



Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

March 2019, Vol 520

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Submission Deadline: 4th of the Month

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

Contact Details

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Victorian Branch Committee:

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



Microbiologist Memoirs

Lauren Zavan, PhD Student (VSP Coordinator, ASM Victorian Branch Committee)



I am a PhD student in Dr Maria Liaskos' laboratory at La Trobe University. Our lab's research interests are focused on understanding host pathogen interactions, and my PhD project aims to investigate the biogenesis and functions of bacterial membrane vesicles. While completing my undergrad degree I was unaware of what a career in research was like however, during my honours year I grew fond of the unexpectedness and variety that comes with exploring new areas of microbiology. I joined the ASM Vic Branch committee in 2018 and I have recently taken on the role of VSP Coordinator.

Dr Jacqueline Heath, PhD (Newsletter Editor, ASM Victorian Branch Committee)



I am an Early Career Researcher in the Scholz Research Group of the Reynolds Laboratory within the Oral Health CRC at the Melbourne Dental School and Bio21 Institute, University of Melbourne. I discovered my fascination for tiny yet powerful microbes during my undergraduate degree. During my PhD I investigated the novel type IX bacterial protein secretion system and its importance in the ability of the oral pathogen *Porphyromonas gingivalis* to export virulence factors and affect the human immune response. My current research program centres around investigating oral mucosal immunity, specifically the tailored innate immune responses of mucosal epithelia to bacterial pathogens and commensals, and how pathogens attempt to disrupt homeostatic cytokine signalling pathways to dysregulate host immunity. I have been a member of the ASM Vic Branch Committee since 2016 and have relished the opportunity to give back to the broader microbiology community.

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.

2019 ASM Nancy Millis Student Awards Event Report



Assoc. Prof. Catherine Satzke (fourth from the left) accompanied by many of the undergraduate academic prize winners.

The annual ASM Nancy Millis Student Awards were held at La Trobe University, Bundoora on Tuesday 26 February 2019. The evening was chaired by Assoc. Prof. Karena Waller (University of Melbourne). The evening commenced with light refreshments before the presentation of fourteen undergraduate prizes for top achieving microbiology student studying at various Victorian Universities, including Monash University, RMIT University, La Trobe University (Bundoora and Bendigo campuses) and The University of Melbourne. Each of the undergraduate prizes consisted of a certificate, a cheque and a year's student membership to the ASM.

The evening then continued with two research presentations from research students competing in the categories of ASM VIC Branch Award (for Honours and Masters by Coursework students). Yenglei (Jenny) Hua (Murdoch Children's Research Institute presented *"Investigation of pneumococcal gene expression*

associated with pneumonia pathogenesis" and Madeleine Wemyss (Hudson Institute of Medical Research) presented "*Salmonella Typhimurium induces cIAP degradation in macrophages in a SPI-1 dependent manner*". Following deliberations by the judges the ASM VIC Branch Award was awarded to Yinglei (Jenny) Hua (pictured below). As the winner of this award, Yinglei will receive a prize consisting of registration at the Annual Meeting in Adelaide (July 2019), plus \$400 towards the costs of attending the meeting.

Six speakers, Ebony Monson (La Trobe University), Miku Kuba (University of Melbourne), Vik Ven Eng (Hudson Institute of Medical Research), Fernando Villalon Letelier (University of Melbourne), Lauren Zavan (La Trobe University) and Fernando Gordillo-Altamirano (Monash University) competed for the ASM Nancy Millis Student Award, and a prize consisting of registration at the ASM Annual Meeting in Adelaide (July 2019), an airfare and \$500 towards the cost of attending the meeting. The winner of this prize was Fernando Gordillo-Altamirano (pictured below) who presented "*Between a rock and a hard place: Acinetobacter baumannii loses virulence and antibiotic resistance when escaping killing by lytic phages*".

The evening concluded with supper and drinks prepared by Bread & Butta Catering (La Trobe University). Overall, it was a great night for Microbiology! Over 60 people enjoyed the evening's activities.

Congratulations must be extended to all students who competed for prizes on the night – their research presentations were outstanding!



Left to right: Karena Waller, Fernando Gordillo-Altamirano, Yinglei (Jenny) Hua) and Catherine Satzke (ASM VIC Branch Chair)

Report contributed by Karena Waller



ASM VSP Event Report

Dr Vanessa Bailey

“Through the Eye of the Needle: Microbes, Water, and their Connection through Soil Pores”



The ASM Visiting Speakers Program welcomed Dr. Vanessa Bailey from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory on Thursday the 14th of February 2019 at the University of Melbourne. Vanessa was a plenary speaker at this year's Australian Microbial Ecology Conference in Western Australia, and was invited to present her work as part of a VSP tour in Victoria and Queensland. Dr. Bailey gave a fascinating talk entitled “Through the Eye of the Needle: Microbes, Water and their Connection through Soil Pores”.

Dr. Bailey spoke about her laboratory's research on how the physical structure of soil, in combination with the water conditions, can affect the microbial communities in very slight but significant ways. Furthermore, Dr. Bailey and her group have investigated how drought versus saturation conditions alter the soil Carbon mobilisation and subsequently microbial transformation. Dr. Bailey's research group continue to investigate the relationship between soil structures, water, and Carbon cycling and use a multi omics approach to understand the diversity and differences in microbes within soil communities.

We had a range of attendees on the night from University of Melbourne, La Trobe University, Swinburne University and Scale Free Network, of which half were postgraduate students. A special thank you to Dr. Dax Kitchen for providing catering and to Prof. Linda Blackall from the University of Melbourne for hosting Dr. Bailey in Melbourne for the ASM Vic Branch leg of the VSP tour.

Report contributed by Lauren Zavan



Regional Event Save the Date

Presentation by Dr David Wareham

Queen Mary University of London

“Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance: Bench to Bedside and Back Again”

When: Monday 8th April 2019

Where: Federation University Australia, Mount Helen Campus



David Wareham qualified (MBBS) from the London Hospital Medical College in 1994 and trained in general medicine before specialist training in Medical Microbiology (FRCPath). He was awarded a Clinical Training Fellowship to study aspects of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* pathogenicity at Queen Mary University in 2002 and appointed as Senior Clinical Lecturer in Microbiology in July 2005 (PhD). He is an Honorary Consultant Microbiologist at Barts Health NHS Trust responsible for aspects of intensive care microbiology. He heads the Antimicrobial Research Group, which is involved in characterizing the mechanisms underlying the development and persistence of antimicrobial resistance as well as the consequences this may have on the organism and its capacity to cause human disease. This combines genomics, molecular biology, *in-vitro* and *in-vivo* (invertebrates) studies, epidemiological and clinical data in an attempt to dissect the complex relationship between host, pathogen and resistance. Research is driven by

problems encountered in daily clinical practice and in recent years has focused on multi-drug resistant Gram-negative bacteria such as *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* and carbapenem resistant Enterobacteria. Areas of particular interest include the identification of novel resistance determinants, evaluation of novel antimicrobial treatments, pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic analysis of new and repurposed combination therapies, virulence studies of emerging pathogens and interventions to prevent the spread of resistant organisms in the hospital environment.

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:

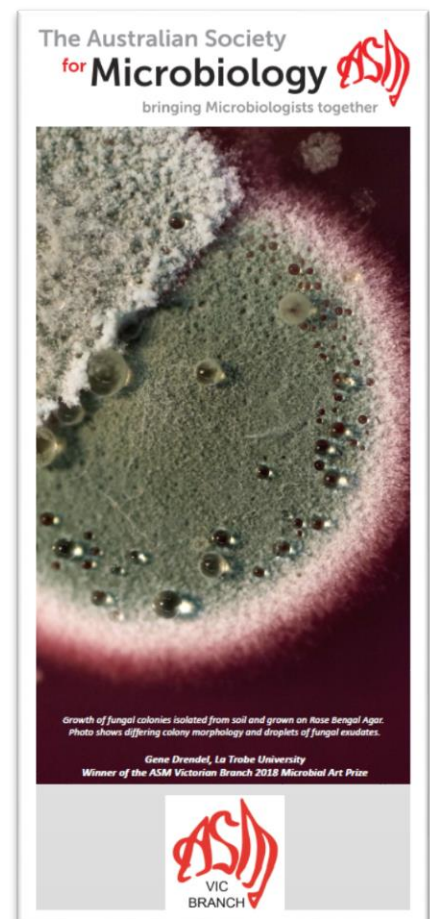
- The 2019 Microbial Art Prize winner will have their image printed on ASM banners to be displayed at events and used in ASM promotional material.
- Plus more!

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 Miquel Viveiros

RUBBO ORATION

A/Prof Tilman Ruff

SNOWDON ORATION

Dr Marnie Peterson

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 Lauren Zavan (lazavan@students.latrobe.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/>

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

Teaching and Learning

- ASM David White Excellence in Teaching Award - <http://www.theasm.org.au/awards/asm-david-white-excellence-in-teaching-award/>
- ASM Teachers' Travel Award - <http://www.theasm.org.au/awards/asm-teachers-travel-award/>

Diagnostic and Clinical Microbiology

- ASM Lyn Gilbert Award - <http://www.theasm.org.au/awards/asm-lyn-gilbert-award/>
- ASM Clinical Microbiology Travel Award - <http://www.theasm.org.au/awards/asm-clinical-microbiology-travel-award/>

Research

- ASM Frank Fenner Award - <http://www.theasm.org.au/awards/asm-frank-fenner-award/>
- ASM Jim Pittard Early Career Award - <http://www.theasm.org.au/awards/asm-jim-pittard-early-career-award/>

Post-graduate and Student Awards

- Millis-Colwell Postgraduate Research Travel Award - <http://www.theasm.org.au/awards/millis-colwell-postgraduate-award/>
- NZMS Postgraduate Research Travel Award - <http://www.theasm.org.au/awards/nzms-postgraduate-research-travel-awardnew-page/>

Contribution and Service

- ASM Distinguished Service Award - <http://www.theasm.org.au/awards/distinguished-service-award/>
- ASM Honorary Life Membership Award - <http://www.theasm.org.au/awards/asm-honorary-life-membership/>



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:
Christine Seers, Treasurer VIC Branch caseers@unimelb.edu.au
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.

MICRO NEWS and VIEWS

- Researchers uncover new structures at plant-fungal interface
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/03/190304121513.htm>
- Giant Newfound 'Medusa' Virus Turns Amoebas to 'Stone'
<https://www.livescience.com/64902-giant-newfound-medusavirus-amoebas-stone.html>
- WHO launches new global influenza strategy
<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/11-03-2019-who-launches-new-global-influenza-strategy>
- A fungus usually found on skin might play a role in Crohn's disease
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/03/190305112836.htm>
- New understanding of sophistication of microbial warfare
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/03/190312092529.htm>
- Climate change could increase foodborne illness by energizing flies
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/climate-change-increase-campylobacter-infections-flies>
- Bacteria in frog skin may help fight fungal infections in humans
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/03/190301123242.htm>
- Bacterial compounds may be as good as DEET at repelling mosquitoes
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/bacteria-compounds-may-be-good-deet-repelling-mosquitoes>
- Breast milk microbiome contains yeast and fungi: Do these benefit the infant?
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/03/190301133843.htm>
- How helpful gut microbes send signals that they are friends, not foes
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/beneficial-gut-microbes-immune-system-pathogens>
- Congo's Ebola outbreak is a testing ground for new treatments
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/congo-ebola-outbreak-testing-new-treatments>
- In some cases, getting dengue may protect against Zika
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/dengue-virus-antibodies-zika-infection>
- Eating a lot of fiber could improve some cancer treatments
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/eating-lot-fiber-could-improve-some-cancer-treatments>

MICRO NEWS and VIEWS

World Tuberculosis Day

24th March 2019

**TB IS
THE TOP
INFECTIOUS
KILLER
IN THE
WORLD**



**IN 2017
1.6 MILLION
PEOPLE DIED
FROM TB**

**INCLUDING
300 000 PEOPLE
WITH HIV**

**TB is the leading killer of people with HIV
and a major cause of deaths related to
antimicrobial resistance**



World Health
Organization



**IT'S TIME FOR ACTION
IT'S TIME TO #ENDTB**

World Tuberculosis Day

24th March 2019

10 facts on tuberculosis

Reviewed September 2018

Fact 1: In 2017, there were an estimated 10 million people fell ill with tuberculosis (TB) worldwide. 5.8 million men, 3.2 million women and 1.0 million children. There were cases in all countries and age groups. But TB is curable and preventable.

Fact 2: A total of 1.6 million people died from TB in 2017 (including 0.3 million people with HIV). Worldwide, TB is one of the top 10 causes of death and the leading cause from a single infectious agent (above HIV/AIDS)

Fact 3: In 2017, 1 million children fell ill with TB globally, and 230 000 children died of TB (including children with HIV associated TB). Childhood TB is often overlooked by health providers and can be difficult to diagnosis and treat.

Fact 4: TB is the leading killer of people living with HIV. In 2017, the proportion of people with TB who died from the disease was 16%, down from 23% in 2000. There were 464 633 reported cases of TB among people living with HIV in 2017, of whom 84% were on antiretroviral therapy. Most of the gaps in detection and treatment were in the WHO African Region, where the burden of HIV associated TB is highest.

Fact 5: Globally, TB incidence is falling at about 2% per year. This needs to accelerate to a 4–5% annual decline to reach the 2020 milestones of the End TB Strategy.

Fact 6: In 2017, the 30 high TB burden countries accounted for 87% of new TB cases. Eight countries account for two thirds of the total, with India leading the count, followed by, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh and South Africa.

Fact 7: Multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) remains a public health crisis and a health security threat. In 2017, there were estimated 558 000 new cases with resistance to rifampicin (the most effective first-line drug), of which 82% had MDR-TB. In some cases an even more severe form of multi-drug resistant TB may develop with bad treatment. Extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) is a form of TB that responds to even fewer available medicines.

Fact 8: TB treatment saved about 54 million lives globally between 2000 and 2017, but important diagnostic and treatment gaps persist. The treatment success rate for people with TB was 83% in 2016.

Fact 9: Of the estimated 10 million new cases, only 6.4 million were detected and notified in 2017, leading to a gap of 3.6 million cases. Ending the TB epidemic by 2030 is among the health targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Fact 10: For TB care and prevention, investments in low- and middle-income countries fall almost US\$ 3.5 billion short of the US\$ 10.4 billion needed in 2017. Without an increase in funding, the annual gap will widen to US\$ 5.4 billion in 2020 and to at least US\$ 6.1 billion in 2022.

Reproduced from the WHO www.who.int/campaigns/world-tb-day/world-tb-day-2019



AIMS VICTORIAN BRANCH &
VICTORIAN IMMUNOHAEMATOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP
PRESENTS:

IT'S IN THE BLOOD

Multidisciplinary Scientific Workshop

WHEN

Saturday, 16th March, 2019.

Registration from 9am

WHERE

Level 7 Lecture Theatre,
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.
305 Grattan St, Parkville, 3000.

PROGRAM

James Thyer	Pathogen Inactivation; Proactively Addressing Blood Safety
Huyen Tran	What's New in Haemophilia Treatment
Kerrie Clerici	TCR Alpha Beta / CD19 Depleted Haploidentical Transplants in Children
Prahlad Ho	Global Coagulation Assays & Their Role in Thrombosis
Fleur Francis	AIMS 2018 Travelling Orator - Dengue in Tropical North Queensland
Shaun Fleming	Mab's, BiTE's and CARTs - Immunotherapy in Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia
Peter Gambell	ICSH WBC Immunodifferential – The New Gold Standard Method
Patricia Szczurek	Leishmaniasis
Joe Rigano	Acquired Haemophilia - Detection and Management
Mary Comande	Blood Management in Paediatric Trauma - The RCH Experience

COST/REGISTRATION

Members: \$70

Non-members: \$85

Students: \$50

(Includes lunch and refreshments)

Register at: <https://www.aims.org.au/events/event/vic-branch-vidg-one-day-workshop>

Registrations close Wednesday, 13th March 2019.

Enquiries: Patricia Szczurek

E-mail: patriciaszczurek@gmail.com



IT'S IN THE BLOOD
Multidisciplinary Scientific Workshop
Saturday 16th March 2019, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

	Speaker (Affiliation)	Topic
0900-0930	Registration & Welcome	
SESSION 1 <i>sponsored by Beckman Coulter</i>		
0930-1000	James Thyer (ARCBS)	Pathogen Inactivation; Proactively Addressing Blood Safety
1000-1030	Huyen Tran (Monash Health)	What's New in Haemophilia Treatment
1030-1100	Kerrie Clerici (RCH)	TCR Alpha Beta / CD19 Depleted Haploidentical Transplants in Children
1100-1130	Morning Tea – slide presentation by sponsor Sysmex & trade table display by sponsor Qiagen	
SESSION 2 <i>sponsored by Grifols</i>		
1130-1200	Prahlad Ho (Northern Health)	Global Coagulation Assays & Their Role in Thrombosis
1200-1230	Fleur Francis (Pathology Queensland) - AIMS Travelling Orator	Dengue in Tropical North Queensland
1230-1300	Shaun Fleming (Alfred Health/Northern Health)	Mab's, BiTE's and CARTs - immunotherapy in Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia
1300-1345	Lunch – slide presentation by sponsor Sysmex & trade table display by sponsor Qiagen	
1345-1355	AIMS Merit Award to be presented to Peter Gambell	
SESSION 3 <i>sponsored by OrthoClinicalDiagnostics</i>		
1355-1425	Peter Gambell (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre)	ICSH WBC Immunodifferential – The New Gold Standard Method
1425-1455	Patricia Szczurek (Austin Health)	Leishmaniasis
1455-1500	(5 min interval)	
1500-1530	Joe Rigano (Austin Health)	Acquired Haemophilia – Detection and Management
1530-1600	Mary Comande (RCH)	Blood Management in Paediatric Trauma - the RCH experience
1600	Meeting Close	



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)

ASM VIC CALENDAR 2018

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

- **AIMS & VIDG Event – "It's in the blood" Multidisciplinary Scientific Workshop – 16th March 2019, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Parkville**
- **ASM Vic Branch Regional Event – Presentation by Dr David Wareham – 8th April 2019, Federation University, Mount Helen Campus**
- **ASM 2019 – 30th June – 3rd July 2019, Adelaide SA**



asm2019
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

30 June -
3 July
Adelaide Convention
Centre
www.theasm.org.au

The Australian Society
for **Microbiology** 
bringing Microbiologists together

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

Email submissions to: jhea@unimelb.edu.au