



Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

February 2019, Vol 519

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Submission Deadline: 4th of the Month

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

Contact Details

Victorian Branch ASM:

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Victorian Branch
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Weblink: <http://victoria.theasm.org.au/>
Email: catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au or
asmvicbranch@gmail.com

ASM National Office:

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

Victorian Branch Committee:

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

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Email: bainess@unimelb.edu.au

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Email: klwaller@unimelb.edu.au

VSP Coordinator: Lauren Zavan
Email: lazavan@students.latrobe.edu.au

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Email: vu2bhy@hotmail.com

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Email: Steve.Petrovski@latrobe.edu.au

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Email: priscilla.johanesen@monash.edu

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Email: valcanis@unimelb.edu.au

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Host-microbe Interactions: Maria Liaskos
Email: M.Liaskos@latrobe.edu.au

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



Microbiologist Memoirs

A/Prof Catherine Satzke, PhD (Chair, ASM Victorian Branch Committee)



I discovered the hidden world of microbes at high school, and have loved microbiology ever since. I have been a member of ASM for nearly 20 years (!), having joined as an Honours student in the Robins-Browne laboratory. ASM has supported my professional development as a student, ECR and now leader of my own laboratory. I am delighted to be the Chair of ASM Vic Branch, and look forward to serving you and the other members of our Branch.

My lab is based at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne, and I also hold honorary appointments with The University of Melbourne. Our research focuses on pneumococcal microbiology; examining the impact of pneumococcal vaccines in low-income settings to support global vaccination strategies. We are fortunate to partner with microbiologists, clinicians, epidemiologists and immunologists from both high and low-income settings; collaboration is one of the most enjoyable parts of my job! I recently co-chaired the

International Symposium on Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases, attracting over 1100 delegates from 85 countries. Our research is supported by national and international funders, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and by fellowships from the NHMRC and veski.

Mary Valcanis, MPH (Deputy Chair, ASM Victorian Branch Committee)



I am the Section Leader for Enteric Reference Laboratory at the Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory, Doherty Institute. I am responsible for the provision of scientific supervision and delivery of scientific services for the characterisation of bacteria typically of enteric origin.

If you would like to be featured in "Microbiologist Memoirs", or know a microbiologist who would or should be, please contact Jacqueline Heath (jhea@unimelb.edu.au) to get involved.



Microbiologist Memoirs

Sarah Baines (Secretary, ASM Victorian Branch Committee)



I am a PhD student with the Dept. of Microbiology & Immunology at the University of Melbourne, based at the Doherty Institute for Infection & Immunity. My primary research interests are in microbial genomics, specifically its application to understanding the emergence and development of antibiotic resistant lineages of *Staphylococcus aureus* in Australia and New Zealand. In conjunction with this, I am also involved with the Doherty Applied Microbial Genomics group, working on multiple projects centered around investigating mechanisms of antimicrobial resistance in staphylococcal and enterococcal species, as well as exploring recent outbreaks of gastrointestinal yersiniosis in New Zealand.

Dr Christine Seers (Treasurer, ASM Victorian Branch Committee)



I graduated from Monash University in 1987 with a BSc (Hons) degree with a 4th year major in microbiology. My honours research involved analysing the acquisition of antimicrobial resistance genes by *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates from the Royal Children's Hospital. The most remarkable thing about this is that I had planned to major in chemistry – until I had attended a lecture about all things, sewerage. Rather than thinking ee-eww, I found I was incredibly impressed that such teeny, weeny things as bacteria could perform all those amazing chemical reactions, in such organised communities, to give a nice clean product at the end. I was hooked.

I began, and still pursue my academic career at the Melbourne Dental School, The University of Melbourne, where I have been involved in projects improving our understanding of the oral microbiota and approaches to understand and prevent associated oral diseases such as caries and periodontitis.

I have been a member of the ASM Vic Branch Committee since 2011, Secretary of Vic Branch 2015-2019 and from March 2019 I take on the role of Treasurer.

Monday 18th February 2019



present

Professor Alex Van Belkum

“Evolution in Clinical Microbiology?”

Alex is a major key opinion leader in MALDI-TOF, Antimicrobial Resistance and Whole Genome Sequencing. He will be visiting Australia to speak at the ASA'S Antimicrobials 2019 in Sydney, and we are fortunate to have him present in Melbourne for ASM on rapid diagnostics and the way forward to combat AMR.

Professor Alex van Belkum, PhD PhD, fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, has been primarily involved in research on molecular epidemiology, molecular and culture-based diagnostics and antimicrobial resistance testing in the domain of clinical microbiology. A scientific director of microbiology research at bioMérieux, a diagnostics company based in the South of France, he is also the editor-in-chief of European Journal of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, which 2016 impact factor is 2.7. He is the author of more than 540 PubMed-cited papers, with an H index of about 90. He has worked at the Universities of Leiden and Rotterdam, both in The Netherlands, and at the latter institute he still holds a honorary professorship in molecular microbiology. He moved to industry 7 years ago where he is a microbiologist in the Data Analytics Unit with a prime interest in next generation sequencing and the use of other data-rich technologies in clinical microbiology. He published five books and is one of the editors of “Molecular Microbiology: diagnostic principles and practice” published by ASM Press, American Society of Microbiology, Washington.



Where: Michael Chamberlain Lecture Theatre, Building E – Aikenhead Wing, St Vincent's Hospital, cnr Nicholson Street and Victoria Parade, Fitzroy

Time: From 6pm onwards – food and drinks provided followed by presentation

Cost: Free event for ASM Members (Student or Full Members)
\$20 - Non-ASM Member

Registration details & location map next page

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

For further event details and enquiries please contact Seema Kanade (seema.kanade@dorevitch.com.au), Jaelyne Birrell (jaelyne.birrell@gmail.com) or Sangeeta Singh (vu2bhy@hotmail.com)

Map of St Vincent’s Hospital (Building E highlighted below in yellow)



<p>A Building A Main Hospital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Imaging Intensive Care Day Procedures Wards ATM Information Public Telephone 	<p>B Building B Medical Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Suites Main Entry Pathology Private Radiology ATM Café Pharmacy Public Telephone Shops 	<p>C Building C Healy Wing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breast Screen Consulting Suites Executive Heart Centre MRI Centre Chapel 	<p>D Building D Daly Wing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist Clinics Cancer Centre Public Telephone 	<p>E Building E Aikenhead Wing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference Centre Gym ATM Public Telephone Restaurant 	<p>F Building F Bolte Wing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geriatric Evaluation and Management Rehabilitation Centre Respiratory Lab Therapy Services Public Telephone
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P Parking
 ♿ Accessible Parking
 🚏 Tram Stop
 🚕 Taxi Rank

Call for Audience Members

Come along to the

ASM Nancy Millis Student Awards 2019

Where: LIMS 101 Hoogenraad Lecture Theatre
La Trobe University, Bundoora VIC 3086*
See attached map; Car parks #1 and #8 will have free parking after 5pm

When: Tuesday 26 February 2019, commencing at 6.00pm
Supper and drinks will be served on conclusion of the presentations

Presentations: Competing post-graduate students from Microbiology research laboratories from several tertiary institutes will deliver 10 minute presentations and answer questions for a further 5 minutes about their area of study.

Presentations will cover a broad range of topics and are sure to interest and inform you. Cutting edge technologies and new concepts will be discussed. This is an exciting and enjoyable way to update your knowledge and a very positive way of supporting and meeting the next generation of microbiologists.

The ASM VIC Branch undergraduate academic prizes will also be presented.

All welcome

Email enquiries to: Karena Waller (klwaller@unimelb.edu.au)

This is a free event but booking is needed for catering purposes, so please **register your attendance by 5pm Thursday 21 February 2019** using the link below:

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

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

SITE PLAN

Melbourne Campus
 Bundoora, VIC 3086 Australia

Course Enquiries 1300 135 045
 Enquiries (+61 3) 9479 1111
 Emergencies (03) 9479 2222

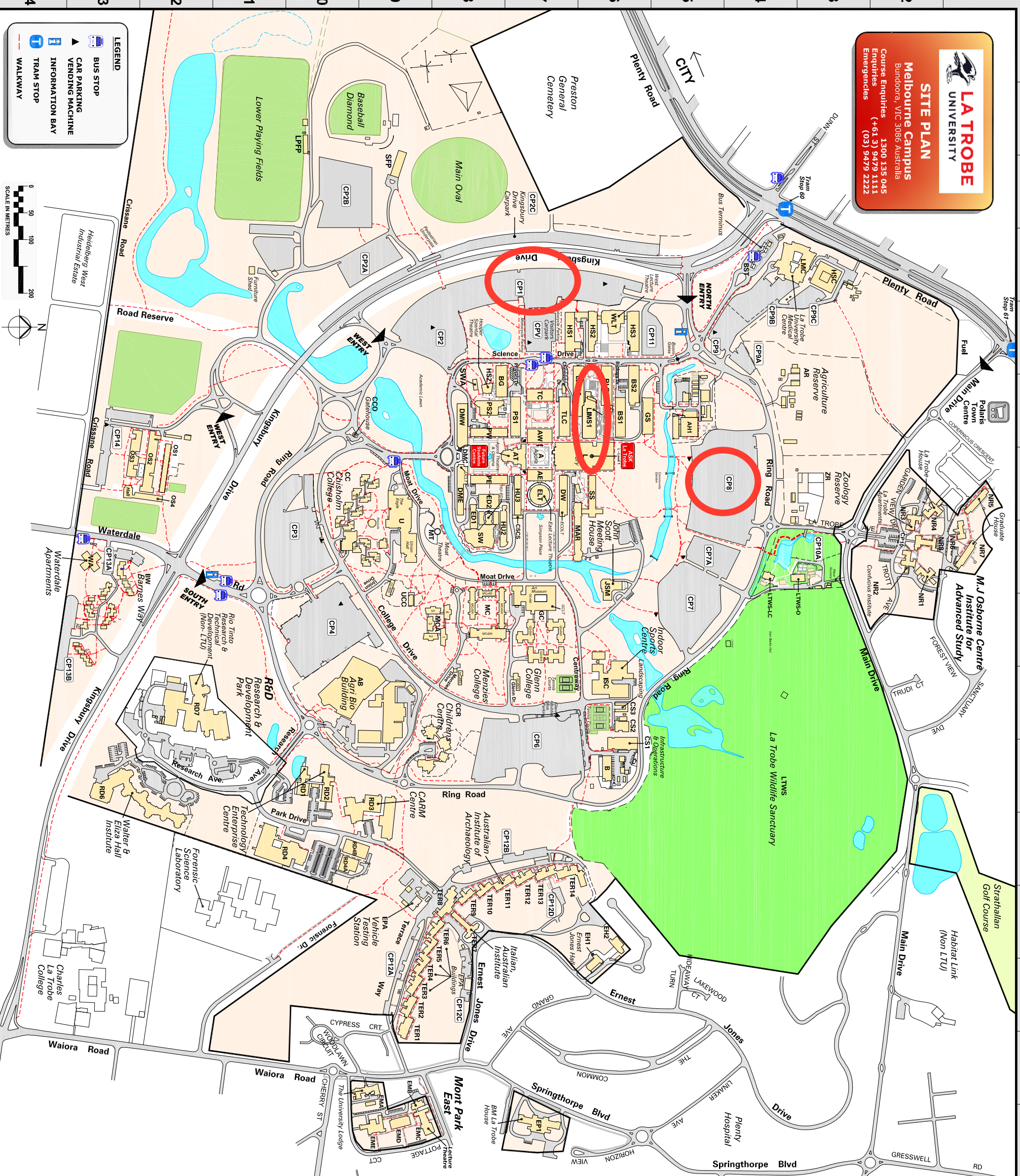
LEGEND

- BUS STOP
- CAR PARKING
- VENDING MACHINE
- INFORMATION BAY
- TRAM STOP
- WALKWAY

SCALE IN METRES

0 50 100 200

N



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

LEGEND

Building Name	Code	Building Name	Code
Academic Buildings	BG	Beth Gleeson Building	F8
BS1	BS1	Biological Sciences 1	F6
BS2	BS2	Biological Sciences 2	F6
DME	DME	David Meyers Building - East	F6
DW	DW	David Whitehead Building	G7
ED1	ED1	Education 1	G8
ED2	ED2	Education 2	G8
GS	GS	George Singer Building	F6
HS1	HS1	Health Sciences 1	F7
HS2	HS2	Health Sciences 2	E6
HS3	HS3	Health Sciences 3	E6
HSC	HSC	Health Sciences Clinic	D3
H02	H02	Humanities 2	H8
H03	H03	Humanities 3	H8
H03S	H03S	Humanities 3	G7
LIMS1	LIMS1	La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science 1	F6
LIMS2	LIMS2	La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science 2	F6
MAR	MAR	Marin Building	H6
NR2	NR2	Confucius Institute	H2
NR6	NR6	Centre for Research on Language Diversity	H1
NR8	NR8	Michael I Osborne Centre - Administration	H2
PS1	PS1	Physical Sciences 1	F7
PS2	PS2	Physical Sciences 2	F8
PW	PW	Perdoux West	F8
RIR	RIR	R.L. Reid Building	F6
SS	SS	Social Sciences	F6
SW	SW	Syvia Watkin Building	G6
TC	TC	Thomas Cherry Building	H8
TLC	TLC	The Learning Commons (Formerly P33)	F7
Accommodation	BW/WA	Barnes Way/Waterdale Apartments	H13
CC	CC	Chisholm College	G10
EMA	EMA	The University Lodge	G9
GC	GC	Glenn College	07
MC	MC	Menzies College	18
MCA	MCA	Menzies College Annexe	18
NR3	NR3	La Trobe Apartments	G2
NR4	NR4	La Trobe House	G2
NR5,7	NR5,7	Graduate House	G1, H1
Administration	CCO	Gatehouse	F10
CS1-3	CS1-3	R.O. Campus Services 2 & Landscaping	K6, K6, J6
DMC	DMC	David Meyers Building - Centre	G8
DME	DME	David Meyers Building - East	G8
DMW	DMW	David Meyers Building - West	F8
JSM	JSM	John Scott Meeting House	H6
LWMS-O	LWMS-O	La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary - Office	H3
SWA	SWA	South West Annexe	F8
TC	TC	Thomas Cherry Building	F7
TER12-13-14	TER12-13-14	ICT & Human Resources Union Building	L7, L9
Bicycle Facilities	CSCN	Cycle Smart Centre North	F6
CSCS	CSCS	Cycle Smart Centre South	G7
Childcare Facilities	CCR	Children's Centre	J8
UCC	UCC	Unleash Building	I9
College Executive and Administration	PE	Perdoux East	G8
PW	PW	College of Arts, Social Sci. & Commerce (ASSC)	F8
Lecture Theatres	AT	Agora Theatre & Cinema	G7
ECOLT	ECOLT	Economics Lecture Theatre	G7
EIT	EIT	East Lecture Theatre	G7
EMC	EMC	Lecture Theatre	P9
GCLT	GCLT	Glenn College Lecture Theatre	I7
H02	H02	Hooper & Szental Lecture Theatre	F8
HUED	HUED	Hu-Tel Lecture Theatre	G8
UCLT	UCLT	Undercroft Lecture Theatre	G8
WLT	WLT	West Lecture Theatres	E6
Medical Centre	LMC	La Trobe University Medical Centre	D3
Research & Development Park (R&D)	RD1, 2	Technology Enterprise Centre 1, 2	K10
RD3	RD3	CARM Centre	K9
RD6	RD6	Walker & Eliza Hall Institute	K13
Retail	A	Agora (University Centre)	G7
AE	AE	Agora East	G7
AT	AT	Agora Theatre	G7
AW	AW	Agora West	F7
LWMS	LWMS	Keelbundoora Plant Nursery	H3
Sports Facilities	ISC	Indoor Sports Centre	J6
LDPF	LDPF	Lower Playing Field Pavilion	B10
SFP	SFP	Sports Field Pavilion	C9
Student Services	DMC	David Meyers Building - Centre	G8
L	L	Future Students Centre	G6
Level 1	L	Library	G6
Level 1	L	ASK La Trobe	G6
The Terraces, Mount Park	EH1	Ernest Jones Hall	M6
EMA-E	EMA-E	Mount Park East	P9
EME	EME	Alumni	P9
EP1	EP1	BM La Trobe House	M9
TER3-6	TER3-6	EPA Victoria Centre for Environmental Science	M9, N9
TER7	TER7	Italian, Australian Institute	M8
TER11	TER11	Australian Institute of Archaeology	L8

NEW! REGIONAL EVENT FUNDING

To further enhance the benefits of ASM membership to all members

ASM Vic Branch will provide funding towards microbiology focussed events to be held in REGIONAL (non-Melbourne metropolitan) areas

A broad range of events will be considered, such as

- Day symposia
- Invited speakers
- News from the Hospitals
- Continuing education
- Social events (eg trivia night)
- Student nights
- Industry engagement
- Public lectures
- Community engagement, etc.

To be eligible for funding, preferably **prior** to organising an event, please complete the EOI form. In the EOI please briefly outline the planned event, the purpose/benefit to members and an approximate budget. Full details are not expected at the initial EOI stage.

If your EOI is successful we will then invite you to complete a full Regional Event Application. Funding of up to \$2500 per event will be available, dependent on the event.

The ASM Victorian Branch Committee is available to provide event organization guidance and will require events to be run in accordance with branch processes.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND/OR AN EOI FORM CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING:

Dr Christine Seers
caseers@unimelb.edu.au
Ph: 93411565

Dr Steve Petrovski
steve.petrovski@latrobe.edu.au
Ph: 9479 2397

A/Prof Catherine Satzke
catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au
Ph: 83416438

START PLANNING NOW!

ASM Victorian Branch

Microbial Art Prize

Calling all artistic individuals! The 2019 Microbial Art Prize will be up for grabs mid-year. Start planning now if you want to be in to win and have your eye-catching scientific image displayed at ASM events.

Image Details:

All types of scientific images are welcome

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

Prize:

- The 2019 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 date will be released closer to the time

Please send all entries (and questions) to: **Sarah Baines** bainess@unimelb.edu.au



ASM Annual Scientific Meeting 2019

www.asmmeeting.theasm.org.au



KEY DATES

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE:
19 April 2019

ORAL ABSTRACT DEADLINE:
19 April 2019

POSTER ABSTRACT DEADLINE:
17 MAY 2019



*Registration & Abstracts open February 19th

*Discounted rates for ASM members!

*Limited discounts available for Students & ECR's

*Wednesday workshops on offer!

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Dr Karen Carroll
A/Prof Noah Fierer
Prof Sarah Gurr
Dr Alan Landay
Prof Miguel Viveiros

RUBBO ORATION

A/Prof Tilman Ruff

SNOWDON ORATION

Dr Marnie Peterson



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
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 31st** 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),

who is the Chair for the ASM VIC Branch.

MICRO NEWS and VIEWS

- Newly isolated human gut bacterium reveals possible connection to depression
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/02/190213124350.htm>
- Technique identifies electricity-producing bacteria
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/01/190111143740.htm>
- In some cases, getting dengue may protect against Zika
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/dengue-virus-antibodies-zika-infection>
- Effect of breastfeeding versus pumping on human milk microbiome
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/02/190213124445.htm>
- Marine scientists find toxic bacteria on microplastics retrieved from tropical waters
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/02/190211110348.htm>
- Diagnostic tool for detecting cryptosporidium
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/02/190214093349.htm>
- Scientists discover genes that help harmful bacteria thwart treatment
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/02/190208082205.htm>
- Genome structure of malaria parasites linked to virulence
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/02/190204154019.htm>
- This honeybee parasite may be more of a fat stealer than a bloodsucker
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/honeybee-parasite-may-be-more-fat-stealer-bloodsucker>
- Bacterial compounds may be as good as DEET at repelling mosquitoes
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/bacteria-compounds-may-be-good-deet-repelling-mosquitoes>
- Congo's Ebola outbreak is a testing ground for new treatments
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/congo-ebola-outbreak-testing-new-treatments>

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 Catherine Satzke
(catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au)

Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Special Research Seminar as part of the ASI Visiting Speaker Program

Intravenous Vaccination as a Paradigm for Inducing Tissue Resident T Cells and Protection Against Malaria and TB



Robert Seder, M.D.

Chief, Cellular Immunology Section
Vaccine Research Center, NIH (USA)

Host: Dr Daniel Fernandez Ruiz

Dr. Seder is an internationally recognized expert in vaccine biology and cellular immunology. He currently serves as Chief of the Cellular Immunology Section in the Vaccine Research Center (VRC) at the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH). After a B.A. in Natural Science at Johns Hopkins University in 1981, M.D. at Tufts University in 1986, and residency in internal medicine at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, Dr. Seder did his postdoctoral training in the NIAID with Dr. William Paul, defining how cytokines influence CD4+ T helper cell differentiation. He then became the Chief of the Clinical Immunology Section in the Laboratory of Clinical Investigation, NIAID, in 1994, before being appointed to a tenured position in the VRC in 2000. During his work at the VRC, Dr. Seder has focused on understanding the innate and adaptive mechanisms by which various vaccine and deliver approaches mediate protective immunity in experimental models of HIV, Malaria and Tuberculosis infection and tumors. His major findings include the demonstration that vaccine-induced multi-functional cytokine T cell responses are critical for mediating protective immunity against intracellular infections, and the demonstration that intravenous vaccination with live-attenuated malaria and TB vaccines induces tissue resident T cells and confers high levels of protection in animal models or in human clinical trials. Recent work has also used polymer chemistry and bio-engineering approaches with toll-like receptor ligands (TLR) to optimize HIV, RSV or Influenza antibody responses and improve delivery of tumor specific neo-antigens to enhance T cell immunity. His work establishes a paradigm for the importance of vaccine formulation and delivery for complex pathogens and tumour immunity.

Friday, 22nd of February 2019, 1pm Auditorium

The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity
792 Elizabeth St, Melbourne

Everyone welcome. For seminar attendees wishing to have further discussions with the speaker after the seminar, light refreshments will be provided in the back of the Auditorium.



ASM VIC CALENDAR 2018

When planning meetings, please book dates with
Catherine Satzke Email: catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au

- **ASM Vic Branch Event – Prof Alex Van Belkum - “Evolution in Clinical Microbiology?” – 18th February 2018, St Vincent’s Hospital, Melbourne**
- **ASM Vic Branch Event - ASM Nancy Millis Student Award 2019 – 26th February 2019, La Trobe University, Bundoora**
- **Australasian Society for Immunology VSP Event - Robert Seder, M.D. – 22nd February 2019, Doherty Institute, Parkville**
- **ASM 2019 – 30th June – 3rd July 2019, Adelaide SA**



**Submission Deadline for March
ASM Victorian News:
March 4th 2019**

Email submissions to: jhea@unimelb.edu.au