



## **MEEM, MiM2020 & MicroSeq2020 Virtual Coffee Roulette ASM Student Summer Scholarship**



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## 2020 Calendar

Event	Date
<b>Agriculture and Food Microbiology Night</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> October, 2020
<b>Virtual Coffee Roulette</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> October, 2020
<b>MEEM2020</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> October, 2020
<b>MiM2020</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2020 & 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2020,
<b>ASM Student Summer Scholarship Awards</b>	Applications Close 6 <sup>th</sup> November, 2020
<b>MicroSeq2020</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> November, 2020

# Events

## Agriculture and Food Microbiology Night – Event Report

The One Health group from the ASM Vic Branch organised their second online event via zoom on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2020. The event was open to the public and we had 48 attendees. The event was successful with three very interesting presentations.

Our first speaker was Dr Kate Howell from University of Melbourne gave us some fantastic insights into the importance of microbial biogeography and how that influenced the profiles of regionally distinctive wines. Our second speaker Dr Jacqueline Morris from Agriculture Victoria/Latrobe presented her work on characterising a local *Liberibacter* species and how this species compares to the pathogenic species that pose a risk to our agriculture production. The final speaker was Mr Behrad Radmehr from Swinburne who presented his work on characterising *Bacillus cerus* group isolates from raw and pasteurised milks in Victoria.

The presentations were very interesting and gave an overview of three diverse research areas.  
Event report by Jake Lacey

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## MEEM in Victoria 29<sup>th</sup> October 2:00pm – 5:00pm

The Microbial Ecology and Environmental Microbiology (MEEM) in Victoria Symposium is coming up at the end of the month. This symposium is designed to promote communication/collaboration for those interested in microbial ecology, environmental microbiology, evolutionary microbiology and related disciplines.

This is a free event with a fantastic line up of speakers (see attached the timetable/flyer for more information) so don't forget to register.

**Date:** Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 2:00-5:00 pm AEDT

**Venue:** Zoom/Online (a link will be sent to registered participant one day prior)

**Cost:** Free

**Registration:** <http://www.trybooking.com/BMASV>

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## Virtual Coffee Roulette 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October (4 sessions)

### 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 26<sup>th</sup> October, 11.00am
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October, 3.00pm
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October, 11.00am
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October, 3.00pm

**Registration:** <https://www.trybooking.com/BLZLX>.

Registrations close 5pm, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. 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))

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## MiM2020 (QLD Event)

31<sup>st</sup> October & 7<sup>th</sup> November

10.00am – 12.30pm

Microbiology in Moreton Bay (MiM) will take place on two Saturdays (31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020, for approximately 2 h on each day).

The keynote address will be delivered by Prof Paul Young on COVID-19 vaccine development (31<sup>st</sup> October) and A/Prof Makrinia Totsikia on Bacterial Virulence (7<sup>th</sup> November). On the 7<sup>th</sup> November we are also very proud to have two members of the Pacific Region Infectious Disease Association (PRIDA) as guest speakers to talk about their recent work in improving diagnostics and treatments.

Registration is free for ASM members, with an AUD 5\$ contribution requested from non- members. RSVP by 28<sup>th</sup> October to receive the zoom link for the event.

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=662727&>

Judging for the MiM2020 Image competition will occur across both days so don't forget to submit your entry to in for the chance to win the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: a \$100 Coles-Myer Gift Card. Rules/Images must be:

- Featuring microbes
- At least 8"x10" at 300dpi
- New and Original
- Captioned for a general audience
- 1 submission per ASM member

Submit your images to [asmqld@gmail.com](mailto:asmqld@gmail.com)

## ASM Vic Branch Summer Student Research Awards

Applications Close 6<sup>th</sup> November

Applications for ASM summer vacation scholarship award are now open. Students are invited to apply for experience working in a laboratory over the 2020/21 summer months for a maximum of 8 weeks. Successful awardees will receive a \$1500 scholarship on completion of the project and a report and, one-year free student membership to the Australian Society for Microbiology.

An abstract from the research project which will be published in the ASM VIC Branch Newsletter and Microbiology Australia and recipients of the award will be asked to deliver a short (5 min) oral presentation at the ASM VIC Branch Nancy Millis Award Night, which is typically held in late February.

For further details about the award and eligibility criteria please see the attached application form or contact Priscilla Johanesen ([priscilla.johanesen@monash.edu](mailto:priscilla.johanesen@monash.edu)).

## MicroSeq2020

10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> November

The ASM Vic Branch is supporting an online meeting MicroSeq2020, to discuss all things microbiology and sequencing (fungi, bacteria and viruses).

This meeting will provide opportunities for Australian-based ECRs and PhD students to share their exciting research with Prizes for the best talks.

Keynote speakers include:

- Dr Michelle Wille (University of Sydney)
- Dr Jeremy Barr (Monash University)
- Dr Laura Machuca Suarez (Curtin University)
- Dr Ben Woodcroft (QIMR)

Abstract submissions are closed. But Registrations are still open so don't forget to register. Let us know when you have registered on twitter with #MicroSeq2020

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 from Midday AEDT.

**Venue:** Zoom/Online

**Cost:** \$5 for ASM members  
\$10 for non-ASM members

**Registration:** <https://www.trybooking.com/BLUOG> .



## MicroSeq2020



Online meeting from midday AEDT  
10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> November  
#MicroSeq2020

### Keynote speakers

Dr Michelle Wille  
University of Sydney

Dr Jeremy Barr  
Monash University

Dr Laura Machuca Suarez  
Curtin University

Dr Ben Woodcroft  
Queensland University  
of Technology

All things microbiology and sequencing:  
fungi, bacteria, viruses  
Opportunity for Australia-based ECRs and  
PhD Students to share their exciting research  
Prizes for best talks

Registration and abstract  
submissions close 2nd October

\$5 ASM members \$10 non-ASM members

Supported by 

# News and Views

## Inviting applications for ASM Fellowship (FASM)

The Australian Society for Microbiology (ASM) Victorian Branch Committee is inviting eligible ASM MASM members to apply to become Fellows of the Australian Society for Microbiology (FASM).

Fellows of the Society are those microbiologists who, through a process of peer assessment, are determined to be either specialists in their field, or scientists who have made a significant contribution to the profession.

Fellowship is the higher qualification of the ASM which is granted by the Council on the recommendation of the National Examinations & Qualifications Board.

### FELLOWSHIP ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- A financial MASM member of ASM at the time of applying for the fellowship.
- At least 10 years' experience in the field of microbiology.

### REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- Curriculum Vitae, including details of your tertiary and other relevant qualifications, a list of your major publications.
- Completion of a FASM Referee Declaration (form downloadable below).

Further details can be found on the ASM National Website

<https://www.theasm.org.au/fellowship-fasm-1>

## Update your associate membership to a professional membership MASM

The Australian Society for Microbiology (ASM) Victorian Branch Committee is inviting eligible ASM members to apply to become professional members of the Australian Society for Microbiology (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 is obtain a declaration form from a referee who is a MASM or FASM

financial 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>

## 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>

## Opportunity to work for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – Clinical Operations Lead.

### PRIMARY OBJECTIVES:

- The Pathology Clinical Operations Lead coordinates safe and timely access and interpretation to COVID-19 testing results for Victoria. This includes data collation, reporting and analysis of COVID-19 consumables and testing data across public health reference, public and private laboratories.
- The role includes provision of technical advice, report writing, briefings and correspondence as well as team management.

For further information see attached job card attached at end of newsletter. Interested individuals should send their CV and cover letter in an email to Hannah Chapman.

([hannah.chapman@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:hannah.chapman@dhhs.vic.gov.au))

# 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), Harshini Weerasinghe (harshini.weerasinghe@monash.edu.au), Sam Manna (sam.manna@mcri.edu.au), Andrew Greenhill (Andrew.greenhill@federation.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:** Andrew Greenhill, Catherine Satzke, Steve Petrovski  
**Skills, Education, Engagement and Communications:** Jacqueline Heath, Priscilla Johannesen, Karena Waller, Seema Kanade, Lauren Zavan, Harshini Weerasinghe, Sam Manna.

**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/>





# Pathology – Clinical Operations Lead – JOB CARD – VPS 6

SHIFT: 7 Days (Shift Pattern TBC)

## PRIMARY OBJECTIVES:

- The Pathology Clinical Operations Lead coordinates safe and timely access and interpretation to COVID-19 testing results for Victoria. This includes data collation, reporting and analysis of COVID-19 consumables and testing data across public health reference, public and private laboratories.
- The role includes provision of technical advice, report writing, briefings and correspondence as well as team management.

## ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

### Functional Skills and Responsibilities:

- Oversee COVID-19 test consumables (including equipment, swabs and reagents) and reporting related advice to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).
- Liaise with relevant entities, e.g. both public and private laboratories, to determine existing plans, identify and advise on potential gaps.
- Liaise, support and provide input into the relevant cells within the Public Health Response of COVID-19, including but not limited to the Intelligence, Case Contract and Tracing Team, Infection Prevention and Control cells
- Liaise with relevant stakeholders and entities, provide accurate and timely briefings and advice.
- Ensure completeness and accuracy of data capture and management
- Keep abreast of existing and emerging testing approaches for COVID-19 and advise on suitability of use.
- Provide pathology testing advice to support public health investigations into cases of suspected infectious disease transmission, primarily in community settings, but also in healthcare settings as required.
- Provide expert advice and support to departmental committees on pathology including outbreak management / case contact and tracing matters as required

### Level of Supervision/Independence

- Work independently and as part of a team
- Routine line management is through the Pathology Operations Lead

### Problem Solving and Judgement

- Excellent problem-solving skills for analysing information and providing advice in various settings
- The role will have sound judgment incorporating skills, knowledge, confidentiality and sensitivity

### Professional and organisational knowledge

- Broad range of expertise in all aspects of Pathology test reporting
- Understand the limitation and implications of pathology testing issues in a broad public health context, and the relevance of these matters for the Department of Health and Human Services and other stakeholders in the community developments.

## INITIAL ACTIONS:

- Provide expert advice and support to departmental committees on pathology including outbreak management / case contact and tracing matters as required
- Liaise with relevant entities, e.g. both public and private laboratories, to determine existing plans, identify and advise on potential gaps.
- Liaise with relevant entities, e.g. both public and private laboratories, to determine existing plans, identify and advise on potential gaps.
- Liaise, support and provide input into the relevant cells within the Public Health Response of COVID-19, including but not limited to the Intelligence, Case Contract and Tracing Team, Infection Prevention and Control cells

## CLASSIFICATION:

VPS 6 or equivalent

## QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE (VPS 6):

### Essential

- Suitably qualified Medical Laboratory Scientist / Biomedical Scientist / Pathology Laboratory Manager or equivalent relevant experience in pathology laboratory settings
- Highly experienced working and liaising with laboratories in public or private sectors in Victoria or in Australia
- Demonstrate good understanding of pathology testing requirements and process in Victoria or in Australia
- Management experience in leading a high performing team
- Familiarity working within government public health environment e.g. public health unit or reference laboratory

### Desirable

- Post Graduate qualification in Public Health
- Strong investigative skills
- Demonstrate knowledge of in disease surveillance, molecular and genomic clinical testing
- Demonstrated ability in investigations and preparing reports
- Demonstrate experience in complex stakeholder management and consultation skills
- Familiarity with the Victorian Laboratory Network

## SYSTEM ACCESS REQUIREMENTS:

- DHHS email account.
- Laptop.
- Telephone/call centre system training.
- PHESS access.
- TRIM access.

## TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- General Induction – Candidate Readiness Assessment

Approved by:  
Approved date:

Version: 1.0  
Trim reference:

OFFICIAL