



Australian Society for Microbiology Inc.

Queensland Branch

Newsletter October 2012

From the Editor

A warm greeting to all ASMQ members on the electronic mailing list. I hope this newsletter has found you in good health and high spirits as we approach the Christmas break.

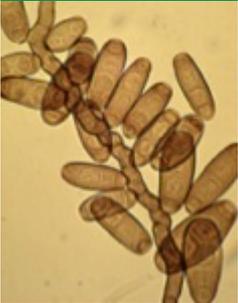
This is my first newsletter since taking over as editor last month, and I'd like to thank Yu Pei Tan for her great commitment and service as newsletter editor in the past. There are **5 new members** (including myself) on the ASM-Q committee for 2012/2013, and we are all keen to contribute to the society! You can find out more about the new members (and their contact details) within this issue.

As the year counts down, the next big event on the ASMQ calendar is **Microbiology in Maleny 2012**. We have some great speakers lined up, and the serene mountain-side setting along with a lunchtime Christmas party makes it a great way to celebrate the year in Microbiology. A flyer and registration form are attached in this newsletter, and we look forward to seeing all of you there!

Until next time!

Kind regards,
Jack Wang
asmqld@gmail.com

WELCOME



NOTICES

Microbiology in Maleny 2012

- Tranquil Mountain Park Resort Maleny
- Saturday 24th of November 2012
- Includes lunchtime Christmas Party
- Free for ASM members; \$40 + \$10 bus fare for non-members.
- Registration required – flyer and registration form are attached.

ASM Clinical Microbiology SIG

- QHPS – Princess Alexandra Hospital
- Wednesday 17th October 2012
- In the Russel Strong auditorium
- Light food served at 6:00pm
- Presentations start at 6:30pm.
- Flyer is attached.

UQ Secondary School Science Teachers Workshop

- 14 and 15th November 2012
- University of Queensland, St Lucia Brisbane
- Covers microbiology, biology, and chemistry for high school science teaching
- Early bird registration (and associated discount) extended to 22nd of October 2012
- More details: <http://www.scmb.uq.edu.au/cpd>
- Email: a.singh1@uq.edu.au PH: (07) 3365 4043



The Australian Society
for **Microbiology**
bringing Microbiologists together

Queensland branch presents:
Microbiology in Maleny
MiM2012

24th November 2012
Tranquil Mountain Park Resort, Maleny

The Microbiology in Maleny meeting is on again in 2012 – same time, same place.
This year, it will include:

Geoff Simmons Memorial Lecture
Prof David Gally

Prof Gally is a Professor of Microbial Genetics based at The Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh. He has research interests that cover the co-ordination of bacterial surface factor expression during infection and the development of vaccines to limit bacterial zoonotic diseases. Specific projects are based on *Escherichia coli* strains associated with severe gastrointestinal disease (enterohaemorrhagic *E. coli* O157 and O26), urinary tract infections and more recently an interest in strains associated with newborn meningitis and chronic infections (mastitis and Crohn's).

Other speakers:

- Dr Joanne McDonald (Viral Diagnostics)
- Dr Nick West (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*)
- Professor Paul Young (ASM President)

ASM Members: Free (Non-members: \$40 + \$10 bus fee)
Includes: Bus to and from Maleny, morning and afternoon tea, lunch and sunset drinks with the Blackall Range as backdrop.

For more information and RSVP (14th November) contact:
Pat Blackall (pat.blackall@daff.qld.gov.au)



Geoff Simmons Trust



MiM2012 Microbiology in Maleny

Queensland Branch of the Australian Society for Microbiology

Saturday 24th November 2012



REGISTRATION FORM

Surname:	Title:

Full Name:	

Organisation:	

Postal Address:	

	Postcode:

Telephone:	Fax:

Email:	

Dietary requirements:	

- I will be travelling on the hire bus
- I will organise my own transport to Tranquil Mountain Park Resort, Maleny

Payment:

Members of the Australian Society for Microbiology	Free
Non-members	\$40 (for meeting)
Non-members	\$10 (for bus)

(Please have a cheque or cash available at the meeting)

Please email the completed registration form to:

Pat Blackall (pat.blackall@daff.qld.gov.au)

Please think carefully as you submit this RSVP. The Branch has to meet the costs (catering, bus and so forth) for all RSVP replies received. We understand that plans do sometimes change BUT please understand that after 14th November the Branch will be responsible for all costs associated with a submitted RSVP.

RSVP 14th November 2012



ASM Clinical Microbiology SIG

QHPS - Princess Alexandra Hospital
Wednesday 17th October 2012

In the Russell Strong auditorium
Light food served at 6.00pm
Presentations start at 6.30pm

A first for the PA
Clive Foyster

Rapid results save lives
Sharon Kleinschmidt

Fatally resistant diphtheria at PAH
Chris Lidstone

Kindly sponsored by Integrated Sciences

New ASM-Q Committee Members



**Dr. Minh-Duy Phan
(Duy)
Ex-Officio**

I got my BSc degree from the University of Natural Sciences in Vietnam. I spent two years working on characterisation of multi-drug resistant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* for the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. I did my PhD at the Sanger Institute, UK where I studied molecular mechanisms affecting the stability of IncHI1 multidrug resistant plasmids in *Salmonella* Typhi. I then moved to Australia to join the group of Prof. Mark Schembri at the School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences, University of Queensland. I am now working on identifying novel virulent factors in uropathogenic *E. coli*, especially in the newly emerged but globally spread ST131 clone.



**Dr. Ning-Xia Fang
Ex-Officio**

My career in microbiology began with my PhD project on the development of Human papillomavirus vaccine in the Centre of Immunology and Cancer Research (CICR) (now the Diamantina Institute) at UQ. My subsequent postdoctoral research was in the areas of *Mycobacteria tuberculosis* and Dengue virus. In 2006, I started working in the Public Health Microbiology Laboratory at Queensland Health Forensic and Scientific Services. Since then I have been doing microbiological research on the development of molecular methods for subtyping *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Campylobacter* and also on the development of a fast detection method for waterborne bacterial pathogens. I wish I could continue my research career in the field of molecular microbiology and make more contribution to our microbiology society.

New ASM-Q Committee Members



Dr. Jack Wang
Newsletter Editor

I am a Teaching-Focused Microbiology academic at the School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences, UQ. I facilitate the delivery and design of the UQ Microbiology major, with an emphasis on consistent teaching methodology that aligns with the national science framework. My research interests revolve around inquiry-based learning and integrating real-world research projects into the undergraduate laboratory classroom.



Shimony Mohanty
Student Representative

My previous research included work on gender related analysis of Huntington disease, impact of various growth factors on olfactory stem cell growth and survival, and connection of HLA system with AIDS. I am currently a PhD candidate at the School of Biomolecular and Physical Sciences, Griffith University, where my research revolves around therapeutic properties of Australian native plants. These include ethno pharmacological studies, isolation and purification, bioactivity and toxicity studies, and the ability of extracts and components to alter redox states.



Anu Chacko
Student Representative

I am currently doing my PhD in the infectious diseases program at Queensland University of Technology under the supervision of Professor Peter Timms. My project focuses on investigating the role of tryptophan sensitivity, a key chlamydial pathogenic mechanism in *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, and I aim to use this knowledge for targeted vaccine development against the pathogen. I have previously worked on understanding the role of dendritic cells in a murine model for rheumatoid arthritis during my Masters by Research at University of Queensland. I am passionate about scientific research as it motivates me to discover and learn something new every day.

Are you FASM Material?

Advantages and benefits of becoming a Fellow of the Australian Society for Microbiology (FASM)

Fellow (FASM) is the highest level of professional membership of the Australian Society for Microbiology. Similar to the level of Fellow in other professional societies, ASM Fellows are recognized as representing a significantly high level of scientific and professional achievement within the profession of microbiology.

It should be the aspiration of all MASMs to apply for fellowship as part of their continuing professional status in microbiology. This is particularly true for the pathway involving FASM by examination but it is also true for the pathway involving the preparation of a scholarly dissertation.

In some states, FASM is regarded as being equivalent to a PhD for the purpose of promotion in the hospital setting. The qualification of FASM has been written into several enterprise agreements as a performance / qualification criteria.

The FASM in Clinical/Medical Microbiology is also recognised in legislation for the purposes of supervision of medical testing laboratories.

In Universities, the attainment of FASM provides recognition of status and achievement in the discipline and should contribute to career progression/promotion.

FASMs are highly regarded on state and national government committees and also on University and similar accreditation and advisory committees.

By serving as role models and mentoring early career microbiologists, FASMs have the opportunity to contribute to the future of Australian microbiology.

Please go to the ASM website for further information and/or contact the FASM advisor: **Prof Mark Schembri** (m.schembri@uq.edu.au).

Are you FASM Material? The Fellowship Road Map

Candidates for FASM must be a MASM (advisor: Mohammad Katouli) and have at least 10 years experience. The award of FASM is subject to a transparent and consistent examination process. This process is divided into 3 parts.

Candidate submits application form and supporting documentation (preferably in electronic form) to the National Examination Board (NEB).

NEB meets to discuss the application and decides whether an exemption from Part I and/or II is available for the candidate.

Part I: Requirements: General examination in microbiology, comprising both written and practical tests.
Exemptions: Usually granted to candidates with higher degrees in microbiology (MSc, MD, PhD), including coursework higher degrees.

Part 2: Requirements: Examination comprising 3 essay style questions to be sat in a supervised setting. Examines expertise in a specialised area of microbiology (e.g. medical virology) and assumes an understanding in at least one related area of microbiology (e.g. serology).
Exemptions: Usually granted to candidates holding *research* higher degrees in microbiology. The higher degree must comprise more than 18 months full time study. The research component of the higher degree examination should be more than 67% of the total marks. Usually granted for MSc (by research), MD, or PhD.

Part 3: Requirements: Usually satisfied by a scholarly dissertation. The dissertation may be either: 1) a recently (2-3 years) published major review, 2) an edited introduction from a PhD thesis, 3) a similarly referenced document with considerable academic depth (20-40 typed pages with between 50-150 references, or 4) a collection of published works – normally 10-15 high impact refereed scientific journal publications. This should be prefaced by an in-depth introduction of 10-20 pages and conclude with a critical summary – normally 10-15 pages.
Exemptions: No exemptions to Part 3.

Dissertation reviewed by experts in the discipline.

Once the dissertation has been accepted by the committee, it is a requirement that a hard bound copy be submitted to be held at the National Office of ASM.

You will receive a certificate and be bestowed the post nominal FASM.