



New Members

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Rowena Bull	Sasha Tetu	Simone Chantrell	Alex Fulcher	Roslyn Testa	
Rajni Chano	Debra Walker	Damien Chong	Donna Furey	Kelly Tivendale	
Scott Currin	Angela Wong	Paul Giacomini	Emily Gan	Johanna Wapling	
Justin Ellem	QLD		Lachlan Gray	Lumin Xue	
David Felton	Amanda Blagg	Amanda Highet	David Hawkes	Soo Huey Yap	
Terry Flood	Phillipa Campbell	Amy McMellon	Anna Hearps	WA	
Jomyr Gannaban	Daniel Clarke	Karina Sbisa	Frank Iozzo	Alexis D'Hart	
Lien Hoang	Francis Frame	Keryn Simons	Eva Jovanovic	Lara Herrero	
Chee Woei Hue	Kate McCarthy	Paul Simpson	Robyn Juguetta	Esttee Madaschi	
Tara-lee Jarman	David Muller	VIC		Patchara Phuektes	
James Lazenby	Adele Panetta	Travis Beddoe	Sanjeetha Latheef	Karleen Shaw	
Hao Mac	Lisa Putral	Belinda Bombaci	Edwin Leeansyah	MALAYSIA	
Rebecca Maurer	Rena Shukla	Penelope Buxton	Malcolm McConville	Sook Yi Chow	
Susan Moxey	Jennifer Utley	Leon Caly	Jessica Morison	NEW ZEALAND	
Chaise Pascoe	Katherine Wynn	Fiona Charewicz	Zoe Moutafis	Kevin Drysdale	
Susie Pluviano		Sean Conrad	Julia Prentice	Kasey Shirvington-Kime	
		Kemperly Dynon	Stephen Rawlinson		
		Elizabeth Fagan	Maneesha Singh		
			Jasminka Sterjovski		

Prizes & Awards go to www.asm2006.org for further details

The Pfizer ASM Mycology Encouragement Award Closing date for applications: 31 March 2006	ASM Teachers' Travel Award Closing date for applications: 31 March 2006	The Roche ASM Molecular Diagnostic Award Closing date for applications: 31 March 2006
ASM Research Trust Fellowship Closing date for applications 31 March 2006	The BD Student Awards Closing date for applications: 31 March 2006	The Oxoid ASM Culture Media Award Closing date for applications: 31 March 2006
ASM Foundation Travel Grant Closing dates for applications: (bi-annually) 31 July 2005 & 31 January 2006	Vic Skerman Student Prize Closing date for applications: 31 March 2006	The Merck Sharp & Dohme ASM Mycology Award Closing date for applications: 31 March 2006
David White Excellence in Teaching Award Closing date for nominations 31 March 2006	The bioMérieux ASM Identifying Resistance Award Closing date for applications: 31 March 2006	2006 Frank Fenner Award Closing date for applications: 31 March 2006

ASM SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Abbott Diagnostics Division	Blackaby Diagnostics Pty Ltd	Millipore Australia Pty Ltd
BioMérieux Australia Pty Ltd	Corbett Research	Oxoid Australia Pty Ltd
BD	Dade Behring Diagnostics	Panbio Pty Ltd
Bio Mediq (DPC) Pty Ltd	Diagnostic Technology	Tecra International
Bio Rad Laboratories	Don Whitley Scientific Pty Ltd	Roche Diagnostics Australia



Natalie Marchello was co-editor of Young Bugs Banter (now Emerging Microbiologists) from 1999 to 2002. After completing her undergraduate science degree with honours, Natalie chose a career path that has lead her into an area of microbiology slightly different from the conventional career paths taken by many students.

What has been your career path until now?

Initially, I started my university studies at Curtin University in WA with an associate degree in medical technology and then moved into the medical science degree. During my second year I also began working at Princess Margaret/King Edward Memorial Hospital in the microbiology laboratory. After completing these studies, I had already decided that microbiology was an area that I was interested in, and decided to undertake an honours degree through the University of Western Australia. I then worked for my honours supervisor, Associate Professor Tom Riley, in his lab on *Clostridium difficile*.

Approximately 18 months later, I moved out of the lab and entered the world of pharmaceutical sales which I have done for the last three and a half years. Currently, I'm still in sales, but am now a surgical and interventional radiology representative.

How did you become interested in microbiology?

The real reason that I became interested in microbiology was a result of doing work experience. In my first year of university, I wasn't too sure if I had made the right career choice and thought work experience would allow me to see what happens in the 'real world' outside university. I was quite interested by my time at PMH/KEMH as a work experience student and, through my enthusiasm, I successfully landed a part time job. I worked every weekend for a good part of 4 years and found the work to be so interesting. During my holidays from

university I also gained new skills from the scientists which made me even more interested. Therefore, by the time I had finished my studies at Curtin, I knew that I wanted to study more microbiology and decided to do honours.

What majors did you choose to study for your course?

Aside from microbiology, I also chose to major in medical biotechnology, immunology and haematology. I knew that I was going to end up in a microbiology laboratory, but I wanted to keep my options open just in case.

How did you go about getting a position in sales?

While I was working at PMH/KEMH I became good friends with one of the shift scientists in haematology. He left the lab and got a job in sales and it was through him that I learned about the pharmaceutical industry. Several years later, I started applying for sales positions through the newspaper. I managed to get some interviews with a couple of different companies, as well as many rejection letters, and, in the end, got offered two jobs on the same day.

From my experiences over the years, I have found that it is really important to make regular contact with recruitment agents if you want a career in sales – quite often they can tell you about jobs that haven't been advertised.

Why did you decide to change careers and what was the biggest challenge moving from a laboratory environment into a sales role?

Like I said earlier, I really was interested in microbiology, but I simply realised that I didn't want to be in a lab all day. I thought I could try out sales and, if I didn't like it, I could always go back. I didn't enjoy the isolation and confinement of being in the one location all day. I would also be lying if I didn't say that the money in sales was also a motivating factor.

I found everything was the biggest challenge at the beginning and the first 6 months were quite tough. However, after a while, things got easier and, as long as you know your products and are well organised, it's really not too bad. The greatest challenge that I am facing now in my current role is that I don't have a great knowledge in the medical area and I spend about 70% of my time in theatre. I need to know all my products, competitors and have a good understanding of anatomy and operating procedures. Therefore, I'm spending a lot of time with my head buried in a surgical textbook.

Where would you like to be in 5 years' time?

If you had asked me that question a few years ago, I would have said either as a trainer or a manager for a pharmaceutical company. At this point, I really don't know where I would like to be in 5 years. It's going to take me up to 2 years to be fully effective in my current role, so I guess I'm not really looking past that at the moment.

Any advice for young inspiring students?

Over the years, I have become a firm believer in the following:

- Always keep your options open so that you can steer your career in a number of different directions.
- Don't be afraid of the realisation that what you have studied for many years may not be what you want to do forever and that it is not a waste.
- It's also very helpful to talk to as many people as you can concerning your career from different areas or disciplines.



Joanne Lind (née Clarke) was the co-editor of Young Bugs Banter (now Emerging Microbiologists) from 2002 to 2003. Since the completion of her PhD, Joanne has undertaken a post-doctoral position in the USA and has recently returned to Australia to continue her research. In this interview she offers some insight into the international experience of microbiological research.

What have you been doing since you finished your PhD?

I submitted my PhD in December 2003, which focused on antimicrobials in flies, and decided to apply for fellowships overseas. I was keen to move into human genetics research, so I applied for fellowships in this field (both advertised and through contacts I had made during my PhD). I took up a post-doc with the National Institutes of Health in Frederick, Maryland, USA (which is about 1 hour's drive from Washington DC). I decided on this position as it was in the area that I was interested in.

My research involved looking at genetic variation on the Y chromosome and its association with HIV infection and progression. My initial contract was 1 year (with the possibility of staying 5). I ended up staying just the 1 year and returning to a post-doc position at the Centenary Institute, within the Agnes Ginges Centre for Molecular Cardiology (Sydney).

What were your likes and dislikes about doing a post-doc overseas and what was the highlight?

My international experience was very well regarded when applying for positions in Australia. Travel is a lot easier when living in the northern hemisphere (although you get less annual leave in the US – only 2 weeks per year). However, a low priority was given to conference attendance, publishing results quickly, and grant writing (things that are all very important in the Australian research setting). I think this would have been different if I was working in a university, rather than for the government. And the highlight? Christmas in New York.

Would you recommend overseas experience (either post-doc or PhD) to other students?

I would definitely recommend spending time overseas (either PhD or post-doc), but I would advise not to make a big time commitment until you have worked in the lab and you know you will be happy there. Having international experience is highly

regarded, and it helped me appreciate the research culture we have in Australia.

Can you tell us about your current research?

My current research aims to examine gender as a modifying factor in cardiovascular disease. Clinical observations suggest males and females differ in terms of the incidence and severity of a number of cardiovascular diseases, including familial hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and coronary artery disease. My current research focuses on genetic heart diseases, investigating how gene-gender interactions determine phenotype variability in patients.

Do you have any advice for young microbiologists?

My advice for anyone investigating an overseas project would be: talk to the other post-docs and PhD students in the lab (make sure they are happy with the supervisor and the way the lab is run); visit the lab (if possible) before taking up the position to make sure you could live in the area and that you would enjoy the work environment; make sure that they will provide you with the type of experience that is required to move back into Australian research (e.g. high quality publications, named investigator on grant applications, the ability to attend conferences, and the opportunity to supervise students).



Meetings

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

2006

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

Viruses in May is an annual conference that brings together a diverse group of people to discuss the important issues surrounding viral illness. The meeting is particularly aimed at medical virologists, clinicians, scientists and medical students from around Australia, in order to discuss diagnostic and management issues related to virology.

The third meeting of Viruses in May is scheduled for 3 days from the 11-13th of May, 2006. The committee has arranged for specific themes allocated for each day of the conference; Diagnostic Virology, Public Health Virology and Emergency Department Virology. Each presenter has extensive research and clinical expertise in the areas they are discussing.

Almost 20 topics will be discussed and include:

- The discovery and diagnosis of Parvovirus B19
- Acute Tropical Fevers
- Treatment of SARS, HIV and Influenza in the emergency department
- Viral outbreak management

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 programme. 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/ for the latest programme updates, to submit an abstract for the scientific programme, beginning 1 October 2005, and to register for the meeting.

24-28 June Prague, Czech Republic 10th International Symposium on the Genetics of Industrial Microorganisms

Chair: Jaroslav Spizek
Website: www.gim2006.org

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

20-25 Aug 2006 Cairns Convention Centre, Cairns, Queensland

8th International Mycological Conference

There will be a clinical mycology workshop as well as clinical mycology talks in addition to other aspects of mycology.

Web: <https://www.sapmea.asn.au/imc8>
Chair: Wieland Myer
Vice-Chair: Ceri Pearce

27 August – 1 September Cairns Convention Centre Cairns, Queensland

13th International Meeting on Hepatitis C virus and Related Viruses

Convenors: Eric Gowans, Michael Beard & Geoff McCaughan
Contact: Secretariat, Nola Miles-Clark
PO Box 2101
West Ashgrove, QLD 4060
E-mail: hepatitis2006@bigpond.com
Website: www.icms.com.au/hepatitis2006

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
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2007

9-13 July Adelaide Convention and Exhibition Centre

ASM 2007, Adelaide

Chair: Andrew Lawrence



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