



Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

July 2019, Vol 524

In this Issue:

- **ASM Contact Details**
- **ASM Vic Branch Committee Working Group Overview**
- **ASM Vic Branch – Public Health Night – Register Now**
- **ASM Vic Branch – 2019 Trivia Night – Register Now**
- **ASM Vic Branch – Microbial Art Prize – Winner Announced**
- **ASM Vic Branch – VSP Event Report – Alan Landay**
- **ASM Annual Scientific Meeting 2020**
- **Visiting Speakers Program (VSP)**
- **ASM Member Awards – Apply Now**
- **ASM History SIG –Call for Memorabilia**
- **Become a member**
- **Micro News and Views**
- **Opportunities**
- **ASM VIC Calendar**

Submission Deadline: 4th of the Month

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

Contact Details

Victorian Branch ASM:

The Australian Society for Microbiology
Victorian Branch
c/o: 9/397 Smith Street, Fitzroy VIC 3065
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
Fax: 1300 655 841
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

Secretary: Sarah Baines
Email: bainess@unimelb.edu.au

Immediate Past Chair: Karena Waller
Email: klwaller@unimelb.edu.au

VSP Coordinator: Lauren Zavan
Email: l.zavan@latrobe.edu.au

Seema Kanade
Email: seema.kanade@dorevitch.com.au

Maria Liaskos
Email: M.Liaskos@latrobe.edu.au

Chris Stubenrauch
Email:
christopher.stubenrauch@monash.edu

Jake Lacey
Email: jake.lacey@unimelb.edu.au

Deputy Chair/Public Health: Mary Valcanis
Email: valcanis@unimelb.edu.au

Treasurer: Christine Seers
Email: caseers@unimelb.edu.au

Communications and Marketing
(incl. Newsletter Editor): Jacqueline Heath
Email: jhea@unimelb.edu.au

Jaelyne Birrell
Email: jaelyne.birrell@gmail.com

Steve Petrovski
Email: Steve.Petrovski@latrobe.edu.au

Priscilla Johanesen
Email: priscilla.johanesen@monash.edu

Louise Sonneveld
Email:
l.sonneveld@alfred.org.au

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



ASM Vic Branch Committee Working Groups

The ASM Victorian Branch Committee has several 'formal' positions such as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Recently, we have added some informal groups into our committee structure. These Working Groups (WGs) will provide a framework to organise events and initiatives for the membership, and the broader Victorian microbiology community. We envisage that the WGs will evolve over time. Information on the current WGs is provided below.

The ASM Victorian Branch Committee continues to strive to advance the science of microbiology in Victoria and to provide value to the membership. If you are interested in any of the events or initiatives organised by a particular WG, or have a suggestion for new ways in which the committee can support the membership, please contact the WG leaders below.

Medical Microbiology

Members: Seema Kanade (WG leader; seema.kanade@dorevitch.com.au), Sarah Baines, Jaelyne Birrell, Louise Sonneveld

Purpose: To engage members of the ASM Victorian Branch with expertise or an interest in clinical and academic (research) medical microbiology.

One Health

Members: Steve Petrovski (WG leader; Steve.Petrovski@latrobe.edu.au), Jacqueline Heath, Chris Stubenrauch, Mary Valcanis

Purpose: To promote microbiology research in cross-disciplinary areas including environment, food, veterinary and human health.

Regional Engagement

Members: Christine Seers (WG leader; caseers@unimelb.edu.au), Steve Petrovski, Catherine Satzke

Purpose: Established to encourage and provide ASM members with assistance in the organisation of microbiology-related events, to be held in non-Melbourne metropolitan regions of Victoria.

Skills, Education, Engagement, Communication (SEEC)

Members: Jacqueline Heath (WG leader; jhea@unimelb.edu.au), Priscilla Johanesen, Seema Kanade, Karena Waller, Lauren Zavan.

Purpose: To foster the professional development and career support of student, early career and senior members of the Society, including academics, researchers and working microbiologists.



**The ASM Victorian Branch
in conjunction with the Doherty Institute Public Health
Cross Cutting Discipline (CCD) present:**

Public Health Night

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

~ Speakers to be confirmed ~

- Venue:** Ground Floor Auditorium
The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity
Corner Grattan and Elizabeth Streets, Melbourne
- Date:** Thursday 22nd August 2019
6pm for finger food & refreshments, presentations commence at 6:30pm
- Chair:** Dr. Mike Catton (Director – VIDRL, Deputy Director – Doherty Institute)
- 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/BDDQL>

For catering purposes, please RSVP for this event by 5pm Tuesday 20th August 2019. For further details, please contact: **Mary Valcanis** valcanis@unimelb.edu.au or **Sarah Baines** bainess@unimelb.edu.au



Register Now

ASM VIC Branch brings to you



2019 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 17th September 2019

Arrive at 6.30pm

Trivia commences at 7.00pm

Where: City of Melbourne Bowls Club

Flagstaff Gardens

Dudley Street

West Melbourne

Google maps: <http://goo.gl/maps/1ZffP>

Details: BYO food / nibbles for your table

All drinks available for purchase from the bar – No BYO drinks

Reservations: Tables of 8

\$10 per person (ASM Member) or

\$15 per person (non-ASM Member)

Reservations for Tables are required and can be made via:

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

RSVP by 5pm Thursday 12th September 2019

For more details, please contact **Jacqueline Heath** (jhea@unimelb.edu.au)

Tables are limited, so get in quick!

Everyone welcome! Great Prizes!

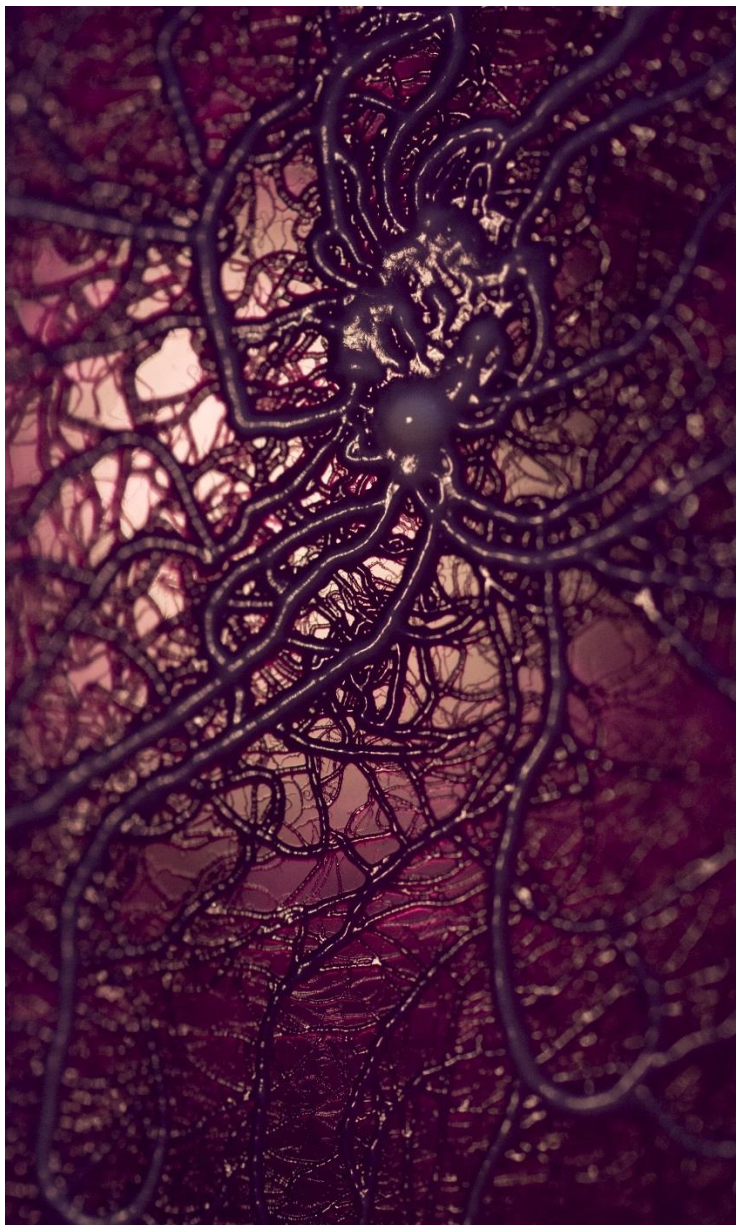


**Announcing the winner of the
2019 ASM Victorian Branch Microbial Art Prize:**

**Gene Drendel,
La Trobe University**

For his image *Growth pattern of a Bacillus mycooides colony grown from a single spot as it spreads across an agar plate.*

Congratulations Gene!



The new ASM Victorian Branch floor banner featuring Gene's winning image will be displayed at the upcoming Public Health Night, to be held at the Doherty Institute on August 22nd 2019.

Visiting Speakers Program -Event Report-

Doherty Institute Seminar Series



The Australian Society for Microbiology Visiting Speakers Program sponsored Prof. Alan Landay from the Department of Internal Medicine at Rush University in Chicago to present at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity Seminar Series on the 4th of July 2019. Titled “Ageing and the immune system – a dangerous liaison”, Alan gave an enlightening update on the expanding research field of ageing. He discussed the heightened inflammatory state that arises with ageing, the role of the human gut microbiome in driving this process, and the development of aged, senescent immune cells. Moreover, Alan delved into how these processes relate to premature ageing diseases seen in HIV infected individuals on long term antiretroviral therapy. Finally, Alan highlighted the emerging classes of drugs termed senolytics and senomorphics that may improve the effects of ageing, which was a reassuring finale to an illuminating seminar of fundamental interest to all given the ageing that we all inevitably face.

Report contributed by: Dr Jenny Anderson, Senior Scientist, Lewin/Cameron Laboratory, PDI



A joint venture between The University of Melbourne and The Royal Melbourne Hospital

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July 5-8

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Join us in Melbourne for good food, great coffee and amazing science!



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Confirmed speakers:
Prof. Jill Banfield

Prof. Ferric Fang
Prof. Denise Monack

Prof. Graham Hatfull
Prof. David Murdoch

Visiting Speakers Program

Do you know of an outstanding speaker coming to Australia?

If so, consider them for the Visiting Speakers Program (VSP).

This program is now coordinated by the ASM Executive standing committee and the National Office in consultation with State branches.

**For more information, please contact Lauren Zavan
(l.zavan@latrobe.edu.au),**

who is the VSP Coordinator for the ASM VIC Branch.

Attention Microbiologists!

Are you organising a microbiology-focussed event?

The main objective of the Australian Society for Microbiology is to advance the science of microbiology in Australia. The ASM Victorian Branch is keen to support local initiatives, with the potential to advertise or co-organise events. If you are organising a microbiology-focussed event or have an idea for a type of event that would appeal to the broader microbiology, please contact us to discuss the ASM Vic Branch may be able to assist.

Please contact Catherine Satzke (catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au) for more information

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

<https://www.theasm.org.au/member-rewards>

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

Teaching and Learning

- ASM David White Excellence in Teaching Award
- ASM Teachers' Travel Award
- ASM USA Teachers' Travel Award

Diagnostic and Clinical Microbiology

- ASM Lyn Gilbert Award
- ASM Clinical Microbiology Travel Award

Research

- ASM Frank Fenner Award
- ASM Jim Pittard Early Career Award

Post-graduate and Student Awards

- Millis-Colwell Postgraduate Research Travel Award
- NZMS Postgraduate Research Travel Award
- ASM Nancy Millis Student Travel Awards

Contribution and Service

- ASM Distinguished Service Award
- ASM Honorary Life Membership Award



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 <https://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

- Climate change could raise the risk of deadly fungal infections in humans
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/climate-change-could-raise-risk-deadly-fungal-infections-humans>
- For salmonella detection, genomic tool emerges as a key
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/07/190726153206.htm>
- Boosting a gut bacterium helps mice fight an ALS-like disease
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/boosting-gut-bacterium-helps-mice-fight-als-disease>
- The cuttlefish may be flashy, but its microbiome is super simple
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/07/190725151005.htm>
- Closing the terahertz gap: Tiny laser is an important step toward new sensors
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/07/190724125728.htm>
- HIV spreads through direct cell-to-cell contact
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/07/190725112609.htm>
- Spraying bats with 'good' bacteria may combat deadly white nose syndrome
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/probiotic-bacteria-spray-bats-deadly-white-nose-syndrome>
- A mysterious coral disease is ravaging Caribbean reefs
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/mysterious-coral-disease-ravaging-caribbean-reefs>
- Strange bacteria hint at ancient origin of photosynthesis
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/07/190725120556.htm>
- Dried Earth microbes could grow on Mars with just a little humidity
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/dried-earth-microbes-could-grow-mars-just-little-humidity>
- New approaches may help solve the Lyme disease diagnosis dilemma
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/ticks-lyme-disease-testing-new-approaches>
- Gut microbes might help elite athletes boost their physical performance
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/gut-microbes-elite-athletes-physical-performance-enhancement>
- This is the first fungus known to host complex algae inside its cells
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/first-fungus-known-host-complex-algae-inside-its-cells>

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)

OPPORTUNITIES

TECHNICAL OFFICER

An opportunity exists for a motivated and experienced scientist in clinical microbiology to join our team at the Microbiological Diagnostic Unit, Public Health Laboratory (MDU PHL). MDU PHL provides a reference testing and advisory service for the Department of Health Victoria. This work is supported by cutting edge molecular and genomics platforms, expertise in infectious disease epidemiology and infection control. We are currently seeking a scientist with expertise in sexual health clinical microbiology to work in our laboratory at the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre. The role will involve testing and reporting on patient samples, assisting the day to day operations and contributing to the quality management system under the supervision of sectional management. The position would suit a candidate with a strong background in clinical microbiology. Molecular diagnostic microbiology would be an advantage.

The position description can be found at:

<http://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/caw/en/job/900352/technical-officer>

ASM VIC CALENDAR 2019

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

- ASM Vic Branch – Public Health Night – 22nd August 2019, Melbourne VIC
- ASM Vic Branch – 2019 Trivia Night – 17th September 2019, Melbourne VIC
- ASM Annual Scientific Meeting 2020 – 5th – 8th July 2020, Melbourne VIC



July 5-8

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The Australian Society
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bringing Microbiologists together

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

Email submissions to: jhea@unimelb.edu.au