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## Vertical Transmission



**Julian Rood**

President ASM

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An ASM member wins the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for microbiology research done in Australia; it doesn't come any better than that!

Congratulations to Professor Barry Marshall (University of Western Australia) and his colleague Dr Robin Warren for their seminal contribution in showing that a previously unknown bacterium, *Helicobacter pylori*, was the major cause of peptic ulcer disease.

Their work progressed from an idea that challenged accepted dogma, to experimental proof of that idea, to its worldwide acceptance in face of considerable controversy, and finally to the point where the treatment of peptic ulcer disease has been revolutionised, with enormous benefits to human health. Their research offers a fascinating case study of the scientific process and provides a lesson to all of us that we should not hesitate to take on accepted dogma when the experimental evidence says that it is wrong. ASM offers its sincere congratulations to Professor Marshall and Dr Warren on this richly deserved award.

Congratulations must also go to A/Prof Rick Cavicchioli and Dr Kathy Takayama, both from the University of New South Wales, to whom ASM has awarded the 2005 Frank Fenner Research Prize and the 2005 David White Excellence in Teaching Award, respectively.

A/Prof Cavicchioli has won this award for his success in integrating microbial physiology, genome sequencing and proteomics in his studies on cold adaptation in the Archaea. He will present his 2005 Fenner Lecture at the 2006 Annual Scientific Meeting at the Gold Coast next July.

Dr Takayama is an inventive teacher who has an international reputation for excellence in tertiary teaching, especially in microbiology. She will present a teaching workshop on her innovative teaching methods at the 2006 meeting.

This column is being written just after the Canberra meeting, the highlight of which was the outstanding Rubbo Oration presented by Dr Leroy Hood. We were taken into the brave new world of systems biology from a supposedly simple example of yeast metabolism into applications that may have far reaching consequences for the treatment of human disease. Dr Hood's slides can be viewed from the members' lounge in the new ASM website (<http://www.theasm.com.au>).

The Canberra meeting was an outstanding success. We must thank George McLean and his local organising committee, together with the retiring NSAC divisional chairs, Ruth Foxwell, Bill Rawlinson, Ipek Kurtböke and Naresh Verma, for putting together such an excellent meeting. We must not forget Janette Sofronidis and the national office team who ensured that the meeting ran like absolute clockwork.

It is now time to look forward. At the National Council meeting in Canberra, the Annual Scientific Meeting schedule

for the next 6 years was decided. After the Gold Coast in 2006, the ASM meeting will be held in Adelaide (2007), Melbourne (2008), Perth (2009), Sydney (2010) and Hobart (2011). All of these meetings will be held in early July. In addition, Council decided to trial an additional presentation format in 2006. For the first time, as well as the normal proffered paper and poster sessions, there will be a separate series of case study sessions where clinical microbiologists can present short papers on interesting clinical cases.

Finally, on behalf of the society, I would like to thank our retiring Past President, A/Prof David Ellis and Vice President (Corporate Affairs), Geoff Coombs, for their fantastic service to ASM over the past 4 years. They have been extremely dedicated servants of the society and we owe them a great debt, in particular for the very successful reorganisation of the national office. They have set a high standard for the new executive of myself, President Elect, A/Prof Keryn Christiansen, Vice President (Corporate Affairs), Silvano Palladino, and Vice President (Scientific Affairs), Prof Hatch Stokes, to follow.



## From the Editor

This is my last issue as editor of *Microbiology Australia*, and I would like to thank all the people who have contributed to the success of the journal over the last 3 years.

I have appreciated the support of the members of the editorial board who are responsible for the selection of themes for each issue, often take on the role of guest editor and review the papers. They provide a range of interests and experience which contribute to the variety and content of the journal. I have been privileged to work with many of the members of ASM as well as other contributors from Australia and overseas and have found the experience both challenging and rewarding.

I also wish to thank the publishing team at Cambridge Media who can always be relied on to produce a really high quality journal.

I wish the new editorial team of Ian Macreadie and his wife Jo all the best for the future as they take on *Microbiology Australia* for the next 3 years.

Penny Bishop

## ASM joins APACE

***The Australian Professional Acknowledgement of Continuing Education (APACE) is a voluntary continuing education programme for medical scientists designed and administered by the Australian Institute of Medical Scientists (AIMS)***

Recently the Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists (AACB) and the Australian Society for Microbiology (ASM) signed a memorandum of understanding with AIMS to allow AACB and ASM members to also participate in the APACE programme.

AIMS will continue to administer the APACE programme. ASM members will be able to enrol in the programme for an annual fee of \$25.00 (non-member rate \$184.80). Applications from ASM members wishing to enrol in APACE will be processed initially by the ASM National Office. Application forms will be available shortly on the ASM website and joining APACE will be an option for members when paying their annual membership subscription.

### Why join APACE

The healthcare industry is undergoing rapid changes and there is now a requirement for medical scientists, especially those in supervisory positions, to continually develop their knowledge and skills in relation to their professional practice through participation in a continuing education programme. By joining APACE, all medical scientists will have access to the same continuing education programme. To gain APACE accreditation, participants will be required to accumulate a minimum of 100 CEU credits within a maximum submission period of 2 years (3 years for rural members).

***For more information about APACE and CEU credits go to <http://www.aims.org.au/apace/apace.htm>***