

The Australian Society
for **Microbiology** 



Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

March 2021, Vol 536



In this issue

Events **Page 3**

2021 Nancy Millis Student Awards Night
ASM2021
Upcoming ASM Vic Branch Events
Webinar - Looking to the Future
Webinar – How can we do better next time?
Next gen pandemic preparedness

News and Views **Page 5**

Renew and Update your Membership
The ASM online Community
Doherty Institute New Podcast – Infection and Immunity
ECR call for expressions of interest for Microbiology Australia
Chief Scientists role at Dorevitch pathology
Beating Buruli in Victoria

ASM Society Details **Page 8**

2020-2021 Calendar

Event	Date
Nancy Millis Student Awards 2021	23 rd March, 2021
ASM2021	31 st May – 3 rd June, 2021

Events

2021 Nancy Millis Student Awards Night 23rd March 2021

The Nancy Millis Student Awards from 2021 will be on on the 23rd March 2021. Come along to this free and exciting event to support the next generations of microbiologists in Victoria.

On the night postgraduate 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 concepts will be discussed.

After the presentations the ASM VIC branch undergraduate academic prizes will be announced.

When: Tuesday 23rd March 2021, commencing at 6.00pm

Where: Online via Zoom

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/83000801937?pwd=RU0xcTV1VDIqQnZ3NUZwOW04WWZ1dz09>

Password: 701708.

Cost: Free

For email enquires please contact: Sam Manna (sam.manna@mcri.edu.au)



Winners of the 2020 ASM Nancy Millis Student awards, Left to right: Marion Bichet (ASM Nancy Millis Award Winner, Ashleigh Rogers (ASM Vic Branch Winner and A/Prof Karena Waller (Committee Member and Past Chair)

ASM2021: Annual Scientific Meeting 31st May – 3rd June 2021

We are delighted to announce that ASM 2021 will be a hybrid meeting, running both face to face and online from 31 May – 3 June 2021.

For those attending in person, we look forward to seeing you at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre for what will be a truly unique and memorable ASM.

If you are unable to attend in person, we look forward to connecting with you online and providing an engaging virtual experience! ASM 2021's program will allow in person attendees and virtual attendees to present their work as orals or posters.

The Organising Committee have invested heavily in virtual software that allows remote attendees to interact and meaningfully engage with the conference through live chat functions (on both the plenary live streams and e-Poster presentations) and networking opportunities with peers and sponsors (live chat and video calls).

When: 31st May – June 3rd 2021

Where: Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre and Online

Key Dates:

- 9th April, 2021 – Early Bird Registration Deadline
- 9th April, 2021 – Oral Submission Deadline
- 12th April, 2021 – Poster Submission Deadline

For more information see the ASM2021 website:

<https://www.theasmmeeting.org.au/>



Upcoming VIC Branch Events in 2021

We have a wide variety of ASM Vic Branch events being planned throughout the year including:

- Student/Early Career Mentoring
- Student focused events
- Trivia Night
- Microbial Art Prize
- Microbial Bioinformatics Workshop
- Agriculture and Veterinary Symposium
- Food Microbiology
- Regional Events

These will be a mix of online and in person events, so stay tuned for emails and future announcements and don't forget to renew your ASM membership.

Webinar – How can we do better next time? Next gen pandemic preparedness 29th March 2021

When: 29th March 2021 at 5.30pm

Where: Online

Cost: Free, Public Webinar

Researchers discuss current and emerging technologies which may unlock the future of pandemic preparedness. This webinar will be Presented by the Peter Doherty Institute and Melbourne Children's Global Health with the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

- **Associate Professor David Anderson** the Deputy Director, Co-head, Global Health Diagnostics Development from the Burnett Institute and;
- **Professor Kanta Subbarao** the Director of the WHO collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza at the Peter Doherty Institute)

Register at the link below:

<https://events.unimelb.edu.au/event/9767-how-can-we-do-better-next-time-next-gen-pandemic>

Webinar - Looking to the Future Experts discuss what to expect as we adjust to living with COVID-19 21st April 2021

When: 21st April 2021 at 5.30pm

Where: Online

Cost: Free, Public Webinar

The University of Melbourne, Department of Rural Health are excited to bring you a webinar with a panel of expert COVID-19 specialists including:

- **Laureate Professor Peter Doherty AC** Peter is a graduate of the University of Queensland School of Veterinary Science; Peter Doherty shared the 1996 Nobel Medicine Prize for his immunology research and was 1997 Australian of the Year. Since then, he has gone into bat for evidence-based reality, relating to areas as diverse as childhood vaccination, global hunger, and anthropogenic climate change.
- **Professor Sharon Lewin AO** Sharon Lewin is the inaugural Director of the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, a joint venture between the University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital. Scientists from the Doherty Institute were the first to isolate and share the SARS COV2 virus outside of China and have a broad program of research focused on testing, treatments, and vaccines for COVID-19.
- **Professor Tony Blakely** Tony is committed to answering questions about which public health interventions will achieve the greatest improvements in health and social outcomes, reduce inequalities in health, and do so cost-effectively.

When registering there is the opportunity for viewers to ask a question. Register at the link below:

https://unimelb.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PHNQhCZVQkxYeftdkcHg

News and Views

Renew and Update your ASM Membership

The main objective of the Australian Society for Microbiology (ASM) is to advance the science of microbiology in Australia.

The society does this through the production and promotion of reading material, lectures, seminars, symposia and demonstrations on topics relevant to microbiology, as well as establishing and maintaining suitable standards for the practice of microbiology as a profession.

The ASM also promotes the awareness of microbiology and its role in everyday life, and actively liaises with governments and other professional bodies at both State and Federal levels in support of its members and the profession.

It's that time of year when your membership is due for renewal. Don't forget to update your details so you don't miss out on all the members benefits including:

- Reduced conference registration,
- Free entry to many of our Victorian branch events
- Access to the new online community
- Professional development opportunities
- Eligibility for many ASM awards

Don't forget to recommend your friends and colleagues to join us.

If you have finished your PhD and have been working for the last two years in the field of microbiology you should consider applying for a professional membership MASM.

Professional membership eligibility criteria:

- 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 to 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>

If you have 10 years or more experience in the field of microbiology and are a ASM MASM you should consider applying to become a Fellow of the Australian Society of 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.

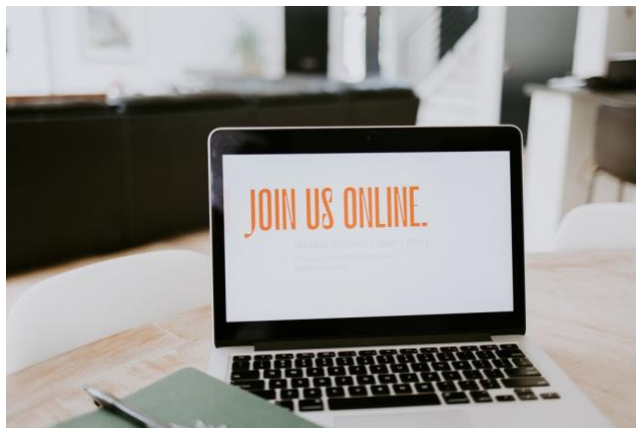
Required Supporting Documents:

- 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>

The ASM online community



We are excited to launch the ASM online community to members. A space where you can communicate to individuals or your special interest groups, share branch events, post announcements such as employment opportunities and scholarships, or request protocols and strains.

Now you don't have to wait for the next meet-up to connect with other members.

Please log in, explore, set up your profile and introduce yourself in one of our forums.

To login:

- Go to: <https://community.theasm.org.au/>
- Click the "Sign in" button located at the top right corner.
- The first time you login you will need to set up your password. Click the "Can't access your account?" link.
- Enter the email address on file with ASM and then click the "Send Password Link" button.
- Check your email for the link to set up your password.

Infection and Immunity Podcast - Evidence Explained

The Peter Doherty Institute of infection and immunity has started a new podcast.

The first season is all about COVID-19 – the virus, variants and vaccines. The Doherty Institute is at the clinical, research and public health forefront of the global COVID-19 response.

In the podcast they talk to experts and collaborators each fortnight to discuss the latest scientific and public health evidence around the pandemic.

You can find and subscribe to the podcast on your favourite app.

ECR call for expressions of interest for Microbiology Australia

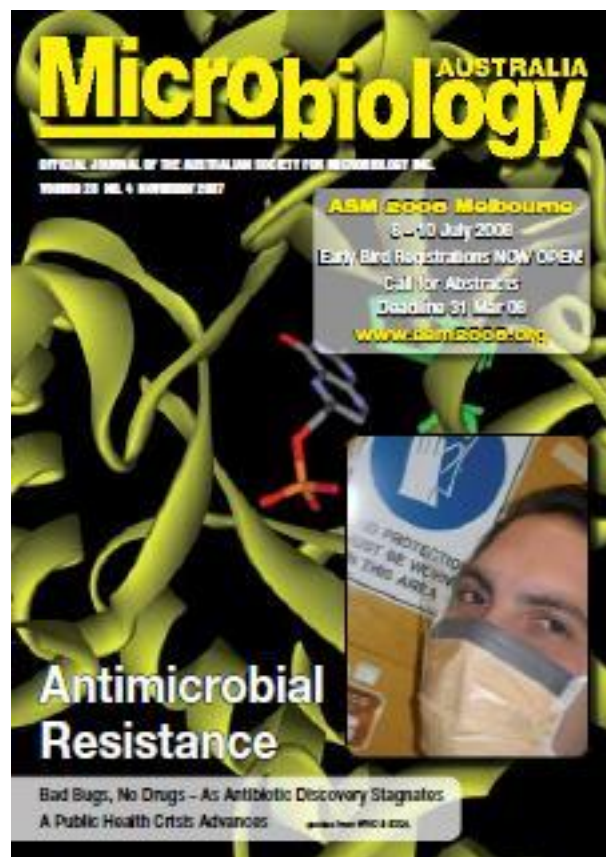
Early career (less than 5 years post-graduation) and student researchers who would like their area of research to be featured in Microbiology Australia are invited to contribute a proposal of their articles.

The Editorial Board will select up to 10 articles for invited submissions. Articles will be peer-reviewed and feature in the third issue of 2021 for publication in September.

As a guide, the article should be up to 1500 words, be targeted to the wider community of Australian microbiologists, and should describe the author's original research. Articles will go through the normal process of peer review and editing.

Please send Expressions of Interest (EOI) to editorasm@gmail.com before July 2021 and include a suggested title, name of the contributor, and contact details, (name of supervisor for students and a brief CV listing graduation year for early career researchers), and a brief abstract of fewer than 200 words.

All contributors must be members of the Australian Society for Microbiology.



Position at Dorevitch Pathology



Chief Scientists - Immunology and Infectious Serology

- Leadership role in Core Laboratory – supporting strategy State-wide
- Join and lead an established Serology and Immunology department through an exciting change phase
- We are looking for a Growth mindset and an ability to challenge the status quo

About the role

Under the leadership of the **Lab Operations Manager** and clinical guidance from the **Head of Microbiology and Immunology**, you will lead and support the strategy and operations for the department inside our Core Pathology Laboratory in line with business objectives. Your responsibilities are (and not limited to):

- Deliver Immunology and Infectious serology testing service in a complex laboratory network with a high standard of quality
- Lead, engage, motivate and encourage the team
- Work with Lab Operations Manager to improve efficiency in the laboratory process
- Quality assurance – QA and QC reporting with a thorough knowledge of NPAAC & NATA requirements
- Leading the ongoing education and training program (in-house)
- Working with our peripheral lab network to support infectious testing that occurs outside main laboratory
- Previous experience in Immunology and or Infectious serology will be highly regarded

About you

To be successful in this role, you will be self-motivated people leader with excellent leadership and interpersonal skills. You will also demonstrate:

- A high degree of technical knowledge and an understanding of the underlying principles involved in the practices in a core Immunology and Infectious serology department
- Excellent knowledge in pathology, pathology laboratory activities and systems;
- A demonstrated commitment to and experience in quality in the Immunology and Infectious serology laboratory
- Experience in the management of an Immunology and Infectious serology department as part of the senior scientist management team

- Ability to work well with co-workers and to coordinate the work of the laboratory when indicated
- Practical knowledge of project management principles.
- Confident in managing data to analyse and problem solve.

This role is a unique hands-on opportunity, ideal for an experienced leader in Immunology and Infectious serology laboratory department looking to play an instrumental role in a supportive team in a dynamic change environment. For a confidential discussion, contact **Lyn Corrie, Laboratory Operations Manager** on **(03) 9244 0430**.

You must have the right to live and work in Australia to apply for this job. The selection process will include relevant background checks to assist in determining your suitability for the role.

*Healius is one of Australia's leading publicly listed healthcare companies. The Healius pathology subsidiary **SDS Pathology** is an amalgamated business comprised of a number of well-established brands across Australia.*

Dorevitch Pathology is a leading provider of pathology and medical diagnostic services to doctors, specialists and hospitals throughout Victoria, as well as commercial and Government organisations in Australia and internationally.

Beating Buruli in Victoria

Cases of Buruli ulcer have increased significantly in Victoria in recent years, particularly along the Mornington and Bellarine peninsulas, and the disease is spreading into new geographical areas. There is very little known about how Buruli ulcers are being transmitted but mosquitoes are a leading suspect.

A new three-year research project is planned to commence in February 2021 through a collaborative partnership between the Victorian Department of Health, the Doherty Institute, Barwon Health, Austin Health, Agriculture Victoria, the University of Melbourne and the Mornington Peninsula Shire to better understand how Buruli ulcer is transmitted and determine effective ways to reduce and prevent infections.

The 'Beating Buruli in Victoria' project hopes to actively disrupt disease transmission for the first time and lead to the development of evidence-based policies and guidelines that can help stop the spread of Buruli ulcer around Victoria and even globally.

For an in-depth read and set of resources on all the research to date and future projects check out the link below:

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/beating-buruli>

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:

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 or
asmvicbranch@gmail.com

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