



Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

End of Year 2020, Vol 535



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2020-2021 Calendar

Event	Date
ASM2021	31 st May – 3 rd June, 2021
LISSSD	21 st -24 th June, 2021

A Letter from our Branch Chair

Dear Members,

It's hard to sum up 2020 without slipping into cliché. Unprecedented, certainly. Challenging, definitely. But the term that comes to mind for me is pride. We can be so proud of our microbiology community, who have risen to our individual and collective challenges this year.

We have contributed directly to the COVID response as clinical microbiologists, by developing and evaluating diagnostics, treatments or vaccines, understanding the virology, genomics, transmission and immune response to SARS-CoV-2, and assisting the public health response. Most of us have had major disruptions and changes to our teaching, research, R&D and operations. And the challenges with lockdown, including loneliness, anxiety or acute lack of personal space (or all of the above!).

Yet amongst all that, we have made major contributions to science, and done it with kindness. I'm particularly proud of the ASM Vic branch committee, who are a delightful bunch of people who work hard to serve our >500 members. This year we delivered scientific seminars, social events, a membership initiative to support this in financial need, and supported MicroSeq2020, an EMCRA initiated and organised conference.

Thanks to everyone. Take care, rest up, and see you for a bright 2021!

Sincerely,

Catherine Satzke.

Events

MicroSeq2020 – Event Report

With ASM's national meeting postponed due to COVID-19, there was a microbiology-shaped hole in ECRs event calendar this year. With this in mind, and with the support of ASM-VIC branch, MicroSeq2020 was conceived by ECRs for ECRs to bring together microbiological researchers across diverse disciplines using the common ground of sequencing technologies (which permeates microbiological research everywhere).

The conference, held on the 2nd and 3rd of November, was a great success bringing together some 117 participants representing 35 institutions from 5 states and territories. ECR and HRD researchers provided us with a fantastic program of talks which intersected a diverse range of microbiology disciplines including Clinical, Environmental, Public health, Veterinary, Agricultural and the Food and Beverage industry. Participant engagement was fantastic, with ideas and analysis techniques being shared between fields of research which don't traditionally overlap.

Many of our attendees were joining as first-time presenters or chairs. Our plenaries were a highlight of the program. Dr Laura Machuca-Suarez (Curtin University), Dr Jeremy Barr (Monash), Dr Michelle Wille (SydneyU) and Dr Ben Woodcroft (QUT) provided engaging talks that not only provided insights across a range of research areas, but insights into Career Pathways, #ECRLife and Industry engagement.

Congratulations to our ASM-VIC sponsored Awardees: Mr Pok (Bob) Leung who was awarded Best Talk, Dr Margaret Lam who was awarded People's Choice Best Talk and Ms Danielle Madden and Mr Gene Drendel who were both awarded best lightning talk.

Special thank you to the members of ASM-VIC, particularly Dr Jake Lacey and Dr Sarah Baines, who were instrumental in helping navigate the delivery of a 100% online conference. As well as Dr Jane Hawkey and Gene Drendel for helping deliver on the social and visual content.

Event Report by MicroSeq2020 Committee.

21st Lancefield International Symposium on Streptococci and Streptococcal Diseases. (LISSSD)

Event Date: 21st – 24th June 2021

Abstract Deadline: 29th January 2021

<https://www.lancefieldsociety.org/symposium>

The 21st Lancefield International Symposium for Streptococci and Streptococcal Diseases will still be hosted in Stockholm, Sweden from the 21st to the 24th June 2021. Due to the many uncertainties with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Symposium will also offer the opportunity to present and attend virtually, and flexible registrations will be offered.

The latest advances in clinical aspects, pathogenesis, novel diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccine developments related to acute streptococcal infections as well as post-streptococcal sequelae will be covered. The meeting will especially encourage young researchers, including PhD students, postdocs and early career researchers, by providing special opportunities for these researchers to present their research. For the first time,

LISSSD will be jointly organised with the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases.

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN + ACCESS ONLINE 21-24 JUNE 2021

21ST LANCEFIELD INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON STREPTOCOCCI AND STREPTOCOCCAL DISEASES

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE 29 JANUARY 2021

ABSTRACT CATEGORIES

Group A Streptococcal Basic Science: pathogenesis, immunology, vaccines and genomics

Group A Streptococcal Epidemiology and Clinical Research

Other Streptococci: research in non-group A streptococci including group B streptococcus, Streptococcus suis, enterococcus, and others

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT TODAY AT

www.lancefieldsociety.org/symposium



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>

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 5th of the Month. All notices should be emailed to Jake Lacey (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
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

ASM National Office:

9/397 Smith Street, Fitzroy VIC 3065
Tel: 1300 656 423
Fax: 1300 655 841
Email: admin@theasm.com.au
Weblink: <http://www.theasm.org.au/>
ABN 24 065 463 274

Victorian Branch ASM:

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Weblink: <http://victoria.theasm.org.au/>
Email: catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au or
asmvicbranch@gmail.com

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