Once again, I am writing this just after returning from 2 weeks’ holidays and I would like to wish all members a happy and prosperous new year.

ASM

This issue contains important information about the next ASM Scientific Meeting and Exhibition to be held at the Superdome, Olympic Park, Homebush Bay in Sydney, 26 September to 1 October 2004. Some 30 overseas speakers have been invited and, with 50 symposia and workshops planned, this meeting promises to one of the best yet. The abstract deadline will be 14 May 2004. Registrations, including online registrations, are open, with the close of early bird registration being 30 June 2004.

Professor Michael Good, Director of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, and the past Director of the Cooperative Research Centre for Vaccine Technology, will present the 2004 Rubbo Oration. Dr David Pritchard, Head of the Animal Welfare Veterinary Division in the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, London will present the ASM 2004 Snowdon Lecture on the topic: How much animal welfare can you afford?

For more information regarding the programme, visit www.asm2004.org or contact Tom Olma, Chair of the LOC [chair@asm2004.org] or the National Office.

Membership

Another reminder that Senior Associate Membership is now available to those associate members who have a diploma or equivalent qualification in microbiology and who have 5 years’ appropriate full-time or equivalent employment post qualification. This will provide those eligible members with peer group recognition of achievement and recognition of corporate grade membership with voting rights. No application fee will apply for the next 12 months – please visit the ASM website for more information and application forms [www.theasm.com.au].

Guidelines

Guidelines for ASM endorsement of position papers, methods and protocols have now been formulated. The ASM will consider issuing position papers and endorsing methods and protocols for publication under the following guidelines. The proposed publications must be consensus documents, usually submitted through an SIG or another ASM committee. Medical publications would be reviewed by the Standing Committee for Clinical Microbiology.

The National Scientific Advisory Committee would review all non-medical publications. All proposed publications would be reviewed to internationally accepted standards by at least three independent expert specialists in the relevant field of study. Recommendations for publication will be made to Council for final approval. Approved documents may then be published with an ASM endorsement (exact wording to be decided at the time of publication). All approved documents will also be published on the ASM website. The ASM name or logo may not to be used to endorse a publication without prior approval from the national council.

Education

In November 2003, the ASM organised a
very successful Master Class in Medical Mycology at Hamilton Island, which was supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Pfizer Australia. Seventy delegates attended this 2 day advanced medical mycology course on current clinical and laboratory practices. In the future, I hope that ASM will be able to run similar Master Class updates in other areas of microbiology.

**Congratulations**

Finally I am very pleased to announce that Assoc. Prof. Hatch Stokes, Department of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University, Sydney has been elected to the position of Vice-President Scientific Affairs. Hatch will take over from Julian Rood who became President-Elect at the last AGM. Julian has provided outstanding leadership to NSAC since its inception and, on behalf of all NSAC members and the society, I congratulate him on a job well done.

**Congratulations and thank you**

Congratulations to Dr Hatch Stokes for recently being appointed as ASM Vice President, Scientific Affairs. The ASM is very excited about his appointment and is looking towards a very exciting future.

A very big thank you must go to Prof Lyn Gilbert who has served the ASM impeccably and has grown it into the fantastic Society that it is today. Prof Gilbert steps down as Past President and we would like to thank her for all her hard work and we wish her all the very best for the future.

**Chris Daly, ASM National Office Manager**

**Are you eligible to apply for an ASM Award?**

For information see ASM AFFAIRS in this issue, OR visit the website – www.theasm.com.au

**New Members**

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<tr>
<th>New South Wales</th>
<th>South Australia</th>
<th>Western Australia</th>
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<td>Nicholas Coleman, Sawsan Fasi, Daniela Floro, Jennifer Huch NSW, Wendy Jessup, Jin Wang, Jhoanee Beltran, Julie Fredrick</td>
<td>Latifat Akinbowale, Chung Hoow Kok, Rina Pattullo, Colin Bignell, Claudio Bittencourt, Slow-Leng Cover, William Cox, Alister Crowe, Rohan Dingemanse, Stacey Siebert, Heath Thomas, Jimmy Twin</td>
<td>Blackaby Diagnostics Pty Ltd, Darryl Mills, Colin Pham, Elizabeth Redman</td>
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<td>Daniel Bishop, Trudi Cattley, Grace Eng, Michelle Jones, Stephen Kidd, Tamar Law, Michelle McConnell, Sharon Prasad, Derek Sarovich, Toni Sheedy, Aaron Lewis</td>
<td>Colin Bignell, Claudio Bittencourt, Slow-Leng Cover, William Cox, Alister Crowe, Rohan Dingemanse, Stacey Siebert, Heath Thomas, Jimmy Twin</td>
<td>Kim Cheng, Heather Dolphin, Jennifer Lewin, Adam Merritt, Laura Oksa, Kristy Philippe, Michelle Pinker, Koen Van Der Werff, Carla Zammit</td>
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<td>Victoria</td>
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<td>Marian Attard, Peter Halasz, Owen Harris, Kuldeep Karnik, Carl Kirkwood</td>
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