



# Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

February 2020, Vol 527

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**Submission Deadline: 5th of the Month**

**Find us on:**

**Website** <http://victoria.theasm.org.au/>

**Facebook** [The Australian Society for Microbiology \(ASM\) - Victorian Branch](#)

**Twitter** [@ASM VicBranch](#)



# 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](mailto:catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au) or  
[asmvicbranch@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:admin@theasm.com.au)  
Weblink: [www.theasm.org.au](http://www.theasm.org.au)  
ABN 24 065 463 274

## **Victorian Branch Committee:**

Chair: Catherine Satzke  
Email: [catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au](mailto:catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au)

Secretary: Sarah Baines  
Email: [bainess@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:bainess@unimelb.edu.au)

Immediate Past Chair: Karena Waller  
Email: [klwaller@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:klwaller@unimelb.edu.au)

VSP Coordinator: Lauren Zavan  
Email: [l.zavan@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:l.zavan@latrobe.edu.au)

Seema Kanade  
Email: [seema.kanade@dorevitch.com.au](mailto:seema.kanade@dorevitch.com.au)

Maria Liaskos  
Email: [M.Liaskos@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:M.Liaskos@latrobe.edu.au)

Chris Stubenrauch  
Email: [christopher.stubenrauch@monash.edu](mailto:christopher.stubenrauch@monash.edu)

Deputy Chair/Public Health: Mary Valcanis  
Email: [valcanis@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:valcanis@unimelb.edu.au)

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

Communications and Marketing  
(incl. Newsletter Editor): Louise Miles  
Email: [lo.miles@alfred.org.au](mailto:lo.miles@alfred.org.au)

Jacqueline Heath  
Email: [jhea@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jhea@unimelb.edu.au)

Steve Petrovski  
Email: [Steve.Petrovski@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:Steve.Petrovski@latrobe.edu.au)

Priscilla Johanesen  
Email: [priscilla.johanesen@monash.edu](mailto:priscilla.johanesen@monash.edu)

Jake Lacey  
Email: [jake.lacey@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jake.lacey@unimelb.edu.au)

All notices should be emailed to: [lo.miles@alfred.org.au](mailto:lo.miles@alfred.org.au)

# Microbiologists of the Month

On behalf of ASM Victoria we would like to congratulate our members on their exceptional achievements, receiving Australia Day Honours awards.

## **Professor Roy Michael Robins-Browne**

We congratulate our past president Professor Roy Michael Robins-Browne who was awarded Officer (AO) in the general division of the order of Australia. For distinguished service to medical education and research in the field of microbiology and immunology, and to professional groups.

To view our members achievements click the link below:

[https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-01/ad2020\\_media\\_notes\\_-\\_ao.pdf](https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-01/ad2020_media_notes_-_ao.pdf)



## **Professor Karen Day**

We congratulate our ASM member Professor Karen Day, a Laboratory Head at the Doherty Institute and Bio21 Institute, who was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for her or significant service to science education, and to global public health.

To view our members achievements click the link below:

[https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-01/ad2020\\_media\\_notes\\_-\\_am\\_a-l.pdf](https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-01/ad2020_media_notes_-_am_a-l.pdf)





## Call for Audience Members

Come along to the

# ASM Nancy Millis Student Awards 2020

**Where:** Lecture Theatre, Rm 2, Level 2 (ground level), Building 80\*  
RMIT University (City campus), Swanston Street, Melbourne  
\* See attached link below for campus map

**When:** Tuesday 25 February 2020, commencing at 6.00pm  
Supper and drinks will be served on conclusion of the presentations

**Presentations:** Post-graduate students from Microbiology research laboratories from tertiary institutes within Victoria will deliver 10-minute presentations and respond to 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 support 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](mailto:klwaller@unimelb.edu.au))

**This is a free event but booking is needed for catering purposes,** so please **register your attendance by 5pm Thursday 20 February 2020** using the link below:

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

# asm2020 VICTORIA



July 5-8

Melbourne  
Convention  
& Exhibition  
Centre

[www.theasm.org.au](http://www.theasm.org.au)

The Australian Society  
for Microbiology



bringing Microbiologists together



Visit Victoria #130894

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



#110626



#148026

## Confirmed speakers:

Laureate Professor Peter Doherty

Professor Elizabeth Grohmann

Professor Denise Monack

Professor Jill Banfield

Professor Graham Hatfull

Professor David Murdoch

Professor Ferric Fang

Professor Anne Helso

Professor Sue Thomas

<https://www.asmmeeting.theasm.org.au/>

# CliniCon

The Australian Society  
for Microbiology

bringing Microbiologists together



We are pleased to invite you to Melbourne for the inaugural

## ASM CliniCon Meeting

The conference will be held on **Wednesday the 8th and Thursday the 9th of July 2020** directly following our regular ASM Annual Scientific Meeting. Please join us for a diverse program specifically tailored to diagnostic laboratory scientists, technicians, trade and anyone else interested in diagnostic microbiology.

### What to Expect:

- A diverse and engaging program relevant to diagnostic microbiologists.
- Poster presentations showcasing case-studies and diagnostic developments.
- Workshops tailored to bench microbiology.
- And of course, great networking and socialising opportunities.

### Enquiries:

Please contact Belinda McEwan for further details ([belinda.mcewan@ths.tas.gov.au](mailto:belinda.mcewan@ths.tas.gov.au)) or if you would like to be involved in planning this new and exciting event.

Stay tuned for further details regarding program, venue and registration.



<https://www.asmmeeting.theasm.org.au/clinicon2020>

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 31<sup>st</sup>** 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](mailto: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.

# Microbiology News and Views

- Whole genome of the Wuhan coronavirus, 2019-nCoV, sequenced - The Institut Pasteur has sequenced the whole genome of the coronavirus known as '2019-nCoV', becoming the first institution in Europe to sequence the virus since the start of the outbreak.  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/01/200131114748.htm>
- Watching bat coronaviruses with next-generation sequencing - A targeted NGS approach may help track the viruses behind dangerous outbreaks  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/01/200129131441.htm>
- Researchers have established how sugar is taken up by the malaria parasite, a discovery with the potential to improve the development of antimalarial drugs  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/01/200129131533.htm>
- A new treatment strategy against MERS  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/01/200129125600.htm>
- Urine fertilizer: 'Aging' effectively protects against transfer of antibiotic resistance  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/01/200122080500.htm>
- Electric field-based dressing helps heal wound infections  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/05/190517173456.htm>
- Color-changing bandages sense and treat bacterial infections  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/01/200129091415.htm>
- Climate change could unlock new microbes and increase heat-related deaths  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/01/200122122105.htm>
- The deadly superbugs lurking in more than nine in ten make-up bags  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/12/191202135705.htm>
- Michelle O'Malley seeks greener chemistry through elusive fungi - Residents of herbivore bellies could make agricultural leftovers into valuable chemicals  
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/michelle-omalley-sn-10-scientists-to-watch>

# Job Vacancy

## Senior Scientist, MDDI

Fixed Term - Full time

Location: Parkville

The Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory (MDU PHL) provides testing and advisory services in the area of Public Health for the state of Victoria. We are looking for a highly skilled, focused and enthusiastic laboratory scientist who is ready to use their well-developed molecular biology, communication, laboratory testing and report writing skills. The successful applicant will be involved in a range of activities including the performance, development and validation of new and existing molecular diagnostic tests, inclusive of PCR and Next Generation Sequencing methodologies, coordinating and reporting data relevant to the prevention, surveillance and control of communicable diseases and assisting in the translation of genomic technologies into public health practice at MDU PHL. The position would suit a candidate with previous experience in a clinical diagnostic laboratory or equivalent, excellent organizational skills and a good eye for detail as well as a strong background in molecular biology and requires the ability to work in a fast paced environment. The work is supported by cutting edge molecular and genomic platforms, expertise in infectious disease epidemiology and infection control. Successful candidate must have full working rights in Australia.

**Applications close:** 19 Feb 2020 11:55 PM AUS Eastern Daylight Time

<http://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/caw/en/job/902144/senior-scientist-mddi>

# **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](mailto:catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au))

# ASM VIC CALENDAR 2020

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

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ASM Nancy Millis Student Awards 2020	25 February, 2020 (RMIT University)
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Vet Micro Event	March, 2020 (Venue TBA)
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Careers Night	April, 2020 (Venue TBA)
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Southern News from the Hospitals (plus AGM)	May, 2020 (Venue TBA)
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ASM Annual Scientific Meeting 2020	5-8 July, 2020 (Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre)
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ASM CliniCon Meeting	8-9 July, 2020 (8 July - Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre 9 July - Monash University, Clayton)
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asm2020  
VICTORIA



July 5-8

Melbourne  
Convention  
& Exhibition  
Centre

[www.theasm.org.au](http://www.theasm.org.au)

The Australian Society  
for Microbiology



bringing Microbiologists together

CliniCon

The Australian Society  
for Microbiology



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**8th & 9th July 2020**

**Submission Deadline for March  
ASM Victorian News:  
March 5th 2020**

Email submissions to: [lo.miles@alfred.org.au](mailto:lo.miles@alfred.org.au)