



# Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

May 2020, Vol 529

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### **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:

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Weblink: [www.theasm.org.au](http://www.theasm.org.au)  
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## Victorian Branch Committee:

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Email: [valcanis@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:valcanis@unimelb.edu.au)

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

Treasurer: Chris Stubenrauch  
Email:  
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All notices should be emailed to: [Jake.lacey@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:Jake.lacey@unimelb.edu.au)

# Letter from the Branch Chair

Hi everyone,

The ASM Vic branch committee has been working hard over the last few months. We have a number of virtual events and initiatives coming up, including a Vet Micro night, casual social events (including 'coffee roulette'), News from the Hospitals, Career development initiatives and more. We are also investigating how we can best support our vulnerable members during COVID-19 times. All these (and more!) are under development, and we will let you know more as soon as dates and plans are finalised.

Everything we do is centred around how we can best serve you. Please help us to do this even better by completing the [ONE QUESTION survey](#) in this newsletter.

I want to particularly thank the ASM branch committee for their stellar work. We have had some recent changes on the committee. Christine Seers who is stepping down from the branch committee after many years of fantastic service as Treasurer. Chris is such a meticulous, friendly, and positive person. Chris, we will miss you lots but look forward to catching up at the next ASM Vic event. We also wish Louise Miles all the best for her upcoming maternity leave and short break from the committee. Thanks to Chris Stubenrauch and Jake Lacey for stepping up to fill the Treasurer role, and to fill in for Newsletter editor, respectively. Priscilla Johanesen has been an active and fantastic long-term member of our committee. She is making an outstanding contribution to ASM at a National level but has kindly offered to pop into our branch meetings occasionally and contribute as well. Thanks Priscilla!

We recently re-issued our call for new members (closing 15th May) as the first call came just as COVID-19 shutdowns happened. More on this, as well as an annual update (in lieu of an AGM) in the next addition of the newsletter.

Most importantly, thank YOU. Microbiologists tend to be a modest bunch and rarely seek the spotlight. We see that you are working incredibly hard to support the COVID-19 response by working from home, physical distancing, finding new ways of educating our students (as parents and educators), mentoring your teams, developing diagnostics or therapeutics, conducting tests in the lab, adapting to new ways of working, directly supporting the clinical response, communicating with family, friends and the public. We see you and we thank you.

Best wishes,  
Catherine

# ASM Victoria Branch Survey

During the current COVID-19 pandemic, the ASM Victorian Branch Committee would like to help our members to stay connected, whilst continuing to provide value to the membership and advance the science of microbiology in Victoria. We would love to know your thoughts on how we can continue to support all our members and plan the most useful online events and resources.

Please click on the link below to complete a short survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ASMVICBranch>

Any questions, please email Jacqueline Heath [jhea@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jhea@unimelb.edu.au)



## Vet Micro Symposium (Online)

Join us for an evening of presentations by members of the microbiology community covering a variety of infectious disease topics in animals.

**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (time to follow)**

**Due to social distancing restrictions this event has been moved online. More details to follow.**

### Current Presentations:

- "Global eradication of bovine rinderpest virus and its relationship to measles and canine distemper viruses" by Colin Wilks (UoM)
- "Epidemiology and pathogenesis of *Serratia marcescens* in the Lord Howe Island Stick Insect (*Dryococelus australis*)" by Nick Doidge (Melb Zoo)
- More exciting speakers to be confirmed

This will be a **free event** for ASM members and non-ASM members.

For further details, please contact **Jacqueline Heath** ([jhea@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jhea@unimelb.edu.au))

# COVID-19 Links

During these unprecedented times it can be difficult to find the best information about Coronavirus (COVID -19) and keep up to date with the ever-changing restrictions and medical advice. Here are some useful links to help you find the most relevant Coronavirus information for Victorians and where to get support.

## Useful Links

Victorian Government – For the most current announcements on Coronavirus for Victorians

<https://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

Australian Government – For the most current health advice

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

DHHS Victoria - Information, updates, and advice about the outbreak of COVID-19

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

World Health Organization- Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Global Virus Network- SARS-CoV-2 Response Effort Highlights

<https://gvn.org/sars-cov-2-response-efforts/>

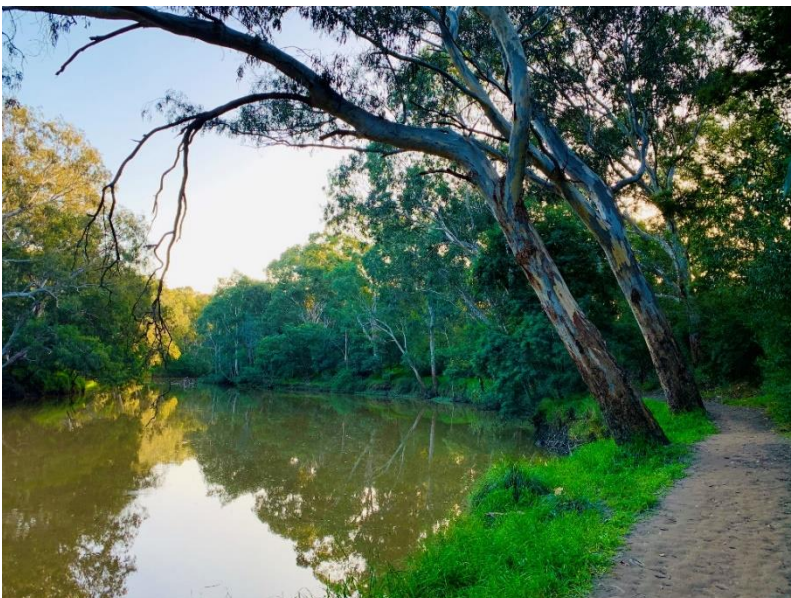
For help accessing support payments

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/>



24/7 Coronavirus health information line 1800 020 080

## News from your Committee in Isolation



This is one of the places I like to escape to when I am in desperate need of some fresh air and sunshine! It's one of the many little side paths off the Main Yarra Trail, not too far from the Fairfield Boathouse

- Sarah Baines

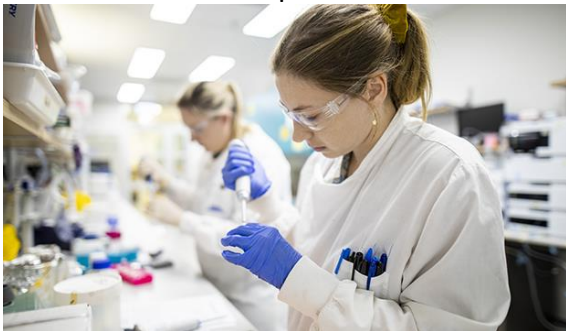
I have been busy baking up a storm in isolation, trying many news recipes. However, my husband is not enjoying his new waistline. – Louise Miles



# COVID-19 Information and Studies

A publication from ASM's own magazine *Microbiology Australia*, authors John S Mackenzie and David W Smith: [COVID-19: a novel zoonotic disease caused by a coronavirus from China: what we know and what we don't](#). This paper describes the evolution of the outbreak, and the known properties of the novel virus, SARS-CoV-2 and the clinical disease it causes, COVID-19, and comments on some of the important gaps in our knowledge of the virus and the disease it causes. The virus is the third zoonotic coronavirus, after SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV, but appears to be the only one with pandemic potential.

In collaboration with [The Doherty Institute and the University of Queensland's COVID-19 vaccine has passed an important milestone](#) showing it has the ability to raise high levels of antibodies that can neutralise the virus in early pre-clinical testing, showing that the vaccine worked as expected.



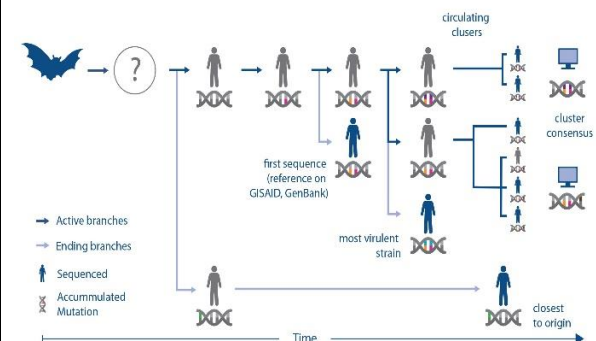
[The Peter Doherty Institute- News and COVID-19 research activity](#) Variety of webinars and media releases and laboratory work diagnostically and research activity.

[An Old TB Vaccine Finds New Life in Coronavirus Trials](#). Studies are underway to test whether giving a shot of BCG vaccine could protect doctors and nurses against

COVID-19. This study is also being conducted in Australia.

[COVID-19 Vaccine Frontrunners](#) from around the world (The Scientist)

Researchers from CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, have unveiled [a new approach to analysing the genetic codes – or the blueprint – of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19](#).



[The Unusual Symptoms of COVID-19](#).

Scientists document a growing list of atypical coronavirus infection symptoms, giving doctors more insight into the emerging disease. (The Scientist)

[Why the Accuracy of SARS-CoV-2 Antibody Tests Varies So Much](#). The FDA cracks down on test makers as independent evaluations of their products' performance show a need for improvement. (The Scientist)

[Useful tips on mentoring graduate students](#) during & beyond COVID-19.

### British Society of Immunology

Webinars: Connect on Coronavirus

- [Running the gauntlet in the development of a Coronavirus vaccine for global access](#)
- [Antibody testing, neutralising monoclonals and other immune therapeutics](#)
- [Emerging lessons about immunity to COVID-19](#)
- [The impact of altered immunity during ageing on SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

### [Post-market evaluation of serology-based point of care tests.](#)

As part of a Post Market Review the TGA is now reviewing all approved serology-based COVID-19 POC tests to verify their ability to detect antibodies to SARS-COV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), taking into consideration the timeframes for an individual to develop detectable levels of antibody. The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity (the Doherty Institute), has been engaged by the Department of Health to assist with the post-market verification process of these tests, to inform their best use. However, reports by other Australian laboratories or comparable international regulators may also be taken into consideration.

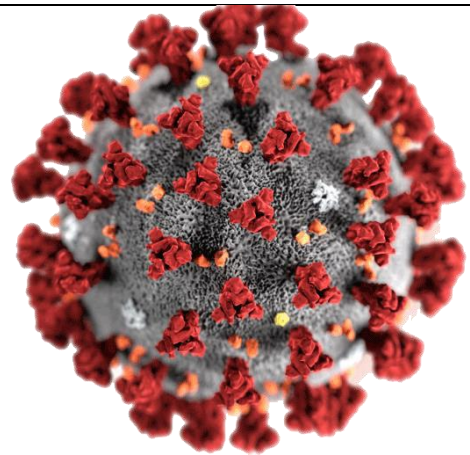


Illustration of the ultrastructure of the Covid-19 virus.  
CDC/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY.  
<https://www.newscientist.com/term/covid-19/>

[COVID-19 kids research evidence weekly updates](#) by collaborators of the University of Melbourne Paediatric department.

Be **READY** for #coronavirus

WHO is giving advice on how to protect ourselves & others:

Be **SAFE** from coronavirus infection

Be **SMART** & inform yourself about it

Be **KIND** & support one another

Learn more about #COVID19 & share with your loved ones: [www.who.int/COVID-19](http://www.who.int/COVID-19)



A YouTube interview with the American Society of Microbiology's [President Robin Patel : Top COVID-19 Questions, Answered](#)



[Receptors for SARS-CoV-2 Present in Wide Variety of Human Cells.](#)

Analyses from single-cell sequencing datasets support the idea that COVID-19 is not just a respiratory disease but an illness that can affect multiple organs.

## Isolation Entertainment

### Colouring In for All Ages

Grab yourself a cuppa and enjoy a relaxing afternoon of colouring in. Please take a happy snap of your pictures and share with our ASM VIC community on our Facebook and/or Twitter pages.







# Isolation Entertainment

## Isolation Word Search

S	M	A	S	K	J	I	G	S	A	W	G	R	O
E	E	Z	I	N	A	G	R	O	E	R	A	E	E
E	G	E	Z	I	N	E	T	F	L	I	X	V	C
S	S	O	R	K	O	T	K	I	T	R	A	E	E
A	O	S	O	B	R	I	N	U	R	S	E	F	T
M	H	N	R	O	O	E	H	C	A	D	A	E	H
Z	I	E	T	E	E	E	M	E	R	G	I	N	G
O	A	C	I	N	F	E	C	T	I	O	U	S	O
D	O	T	E	C	N	A	T	S	I	D	A	P	O
D	I	A	E	L	I	P	K	C	O	T	S	I	E
N	O	R	E	A	D	I	N	G	H	G	U	O	C
T	S	I	T	N	E	I	C	S	Z	E	O	G	A
O	E	S	A	G	N	I	C	N	A	T	S	I	D
V	D	R	E	Z	I	T	I	N	A	S	R	D	M

DISTANCE  
BREAD  
EMERGING  
NETFLIX  
COUGH  
SANITIZER  
DISTANCING  
REORGANIZE  
FEVER  
INFECTIOUS  
STOCKPILE  
MASK  
SCIENTIST  
JIGSAW  
TIKTOK  
HEADACHE  
ZOOM  
READING  
NURSE  
DOCTOR

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1155813/>

To prevent COVID-19 it is safest to avoid physical contact when greeting. Safe greetings include a wave, a nod, or a bow.

How should I greet another person to avoid catching the new coronavirus?



#Coronavirus #COVID19

9 March 2020

# Call for ASM VICTORIAN BRANCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2020

The ASM Victorian Branch is calling for nominations or re-nominations to the committee. The commitment includes attending a regular meeting once a month and assisting with the organisation of Branch activities. We are committed to representing the diversity of our membership.

If you are interested in joining the committee, please send a completed nomination form (below) to Mary Valcanis (Victorian Branch Deputy Chair) [valcanis@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:valcanis@unimelb.edu.au)

Following the recruitment process, the new committee will be formally announced at the next Annual General Meeting.

## I wish to nominate for the ASM Victorian Branch Committee

NAME	
CONTACT DETAILS	
SIGNATURE	
Describe ( <b>max 150 words</b> ) your career history (work/study), Why you are interested in joining the committee, and what skills or qualities you will bring to the role.	

### Proposed by

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ (MASM or FASM)

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

### Seconded by

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ (MASM or FASM)

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Please scan and email to: Mary Valcanis (Deputy Chair) at [valcanis@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:valcanis@unimelb.edu.au)

Applications close 5pm Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**The following events have been postponed until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic**

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**News from the Hospitals & ASM Victoria Branch AGM 2020**

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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

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**CliniCon**

The Australian Society  
for Microbiology   
bringing Microbiologists together

**8th & 9th July 2020**

# 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 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.

# **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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Vet Micro Symposium	<b>30 June 2020 (Online)</b>
Careers Night	<b>Postponed</b>
Southern News from the Hospitals (plus AGM)	<b>Postponed</b>
ASM Annual Scientific Meeting 2020	<b>Postponed</b> (Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre)
ASM CliniCon Meeting	<b>Postponed</b> (Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre & Monash University, Clayton)
'Microbes on the Move' NZMS- ASM Joint Conference	<b>23-26 November 2020</b> Rotorua New Zealand

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

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



