

### Notice of the Annual General Meeting

The 46th Annual General Meeting of the Australian Society for Microbiology will be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Plaza Auditorium – Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, 12:30pm

## Minutes

### 1. Welcome

### 2. Apologies

Paul Sideris

### 3. Minutes of the 2017 AGM

Kate Seib proposed, Julian Rood seconded

### 4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None brought forward

### 5. Presentation of the Annual Report by the President

#### 5.1 Meetings

- BacPath: ASM has brought BacPath under its wing. An MOU has been signed and ASM representatives will be members of the LOC of BacPath conferences going forward.
- AusME: an "ASM-owned" conference. The second AusME conference will be held in February 2019 in Perth.
- MMM (Molecular Microbiology Meeting). ASM was a major sponsor of the April 2018 meeting. MMM will continue to be held every two years in Sydney as a Nationally-sponsored ASM Conference until further notice. Discussions are taking place with the New Zealand Microbiological Society with view to a joint conference in November 2020.
- The International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Congress will be held in Melbourne in 2024 with ASM as a sponsor.

**5.2 Scientific Advisors:** ASM has appointed five leading authorities in specialised fields as Scientific Advisors. More details are available through the Society's website.

#### 5.3 Formation of a new Standing Committee for Professional Development:

The aim of this Committee is to foster the professional growth and development of student and early career members (ECMs) of ASM, in all fields of microbiology. This will be achieved by engaging students and ECMs in a way that improves their overall experience of ASM, by providing relevant resources, activities and opportunities.

Membership of the Standing committee:

- A/Prof Priscilla Johanesen (Chair) who will become an ex officio member of Council and a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.
- Chair, Workforce Standing Committee
- Chair, Standing Committee on Clinical Microbiology
- Convenor, Education SIG
- Others as required

**5.4 Industry sponsorship**

Sponsorship packages have been developed with different tiers. This initiative was launched on Tuesday morning with several representatives from industry, several of whom indicated an interest in becoming sponsors. A Sponsorship Committee will be convened, comprising Phil McShane from ASN Events as Chair, with one representative from each state branch.

**5.5 ASM Awards**

- Student Award: The ASM BD Student award has been renamed the ASM Nancy Millis Student Award and is wholly sponsored by the ASM.
- The wording for the Distinguished Service Award has been altered.
- ASM offered 100 discounted registrations for students and ECRs at this meeting; 76 of these were taken up.
- Discounted registrations will also be available for selected non-ASM conferences.
- Summer vacation scholarships are available for students to work in a research laboratory for around 6 weeks. National office will support one scholarship in each state, with State Branches encouraged to offer more. In the first round, 3 of scholarships were taken up in Victoria, 1 in WA and 1 in Queensland.

**5.6 Gender balance**

The gender balance of the current conference is as follows:

	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Rubbo & Bazeley Orators, public speaker	100% (3)	0% (0)*
Plenaries	50% (3)	50% (3)
Invited Symposia	53% (43)	47% (38)
Selected Symposia	51% (37)	49% (35)
Awards – student	17% (1)	83% (5)
Awards – other	50% (2)	50% (2)
Session Chairs	44% (26)	56% (33)

\* 2 of 3 female in 2017

**5.7 Visiting Speaker Program**

Exec is hoping to re-invigorate this program and streamline its management by centralising it the National Office. Suggestions from members and SIGs for international and national speakers are welcome.

**5.8 Personnel Changes**

Dena Lyras will take over from Roy Robins-Browne as President.

Kate Seib will take over from Dena as the VP Scientific Affairs.

Rebecca LeBard will take over from Jack Wang, who is retiring as VP Communications

Anthony Baker will joining Exec as VP Corporate Affairs Elect

Jon Iredell is retiring from Exec as Immediate Past President, with Roy taking over from him.

After 16 years, Stephen Graves is stepping down as Chair of the Standing Committee on Clinical Microbiology. Jon Iredell will take over from him.

The President thanked the retiring members for their contributions and welcomed those who were taking on new roles.

#### **5.9 ASM is in good shape**

The Executive circulated a summary report of the achievements of the Society in the past year. This showed that ASM has healthy finances, a growing membership, more MASMs and FASMs, a burgeoning presence on social media, and a committed, cohesive and effective Executive. MASMs now comprise the largest group of the Society. ASM is delivering more to its members in terms of awards, conferences, discounted registrations, etc. The quality and impact of *Microbiology Australia's* are growing.

#### **6 Presentation of the Financial Report by the Vice President, Corporate Affairs**

- All financial reports have been provided and posted on the Society's website.
- The 2017 conference showed a \$57k profit, \$13k of which went to the Tasmanian Branch. The remainder went into the Research Trust which is used to fund ASM awards.
- ASM receives income from subscriptions, conferences and investments. Currently, we receive very little from industry sponsorship. This is behind the current drive for corporate sponsorship.
- ASM's aim is not to retain any profits, but to use this money to benefit our members.

#### **7 Report from the Vice President Scientific Affairs on the National Scientific Advisory Committee**

- Dena noted recent changes in NSAC's role regarding the Annual Scientific Meeting. We have made it more beneficial to members by inviting 72 symposium speakers, offering 72 slots for oral presentations and increasing the number of award presentations. All of this is designed to bring more people to the meeting, and it's working well, as evidenced by this meeting which has 541 delegates.
- NSAC and Dena have devoted considerable time and effort building links with other societies/membership as a way of offering more to our meetings and our members.

#### **8 Report from the Vice President, Communications**

Our current online presence across three main platforms has resulted in around 5,000 followers, and between 400,000 to 500,000 who see our content.

We establish this presence mostly through our communications ambassadors - a program which has run for the past 3-4 years with a total of 50 to date. This year we have 18 ambassadors, 15 of whom are at this meeting. For the first time we employed a social media company to run a workshop for our ambassadors, which ASM provided as a free event.

ASM has a YouTube channel, but it's sparse due to the high costs involved in producing videos. We are currently looking at podcasting. This is a cheaper option and can be accessed by the communication ambassadors as well as the general membership. We expect to put out a call out for interest in the next few months.

The Australian Society

for

**Microbiology**



bringing Microbiologists together

**7 Office Bearers for 2018/19**

Dena Lyras, President  
Roy Robins-Browne, Immediate Past President  
Cheryl Power, VP Corporate Affairs  
Kate Seib, VP Scientific Affairs  
Rebecca LeBard VP Communications  
Anthony Baker, VP Corporate Affairs Elect

**8 Determination of Annual Subscription Fees**

There will be no increase in subscriptions for the coming year.

**9 Appointment of the Auditor**

Cheryl Power recommend retaining Eric Townsend as the Society's auditor for the coming financial year.

Charlene Kahler and Stephen Graves. All in favour.

Acceptance of all reports was proposed by Peter Traynor, seconded by Stephen Graves. All in favour.

**10 Closure of the meeting**

The President thanked members of the Executive Committee and Council for their help, encouragement, support and collegiality during the past two years. He then invited the new President, Dena Lyras, to close the meeting.