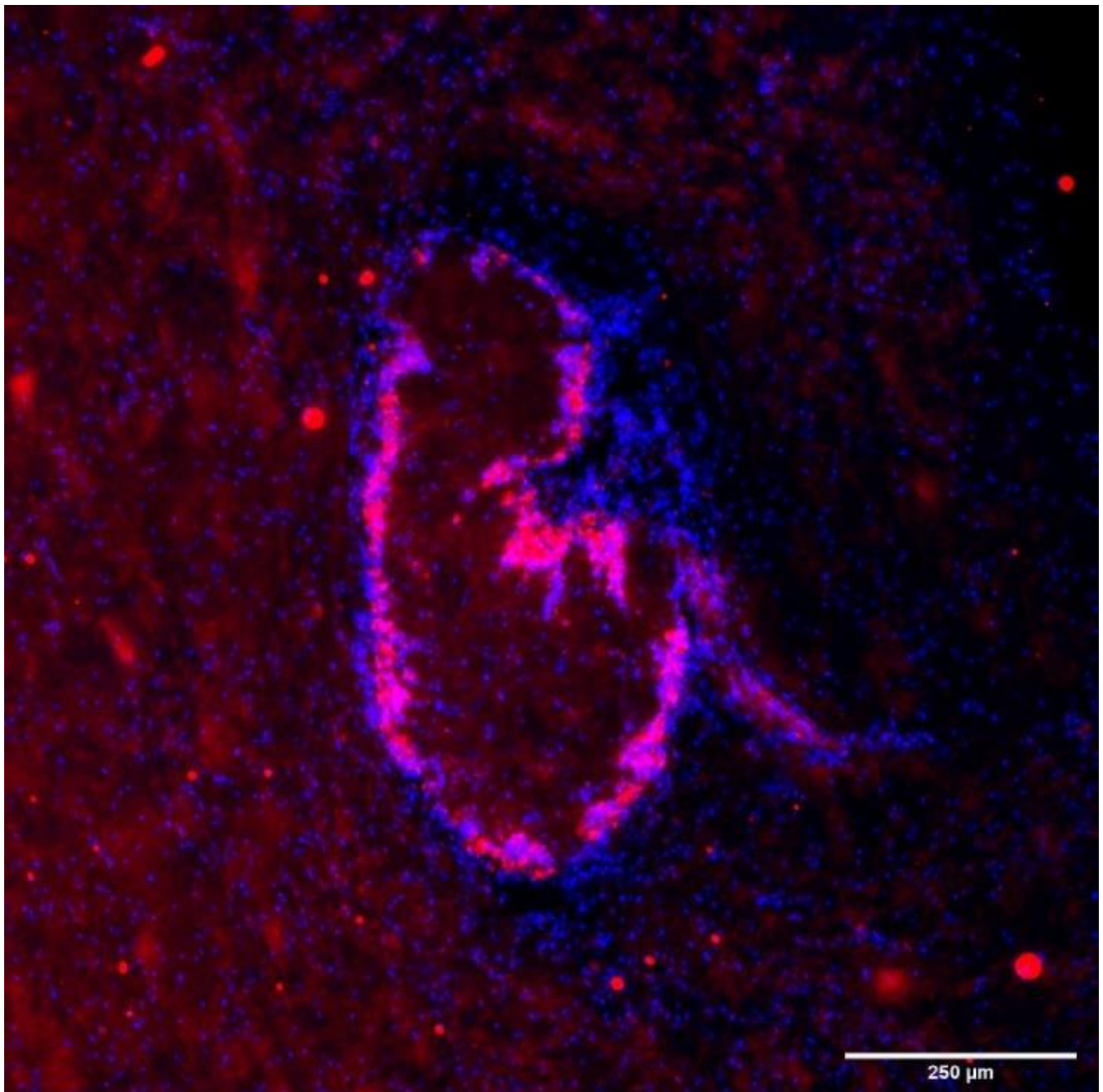




Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

May 2022, Vol 544



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2022 Calendar

Event	Date
Microbial Art Prize	Open Now
One Health Microbial Genomics Seminar Series - May	25 th May 2022
Regional Research Seminar	14 th June 2022
One Health Microbial Genomics Seminar Series – June	29 th June 2022
ASM2022	11 th -14 th July 2022
One Health Microbial Genomics Seminar Series - July	27 th July 2022
One Health Microbial Genomics Seminar Series - August	24 th August 2022
MicroSeq2022	7 th -8 th September 2022
BacPath2022	27 th -30 th September 2022
AusME2022	7 th -9 th November 2022

Events

Event Report 2022 ASM Nancy Millis Student Awards

Contributed by: Sam Manna

The annual ASM Nancy Millis Student Awards were held on Wednesday 16th March 2022. From the comfort of their own couch, ~60 microbiologists from around Victoria tuned into the event online via zoom.

The evening commenced with two presentations from research students competing for the ASM VIC Branch Award (for Honours and Masters by Coursework students). Taylor McDaniels (Peter Doherty Institute) and Raquel Cooper (The University of Melbourne) were competing for this prize. Following deliberations by the judges, the ASM VIC Branch Award was awarded to Raquel Cooper for her presentation “A modern-day detective: Finding a way to use bioinformatics tools to detect stx1/2 genes in STEC isolates”. As the ASM VIC Branch Award winner, Raquel will receive a prize consisting of registration to attend the national meeting in Sydney as \$400 towards airfare/accommodation.

Following the presentations in the VIC branch award category, five speakers, Rebecca Edgar (Deakin University), Adrianna Turner (Peter Doherty Institute), Remy Young (Monash University), Francios Olivier (Biomedicine Discovery Institute) and Kanishka Walawwe (The University of Melbourne), competed for the prestigious ASM Nancy Millis Student Award.

The winner of this award receives registration to attend and present their research at the ASM Annual Meeting in Sydney. Following the judges deliberation, the winner of this prize was Adrianna Turner, who presented “Last-line antibiotic resistance in vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus faecium* is an unintended consequence of rifamycin antibiotic use”. For the first time, we also held a special People’s Choice award. The audience also voted for the best presentation on the night, which went to Rebecca Edgar who presented on “Genetic and chemical validation of *Plasmodium falciparum* aminopeptidase PfA-M17 as a drug target in the haemoglobin digestion pathway”. As part of her award, Rebecca will receive a year’s membership to the ASM.

The evening was wrapped up with presentations from the recipients of this year’s ASM VIC Branch Summer Student Research Awards. Rylee Dehan (Monash University), Desirel Ng (Biomedicine Discovery Institute), Nhu Quynh Doan (Monash University) and Isini Buthgamuwa (The University of Melbourne) each delivered short presentations summarising their research experience project and findings.

Congratulations to all students who competed for prizes on the night – their research presentations were outstanding.



“What an awesome event! I love science communication and I was so excited to be able to present. But I definitely didn’t expect to win. This award to me represents my first step to becoming a successful science communicator. I have a lot of people to thank for supporting me through my masters degree, my supervisor, my colleagues at MDU, my best friend, my brother, and my biggest supporter who has kept me going through a lot of intense times, my husband.”

*- Raquel Cooper,
ASM VIC branch 2022 Award winner*



“Presenting at the ASM Nancy Millis Awards Night was a highlight of my PhD to date and I’m very honoured to have been awarded the 2022 ASM Nancy Millis Student Award for the Victoria Branch. I’d like to thank the ASM organisers for hosting a wonderful event, as well as all of the people who have supported me along the way - my fantastic supervisors Dr. Glen Carter, Prof. Ben Howden, and Dr. Claire Gorrie, collaborators, friends, and colleagues in the Howden and Prof. Tim Stinear labs. Thank you again!”

*- Adrianna Turner,
ASM VIC Nancy Millis 2022 Award winner*



"Many thanks to the ASM for holding these talks and for everyone that voted for me for the peoples choice award, its great to know my presentation was translational to a wider microbiology audience! Many thanks also to my supervisors and collaborators for helping with this comprehensive anti-malarial project."
- Rebecca Edgar,
People's choice winner, ASM VIC Nancy Millis 2022

ASM2022
11th-14th July 2022
Sydney/Online

**ASM
2022**
11-14 | ICC
JULY 2022 | SYDNEY
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

Microbial Art Prize Competition

Open now

Closes 24th June 2022

Get back in touch with your creative side and submit an entry for 2022 Microbial Art Prize!

This year's theme is **EMERGING**. All types of entries are welcome as well as any interpretation on the theme!

Prizes up for grabs:

- 1st prize: \$150,
- Runner-up \$50,
- Committee's choice: \$50

To be considered for a prize, entries must be received by 24th June 2022

Send all entries and enquiries to:
Steve Petrovski (steve.petrovski@latrobe.edu.au) and
Aimee Tan (aitan@unimelb.edu.au)

Submitter must be the owner of the image and a current member of ASM. A complete entry consists of: a high-resolution image, a short description (<100w) and the submitters name and affiliation. A maximum of two entries per submitter will be accepted. All entries may be posted on the branch's website & social media accounts and in the newsletter. The winner is selected by the ASM Vic branch committee based on the best representation of the theme.

Last Years Winner

Title: "**Microbes cultured from synthetic nectar**"
Submitter: Gene Drendel | La Trobe University



One Health Microbial Genomics Seminar Series (OMGHS)

25th May 2022 4.30pm
Online

The aim of this monthly series is to showcase presentations and research in microbial genomics from all aspects of One Health (veterinary, agriculture, human and food) in Victoria. Each session will be online and comprised of 3 or 4 speakers with 12-minute talks and 5 minutes of questions per speaker.

When: Wednesday, 25th May (4.30pm to 5.30pm)

Where: Online Zoom

Cost: Free, Public Webinar

Registration: <https://www.trybooking.com/BZQDJ>

Speakers:

- From bovine to ovine: the udderly fantastic journey of *Streptococcus uberis*

Ben Vezina (Monash University)

- Hidden resistances: How routine whole genome sequencing uncovered an otherwise undetected bla_{NDM-1} gene in *Vibrio alginolyticus* isolated from imported seafood

Jacqueline Morris (UoM)

- Optimising genomic approaches for identifying vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus faecium* transmission

Charlie Higgs (Uom)

Send all questions and enquires to Jake Lacey (jake.lacey@unimelb.edu.au). The Next session to be hosted on Wednesday 29th June - 4.30pm to 5.30pm more details to come soon.

MicroSeq2022 - Save the Date

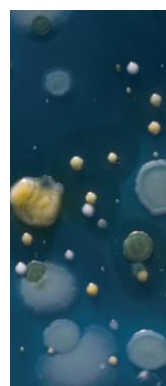
7th-8th September 2022

Online

Welcome to MicroSeq2022, 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 & MicroSeq2021, so we have decided to do it again.

Please keep an eye on our twitter account @MicroSeq_ASM for updates pertaining to MicroSeq2022!



MicroSeq2022

Online meeting. Returning 7-8 September!

All things microbiology and sequencing: fungi, bacteria, viruses
Opportunity for Australia-based ECRs and PhD Students

Follow [@MicroSeq_ASM](https://twitter.com/MicroSeq_ASM) or visit
MicroSeqConference.com for upcoming
registration and abstract submission details

Supported by 

BacPath2022 - Save the Date

27th-30th September 2022

Brisbane

BacPath is the Australian premiere biennial molecular bacteriology meeting that has an exclusive focus on bacterial pathogens. We explore the full spectrum of molecular microbiology from fundamental research to translational applications.

Our meetings have been running in Australia for more than two decades and provide an ideal forum for the Australian molecular bacteriology community to congregate and share their latest research findings.

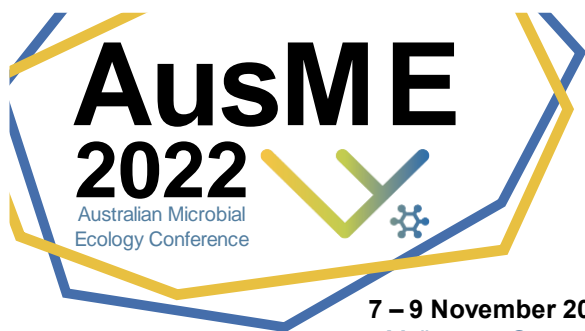
We take pride in providing postgraduate students and early career researchers (ECRs) oral presentation opportunities at BacPath meetings, allowing them to present to our delegates from academia, research institutions and industry.

Networking and career-building is also strongly valued, our programs therefore include plenty of time for delegates to exchange ideas with peers and expand their professional networks.

Important dates:

- 15th June 2022 – **Early Bird and Abstract Deadlines**
- 7th July 2022 - **Abstract Notifications**
- 7th August 2022 – **Registration Closes**

AusME2022- Save the Date
7th-9th September 2022



7 – 9 November 2022

Melbourne Connect
University of Melbourne

PLENARY SPEAKERS:



Prof. Maureen O'Malley
The University of Sydney



A/Prof. Phillip Pope
Norwegian University of Life Sciences



Prof. Georgina Hold
University of New South Wales



Prof. Robert Edwards
Flinders University



Prof. Ulrike Mathesius
Australian National University



A/Prof. Scott Rice
University Technology Sydney / CSIRO



A/Prof. Deirdre Gleeson
University of Western Australia

ORGANISING COMMITTEE:
A/Prof Chris Greening, Dr Ashley Dungan,
Dr Zahra Islam, A/Prof Kate Howell, A/Prof Steve Petrovski,
Dr Christina Birnbaum, Dr Vanessa Marcelino

SESSIONS

Terrestrial microbiology
Aquatic microbiology
Symbiosis
Human microbiology
Microbial toolkit
Industrial microbiology

REGISTRATION:

www.ausme-microbes.org.au
Follow @AusME_microbes
on Twitter for updates

The Australian Society
for Microbiology 
Bringing Microbiologists Together

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 final 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.

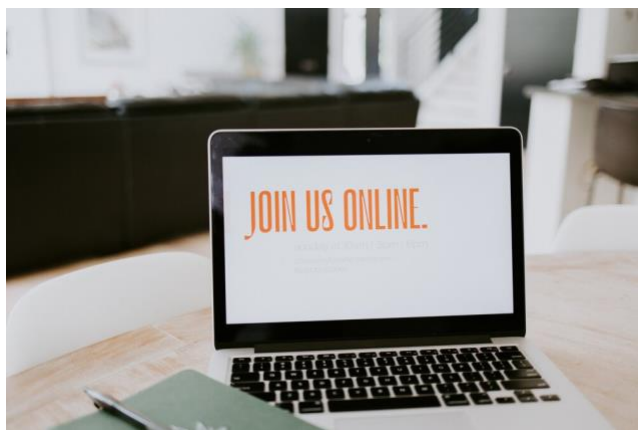
Required Supporting Documents:

- 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.
-

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: Steve Petrovski
(steve.petrovski@latrobe.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 Johannesen (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), Jane Hawkey (jane.hawkey@monash.edu), Aimee Tan (aitan@unimelb.edu.au),

Committee Working Groups

One Health: Jake Lacey, Chris Stubenrauch, Mary Valcanis, Steve Petrovski, Jane Hawkey,

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

Regional Engagement: Andrew Greenhill, Catherine Satzke

Professional Development: Sam Manna, Priscilla Johannesen, Karena Waller, Seema Kanade, Lauren Zavan, Harshini Weerasinghe, Maria Liaskos. Aimee Tann,

Engagement and Communication: Jake Lacey, Harshini Weerasinghe, Louise Miles, Lauren Zavan

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

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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/>