, student
non-members \$15

For further information please contact:

Christine Seers caseers@unimelb.edu.au or

Catherine Satzke catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au



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.

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



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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

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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.





AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE
OF MEDICAL SCIENTISTS

The Australian Society
for Microbiology 
bringing Microbiologists together

Save the Dates

**The Victorian Branches of AIMS and ASM
present a joint conference focusing on**

Science in the Spotlight

Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th November 2017

at: Vibe Marysville Hotel VIC

What you can expect:

- A diverse and engaging scientific program of keynote, plenary and other speakers at a picturesque location
- Presentations will focus on current research, case studies and new and emerging technologies in the medical and microbiological sciences
- Great networking opportunities
- Conference dinner opportunity on Saturday night



Abstract submissions: Would you like to present a 15m min talk or a poster? If so, contact Dr Ed Fox (edward.fox@csiro.au) for abstract submission instructions. **Abstract submissions close: September 29th 2017.**

Enquires: Kerry Weekes (kerry.weekes@monashhealth.org) or Karena Waller (klwaller@unimelb.edu.au)



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

Congratulations to the following 2017 award winners:

- Teachers Travel Award: Andrew Greenhill
- Lyn Gilbert Award: David Whiley
- Clinical Microbiology Travel Award: Lea-Ann Kirkham
- ASM BioMerieux Identifying Resistance Award: John Merlino
- David White Excellence in Teaching Award: Karena Waller
- Frank Fenner Award: Catherine Satzke and Hayley Newton
- Jim Pittard Award: Si Ming Man and Johanna Kenyon
- Distinguished Service Award: Chris Burke, Ruth Hall and Charlene Kahler

MICRO NEWS and VIEWS

- When preventing HIV, bacteria in the vagina matter
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/when-preventing-hiv-bacteria-vagina-matter>
- 50 years ago, antibiotic resistance alarms went unheeded
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/50-years-ago-antibiotic-resistance-alarms-went-unheeded>
- Tuberculosis bacterium may undermine immune regulation to drive disease progression
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/06/170601151943.htm>
- The Zika epidemic began long before anyone noticed
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/zika-epidemic-began-long-anyone-noticed>
- Newly identified microbial process could reduce toxic methylmercury levels
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/05/170531151032.htm>
- How Shigella survives the gastrointestinal tract
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/05/170531133245.htm>
- Drug-delivery method holds promise for controlling crop parasites
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/05/170531102602.htm>
- Ethnicity And Breastfeeding Influence Infant Gut Bacteria
<http://www.sciencenewsline.com/news/2017060213290041.html>
- Bacteria may supercharge the future of wastewater treatment
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/05/170531133237.htm>
- Mosquitoes Infected with Virus-suppressing Bacteria Could Help Control Dengue Fever
<http://www.sciencenewsline.com/news/2017053018390048.html>
- CDC Warns of New Tickborne Disease
<https://www.labroots.com/trending/health-and-medicine/5975/cdc-warns-tickborne-disease>



Reproduced from <http://www.who.int/campaigns/world-blood-donor-day/2017/event-announcement-english.pdf?ua=1>

MICRO NEWS and VIEWS

Changes to NHMRC Grant Program

On the 25th of May 2017 the NHMRC released information on a restructure of the grant program, following a review of the current grant program and in response to the voice of the scientific community. The restructured program will comprise Investigator Grants, Synergy Grants, Ideas Grants and Strategic and Leveraging Grants. Limits will also be placed on the number of grants an individual researcher can apply for or hold. Information on NHMRC's new grant program is available at <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/restructure>

OVERVIEW OF NHMRC'S RESTRUCTURED GRANT PROGRAM

Grant type	Investigator Grants	Synergy Grants	Ideas Grants	Strategic and Leveraging Grants
Purpose	To support the research programs of outstanding investigators at all career stages	To support outstanding multidisciplinary teams of investigators to work together to answer major questions that cannot be answered by a single investigator.	To support focused innovative research projects addressing a specific question	To support research that addresses identified national needs
Duration	5 years	5 years	Up to 5 years	Varies with scheme
Number of Chief Investigators	1	4-10	1-10	Dependent on individual scheme
Funding	Research support package (RSP) plus optional salary support	Grant of a set budget (\$5 million)	Based on the requested budget for research support	Dependent on individual scheme
Maximum number of applications allowed per round^a	1	1	2	Not capped relative to Investigator, Synergy and Ideas Grants. Dependent on individual scheme.
Maximum number of each grant type that can be held^b	1	1	Up to 2 ^b	Not capped relative to Investigator, Synergy and Ideas Grants. Dependent on individual scheme.
Indicative MREA allocation	About 40%	About 5%	About 25%	About 30%

Reproduced from <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/restructure/changes>

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)



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

ASM VIC CALENDAR 2017

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

- **ASM Vic Branch Vet Micro News – 13th June 2017, Melbourne VIC**
- **ASM EduCon Undergraduate Educators' Conference – 1st July 2017, Hobart TAS**
- **ASM Annual Scientific Meeting and Exhibition – 2nd to 5th July 2017, Hobart TAS**
- **ASM Vic Branch VSP Event - 6th July 2017, Melbourne VIC**
- **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**
- **AIMS/ASM Vic Branch Joint Conference – Science in the Spotlight – 18th to 19th November 2017, Maysville VIC**

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

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