

The Australian Society

for

**Microbiology**



bringing Microbiologists together

## **ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 MARCH 2010**

# The Australian Society for **Microbiology**



bringing Microbiologists together

## Annual Report for the 12 Months Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010

### 1. **Meeting of National Council:**

President	Professor Hatch Stokes
President Elect	Professor John Turnidge
Vice President, Corporate Affairs	Assoc Prof Johnson Mak
Vice President, Scientific Affairs	Assoc Prof Elizabeth Harry
NSW/ACT Branch Delegate	Mr Ian Carter
Victoria Branch Delegate	Mr Brendan Malaney
Queensland Branch Delegate	Dr Glen Ulett
South Australia Branch Delegate	Mr Stephen Davis
Western Australia Branch Delegate	Mrs Erica Lambert
Chair, NEB	Professor Peter Coloe
Chair, NQC	Assoc Prof Ruth Foxwell
Chair, Clinical Microbiology Committee	Dr Stephen Graves
Chair, Bio-Safety Standing Committee	Dr Paul Taylor
LOC Chair Sydney 2010	Dr Dee Carter
LOC Chair Hobart 2011	Mr Mark Tamplin

The National Council Committee met twice during the past 12 months. The 69<sup>th</sup> Meeting was held during the ASM 2009 Meeting in Perth on the 6<sup>th</sup> July and the 70<sup>th</sup> Meeting was held via teleconference on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

### 2. **Standing Committees of National Council:**

#### ❖ **The Executive Committee**

President	Professor Hatch Stokes
President Elect	Professor John Turnidge
Vice President, Corporate Affairs	Associate Professor Johnson Mak
Vice President, Scientific Affairs	Associate Professor Elizabeth Harry

The Executive Committee meets monthly via teleconference.

❖ **National Scientific Advisory Committee**

Chairperson Associate Professor Elizabeth Harry  
Dr Andrew Holmes  
Associate Professor Jon Iredell  
Dr Peter White  
Professor Linda Blackall  
Dr Ruiting Lan  
Dr Chris Burke  
Associate Professor Sylvia Kirov  
Dr Jason Mackenzie  
Dr Gary Dykes  
Dr Louise Roddam

The National Scientific Advisory Committee is an advisory committee which seeks to provide guidance to organising committees of Scientific Meetings. The committee meets via teleconference 4 times during the year and once every year at the Annual Scientific Meetings.

❖ **National Qualifications Committee**

Chairperson Associate Professor Ruth Foxwell  
Associate Professor David Ellis  
Mrs Barbara Henderson  
Ms Suellen Blackaby  
Dr Vilma Stanisich  
Dr Sandra Hall  
Dr Louise Roddam  
Mr Ian Carter

The National Qualifications Committee directs its efforts to the evaluation of the qualifications and experience of Associate Members of the Society seeking progression to Professional and Senior Associate Membership of the Society. Over the past 12 months, a total of **16** members were accepted as MASM by National Council and Executive Committee.

❖ **National Examinations Board**

Chairperson Professor Peter Coloe  
Registrar Associate Professor Margaret Deighton  
Professor Peter Timms  
Dr Gary Lum  
Professor Richard Strugnell  
Associate Professor Sylvia Kirov  
Professor Linda Blackall  
Dr Paul Young

The National Examinations Board assesses all applications for Fellowship of the Society to determine whether Fellowship is to be gained by examination of the applicant's significant contribution to microbiology or by examination in a specialty area of microbiology. Following examination the NEB reports outcomes to Council with a recommendation.

The Board meets 4 times via teleconference during the financial year and of the Society's members 1 was accepted as FASM by the Executive Committee.

❖ **Workforce Standing Committee**

Chairperson Adj Associate Professor Silvano Palladino  
Professor Hatch Stokes  
Dr John Merlino  
Dr Stephen Graves  
Mr Rod Bowman  
Dr Peter Robertson  
Mr Mark Hanlon  
Dr Tuckweng Kok  
Mr Anthony Jennings  
Mr Paul Southwell

The ASM Workforce Standing Committee (WSC) was established at the ASM Extraordinary General Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 during the ASM's Annual Scientific Meeting in Perth. The purpose of the WSC is to consider and provide advice on emerging issues relating to legislation, accreditation, professional development and workforce planning for microbiologists.

The WSC plans to meet 4 times per year. Members of the WSC, John Merlino, Peter Robertson and Silvano Palladino represent The ASM on the Pathology Associations Council (PAC) and Pathology Associations Council Workforce Subcommittee.

The WSC on behalf of The ASM has coordinated and provided submissions to the PAC on the following:

- Competency Based Standards for Australian Medical Scientists – review of original 1993 documents (finalised)
- Scope of Practice of the Scientific Workforce of the Pathology Laboratory (in draft)
- PAC Open Letter to Medical Scientists (finalised)
- PAC Open Letter to Unions (in draft)

The latter two documents are intended as communiqués to Medical Scientists and their industrial representatives on the many activities the PAC is progressing. The ASM is a founding member of the PAC and the activities of the PAC impact significantly on many ASM Members.

❖ **Research Trust Committee**

Chairperson Associate Professor Elizabeth Harry  
Dr Charlene Kahler  
Professor Linda Blackall  
Associate Professor Sylvia Kirov  
Associate Professor Gilda Tachedjian  
Associate Professor Jon Iredell  
Associate Professor Elizabeth Dax

❖ **Editorial Board**

Chairperson Dr Chris Burke  
President Professor Hatch Stokes  
MA Editors Professor Ian Macreadie, Mrs Jo Macreadie & Mrs Hayley Macreadie  
Professor Linda Blackall  
Dr Ailsa Hocking  
Professor William Rawlinson  
Associate Professor David Ellis  
Dr David Smith  
Dr Gary Lum  
Dr Geoff Hogg  
Ms Helen Smith  
Dr Ipek Kurtboke  
Dr Lindsay Sly  
Professor Mary Barton  
Professor Peter Coloe  
Dr Paul Young  
Dr Paul Selleck  
Associate Professor Ruth Foxwell

Microbiology Australia continues to be one of the major benefits of membership. The Board meets via teleconference 3 times during the year and once every year at the Annual Scientific Meeting.

❖ **Biosafety & Biosecurity Committee**

Chairperson Dr Paul Taylor  
Mr Lee Smythe  
Dr John Andrew  
Dr Peter Hallsworth  
Professor Lindsay Sly  
Ms Carolyn Woodruff  
Ms Sandra Thomas  
Ms Marie Gerrard  
Ms Cheryl Worsley

❖ **Clinical Microbiology Committee**

Chairperson Dr Stephen Graves  
Dr Alistair McGregor  
Dr John Andrew  
Professor Hatch Stokes  
Mr Geoffrey Coombs  
Dr Geoff Hogg  
Dr Jenny Robson  
Dr John Merlino  
Dr Peter Ward  
Dr Maria Yates

### 3. Annual Scientific Meeting

The 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society will be held at the Darling Harbour Conference & Exhibition Centre, Sydney, New South Wales from Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July to Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2010

### 4. Membership

Membership of the Society as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 was **2240** comprising of:

Associates	820
Members - MASM	889
Senior Associates	5
Fellows – FASM	83
Students	324
Retired Members	71
Sustaining Members	14
Library	8
Honorary Members	26

## 5. Awards

### Millis – Colwell Travel Grant for Early Career Scientists

Chairperson Associate Professor Elizabeth Harry  
Dr Charlene Kahler  
Professor Linda Blackall  
Associate Professor Sylvia Kirov  
Associate Professor Gilda Tachedjian  
Associate Professor Jon Iredell  
Associate Professor Elizabeth Dax

This is an Award negotiated between the American and Australian Societies for Microbiology that allows for the reciprocal exchange of one student members each year to attend and present at the National Conference of the other Society and to visit a laboratory of a researcher in that country.

The Australian recipient of the Millis – Colwell Travel Grant is Jackie Mahar, a PhD Student, Enteric Virus Group, Murdoch Children's Research Institute. Jackie will make a presentation at the 110<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the ASM (USA) to be held in San Diego on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010. Jackie will be visiting the Norovirus Gastroenteritis Unit, LID-NIAID, National Institutes of Health and is located at National Institutes of Health, 50 South Drive, BLD 50, Bethesda, MD, 20892. Jackie's hosts are Dr Kim Green and Dr Karin Bok.

The American recipient of the Millis – Colwell Grant for Early Career Scientists is Dr Eileen Dunne, Murdoch Children's Research Institute & Boston University.

### Burnet – Hayes Travel Award

Chairperson Associate Professor Elizabeth Harry  
Dr Charlene Kahler  
Professor Linda Blackall  
Associate Professor Sylvia Kirov  
Associate Professor Gilda Tachedjian  
Associate Professor Jon Iredell  
Associate Professor Elizabeth Dax

This is an award that has been negotiated between the Society for General Microbiology in the United Kingdom (SGM) and the Australian Society for Microbiology that allows for the reciprocal exchange of one student members each year to visit the National Conference of the other Society and to visit the laboratory of a researcher in that country.

The Australian recipient of the Burnet – Hayes Travel Grant is Jeff Butler, a PhD Student, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne.

Jeff will make a presentation at the National Meeting of the SGM to be held in Edinburgh on 29<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. Jeff will also be visiting the Pirbright Laboratory of the Institute for Animal Health, Surrey. Jeff's host is Dr Michael Johnson, Head of Laboratory.

The British recipient of the Millis - Colwell Travel Grant is Amanda Rossiter, a PhD Student from the University of Birmingham.