

Report from the ASM Antimicrobial Special Interest Group (ASIG)



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of ASIG*

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The ASM Antimicrobial Special Interest Group (ASIG) is made up of colleagues and ASM members you have an interest in antimicrobials. Members of the ASIG committee include medical, veterinary, CDS Users, mycology and parasitology consultants. The Antimicrobial SIG is one of the largest Special Interest Groups in the ASM. In 2012 we had over 923 ASIG members. In 2013 we had 721 members listed under ASIG. Some of our members have retired. Numbers are yet to be finalised in 2014.

In 2014 ASM ASIG members were actively involved with local and national ASM Branch meetings in various states – this is usual in the form of communication and newsletters. Committee actively communicates via emails and website www.asig.org.au on emerging issues – methodology on susceptibility testing and standards on antimicrobials and antimicrobial resistance. Members of the committee actively take part in planning workshops titles and speakers, e.g. Annual Scientific ASM Meetings – this has been the focus for many years. Discussions on antimicrobial issues take place at these meetings.

In Melbourne in 2014, the Antimicrobial Special Interest Group Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance focused on MALDI-TOF and Susceptibility Testing with both CLSI and EUCAST methodology. This was a DRY Workshop with practical slide demonstrations with discussions and a QUIZ with equipment such as buzzers provide via the RCPA. Speakers' presentations are available on (powerpoint in PDF) on the ASIG website www.asig.org.au, <http://asig.org.au/australian-society-for-microbiology-asm-2014-annual-scientific-meeting-melbourne-australia-workshop-presentations/>.

The BioMerieux Identifying Resistance Award in 2014 went to A/Prof Denis Spelman for his long continued support for antimicrobials and infectious control practices; this was presented in Melbourne annual scientific meeting.

ASIG became affiliated with the International Society of Chemotherapy (ISC) after a formal invitation. Some of our members who specialise in specific antimicrobial areas have been invited and taken part in symposiums and other events at their own costs. Members of ASIG committee actively communicate with other local and international antimicrobial groups on emerging issues in antimicrobial resistance for example with the MRSA International Committee. This remains ongoing in 2014–15. ASIG Members have also been involved in European Congress Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) meetings overseas – expenses met by their own trust fund not ASM. Members have been invited and involved in writing articles on antimicrobials for Microbiology Australia and overseas journals. When requested ASIG members who specialise in specific areas of antimicrobials interests review articles for local and international journals.

The ASIG convenor/committee and members communicates with Division 1 Chairs, informally inviting overseas speakers in organising symposiums and workshops at ASM Annual Scientific Meetings. ASIG continues to review submissions and comments from other Medical and Antimicrobial Groups in regards to antimicrobial issues, e.g. Royal College of Pathologists Australasia Advisory Committee, AIMS, NATA, NPAAC, with the ASM Clinical Standing Committee when required. ASIG continues support of teaching and research activities where possible by seeking speakers for events. ASIG promotes the advancement of ASM SIG antimicrobials by presenting lectures/visits to Universities and Colleges nationally and internationally as required.

ASIG is involved with the Continuing Education Program, involved with the AIMS APACE Official Certificate of Attendance is given out at all ASIG workshops at National meetings. These certificates are important for professional developments and career advancements in industry. As the convenor I thank all our members and sponsors for their continued support.