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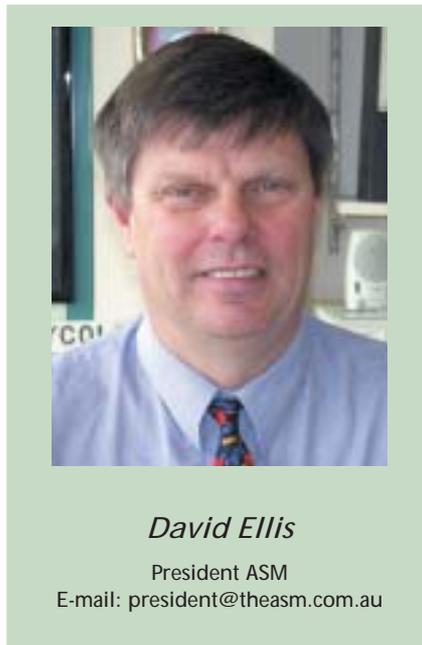
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Vertical Transmission



David Ellis

President ASM

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This will be my last vertical transmission – the past 2 years have just flown. I have enjoyed my time as National President, especially the support and friendship that I have received from the membership.

The ASM is a really good society to be part of and I would encourage fellow members to also become involved in ASM affairs at either the State or national level. There are many opportunities to be part of the ASM, whether it be helping with a conference or participating in an SIG or branch committee. I can assure you, you will find this a rewarding experience, you will meet new people, you will learn a lot and, at the same time, have some fun.

I would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge a number of people for their support and for the exceptional job they have done for the ASM. I have always been lucky to be able to work with some excellent teams and the current executive and office personal are no exception.

Julian Rood has played a pivotal role in the development of NSAC, which has probably been the most important and significant new initiative the society has undertaken in recent times. The full benefits of NSAC are now being realised

under the capable leadership of Hatch Stokes. Geoff Coombs has also made a very significant contribution by overhauling the Society's management and financial systems with very positive outcomes.

The office staff of Chris Daly, Janette Sofronidis, Meg Lukies and Lina Raco have been a joy to work with and their willingness to accept change, work together and to take responsibility for what they do has been impressive. They have certainly earned my respect.

Finally, I would also pay a special thanks to all the members of the State branch committees, NSAC and other ASM committees and SIGs for their support. A lot of very good people contribute unselfishly to the Society. I am very proud to be a member of ASM.

Recently two working groups have been established to provide some national guidelines for the Measurement of Uncertainty (MU), which is now a requirement for NATA laboratory accreditation. The Serology Special Interest Group (under its convener Robyn Wood) will examine this issue in serology and nucleic acid detection testing and the Standing Committee for Clinical Microbiology (under its convenor Stephen Graves) will examine MU in relation to the routine diagnostic laboratory. These groups will also liaise with NATA with the aim of establishing some practical guidelines.

Membership renewals for the 2004-2005 year have now been sent out and I would like to remind you to ensure that your email address is also up to date. This will allow you to receive regular email updates of ASM events.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the ASM National Conference in Sydney this September for what promises to be an excellent event. All details regarding the Sydney meeting are on the website www.asm2004.org