

The Australian Society for Microbiology



bringing Microbiologists together

NSW-ACT Branch

Syntrophy

Volume 20 Issue AGM 2019

From the Chair

By Mitchell Brown

We hope you can join us for the Annual General Meeting of the ASM NSW/ACT branch at Hotel Harry's in Surry Hills on Monday 19th of August. We have our AGM at 6pm – 7pm, and immediately following this we have a post AGM guest lecture with catering (with a cost of \$15 for ASM members and \$30 for non-members). Please find further details on page 2 of this edition. Our guest speaker is Professor Mike Cox from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prof. Cox's work, largely focused on replication, recombination and repair in bacteria, has resulted in a plethora of research papers, invited reviews and book chapters. It fantastic that we have another high calibre international speaker coming to share their research with our members and we look forward to hearing him speak to us.

The business end of the evening - the AGM, will include among other things, reports from the chairperson and treasurer and election of office bearers for 2019-2020. If you are passionate about microbiology and have a little time to spare, I would encourage you to consider nominating for the committee. We welcome new people and approaches on our committee as we strive to provide benefits, opportunities and events for our members. You can find the application form on page 3 of this edition. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about nominating. See you all at Hotel Harry's!

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Syntrophy is distributed via email to ASM members located in NSW and the ACT using details included on the ASM National Office Database.

Not yet a member? Join today!
www.theasm.org.au/membership

Submissions and enquiries can be directed to the Syntrophy Coordinator via the ASM NSW-ACT Branch Secretary.

Organisations with research opportunities, or companies seeking to fill positions are welcome to place an advertisement in an upcoming issue of Syntrophy. Please contact the Syntrophy Coordinator with your details for inclusion.

Date: Monday 19th August 2019
Location: Hotel Harry
40-44 Wentworth Ave, Surry Hills NSW 2010
<https://hotelharry.com.au/>
AGM: 6.00PM – 7.00PM
Cost: Free-of-charge
Post AGM Speaker: 7.00PM
Cost incl. catering: ASM Members \$15.00, Non-members \$30.00

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 58th ASM NSW-ACT Annual General Meeting
3. Chairperson's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. National Council Report
6. Reports from Special Interest Groups
7. Branch Award Winners 2018-2019
8. Election of Office Bearers for 2019-2020

Post AGM Speaker

Professor Mike Cox
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI, USA

Experimental evolution of extreme resistance to ionizing radiation in *Escherichia coli*

Following graduate and postdoctoral training in the laboratories of William P. Jencks and Bob Lehman, respectively, Prof. Mike Cox has run a research program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for the past 36 years. His work has been focused largely on recombinational processes and is now documented in 167 research papers and 46 invited reviews and book chapters. His research program now focuses on proteins functioning at the interface of DNA replication, recombination, and repair in bacteria, and on the molecular basis of extreme resistance to the effects of ionizing radiation.

RSVP: August 15, 2019 via link:
<https://www.trybooking.com/BDVUQ>





THE ASM NSW-ACT BRANCH COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

It's that time of the year again when we begin to prepare for the ASM NSW-ACT Branch Annual General Meeting. Nominations are required for the Secretary (applicant must have previously served 12 months on the Committee for this position) and Committee members.

If you feel there is more you can do, now is a good time to fill in the Nomination form and become part of an energetic and motivated Committee.

Don't hesitate - actions speak louder than words!

Please note that all nominations must be in writing.

Nominations WILL NOT be taken from the floor on the night of the meeting.

Only ASM members may nominate and be nominated.

Please send all nominations to the Branch Secretary Tim Newsome:

tim.newsome@sydney.edu.au

We, the undersigned, wish to nominate:

Print Name

For the position of (please tick)

Secretary (2-year term)

Committee member (1-year term)

Proposer:

Print Name

Signature

Seconder:

Print Name

Signature

I accept this nomination:

Print Name

Signature

Phone

Email

Date/...../2019

Special Interest Group Reports

No report

ASM NSW-ACT Branch Committee

2018-2019 Branch committee

Chair

Mitchell Brown
Westmead Hospital

Secretary

Tim Newsome
The University of Sydney

Chair Elect

Christopher Harmer
The University of Sydney

Treasurer

Jim Manos
The University of Sydney

Committee

Thiru Vanniasinkam
Charles Sturt University

Nicholas Coleman
The University of Sydney

Slade Jensen
Western Sydney University

Thomas Jeffries
Western Sydney University

Andrew Robinson
University of Wollongong

Martina Sanderson-Smith
University of Wollongong

Jai Tree
University of New South Wales

Karen Vickery (resigned)
Macquarie University

Dee Carter
The University of Sydney

Wilhelmina (Willa) Huston
The University of Technology Sydney

Mohammad Hamidian
The University of Technology Sydney

Hannah Sassi
The University of Sydney

Khan Nguyen
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Alan Heritage
Heritage and Assoc., CAPSIG

ASM NSW-ACT Branch Events

2018

- 12 September, CAPSIG 'TGA expectations for compliance with requirements for microbiological quality – Understanding the PIC/S requirements', Mr. Matthew Davis (Senior Inspector, TGA) and Mr. Emmett Broderick (Principal Inspector, TGA), Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL, Hurlstone Park.
- 23 October, Goldsworthy Memorial Lecture '*Cryptococcus* – a shape-shifting spherical yeast with killer secrets', Prof Dee Carter (University of Sydney), L'Aqua, Cockle Bay Wharf.
- 11 October, Careers in Microbiology, University of Sydney, Darlington.
- 4 December, Clinical SIG One Day Meeting, Westmead Hospital Education Centre, Westmead.
- 15-16 November, Bugs by the Beach, University of Newcastle, Newcastle.
- 5 December, VSP Speaker Program, 'L-form bacteria: penicillin, lysozyme and recurrent infection', Prof Jeff Errington, Westmead Hospital, Westmead.
- 12 December, CAPSIG Christmas Seminar, 'Alternate bacterial lifestyles: opportunities for exploitation to combat infections', Prof Cynthia Whitchurch (University Technology Sydney), Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL, Hurlstone Park.

2019

- 1 February, Sydney Micro Meeting, University of Sydney, Darlington.
- 25 February, ASM NSW-ACT February Meeting, '*Candida auris* – What's all the fuss about?', A/Prof Sharon Chen (ICPMR Westmead Hospital), Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown.
- 6 March, ASM Nancy Millis Student Travel Awards Night, University of Technology Ultimo.
- 17 April, CAPSIG, 'Challenges in the Pharmaceutical Industry', Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL, Hurlstone Park.
- 31 May, Clinical SIG Symposium, 'What is going on with Measles?', Westmead Hospital Education Centre, Westmead.
- 18 July, VSP Program, 'Alternatives to Antibiotics for Multidrug Resistant Infections and Inflammation', Prof Bob Hancock (University of British Columbia, Canada), University of New South Wales, Kensington.
- 25 July, CAPSIG 'Endotoxin Testing – Doing the right thing?', Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL, Hurlstone Park.
- 19 August, ASM NSW-ACT Annual General Meeting, Invited Speaker: Prof Mike Cox (University of Wisconsin–Madison), Harpoon Harry, Surry Hills.

ASM NSW-ACT Branch Awards

The following branch prizes were awarded:

ASM Branch Microbiology student prize (\$300)

- Leigh Morrell, UNSW, 6 April 2017
- Owen Watson, Macquarie University, 8 June 2017
- Stephanie Dunning, UNE, 14 June 2017
- Hannah Roth, CSU, 14 December 2017
- Sam El-Kamand, WSU, 23 February 2018

Branch ASM Travel Award Reimburse registration/flights/accommodation:

- Alison Luk, 2018

Branch award changes are as follows:

- ASM-BD Student Award (NSW-ACT)
- ASM NSW-ACT Branch Prize
- NSW-ACT Branch Undergraduate Student Prizes
- NSW-ACT Branch Postdoctoral Award
- Early Career Microbiologist Award

Date: Wednesday 15th August 2018
Venue: Hotel Harry, 40/44 Wentworth Ave Surry Hills.
Attendance: 23
Meeting opened: 1800
Meeting closed: 1900
Chairperson: Mitchell Brown
Minute taker: Tim Newsome

Attendees

Hannah Sassi, Jai Tree, Andrew Robinson, Chris Harmer, Xinyi Liu, Deb Rich, Mark Wilkinson, Jerome Dzlean, Nasir M, Dinsh Subech, Mohammed Yasii, Khanh Nguyen, Greg Whiteley, Fi Fung, Alan Heritage, Subra Vemnipad, Tim Newsome, Mitchell Brown, Nick Coleman, David Carr, Dee Carter, Slade Jensen, Mohammad Hamidian, Jeremy Barr.

Apologies

Thiru Vanniasinkam, Martina Sanderson-Smith, Tom Jeffries, Reena Ghildyal, Karen Vickery.

Chairperson's report (Mitchell Brown)

Minutes of the 57th AGM, 2017

Previous minutes proposed by Chris Harmer.

Seconded by Mitchell Brown.

Retiring committee members

Mitchell acknowledged Reena Ghildyal, Monica Stelmach, Maurice Labbate and Bobby Dmitriovski who are stepping off the NSW-ACT branch committee and thanked them for their time and commitment.

2017-2018 NSW-ACT Branch committee

Chairperson

Mitchell Brown
Westmead Hospital

Secretary

Tim Newsome
University of Sydney

Chair-elect

Slade Jensen
Western Sydney University

Treasurer

Jim Manos
University of Sydney

Committee members

Thomas Jeffries
Western Sydney University

Maurizio Labatte
University of Technology Sydney

Thiru Vanniasinkum
Charles Sturt University

Reena Ghildyal
University of Canberra

Andrew Robinson
University of Wollongong

Jai Tree
University of New South Wales

Karen Vickery
Macquarie University

Nick Coleman
University of Sydney

Chris Harmer
University of Sydney

Martina Sanderson-Smith
University of Wollongong

ASM NSW-ACT members

The state branch collects capitation from 560 members, of a National total of about 1850.

Events (2017-2018)

650 guests at state branch events with 41 RSVPs for AGM.

- August: CAPSIG, AGM, RCPAQAP Serology workshop, Clinical SIG
- September: Dr Michael Findlay VSP, Mathieu Pernice VSP.
- November: Clinical 1-day meeting.
- December: XMas Party.
- January: One Day Micro meeting.
- February: Feb meeting.
- March: BD Student Awards Night.
- May: AIMS/AMS.

Syntrophy newsletter

Mitchell expressed gratitude to Syntrophy editor Susan Badman. Syntrophy is your place to find ASM updates, meeting announcements, articles and job advertisements (free).

Meeting support

The branch continues to facilitate the bringing together of microbiologists. We offer support in promoting events through our monthly newsletter Syntrophy, equipment to support meetings and events, and financial support. Requests for support should be directed to the branch secretary.

Branch Prizes

The following branch prizes were awarded:

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- Early Career Microbiologist Award

Treasurer's Report (Jim Manos)

Printed copies of the Branch financial report to 31 March 2018 were circulated at the meeting and are included in Syntrophy AGM Special Issue.

National Council meetings

Mitchell summarised points of interest from the National Council minutes.

- NSAC Kate Seib incoming Chair
- A/Prof. Dena Lyras incoming President
- Nationalise sponsorship
- Still making changes around how to fund joint meetings or attendance of ASM members at those meetings

Reports from Special Interest Groups

Reports as per AGM Syntrophy issue.

Election of Office Bearers for 2017-2018

Call for nominations for Chair-elect. Single nomination for Chair elect Jim Manos. Jim to commence 1-year term in role of Chair-elect, followed by 2-year term as Chair, followed by 1-year term as Chair-past.

Current Chair-past is finishing term.

Current Treasurer is finishing term. Call for nominations for Treasurer. Single nomination for Treasurer Chris Harmer. Chris to commence 2-year term in role of Treasurer.

Current Secretary is to continue.

Chairperson

Mitchell Brown
Westmead Hospital

Chair-elect

Jim Manos
University of Sydney

Treasurer

Chris Harmer
University of Sydney

Secretary

Tim Newsome
University of Sydney

Current members re-nominated

Thomas Jeffries
Western Sydney University

Thiru Vanniasinkum
Charles Sturt University

Andrew Robinson
University of Wollongong

Martina Sanderson-Smith
University of Wollongong

Dee Carter
University of Sydney

Slade Jensen
Western Sydney University

Jai Tree
University of New South Wales

Karen Vickery
Macquarie University

Wilhelmina (Willa) Huston
University of Technology Sydney

Nick Coleman
University of Sydney

New members nominated

Mohamad Hamidan
University of Technology Sydney

Hannah Sassi
University of Sydney

Khanh Nguyen
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Alan Heritage
Heritage and Assoc., CAPSIG

Other business

No other business.

AGM closed.

THE ASM NSW-ACT BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

Reconciled total cash balance as at 1 April	2018 Receipts	\$112,966 Payments	2017 Receipts	\$112,966 Payments
Interest	\$ 1,756		\$ 2,021	
Sponsorship	\$ 900		\$ 11,100	
Capitation (NSW and ACT combined)	\$ 88		\$ 9,721	
PCR Clinical Microbiology compendium royalties	\$ 134		\$ 232	
Molecular conference funds	\$ 1,375		\$ 2,470	
Clin-Serology SIG funds - Held in trust	-		\$ 1,344	
SIG meeting costs		\$ 371		\$ 760
Meeting & speaker support/sponsorship (incl. ClinSerologySIG funds)		\$ 4,751		\$ 2,118
Prizes and Awards		\$ 4,540		\$ 3,428
Events:				
Christmas party	\$ 390	\$ 924	\$ 950	\$ 2,000
Feb Meeting		\$ 251		\$ 1,316
AGM	\$ 755	\$ 1,210	\$ 1,583	\$ 4,236
ASM Student Award Night		\$ 357		\$ 372
Goldsworthy Oration (alternate years)	-	-	\$ 163	\$ 3,180
One-Day meeting (January)	-	\$ 886	\$ 780	\$ 886
Administrative/editorial assistance		\$ 1,600		\$ 1,760
Branch Committee meals/beverages		\$ 1,252		\$ 1,227
AV, audio and cabling		-		-
Conference calls, postage, ISP		\$ 489		\$ 343
Website and secretarial services		\$ 1,200		\$ 39
Bank fees		\$ 12		\$ 12
Miscell. (door receipts, petty cash, speaker gifts)	\$ 175	\$ 438	\$ 60	-
Totals	\$ 5,573	\$ 18,581	\$ 30,424	\$ 21,678
Excess of payments over receipts		\$ 13,008		-\$ 8,746
	\$ 2,018		\$ 2,017	
Reconciled total cash balances as at 31 March	\$ 99,959		\$ 112,966	
Assets				
Reconciled account balances as at 31 March:	2018		2017	
Westpac cheque account 032-056 13-2527	\$ 783		\$ 590	
Westpac cheque account 032-249 363-233	\$ 1,769		\$ 2,470	
G&C bank I26 Term deposit (\$60,000@2.4% at 31-3-2017)	\$ 60,000		\$ 60,000	
G&C Bank I22.1 Term deposit (\$25,000@2.5% at 31-3-2017)	\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000	
G&C Bank S1 Access account (counter and internet transactions)	\$ 156		\$ 607	
G&C Bank S11 iNet account (internet transactions only)	\$ 866		\$ 323	
G&C Bank S13 Bonus saver account (base& conditional bonus interest)	\$ 11,385		\$ 22,632	
Funds held in trust – ClinSerolSIG in G&C S1 Account	-		\$ 1,344	
Total: bank accounts at 31 March	\$ 99,958		\$ 112,966	
Computer, camera, electronic equipment – estimated realisable value	\$ 600		\$ 700	
Liabilities	Nil		Nil	
Expected future commitments (2018-19):				
- Administrative assistance	\$ 2,000			
- Website development and management	\$ 650			
- Support for SIGs, speakers and major events	\$ 13,000			
- Prizes and Awards	\$ 7,000			
- Conference calls & refresh.– Branch Comm. mtgs	\$ 2,350			
- Software, AV	\$ 1,000			
- Other	\$ 2,000			
Total	\$ 28,000			