

Conclusion

Boronic acid is a known AmpC cephalosporinase inhibitor, which can be used in conjunction with cefoxitin to screen for AmpC. This is particularly important for non-ESCAPP Enterobacteriaceae in bacteremic patients where third-generation cephalosporins are often the first line of drugs of choice.

It is clearly important to test for AmpC when screening for ESBL to avoid false-negative results. The underlying presence of AmpC can mask sensitivity to clavulanic acid, which is commonly used to detect ESBL production. Many papers have shown the boronic acid test to be useful in detecting AmpC, but at best this test is 95% accurate, while polymerase chain reaction is the gold standard and is often used to check indeterminate results.

It is worth mentioning that there is also a need to test for metallo- β lactamase (MBL). For example, Imp4 is prevalent in Australian isolates of *E coli* and *Klebsiella*. The presence of MBL can also make the detection of coexisting AmpC or ESBL difficult.

As many serious infections are treated with a carbapenem, for example meropenem or imipenem, a positive MBL finding in such cases would require alternative treatment.

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From the Editors

This is the last *Microbiology Australia* issue for 2009. The Editorial Board works hard to ensure that there is an array of topics of interest for ASM members and this year's issues provide examples of the diversity of our discipline. The first issue (March) focused on the Microbiology of water reuse and alternative supplies. This topic not only remains a high priority for Australia, but its importance continues to increase, as our population grows and our water supplies decrease in many areas.

In May, Microbes and Global Climate Change was covered. ASM's contribution to this issue was very authoritative, describing changing to microbial populations. There were also suggestions of microbes mitigating global climate change.

In July we celebrated ASM's Golden Jubilee with a special extra issue on the History of ASM. This was a very authoritative issue researched by historians commissioned by ASM. It reflected on the origins of ASM and is a great issue to keep for posterity.

Then in September the topic was Emerging Infectious Diseases. Among the many emerging diseases which have serious consequences for Australians, this issue coincided with the outbreak of Hendra virus and H1N1 flu which received numerous media attention.

This issue is on Indigenous Health and we found it very sobering to think that despite the sophistication of the Australian health care system, our Indigenous people have incredibly high rates of infectious diseases. Hopefully this issue may contribute towards the alleviation of their dilemma.

We want to say thanks again to the Editorial Board of *Microbiology Australia* for their support throughout this year. It has been great working under the leadership of Ailsa Hocking over our past four year's with the journal. Now Chris Burke is providing that leadership as the new chair of the Editorial Board. Chris is also a Guest Editor for a special issue on Education that will appear in March 2010.

We also thank our Guest Editors who work with the Editorial Board to plan our special issues. Efforts are made to get cover all facets of a theme and to recruit authoritative contributors to provide authoritative reports to educate ASM members. In addition, however, *Microbiology Australia* is released to the media, and science writers, promoting follow up reporting of microbiology issues to the public.

We also thank readers for their contributions – please continue to send us comments and requests. Next year we plan to have further improvements to *Microbiology Australia* that will add to its utility as an educational resource. We wish you all the best for Christmas and for 2010.

Ian and Jo Macreadie