



The Australian Society for Microbiology Inc.

Unit 23, 20 Commercial Road
Melbourne VIC 3004
Tel (03) 9867 8699
Fax (03) 9867 8722
Email admin@theasm.com.au
www.theasm.com.au
ABN 24 065 463 274
For *Microbiology Australia*
correspondence, see address below.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Prof Ian Macreadie, Mrs Jo Macreadie
and Mrs Hayley Macreadie

EDITORIAL BOARD

Dr Chris Burke (Chair)
Prof Mary Barton
Prof Linda Blackall
Prof Peter Coloe
Assoc Prof David Ellis
Dr Ruth Foxwell
Dr Geoff Hogg
Dr Ailsa Hocking
Dr Ipek Kurtböke
Dr Gary Lum
Dr John Merlino
Prof William Rawlinson
Dr Paul Selleck
Assoc Prof Lindsay Sly
Dr David Smith
Ms Helen Smith
Prof John Turnidge
Dr Paul Young

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Current subscription rates are available
from the ASM Melbourne office.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Prof Ian Macreadie/Mrs Jo Macreadie
Tel 0402 564 308 (Ian)
Email ian.macreadie@gmail.com

Published four times a year by



CAMBRIDGE
PUBLISHING

a division of Cambridge Media
10 Walters Drive
Osborne Park WA 6017
www.cambridgemedias.com.au

Copy Editor Rachel Hoare

Graphic Designer Gordon McDade

Advertising enquiries to
Simon Henriques, Cambridge Publishing
Tel (08) 6314 5222
Fax (08) 6314 5299
Email Simonh@cambridgemedias.com.au

© 2010 The Australian Society for Microbiology
Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication
may be reproduced or copied in any form or by
any means without the written permission of the
Australian Society for Microbiology. Unsolicited
material is welcomed by the Editor but no
responsibility is taken for the return of copy or
photographs unless special arrangements are made.
ISSN 1324-4272

The opinions expressed in articles, letters and
advertisements in *Microbiology Australia* are not
necessarily those of the Australian Society for
Microbiology or the Editorial Board.

Vertical Transmission



Prof John Turnidge

President ASM

Many of you would have heard about the difficulties the Society has been experiencing in the National Office over recent months. We have had a number of resignations; first our executive officer, then our conference manager and most recently our office manager. As I outlined in the last *Vertical Transmission*, in order to cope with the resignation of our conference manager in May (two months before the Sydney meeting), we were required to call in an experienced professional conference organiser (ICMS) to ensure that the Sydney meeting did not suffer in terms of organisation over such a crucial period. Hopefully, you will agree that the meeting ran successfully given these circumstances.

Almost two months ago the Society's office manager of the National Office, Michelle Jackson, left us at very short notice. Again we sought the urgent assistance of ICMS to help us out, given that the remaining office employee was going on six weeks' leave. Some of you may have caught up with Janetta Stones from ICMS who has done a wonderful job for us in trying circumstances, and given the complexity of our organisation. The Executive has been required to help Janetta of course with the day-to-day activities, and I would like to personally thank the other three members of the Executive for the extra effort they have put in. In particular, our Vice-President Corporate Affairs has done an outstanding job dealing with a range of complex and ongoing issues, above and beyond the call of duty. Thanks enormously, Johnson Mak!

All these happening have brought the running of our Society into very sharp focus. The Executive and Council have started to discuss a range of matters about how our Society and annual meetings should be run. We are reasonably clear that we will not go back to employing our own conference manager. In the decade since we employed our own, the professional conference organising industry has matured considerably in Australia, and has at the same time become very competitive. It seems to us that outsourcing this function will be good for ASM now. The more difficult question is how to run the 'office' side of our business. The last decade has seen frequent changes of personnel in the office, and corporate memory, so vital for running a complex organisation like ASM, has all but evaporated. We welcome the views of the membership on this matter. Please provide your feedback though your branch or directly to the Executive!