

From the Editors

Microbiology Australia has gone through a major change this year as ASM seeks to contain costs to the Society. Of course many other journals are already online only journals so most readers will be familiar with this format. For *Microbiology Australia* the change means we have the opportunity to add videos, web links and virtually unlimited supplementary material. We are interested in hearing your stories of how you now use the electronic journal.

Behind the scenes there is still the same amount of work going into the production of each issue. The broad experience of the Editorial Board is drawn upon to plan and develop new themes and to choose Guest Editors. Occasionally we are approached by people with great ideas for new issues and these people often become Guest Editors. The Guest Editors are themselves experts who know their field and the people in their field and can suggest a range of contributions designed to provide interest and education to the readers of *Microbiology Australia*. In fact, *Education* was the theme of our first electronic issue.

All articles are anonymously peer-reviewed and we are grateful to those experts who check articles and make suggestions for improvements. Many issues have been timed to coincide with conferences. A recent example is the May 2009 issue on *Biodiscovery and industrial applications of microbial resources*, which showcased Australian research in those areas.

ASM provided delegates of the 11th *International Symposium on the Genetics of Industrial Microorganisms* with access to that electronic issue.

Our field of microbiology is undergoing constant change, not only because the microbial threats and opportunities are changing [e.g. *Microbes and Global Climate Change* (May 2009) and *Emerging Infectious Diseases* (September 2009)] but because our technology to analyse microorganisms is changing at a dramatic pace. Our last issue, *Clinical Microbiology*, referred to the revolution in that area. Another area of great interest is how we keep control of microbes, given the elegant strategies they can employ to evade controls. These are discussed in the current issue on biocides.

Close to 100 people annually publish articles in *Microbiology Australia* and we thank them for their interactions with us. We also thank our publishers, Cambridge Media, who perform copy editing and arrange the layout of each issue. We also want to thank readers for their feedback. We look forward to hearing from you, as does the Editorial Board, on suggestions for future issues.

This is the last issue for 2010 and we want to wish you well for the forthcoming holiday season and New Year.

Ian, Johann and Hayley Macreadie

