

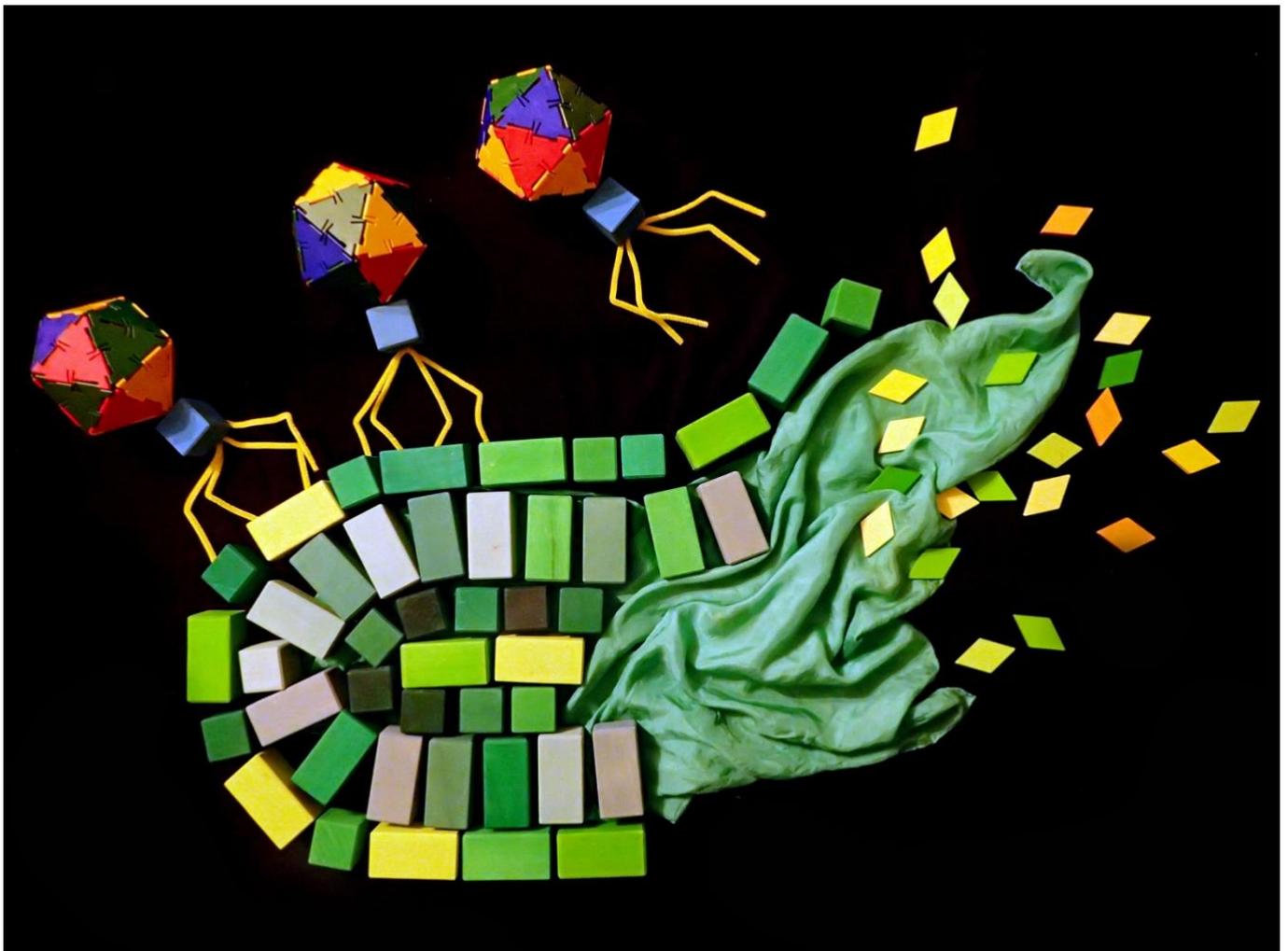


# Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

August 2020, Vol 532

## Microbial Art Prize Winners Announced



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## 2020 Calendar

Event	Date
Virtual Coffee Roulette	17 <sup>th</sup> August – 20 <sup>th</sup> August, 2020
Agriculture and Food Microbiology Night	7 <sup>th</sup> October, 2020
Trivia Night	TBA

# Events

## Virtual Coffee Roulette 17<sup>th</sup> August – 20<sup>th</sup> August

### Want to meet your fellow ASM members?

We know how hard it has been to connect with people in this time of isolation. That is why we have set up a virtual coffee roulette! This is a great chance to meet other members of ASM and get to know one another over a quick 30-minute break. We will connect you with a small group of your peers for a casual chat, a nice break with a cup of coffee (or glass of wine in hand if it's that time of the day), or even a chance to collaborate!

All you have to do is:

- Register for the event
- Choose a session time that suits you
- Receive a Zoom meeting link
- Show up and have a good time

### Sessions:

- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August, 11.00pm
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August, 3.00pm
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August, 11.00am
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August, 3.00pm

**Registration:** <https://www.trybooking.com/BKSVN>  
Registrations close 5pm, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August. This is a free event for ASM full and student members. Zoom meeting link to be provided after registration via email.

### Rules:

We ask that if you register for a session you commit to attending the meeting and we expect participants to be respectful and use appropriate language.

For further details, please contact **Lauren Zavan** ([l.zavan@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:l.zavan@latrobe.edu.au))



## Agriculture and Food Microbiology Night 7<sup>th</sup> October – Save the date.

The One health working group is organising an agriculture and food microbiology night to run on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

More information coming soon.

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## ASM and SPASM Annual Trivia Night

This year we are doing things a little different and hosting our annual trivia night online.

More information coming soon.

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# News and Views

## ASM Vic Branch Website

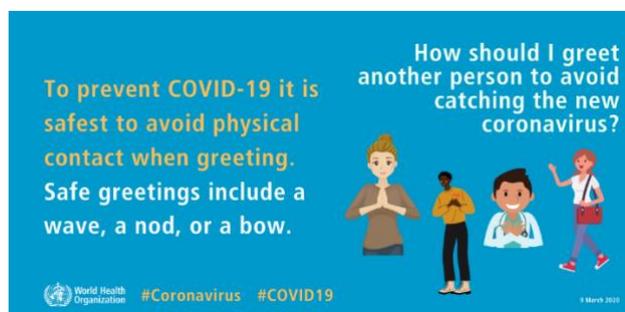
Our new website is up and running  
<https://asmvicbranch.squarespace.com/>

## We are back into lockdown so keep up to date with COVID-19

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.

- Victorian Government – For the most current announcements on Coronavirus for Victorians  
(<https://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>)
- DHHS Victoria - Information, updates, and advice about the outbreak of COVID-19  
(<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>)

**24/7 Coronavirus health information line 1800 020 080**



## Plasma Touches Life Scholarship (PhD)

PhD scholarship opportunity based at the University of South Australia, Future Industries Institute (FII) and the CSIRO. For more information and eligibility see (<https://www.unisa.edu.au/research/Research-degrees/Scholarships/plasma-touches-life-scholarship/>)

## Postdoc Opportunity in Cambodia

A 2-year post-doctorate position is available with the Virology Unit of the Institute Pasteur du Cambodge (IPC) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. IPC is a member of the Institute Pasteur International Network (IPIN), a highly coordinated network with 32 member institutes spread across the globe facilitating collaboration and scientific exchange. The successful candidate will work in the Virology Unit under Dr. Erik Karlsson, Deputy Head of Virology, to conduct research focused mainly on human seasonal and zoonotic respiratory viruses (including avian influenza and SARS-CoV-2) at the human-animal interface. The job will encompass bench and operational research as well as fieldwork under a One Health approach. The profile of the Postdoctoral Researcher is preferably (but not limited to) an end-stage Ph.D. candidate or recently graduated Ph.D. in Virology, Molecular Biology, or Infectious Disease with a background in molecular biology, *in vitro* and *in vivo* research. Recently graduated veterinarians and medical students also encouraged to apply. The Virology Unit at IPC has numerous collaborative links to Victorian (and Australian) universities and research institutes. While the position is based in Cambodia there exists a possibility of commencing the role in Australia (due to current COVID-19 restrictions).

For more information on the position, including closing date for applications, please contact Dr Erik Karlsson by email: [ekarlsson@pasteur-kh.org](mailto:ekarlsson@pasteur-kh.org)

## Senior Scientist Position – MDU(PHL)

The Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory (MDU PHL) is 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 organisational skills and a good eye for detail as well as post-graduate training in molecular biology. 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. For more information see (<http://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/caw/en/job/903074/senior-scientist-molecular-diagnostics-development-and-informatics>)

## Introductory course in applied microbial genomics for public health

1<sup>st</sup> December to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

Online course hosted by the Doherty Institute, The University of Melbourne. From 1<sup>st</sup> December to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

Genomics is revolutionising the practice of public health microbiology and epidemiology globally, however capacity in genomic data analysis is a key limiting factor in implementation of the technology. This course, designed for public health microbiologists and epidemiologists, will introduce concepts and provide practical experience in the analysis and interpretation of microbial genome data for public health action, with a focus on antimicrobial resistance and the application of genomics to the COVID-19 response. Applications close on Friday, 30 October 2020. Successful applicants will be notified via email.

For more information and to apply and costs see (<https://www.doherty.edu.au/genomics/events?msEntryId=2480>)

## Microbial Art Competition 2020

We had so many fantastic entries into the microbial art prize this year and we thank everyone for their inventive and creative submissions. We had a large range of submissions using different techniques including:

- paintings
- macro photography
- block art
- crochet and cross stick
- Metalwork

It was a challenging task to select a winner but our winners of the 2020 ASM Vic Branch Microbial Art Prize are: Dr Jen Wood and Mr Adam Wood

Title: "**Lysis of a Blockteria by Polydron-phage**"  
Submitter: Dr Jen Wood (La Trobe University) and Mr Adam Wood



## The Other Committee Favourites

Title: "**Your Oral Microbes**"

Description: A collection of crocheted bacteria representing the most common genus of bacteria found in the human oral cavity, as well as a few disease-associated species. During isolation, I taught myself to crochet, designed the patterns and then made these. They are created to scale, where 10 cm is the equivalent of 1µm

Submitter: Dr Samantha Byrne (University of Melbourne)



Title: "**Metalwork Phage**"

Description: A sculpture of a bacteriophage (roughly based on the T2 phage) made by arc welding pieces of scrap metal together.

Submitter: Charlotte Grazebrook (Monash University)



Title: "**Kombucha Mother**"

Description: An image of my participants kombucha starter in their home kitchens, taken during the fieldwork for my research.

Submitter: Jacquelyn Evans (La Trobe University)



# Research Highlights

## Journal Articles

Community succession of the grapevine fungal microbiome in the annual growth cycle  
(<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32686214/>)

Pay-it-forward gonorrhoea and chlamydia testing among men who have sex with men in China: a randomised controlled trial  
([https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(20\)30172-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(20)30172-9/fulltext))

Influence of the polar light cycle on seasonal dynamics of an Antarctic lake microbial community  
(<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32772914/>)

Fatal respiratory diphtheria caused by beta-lactam-resistant *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*  
(<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32772914/>)

Identification of a cluster of Extended-spectrum Beta-lactamase producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* sequence type 101 isolated from food and humans  
(<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32776135/>)

Genomic epidemiology of *Campylobacter jejuni* associated with asymptomatic paediatric infection in the Peruvian Amazon  
(<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32776937/>)

Complementary dynamics of banana root colonisation by the plant growth promoting Rhizobacteria *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* Bs006 and *Pseudomonas palleroniana* Ps006 at spatial and temporal scales  
(<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32778917/>)

Entomopathogenic fungi as endophytes for biological control of subterranean termite pests attacking cocoa seedlings  
(<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32764446/>)

Neurocognitive impacts of arbovirus infections  
(<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32778106/>)

Fatal outcome of chikungunya virus infection in Brazil  
(<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32766829/>)

Formation and function of bacterial organelles  
(<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32710089/>)

Antimicrobial stewardship in remote primary healthcare across northern Australia  
(<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32765965/>)

Analysis of Ugandan cervical carcinomas identified human papillomavirus clade-specific epigenome and transcriptome landscapes  
(<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41588-020-0673-7>)

Doubling of the known set of RNA viruses by metagenomic analysis of an aquatic virome  
(<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41564-020-0755-4>)

Lactate production by *Staphylococcus aureus* biofilm inhibits HDAC11 to reprogram the host immune response during persistent infection  
(<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41564-020-0756-3>)

## Share your recently published research with us.

Are you an ASM Vic Branch member? Have you published a paper or a preprint in the last month and want to get the word out?

Send it to us with a summary paragraph and let us share it with our Victorian members in our Newsletter. Send your submissions by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the Month to Jake Lacey ([jake.lacey@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jake.lacey@unimelb.edu.au)) with the subject heading **Research Highlights**



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)

 UNITED NATIONS  World Health Organization

# Contact and Society Details



## Vic Branch Committee

**Chair:** Catherine Satzke  
(catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au)  
**Deputy Chair/Public Health:** Mary Valcanis  
(valcanis@unimelb.edu.au)  
**Secretary:** Sarah Baines (bainess@unimelb.edu.au)  
**Treasurer:** Chris Stubenrauch  
(christopher.stubenrauch@monash.edu)  
**Immediate Past Chair:** Karena Waller  
(klwaller@unimelb.edu.au)  
**VSP Coordinator:** Lauren Zavan  
(l.zavan@latrobe.edu.au)  
**Communications and Marketing (incl. Newsletter Editor):** Jake Lacey (jake.lacey@unimelb.edu.au), Louise Miles, (lo.miles@alfred.org.au)

**Committee Members:** Maria Liaskos (M.Liaskos@latrobe.edu.au), Seema Kanade (seema.kanade@dorevitch.com.au), Priscilla Johannesen (priscilla.johanesen@monash.edu), Jacqueline Heath (jhea@unimelb.edu.au) Steve Petrovski (Steve.Petrovski@latrobe.edu.au)

## Committee Working Groups

**One Health:** Steve Petrovski, Jacqueline Heath, Jake Lacey, Chris Stubenrauch, Mary Valcanis.

**Medical Microbiology:** Seema Kanade, Sarah Baines, Maria Liaskos, Jake Lacey

**Regional Engagement:** Catherine Satzke, Steve Petrovski

**Skills, Education, Engagement and Communications:** Jacqueline Heath, Priscilla Johannesen, Karena Waller, Seema Kanade, Lauren Zavan.

**Submissions:** Deadlines for ASM Victorian News is the 5<sup>th</sup> of the Month. All notices should be emailed to Jake Lacey ([jake.lacey@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jake.lacey@unimelb.edu.au)).

## Find us on:

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

Twitter: [@ASM\\_VicBranch](https://twitter.com/ASM_VicBranch)

Facebook: [The Australian Society for Microbiology \(ASM\) - Victorian Branch](https://www.facebook.com/ASM-Victorian-Branch)



**Becoming a Member:** 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.

## Upgrade to a professional membership (MASM):

to be eligible for MASM, you must have: Completed an academic qualification in microbiology at degree level or alternative qualifications acceptable to the Council; and have satisfactorily completed two years of postgraduate work to advance the discipline of microbiology. If you meet these criteria, all you need to do it obtain a declaration form a referee who is a MASM or FASM finical member of the society, your curriculum vitae and academic record/copy of degree and submit online. For more information see. <https://www.theasm.org.au/professional-membership-masm>

**Visiting speakers' program (VSP):** 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.

**Organising events:** 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

**Advertisements:** Would you like to advertise your event, job vacancy or other news item in our newsletter? If so, please contact Jake Lacey (jake.lacey@unimelb.edu.au) Advertising rates are: Not-for-profit adverts: free of charge and For-profit adverts: \$50 per advert.

**ASM History SIG:** 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

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**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: <http://www.theasm.org.au/>  
ABN 24 065 463 274

**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)

A list of the other ASM branches can be found online at <http://www.theasm.org.au/>

