

### Proudly sponsored by:

**Platinum**  
**bioMérieux**

**Gold**  
**Merck**

**Silver**  
**Becton Dickinson**  
**Edwards**  
**Thermo Fisher**

**Bronze**  
**Abacus ALS**  
**Diagnostic**  
**Technology**

Syntrophy is distributed to members via details recorded on the National office database. Print copies are available upon request.

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

### In this issue

From the Editor	1
Nomination Form	2
Minutes 2012	4
Branch Award Winners 2012-2013	11
Branch Events 2012/2013	12
Treasurer's Report	12
SIG Reports	13
Branch By-Laws	16



## From the Editor

This special edition of *Syntrophy* focuses on the ASM NSW-ACT State Branch 53rd Annual General Meeting which will be held next Tuesday 20th August at the WatervieW in Bicentennial Park, Homebush. In it you can find out what the year has held for the Society and for the State Branch as it contains most of the reports to be tabled. Bring it along to the AGM as we will not be providing additional copies.

This year we had significant change to the committee membership as several of our long serving members moved on to other things. A further big change happened just before the end of 2012 when Gillian Scott moved on to a new workplace role and, as a consequence, stepped down as Secretary. Our thanks go to Gillian for her sterling efforts in that role. Peter Huntington agreed to step into the Secretary's job at very short notice and has proven he is an outstanding organizer and record keeper. Peter together with Natasha Pavic has also ensured that *Syntrophy* comes together and is delivered to members on time. Thank you Peter and Natasha.

After this year's AGM we are again losing some long serving and highly valued members - Peter Hansen, Kerry Varetas and Bruce Wong will all be leaving us. Our thanks for their valuable contributions over the years. However, we are thrilled that we have several nominations for incoming committee members, and that they come from various workplace backgrounds bringing both new blood and new perspectives to the committee. We will vote them in on Tuesday.

The Society is for you, our members and to promote Microbiology. The committee's role is to facilitate, organize or support events that our members want. SIG convenors play a key role putting on events that are relevant and well attended, and I'm sure that members appreciate their contribution. However, how best to cater to those who are not currently the focus of events organized at the State level remains an issue we are working on. You too could organize an event in your area of interest and we will advertise it and provide financial support. We are also keen to hear about ways to encourage more people to join the Society.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our loyal sponsors whose help allows us to do the things we do.

At the AGM, the Chair will pass to our current Chair Elect, Charlotte Webster. I know that she will very ably steer State Branch activities for the next 2 years. All the best Charlotte.

Ruth Hall, Chair, NSW-ACT State Branch Committee

**ASM NSW-ACT BRANCH 53<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2013**

**AGM: 6:00 – 7:00pm**

**Waterview Restaurant, Bicentennial Park  
Bicentennial Drive, Olympic Park Sydney 2127**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Minutes of the 52nd Annual General Meeting
3. Chairperson's Annual Report
4. Treasurer's Financial Report
5. National Council Report
6. Reports from Special Interest Groups
7. Branch Award Winners 2012 – 2013
8. Proposed changes to NSW-ACT Branch By-laws

The Branch Committee proposes and recommends the following amendments to the ASM NSW-ACT Branch By-Laws (2010) to be decided by vote of members at the 2013 AGM:

**Clause 2.7** Insert text, treasurer to present reports to branch "Committee, Branch Annual General Meeting, ASM National Office, for audit, and as otherwise required"

**Clause 2.8** Insert missing text 'meetings'

**Clause 4.6** Relocate instructions about auditor to immediately after clause 2.7

**Delete Clause 6.0** Remove reference to student prize

**Delete Clause 9.1** Remove reference to group bank accounts

**Delete Clause 9.2** Remove reference to group treasurers

**Clause 10.1** Delete text which refers to separate group bank accounts.

**Re-number sections as required.**

*Explanatory comments:*

- *The national financial structure of ASM no longer allows sub-groups of the State Branches to maintain separate bank accounts, so several clauses are no longer valid.*
- *Giving awards is an important activity of the Branch and this is expected to continue. Most awards are not currently mentioned in the by-laws and prizes for students now take several formats. These do not need to be explicitly listed in the by-laws.*

9. Election of Office Bearers and Auditors for 2013 – 2014
10. Other Business

**POST-AGM DINNER & TRIVIA from 7pm**

**"Trivia of all things micro"**

**Cost: The AGM is free of charge**

**Post-AGM 3-course Dinner: \$40 members; \$50 non-members**

**Drinks from bar**

**Pay at the door – CASH ONLY – no credit or eftpos.**

**RSVP by Tuesday 13th August 2013**

Peter Huntington: Ph: (02) 9926 4329

Email: [phuntington@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:phuntington@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au)



## 2013–2014 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 and Committee members.** 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 Peter Huntington:**

EMAIL: phuntington@nsccahs.health.nsw.gov.au

PHONE: (02) 9926 4329 FAX: (02) 9926 4081

**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)**

**Secretary (2 year term)**

**Committee member (1 year term)**

**Proposer:**

Print Name.....

Signature.....

**Secunder:**

Print Name.....

Signature.....

**I accept this nomination:**

Print Name.....

Signature.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Date:     /     /2013



# ASM NSW-ACT BRANCH 52<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

## MINUTES

**Date:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2012

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

**Attendance:** 40

**Meeting Opened:** 6:15pm

**Meeting Closed:** 7:15pm

**Chairperson:** Ruth Hall

**Minute Taker:** Gillian Scott

### **1. APOLOGIES:**

Ian Carter, David Dickeson, Deanne Byers, Nick Coleman, Sharyn Walker, Des Hadjimichael

### **2. MINUTES OF THE 51st AGM 2011**

Previous minutes accepted by David Carr and William Crozier

### **3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Ruth Hall**

#### **2011 – 2012 NSW-ACT BRANCH COMMITTEE**

**Ruth Hall**

**Chairperson**

School of Molecular Bioscience

University of Sydney

[Ruth.Hall@sydney.edu.au](mailto:Ruth.Hall@sydney.edu.au)

**Gillian Scott**

**Branch Secretary**

University of New South Wales

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

**Peter Hansen**

**Branch Treasurer**

University of Technology, Sydney

[Peter.Hansen@uts.edu.au](mailto:Peter.Hansen@uts.edu.au)

**Kerry Varettas**

South Eastern Area Laboratory Services

Microbiology Department Kogarah



**Ian Carter**  
South Eastern Area Laboratory Services  
Randwick

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

**Ruiting Lan**  
University of NSW

**Bruce Wong**  
PALMS, Royal North Shore Hospital

**William Crozier**  
Southern IML Microbiology

**Thiru Vanniasinkam**  
Charles Sturt University

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

**Margret Schuller**  
Profitable Business Development

**James Triccas**  
University of Sydney

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

**Peter Huntington**  
Microbiology Department  
Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney

**Daniel Seed**  
Microbiology Department  
Concord Hospital, Sydney

**Auditor** – John Richardson

#### **Meeting Support – NSW & ACT**

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

The branch

- advertises meetings free of charge in Syntrophy
- offers financial support towards the organisational costs - venue hire, speaker costs, light refreshments or light meal
- holds equipment to facilitate these meetings - book through the Secretary, Gillian Scott.



Members are encouraged to refer requests for support, via email, to the branch secretary for consideration by the committee.

This support has been made possible through the branch sponsorship scheme and is open to branch members only.

### **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

The strength in the NSW ACT Branch lies with the Special Interest Groups and their convenors and members.

We have seen many SIG meetings;

**CS&M** under Deanne Byers

**Virology** under Dr Gillian Scott

**Mycology** under Kerry Weeks

**Clinical** under Peter Huntington and Kerry Varetas

**Parasitology** under Tamalee Roberts,

**Student** under Peter Hansen and Thiru Vanniasinkam

**CAPSIG** under Paul Priscott and committee

**JAMS** under Federico Lauro and committee

The strength in the NSW ACT Branch lies with the Special Interest Groups and their convenors and **members**.

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.

Perhaps some of these people have ideas?

Kerry Weeks (Mycology SIG)

### **FEBRUARY MEETING**

We started 2012 with Dr Robert Skov

"Novel Community-acquired MRSA and the future control of MRSA"

This meeting was proudly supported by the Australian Society for Antimicrobials (ASA) & ASM NSW-ACT Branch

### **SPONSORS FOR 2012 – 2013**

This year our core sponsorship companies remained loyal and one joined them.

Our sponsors are:

BioMérieux

Merck

BD

Edwards

Thermo Fisher

Diagnostic Technology

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

### **MICROBIOLOGY COMPENDIUM**

The Microbiology Compendium compiled under the guidance of Committee member Margaret Schuller

*"PCR for Clinical Molecular Microbiology – an Australian and International Perspective"*

Published by Springer. Royalties come to us! Our thanks to all who contributed



## **AWARDS COMMITTEE**

The Awards Committee continues to work on a better managed award scheme and new award specifications can be found on the branch website

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**

The NSW branch newsletter 'Syntrophy' continues in the current electronic version. It links news, information with e-mail and the web in one session – making them easily accessible.

Supplementary announcements of meetings and events are also distributed when necessary

Thank you to our 'admin assistant' Natasha Pavic for maintaining the high quality newsletter and keeping us on track

## **NSW-ACT BRANCH WEBSITE**

<http://www.asmnsw.com.au/>

The website just gets better and better. Check it out

Thank you to Kerry Varetas for setting up the website and Daniel Seed for website maintenance and improvement

## **2012 CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December

@ Ecco Ristorante, St Georges Crescent, Drummoyne

A special big thank you to 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

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, and the teachers and students – it went very well!

## **NEW MEMBERS**

This year we have welcomed many new members

## **LEAVING THE COMMITTEE**

Ian Carter

Bill Crozier

Joss D'Sousa Basseal

Margaret Schuller

Jamie Triccas

Nick West

## **TREASURER RETIRES**

Our thanks to Peter Hansen who has done this exacting and onerous job for the last 7 years.

THANK YOU PETER



# TREASURER'S REPORT- PETER HANSEN



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

## Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 March 2012

			2011	
Reconciled total cash balance as at 1 April 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
Totals	35,767	35,527	35,396	33,367
Excess of receipts over payments			240	2029
[Previous report – Year to 31 March 2011 – surplus of payments over receipts of \$2,029]				
Reconciled total cash balances as at 31 March 2012			\$116,825	\$116,585
<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 S1A 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>\$ 116,825</u>	<u>\$116,585</u>
Sundry computer, camera and electronic equipment – estimated realizable value			\$ 600	\$600
<b>Liabilities</b>			Nil	Nil
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	
Total			\$ 66,060	\$65,560

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





## **ASM 74<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012

Reported to NSW-ACT Branch by Gillian Scott

Minutes available on request

### **Major discussion items**

ASM meetings:

Brisbane July 2012 – David McMillan: It was a 3-day conference - ICMS managed. It was a great success and profitable.

Adelaide July 2013 – Chris Ossowicz:

### **REPORTS FROM SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

Refer to AGM Syntrophy issue

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

This year's award winners are:

#### **BD student award**

Andrew Liew, UTS

#### **ASM branch student prize**

Connie Lam, UNSW

#### **Undergraduate student encouragement award**

Hayden Hawkins, CSU

#### **James Vincent Scholarship in Microbiology**

Connie Ha, USyd

#### **ASM NSW-ACT Branch Mycology Award 2012**

William Crozier, Southern IML Microbiology

Presented by Charlotte Webster on the night

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

#### **2011 - 2012 Committee**

##### **Chairperson**

Ruth Hall–University of Sydney

##### **Treasurer**

Jim Manos - University of Sydney

##### **Secretary**

Gillian Scott–University of New South Wales

##### **Chairperson elect**

Charlotte Webster - Concord Hospital

##### **Members**

Ruiting Lan - UNSW

Thiru Vanniasinkam - CSU, Wagga

Peter Huntington - PaLMS

Kerry Varettas - SEALS

Daniel Seed - Concord Hospital

Peter Hansen - UTS

Bruce Wong – PaLMS

##### **New member**

Nick Coleman - University of Sydney



**Welcome to:**

Treasurer: Jim Manos, Infectious Diseases and Microbiology

Chairperson elect: Charlotte Webster - Microbiology Department, Concord Hospital

New member: Nick Coleman - University of Sydney

**Thanks to:**

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.

And the SIG convenors.

It is they, the SIGs and YOU that make the year a success!

**More thanks:**

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

We thank them immensely.

**FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

Continue our current direction and support for SIGs and members via meetings and awards as well as enhancing education and teaching at both primary as well as at a secondary level.

**NOW!**

Dinner and trivia

## Branch Award Winners 2012-2013

### **Becton Dickinson Award**

Laura NOLAN - UTS

### **NSW-ACT Branch Student Prize**

Rita RAPA - UTS

### **Postdoctoral Award**

Chris HARMER - USYD

The Treasurer's Report will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

## ASM NSW-ACT Branch Events 2012/2013

Date	Event	Location
<b>*2012***</b>		
15 <sup>th</sup> August	ASM NSW-ACT Branch AGM	Botany Bay Seafood Restaurant, Brighton Le Sands
3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Clinical SIG Meeting	Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
9 <sup>th</sup> October	Goldsworthy Memorial Lecture – Professor Bill Rawlinson	The University of Sydney
6 <sup>th</sup> November	CS&M SIG Meeting "The latest in company information...from a science point of view"	Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Clinical SIG Meeting	Wollongong Hospital
5 <sup>th</sup> December	ASM NSW-ACT Branch Christmas Meeting	Yiamas Greek Taverna
12 <sup>th</sup> December	CAPSIG Christmas Meeting "Regulatory Reform of Formulated Products Including Consumer, Cosmetic and Specialty Hygiene Products"	Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club
<b>*2013***</b>		
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Mycology SIG Meeting	Royal North Shore Hospital
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Becton Dickinson Student Award Night	UTS, Sydney
9 <sup>th</sup> April	CS&M SIG Meeting	Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology
17 <sup>th</sup> April	CAPSIG Meeting "Sterilization Methods and Validation Procedures"	Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL
30 <sup>th</sup> April	Clinical SIG Meeting	Concord Hospital
30 <sup>th</sup> May	Simon J. Foster, University of Sheffield "Bacterial Cell Wall Architecture – Strength by Design"	The University of Sydney
24 <sup>th</sup> June	Clinical SIG Meeting	St Vincent's Hospital
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	VSP July – Professor Jizhong Zhou	The University of Sydney
7 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> July	ASM National Conference	Adelaide
11 <sup>th</sup> July	CAPSIG Meeting "Environmental Control and Compliance"	Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL
12 <sup>th</sup> July	VSP July – Professor Gisela Storz	University of Technology
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Clinical SIG Meeting – Dr Patrick Murray	Concord Hospital
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	CS&M SIG Meeting "What to do with your QC data... the latest information"	Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology

## Special Interest Group (SIG) 2012-2013 Reports

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

#### Summary of activities 2012-2013

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

In September 2012, the topic was '**Important information... Standards, IVD's & Public Health**' sponsored by the NSW-ACT Branch, with **56** in attendance. The speakers included Mala Ratnamohan, Senior Hospital Scientist, CIDMLS, ICPMR - Virology, Westmead Hospital, presenting *Quantitation of Cytomegalovirus DNA – the new WHO standard*; interstate guest speaker Susie Braniff, Scientist, NRL, Melbourne (sponsored by the NRL), presenting *Including In-house IVD's on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG): Suggestions for Laboratories*; and Sheena Adamson, Public Health Laboratory Surveillance Officer, NSW Health, presenting *Infectious Disease Testing - Importance for Public Health*.

In November 2012, the topic was '**The latest in company information... from a science point of view**' sponsored by the NSW-ACT Branch, with **56** in attendance. The speakers included Keith Stanley, Managing Director, AusDiagnostics, presenting *Nucleic Acid Extraction of clinical samples containing bacteria, viruses and parasites: do we need it?*; Patricia Garrett, Senior Director for Science & Technology, SeraCare Life Sciences United States (sponsored by Abacus ALS), presenting *Assembling the Best Sample Bank to Develop and Evaluate Your Tests*; and John Burnside, Senior Product Specialist / Manager – Genomic Systems, Roche Applied Science, presenting *Next Generation Sequencing Technology*.

In April 2013, it was **a mixture of topics**, sponsored by the NSW-ACT Branch, with **60** in attendance. The speakers included international guest speaker Paul Austin, Serology, Department of Virology & Immunology, LabPLUS, Auckland City Hospital, New Zealand, presenting *Whadd'ya mean the result is wrong? The QC is perfect!;* Philip Cunningham, St Vincents Centre for Applied Medical Research & NSW State Reference Laboratory for HIV, St Vincents Hospital, presenting *Point of Care testing for HIV infection in Australia: in context* and Dr Miriam Paul, Infectious Diseases Physician, Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology, presenting *QuantiFERON-TB Gold In-Tube Assay: Principles, Pitfalls and Predictive Value*.

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 2012-2013

The Clinical Microbiology SIG has convened the following meetings for our members since the last AGM:

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012 - The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

13<sup>th</sup> November 2012 - Southern IML Pathology & SEALS South, Wollongong Hospital

30<sup>th</sup> April 2013 - Concord Hospital

24<sup>th</sup> June 2013 - St Vincent's Hospital

17<sup>th</sup> July 2013 – overseas guest Dr Patrick Murray, sponsored by BD, at Concord Hospital

I would like to especially thank those who organised and presented talks and hosted the meetings and thank you to all who travelled and attended the Clinical SIG meetings held so far. 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 NSW-ACT Branch sponsors whose continued support has allowed us to provide quality Clinical SIG meetings during the year once again.

Kerry Varettas and Peter Huntington

Clinical SIG Convenors

### CAPSIG (Cosmetics And Pharmaceutical SIG)

#### Summary of activities 2012-2013

#### 1. Office Bearers

**NSW Committee:** There have been no changes to the NSW Committee membership, although some roles have changed.

Paul Priscott (Convenor), Lan Le Hoang (Secretary), Melissa Bourke (Treasurer), Anna Maria Musico, Hilary Fong, Vijay Randev (State Chairperson), Des Hadjimichael, Heather Manning, Alan Heritage, Mark Harvie.

#### 2. Members

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

#### 3. 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).

#### NSW Branch Activities:

Since the last annual report, two seminars have been organized (a third seminar in August 2012 was cancelled for logistical reasons):

**Christmas Seminar 2012** was delivered by Bronwyn Capana speaking on the role of ACCORD in Cosmetic and Pharmaceuticals. This seminar attracted over 180 registrations and four major sponsors.

**April 2013** Seminar was entitled: "Sterilisation Methods and Validation Procedures", and delivered by Justin Davies, Barry Cox and Imtiaz Ahmed.

## Special Interest Group (SIG) 2012-2013 Reports

### Plans for 2013/2014:

**July 2013** seminar "Environmental Control and Compliance" has been planned for presentation in Sydney following the ASM National Conference, to be delivered by Dr Colin Booth. David Buckley and Fergus O'Connell.

**Christmas 2013** seminar is being planned for 11/12/13. Prof Nick Hunt has accepted our invitation to speak ... "How sexy is Microbiology?"

**April 2014** seminar is being planned covering rapid methods and new technologies in Pharmaceutical Microbiology.

### ASM National Conference, Adelaide 2013:

July 6, 2013 – CAPSIG Workshop, "Audits, Process simulations and unexpected surprises".

July 7, 2013 – Symposium/Program for ASM 2013 National Conference in Adelaide. An overseas speaker for ASM, then a satellite seminar in Sydney... "Environmental Control and Compliance".

Paul Priscott

CAPSIG Convenor

## Mycology SIG

### Summary of activities 2012-2013

The last year has again been quiet for the Mycology SIG with only one meeting being held during this time. The meeting in March was kindly organised by the Microbiology Dept. at Royal North Shore Hospital. As usual, the Kolling Institute (University of Sydney) generously provided the lecture theatre. A record number of 45 people attended with a lot of positive feedback being received regarding the excellent quality of the speakers.

We had 5 interesting talks presented by:

- Dr Tasman Armytage (Haematologist RNSH) presented a case of maxillary sinusitis caused by the zygomycete, *Rhizopus arrhizus*. The patient had AML and had undergone an allograft bone marrow transplant.
- Dr Phil Britton (Paediatric Fellow NCH) presented a case of *Saksenaia vasiformis* tissue infection in a young girl, possibly after a bite from a mosquito. This zygomycete fungus is a very rare pathogen, that is also caused by traumatic environmental injury as well as insect bites. A case was reported in Sydney after the Asian tsunami where a person had been dragged through the rice paddies during the water surge.
- Dr Vana Nagendra (Microbiology Registrar, Liverpool Hospital) presented a case of histoplasmosis from a man who had been caving in Laos. *Histoplasma capsulatum* is more prevalent overseas, but is also found much less commonly here in Australia. It is found in limestone caves (bat guano) and areas near bird droppings (old chicken coops, starling roosts etc.). It can remain dormant in a patient and cause infection when their immune status is diminished. Once again, another rare pathogen, but one to be on the "lookout" for and to take great care handling in the laboratory! It should only be handled in a PC3 laboratory.

- Dr Vicki Sukumaran (Infectious Diseases Registrar, RNSH) presented a case of a mixed infection with *Scedosporium prolificans* and *Scedosporium apiospermum* after a garden injury. The patient was initially treated, unsuccessfully with antibiotics by her GP. Months later, three subsequent surgeries were performed to debride and remove a piece of wood. Patient was treated successfully with terbinafine and azoles.
- Dr Archie Darbar (Microbiology Specialist, RNSH) and Kerry Weeks (Mycology Lab. RNSH) presented a case of chromoblastomycosis in the hand of an elderly man with renal disease. Initially, a tissue sample for histopathology three years earlier had detected dark hyphae but no sample was received for culture at the time. A subsequent culture sample, grew *Fonsecaea pedrosoi* complex. This is a dematiaceous (black) fungus, found in tropical/temperate regions and this (along with *Cladophialophora carrionii*) is one of the most common causative agents of chromoblastomycosis, a chronic infection that can remain for several years. It is usually occurs more frequently in males who work outdoors and suffer a traumatic injury on a limb.

I thank the above speakers for giving their time to speak at our meeting.

Also, I appreciate the help of the NSW ASM Branch for their advertising and catering assistance and also the ASM sponsors.

It would be good to have the involvement of other scientists/medical staff to help arrange other meetings or even just offer suggestions. Clinical case history presentations always seem to be a "big hit" with the audience! It would be great to have more of these as well. So if you have any interesting cases, perhaps it could be presented at a SIG meeting.

It can't be left to just a few people. Ideas are always happily welcomed. 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?

The University of Sydney will likely be hosting another Mycology SIG later this year so stay tuned.

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

or the (soon) new email address [Kerry.Weeks@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Kerry.Weeks@health.nsw.gov.au)

Telephone: 9926 4319

Kerry Weeks

Clinical Mycology SIG Convenor

## Virology SIG

### Summary of activities 2012-2013

The Virology SIG is currently inactive. Please contact the ASM NSW/ACT Branch Secretary Peter Huntington if you are interested in convening this SIG.

## Special Interest Group (SIG) 2012-2013 Reports

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

#### *Summary of activities 2012-2013*

A Short Course in Diagnostic Clinical Parasitology was held November 18-23, 2012 in Bankstown with great success. It was a week long course that focused on the diagnosis of common enteric parasites with practical lab classes, lectures and several interesting case studies being presented.

This year's Parasitology SIG night was held at St. Vincent's Hospital on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Dr Damien Stark presented research undertaken by two of his PhD students, Varuni Munasinghe and Gouri Banik. Damien showed some amazing EM and TM images of *Dientamoeba fragilis* showing virus- like structures within the cells and also a possible cyst stage found from mice and rat studies. Joel Barratt then presented a condensed version of his final PhD seminar describing some important advances in the study of *Dientamoeba fragilis*. This included the improvement of culture techniques for *D. fragilis*, the sequencing of the first transcriptome of *D. fragilis* and the development of polyclonal antibodies against a surface antigen of *D. fragilis*. This work has led to an improved understanding of *D. fragilis* molecular biology. Both events were well attended and much enjoyed. The Parasitology SIG thanks everyone for their attendance and continued support.

Tamalee Roberts

Parasitology & Tropical Medicine SIG Convenor

The Australian Society of Microbiology  
New South Wales – Australian Capital Territory Branch  
Current By-Laws



***The Australian  
Society for  
Microbiology***  
*Incorporated*

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY  
NEW SOUTH WALES - ACT BRANCH  
AMENDED BYLAWS

Last amended

August ~~2010~~ 2013

*Showing proposed 2013 amendments: delete, move, add*

A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF MICROBIOLOGICAL SOCIETIES



## **1. DEFINITION**

- 1.1.** 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, including the 4 executive 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~~ Committee, Branch Annual General Meeting, ASM National Office, for audit, and as otherwise required.
- 2.8.** Committee members failing to attend 3 consecutive Committee meetings 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.
- 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.
- 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*

*Sections 1, 2.2, 3.1, 4.6, 4.7 and 9.5 were amended and passed by the Branch at the 2010 Annual General Meeting*

*Sections 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 4.6, 6.0, 9.1, 9.2 and 10.1 were amended and passed by the Branch at the 2013 Annual General Meeting, with sections 5 to 11 re-numbered as required.*