



The Australian Society for Microbiology Inc.

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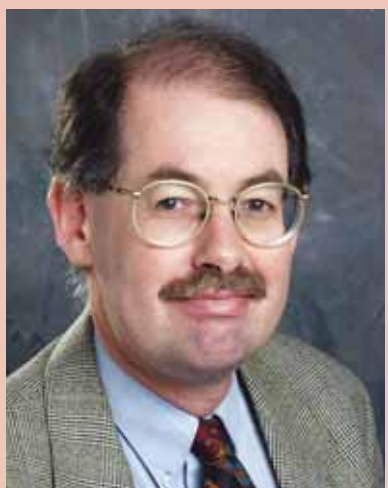
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Julian Rood

President ASM
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Congratulations are in order. I am pleased to announce that Associate Professor Bill Rawlinson from the Department of Microbiology at the Prince of Wales Hospital in Sydney is the recipient of the 2004 Fenner Prize. A/Prof Rawlinson is a medical graduate who went on to obtain his PhD from the University of Cambridge in 1993. He then returned to Australia to take up his position at the Prince of Wales Hospital, where he is currently Senior Medical Virologist within South East Health Laboratories. His research has been very productive and has involved antiviral agents, cytomegalovirus and hepatitis C virus. Bill has been very active in ASM in the role of a Division 2 Chair on NSAC and as the guest editor of the March 2005 edition of Microbiology Australia. He will present his Fenner Lecture entitled 'Virus transmission from mother to baby - infections, disease and emerging paradigms' at the Canberra meeting in September.

I am also delighted to announce that Professor Ruth Hall, who is an NHMRC Senior Principal Research Scientist in the School of Molecular and Microbial Biosciences at the University of Sydney, has been made a Fellow of the Australian

Academy of Science. There are very few Australian researchers who have been responsible for the development of an entire research field. Prof Hall is one of those researchers. Integrons and their associated gene cassettes are critical mechanisms by which bacteria acquire antibiotic resistance determinants, a process that is of major importance to public health. The entire integron field developed from her landmark paper that defined these important mobile genetic elements. Prof Hall developed a theory to explain their genetic diversity and adaptability and then went on and obtained the experimental evidence that verified her hypothesis. There are very few microbiologists in the Academy and this award is a fantastic recognition of Ruth's stellar research contribution. Ruth has also been a very active member of ASM for many years, serving on numerous subcommittees.

Your office bearers and staff have been very busy over the past few months. Plans for the annual scientific meeting at the Gold Coast (July 2-6, 2006) are well under way and we have booked the venue for the Adelaide meeting (July 9-13, 2007). The movement to a July meeting date will mean that our financial year, which currently ends on June 30, will need to end on March 31 so that audited accounts can be presented at the annual general meeting in July. An extraordinary general meeting will be held in Canberra to make the required changes to our constitution. National Council recently has approved a proposal from the Vice-President (Corporate Affairs) to expand our role in professional conference organisation. In addition to organising the annual scientific meeting, the society, through its excellent Conference Manager Janette Sofronidis, is now available to take on the organisation of other microbiology conferences on a fee for service basis. We are already organising international E.coli and Neisseria conferences in



Australia in 2006. Contact Janette if you would like ASM to organise your next meeting.

This issue of Microbiology Australia contains a call for applications to fill two important positions on the Executive. A/Prof David Ellis' term as past-president concludes at the AGM in Canberra. He will be replaced by a new president-elect who will go on to serve a two year term as ASM president from July 2006 to July 2008. In addition, Geoff Coombs has decided to stand down as Vice-President (Corporate Affairs) at the AGM. This is a very important position as the incumbent is responsible for overseeing the financial management of the society and for supervising the activities of the National Office. If you are interested in serving ASM in either of these roles, or would like to nominate one of your colleagues, please complete a nomination form by June 30. Do not hesitate to contact me personally if you would like further information about either of these positions.

Finally, don't forget that early registration for what looks like an outstanding meeting in Canberra closes on June 30. Make sure that you register in time to take full advantage of our greatly reduced rates. For those who have not experienced it, dining in the Great Hall of the new Parliament House is an event not to be missed so make sure that you sign up for the dinner as well.

Editor – Microbiology Australia

Expressions of Interest are called for this position to commence in 2006.

Tasks will include:

- Liaison with the Editorial Board to ensure quality of content and presentation of the journal.
- Liaison with authors regarding style, content and deadlines for submission of papers.
- Implementation of the review process and editing of articles and references.
- Coordination of the production process and liaison with publishers.

A detailed statement of duties and contract agreement is available from the National Office.

Ideally the editor should be a member of or eligible for membership of ASM.

The role would suit a retired or semi-retired Microbiologist with experience in communications or publishing who has contacts in the field and time available.

Remuneration is \$70 per hour up to a maximum of 50 hours per issue.

Please send expressions of interest to Chris Daly at the National Office

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