



## Conference report ASM 2005

### 25-29 September, National Convention Centre, Canberra

ASM 2005 is over and, as President Julian Rood commented, it was “another tremendous conference”. Each of the 700 delegates has lots of memories – some great scientific discussions with colleagues and some effective networking, the wonderful experience of the conference dinner at Parliament House, a memorable Rubbo Oration and lots more.

President Rood opened the conference, at the National Convention Centre, in his inimitable style on Sunday evening by distributing the Society awards to the many worthy recipients. Delegates then moved to the ‘mixer’ in the exhibition hall where they started the joy of catching up with colleagues and where ‘first time’ delegates made new friends. The jazz trio *Crisp* delighted those delegates who listened to their tunes.

The prime reason for the scientific conference is the science experience. The National Scientific Advisory Committee, under the Chair, Hatch Stokes, organised a diverse program with 42 superb symposia. An excellent program was also organised by the Divisional Chairs – Ruth Foxwell, Bill Rawlinson, Ipek Kurtböke and Naresh Verma. The plenary sessions were well attended, with overseas scientists from several countries presenting their analysis on many topics.

Bill Rawlinson delivered the 2005 Fenner Lecture, with a talk on *Virus transmission from mother to baby – infection, disease and emerging paradigms*. The Rubbo Lecture was presented by Lee Hood, from the Institute of Systems Biology, Seattle on the fascinating topic of ‘Systems biology and



Leroy Hood

biological complexity’. A sumptuous supper followed in the ballroom with music by the *Chris Clark Trio*.

John Robbins from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Bethesda, Maryland, USA, presented the Bazeley Oration, *The legacy of the poliovirus vaccine for understanding intestinal immunity and the development of enteric bacterial vaccines*. He recalled the new cases of poliomyelitis after the summer school holidays and described the symptoms.

And there was much more; the workshops, the proffered papers and the posters that each contributed to another scintillating scientific experience. A special thank you also to the trade exhibitors for their significant contribution to the success of the meeting.

The conference dinner was held in the great hall of Parliament House after pre-dinner drinks in the foyer. Where else could one enjoy such atmosphere? The conference organisers are grateful for the



John Robbins

generosity of Roche for sponsoring the dinner. The delegates had the diversion of ‘Viva Las Vegas’ – a performance that appeared to get a reaction from many members. Later in the evening, many delegates took to the dance floor, moving their limbs and bodies to the music of *The Masons*.

All too soon it came the time to say goodbye and bring the conference to a close. Andrew Odd presented the TECRA International Rapid Methods Poster Competition prizes to Diane Price and Azadweh Zargari (the student prize). President Rood thanked the principal organisers of the Conference and the ASM flag was handed to Phil Gifford, the Chair for the Local Organising Committee for the Gold Coast, Queensland Conference, *Ride the wave, microbiology with innovation*, 2-6 July 2006.

George McLean

Chair, Local Organising Committee

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



# Conference report ASM 2005

## ASM prizewinners 2005

### 2004 Frank Fenner Research Award

**Bill Rawlinson**

*Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney*



### 2005 Frank Fenner Research Award

**Rick Cavicchioli**

*University of New South Wales*

### The David White Excellence in Teaching Award

**Dr Kathy Takayama**

*University of New South Wales*

Kathy is currently Senior Lecturer, School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences, The University of New South Wales. Her main research area is

RNA processing and regulation in bacteria. She has received a number of awards for teaching and her interests include:



scholarship of teaching and learning; science education and visualisations in science education.

### 2005 BioMérieux Identifying Resistance Award

**Clarence Fernandes**

*Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney*



### The ASM Merck Sharp and Dohme Mycology Award

**Ian Macreadie**

*Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO Molecular & Health Technologies, Melbourne*

Ian Macreadie applies yeast molecular biology to understand human diseases and their treatment with drugs. He currently works on Alzheimer's disease and antimicrobial development.

He is an Adjunct Professor of RMIT University, and supervises a number of post graduate students. His previous work involved identification of mitochondrial genes and, in CSIRO, the production of



a vaccine for infectious bursal disease virus in yeast as well as the study of HIV regulatory proteins. He is also interested in folate synthesis and utilisation in nutrition and as targets for antimicrobial and anticancer agents.

### The ASM Pfizer Mycology Encouragement Award

**Shelley Altman**

*PathWest Laboratory Medicine, QE2 Medical Centre, Nedlands WA*

Shelley completed a Bachelor of Applied Science Medical Technology from Curtin University in 1977 and has worked in mycology for the past 10 years. She recently worked on a recent Sporotrichosis outbreak in WA.



### The ASM Oxoid Culture Media Award

**Zoë Moore**

Zoë Moore has worked at Ecowise Environmental since obtaining a Bachelor degree in Applied Science, Biotechnology in 2000. She heads the newly established environmental biotechnology section of the lab which utilises molecular tools in both research and commercial capacities. Recently, Zoë has decided to return to study by undertaking a PhD in biofilm control in water reticulation systems.





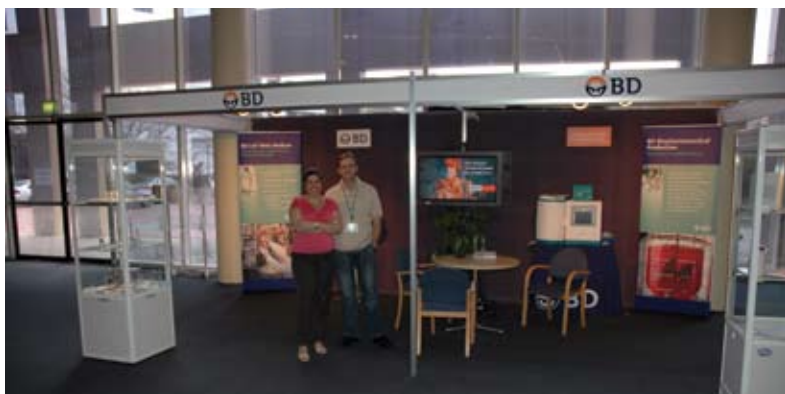
## Conference report ASM 2005

# MICROBIOLOGISTS AT WORK . . .





# ... AND PLAY





## Becton-Dickinson Student Awards 2005

The annual competition for the BD Awards showcases the work being done by young Australian microbiologists. One award is given in each State to the best student presentation of their research work. It covers the cost of attendance at the ASM annual conference. Each winner presented their work at the BD plenary session at the conference.

### ACT

#### Andelka Labudovic

*Australian National University*

Composition of transcription complexes in *Bacillus subtilis*.

### NSW

#### Geoff Doherty

*University of Newcastle*

Small changes in a complex soil microbial community can be detected by terminal

restriction fragment length polymorphism analysis.

### Queensland

#### Jessica Welch

*University of Queensland*

*Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* in the intensive care unit.

### South Australia

#### Alistair Standish

*University of Adelaide*

Adventures into the world of Antarctic actinobacteria.

### Tasmania

#### Jimmy Twin

*University of Tasmania*

Recombinant myxoma virus expressing rabbit interleukin-4 is more virulent

and overcomes genetic resistance to myxomatosis.

### Victoria

#### Catherine Osborne

*University of Melbourne*

Volatile fatty acid metabolism in the purple non-sulphur photosynthetic bacterium *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*.

### Western Australia

#### Niki Foster

*University of Western Australia*

The two-component signal transduction system RR06/HK06 regulates expression of *cbpA* in *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.



L-R: Geoff Doherty, Niki Foster, Jimmy Twin, Jessica Welch, Alistair Standish, Catherine Osborne & Andelka Labudovic.



## Marie Curie

### New call for Incoming International Fellowships

On 20 July 2005 the European Commission launched a new call for proposals for Marie Curie Incoming International Fellowships (IIF). The call has an indicative budget of E22 million. The deadline for this call is 18 January 2006.

This action aims at promoting the mobility of excellent researchers from third countries to Europe by providing them with individual training (including complementary skills, e.g. management, ethics, communication) in a research organisation in a EU-Member State or Associated State. This research fellowship can have a duration of 12-24 months and, in the case of developing countries, a reintegration phase of half that duration in the researcher's country of origin.

Experienced researchers (more than 4 years of research experience or a PhD.) develop individual mobility projects together with the host organisation. The research topic can be chosen by the researcher from all areas of scientific and technological research. All researchers from third countries are eligible for this action, except those treated as being from EU-Member States or Associated States or because of their presence for more than 4 years during the previous 5 years in the territory of a Member State or Associated State.

*Further information:*

[http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call\\_details.cfm?CALL\\_ID=229](http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=229)

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/mariecurie-actions/action/fellow\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/mariecurie-actions/action/fellow_en.html)

All queries to: Dr Neil TM Hamilton, Executive Director

Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology Cooperation

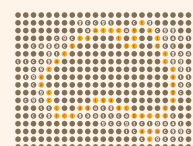
E-mail: [Neil.Hamilton@anu.edu.au](mailto:Neil.Hamilton@anu.edu.au)

## 15th International Pathogenic Neisseria Conference 2006

Cairns Convention Centre, Cairns QLD

10-15 September 2006

[www.ipnc2006.org](http://www.ipnc2006.org)



**IPNC06**

15th international  
pathogenic neisseria  
conference

This conference is held every 2 years and has a long history of scientific excellence, social interaction and discussion. For the last 10 years the conference has consistently attracted 400-600 delegates, with the meetings alternating between Europe and North America. Because of a consistent Australian presence at these meetings, this next conference will be held in Australia for the first time!

Stay tuned for further information regarding international speakers, program and special registration packages. A variety of accommodation options, all within walking distance to the conference venue, together with an exciting Pre & Post Touring Program will ensure a memorable stay in Cairns.

#### REGISTRATION — EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Register your expression of interest now so you don't miss out on any registration offers.

Go to the conference website [www.ipnc2006.org](http://www.ipnc2006.org)

Or, contact the conference organisers:

Tel: +61 3 9867 8699 E-mail: [janette@theasm.com.au](mailto:janette@theasm.com.au)

#### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Industry support is an important element of the meeting. IPNC 2006 will provide a fantastic opportunity for strong branding and exposure to a concentrated group of international and specialist industry users. Contact the conference organisers for further information.

IPNC 2006 Co-Convenors Professor Michael Jennings

Professor John Davies Conference Organiser

Australian Society for Microbiology, Suite 23, 20 Commercial Road, Melbourne VIC 3004 Australia

Tel +61 3 9867 8699 Fax +61 3 9867 8722 Conference Manager — Janette Sofronidis, E-mail: [janette@theasm.com.au](mailto:janette@theasm.com.au)



## Meetings

Contributions listing relevant meetings are welcome. Please send to: <editor@theasm.com.au>

### 2006

**20-23 February**  
**Sofitel Wentworth Hotel, Sydney**

The Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology Incorporated presents:

**12th Australian Food Microbiology Conference**

**Chair: Edward Jansson**

in conjunction with

**2nd International Conference on Microbial Risk Assessment: Foodborne Hazards**

**Chair: Trish Desmarchelier**

Contact: AIFST National Office  
PO Box 6436, Alexandria NSW 2015  
Tel: (02) 8399 3996  
Fax: (02) 8399 3997  
E-mail: aifst@asn.au  
Website: www.aifst.asn.au

**23-25 February**  
**Crown Plaza, Coogee Beach, Sydney, Australia**

**Australian Society for Antimicrobials 7th Annual Scientific Meeting**

Website: www.icms.com.au/asa/2006  
E-mail: info@asainc.net.au

**2-6 April**  
**Alice Springs**

**The 5th International Symposium on Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases**

Contact: Professor James C Paton  
School of Molecular and Biomedical Science, University of Adelaide  
Adelaide SA 5005  
Tel: (08) 8303 5929  
Fax: (08) 8303 3262  
E-mail: james.paton@adelaide.edu.au  
Website: www.isppd5.com

**28-29 April**  
**Clearwater Beach, Florida, USA**  
**13th Annual Molecular Virology Workshop**

Contact: Kirsten St George (MAppSc, PhD)  
Director, Virus Reference and Surveillance Laboratory  
Director, Virology Proficiency Testing Program  
Deputy Director, Clinical Virology Program  
Fax: (1) 518 869 6487  
E-mail: kxs16@health.state.ny.us  
Website: www.virologysymposium.org

**30 April – 3 May 2006**  
**Clearwater Beach, Florida, USA**

**22nd Annual Clinical Virology Symposium**

Details as Molecular Virology.

**11-13 May**  
**The Carrington Hotel, Katoomba, NSW**  
**Viruses in May 2006**

Chair: Prof William Rawlinson  
Conference Secretariat: Jacqueline Faltas  
E-mail: z3021301@student.unsw.edu.au  
Website: www.virusesinmay.com

**15-18 June**  
**Lisbon, Portugal**

**12th International Congress on Infectious Diseases (ICID)**

Tuberculosis and leprosy in early Egyptian cities, quorum sensing, and insuring a global influenza vaccine supply are a few of the fascinating yet disparate areas that make up the field of infectious diseases today. They also are a small sample of the diverse and thought-provoking presentations that will be part of the program. This also includes from community-acquired MRSA to haemorrhagic fever outbreaks in low resource areas.

With internationally recognised speakers from every region of the world, the ICID provides a breadth of infectious diseases updates not found in any other congress. The 12th ICID will be an especially exciting occasion, as it marks the 20th anniversary of the ISID. Please visit the Congress website at [http://www.isid.org/12th\\_ICID/](http://www.isid.org/12th_ICID/) for the latest program updates, to submit an abstract for the scientific program, beginning 1 October 2005, and to register for the meeting.

**2-6 July**  
**Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, Gold Coast**  
**ASM 2006, Gold Coast Annual Scientific Meeting & Exhibition for the Australian Society for Microbiology**

Chair: Phil Giffard  
Conference Manager: Janette Sofronidis  
Australian Society for Microbiology  
E-mail: janette@theasm.com.au

**20-25th Aug 2006**  
**Cairns**

**8th International Mycological Conference**

There will be a clinical mycology workshop as well as clinical mycology talks in addition to other aspects of mycology.  
Website: <http://www.sapmea.asn.au/conventions/imc8/index.html>

**10-15 September**  
**Cairns Convention Centre, Cairns, Qld**

**IPNC 2006 – 15th International Pathogenic Neisseria Conference '06**

Co-convenors:  
John Davies & Michael Jennings  
Conference Manager: Janette Sofronidis  
Australian Society for Microbiology  
E-mail: janette@theasm.com.au  
Website: www.ipnc2006.org

**20-22 September 2006**  
**Hilton Hotel, Sydney**  
**Australian Infection Control Conference**

Website: www.aica.org.au

**15-18 October**  
**Amsterdam, Netherlands**

**6th International Conference of the Hospital Infection Society**

Contact: Congress Secretariat  
HIS 2006, Concorde Services Ltd  
4B/50 Spiers Wharf, Glasgow G4 9TB  
Tel: (44) 141 331 0123  
Fax: (44) 141 331 0234  
E-mail: info@his2006.com  
Website: www.his2006.com

**29 October–1 November**  
**Crown Promenade Hotel, Melbourne**

**VTEC 2006**  
**The 6th International Symposium on Shiga Toxin (Verocytotoxin) producing *Escherichia coli* infections**

Chair: Elizabeth Hartland  
Conference Manager: Janette Sofronidis  
Australian Society for Microbiology  
E-mail: janette@theasm.com.au  
Website: www.vtec2006.org



## New Members

Due to a printing error in the August issue, this is the list of New Members who have joined in the past 4 months

### ACT

Vicki Chrysostomou  
Jeevan Khurana  
Andelka Labudovic  
Emma Prezzi  
Monica Sharma

### NSW

Lyndall Brennan  
Mitchell Brown  
Matthew Chater  
Liz Varon Fernandez  
David Felton  
Elizabeth Haremza  
Sue Fraser-Hills  
Qing Yi Huang  
Sonja Jovanovic  
Leanne Knox  
Jacob Kurniawan  
Tanya Lawlis  
Sean Maynard  
Khanh Pham  
Corbett Research  
Stuart Pearce  
Galina Smirnova  
Nola McWatters  
Mandy Ng  
Georgia Walker  
Wentao (Anita) Wang

### QLD

Lone Hoj  
Sheryl Maher  
Candice Mitchell

Teresa Kelly  
Adrian Abnett  
Cassandra Trent  
Arti Nair  
Dorothy Loo  
Angie Hindmarch  
Matthew Forbes  
Benjamin McMahon  
Patricia Pontynen  
Colleen Hulett  
Nelson-John MacKinnon  
Cindy Luttuschka

### SA

Michelle Andrews  
Miranda Branson  
Paul Chambers  
Katrina Hallas  
Jennifer Keav  
Diana Moun  
Chris Ossowicz  
Tracy Plummer  
Morgyn Warner  
Chun Chun Young

### VIC

Rhonda Walker  
Nathalie Dunstan  
Amanda McKenzie  
Isis Silva  
Ramamoorthi Jayaraj  
Ludmila Pisarevsai  
Monica Delaney  
Omer Jamall  
Radha Mantena

Sonal Patel  
Takehiro Tomita  
Kathy Balatli  
Kate Martin  
Mary Marshall  
Yuet Chee

### WA

Jessika Malouf  
Melinda Potter  
Diane Price

### TAS

Ameya Gudekar  
Scott Nichols

### CANADA

Nat Brown  
Mark Wickham

### JAPAN

Edward Barlaan

### SINGAPORE

Nooralam Jamal  
Shu-Ying Pang

### SOUTH AFRICA

Daniel Malherbe

### URUGUAY

Claudia Raymondo

## ASM SUSTAINING MEMBERS

### Abbott Diagnostics Division

BD

Biocene

Biolab

Bio Mediq (DPC) Pty Ltd

BioMérieux Australia Pty Ltd

### Bio-Rad Laboratories

Blackaby Diagnostics Pty Ltd

Dade Behring Diagnostics

Diagnostic Technology

Don Whitley Scientific Pty Ltd

Millipore Australia Pty Ltd

### Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics

Oxoid Australia Pty Ltd

Roche Diagnostics Australia

TECRA International

Wyeth Australia





# Australian Society for Microbiology Incorporated

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Prof Julian Rood

**President Elect**  
Assoc Prof Keryn Christiansen

**Vice President, Scientific Affairs**  
Dr Hatch Stokes

**Vice President, Corporate Affairs**  
Mr Silvano Palladino

## BRANCH DELEGATES

**ACT** Dr Nick Medveczky  
**NSW** Mr Tom Olma  
**Qld** Dr Mark O'Brien  
**SA** Dr Helena Ward  
**Tas** Ms Kathleen Shaw  
**Vic** Ms Sue Cornish  
**WA** Ms Suellen Blackaby

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

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Dr Hatch Stokes

**Chair, National Examinations Board**  
Prof Peter Coloe

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Dr Mary Barton

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Mr Chris Daly

**Conference Manager**  
Ms Janette Sofronidis

**Administration & Events Officer**  
Ms Meg Lukies

**Part-time Personal Administration**  
Ms Lina Raco

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