



# The Australian Society for **Microbiology**

## Queensland Branch Newsletter – February 2016

Dear ASMQ members,

Happy new year and welcome to 2016! Hopefully the Christmas break has recharged all of you ahead of the academic calendar year.

Immediately up on the agenda this year is the BD student awards. We have expanded the finalist pool to 5 student presenters at the BD award ceremony (1<sup>st</sup> of April 2016). We encourage all of our student members to submit an abstract by **5pm 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2016**.

ASMQ and Biomerieux are also sponsoring Dr Alex Van Belkum to present at Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2016** on Antimicrobial resistance.

The national ASM office is also calling for expressions of interest to join the ASM Communication Ambassador program. In this program, rosters of student and ECR members take charge of ASM's social media channels to develop their science communication skills and represent the society in the online space. Applications are due **31<sup>st</sup> of March 2016** – all successful applicants will receive an \$100 discount for the 2016 ASM scientific meeting in Perth.

You can keep up to date with ASM events through our newsletters, as well as:



- [www.facebook.com/groups/ASMQld/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ASMQld/) - join the ASMQ group for events and networking opportunities with other members
- [www.facebook.com/AustralianSocietyForMicrobiology](http://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**

Until next time!

The ASMQ Committee



The Australian Society  
for **Microbiology**

Queensland Branch presents:

## **Microbiology in Mt Tamborine** **MiM2015**

**Saturday 21st November 2015**  
**Cedar Creek Estate Winery, Mt Tamborine**

The inaugural Microbiology in Mt Tamborine Meeting was held in November 2015, with over 80 members in attendance. The program was highlighted by a combination of senior academics (Simmons Trust speaker A/Prof John Boyce, past ASMQ Chair Prof Mohammed Katouli, Prof Michael Jennings and the ASM President Prof Jon Iredell) along with ECR and student presentations. The topics covered represented a wide cross-section of work across clinical, diagnostic, genomics, veterinary, environmental, and molecular microbiology areas, highlighting the fantastic breadth and depth of our society.

The event was hosted at Cedar Creek Estate Winery, with a pre-lunch wine-tasting, nearby Glow-worm caves, and wonderful scenery highlighting the Mt Tamborine area. ASMQ looks forward to meeting you back there this year!



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# BD Student Awards

## Call for abstracts

Are you an Australian Society for Microbiology student member???

Want to go to the **2016 ASM Conference in Perth** for **FREE???**

Submit a 250 word abstract (excluding title, authors, affiliations and references) on YOUR latest microbiology research for judging and win the chance to present your research in Perth.

Abstracts due by: **26<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

Send to: [asmqld@gmail.com](mailto:asmqld@gmail.com)

Finalists Announced: **14<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Proudly sponsored by:





## ASM Queensland Branch



Clinical Microbiology Presentation

Tuesday 1st March 2016

**Alex Van Belkum**

# **ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE – 1 WORLD, 1 FIGHT !!**

Dr Van Belkum is Corporate Vice President R&D Microbiology at bioMérieux where he works within an international team of 130-150 researchers in the field of in vitro diagnostics, primarily bacterial diseases. In this talk he will cover the lack of new antibiotics, the misuse of antibiotics and the spread fuelled by growing human and animal populations. He will also look at the world HAI resistance forum and the 2015 findings plus the fight against AMR covering tools for diagnosis, the future of AST and next gen sequencing and infection and prevention control.

**VENUE** Edwin Tooth Auditorium, Education Centre  
Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital

**TIME** 6 pm for light refreshments  
6.30 pm for presentation



### **Applications for ASM Communication Ambassador Program now open:**

The ASM is looking for teams of student and ECR members to volunteer as part of a roster of Communication Ambassadors within the society, who will:

1. Be in charge of ASM's online communication channels together with a team of ASM members, bolstering the society's networks by sharing your story with scientists, industry, media members, policy makers, and institutions.
2. Effectively represent the society by using these channels to showcase your work, reveal personal insights into your scientific career, and serve as a public advocate for microbiology

We are looking for enthusiastic members who are keen to contribute. To apply for the 2016 program, please submit an Expression of Interest (maximum 200 words) to [admin@theasm.com.au](mailto:admin@theasm.com.au) by **31<sup>st</sup> of March 2016** and highlight the following:

- Your name, institution, qualifications, area of interest within microbiology, and ASM membership status;
- Your strategy for broadening ASM's online presence and collaborating with other communication ambassadors;
- What conferences, scientific meetings, or events you can provide social media coverage for in 2016.

Successful applicants for the 2016 Communication Ambassador program will be notified by email, and receive a \$100 discount for registration to the 2016 ASM Annual Scientific Meeting (3-6 July 2016, Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre).



## 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](mailto: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.**

## 2015 ASMQ Committee Members

| Position                 | Representative       | Contact details                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chair                    | Kate Seib            | <a href="mailto:k.seib@griffith.edu.au">k.seib@griffith.edu.au</a><br>Griffith University                       |
| Vice Chair               | Ulrike Kappler       | <a href="mailto:u.kappler@uq.edu.au">u.kappler@uq.edu.au</a><br>University of Queensland                        |
| Secretary                | Patrick Blackall     | <a href="mailto:pat.blackall@daf.qld.gov.au">pat.blackall@daf.qld.gov.au</a><br>University of Queensland        |
| Treasurer                | Deirdre Mikkelsen    | <a href="mailto:d.mikkelsen@uq.edu.au">d.mikkelsen@uq.edu.au</a><br>University of Queensland                    |
| Newsletter Editor        | Jack Wang            | <a href="mailto:asmqld@gmail.com">asmqld@gmail.com</a><br>University of Queensland                              |
| Ex Officio               | Ning-Xia Fang        | <a href="mailto:fangningxia@hotmail.com">fangningxia@hotmail.com</a><br>Queensland Health                       |
| Ex Officio               | Ros Gilbert          | <a href="mailto:Ros.Gilbert@daf.qld.gov.au">Ros.Gilbert@daf.qld.gov.au</a><br>DAF                               |
| Ex Officio               | Freda Jen            | <a href="mailto:f.jen@griffith.edu.au">f.jen@griffith.edu.au</a><br>Griffith University                         |
| Ex Officio               | Minh-Duy Phan        | <a href="mailto:m.phan1@uq.edu.au">m.phan1@uq.edu.au</a><br>University of Queensland                            |
| Ex Officio               | Jillian Templeton    | <a href="mailto:jillian.templeton@daf.qld.gov.au">jillian.templeton@daf.qld.gov.au</a><br>DAF                   |
| Ex Officio               | Christina Neuman     | <a href="mailto:cneuman@usc.edu.au">cneuman@usc.edu.au</a><br>University of Sunshine Coast                      |
| Student representative   | Tsitsi Diana Mubaiwa | <a href="mailto:tsitsi.mubaiwa@griffithuni.edu.au">tsitsi.mubaiwa@griffithuni.edu.au</a><br>Griffith University |
| Student representative   | Louise Nolan         | <a href="mailto:louise.nolan@qut.edu.au">louise.nolan@qut.edu.au</a><br>QUT                                     |
| Student representative   | Andrew Turner        | <a href="mailto:a.turner@uq.edu.au">a.turner@uq.edu.au</a><br>University of Queensland                          |
| North Qld representative | Jeffrey Warner       | <a href="mailto:jeffrey.warner@jcu.edu.au">jeffrey.warner@jcu.edu.au</a><br>James Cook University               |