



# Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

September 2018, Vol 515

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

# Northern News

Proudly sponsored by



## Call for Abstracts

**Tuesday 23rd October 2018**

**Apply NOW to participate in Northern News 2018**

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

**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.

**Abstracts submission closes: 5pm Friday 28 September 2018**

**Application forms and instructions** and further event details can be obtained from Seema Kanade ([seema.kanade@dorevitch.com.au](mailto:seema.kanade@dorevitch.com.au)), Jaelyne Birrell ([jaelyne.birrell@gmail.com](mailto:jaelyne.birrell@gmail.com)) or Sangeeta Singh ([vu2bhy@hotmail.com](mailto:vu2bhy@hotmail.com))

Please see separate flyer for full event and registration information.

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

**Time:** 6.15pm onwards – Light Supper & Laboratory Tours followed by Speakers



# Northern News

Proudly sponsored by



## Call for Audience Members Tuesday 23rd October 2018

### Register NOW to attend Northern News 2018

Come along to hear interesting microbial discoveries from the hospitals and pathology laboratories! Speakers will each deliver a 12 minute presentation and receive 3 minutes of questions from the audience. A prize for the best presentation by a Medical Scientist (up to Grade 1 Year 4) will be awarded.

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

**Time:** 6.15pm onwards – Light Supper & Laboratory Tours followed by Speakers

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

\$40 - Non-ASM Member

\$15 - Student Non-ASM Member

Register to attend the PRESENTATIONS at: <https://www.trybooking.com/XUXW>

If you would like to join us for a **Tour of the Austin Microbiology Laboratory including latest Kiestra automation**, register to attend the LAB TOUR at: <https://www.trybooking.com/XUXZ>

**Places for the LAB TOUR are LIMITED, and a separate registration (in addition to attending the presentations) is absolutely required.**

**RSVP for BOTH the presentations and the lab tours: 5pm Thursday 18 October**





## Microbial Ecology-Environmental Microbiology (MEEM) in Victoria

**What:** Microbial Ecology-Environmental Microbiology (MEEM) in Victoria (4 ECR speakers, 3 PhD speakers; afternoon tea, post meeting social event)

**When:** Thursday 27th September, 2018 from 14:00-17:15

**Where:** La Trobe city campus, 360 Collins Street, Melbourne (Room: 360C-2.10).

**Why:** Promote communication/collaboration for those interested in microbial ecology, environmental microbiology, and related disciplines

**Sponsor:** Australian Society for Microbiology

**Organisers:** Assoc Prof Ashley Franks (La Trobe); Dr Chris Greening (Monash); Prof Linda Blackall (Melbourne)

**Cost:** nil

**RSVP:** Please email [chris.greening@monash.edu](mailto:chris.greening@monash.edu) by **Friday 21st September** to register

### Program

**2:00 pm: Intro and Aims** – Microbial Ecology-Environmental Microbiology in Victoria

**2:10 pm: Dr Jennifer Wood** (La Trobe University / Swinburne University of Technology) – Trait-based predictions of microbial community assembly and function

**2:35 pm: Heyu Lin** (School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne) – Investigating the potential for mercury methylation by marine microaerophilic bacteria (tentative title)

**2:50 pm: Nagalakshmi Haleyr** (Department of Biotechnology and Environmental Biology, RMIT University) – Bioremediation of oil-contaminated soils (tentative title)

**3:05 pm: Dr Eleonora Chiri** (School of Biological Sciences, Monash University) – Microbial methane oxidation across six orders of magnitude

**3 30 pm: Afternoon tea** – Sponsored by Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch

**4:00 pm: Dr Matt Neave** (CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory) - Diversity, global distribution and genetic potential of prevalent symbiotic marine bacteria in the genus *Endozoicomonas*

**4:25 pm: Ashley Dungan** (School of BioSciences, University of Melbourne) – The anemone *Exaiptasia pallida* as a model to explore probiotics for climate resilience in corals

**4:40 pm: Dr Rebekah Henry** (School of Civil Engineering, Monash University) – Who's Poo? Application of microbial community data for understanding faecal contamination in recreational water

**5:05 pm: Discussion on MEEM communication**

**5:15 pm: Drinks** – Go to local bar afterwards

The Australian Society

for

Microbiology

bringing Microbiologists together



# 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

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**Register through TryBooking**

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

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



Registration is now open for the

## 2018 Tasmania & Victoria Bi-State Conference

The conference will be held in Hobart City at the University of Tasmania's Menzies Institute for Medical Research on **Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> & Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November**. Please join us for what is always, an engaging event featuring exciting cutting edge microbiology and excellent networking opportunities.

Please register now through the TryBooking website at:

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

### Early-bird pricing ends on the 14th of October

Current ASM members attending both days	Student Members: \$150 Non-Student Members: \$200
Non members attending both days	Students: \$175 Non-Student: \$240
Current ASM members attending one day only	Student Members: \$125 Non-Student Members: \$155
Non members attending one day only	Students: \$150 Non-Student: \$180

Please note that the conference dinner will be **sponsored by the ASM** and held on the Friday evening at **Frank Restaurant and Bar** on the Hobart waterfront (<http://frankrestaurant.com.au/>).

Please see overleaf for program details.

Contact Lou Roddam (lfroddam@utas.edu.au) for further details.



As always, the Bi-State Conference will include:

- ◆ A diverse and engaging scientific program featuring leading local, national and international microbiologists
- ◆ Student posters and presentations
- ◆ Great networking and social opportunities

Our confirmed invited speakers include:

Kate Seib	Vaccine development for antibiotic resistant gonorrhoea
Jeremy Carson	Fish vaccines
Jennifer Elliman	Finding the ghost in the shell (NextGen viral sequencing in crayfish)
Zoe Bartlett	Surveying <i>Bacillus cereus</i> sensu lato in Tasmanian dairy environments and dairy products to inform food safety risk assessments
Guna Karapiah	Induction of protective, long-lived antibody responses with inactivated vaccines
Maurizio Labbate	Antibiotic resistance gene reservoirs in a sewage-impacted coastal environment
Janet Fyfe	<i>Mycobacterium ulcerans</i> in Victoria: where is it coming from & where is it going?
Craig Shadbolt	Foodborne epidemic investigations: 'War stories' and the <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> in canteloupe outbreak
Jeff Errington	L-form bacteria: From basic science to recurrent infection
Katharina Richter	Translating a topical treatment for chronic respiratory tract infections from bench to bedside
Shane powell	Soil microbiome interactions between crops
Roger Stanley	Probiotics and Prebiotics in Processed Foods for Gut Health and Resilience

This is going to be a great event. We hope to see you in Hobart.



## 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!



## 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



## 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.**



## 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

- Cryptosporidiosis worsened in mice on probiotics  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/08/180831133203.htm>
- Synthetic microbiome? Genetic engineering allows different species of bacteria to communicate  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/08/180831090941.htm>
- The hidden life of rock gnome lichen  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/08/180830095352.htm>
- Simple test detects disease-carrying mosquitoes, presence of biopesticide  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/08/180830143213.htm>
- Climate change increasing the prevalence of harmful parasite, warn scientists  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/08/180830084815.htm>
- Breakthrough could see bacteria used as cell factories to produce biofuels  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/08/180829115547.htm>
- Candidate for universal flu vaccine protects against multiple strains  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/08/180822082433.htm>
- A paper battery powered by bacteria  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/08/180819160713.htm>

## RISK OF MENINGITIS EPIDEMICS IN AFRICA: HIGH THREAT IN 2018-2019

A new meningococcal meningitis clone of serogroup C is expanding in Sub-Saharan Africa, associated with a huge risk of a major epidemic in the next two years.

-  The new strain is hyper invasive
-  Population immunity is low
-  Spread to neighbouring countries

Number of suspected meningitis cases during Nm C outbreaks, 2013-2017



### ACTIONS FOR WHO AND PARTNERS

-  Increase global vaccine availability
-  Increase preparedness in countries



**28 000**  
**72 000**

NEW CASES  
COULD OCCUR  
IN 2018-2019

**insufficient  
vaccine stockpile**

The current international vaccine stockpile is not sufficient to cope with the eventual response needs.

**>10 million  
doses needed**

Additional C-containing vaccine doses, preferably from a conjugate vaccine, would be necessary to complement the current stockpile levels for 2018-2019.



Reproduced from the WHO: <http://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/meningitis/en/>

# **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 Trivia Night - 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Melbourne VIC**
- **Microbial Ecology-Environmental Microbiology (MEEM) in Victoria Event – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018, La Trobe University (city campus), Melbourne VIC**
- **Parasitology and Tropical Medicine SIG Vic Branch Event – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Doherty Institute, Melbourne VIC**
- **ASM Vic Branch - Northern News – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018, Austin Hospital, Heidelberg 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 October  
ASM Victorian News:  
October 4<sup>th</sup> 2018**

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