

reduction in prescribing rates and positive changes in attitudes in the community.

As well as multifaceted programs, individual strategies have been used in many studies. Delayed prescriptions, patient information leaflets and 'non-prescriptions' that prescribe symptomatic management have all been used and elements of these are incorporated into the NPS program.

Programs to reduce antibiotic use remain important. Australia still has a relatively high rate of antibiotic use in ambulatory care at 21 DDD/1000/day compared with the lowest rates in Europe, which are found in the Netherlands at 10.0 DDD/1000/day. Moreover, a correlation has been demonstrated between community use of antibiotics and antibacterial resistance rates. Goossens *et al*<sup>13</sup> showed higher rates of antibiotic resistance in high consuming countries in eastern and southern Europe than in northern Europe where usage trends are lower. In Australia we have been recently reminded of the increase in the prevalence of community acquired methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates from 4.7% in 2000 to 7.3% in 2004<sup>14</sup>.

The NPS antibiotic program continues to be an important part of Australia's quality use of medicines strategy. Significant gains have been made in recent years but antibiotic usage rates are still well above world's best practice and there is a continued need to work in this area.

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## ASM Affairs

# Carrick Citation for two ASM members



Chris Burke receiving the Carrick Citations from Professor John Hay

Cheryl Power (University of Melbourne) and Chris Burke (University of Tasmania) were recently awarded Carrick Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning. The citations are awarded annually by the Carrick Institute and recognise all aspects of teaching in higher education. Each award provides a grant of \$10,000 to the recipient to further develop their teaching and learning programmes. Cheryl and Chris were presented with their awards by Professor John Hay, Vice Chancellor of the University of Queensland, at a very pleasant ceremony in Melbourne on 8 August 2007. No other discipline received two specific mentions and no other professional society was mentioned; this was commented on later, with someone asking if it was contagious! The Australian Society for Microbiology (ASM) has long shown considerable support for education through awards and by sponsoring microbiology educationalists to the national scientific meetings. It would be an excellent outcome if these citations were to act as a stimulus for further development of microbiology education in Australia. The nucleus is there through the active Education Special Interest Group (SIG), which has consistently organised workshops for the advancement of teaching and learning in microbiology.

Cheryl's citation was *for exceptional dedication and leadership in the development of learning and teaching in microbiology, particularly through the ASM Education SIG*.

Cheryl's mission for nearly fifteen years has been to involve all members in educational issues and to provide opportunities, particularly at the annual scientific meetings, for educators to develop friendships and discuss and exchange ideas and resources. She warmly acknowledges the support of the ASM, which has always recognised and valued the importance of

teaching and learning and, in a very practical way, encouraged and promoted a large number of educational activities.

Chris's citation was *for sustained enthusiasm and commitment to student-centred learning of the scientific method in order to achieve positive learning outcomes in undergraduate microbiology*.

Chris has long been interested in promoting scientific thinking in students. He is involving aspects of enquiry-based learning into microbiology education so that students can learn how to think as scientists within the discipline of microbiology. He expanded upon this in an opinion piece in *Microbiology Australia*<sup>1</sup>.

There are many other excellent teachers in the ASM and most certainly there will be other Carrick awards for microbiology educators in future years. We urge all members involved in higher education to consider applying for a Carrick Award. Details for all the Carrick Awards can be found at <http://www.carrickinstitute.edu.au/carrick/go/home/awards>.

In a similar vein, remember that the ASM annually provides the *David White Teaching Award* and the *Teachers Travel Award to cover expenses to attend the annual scientific meeting!* Anyone of these awards would make a fine addition to your curriculum vitae! For those wishing to improve their understanding of how to develop their teaching rationally to further improve student learning, Spencer Benson describes the American Society for Microbiology Scholars-in-Residence programme elsewhere in this edition of *Microbiology Australia*.

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Professor John Hay and Cheryl Power with her Carrick Citation.

# EDSIG

## Meeting the needs of microbiology education in 2010: become a scholarly teacher

*Spencer Benson*

University of Maryland sbenson@umd.edu

At the 2007 Australian Society for Microbiology meeting I had the pleasure of meeting and working with numerous members who were deeply committed to improving student learning in microbiology. Through formal and informal conversations I learned that in Australia, teaching has always been an important component of microbiology. In Australia, the United States and Europe there is growing awareness and concern about science education and whether we are meeting the needs of our students and disciplines, as we journey further into this new century.

To a large measure science teaching remains very much the same as it did fifty years ago. Faculty primarily use didactic lectures that are focused on content coverage, disconnected from research and inquiry, and have little direct impact on

enduring understanding. Many microbiology faculty are deeply interested in and committed to improving their teaching and student learning, but they tend to make changes in an anecdotal fashion, without awareness or reference to what is known about how people learn, what works in increasing student learning, or how to adequately assess if a given pedagogy change improves student learning. Consequently, these dedicated, committed, well-meaning faculty tend to re-invent pedagogical approaches, perpetuate ineffective teaching and learning practices, and fail to move science education forward in a timely, effective or far-reaching fashion. Equally damning is that these faculty fail to make public the fruits of their work so that others within the discipline can build upon it.

To address the need to improve microbiology education, in 2005 the American Society for Microbiology launched its 'ASM Scholars-in-Residence' (ASMSiR). ASMSiR provides opportunities and mechanisms for faculty to:

- Better understand what is known about student learning.
- Develop and research testable questions regarding teaching and student learning.
- Participate in a community of practice dedicated to microbiology education.
- Increase dissemination of new microbiology education knowledge through various publication venues.

ASMSiR is a stunning success, with more than forty faculty (both US and international) actively engaged in improving microbiology education through individual scholarship in teaching and learning. ASMSiR serves as a national/international model for an effective approach to educational reform in the sciences, fostering scholarship in teaching and learning, professional responsibility of faculty to evaluate their own teaching practices, and public sharing of their work within the microbiology, science and education communities.

Through continued support of the American Society for Microbiology and a grant from the US National Science Foundation, ASMSiR will continue through to 2010. Australian microbiologists/biologists are encouraged to apply to be ASMSiR Fellows and join a growing community of dynamic like-minded faculty, from various institutions and microbiology disciplines, who are reshaping undergraduate science education.

Information on ASMSiR is available at <http://www.asmcue.org/index.asp?bid=2332> or by contacting the American Society for Microbiology. Applications for the 2008 ASMSiR cohort will be due in early 2008.

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# The Antimicrobial Special Interest Group of The Australian Society for Microbiology

**John Merlino**

Convenor/Chair Antimicrobial SIG  
Email: JMerlino@med.usyd.edu.au

Under the leadership of President-Elect Prof Lyn Gilbert, the National Council of the The Australian Society for Microbiology (ASM) decided that a clear need existed for a methodology, science-driven, multidiscipline based antimicrobial special interest group (SIG) under the ASM umbrella. In 2003, the ASM Antimicrobial Special Interest Group (ASIG) was reformed (see logo Figure 1) to provide active exchange of information to those within the ASM interested in antimicrobials; I was appointed national convenor and elected chair. Since then the response and support from ASM membership has been overwhelming and quite remarkable, with over 700 members both nationally and internationally joining the group. ASIG is the largest SIG within the ASM and is very active with other SIGs and other national health related and international antimicrobial groups.

The objectives and aims of the ASIG are to:

- Foster the association with the ASM of persons interested in antimicrobials.
- Establish close links between ASM members who may also be part of other antimicrobial groups.
- Promote investigations, methodologies and advance up-to-date knowledge on antimicrobial issues by facilitating communication and discussion nationally and internationally with other antimicrobial societies and ASM members.
- Assist in organising effective annual scientific meetings incorporating up-to-date antimicrobial issues so that ASM members can interact, participate or discuss relevant issues.

A major aim of the ASM ASIG is to review drafted and released policies (National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council [NPAAC], NATA etc), articles and issues on antimicrobial resistance with our members online or at meetings, while promoting the science of microbiology together with the codes of practice for microbiologists. Issues discussed have set the scene for several symposia and very successful attended workshops at Annual National Scientific Meetings held by the ASB (Table 1). ASIG also

provides ASM members with links and up-to-date information on current local and international issues on antimicrobial resistance from various groups, hopefully with regional, national and global rewards.

In response to ASIG members for up-to-date information on antimicrobial resistance testing, on behalf of ASIG a handbook *Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing: Methods and Practices with an Australian Perspective* was published in 2004<sup>1</sup> (Figure 2). This was supported by the ASM New South Wales Branch (mainly through the efforts of Steven Siarakas and Tom Olma) and the National Standing Clinical Committee. The handbook focuses on standardised methods and some that are not standardised but are useful for detecting antimicrobial resistance during susceptibility testing by the bench microbiologist. Authors of each section went to great lengths in providing updated information on such testing; such information was never previously included in issues of antimicrobial updates. The handbook covers specialised areas of bacterial resistance, antiviral drug resistance, antifungal and resistance to parasites. Areas of veterinary testing and new methods and developments in antimicrobial combination testing for cystic fibrosis were also included. This ASM ASIG handbook was very well received by many practicing microbiologists and teaching groups in Australia and overseas. Susceptibility testing to detect antimicrobial resistance in microbiology is a challenging, continuing educational science and the handbook is currently undergoing revision, with an updated edition due in the near future.

Through the generosity of industry The bioMérieux ASM Identifying Resistance Award was also established. This is a recognition award to an individual on the basis of career achievements in the field of the identification of bacterial resistance to antimicrobials in a clinical setting. The award committee (ASM president, ASIG chair and ASIG committee member) takes into account the quality and originality of the published research and service to Australasian microbiology in general. The award is based on the entire career of the recipient, rather than on a single achievement. Five awards have been made by ASM to outstanding ASIG members, since the award was established in 2003 (Table 2).

ASIG is part of the ASM. I would encourage any microbiologist with an interest in antimicrobials to join ASM and be a part of the excitement that is microbiology, sharing in the many benefits that ASM membership provides – including free membership in ASIG. Newsletters are available by email to registered members or affiliates of ASIG and information is posted on the website ([www.theasm.com.au/asig](http://www.theasm.com.au/asig)). The continued success of the reformed ASM ASIG will involve members and other SIGs of the ASM working together to find more effective ways to educate,

communicate and resolve antimicrobial resistance problems with other professional groups, policy makers and the general public.

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**Table 1. Issues on antimicrobial resistances discussed by the Antimicrobial Special Interest Groups at Annual ASM Scientific Meetings.**

Year	Annual ASM Scientific Meeting	Themes/Issues Discussed
2003	New Zealand	Antimicrobial Resistance: Problems and Issues for Discussion – Medical & Veterinary Testing
2004	Sydney	Antimicrobial Resistance and Mechanisms of Resistance A Practical Approach in Detecting Bacterial Resistance
2005	Canberra	Resistance markers, Nucleic Acid Technology, Bacterial Population Analysis and Applications for the routine Laboratories in Detecting Resistance. What does the future hold in detecting and screening for resistance for our laboratories?
2006	Queensland	Laboratory Detection Update of Multi-Resistant Organisms
2007	Adelaide	Susceptibility Testing & Emerging Resistance Seen in Unusual Organisms

**Table 2. Past recipients of the The bioMérieux ASM Identifying Resistance Award**

Year	Award Recipient	Recognition
2003	Ruth Hall	With Hatch Stokes first described the basis of an integron in gene cassettes and increased our awareness of its molecular implication in Gram-negative antimicrobial resistance. Researcher and educator.
2004	Jan Bell	Contributions to national and international surveys and groups on antimicrobial resistances.
2005	Clarence Fernandes	Contributions to national surveys. Educator.
2006	Sydney Bell	The establishment and developments of antibiotic susceptibility testing by the CDS method in Australia.
2007	Jon Iredell	Contributions of molecular methods of detecting $\beta$ -lactamases and spread of metallo- $\beta$ -lactamses in Gram-negative bacteria. Researcher and educator.

Figure 1. Official national ASM ASIG Logo for the reformed ASIG.

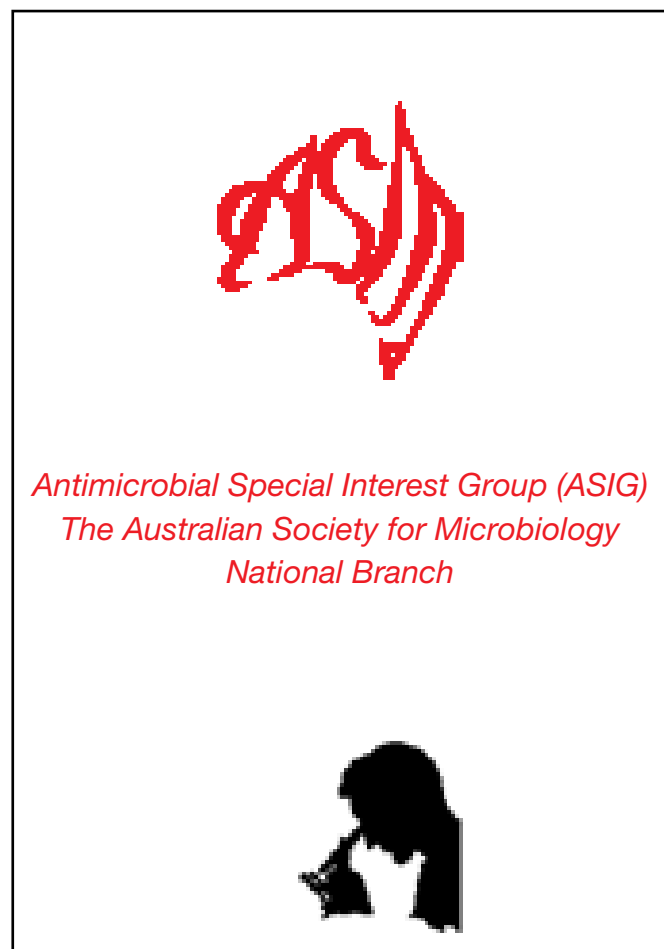
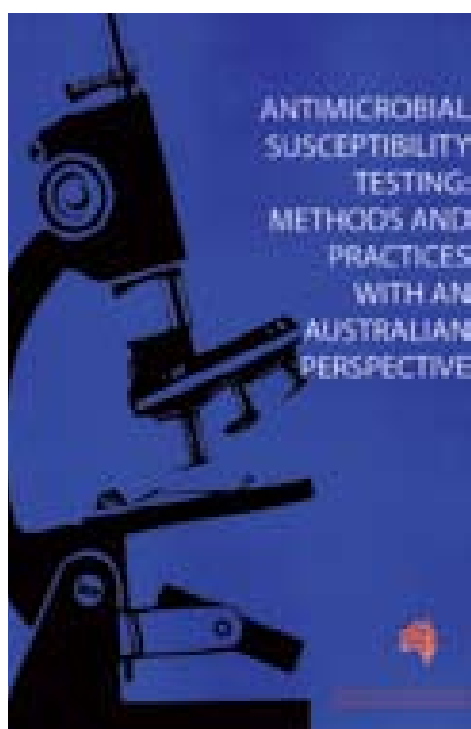


Figure 2. The handbook, titled Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing: Methods and Practices with an Australian Perspective, published in 2004 on behalf of the ASM ASIG.



## NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### DIVISIONAL CHAIRS 2010

### CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Expressions of interest are requested for the following positions on the National Scientific Advisory Committee (NSAC)

Division 1 Chair (2010)	Medical and Veterinary Microbiology
Division 2 Chair (2010)	Virology
Division 3 Chair (2010)	General, Applied and Environmental Microbiology
Division 4 Chair (2010)	Microbial Genetics, Physiology and Pathogenesis

The successful appointees will serve a three-year term of office, concluding at the end of the ASM 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting, to be held in Sydney.

It is envisaged that the divisional representatives will be researchers and scientists with enthusiasm, good organisational and communication skills, broad knowledge and an excellent or developing reputation in the divisional field.

The primary responsibilities of the Division Chairs will be to:

- Organise the symposium component of the ASM 2010 Sydney Annual Scientific Meeting.
- Provide input and advice to the organisers of the ASM 2010 Sydney Annual Scientific Meeting.
- Provide scientific advice to the society as a member of NSAC.

ASM fellows, members, senior associate or associate members interested in serving in these exciting and challenging new honorary positions should submit a brief CV (no more than two pages), together with an appropriate covering letter to, Assoc Prof Liz Harry, (Vice-President, Scientific Affairs) at the national office, by email to:

michelle@theasm.com.au

Closing date: **21 December 2007.**



***Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing by the CDS Method: A Manual for Medical and Veterinary Laboratories. 4th Edition 2006 by the CDS Users Group***

As the national chair and convenor of the Australian Society for Microbiology (ASM) Antimicrobial Special Interest Group (ASIG), I would like to congratulate the CDS Users Group coordinators on the release of the 4th Edition of this manual.

Susceptibility testing in microbiology is a challenging, continuing, educational science and this new edition will provide valuable up-to-date information for many bench microbiologists who are contemplating the use of the CDS method and susceptibility disc testing in general.

On close inspection the 4th Edition has been broadened and closely revised to include several new techniques and interpretations for more bacterial species, anaerobic bacteria and yeasts. To my knowledge, the guide for the estimation of the measure of uncertainty for antimicrobial discs susceptibility is the first publicised in Australia by Australians, and will provide valuable information for many microbiologists and regulatory bodies in quality assurance.

The ASM ASIG congratulates and acknowledges the valuable contribution and efforts made by its members and many others to update this valuable 4th Edition and hopes that the method continues to gain recognition nationally and internationally.

Antimicrobial resistance is an issue of great significance for public health at local, national and global level. This new 4th edition of the CDS manual provides a valuable contribution to the Australian antimicrobial literature and ASM is proud to be associated with its release.

In September 2007 an online version of the 4th Edition was published on the updated CDS website, which has moved to <http://web.med.unsw.edu.au/cdstest/>. The on-line version has been completely reformatted to be user-friendly and can be searched by using the site-based Google search engine. Also the CDS website has been designed to include a confidential database that will be used to collect and store data on antibiotic resistance that is determined by a single uniform method of susceptibility testing.

***John Merlino***

National Chair and Convenor Antimicrobial SIG  
Australian Society for Microbiology



Prof Sydney Bell with Dr J Pham and J Cheng at the launch of the CDS users 4th Edition Manual.

***Consultation, Conflict, Cooperation and Controversy: A history of the establishment of the CSIRO's Australian Animal Health Laboratory by Bill Snowdon***

The establishment of the CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) has a long history; that Australia needed a high security laboratory was first suggested in 1962, but it took years of discussion and debate, sometimes with conflicting argument, before the need for and functions of the laboratory were determined. Then, it was not until 1974 that the Federal Government decided that the laboratory should be built. Construction was delayed, but commenced in 1978 and three years later, in 1981, controversy erupted over the laboratory's need to import exotic disease viruses, in particular the foot and mouth disease virus. The laboratory was officially opened in 1985.

This book covers the period leading up to the decision to build the laboratory, the feasibility study that ensued, the government decision making, the site selection, the design and construction, and the management and operation for the first four years. The controversy and its consequences are covered in detail as are the roles of the various participants including Australian and overseas scientists, scientific organisations, government officials, livestock industry organisations, politicians and the media.

The final chapter is a personal one, as it represents the author's own perspectives on the events and the people who were directly involved.

Enquiries about purchasing the book should be addressed to the author/publisher Bill Snowdon by post to 2/1 Frank Street, Newtown, Victoria 3220 Australia, by email to [billsnowdon@jc.com.au](mailto:billsnowdon@jc.com.au), or by telephone 61 3 5221 6389; or the Australian Animal Health Laboratory; telephone 61 3 5227 5000 or fax 61 3 5227 5555.

Nominations are invited for the following awards and prizes. For further information, go to the ASM website at [www.theasm.com.au](http://www.theasm.com.au) or contact Michelle Jackson at the national office on 03 9867 8699 or email [michelle@theasm.com.au](mailto:michelle@theasm.com.au)

### 2008 ASM Frank Fenner Award

Nominations for the 2008 ASM Frank Fenner Award are invited from associate members, senior associate members, members and fellows of The ASM of at least three years standing at the time of application.

Such members must have been engaged in research for no more than 15 years since acquiring their doctorate, although allowance is made when there has been significant career interruption.

The purpose of the Frank Fenner Award is to recognise distinguished contributions to Australian research in microbiology by scientists in a formative stage of their career, rather than senior scientists for a lifetime of achievement. Applicants need to show that their research was work done substantially in Australia or, for those recently returned from overseas, is work ongoing in Australia that will enhance Australia's national and international reputation in microbiology.

The award, which consists of a bronze plaque, plus AU\$1,000 will be given at the ASM Awards Ceremony at the ASM 2009 Perth Conference. The recipient is required to present the Fenner Plenary Presentation at the ASM 2009 Perth Annual Scientific Meeting (6-10 July 2009) – to facilitate this, the recipient will be entitled to complimentary full conference registration, daily lunches, return economy flights within Australia and up to six nights conference accommodation.

Applicants must submit a 50-word summary of their CV along with their application by email or mail to the ASM national office.

**Closing date for applications: 31 March 2008.**

### ASM Research Trust Fellowship

In awarding the ASM Research Trust Fellowship, the ASM aims to promote excellence in microbiology through support to younger microbiologists for specified research projects leading to career advancement; or to Australian microbiologists returning from overseas studies to assist them to re-establish their careers in Australia.

The purpose of the ASM Research Trust Fellowship is to do either or both of the following:

- Fund an individual to undertake scientific research in microbiology and related fields in Australia.
- Fund an individual employed by another body to undertake scientific research in those areas that may prove to be of value to Australia.

The ASM Research Trust Fellowship comprises any amount up to a maximum \$7,500.

**Closing date for applications: 31 March 2008.**

### David White Excellence in Teaching Award

Nominations are invited for the David White Excellence in Teaching Award from MASM members of the ASM of at least five years standing, to recognise excellence in the teaching and/or innovation in the teaching of microbiology in Australia.

The David White Excellence in Teaching Award, comprising a plaque and \$1,000, will be presented at the ASM 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting and the recipient will be invited to conduct at the same meeting a workshop on aspects of teaching microbiology.

**Closing date for nominations: 31 March 2008.**

### ASM Foundation Travel Grant

The ASM Foundation Travel Grant sponsors Australian microbiologists, especially those in the formative stages of their careers, to undertake professional development in appropriate laboratories in Australia or New Zealand.

The ASM Foundation Travel Grant provides funding to assist with:

- Short postgraduate refresher courses in Australia on aspects of microbiology.
- Visits by international or Australian specialist microbiologists to or within Australia for specific purposes that would benefit many members of the ASM.
- Visits by Australian specialist microbiologists to international symposia or advances courses, with the prime object that the knowledge gained will be disseminated to other Australian microbiologists upon return of the specialist.
- Overseas visits by Australian specialist microbiologists on 'lecture exchange programs' with other learned societies.
- ASM scholarship for postgraduate training of members.
- Other purposes recommended by the ASM Foundation Committee and deemed by the ASM National Council to be consistent with the aims of the ASM Foundation Committee.

The ASM Foundation Travel Grant usually comprises any amount to a maximum \$2,000. Applicants who have secured significant funding (50%) from other sources will be assessed more favourably.

**Biannual closing dates for applications are:**

**31 January 2008**

**31 July 2008**



### ASM Distinguished Service Award

The ASM Distinguished Service Award facilitates the recognition of outstanding service or contribution to the ASM by individuals or organisations.

Individuals or organisations deemed worthy of recognition for distinguished service to the ASM may be nominated, in writing and in confidence, by individual ASM members or branches and addressed to the ASM president or national office.

Nominations should include a summary of the contribution made by the nominated individual or organisation to the ASM.

**Closing date for nominations: 31 March 2008.**

### ASM Teachers Travel Award

The ASM Teachers Travel Award is intended to encourage ASM members involved in teaching microbiology at the tertiary level, to attend the ASM 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting. Applicants may be employed on a full-time, part-time or sessional basis.

To apply for the ASM Teachers Travel Award, applicants must submit their CV and should include a description of their current employment, a letter of recommendation from their head of department or equivalent confirming the involvement of the applicant in and commitment to a teaching program within the department, and a brief synopsis of the applicant's area of special interest in education.

The brief synopsis of the applicant's area of special interest in education will provide the basis for a presentation by the successful applicant of a poster or participation in a session organised by the Education Special Interest Group at the ASM 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting.

The ASM Teachers Travel Award comprises a framed certificate and up to a maximum \$1,000 in travel expenses for the recipient to attend The ASM 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting.

**Closing date for Applications: 31 March 2008.**

### Vic Skerman Student Prize

The Vic Skerman Student Prize is awarded annually to a student member of the ASM who, whilst enrolled as a student member, has contributed the best review article to *Microbiology Australia* for the period 1 July – 30 June. A 50-word summary of the applicant's CV must be submitted with their application.

The Vic Skerman Student Prize comprises a framed certificate and \$500, and is presented at the ASM 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting.

**Closing date for applications: 31 March 2008**

### ASM BD Student Awards

The BD Awards are intended to partly offset travel and accommodation expenses for one student member from each

of the seven ASM state branches – VIC, NSW, QLD, SA/NT, WA, ACT, TAS – to attend the ASM 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting.

Each BD Award comprises the cost of a return economy airfare, conference registration, and an allowance for accommodation.

All postgraduate microbiology students who have submitted or are intending to submit an abstract for the ASM 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting are invited to apply, especially those in the final year of their higher degree program. If not currently a student member of the ASM, applicants must be eligible for membership and must pay for such at the time of their application for the award.

Finalists for the BD Awards will be selected on the basis of their abstract and a presentation summary, which should be submitted to their ASM state branch for consideration.

BD Award recipients must then present their paper as an oralk presentation at the BD Student Awards Plenary session at the ASM 2008 Melbourne Annual Scientific Meeting.

Previous BD Award recipients are not eligible to re-apply. Contact your local ASM state branch for further details.

**Please check the closing date with your local state branch (Note: state branches must notify ASM of their recipient by 31 March 2008).**

### bioMerieux ASM Identifying Resistance Award

The bioMerieux ASM Identifying Resistance Award is intended to recognise individual career achievement in the field of identifying bacterial resistance to antimicrobials in a medical setting. The applicant must be a financial member of the ASM.

The applicant must submit a CV that includes a list of publications and the names, addresses and email addresses of two referees, together with a brief summary of the applicant's contribution to the study of bacterial resistance to antimicrobials in a medical setting.

The bioMerieux ASM Identifying Resistance Award comprises a framed certificate, a \$1,000 cash prize, and the provision of flights and accommodation for the recipient to attend the Awards Ceremony at the ASM 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting.

**Closing date for Applications: 31 March 2008**

### Pfizer ASM Mycology Encouragement Award

The Pfizer ASM Mycology Encouragement Award is intended to assist a laboratory scientist/technician in the field of medical mycology, to attend and make a presentation in that field at the ASM 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting. The applicant must be a financial member of the ASM.

The presentation, at the ASM 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting, of a paper or poster in the field of medical mycology is a necessary requirement and may be based on original research, case reports,

a new or updated methodology, a review, a particular mycosis etc.

Applicants must submit a CV that includes a description of their current position and the names, addresses and email addresses of two referees, together with a brief synopsis of their intended presentation and a copy of the abstract to be submitted for either an oral or poster presentation.

The Pfizer ASM Mycology Encouragement Award comprises a framed certificate, a cheque for \$500, and to facilitate attendance at the ASM 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting, a return economy airfare, conference registration and an allowance of \$120 per day towards five nights accommodation.

**Closing date for applications: 31 March 2008**

### **Merck Sharp & Dohme ASM Mycology Award**

The Merck Sharp & Dohme ASM Mycology Award is intended to recognise an individual on the basis of career achievement in the field of mycology. The applicant must be a financial member of The ASM.

Applicants must submit a CV that includes a list of publications and the names, addresses and email addresses of two referees, together with a brief summary of their contributions to mycology.

The Merck Sharp & Dohme ASM Mycology Award comprises a plaque, a \$1,000 cash prize, and up to a maximum \$1,000 in travel expenses for the recipient to attend the Awards Ceremony at the ASM 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting.

**Closing date for applications: 31 March 2008**

### **Oxoid ASM Culture Media Award**

The Oxoid ASM Culture Media Award is intended to encourage and assist an individual to attend the ASM 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting to make a presentation on the use of cultural media. The applicant must be a financial member of the ASM.

The presentation of a paper or poster relevant to the use of culture media in microbiology at the ASM 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting is a necessary requirement and may be based on original research, a method of evaluation or validation, or review of a culture based diagnostic method. For example, this may include improved isolation methods, rapid or presumptive identification, or novel ways of using culture media.

Applicants must submit a CV, a description of their current employment and the names, addresses and email addresses of two referees, together with a brief synopsis of their intended presentation and a copy of the abstract to be submitted for presentation.

Oxoid ASM Culture Media Award comprises a plaque, a \$1,000 cash prize, and up to a maximum \$1,000 in travel expenses for the recipient to attend the Awards Ceremony at The ASM 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting.

**Closing date for applications: 31 March 2008**

### **Roche ASM Molecular Diagnostic Award**

The Roche ASM Molecular Diagnostic Award is intended to assist an individual working in the field of infectious diseases diagnosis, to attend and make a presentation on the use of PCR in that field at the ASM 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting. The applicant must be a financial member of the ASM.

The presentation of a paper/oral presentation on the use of PCR in the field of infectious disease diagnosis at the ASM 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting is a necessary requirement and may be based on original research, case presentations or a review of a PCR method used to diagnose an infectious disease.

Applicants must submit a CV that includes a description of their current employment and the names, addresses and email addresses of two referees, together with a brief synopsis of their intended presentation and a copy of the abstract to be submitted for presentation.

The Roche ASM Molecular Diagnostic Award comprises a plaque, a \$1,000 cash prize, and up to a maximum \$1,000 in travel expenses for the recipient to attend the Awards Ceremony at The ASM 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting.

**Closing date for Applications: 31 March 2008**

**Previous issues  
of  
*Microbiology Australia*  
can be found in  
pdf format  
on the ASM website.**

**[www.theasm.com.au](http://www.theasm.com.au)**

## ASM **NEW MEMBERS**

### ACT

Raphael Wong  
Aaron Greenup  
Christian Samundsett  
Johanne Leslie Carpenter

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Danijel Meljkuti  
Chirstopher Rodrigues  
Christopher Blyth  
Jacqueline Wiley

### NT

James McLeod

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Sirdaarta P  
Robert Reed  
Thomas Harding  
Selena Blackwell  
Samantha Dando  
Eliza Xinpei Ho  
Yu Ling Kelly Quek  
Senel Idrisoglu

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John Sfakinos  
Thuy Chinh Dinhpham  
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Rhiannon Wray  
Janette Lisson  
Flora Cheong

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James Whisstock  
Mahendra Siwan  
Ee Xiang Leong  
Merline Varghese  
Hans Netter  
Alan Cowman  
Cecillia Lai  
Deric Renton

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Sharon Sanders  
Lesley Mutch

### NEW ZEALAND

Sheryl Young

### SOUTH AFRICA

Gerhard Weldhagen

### SWEDEN

Sandstrom Gunnar  
Matthew Francis

## ASM **SUSTAINING MEMBERS**

Abbott Diagnostics Division

BioMerieux Australia Pty Ltd

Millipore Australia Pty Ltd

Wyeth Australia Pty Ltd

Bio Mediq (DPC)

Oxoid Australia Pty Ltd

Bio Rad Laboratories

BD

Panbio

Dade Behring Diagnostics

Diagnostic Technology

Roche Diagnostics Australia

Blackaby Diagnostics

Corbett Research

Inverness Medical Professional

Diagnostics Australia

***www.theasm.com.au***

# Meetings

Contributions listing relevant meetings are welcome. Please send to: [editor@theasm.com.au](mailto:editor@theasm.com.au)

## 2007

**21 – 24 November**

**Kololi, The Gambia**

**Antibiotics Resistance in Africa**

Website: <http://www.mangosee.com/antibiotics2007>

## 2008

**21 – 23 February**

**Stamford Plaza Sydney, New South Wales**

**Antimicrobials 2008**

Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australia Society for Antimicrobials

Website: <http://www.antimicrobials2008.com>

Email: [antimicrobials2008@icms.com.au](mailto:antimicrobials2008@icms.com.au)

**8 – 10 May 2008**

**The Carrington Hotel, Katoomba  
(Blue Mountains) NSW**

**Viruses in May 2008**

Viruses in May is an annual intensive clinical virology update for clinicians, scientists and trainees in this discipline. Register early as places are strictly limited.

*The program includes:*

- Virus structure and function
- New molecular diagnostic techniques
- Viral disease surveillance
- Antiviral therapy

In addition there will be intensive clinical updates on:

- Treatment and prevention of specific viral infections
- Infection in the immunocompromised patient

Convenors: Prof Bill Rawlinson & Dr Monica Lahra

Conference Management: Australian Society for Microbiology

Website: [www.virusesinmay.com](http://www.virusesinmay.com)

**1 – 5 June**

**Boston MA**

**The American Society for Microbiology  
108th General Meeting**

Website: [www.asm.org](http://www.asm.org)

**6 – 10 July**

**Melbourne Convention Centre VIC**

**ASM 2008 Melbourne**

**Australia's premier microbiology scientific meeting & exhibition for 2008!**

Chair: Sue Cornish

Conference Management:

Australian Society for Microbiology

Janette Sofronidis, Conference Manager

Tel: (03) 9867 8699

Email: [janette@theasm.com.au](mailto:janette@theasm.com.au)

Website: [www.asm2008.org](http://www.asm2008.org)

*Confirmed speakers include:* Laureate Professor Peter C Doherty, Prof Jay Hinton, Dr Gopinath Balakrish Nair, Dr Liliane Grangeot-Keros, Prof Terri Camesano, Ms Lynne Garcia, Prof Malic Peiris, Prof Stephen Goff, Prof Craig Roy, Prof Tony Pugsley, Prof Alan Cowman (Rubbo Orator).

**7 – 22 August**

**Cairns Convention Centre, Cairns, Queensland  
ISME12**

**Microbial Diversity – Sustaining the Blue Planet**

Website: [http://www.microbes.org/symposia\\_future.asp](http://www.microbes.org/symposia_future.asp)

Email: [blackall@awmc.uq.edu.au](mailto:blackall@awmc.uq.edu.au)

**7 – 10 September**

**Cairns Convention Centre, Cairns, Queensland**

**13<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Infections**

Conference Chair: Graeme Nimmo

Email: [isssi2008@icms.com.au](mailto:isssi2008@icms.com.au)

Website: [www.isssi2008.com](http://www.isssi2008.com)

Hosted by Australian Society for Antimicrobials with collaboration from ASM.

**12 – 13 September**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel, Alice Springs NT  
TriState 2008**

Conference Management:

Australian Society for Microbiology

Tel: (03) 9867 8699

Stay tuned for website, registration and programme details.

# Australian Society for Microbiology Incorporated

## NATIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

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Assoc Prof Keryn Christiansen

### President Elect

Prof Hatch Stokes

### Vice-President, Scientific Affairs

Assoc Prof Liz Harry

### Vice-President, Corporate Affairs

Adj Assoc Prof Silvano Palladino

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**ACT** Dr Nick Medveczky

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**QLD** Dr Sandra Hall

**SA** Dr Eveline Bartowsky

**TAS** Dr Louise Roddam

**VIC** Sue Cornish

**WA** Suellen Blackaby

**NT (sub branch)** Mr Kevin Freeman

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### Caretaker General Manager

Michelle Jackson

### Conference Manager

Janette Sofronidis

### Event Coordinator & Registration Services

Meg Lukies

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#### Rapid Methods

Vacant

#### Students

Vacant

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