

The Australian Society  
for **Microbiology** 



# Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

June 2021, Vol 539



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## 2021-2022 Calendar

Event	Date
ASM Hour	6 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
MicroSeq2021	September
BACPATH2021	27 <sup>th</sup> September, 2021
ASM2022	11 <sup>th</sup> July – 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2022

# Events

## ASM Membership Offer – 2021 Extended to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

We are pleased to announce that ASM Vic branch is offering 2021 ASM membership subsidies to Victorian members of the Australian Society for Microbiology (ASM).

Members of ASM are able to access free and/or heavily discounted events at the state and federal level and receive the Microbiology Australia magazine. The Victoria branch of ASM generally organises at least 10 events each year, including social events, seminars, and workshops, which are normally free to members.

**Applications close at 5pm on 26 June 2021.**

### Eligibility Criteria:

- Enrolled/employed through a Victorian institution, or a resident of Victoria.
- Current ASM member (any type). Alternatively, see 'how to apply' for hardship exemption.
- Experiencing financial hardship and expected to benefit from ASM membership

### How to Apply:

Step 1) Complete the form below to apply.  
Step 2) Email a copy of your ASM membership receipt to our branch Treasurer Christopher Stubenrauch ([christopher.stubenrauch@monash.edu](mailto:christopher.stubenrauch@monash.edu)). If you are experiencing financial hardship, such that it is impractical for you to pay membership in advance, please contact our branch Chair Catherine Satzke ([catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au](mailto:catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au)).

### Assessment:

Each application will be reviewed by a subcommittee of the ASM Vic branch in confidence. If we receive more applications than we are able to support, awardees will be randomly selected once eligibility criteria are met. We will liaise with awardees to facilitate payment of the subsidy, such as via direct bank transfer.

### Further Information:

Please note that de-identified information and non-identifying short statements may be used in reporting and/or communication.

For further information, please contact Christopher Stubenrauch ([christopher.stubenrauch@monash.edu](mailto:christopher.stubenrauch@monash.edu)).

## ASM Hour Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Please join us for ASM HOUR on July 6th for a series of talks and a Q&A on Public Health and Clinical Free for ASM members, and \$5 donation from non-members.

Registration is essential.

REGISTER: <https://www.trybooking.com/BNBIH>



The Australian Society  
for Microbiology   
bringing Microbiologists together

**Tues - 6<sup>th</sup> July**

12.00 pm - VIC, NSW, ACT, TAS  
11.30 am - SA      11.00 am - QLD  
10.30 am - NT      9.00 am - WA

**Pubic Health & Clinical Micro**

Stay tuned for  
the speaker line up

Registration for Zoom seminar is essential

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNBIH>

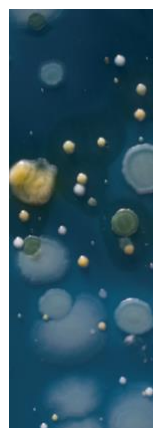
Free for ASM Members

\$5 donation for Non-ASM Members

Registrations close 9am AEDT July 6th

For enquires contact: [admin@theasm.com.au](mailto:admin@theasm.com.au)

## MicroSeq2021 – Returning in September!



**MicroSeq2021**  


Online meeting. Returning in early September!

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

Registration and abstract  
submissions opening soon!

Supported by 



## Virtual BacPath2021

27<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Due to the current and on-going situation with Covid19, the BacPath2021 organising committee have decided to postpone this year's conference, to be held in QLD, until 2022. We currently envisage that we will hold the conference at the usual time (last week in September 2022), with final dates subject to venue availability and our ability to book.

We are hoping that by then things will be back to normal, and we can enjoy a full in person conference. We will provide updates on this as things progress, and hope you appreciate that this was not an easy decision. In lieu of this decision, the organising committee have decided to organise a short, online 'mini' conference.

This virtual BacPath2021 will be aimed at final year PhD students and early career post docs (<https://www.trybooking.com/BPPZW>), and abstracts should be sent directly to John Atack ([j.atack@griffith.edu.au](mailto:j.atack@griffith.edu.au)). We plan to select abstracts for short (10 min) talks only, with 8-10 talks planned

## 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.

## Save the Date ASM2020

11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July 2022



The poster for ASM 2022 features a large 'ASM 2022' title in white and orange, with '11-14 JULY 2022 | ICC SYDNEY' below it. The website 'www.theasm.org.au' is at the bottom. Five circular portraits of speakers are arranged around the bottom half of the poster, each with their name and affiliation.

**www.theasm.org.au**

**PROF JILL BANFIELD**  
University of California, USA  
*Rubbo Orator*

**PROF NEIL GOW**  
University of Exeter, UK

**PROF DENISE MONACK**  
Stanford University, USA

**PROF TRACY PALMER**  
Newcastle University, UK

**DR REBECCA VEGA THURBER**  
Oregon State University, USA

Registrations & Submissions open in February 2022

# News and Views

## Call for ASM Victorian Branch Committee Members

Applications Close 5pm Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021



Are you interested in contributing further to our amazing society? The ASM Victorian Branch is calling for nominations or re-nominations to the committee. The commitment includes attending a regular meeting once a month (in person or via Zoom) and assisting with the organisation of Branch activities.

If you are interested in becoming involved, contact Mary Valcanis [valcanis@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:valcanis@unimelb.edu.au) or [asmvicbranch@gmail.com](mailto:asmvicbranch@gmail.com) and/or complete a nomination which is also attached in the email

We anticipate the new committee will be formally announced in August-September 2021.

Mary Valcanis  
Victorian Branch ASM Committee Member

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## 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 is obtain a declaration form from a referee who is a MASM or FASM full 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.

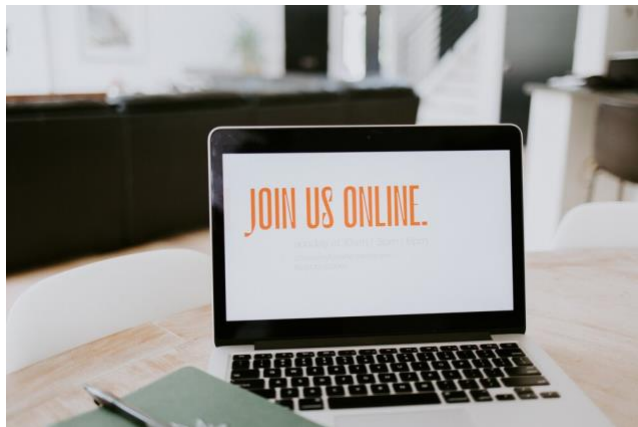
#### **Required Supporting Documents:**

- 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.

## **ECR call for expressions of interest for Microbiology Australia – Last Chance!**

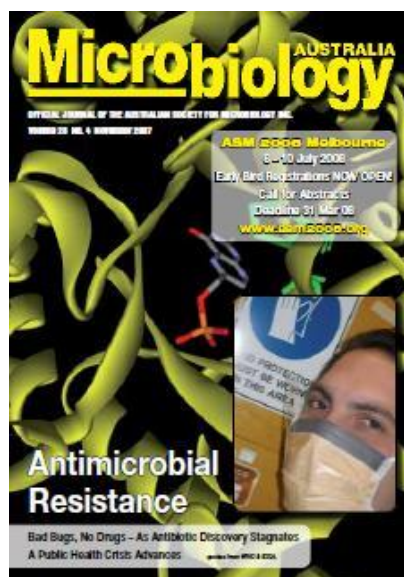
Early career (less than 5 years post-graduation) and student researchers who would like their area of research to be featured in Microbiology Australia are invited to contribute a proposal of their articles.

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](mailto: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.



# 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/>