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Editorial board: Syntrophy is produced via the combined efforts of Natasha Pavic and the committee. The editorial is rotated amongst the editorial board members.

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## From the Editor

Hello to all NSW-ACT Branch members of ASM - its AGM time again and this is a special AGM edition of *Syntrophy* which focuses on our 52nd Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 15th August 2012. This issue contains most of the reports that will be presented and tabled on the night. Please bring it along as no other copies will be provided on the night.

This year was the inaugural year for new Chairperson, Ruth Hall, and Secretary, me (Gillian Scott). Thank you to everyone for your support and patience as we find our way in these new roles. This year has also been the final year for Peter Hansen in his long-running role as Treasurer, and we thank him greatly for all that he has done for the NSW-ACT Branch over the years. Peter has fulfilled this arduous task with great skill and patience. He will remain on the committee, and no doubt be assisting Jim Manos as he takes over the role of Treasurer for the next couple of years.

The role of the committee is to steer the NSW-ACT Branch of ASM in the direction its members want and to promote Microbiology. There are many people who have contributed to the success of this Branch, including some enthusiastic committee members and SIG convenors. A very sincere thank you goes to Joss D'Souza-Basseal (provider of many of our great Christmas parties), Margret Schuller, Jamie Triccas, Ian Carter (former Chairperson and committee jack-of-all-trades) and Bill Crozier, who are stepping down from the committee this year. Their work for the committee has been invaluable and very much appreciated. Welcome to Nick Coleman who joins us on the committee this year. We are also grateful for the hard work of the SIG convenors in organising the many fantastic meetings we have had this year. A special thank you must also go to our sponsors - many initiatives would not be possible without them. Thank you, also, to our Administrative Assistant Natasha Pavic who organises our newsletters and assists with many other things - her patience with me in this role is appreciated.

After the AGM please stay for a great Botany Bay Dinner and Trivia night, organised by our other excellent "event organiser" Charlotte Webster. It should be a fun night. We look forward to the next year.

Regards Gillian Scott

Secretary, on behalf of the NSW-ACT Branch of the Australian Society for Microbiology



## 2012–2013 NSW-ACT 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 all Committee positions.** The Committee has been very active over recent years in raising the profile of the ASM and bringing back value to its members. If you feel there is more you can do, now is a good time to fill out the Nomination form and become part of an energetic and motivated Committee.

Don't hesitate - actions speak louder than words!

**Please send all nominations to the Branch Secretary Gillian Scott:**

EMAIL: [g.scott@unsw.edu.au](mailto:g.scott@unsw.edu.au)

PHONE: (02) 9382 9096 FAX: (02) 9382 8533

**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.**

**We, the undersigned, wish to nominate:**

Print Name.....

**For the position of (please tick)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson	<input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson elect	<input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer
<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Committee member	

**Proposer:**

Print Name.....

Signature.....

**Seconder:**

Print Name.....

Signature.....

**I accept this nomination:**

Print Name.....

Signature.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Date:        /        /2012



# ASM NSW-ACT BRANCH 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

## MINUTES

**Date:** Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2011

**Venue:** The Botany Bay Seafood Restaurant, Grand Pde, Brighton Le Sands, Sydney

**Attendance:** 50 people attended

**Meeting Opened:** 6:15pm

**Meeting Closed:** 7:15pm

**Chairperson:** Ian Carter

**Minute Taker:** Kerry Varetas

### **1. APOLOGIES:**

Ian Jenson, Anda Clayton, Peter Cox

### **2. MINUTES OF THE 49<sup>TH</sup> AGM 2010**

Previous minutes accepted by David Carr and William Crozier

### **3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – IAN CARTER**

#### **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

The strengths within NSW ACT Branch lies with the core Special Interest Groups and their members.

**CAPSIG** as always held well attended industry based meetings and a great Christmas meeting/party. Well done Paul Priscott and their committee. We have seen many SIG meetings;

**CS&M** under the guidance of Deanne Byers,

**Virology** under Dr Gillian Scott

**Mycology** under Kerry Weeks,

**Clinical** under Kerry Varetas,

**Parasitology** under Tamalee Roberts,

**Student** under Peter Hansen and Thiru Vanniasinkam.

All had great speakers, wonderful venues and meals.



## **2010 – 2011 NSW-ACT BRANCH COMMITTEE**

**Ian Carter**  
**Chairperson**

South Eastern Area Laboratory Services  
Microbiology Department Randwick Sydney

**Peter Hansen**  
**Branch Treasurer**

University of Technology, Sydney

**Kerry Varettas**  
**Branch Secretary**

South Eastern Area Laboratory Services  
Microbiology Department Kogarah

**Committee Members**

**Ruth Hall** Chairperson Elect  
University of Sydney

**Jocelyne D'Souza-Basseal**  
University of Sydney

**Ruiting Lan**  
University of NSW, Sydney

**Bruce Wong**  
Microbiology Department  
Liverpool Hospital

**William Crozier**  
Southern IML Microbiology

**Thiru Vanniasinkam**  
Charles Sturt University

**Charlotte Webster**  
Microbiology Department  
Concord Hospital, Sydney

**Margret Schuller**  
Profitable Business Development

**James Chin**  
Xion Biotechnologies

**James Triccas**  
University of Sydney

**Nicholas West**  
Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine & Cell Biology  
RPAH



**Peter Huntington**

Microbiology Department  
Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney

**Gillian Scott**

South Eastern Area Laboratory Services  
Virology Department Randwick Sydney

**Daniel Seed**

Microbiology Department  
Concord Hospital, Sydney

**Auditor** – John Richardson

**FEBRUARY MEETING 2011**

We started 2011 with Dr Fred Tenover (USA) presenting “Clostridium difficile epidemiology, guidelines, and laboratory diagnosis – all in a state of flux” on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. This meeting was proudly supported by the Australian Society for Antimicrobials (ASA) & ASM NSW-ACT Branch.

**MEETINGS – NSW & ACT \$\$ AVAILABLE**

The NSW-ACT branch of ASM continues to facilitate the bringing together of microbiologists, especially members, and to promote microbiology and ASM.

To this end, the branch advertises meetings free of charge in Syntrophy and also offers financial support towards the organisational costs in holding the meeting.

Members are encouraged to refer requests for support, via email, to the branch secretary for consideration by the committee. Equipment is held to facilitate these member meetings (booked through the Branch secretary).

Financial support extends to venue hire, speaker, light refreshments and light meal. This support has been made possible through the branch sponsorship scheme and is open to branch members only.

**SPONSORS FOR 2011 – 2012**

This year has seen a change from our core ten sponsorship companies and a new prospectus. The GFC hit!

Our sponsors are:

Platinum: bioMérieux,

Gold: Merck

Silver: ThermoFisher Scientific,

Bronze: Diagnostic Technology and Becton Dickinson.

A huge thank you for all your support for the Society and its members.



## NSW-ACT MEETINGS 2010 – 2011

Date	Event	Location
<b>*2010*</b>		
4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> July	ASM National Conference	Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre
18 <sup>th</sup> August	ASM NSW-ACT Branch AGM "Infections in disadvantaged children in Uganda and Australia" Professor David Isaacs	Botany Bay Seafood Restaurant, Brighton Le Sands
31 <sup>st</sup> August	Parasitology SIG Meeting "Clinical Parasitology" Lynne Garcia	UTS, Sydney
27 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> September	ASM-AIMS NSW-ACT Combined Conference	Wollongong Novotel
19 <sup>th</sup> October	Clinical SIG Meeting	Research & Education Centre, Kogarah
27 <sup>th</sup> October	Mycology SIG Meeting	The University of Sydney
16 <sup>th</sup> November	CS&M SIG Meeting "Competency, Variables & Quality Assurance"	Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology
8 <sup>th</sup> December	CAPSIG Christmas Meeting "The Hitchhiker's Guide to Research Projects"	Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club
14 <sup>th</sup> December	ASM NSW-ACT Branch Christmas Meeting	Forum Restaurant, The Darlington Centre
<b>*2011*</b>		
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	February Meeting "Clostridium difficile epidemiology, guidelines, and laboratory diagnosis – all in a state of flux" Dr Fred Tenover	The University of Sydney
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Becton Dickinson Student Award Night	UTS, Sydney
6 <sup>th</sup> April	Mycology SIG Meeting	Royal North Shore Hospital
4 <sup>th</sup> May	CAPSIG Meeting "Risk Management Within Manufacturing Plants"	Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club
25 <sup>th</sup> May	CS&M SIG Meeting "Detection using...POC, EWS & PLEX-ID"	Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology
4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> July	ASM National Conference	Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart
13 <sup>th</sup> July	CS&M SIG Meeting "A parasite, a couple of viruses and a novel program?"	Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology
4 <sup>th</sup> August	Clinical SIG Meeting	Research & Education Centre, Kogarah
10 <sup>th</sup> August	CAPSIG Meeting "X Contamination"	Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club



### **AWARDS COMMITTEE**

The Awards Committee has continued to work on a better managed award scheme and this now has the new post doc award as well as TAFE focused student awards.

The society is committed to a program of membership growth through continuing education, added value and the provision of high quality meetings for its members.

A number of initiatives have also increased the prizes and awards offered to the societies' members especially students. This will be ongoing & all Ideas are welcome.

### **NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE**

The evolution of the NSW-ACT branch newsletter from a simple publication to the current electronic version 'Syntrophy' is an indication that the local branch is also evolving towards the future. It links news, information with e-mail and the web in one session – making them easily accessible.

Thank you to our 'admin assistant' Natasha Pavic for maintaining the high quality newsletter and to Kerry Varetas and Daniel Seed for website maintenance

### **CHRISTMAS PARTY 2010**

The Christmas party was held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at the Forum Restaurant, The Darlington Centre 174 City Road, Darlington. A special big thank you to James Triccas & Nick West and Jocelyne D'Souza-Basseal.

### **EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Education sub-committee continued looking at ways of assisting to attempt to address the drain away from Microbiology (and indeed Science in general). We had our pilot programme spread from 4 to 8 High Schools in the Sutherland Shire and received a Schools First Grant of \$50,000 from NAB – teachers don't ever see that amount of money... to spend! These involve practical classes held with year 9 and year 10 students and this leads to specific students interested in doing a Micro project undertaking work at the UOW Loftus Campus. A big thank you to Margret, Gillian, Jenna, Jan, Jocelyne, Chris McIver and the teachers and students – it went very well!

### **ASM & AIMS COMBINED MEDICAL SCIENCES CONFERENCE**

The NSW-ACT Branches of the Australian Society for Microbiology (ASM) and the Australian Institute of Medical Scientists (AIMS) held a joint Medical Sciences Conference from the Monday 27<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at the Novotel at Wollongong NSW and had approximately 80 registrants and speakers.

The Combined Organising Committee comprised Ashraf Mina - Chair AIMS NSW/ACT Branch, Ian Carter - Chair ASM NSW/ACT Branch, Andy Liu - Treasurer AIMS NSW/ACT Branch, Kerry Varetas - Secretary ASM NSW/ACT Branch and Curtis Hill - Secretary AIMS NSW/ACT Branch.

### **MICROBIOLOGY COMPENDIUM**

The development of the new Microbiology Compendium under the guidance of Committee member Margret Schuller (PBD) was completed with royalties now pouring in! Titled "PCR for Clinical Molecular Microbiology – an Australian and International Perspective" and is published by Springer. The previous compendium is also returning money to the Branch with the persistence of super-treasurer ensuring we have been given the last few years worth of \$ only recently! Difficulties in National Office probably didn't help.



## **QUALIFICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

(A/Prof Ruiting Lan)

43 new associate members

34 new MASMs

1 new SASMs and

26 new student members

8 New FASMs: Ruth Hall, Sydney Bell, Ricardo Cavicchioli, Ruiting Lan, Peter McMillan, Peter White, Evanthia Tambosis, Chinmoy Mukerjee





#### 4. TREASURER'S REPORT – PETER HANSEN

The treasurer's report for the year ending 30 June 2010 was presented by Peter Hansen.



*The Australian Society for Microbiology*  
NSW-ACT Branch  
ABN 24 065 463 274

#### Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 March 2011

<b>Reconciled total cash balance as at 1 April 2010</b>			<b>\$ 114,658</b>
	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payments</b>	
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	
Interest	5,381		
Sponsorship	11,900		
Capitation (NSW and ACT combined)	9,929		
Update program sales	0	0	
SIG meeting costs		4,280	
Meeting & speaker support		1,000	
Prizes and Awards	500	3,425	
Events:			
Christmas party	1,965	4,649	
Professor Fred Tenover Feb. meeting.		3,682	
AGM & Goldworthy Oration (Prof. David Isaacs)	1,925	4,043	
BD Student Award Night		380	
Microbiology promotion in schools	1080		
Administrative assistance		9,360	
Branch Committee meals		1,475	
ASM2010 LOC meals	1,584	205	
Branch share ASM2010 Annual Scientific Meeting proceeds	1,032		
Conference calls, postage, ISP		506	
Website and secretarial services		35	
Auditor's expenses		325	
Laptop	100		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36,398</b>	<b>33,387</b>	
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>			<b>2,028</b>
[Previous report – Year to 31 March 2010 – deficit of payments over receipts of \$7,088]			
<b>Reconciled total cash balances as at 31 March 2011</b>			<b>\$116,686</b>
<b>Assets</b>			
Reconciled account balances as at 31 March 2011:			
Westpac cheque account 032-056 13-2527			\$ 583
SIGECU S10 Cash Management account			\$3,385
SIGECU I25 Term deposit (\$60,000 maturing 28 April 2011 at 5.5%)			\$ 60,000
SIGECU I22.1 Term deposit (\$30,000 maturing 30 April 2011 at 6.5%)			\$ 30,000
SIGECU S1 Access account			\$ 10,177
SIGECU S11 (Net account (4% interest)			\$3,014
SIGECU S13 Bonus saver account (3.75% base interest; 2.25% conditional bonus interest)			\$9,426
<b>Total bank accounts at 31 March 2011</b>			<b>\$ 116,686</b>
Sundry computer, camera and electronic equipment – estimated realizable value			\$ 600.00
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Nil</b>			
Expected future commitments:			
Administrative assistance			\$ 9,360
Website development and management			\$ 1,200
Support for SIGs, speakers and major events			\$ 40,000
Awards			\$ 9,000
Conference calls & refreshments – Branch Committee meetings			\$ 2,000
Replacement laptop, software			\$ 4,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 66,680</b>

Peter G. Hansen  
Branch Treasurer 14 August 2011



## **5. NATIONAL COUNCIL REPORT & NATIONAL AGM REPORT**

### **ASM 73<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF NATIONAL COUNCIL - MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2011**

#### **Report to NSW-ACT Branch by Kerry Varettas**

Attended by:

John Turnidge - President  
Hatch Stokes – Past President  
Paul Young – President Elect  
Liz Harry – Vice President, Scientific Affairs  
Johnson Mak - Vice President, Corporate Affairs  
Kerry Varettas – NSW-Act Branch  
Brendon Mainey – Victoria Branch  
Mohammad Katouli – Queensland Branch  
Chris Ossowicz – South Australia Branch  
Chris Bourke – Tasmania 2011 Chair  
David McMillan – Brisbane 2012 Chair

#### **MAJOR DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

##### **ASM NATIONAL MEETINGS**

Hobart July 2011 There have been a couple of cancellations in the symposia and proffered papers. 563 delegates at this meeting.

Brisbane July 2012 – David McMillan: It was agreed at the last meeting that this would be a 3-day conference. ICMS will manage this conference – contract already signed till 2 months after the conference.

Adelaide July 2013 – Chris Ossowicz: A grant was obtained from the SA government. The LOC has been assembled but unable to establish a sub-branch with the NT. SA branch is also organising the tristate without NT involvement.

##### **STATUS OF 2<sup>ND</sup> YEARLY ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROPOSAL**

John: Proposed that the National Council give approval for the council to obtain information for alternate year meetings and then ultimately put it to the members to decide for 2014 or 2015. Annual meetings require at least 3-years advance planning. Information needs to be collected as what alternates exist and provide this information to members – gap analysis. The Council agreed on this proposal.

##### **FUTURE CONFERENCE MANAGEMENT**

Tender documents are being prepared for future conference management. ICMS is currently involved in the 2012 Brisbane conference so the tender will be for after that. The tender will have to be for at least 2-years. This tender may be independent of the office management tender.

##### **FUTURE OFFICE MANAGEMENT**

This tender may need to be longer than the conference management tender so that there are not as many changes to ASM. Companies tend to make their money from conference management rather than office management. This tender may be independent of the conference management tender.

##### **ASM REAL ESTATE OPTIONS**

The office is currently unattended as it is being painted. Emails are being answered to ICMS staff at their office. If tendered out, all office support services, such as staff and



computers, will be the responsibility of the office management company. Proposal was made that this decision will go to the AGM for members to vote on.

### **NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMITTEE (NQC) – MASM APPROVAL PROCESS**

John proposed that an alternate chairperson be found for the NQC – council agreed.

### **WORKFORCE STEERING COMMITTEE**

The steering committee is chaired by Silvano Pallidino and has been busy with changes to the NPAAC guidelines. The guidelines proposed that only RCPA Fellows could run a laboratory. The committee put together a document refuting this proposal on behalf of ASM.

### **FINANCE**

The previous irregularities in the finances of the society and further cheque tracing has been passed onto the Victorian Police. The alleged person involved has not been interviewed by police as she is currently residing in the USA but an alert has been put into place so that the Victorian police will be notified if she returns to Australia. ASM paid approx. \$6,000 for an accountant to audit the finances for two years and found ~\$23,000 irregularity, however \$5000 has been returned by the alleged. Cheques had been handwritten to her account but it is unsure if there were other schemes in place as well.

Currently, the system now in place requires two separate groups of people to check money movement – Bell Partners and another independent bookkeeper have to match records before payment can be authorised. Only Johnson and John are signatories.

### **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS**

Currently anyone can nominate a person for a Distinguished Service Award and the Council can agree to approve or not. It was suggested that the Branches put in their nominations, which can be made at anytime, as individuals may not be noticed at the National level otherwise.

### **VICE-PRESIDENT, SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

NSAC: This is currently being chaired by Liz Harry but she is leaving now and her replacement will be Charlene Kahler. Scientific programme convenors are in place for Hobart 2011, Brisbane 2012 and Adelaide 2013. Meetings are held 4 times / year.

Research Trust: Post-grad reciprocal awards are in place between the UK, USA and New Zealand. The research trust committee have agreed that overseas awards will be offered to post-grad and post-doc applicants. Liz suggested that the Branches promote the research awards as the executive does not receive many applications.



## **REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL ASM 39<sup>TH</sup> AGM HOBART 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2011**

### **Distinguished Service Award**

Recipients as approved by council in March and apologies that this did not occur at the opening ceremony:

Tony Marshall - Victorian Branch

Enzo Palombo - Victorian Branch

Sue Cornish - Victorian Branch

### **Annual Meetings**

Hobart attendance of 563 registered delegates, excellent for Hobart which is traditionally less well attended and stands us in good stead with the budget. Congratulations to the LOC for the enormous amount of work and in particular to Chris Burke and Steve Tristram.

Next year will be in Brisbane at the convention centre. Program is well under way and chair LOC is David McMillan

Following year, 2013, meeting will be in Adelaide. Chris Ossowicz, SA Branch chair is currently chair of the LOC.

The following year, 2014, is earmarked as the first of the alternative years meeting proposal but will be put to members for voting before implementing.

### **Office & Conference Management**

ASM will be going out to tender for both office management and conference management but for the moment to maintain stability, ICMS will be handling the 2012 conference and the national office role until August 2012. Tenders will be for either or both of these roles.

### **National office real estate**

Thanks to John Mackenzie, Julian Rood and Peter Coloe who gave an independent overview of the state of the offices, and state of repair with options. Three were unanimous that the only option was to do basic repairs and put to market; in a great location. It is important to remember we are not in the real estate business. We have an indicative real estate quote of \$500,000. After much discussion, a revote resulted in a unanimous decision to sell after basic repairs.

### **ABN & GST**

Bell Partners Pty Ltd look after the ASM at National level.

All ASM branches have had their ABN and GST registrations cancelled (ATO directed). As your turnover is less than \$150,000 per year there is no need to be registered for GST, apply GST to any of your invoices or claim the GST on your purchases. As such you do not need to report anything to the National Office except at the end of the financial year when your accounts will be consolidated into the parent entity's. When you do issue an invoice please use the National Office's **ABN: 24 065 463 274**

### **Financial reports by the Vice-President, Corporate Affairs Financial Report, Vice President Corporate Affairs**

Johnson Mak reminded all that the budget is predicted in February each year based on expenses and income from previous years, then approved by council in March and subsequently presented to AGM. We only have two lines of income, conference and membership. Last year's predicted conference profit did not eventuate, hence the revised 2010-2011 bottom line deficit of neg \$82,585. Also due to staff issues, members were not reminded adequately to renew memberships. Interest from Research Trust



accounts has not been touched this year. Checks and balance systems now in place to ensure no further financial discrepancies arise.  
134 new members in first 3 months of this year  
Membership fees have not changed for many years and no changes recommended

**2010 – 2011 Financial Year - 1st April 2010 – 31st March 2011**

- ▶ 2010-11 Deficit of ~\$82,585;
- ▶ Bring back State Branches Capitation payment to 100%;
- ▶ Forecast 2011-12 with a profit of \$30K;
- ▶ Membership numbers
  - 2004/5 year: 2520 members;
  - 2005/6 year: 2675 members;
  - 2006/7 year: 2627 members;
  - 2007/8 year: 2927 members;
  - 2008/9 year: 2311 members;
  - 2009/10 year: 2240 members;
  - 2010/11 year: ~2000 members

	<b>ASM</b>	<b>Research Trust</b>
	\$1,022,895	\$13,439
Expenses	-\$1,105,480	-\$4,959
<b>Net Deficit</b>	<b>-\$82,585</b>	
<b>Net Surplus</b>		<b>\$8,480</b>

**2011 – 2012 Financial Year - 1st April 2011 – 31st March 2012**

- ▶ Bring State Branches Capitation payment back up to 100% of the 2008/9 year;
- ▶ Forecast 2011-12 with a balanced budget which is ~\$30K profit



## **6. REPORTS FROM SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS JULY 2010 – JUNE 2011**

### **CLINICAL SEROLOGY AND MOLECULAR (CS&M) SIG 2010 – 2011: DEANE BYERS**

Since the last annual report, the NSW-ACT CS&M SIG has held four meetings; three at Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology and one at Laverty Pathology, North Ryde. Notifications for the meetings are distributed via email using a database maintained by the convenor and via notice in Syntrophy.

In August 2010, the topic was '**A mixed bag.... in-house PCR, HCV & HIV**' sponsored by NSW-ACT Branch, with 51 in attendance. The speakers included Lynelle Tilbrook, Supervisor Virology Unit, Hunter Area Pathology Service (HAPS), Newcastle, presenting *First impression of a new Hepatitis C Antigen assay*; Sally Dubedat, Senior Hospital Scientist, Molecular Microbiology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, presenting *Incorporation of a commercial diagnostic extraction control into in-house real time PCR assays* and Renfen Chen, Hospital Scientist, Clinical Immunology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, presenting *an unusual case of HIV seroconversion- diagnostic and prognostic implications*.

In November 2010, the topic was '**Competency, Variables & Quality Assurance**' sponsored by the NSW-ACT Branch, with 45 in attendance. The speakers included international guest speaker Tom Hendriks, CEO Bioplastics BV & CYCLERtest BV (care of Astral Scientific) presenting *Controllability, categorizing and limiting variables in (q)PCR*; Craig Leeman, Operations Manager - Serology, SydPath, St Vincent's Hospital presenting *Competency the final frontier...*; and Elizabeth Haremza, Program Manager, RCPA Microbiology QAP presenting *10 years experience in providing external proficiency programs in molecular microbiology...who is helping whom?*

In May 2011, the topic was '**Detection using... POC, EWS & PLEX-ID**' sponsored by the NSW-ACT Branch, with 75 in attendance. The speakers included international guest speaker Dr Penny Wilson, Lead Specialist, Detection & Identification of Infectious Agents, Technology Strategy Board (TSB) UK, presenting *Point-of-Care Diagnostics for Infectious Diseases - Challenges & Opportunities*; Ros Escott, Program Manager, RCPA Serology QAP, presenting her last presentation representing the RCPA Serology QAP titled *Performance Monitoring Project (Early Warning System)* and Mark Van Asten, CEO, Diagnostic Technology, presenting *PLEX-ID - A Novel Molecular Mass Spectrometry Pathogen Detection System*.

In July 2011, the topic was '**A parasite, a couple of viruses and a novel program?**' sponsored by the NSWACT Branch, with 27 in attendance. The speakers included Charlotte Webster, Hospital Scientist, Concord Hospital, presenting *A Clinical Case of Leishmaniasis*; international guest speaker Emi Spranzi, Corporate Marketing Manager - Infectious Disease, DiaSorin Italy, presenting *HSV Serology – what, how, when and why* and Joanna Gray, Program Manager, RCPA BioSecurity QAP, presenting *RCPA BioSecurity QAP – A novel proficiency testing program*.

Other activities included asking presenter permission for several presentations from the NSW-ACT Branch CS&M SIG meetings to be circulated to members of SERSIG. [SERSIG is an email routing hosted by the National Serology Reference Laboratory and can be used as a discussion forum for serological and associated molecular testing - sersig@nrl.gov.au].





Thank you to all of the enthusiastic speakers, attendees and the sponsorship of the ASM NSW-ACT branch for the continued success of these meetings. This group plans to meet every three months and attendance numbers have been very encouraging.

#### **CLINICAL SIG 2009 – 2010: KERRY VARETTAS**

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010 SEALS organized a meeting at the St George Public Hospital Auditorium with four interesting presentations.

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011, Dr Fred Tenover from the USA presented 'Clostridium difficile epidemiology, guidelines, and laboratory diagnosis – all in a state of flux' at the University of Sydney, Camperdown.

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2011, Dr Michael Towns from the USA presented 'Bugs n' blood – how to catch and id them' at the St George Public Hospital Auditorium.

Other clinical meetings are being scheduled for later this year. Thank you to all those laboratories who host the meetings and to the enthusiastic and dedicated members who attend. I would also like to thank the NSW-ACT Branch and their sponsors for their support without which many meetings could not be held.

#### **COSMETICS & PHARMACEUTICAL SIG (CAPSIG) 2010 – 2011: PAUL PRISCOTT**

**Office Bearers:** Paul Priscott (Convener), Des Hadjimichael (Treasurer), Melissa Bourke (Secretary), Anna Maria Musico (State Chair), Hilary Fong, Vijay Randev, Alan Heritage, Heather Manning, Mark Harvie.

**Members:** Per ASM list, plus a number of state specific non-ASM members.

**Activities:** The CAPSIG web-site has been established and periodically updated – [www.capsig.com.au](http://www.capsig.com.au).

Since the last report, three seminars have been organized as per schedule:

**Environmental Monitoring** – having sponsored one of the overseas speakers Dr. Randy Hutt of USA to present at the 2010 ASM Conference, a similar seminar was scheduled on Environmental Monitoring on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2010 in Sydney for those who were unable to attend for the full conference. This seminar attracted 110 registrants.

**Hitchhiker's Guide to Research Projects** – this end of year Christmas Seminar on 8<sup>th</sup> December was presented by Dr. Richard Malik of the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Sydney, who shared with us his experience in how to attract research funding. This seminar drew over 160 registrants.

**Risk Management** – This seminar on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2011 was aimed to assist our members with further guidance on how to implement and evaluate their own progress. We had an industry expert covering the important aspects and again a senior official from the TGA to explain the regulatory requirements. The turn-out of over 100 reflects the relevance of this issue to our members.

**Plan for 2011/2012:** By the time this annual report is published, our August seminar entitled 'Cross-contamination Control in Hospital Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Manufacturing' shall have been presented. For our end of year seminar, we plan to deliver a 'Review of Current TGA Issues'. We expect another big attendance as seen in recent years.



## MYCOLOGY SIG 2010 – 2011: KERRY WEEKS

In the last 12 months we have had 2 meetings once again.  
The 2010-11 meetings held were as follows:

### 27/10/10 University of Sydney

Co-ordinated with Dee Carter. 15 people attended this meeting that coincidentally had a “feline theme”...

All 3 speakers were presenting papers/conference talks they had recently published/presented.

1. **A/Professor Vanessa Barrs** (Small Animal Medicine, Valentine Charlton Cat Centre, University of Sydney).  
“**Feline Upper respiratory Aspergillosis- an Australian Case series**”  
[Ref The Veterinary Journal (Avail online March 2011) “Sinonasal and sino-orbital aspergillosis in 23 cats: Aetiology, clinicopathological features and treatment outcomes”] and a talk presented at the International Society of Companion Animal Infectious Diseases, France, Sept 2010]
2. **A/Professor Julia Beatty** (Small Animal Medicine, Valentine Charlton Cat Centre, University of Sydney).  
“**Feline Upper respiratory Aspergillosis- CT findings in 12 cases**”
3. [Talk presented at the International Society of Companion Animal Infectious Diseases, France, Sept 2010]
4. **Hin Siong Chong** (Microbiology Dept, University of Sydney) presented his recently published paper on  
“**Antifungal resistance in *Cryptococcus***”  
[Ref JCM 2010, Vol48 (11), 4115-4120]

### 6/4/11 Microbiology Dept, Royal North Shore Hospital, PaLMS

We had 32 people attend this meeting.

The talks were as follows:

1. **Dr Nick Coatsworth** (ID Registrar RNSH) and **Kerry Weeks** (RNSH Mycology Lab).  
“**An unexpected fungus**”- A clinical case of the zygomycete fungus *Rhizomucor pusillus* that was detected post-mortem in an immune-suppressed patient.
2. **Dr Bernie Hudson** (Microbiologist/ID Staff Specialist RNSH) and **Kerry Weeks** (RNSH).  
“**Tree and Bud**”- A case involving the clinically significant isolation of the mushroom *Schizophyllum commune* from respiratory samples of an overseas worker.
3. **Dr David Andresen** (Microbiology Specialist New Children’s Hospital, Westmead)  
“**An approach to pulmonary fungal infection in the immune suppressed.**”  
- A discussion on the detection of aspergillosis in the neutropenic patient: the use of galactomannan, blood PCR, early chest CT, BAL/ FNA- depending on clinical symptoms.





Thanks go to: all the speakers who offered their time; to Dee Carter for her help as a co-ordinator at the University of Sydney; those who have helped with the catering; Kerry Varettas for her promotional work; the ASM NSW-ACT Branch for providing financial sponsorship and those interested enough to attend.

If any members wish to have more meetings I always welcome and NEED suggestions- such as any the presentation of interesting clinical cases, research projects, Q & A sessions? Our next meeting will possibly be held at Concord Hospital later on this year- stay tuned. Most of our past talks will be available on the NSW ASM-ACT branch website for members-only access.

### **PARASITOLOGY SIG 2010 – 2011: TAMALEE ROBERTS**

The Australian Society for Microbiology Parasitology Special Interest Group Meeting was held on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010 at the University of Technology, Sydney. The SIG had the honour of having international speaker Lynne Garcia, from the USA, who shared her vast knowledge on neglected parasites and emerging tropical diseases. Over 100 people attended to hear this leader in diagnostic parasitology talk.

It was a pleasure to have Ms. Garcia give such an educational and interesting talk at our meeting. I would like to thank her for her time and also thank everyone that attended on the night.

### **STUDENT SIG 2010 – 2011: PETER HANSEN AND THIRU VANNIASINKAM**

STUDSIG had a very successful year and has continued to support microbiology students in NSW and ACT in 2011. We thank the ASM student reps at the various universities and TAFE for all their hard work in promoting microbiology at their institutions. Once again there were a large number of applications for the awards available to microbiology students e.g. BD Award, NSW-ACT Branch Award. There were outstanding presentations given by talented students at the BD Award night which again highlight the high standard of microbiology research being undertaken by these undergraduates. The NSW-ACT Branch acknowledges the ongoing support of BD *via* the BD Award, and also acknowledges high achieving undergraduates who were awarded the undergraduate student encouragement award in 2010.

The BD Award was won by Sandra Morales (University of Sydney) and The Branch Award was made to Johanna Kenyon (University of Sydney). the Branch Post-doctorate Award was made to Sophie Octavia (University of New South Wales). Other student award winners were Melanie Hawksworth, Rebecca Williams, Alan Elsner, Baris Karodagan and Sabrina Zawartko.

STUDSIG looks forward to continuing to support microbiology students in 2012 and beyond.

### **VIROLOGY SIG 2010 – 2011: GILLIAN SCOTT**

Nil to report



## **7. BRANCH AWARD WINNERS 2010 – 2011**

BD Award 2011 – Sandra Morales

NSW-ACT Student Prize – Johanna Kenyon USyd

James Vincent Scholarship – Nestor Solis USyd

Post-doctoral Award - Sophie Octavia UNSW

Mycology Award – Evanthia Tambosis Concord Hospital

Undergraduate encouragement award winners:

UNSW: Camelia Quek, Rebekka Williams

ANU: Sashika Richards, Zarshis Avari

CSU: Melanie Hawksworth

## **8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND AUDITORS FOR 2011 – 2012**

Ruth Hall– Chairperson USyd

Peter Hansen – Treasurer UTS

Gillian Scott– Secretary SEALS

Ian Carter – SEALS

Bruce Wong – SWAPS

Ruiting Lan - UNSW

Charlotte Webster - Concord Hospital

Thiru Vanniasinkam - CSU Wagga

Margret Schuller - ProfitBD

William Crozier - Southern Pathology

Jocelyne D'Souza-Basseal - USyd

Peter Huntington - PaLMS

Kerry Varettas - SEALS

James Triccas - USyd

Nicholas West - Centenary Institute

Daniel Seed - Concord Hospital

Jim Manos – Usyd

Auditor – John Richardson

Current committee departures: James Chin

Overall, thanks must go to our hard working Committee and the roles they take on to move forward! And Natasha Pavic our administrative assistant who bears a high load coordinating sponsors and Syntrophy. It is they and the SIGs and YOU that make the difference!



### **FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

Continuance of our current direction and support for SIGs and members via awards as well as enhanced education and teaching at both primary as well as at a secondary level. Grants from NAB and programmes such as Science in the City may offer further advantage to that direction.

The assistance of industry is becoming more difficult in these tougher financial times but some Companies continue to be able to provide support and we thank them immensely.

### **THANK YOU**

Natasha Pavic and Bill from the Botany Bay Restaurant

## Branch Award Winners 2011-2012

**Becton Dickinson Award**

**Andrew LIEW - UTS**

**NSW-ACT Branch Student Prize**

**Connie LAM - UNSW**

**James Vincent Scholarship**

**Connie HA - USyd**

**Undergraduate Student Encouragement Award**

**Hayden HAWKINS - CSU**

**NSW-ACT Branch Mycology Award**

**Bill CROZIER**

## ASM NSW-ACT Branch Events 2011/2012

Date	Event	Location
<b>*2011***</b>		
13 <sup>th</sup> July	CS&M SIG Meeting "A parasite, a couple of viruses and a novel program?"	Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology
4 <sup>th</sup> August	Clinical SIG Meeting	Research & Education Centre, Kogarah
10 <sup>th</sup> August	CAPSIG Meeting "X Contamination"	Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club
17 <sup>th</sup> August	ASM NSW-ACT Branch AGM "How sexy is Microbiology" Professor Nick Hunt	Botany Bay Seafood Restaurant, Brighton Le Sands
29 <sup>th</sup> September	Mycology SIG Meeting	Concord Hospital
26 <sup>th</sup> October	Clinical SIG Meeting	Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
30 <sup>th</sup> November	CS&M SIG Meeting "A Chrissy Bag of Surprise!"	Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology
14 <sup>th</sup> December	CAPSIG Christmas Meeting "Year in Review 2011"	Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club
14 <sup>th</sup> December	ASM NSW-ACT Branch Christmas Meeting	Ecco Ristorante
<b>*2012***</b>		
21 <sup>st</sup> February	February Meeting "Novel Community-acquired MRSA and the future control of MRSA" Dr Robert Skov	University of Sydney
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Becton Dickinson Student Award Night	UTS, Sydney
18 <sup>th</sup> April	CAPSIG Meeting "Embracing Changes in Pharmaceutical Operations"	Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club
30 <sup>th</sup> May	CS&M SIG Meeting "What's new??.Latest Evaluations"	Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology
4 <sup>th</sup> June	Parasitology SIG Meeting "Leishmania"	St Vincent's Hospital
4 <sup>th</sup> June	Virology SIG Meeting	Sydney Children's Hospital
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Clinical SIG Meeting	Royal North Shore Hospital
1 <sup>th</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> July	ASM National Conference	Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
7 <sup>th</sup> August	Clinical SIG Meeting	Liverpool Hospital



Treasurer's Report for the year ended  
31 March 2012

Reconciled total cash balance as at 1 April 2011	2011			
	\$ 116,585		\$ 114,556	
	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Interest	5,794		5,381	
Sponsorship	13,800		11,900	
Capitation (NSW and ACT combined)	10,242		9,929	
PCR Clinical Microbiology compendium royalties	1,831		0	
SIG meeting costs		5,536		4,280
Meeting & speaker support		2,059		1,000
Prizes and Awards		2,717	500	3,426
Events:				
Christmas party	2,440	6,337	1,965	4,649
Professor Robert Skov Feb. meeting		2,723		3,682
AGM	1,660	3,533	1,925	4,043
BD Student Award Night		671		380
Administrative assistance		9,360		9,360
Branch Committee meals		887		1,476
Conference calls, postage, ISP		149		506
Website and secretarial services		1,200		35
Auditor's expenses		345		325
Bank charges		10		0
Miscellaneous items			3,796	205
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35,767</b>	<b>35,527</b>	<b>35,396</b>	<b>33,367</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>			<b>240</b>	<b>2029</b>
<b>[Previous report – Year to 31 March 2011 – surplus of payments over receipts of \$2,029]</b>				
<b>Reconciled total cash balances as at 31 March 2012</b>			<b>\$116,825</b>	<b>\$116,585</b>
<b>Assets</b>				
Reconciled account balances as at 31 March 2012:				
Westpac cheque account 032-056 13-2527			\$ 291	
SGECU S10 Cash Management account			\$37	
SGECU I26 Term deposit (\$60,000 maturing 28 Sept 2012 at 5%)			\$ 60,000	
SGECU I22.1 Term deposit (\$25,000 maturing 30 April 2012 at 5.5%)			\$ 25,000	
SGECU S1 Access account (counter and internet transactions)			\$ 8,110	
SGECU S11 iNet account (internet transactions only)			\$2,581	
SGECU S13 Bonus saver account (base interest and conditional bonus interest)			<u>\$20,806</u>	
Total bank accounts at 31 March 2012			<u><b>\$ 116,825</b></u>	<u><b>\$116,585</b></u>
Sundry computer, camera and electronic equipment – estimated realizable value			\$ 600	\$600
<b>Liabilities</b>			<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>
Expected future commitments:				
Administrative assistance			\$ 9,360	
Website development and management			\$ 1,700	
Support for SIGs, speakers and major events			\$ 40,000	
Awards			\$ 9,000	
Conference calls & refreshments – Branch Committee meetings			\$ 2,000	
Replacement laptop, software			\$ 4,000	
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 66,060</b>	<b>\$65,560</b>

AUDITOR'S REPORT: The accounts are prepared on a cash-in cash-out basis. Based on my enquiries and testing of the system, I have formed the opinion that the above statements fairly represent the financial affairs of the branch.

Peter G. Hansen  
Branch Treasurer 14 August 2012

John S. Richardson, BEc, MBA (Syd), CPA  
37 Bolwarra Ave  
West Pymble 14 August 2012

## Special Interest Group (SIG) 2011-2012 Reports

### CS&M (Clinical Serology & Molecular) SIG

#### *Summary of activities 2011-2012*

Since the last annual report, the NSW-ACT CS&M SIG has held three meetings; two at Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology and one at Laverty Pathology, North Ryde. Notifications for the meetings are distributed via email using a database maintained by the convenor and via notice in Syntrophy.

In July 2011, the topic was '**A parasite, a couple of viruses and a novel program?**' sponsored by the NSWACT Branch, with **27** in attendance. The speakers included Charlotte Webster, Hospital Scientist, Concord Hospital, presenting *A Clinical Case of Leishmaniasis*; international guest speaker Emi Spranzi, Corporate Marketing Manager - Infectious Disease, DiaSorin Italy, presenting *HSV Serology – what, how, when and why* and Joanna Gray, Program Manager, RCPA BioSecurity QAP, presenting *RCPA BioSecurity QAP – A novel proficiency testing program*.

In November 2011, the topic was '**A Chrissy Bag of Surprise!**' sponsored by the NSW-ACT Branch, with **51** in attendance. The speakers included Ricky Widjaja, Scientific Officer, RCPA Serology QAP presenting *Point-of-Care QAP The first year... and beyond*; Craig Leeman, Scientist in Charge Serology/Virology and GMP Production Manager, SydPath, St Vincent's Hospital, presenting *Implementation of the DiaSorin Liaison for Serological Screening* and Dhara Patel, Hospital Scientist, CIDMLS, ICPMR - Viral Serology Westmead Hospital, presenting *Evaluation of seven commercial EIA kits for the detection of human parvovirus B19-specific IgG & IgM*.

In May 2012, the topic was '**What's new??... Latest Evaluations**' sponsored by the NSW-ACT Branch, with **71** in attendance. The speakers included interstate guest speakers Heidi Sorensen & Whitney Dashwood, Serology Department, Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology, Brisbane, presenting *Evaluation of the DiaSorin Liaison Mycoplasma pneumoniae IgG & IgM Assays* (travel sponsored by DiaSorin); Terri Sivertsen, Manager, Immunoserology Molecular Biology, Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology, presenting *DHM Experience of B.pertussis testing using Simplexa assay on Integrated Cycler* and Susan Badman, Program Manager, RCPA Serology QAP, presenting *Why QA is good for you....*

Thank you to all of the enthusiastic speakers, attendees and the sponsorship of the ASM NSW-ACT branch for the continued success of these meetings. This group plans to meet every three months and attendance numbers have been very encouraging.

**Deane Byers**

**CS&M SIG Convenor**

### Clinical SIG

#### *Summary of activities 2011-2012*

Once again the Clinical Microbiology SIG has provided several great meetings for our members during the last year.

In October The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital hosted a meeting that included presentations by Andie Lee, Min Li, Khanh Pham, Indy Sandaradura, Khoi Nguyen, and Raymond Chan. Topics included Hepatitis D superinfection, penicillin non-susceptible *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Bartonella* aortic vegetations, and use of insertion sequences as an identification tool for *Bordetella pertussis*.

In February a presentation by Dr Robert Skov at Sydney University focused on MRSA, including emerging strains of community-associated MRSA in Europe and the growing problem of livestock-associated MRSA.

In June Royal North Shore Hospital hosted a meeting with presentations by Nick Coatsworth, Archie Darbar, and George Kotsiou. Cases included background to the discovery of the first case of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* carbapenemase (KPC) in Australia, a case of typhus associated with inhalation of mouse faeces, a joint infection that resulted from the oral flora of an anaesthetist, and interesting cases from HIV clinics held in Papua New Guinea.

In August Liverpool Hospital hosted a meeting with presentations by Iain Gosbell, Bjorn Espedido, Helen Ziochos, Vana Nagendra, Ruchir Chavada, Michael Maley, and George Toouli. From the curse of Tutankhamun, to measles, *Clostridium difficile*, and lean microbiology, the speakers covered a diverse range of clinical topics.

It has been great to take time to catch up with colleagues from across the clinical laboratories. Thank you to all who travelled and attended Clinical SIG meetings this year. Thanks especially to all who prepared or presented talks and hosted meetings. We have appreciated insights gained from your interesting and unusual cases, as well as the new trends and discoveries you have shared with all of us.

We also acknowledge and thank our ASM Branch sponsors, including our platinum sponsor bioMerieux, whose continued support has allowed us to provide quality Clinical SIG meetings during the year once again.

**Peter Huntington and Kerry Varettas**

**Clinical SIG Convenors**

## Special Interest Group (SIG) 2011-2012 Reports

### CAPSIG (Cosmetics And Pharmaceutical SIG)

#### *Summary of activities 2011-2012*

**Office Bearers:** Paul Priscott (Convener), Des Hadjimichael (Treasurer), Melissa Bourke (Secretary), Anna Maria Musico (State Chair), Hilary Fong, Vijay Randev, Alan Heritage, Heather Manning, Mark Harvie, Lan Le Hoang.

In October, 2011, Ms LL Hoang was nominated to fill the last vacant position on the Committee. There was no other change in the Committee membership.

**Members:** Members of ASM registered on CAPSIG mailing list, plus a number of state specific non-ASM members.

**Activities:** The CAPSIG web-site is still maintained and updated after each seminar – please refer to: [www.capsig.com.au](http://www.capsig.com.au).

*Since the last report, three seminars have been organized as per schedule:*

**August 2011:** Seminar on 'Cross-contamination Control in Hospital Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Manufacturing' was presented by a consulting pharmacist and a microbiologist from a major Pharmaceutical manufacturing facility. The seminar was attended by 80.

**Christmas Seminar 2011** was delivered by Brad Roberts on 'The State of Affairs of the Pharmaceutical Industries'. This seminar attracted over 160 registrations and four major sponsors.

**April 2012** Seminar was a sequel to the Christmas Seminar on 'Embracing Changes in Pharmaceutical Operations' to provide useful hints in career path and development to embrace the changes in career opportunities. Ms Anita Derks gave a personal account of her own experience and Dr. Glen Carter delivered an overview on where jobs are and how to get there.

Due to some logistics difficulty, the usual seminar in August was cancelled for 2012.

**Christmas 2012** seminar is being planned for 12/12/12. Dr. Bronwyn Capana has accepted our invitation to speak on the role of ACCORD in Cosmetic and Pharmaceuticals.

#### **Plan for 2012/2013:**

Three seminars to be held:

April 13 – to be decided

July/August 13 – Symposium/Program for ASM 2013 National Conference in Adelaide. An overseas speaker for ASM, then a satellite seminar in Sydney

Christmas 13 – Prof Nick Hunt has tentatively accepted our invitation to speak.

**Paul Priscott**

**CAPSIG Convener**

### Mycology SIG

#### *Summary of activities 2011-2012*

The last year has been quiet for the Mycology SIG with only one meeting being held during this time. This meeting in September 2011 was kindly organised by the Microbiology Dept. at Concord Hospital. Charlotte Webster and Evanthia Tambosis were the organisers/presenters.

In addition to their excellent talks, they organised a fungal workshop display (microscopy and culture plates) of many fungi of interest. This was a big "hit" with the 35 people attending as there is infrequently any ongoing practical training in Mycology available.

#### 1. Charlotte's talk was titled "To see or not to see"

A 74 year old male with AML on chemotherapy developed pulmonary nodules and thickening of the maxillary sinus. The patient had fevers that eventually settled and was then sent home on antibiotics and voriconazole. 2 weeks later he re-presented with ptosis (eye swelling) and fevers. A surgical cleanout of the left sinus showed an aseptate fungus that grew a rapidly growing fluffy fungus identified as *Rhizopus microsporus*- confirmed by 18srDNA. The patient went into remission and was treated with amphotericin B.

#### 2. Evanthia's talk was titled "To be or not to be"

The case of a 55 year old female, presented with SOB and a bad cough. She had no underlying conditions apart from asthma and travel in S.E. Asia. A chest X-ray and CT scan showed a pulmonary abscess. Histopathology on lung pus revealed a dematiaceous fungus. The pus failed to grow any organisms. Fungal ITS PCR and sequencing on the pus sample gave the result of *Bipolaris hawaiiensis*. Subsequent cultures of BAL and tissue failed to grow fungi. The patient was treated with voriconazole then later posaconazole (6 months) and improved clinically. 18 months later the patient relapsed and subsequent cultures of bronchial washing and lung tissue grew a black fungus after 4 days. Phenotypically this was identified as *Curvularia lunata* (ITS sequencing confirmed this). The patient had a lobectomy and short course of posacoanzole and recovered.

Was the original PCR result incorrect?

Evanthia mentions "that both *Bipolaris* and *Curvularia* are dematiaceous hyphomycetes. Both belong in the family *Pleosporaceae*, order *Pleosporales*. Morphologically very similar and there has been some controversy as to whether they should be classed as different genera. Restriction phenotypes of the ITS-PCR products failed to distinguish species of *Bipolaris* and *Curvularia* (study Goh et al 1998). Genetic databases may be inaccurate or incomplete. Isolates submitted to database may have been misidentified".

I wish to thank both Charlotte and Evanthia for their enthusiasm in offering their assistance and time with these meetings. I also thank their department for allowing us to use their facilities.

Also, thank you for the assistance of the NSW ASM Branch and their sponsors for their support.



## Special Interest Group (SIG) 2011-2012 Reports

Here at RNSH, we will likely be hosting another Mycology SIG later this year or early next year. Stay tuned.

It would be good to have the involvement of other scientists/medical staff to help arrange other meetings or even just offer suggestions. It can't be left to just a few people. Ideas are always warmly received! There is clearly a good level of interest in our SIG meetings – usually having over 30 people attend each meeting. Perhaps some of these people have ideas?

If you have suggestions for meetings, please contact me at [kweeks@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kweeks@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au) or 99267135.

**Kerry Weeks**

**Clinical Mycology SIG Convenor**

### **Parasitology & Tropical Medicine SIG**

#### *Summary of activities 2011-2012*

The Australian Society for Microbiology Parasitology Special Interest Group Meeting was held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at St. Vincent's Hospital. The theme for the night was Leishmania and there were three very interesting talks presented. The first talk was by Dr. Damien Stark from St. Vincent's Hospital who gave us an update on the epidemiology of recent cases in Australia. Charlotte Webster from Concord Hospital then presented two very interesting case studies and the night was closed with a talk by Dr. Karrie Rose from Taronga Zoo who gave a talk about Leishmania infection in Kangaroos.

The SIG is looking forward to supporting the upcoming parasitology course- A Short Course in Diagnostic Clinical Parasitology to be held November 18-23.

**Tamalee Roberts**

**Parasitology & Tropical Medicine SIG Convenor**

### **STUDSIG (Student SIG)**

#### *Summary of activities 2011-2012*

STUDSIG had a successful year in 2011. We thank the ASM student reps at the various universities and TAFEs for all their hard work in promoting microbiology at their institutions. Thank you to CSU student rep Andrew Dombrowski for helping to organise an interesting seminar by Dr John Merlino on antibiotics and antimicrobial resistance in Wagga Wagga. Once again there were a large number of applications for the awards available to microbiology students, for example the BD Student Award. There were outstanding presentations given by talented students at the BD Student Award night which again highlights the high standard of microbiology research being undertaken by these students. STUDSIG looks forward to continuing to support microbiology students in 2012 and beyond.

**Peter Hansen and Thiru Vanniasinkam**

**STUDSIG Convenors**

### **Virology SIG**

#### *Summary of activities 2011-2012*

The Virology SIG organised just the one meeting this year, but with an international speaker this was certainly worth the wait. We were very privileged to have Professor Antonio Toniolo, from the University of Insubria, Varese, Italy, present a seminar on enterovirus association with Type 1 diabetes at the Sydney Children's Hospital Lecture Theatre at Randwick on Monday evening, June 4<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was well attended by virologists, medical researchers and paediatricians interested in this topic, particularly given this was a cold winter's night. The talk produced a lively and interesting discussion with input from a large part of the audience. We were very grateful for Prof Toniolo making the time to present to our group. Gillian Scott will be stepping down from her role as Virology SIG convenor, so if there are any virologists out there who would like to take up the mantle please let the Branch committee know.

**Gillian Scott**

**Virology SIG Convenor**

# The Australian Society of Microbiology New South Wales Branch Current By-Laws



AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY  
NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH  
AMENDED BYLAWS

Last amended  
August 2010

A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF MICROBIOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

## Current By-Laws

### 1. DEFINITION

The New South Wales – Australian Capital Territory Branch of the Australian Society for Microbiology, Inc., hereafter "the Branch", is based on the geographical area of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory until such time as National Council decrees otherwise.

### 2. BRANCH MANAGEMENT

- 2.1 The affairs of the Branch shall be managed by the Branch Committee, elected annually from and by members of the Branch.
- 2.2 The Branch Committee shall consist of the Executive (Chairperson, Chairperson elect, Secretary and Treasurer) and a maximum of twenty (20) Committee members.
- 2.3 The Executive and the Committee members shall be elected as specified in clause 4.
- 2.4 The Branch Committee shall meet at least six (6) times during each year of office, with the chairperson or his nominee presiding. Five (5) members of the Branch Committee including two (2) members of the Executive shall constitute a quorum.
- 2.5 The Branch Committee may elect other officers, such as an Assistant Secretary, from among its members at any time, and may co-opt other Branch members for specific tasks or subcommittees as deemed necessary.
- 2.6 The Branch Secretary shall be responsible for the keeping of minutes of Committee Meetings and General Meetings, dealing with correspondence on behalf of the Branch Committee and the notification of all Branch and Group functions to all members of the Branch.
- 2.7 The Branch Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial statement to be presented to the Branch records before this time.
- 2.8 Committee members failing to attend 3 consecutive without a plausible explanation will be removed from office.

### 3. GENERAL MEETINGS

- 3.1 The Branch Annual General Meeting shall be held in August of each year, with at least thirty-(30) days notice being given to all Branch members. Resolutions to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be circulated by the Branch Secretary to all Branch members at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- 3.2 At the volition of the Branch Committee, or by petition from fifteen (15) members, a General Meeting may be convened at any time. Business at such a meeting shall be confined to matters of which at least thirty (30) days notice has been given by the Branch Secretary to all Branch members.
- 3.3 Fifteen (15) members of the Branch shall constitute a quorum at any General Meeting including the Annual General Meeting. Resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority vote of members present.

### 4. ELECTION OF BRANCH COMMITTEE

- 4.1 Nominations for elected positions on the Branch Committee, that is, for positions on the Committee, and an Honorary Auditor, shall be submitted in writing to include the signature of the nominee and two members of the Branch as proposer and seconder.
- 4.2 Should more than the required number of nominations be received for any elected position on the Committee, a secret ballot shall be conducted by the Branch Secretary at the Annual General Meeting.
- 4.3 The Branch Committee shall take office when the election results are announced at the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office until the corresponding time at the next Annual General Meeting.

## Current By-Laws

- 4.4 The Executive normally shall be elected for a term of two years. The chairperson elect and treasurer shall be elected on the alternate year to that of the Election of the Chairperson.  
The Branch Chairperson shall not serve for two consecutive terms although the Secretary and Treasurer may do so. If there are no nominees for Chairperson, or in other unusual circumstances, the Chairperson's term may be extended for one term by a simple majority vote of members present at an Annual General Meeting.
- 4.5 Nominates for an executive position must have served a minimum of 12 months on the branch committee to be eligible.
- 4.6 The Branch Committee shall have the power to fill any casual Committee vacancy except that of a Group Representative, where the relevant group management shall have such power.
- A suitably qualified Auditor, who shall not be an incoming Committee member, shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting. He shall audit the Branch Financial Statement prepared by the Branch Treasurer for presentation at the next Annual General Meeting.
- 4.7 The Branch Committee shall not exceed a total of 20 members (including the executive) and should (where possible) be comprised of members representing diverse microbiological disciplines.
- 4.8 All nominations for office bearers should be sent in writing to the standing committee before the Annual General Branch Meeting (AGM). All committee members must be officially nominated at every AGM to remain on the committee.
- 4.9 Nominations for any of the committee positions will not be accepted from the floor at the AGM unless the position is vacant without nomination at the AGM.

### 6. STUDENT PRIZE

Each year the Branch shall award a student prize to the outstanding undergraduate in Microbiology who has completed studies in the previous calendar year and who is committed to a career in Microbiology. The prize shall be reimbursement of the cost of travel and attendance at the National Annual Scientific Meeting in the year of the award.

The Branch committee depending upon current budgets, the standard of applicants and the number of applicants may consider additional awards

### 7. GOLDSWORTHY MEMORIAL LECTURE

In even numbered years, the Branch shall sponsor a lecture to the memory of Neil Goldsworthy, pioneer lecturer in Medical Microbiology in this State. An eminent Australian microbiologist in any field will be chosen to deliver what shall be known as the "Goldsworthy Memorial Lecture".

### 8. BRANCH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

- 8.1 To encourage dissemination of knowledge in particular areas of microbiology, Groups specialising in such areas may exist within the Branch. Branch Groups are distinct from National Groups established under the aegis of National Council.
- 8.2 By letter to the Branch Secretary, an individual or group may request formation of a Group or affiliation of an existing Group with the Branch. Branch Committee shall consider such requests and inform all Branch members of the request and the decision taken.
- 8.3 All members of the Society shall be entitled to attend and participate in any Group function. However, the Group responsible shall have the right to charge a fee, to limit the number of participants and/or to specify minimum qualifications for participation to ensure the satisfactory operation of a particular function.
- 8.4 Group functions shall be advertised to all Branch members via the branch Newsletter except in exceptional circumstances.
- 8.5 Non-members of the Branch who have an interest in the activities of a Group and who receive notice of Group functions shall be known as Group Affiliates. Group Affiliates shall have voting rights in all matters under the control of the group to which they belong, but shall have no other status within the Branch or Society, and shall not have Branch or Society publications circulated to them on a regular basis.

## Current By-Laws

- 8.6 The management of each group shall be at the discretion of that particular Group.
- 8.7 Group members or the Group Committee shall elect or nominate a Group Representative who shall represent the Group in Branch affairs. Group Representatives shall be Branch members, and shall normally hold office for at least one year. Group Representatives may attend Branch Committee meetings.
- 9. FINANCE**
- 9.1 Groups may elect to maintain a separate bank account or to ask the Branch Treasurer to act on their behalf.
- 9.2 If a separate bank account is maintained, the Group shall appoint a Group Treasurer, who shall forward a detailed financial statement to the Branch Treasurer each year prior to the Branch Annual General Meeting.
- 9.3 A Group may apply to the Branch Committee for financial assistance to enable the staging of any function, provided that such application be made at least thirty (30) days before such function.
- 9.4 Any of the above stated awards and financial obligations on the committee are subject to terms and conditions as determined by a unanimous vote of the branch committee.
- 9.5 The New South Wales – Australian Capital Territory Branch of the Australian Society for Microbiology, Inc., financial year ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> March of each year.
- 10 OBLIGATIONS**
- 10.1 The management of each Group shall ensure that a Group Representative be appointed to liaise with the Branch Committee, and where a separate bank account is maintained, a Group Treasurer be appointed also.
- 10.2 Each Group shall endeavour at all times to co-ordinate with the Branch and other Groups in the organisation of functions, to ensure the efficient operation of the Branch and the advancement of the science of Microbiology.
- 11 AMENDMENT OF THESE BYLAWS**
- 11.1 Branch Bylaws may be established or amended by a two-thirds majority of members voting at a General Meeting, properly constituted as detailed in Clause 3.
- N.B. Sections 4.4 and 6 were amended and passed by the Branch at the 1984 Annual General Meeting.*
- Sections 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 4.1, 8.7 and 8.9.1 were amended and passed by the Branch at the 1992 Annual General Meeting.*
- Sections 2.2, 4.4, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 6 and 9.4 were amended and passed by the Branch at the 2002 Annual General Meeting*