



**Roy Robins-Browne**  
President of ASM

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As this is my first communication for 2017, I will begin by wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year.

ASM members have much to look forward to in 2017 as far as scientific meetings are concerned.

From 13–15 February, the inaugural Australian Microbial Ecology (AusME) meeting was held at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity in Melbourne. Please check <http://ausme-microbes.org.au/> for details.

This year's Annual Scientific Meeting will take place at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart from 2–5 July (<http://www.asmmeeing.theasm.org.au/>). The National Scientific Advisory Committee and Conference Local Organising Committee have prepared a varied and stimulating scientific program, together with some exciting social events based on Tasmania's renowned foods and beverages.

For the more adventurous, the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS), of which ASM is a member, will meet at

the Sands Expo & Convention Centre in Singapore from 17–21 July. Over the span of 5 days, this meeting will bring together three congresses: the 15th International Congress of Bacteriology and Applied Microbiology, the 15th International Congress of Mycology and Eukaryotic Microbiology, and the 17th International Congress of Virology (<http://www.iums2017singapore.com/>). The scope of this meeting guarantees there will be something for everyone.

September will be a particularly busy month for members, with the back-to-back 2017 Tri-State Scientific Meeting and Parasitology Masterclass in Darwin, NT, from 22–25 September (<http://theasm.org.au/assets/ASM-Society/Current-Event-Flyers/Tri-State-2017-Save-the-Date-flyer.pdf>), followed by BacPath14: The Molecular Biology of Bacterial Pathogens, which will take place from 25–28 September at the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre in Hahndorf, South Australia (<http://bacpath.org/>).

Please make every effort to attend at least one of these meetings. If you haven't been to a scientific conference for some time, you may be surprised to find how rewarding and fulfilling they are from both a personal and professional point of view.

ASM Council is also working on various reforms to our bylaws to make it easier for individuals to become Professional Members (MASM) and Fellows (FASM) of ASM, and for all members to contribute to the ongoing development of our Society. I will have more to say on this in my next communication. In the meantime, please explore the links above and select the conference(s) you will attend this year.

**New members on the *Microbiology Australia* Editorial Board:  
seeking Expressions of Interest**

*Microbiology Australia* (MA), the journal of the Australian Society for Microbiology is produced online and in print four times per year. The journal contains scientific papers, technical notes, book reviews, conference information, data on new products and services in microbiology, and material for tertiary students, in addition to providing detail on ASM activities. MA is published by CSIRO Publishing.

We are seeking Expressions of Interest for new members on the MA Editorial Board. The Editorial Board meets four times each year and informs the editorial content of the journal. MA is widely read in the workplace, relevant government departments, universities, schools, libraries, industry, and medical centres around Australia. The journal is fully sponsored by the ASM and online content is available to all without subscription barriers. We are looking to further enrich MA's online reach through social networks, and encourage early and mid-career members to apply to join the Editorial Board to inspire and facilitate this process.

All applicants should submit a 250-word expression of interest that outlines their background, areas of interest, and what they wish to contribute to *Microbiology Australia* through a role on the editorial board. Submissions should be emailed to ASM ([admin@theasm.com.au](mailto:admin@theasm.com.au)) by 17 March 2017.