



The Australian Society for **Microbiology**

Queensland Branch Newsletter – October 2014



Dear ASMQ members,

We are rapidly approaching the end of 2014 – for ASMQ, this time of the year usually brings a new set of enthusiastic State Branch committee members!

The committee would like to thank all of our departing committee members (Nouri Ben Zakour, Nicole Masters, Shimony Mohanty, Anu Chacko) for their hard work. Special mention must go to Mohammad Katouli (pictured above), who is leaving the committee after many years as our State Branch Chair. Mohammad has shaped the direction of our State Branch over his years of service to the society, and has been a strong advocate for Queensland members at all national ASM meetings. We look forward to seeing Mohammad at future ASM events and thank him for his efforts!

Next up on the schedule is **Microbiology in Maleny, on Saturday 29th of November 2014**. We have a great mix of veterinary, clinical, and molecular microbiology talks to be given by students, postdocs, and academics, followed by our State Branch Christmas party at Tranquil Park, Maleny. The program and registration details can all be found in this issue.

Apart from this newsletter, you can keep up to date with ASM events through:



- www.facebook.com/groups/ASMQLd/ - join the ASMQ group for events and networking opportunities with other members
- www.facebook.com/AustralianSocietyForMicrobiology Click “like” to keep up to date with national ASM activities as well as general interest microbiology resources (useful for teaching)



- Follow us on **Twitter** for links to relevant Microbiology news and science articles relating to ASM initiatives: [@AUSSOCMIC](https://twitter.com/AUSSOCMIC)

Until next time!

Jack Wang
asmqld@gmail.com



The Australian Society
for **Microbiology**

Queensland Branch presents:

Microbiology in Maleny **MiM2014**

Saturday 29rd November 2014
Tranquil Mountain Park Resort, Maleny

The 2014 meeting will include:

Geoff Simmons Memorial Lecture **“Multi drug resistance and cross-resistance in bacteria of animal origin”** **Prof Corinna Kehrenberg**

After having graduated in Veterinary Medicine (1997) at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover/Germany, Corinna started her PhD studies in the special field Microbiology. In 2000, she received the PhD degree and two years later, the degree of a DVM. Currently Prof Kehrenberg works in the Institute for Food Quality and Food Safety at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover/Germany. Her research interest is in molecular microbiology, with most of her work focused on antimicrobial resistance. Her research includes the association between the application of biocides and the development of antibiotic resistance, monitoring of resistance, resistance mechanisms, and the presence of resistant bacteria in wild game. She is a member of the working group “Antimicrobial resistance” of the German Veterinary Medical Society (DVG)

Other speakers:

- Dr. Willa Huston, Dr. Freda Jen, Dr Raquel Lo
- Professor Jon Iredell (ASM President)

ASM Members: Free (Non-members: \$35 + \$10 bus fee)

Includes: Bus to and from Maleny, morning and afternoon tea, lunch and sunset drinks with the Blackall Range as backdrop.

To RSVP, please send the completed registration form by 19th Nov 2014 to:
Jillian Templeton (Jillian.Templeton@daff.qld.gov.au)



AID

Australian Infectious Diseases research centre
Queensland Institute for Medical Research
The University of Queensland



Queensland Institute of
Medical Research



illumina



GeneWorks

Geoff Simmons Trust

SIGMA-ALDRICH

CORNING

TECAN

MiM2014

Microbiology in Maleny

Queensland Branch of the Australian Society for Microbiology

Saturday 29th November 2014



Program

Time	Schedule	Speaker
9:45 am	Arrive at Tranquil Mountain Park Resort and morning tea	
10:15-10:20	Opening address and welcome	Dr. Kate Seib (ASM-Qld Chair)
10:20-10:30	Introduction of Simmons trust speaker	Dr. Pat Blackall (Poultry CRC)
10:30-11:20	Multi drug resistance and cross-resistance in bacteria of animal origin	Prof. Corinna Kehrenberg (Germany)
11:20-11:40	A genetic screen reveals a periplasmic copper chaperone required for nitrite reductase activity in pathogenic <i>Neisseria</i>	Dr. Freda Jen (GU)
11:40-12:00	The role of whole genome sequencing in the molecular epidemiological typing of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	Christine Doyle (FSS)
12:00 pm	Lunch and Christmas Party	
1:30-2:00	Unscrambling the egg	Prof. Jonathan Iredell (Univ. Sydney)
2:00-2:20	Effect of carbon dioxide on microbiological quality of whey	Dr. Raquel Lo (UQ)
2:20-2:45	Investigating the function of an essential pathogenesis protease from <i>Chlamydia</i> using chemical inhibition and genetics approaches	Dr. Willa Huston (QUT)
2:45 pm	Afternoon Tea	
3:00-3:15	A novel capsular typing method for <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> using minimum SNPs	Rachel E. Rayner (QUT)
3:15-3:35	An antimicrobial role for zinc in the innate immune defence against Group A <i>Streptococcus</i>	Dr. Cheryl-lynn Ong (UQ)
3:35-3:50	Role of bacterial co-infections in severe acute respiratory syncytial virus infections in young children	Jaelle Brealey (UQ)
3:50-4:05	Novel sulfite oxidising enzymes in a marine <i>Roseobacter</i> species	Ruowei Feng (UQ)
4:05-4:20	Future directions for ASM	Prof. Jonathan Iredell (ASM President)
4:20-4:30	Closing address	Dr. Kate Seib (ASM-Q Chair)
4:35 pm	Sunset drinks at Tranquil Mountain Park Resort	
6:00 pm	Hire bus departs back to Brisbane	

MiM2014 Microbiology in Maleny

Queensland Branch of the Australian Society for Microbiology

Saturday 29th November 2014



REGISTRATION FORM

Surname:

Title:

Full Name:

Organisation:

Postal Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

Dietary requirements:

I will be travelling on the hire bus – pick up point UQ St Lucia Chancellors Place

Bus will leave 8:15 am sharp.

I will organise my own transport to Tranquil Mountain Park Resort, Maleny

Payment:

Members of the Australian Society for Microbiology

Free

Non-members

\$35 (for meeting)*

Non-members

\$10 (for bus)*

(*Payable in **cash** on the day of the meeting)

Please email the completed registration form to:

Jillian Templeton (Jillian.Templeton@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 19th November 2014

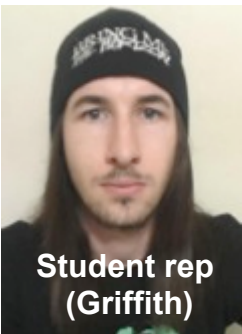
New 2014 ASMQ Committee Members



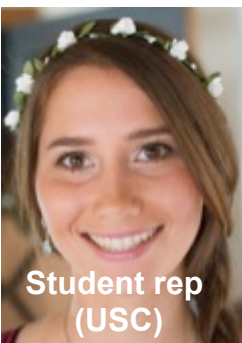
Dr. Rosalind Gilbert obtained her PhD in Animal Science from the University of New England, Armidale NSW in 2000 and has undertaken postdoctoral positions with the University of Glasgow, Division of Virology, and CSIRO Livestock Industries. Ros is currently a Research Scientist with the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry and has research interests in microbial ecology, rumen microbiology, and rumen phage biology.



Dr Evgeny Semchenko has a BSc (Molecular Biotechnology) from University of New England, a BSc Honours degree from Griffith University, and a PhD in microbiology completed under the supervision of Prof Korolik at the Institute for Glycomics. Currently he works with Dr. Kate Seib as a post-doctoral research fellow at the Institute for Glycomics. He works on the identification and characterisation of potential candidates for a gonococcal vaccine. During his career, he has developed strong interests in characterising host-pathogen interactions with a main focus on bacterial/host glycoconjugates and their role in infection.



Luke Blakeway completed his Bachelor of Biomedical Science at Griffith University in 2012. Following this, he studied a Honours degree at the Institute for Glycomics, working alongside Dr. Kate Seib and Dr. Ian Peak. As of 2014, he is a first year PhD student continuing the same project he undertook during Honours, which involves characterising phasevarions in a human bacterial pathogen *Moraxella catarrhalis*.



Genevieve Kerr finished her Bachelor of Biomedical Science in 2013, and is now doing Honours at the University of Sunshine Coast (USC). Her Honours project is to advance the knowledge in synthetically producing spider silk, including the characterization of the Australian Golden Orb Spider silk's mechanical, biological, and antibacterial properties. Her dream is to become a Medical Doctor and apply her love for research through Medicine.



Andrew Turner is a PhD student at The University of Queensland within the School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences. Andrew graduated from a Bachelor of Science majoring in Microbiology from UQ in 2013 and completed Honours in Microbiology at UQ in 2014, investigating the interplay of manganese and oxidative stress in *Streptococcus pyogenes* (GAS). For his PhD, Andrew is investigating stress responses in GAS and survival of GAS within macrophages under the supervision of Prof. Mark Walker, Prof Alastair McEwan, Dr. Cheryl Ong, and A/Prof Matt Sweet.

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.

2014-2015 ASMQ Committee Members



Past and present ASMQ committee members at 2014 ASMQ AGM

Position	Representative	Contact details
Chair	Kate Seib	k.seib@griffith.edu.au Griffith University
Vice Chair	Ulrike Kappler	u.kappler@uq.edu.au University of Queensland
Secretary	Patrick Blackall	pat.blackall@daff.qld.gov.au University of Queensland
Treasurer	Deirdre Mikkelsen	d.mikkelsen@uq.edu.au University of Queensland
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Ex Officio	Jillian Templeton	jillian.templeton@daff.qld.gov.au DAFF
Ex Officio	Christina Neuman	cneuman@usc.edu.au University of Sunshine Coast
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Student representative	Genevieve Kerr	ggv001@student.usc.edu.au University of Sunshine Coast
Student representative	Andrew Turner	a.turner@uq.edu.au University of Queensland
North Qld representative	Jeffrey Warner	jeffrey.warner@jcu.edu.au James Cook University