



# Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

July 2018, Vol 513

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

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

# Contact Details

## Victorian Branch ASM:

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## Victorian Branch Committee:

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Secretary: Christine Seers  
Email: [caseers@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:caseers@unimelb.edu.au)

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All notices should be emailed to: [jhea@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jhea@unimelb.edu.au)

**Closing Soon!**

**ASM Victorian Branch**

# Microbial Art Prize

Calling all artistic individuals! The 2018 Microbial Art Prize is up for grabs. If you want to be in to win and have your eye-catching scientific image displayed at ASM events submit your entries now!

## Image Details:

All types of scientific images are welcome

- Images
- must have a microbiological theme
  - should be high resolution and suitable for printing on a 1x2m banner
  - must be accompanied with a description of what the image illustrates and how it was generated

## Prize:

The 2018 Microbial Art Prize winner will have their image printed on ASM banners to be displayed at events and used in ASM promotional material.  
Plus more!

## Competition Entry Conditions:

- Maximum 2 entries per person
  - Submitter must be the owner of the image
  - Submitter must be a member of ASM
- A complete entry consists of:
- (1) Image, (2) a description of the image (<100 words), and
  - (3) the submitter's details (name, position, institution)

Winners will be selected by the ASM Vic Branch committee

**Competition closes on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018**





**ASM Victorian Branch in conjunction with the Doherty Institute Public Health Cross Cutting Discipline (CCD) and Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections CCD present**

# Public Health Night

Join us for an evening of presentations by Doherty Scientists and DHHS Epidemiologists

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

**Date:** Wednesday 1st<sup>th</sup> August 2018,  
6:15pm for finger food & refreshments, presentations commence at 7:00pm

**Chair:** Prof. Ben Howden (MDU PHL Director)

## **Presentation Topics and Speakers:**

- *Mycobacterium ulcerans* **Prof. Tim Stinear and Dr. Ee Laine Tay**
- What's new with influenza vaccines in 2018? **Prof. Kanta Subbarao**
- Antimicrobial Resistance in Enteric Pathogens  
**Dr. Danielle Ingle and Ms. Marion Easton**
- Addressing Hepatitis B and D in Kiribati and other Pacific Islands  
**Ms. Kathy Jackson**
- Melbourne Genomics Health Alliance "Controlling Superbugs" Project  
**Dr. Norelle Sherry and Dr. Claire Gorrie**

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

**Registration:** <https://www.trybooking.com/WWGY>

**For catering purposes, please RSVP for this event by 5pm Monday 30th July, 2018.**

For further details, please contact: **Mary Valcanis** [valcanis@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:valcanis@unimelb.edu.au) or **Sarah Baines** [bainess@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:bainess@unimelb.edu.au)

The Doherty Institute is a joint venture between the University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital



# 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 2018 will be held at Doherty Institute Auditorium

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

**Date & Time:** Thurs 27 Sept 2018, 6-9 pm

## Program

**Meet and greet over Drinks/Dinner:** 6 – 7.15 pm

(Chandra's curries are back!)

Drinks sponsored by:

**ThermoFisher**  
SCIENTIFIC  
The world leader in serving science

**Talks:** 7.15 to 9 pm

- Prof Robin Gasser: NGS/WGS in parasitology
  - A/Prof Siddhartha Mahanty: Case study TBA
    - Case study TBC
    - Case study TBC
- 

**Register through TryBooking**

<https://www.trybooking.com/XAUT> or <https://www.trybooking.com/404787>

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



The Tasmanian and Victorian branches of the ASM are pleased to invite you to the biennial

## 2018 Tasmania & Victoria Bi-State Conference

The Conference will be held in Hobart city on **Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November**. Please join us for what is always, an engaging event featuring cutting edge microbiology and excellent networking opportunities.

### What to Expect:

- ◆ A diverse and engaging scientific program featuring leading local and national microbiologists
- ◆ Poster presentations showcasing current research
- ◆ Great networking opportunities
- ◆ A conference dinner at Frank Restaurant (<http://frankrestaurant.com.au/>)

### Enquiries:

Please contact Lou Roddam  
([lfroddam@utas.edu.au](mailto:lfroddam@utas.edu.au)) for further details.





## SAVE THE DATE

ASM VIC Branch brings to you



## 2018 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 11th September 2018 (6.30pm arrival, 7.00pm trivia starts)

**Where:** City of Melbourne Bowls Club, Flagstaff Gardens, West Melbourne

More information to follow.



## SAVE THE DATE

**ASM Vic Branch Christmas Party**



**When:** Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 6:30pm to 9:30pm

Stay tuned for more details!



# How to join the Australian Society for Microbiology at a reduced rate!

Did you know that non-members can join the Australian Society for Microbiology at a reduced rate? Well, you can!

As a non-member, by paying the fee to attend an event hosted by ASM VIC Branch, you can use this amount to put towards an annual membership of the Australian Society for Microbiology. To do so, please follow these instructions:

1. Register to attend the event hosted by ASM VIC Branch via the advertised trybooking link, and pay the attendance fee.
2. Attend the event, and then within 2 weeks after the event, go to the ASM membership area at <http://www.theasm.org.au/membership/>
3. Choose the appropriate membership for you and then click on:  
[Click here to join or update your details](#)
4. Click 'Begin here' and create a Currinda membership profile for yourself. Then, pay the membership full fee.
5. Following payment, download the paid receipt (showing your payment) and email it along with your postal address to:  
Priscilla Johanesen, Treasurer VIC Branch [priscilla.johanesen@monash.edu](mailto:priscilla.johanesen@monash.edu)
6. A cheque refunding the event fee will be posted to you.

**Please note:** you must complete the above process within 2 weeks following an event to take advantage of this offer. After this time, the event fee cannot be used to pay membership fees.

## **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/>

The deadlines for all award applications are now **March 31<sup>st</sup>** of each year.

## **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

## ASM History SIG Column

At the Annual Scientific Meeting of the ASM in Brisbane in July this year there was a symposium session on Tuesday afternoon for the ASM History SIG.

There were three papers in this session:

Eradication of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia presented by Frances Morey, a microbiologist who has worked for many years in Alice Springs. Bovine Pleuropneumonia, caused by the bacterium *Mycoplasma mycoides* subsp. *mycoides*, first introduced into Australia in 1858, was responsible for many severe outbreaks in cattle. The disease spread to all states, with the exception of Tasmania, and it was not until 1973 that the eradication of this disease from the whole of Australia was achieved.

Veterinary Bacteriology in Queensland – a personal perspective presented by Pat J Blackall who is currently at the Centre for Animal Science Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation, UQ. This talk presented the history of diagnostic veterinary microbiology in Queensland with selected key highlights of veterinary microbiology.

Gram Stains to Genomics: Bacterial identification in a Public Health Laboratory presented by Jenny Davis who until recently identified many unusual bacterial species at the Microbiological Diagnostic Laboratory – Public Health Laboratory within the Microbiology Department at the University of Melbourne. The four decades until the present day have seen major changes and practice of bacterial identification were presented and discussed in this paper.

*Submitted by Dr D Lightfoot, Convener of the ASM History SIG*

## **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

## National Strongyloidiasis Working Group



### *13th National Workshop on Strongyloidiasis*

#### **“A One Health Approach to the Prevention and Control of Strongyloidiasis in Australia”**

A pre-conference Workshop of the

**2018 Annual Conference of the Australian Society for Parasitology**

<http://parasite.org.au/2018conference/>

Novotel Hotel St Kilda, Melbourne

Williamstown Room

**Monday September 24, from 8:00 – 16:30**

#### Registration

The link for registering for the Workshop is via a registration link on the ASP Conference page

<http://parasite.org.au/2018conference/registration/>

When you register, there is an option if you are attending the Workshop only. If you are attending the ASP conference as well as the workshop, select your relevant category. The opportunity to add the Strongyloides Workshop will appear on the next page. If you wish to pay via paypal using a credit card, the link is on the confirmation page after you have completed the registration.

Contacts: Jenny Shield [jennyshield66@gmail.com](mailto:jennyshield66@gmail.com); Harsha Sheorey  
[harsha.sheorey@svha.org.au](mailto:harsha.sheorey@svha.org.au)

#### Workshop Programme

A list of speakers and topics to be presented at the Workshop can be found at the following link:

<http://parasite.org.au/2018conference/program/workshop/>



# National Strongyloidiasis Working Group



## About Strongyloidiasis

Strongyloidiasis caused by *Strongyloides stercoralis*, is a soil-transmitted helminth that has been classified by the WHO as a Neglected Tropical Disease. It is a chronic infectious disease. Infected individuals can become asymptomatic and help ongoing transmission of the disease. Laboratory diagnosis is difficult because larval output in faeces is low and intermittent. Serological diagnosis is much more sensitive but also has limitations especially in borderline cases and for follow up after treatment.

Strongyloidiasis is endemic in Australia especially in Aboriginal communities in the tropics and subtropics in both high and low rainfall regions. Prevalences between 5% and 59% have been recorded. This disease is also seen in immigrants, returned service personnel and returned travellers from countries where it is endemic.

Recent work has shown that, whereas some strains of *S. stercoralis* infect humans only, others are common to dogs and humans, indicating that dogs may play a role in transmission of strongyloidiasis.

The current drug of choice for the disease is ivermectin, originally a long-established veterinary anthelmintic. Moxidectin, another established veterinary anthelmintic, has recently been approved by the FDA for the treatment of human parasites, following the establishment of its outstanding efficacy in the treatment of oncocerciasis, African river blindness.

## Aims of the National Strongyloidiasis Working Group

The aims of the National Strongyloidiasis Working Group (NSWG) are:

- to raise awareness of strongyloidiasis
- to inform health professionals and community members about the disease and its diagnosis, treatment, prevention and control
- to advocate on behalf of affected peoples, particularly Indigenous communities in Australia for appropriate changes to government policy in relation to prevention, diagnosis and treatment based upon current research.

The ultimate goal of the NSWG is prevention and elimination of the disease from Australia, through strategies that respect the needs of all groups of people suffering from strongyloidiasis.

# NATIONAL ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE & STEWARDSHIP FORUM 2018

## MELBOURNE

Workshops: 1 November, 12.30-6 pm

Sepsis  
Genomics  
Drug Discovery  
Veterinary  
Nursing  
General Practice (17 November)

Symposium: 2 November, 8.30 am-6 pm

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

REGISTER NOW AT

[WWW.NCAS-AUSTRALIA.ORG/FORUM2018](http://WWW.NCAS-AUSTRALIA.ORG/FORUM2018)

Cost: workshops (free); symposium (\$50); students (free)



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



PROF. MARC  
MENDELSON  
ID Physician, South Africa



PROF. BRENDAN  
MURPHY  
Chief Medical Officer, Australia



PROF. JOHN  
PRESCOTT  
Veterinary Scientist, Canada



# NATIONAL ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE & STEWARDSHIP FORUM 2018

The National Antimicrobial Resistance and Stewardship Forum will offer a dynamic program covering all facets of the response to antimicrobial resistance, including clinical infectious diseases and antimicrobial stewardship, translational science, new drug development, veterinary and agricultural medicine, and government and policy responses. The 2018 forum is being hosted by the National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship (Department of Medicine and Doherty Institute, University of Melbourne) and Safer Care Victoria (Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria).

The organising partners include: the Doherty Institute (University of Melbourne), the National Center for Infections in Cancer (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre), the Guidance Group (Royal Melbourne Hospital), Queensland Statewide Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (Queensland Department of Health), Centre of Research Excellence in Redefining Antimicrobial Use to Reduce Resistance (CRE REDUCE) (University of Queensland), the Institute for Molecular Biosciences Centre for Superbug Solutions (University of Queensland), the Community for Open Antimicrobial Drug Discovery (University of Queensland).



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA



Community for Open  
Antimicrobial Drug Discovery

# MICRO NEWS and VIEWS

- Bacteria-powered solar cell converts light to energy, even under overcast skies  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/07/180705084215.htm>
- Why bacteria survive in space  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/06/180627160249.htm>
- Killing bacteria by silencing genes may be alternative to antibiotics  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/06/180606120427.htm>
- Fungi and bacteria grow on body implants  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/07/180703105951.htm>
- A new toxin discovered in Cholera bacteria  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/06/180625192801.htm>
- New therapeutic target for slowing the spread of flu virus  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/06/180622174731.htm>
- Nature's antifreeze inspires revolutionary bacteria cryopreservation technique  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/07/180706100303.htm>
- Scientists find potential disease-fighting 'warheads' hidden in bacteria  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/06/180618102545.htm>
- Gene-edited pigs are resistant to billion-dollar virus  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/06/180620150139.htm>
- Bacteria can 'divide and conquer' to vanquish their enemies  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/07/180702154728.htm>
- Engineering bacteria to exhibit stochastic Turing patterns  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/06/180621121857.htm>
- New findings on bacteria in female bladders  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/06/180627160219.htm>
- Mosquito-killing fungi engineered with spider and scorpion toxins could help fight malaria  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/06/170613101954.htm>
- Starving fungi could save millions of lives each year  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/06/180622104606.htm>

# **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))



# ASM VIC CALENDAR 2018

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 Microbial Art Prize - 4<sup>th</sup> June - 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018
- ASM Vic Branch – Public Health Night – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018, Doherty Institute, Melbourne VIC
- ASM Vic Branch Trivia Night - 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- Parasitology and Tropical Medicine SIG Vic Branch Event – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Doherty Institute, Melbourne VIC
- National Antimicrobial Resistance and Stewardship Forum – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018, Melbourne, VIC
- Bi-State Conference 2018 (VIC / TAS) – 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Hobart TAS
- ASM Vic Branch Christmas Party – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Melbourne, VIC

**Submission Deadline for August  
ASM Victorian News:  
August 4<sup>th</sup> 2018**

Email submissions to: [jhea@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jhea@unimelb.edu.au)