

Microbiology Australia: **have your say**



How is *Microbiology Australia* meeting your interests? We would love to know.

We have worked with the Editorial Board for 3 years now trying to present you with issues that are of relevance, even though they may sometimes fall outside your area of immediate interest. In this way, ASM's

microbiologists can be kept up to date with the breadth of microbiological developments. Some of these issues are relevant beyond our society and so the issues are now also made available to journalists and science writers. In some cases, journalists have worked with our contributors and built major feature articles.

We are often asked how themes for issues are decided upon. The Editorial Board makes these decisions about a year in advance in response to what we think the ASM membership wants to hear. Your input is highly valued! Another key factor is whether there will be Guest Editors and sufficient contributors to provide material for an issue. Guest Editors are key people in their field and have strong connections or knowledge with their field. They are able to pull together a cross section of contributions that provide a comprehensive overview of an area. This can be a very daunting task and sometimes there are difficulties about what can be said on more contentious issues. Issues coming up soon include water, climate change and indigenous health.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributes to MA. The list includes the Editorial Board, Guest Editors, contributing authors, reviewers, the National Office, advertisers, and our publishers Cambridge Media who always do a great job in working with us to meet all our requests. In the last issue, an excellent issue on *Staphylococcus aureus*, we were able to move deadlines forward and complete the print run of 3400 to get copies to Cairns so all registrants at the *13th International Symposium on Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Infections* meeting received a copy. In the issue before, on biosecurity and biosafety for microbiology, new rules for microbiology were enunciated. These have a significant impact on many in the ASM.

We took a special personal interest in the current issue because we were blessed with two new grandchildren in the past few months and one contracted respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) at just 4 weeks of age. This required hospitalisation to control the symptoms and was obviously of concern. We are certainly glad of the modern techniques to enable the diagnosis and to provide care but obviously there are needs for research into therapeutics to prevent or control diseases such as RSV and other children's diseases.

Finally, as this is our last issue for the year, we want to wish you well for the forthcoming holiday season and New Year.

Ian and Johann Macreadie

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