



Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

July 2021, Vol 540



1st dose Pfizer blitz

10,000 appointments for all healthcare workers, aged care and disability care workers, and household contacts of hotel quarantine and border workers

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2020-2021 Calendar

Event	Date
MicroSeq2021	8 th -9 th September
BACPATH2021	27 th September, 2021
ASM2022	11 th July – 14 th July 2022

Events

MicroSeq2021 8th - 9th September 2021

MicroSeq2021, an online conference designed to bring together early career researchers in Australia from a broad range of microbiology domains, who are united by their use of DNA and RNA sequencing technologies to investigate microbes.

This event was born from the observation that our national program lacks the opportunity for cross-disciplinarily interaction and discussion on the broader use of high-throughput sequencing. With the impact of COVID19-so many event cancellations resulting in limited opportunities for early career researchers to network, present and receive feedback on their work, it seemed like the perfect time to try something new. We were delighted by the success of MicroSeq2020, so we have decided to do it again.

Please keep an eye on our twitter account @MicroSeq_ASM for updates. Registration and abstract submission is now open. Please visit the Registration and Abstract information page for more details.

Key Dates:

- **26th July:** Abstract and registrations open
- **11th August:** Abstract Deadline
- **6th September:** Registration Deadline

Plenary speakers include:

- Dr. Benjamin Schwessinger (Australian National University)
- Dr. Martinia Jelocnik (University of Sunshine Coast)
- Dr. Robyn Hall (CSIRO)
- Dr. Vanessa Marcelino (Hudson Institute of Medical Research)

For more Details see www.MicroSeqConference.com



Virtual BacPath2021 27th 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). We plan to select abstracts for short (10 min) talks only, with 8-10 talks planned

Save the Date ASM2022 11th-14th July 2022

A large graphic for ASM 2022. The top part features 'ASM 2022' in large white letters on a blurred background of people. Below that, '11-14 | ICC JULY 2022 | SYDNEY' is written in orange and white. The website 'www.theasm.org.au' is at the bottom. Five circular portraits of speakers are arranged around the bottom: 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), and Dr Rebecca Vega Thurber (Oregon State University, USA).

Registrations & Submissions open in February 2022

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.

News and Views

Call for ASM Victorian Branch Committee Members

Applications Close 5pm Friday 30th 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 or 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

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.

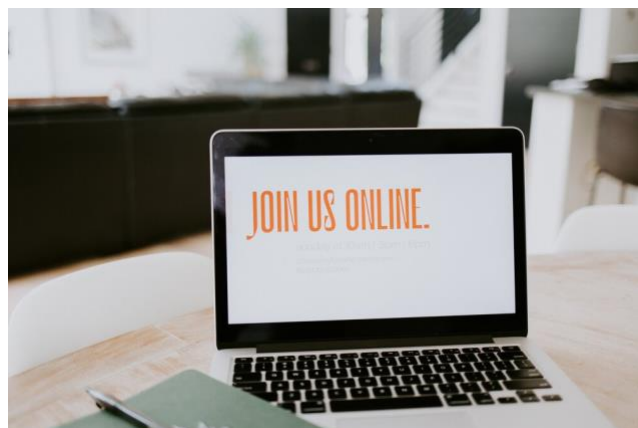
Required Supporting Documents:

- 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.

How to Book your COVID-19 Vaccine

Victoria's vaccination centres are offering all healthcare workers the Pfizer vaccine, regardless of your age. To book your priority appointment, call 1800 675 398 and mention you work in the healthcare sector.

Please note: People who have already received a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine should receive a second dose of AstraZeneca. Thank you for your continued support of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout



For people yet to receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups are eligible to receive Pfizer vaccine, regardless of age:

- all health care workers (i.e. eligible under [Phase 1A and 1B](#)).
- all hotel quarantine and red zone airport and marine port border workers
- household contacts (those living in the same primary residence) aged 16 years and over of hotel quarantine and border workers
- residential aged and disability care workers (nursing, personal care, allied health, and kitchen, cleaning, laundry, garden and office staff) and residents.

Contact and Society Details



Vic Branch Committee

Chair: Catherine Satzke
(catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au)
Deputy Chair/Public Health: Andrew Greenhill
(Andrew.greenhill@federation.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)
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), Mary Valcanis (valcanis@unimelb.edu.au) Priscilla Johanesen (priscilla.johanesen@monash.edu), 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: Jake Lacey, Chris Stubenrauch, Mary Valcanis, Steve Petrovski.

Medical Microbiology: Sarah Baines, Seema Kanade, Louise Miles, Sam Manna, Harshini Weerasinghe, Jake Lacey

Regional Engagement: Andrew Greenhill, Catherine Satzke, Steve Petrovski

Skills, Education, Engagement and Communications: Sam Manna, Priscilla Johanesen, Karena Waller, Seema Kanade, Lauren Zavan, Harshini Weerasinghe, Maria Liaskos, Harshini Weerasinghe.

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/>