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Vertical Transmission



Keryn Christiansen

President ASM

As you read this column, I along with two members of the society, Liz Harry and Belinda Ferrari, will have taken part in Science Meets Parliament. This annual event, organised by the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS), provides the opportunity for scientists to understand political processes and for members of parliament to gain insight into how science contributes to Australia's environmental, social and economic development. It is important that microbiological issues are raised and that the society is represented. Two issues will be presented – biological production of fuel and antimicrobial resistance. This should be a stimulating two days on which I will report in the next edition of *Microbiology Australia*.

The executive and council continue to work on your behalf. Some of the matters discussed have been the archiving of *Microbiology Australia* by Google, making the journal archives discoverable through both Google and Google Scholar, and allowing the digitised journals to be read, downloaded, and printed as PDFs, with a link also to the digitised journals from the ASM website. It was decided that the most recent editions would not be available. Another *Microbiology Australia* initiative is to release articles (with the permission of the author) to the press. Hopefully this will raise the profile of the society and make microbiology research, regulatory and diagnostic issues more accessible to the public. The society is considering options for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of its formation. Our Golden Jubilee in 2009 presents a unique opportunity to celebrate the history of the society and a history consulting company has been engaged to help reflect on the society's past, present and future. At the Perth meeting you will hear more on this and how you can take part in the celebrations. It is recognised that the Research Trust has not been meeting the needs of our members. Over the next few months the executive will take steps to reinvigorate the trust and make changes to facilitate its function in the longer term. As progress is made I will keep you informed.

Our relationship with other societies is important and in a previous column I mentioned the joint American Society for Microbiology (ASM-US) and ASM-Aus Annual Postgraduate Student Travel Awards for attendance at the respective annual scientific meetings of each society. I am pleased to announce that Julian Rood has been appointed American Society for Microbiology Ambassador to Australia, New Zealand and the Oceania region. This will allow the forging of closer links to that society and the promotion of the Australian society as a consequence. On behalf of the ASM membership I congratulate Julian on this appointment.

Lastly, the Annual Scientific Meeting in Adelaide is just a few months away. I urge all our members to check the ASM website for details on the program. The Adelaide local organising committee has worked hard to put together a program that is interesting, diverse and stimulating. Please come along, enjoy the program, the social events and the collegiate spirit of our annual meeting.