Hatch Stokes
President ASM

It is a real thrill to be writing this, my first Vertical Transmission as President. On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank Keryn Christiansen for her great leadership over the last 2 years during a time of substantial organisational change within the Society. On a personal note, she has been a fantastic mentor and I look to the next 2 years with more confidence than perhaps would otherwise have been the case.

As well as the end of Keryn’s term as President, the last few months have seen other changes at Executive and National Office level. Like Keryn, I would also like to acknowledge Silvano Palladino’s 3-year term as Vice-President (Corporate Affairs). He has been a great asset to the Society and, with Michelle Jackson’s help in the National Office, has greatly streamlined processes and placed the Society on a sound financial footing. Although lost to the Executive, it is great that Silvano will be contributing to the Society in other ways. On the upside, from the Executive’s perspective, Johnson Mak is settling into the VP (Corporate Affairs) role and will be continuing Silvano’s good work.

The other relatively new face is Carol Ginns who is filling the new role of Executive Officer in the National Office. Many of you got to know Carol recently as she made a special effort to meet as many of the Society’s members as possible during the Melbourne meeting. One of Carol’s tasks will be to raise the profile of the Society in government and corporate circles. Her role in this regard will be most effective by drawing on the considerable expertise amongst Society members. As such, I would hope you would be willing to provide advice and a little bit of time to her if called upon, either specifically or via general requests for input on matters of importance to all of us.

The Melbourne meeting has now come and gone. One of the advantages of a diverse national meeting is the opportunity to catch up with so many friends and colleagues from interstate that time and work conspire to prevent us from seeing. This annual opportunity to network is as important as the scientific programme itself, and I would particularly encourage members who have not been to a recent annual meeting to consider participation in the future.

The Melbourne meeting itself was, as in previous years, an outstanding success. I have been involved in ASM national affairs now for over 6 years and am always amazed at the amount of effort that goes into organising the annual meetings. The number of voluntary hours put in by so many Society members, including members of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) as well as the Division Chairs on the National Scientific Advisory Committee (NSAC), is a great inspiration. In Melbourne’s case, this effort was coordinated by Sue Cornish, the LOC Chair, and the Society is greatly indebted to her for her time and effort.

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The 2009 meeting will be held in Perth and stands to be a particularly special conference. The year 2009 marks our golden jubilee as a Society and a number of special events are planned, many of which will centre on the national meeting. Rod Bowman, the Perth LOC Chair, and his team are working to make a very special meeting. Apart from the reasons I alluded to above, the conference in Perth will definitely be an event that you will want to be able to tell your ‘great-grandstudents’ that you attended.

Our upcoming 50th year will be an opportunity to reflect on the many achievements of the Society. This is important as the vibrant success of the ASM today was really built on the foresight and initiative of members from previous decades, especially in the very early years. The present Executive, however, is aware of the many new challenges that the Society faces. We also recognise the need to adapt and to continue to make the Society an organisation that is a valuable professional asset to microbiologists in Australia. Over the coming year I hope to be revealing a number of new initiatives that will improve services and assist members, all the way from undergraduate students to senior scientists/clinicians, in their professional development. As an Executive we are also open to advice. I would therefore encourage anyone with ideas for improvement to let me know. Further, the Society can only continue to succeed with broad support and I would encourage everyone to consider active participation in your Society as best you can.

### ASM NEW MEMBERS

#### ACT
- Jing Ji

#### New South Wales
- Christine Fitzgerald
- Hang Yang
- Kylie Turner
- Kiran Thapa
- Keith Stanley
- Pui K Phoebe Lee
- Peter Junek
- Seza Carceller
- Kumudini
- Dissanayake
- Karen Teng
- Frances Jenkins
- Sinead Blaber
- John-Sebastian Eden
- Timothy Morgan
- Brendan Goswell
- Galina Sarker

#### New South Wales
- Dean Procter
- Des Ng
- Shu Wang
- Nicholas Scott
- Andrew Read
- Andrew Robinson
- Gregory Whiteley
- Anthony Southwell
- Samuel Tan
- Candice Lynch
- Carmel Pye
- Gregory Maxwell
- Canan Eaton
- Jannine Bailey

#### NT
- Stephen Poole

#### Queensland
- Dean Procter
- Des Ng
- Shu Wang
- Nicholas Scott
- Andrew Read
- Andrew Robinson
- Gregory Whiteley
- Anthony Southwell
- Samuel Tan
- Candice Lynch
- Carmel Pye
- Gregory Maxwell
- Canan Eaton
- Jannine Bailey

#### South Australia
- Katerene Milios
- Pak Reynolds
- Donna Capurso
- Nicholas Wells
- Kimberley Camac
- Yoga Dwi Jatmiko
- Tania Veltman

#### Tasmania
- Rachael Littlejohn
- Michelle Bauer
- Elizabeth Fair

#### Victoria
- Xuxia Yan
- Jonathan Darby
- Darren Jardine
- Abdulmonem Sanalla
- Sarah McLean
- Labrini Nassis
- Patrice Riedmaier
- Renu Saini
- Carly Tucker
- Susan Kelly
- Caroline Kyi
- Garry Lane
- James Pyke
- Anusha Indranie
- Tittagalla

#### Western Australia
- Michael Wise
- Stuart Daniel
- Prashant Bharadwaj
- Jamie Summerfield
- Michelle Chellin

#### Overseas
- Monalisa Raha
  - India
- Lynda Hill
- New Zealand
- Esther Lau
- New Zealand
- Mary-Jane Emmerton
- United Arab Emirates