

National Scientific Advisory Committee (NSAC) Divisional Chairs 2011 Call for expressions of interest

Expressions of interest are requested for the following positions on the National Scientific Advisory Committee (NSAC).

- **Division 1 Chair (2011)**
Medical and Veterinary Microbiology
- **Division 2 Chair (2011)**
Virology
- **Division 3 Chair (2011)**
General, Applied and Environmental Microbiology
- **Division 4 Chair (2011)**
Microbial Genetics, Physiology and Pathogenesis

The successful appointees will have the opportunity to serve a 3 year term of office, concluding at the end of the 2011 Annual Scientific Meeting, which will be held in Hobart.

The primary responsibilities of the Division Chairs will be to:

- Organise the symposium component of the 2011 Annual Scientific Meeting.
- Provide input and advice to the organisers of the 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting.
- Provide scientific advice to the society as a member of NSAC.

It is envisaged that the divisional representatives will be researchers and scientists with enthusiasm, good organisational and communication skills, and broad knowledge and an excellent or developing reputation in the divisional field.

Fellows, Members, Senior Associate or Associate Members interested in serving in these exciting and challenging new honorary positions should submit a brief curriculum vitae (no more than two pages), together with an appropriate covering letter to:

Associate Professor Liz Harry (Vice-President, Scientific Affairs)
by email to the National Office michelle@theasm.com.au
by 21 December 2008.

ASM Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award recognises outstanding service of, or contributions by, individuals or organisations to the Society.

Procedure for nomination

Individual ASM Members or Fellows, Committees or Branches may nominate individual ASM members or organisations for a Distinguished Service Award. Nominations should be sent to the National Office Manager, Michelle Jackson (michelle@theasm.com.au).

A person or organisation shall not be considered for a Distinguished Service Award unless the National Office has received from the proposers:

- a nomination for Distinguished Service Award signed by the proposer and a seconder, each of whom shall be a Member or Fellow of the Society; and
- a statement summarising the nominee's major contribution to the Society.

Assessment and award

The Executive Committee will review the nominations received and place those considered acceptable and of sufficient merit in priority order. The Executive Committee will present a summary report on nominations received and the names of up to 10 recommended awardees to National Council. No more than 10 Distinguished Service Awards shall be awarded in any one year. Distinguished Service Awards will be announced at the next Annual General Meeting and the ASM National Conference.

Closing date for nominations: 30 November of any year.

Acknowledgement: An acknowledgement will be emailed within 5 business days of receiving your application. If this has not been received, please contact Michelle Jackson at the ASM National Office on (03) 9867 8699.

New ASM Life Member, Ruth Bishop AO

Ruth Bishop is a graduate in microbiology from the University of Melbourne. Her long-term research career, based at the Department of Gastroenterology at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, and later at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Melbourne, focused initially on qualitative and quantitative studies of gut flora, in particular of the small intestine in children with a variety of malabsorptive diseases including coeliac disease, cystic fibrosis, sugar malabsorption and short-gut syndrome.

In 1971 she combined with paediatricians Rudge Townley and Graeme Barnes in research aimed at understanding the pathophysiology of severe acute gastroenteritis in young children. This research showed that the duodenum of these children was acutely inflamed, indicating the presence of an 'unknown' infectious agent. In 1973 she led a team, including paediatrician Geoff Davidson, electron microscopist Brian Ruck and virologist Ian Holmes, that discovered a 'new' virus (now called rotavirus) in duodenal tissue and faeces from children admitted to hospital with severe dehydrating gastroenteritis.

Ruth has subsequently pursued the goal of preventing this serious infection that still kills more than half a million children each year worldwide. Careful immunological, epidemiological and virological studies within Australia, and globally via her role in chairing several WHO Committees and as Director of a

WHO Collaborating Laboratory, have influenced international development of rotavirus vaccines. It is a tremendous local outcome of the worldwide program that oral rotavirus vaccines were introduced into the routine immunisation schedule for all Australian children from July 2007. The Group continues to develop a cheap, affordable Australian candidate rotavirus vaccine aimed at use in developing countries.

Ruth has been the recipient of many awards including the University of Melbourne Selwyn-Smith Prize for Clinical Research (1978), The Clunies Ross National Science and Technology Award (1998), The Children's Vaccine Initiative Award (Geneva, 1998) Royal Children's Hospital Gold Medal (1994), and Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (2008). Ruth was made a Life Member of the Australian Society for Microbiology in July 2008.

Ruth Bishop AO, DSc, PhD

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Obituaries

Graeme Laver

ASM member Dr Graeme Laver has died in London at the age of 79. Graeme's research on the influenza virus spanned a period of more than 30 years. His work at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU, helped develop the anti-flu drug Relenza. In 1996, Graeme was awarded the Australia Prize for excellence in the field of pharmaceutical design. Graeme was very much a public figure and his lectures at ASM meetings often attracted media attention. His last contribution to *Microbiology Australia* was in the special influenza (November 2006) issue. This contribution was another interesting perspective on the origins of pandemic influenza.

Milton RJ Salton, FRS

Milton Salton received his BAgSci degree in 1945 from the University of Sydney. In 1948, Salton was awarded a CSIRO fellowship for postgraduate study at Cambridge, receiving a PhD in 1951 and subsequently a ScD. At Cambridge he began his pioneering studies that led to the discovery of the bacterial cell wall. He continued these investigations during postdoctoral studies at the University of California. In 1956, Salton was appointed as a Reader of Chemical Bacteriology at the University of Manchester. In 1961 he returned to the University of New

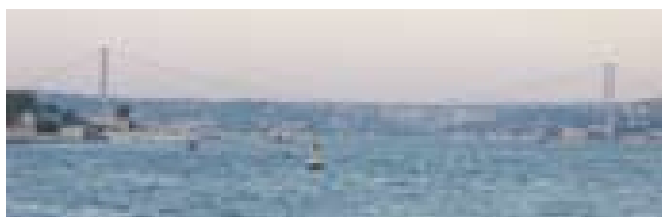
South Wales as the Foundation Professor of Microbiology. In 1964, he was recruited by Severo Ochoa, NL to head the Microbiology Department at New York University School of Medicine. He remained there for over 25 years as Professor and Chairman until his retirement in 1991.

Many of Salton's seminal papers on the bacterial cell wall were published in the 1950s and early 1960s. In a paper published in *Nature* in 1952, Salton showed that the cell wall is the substrate for lysozyme action in *Micrococcus lysodeicticus*, and between 1951 and 1961 he published a series of eight papers with the common title *Studies of the bacterial cell wall*. These and other publications helped to explain why bacteria either do or don't take up the Gram stain and also laid the basis for the understanding of the mechanism of action of penicillin on bacterial cell wall synthesis. His later work at NYU focused on both the physical and biochemical elucidation of the unique macromolecular structure of the bacterial cell wall and the multiple functions it served.

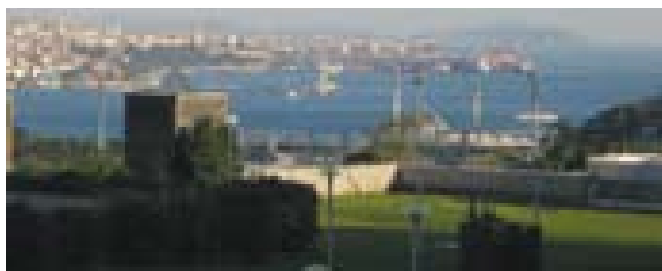
The above was extracted from an article written by Joel D Oppenheim and Jan Vilcek (New York University School of Medicine, New York), and published in the American Society for Microbiology's Microbe Magazine.

IUMS 2008

Microbiologists met where East meets West – Istanbul, Turkey



Bosphorus Bridge



View of Golden-Horn from the Congress Centre.

Meetings of the three divisions of the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS) – hosted by the Turkish Microbiological Society, the Society for Microbial Ecology and the Society of Chemotherapy – took place in Istanbul, Turkey in August. The meeting started with the XII International Congress of Bacteriology and Applied Microbiology and the XII International Congress of Mycology (5-9 August 2008) and was followed by the XIV International Congress of Virology (10-15 August 2008). Prof. Michael Hecker (Germany), Prof. Mariana Viviani (Italy) and Prof. Robert Lamb (USA) chaired the programmes for the bacteriology, mycology and virology divisions respectively. Australia was represented in the international advisory boards for all of the three divisions of the IUMS.

Current IUMS President Prof. Karl-Heinz Schleifer (Germany) and Chairman of the Turkish National Organising Committee Prof. Özdem Ang welcomed the participants at the opening ceremony while the screen was filled with beautiful views of Istanbul and Turkish folk dancers performed on the stage.

Australia was represented in significant numbers of participants chairing symposia or delivering oral and poster presentations. Prof. Hatch Stokes represented the ASM and Prof. David Ellis attended the Mycology Division Committee meetings which took place throughout the conference. Current Chair of the IUMS mycology division Prof. Graham Fleet (UNSW) chaired the *Food mycology* symposium and Prof. Barbara Howlett (University of Melbourne) gave the keynote lecture on *Mechanisms of fungal pathogenesis in plants and animals*. The symposium *Interactions in the microbial world* was chaired by Prof. Steffan Kjelleberg (UNSW), and Dr Ipek Kurtböke (USC) chaired the *Actinobacteria: an unexhausted source for biodiscovery*,

biotechnology and biobusiness symposium. Invited speakers Dr Stuart Cordwell (University of Sydney) and Dr Wieland Meyer (Westmead Hospital, Sydney) talked on the *Comparative surface proteomics and glycoproteomics of virulent Campylobacter jejuni* and *MLST typing in Cryptococcus neoformans species* respectively. At the virology congress, fascinating developments in viral genomes and bioinformatics as well as emerging viral pathogens were covered; Dr TuckWeng was the representative from Australia.

All three Congresses captured recent advances ranging from metabolic engineering, functional genomics/pathogenomics, physiological proteomics, and systems microbiology to biotechnology and applied microbiology expanding towards bioenergy. They also covered the evolving global landscape to biosafety and pathogen security practices as well as the emerging pathogens. Other highlights included *Antibiotics and pathogenicity*, chaired by Prof. Julian Davies (Canada) and *Bergey plenary session: taxonomy of prokaryotes*, chaired by Prof. James Staley (USA) and Prof. Karl-Heinz Schleifer (Germany). In the symposium organised by the World Federation of Culture Collections, *Facing the transition from culture collections to biological resource centre* was discussed. Current international progress included in that symposium again provided impetus for us to provide support towards formal recognition of the Australian Microbial Resources Research Network. On a personal note, I was delighted to greet my Australian colleagues in beautiful Istanbul where I grew up.

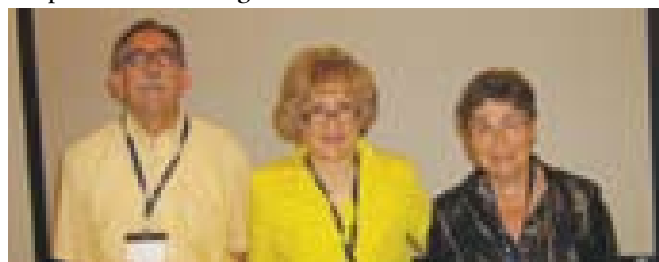
Full details of the Congress programme and names of the Australian participants can be viewed at <http://www.iums2008.org/>. The next IUMS will be in Sapporo, Japan in 2011.

Ipek Kurtböke

University of the Sunshine Coast, QLD



Ipek Kurtböke, David Ellis & Hatch Stokes sailing on the Bosphorus at the congress dinner.



Prof. J. Martin and Prof. P. Liras of Spain with Ipek Kurtböke at the *Actinobacteria* symposium.

2008-2010 meetings

Contributions listing relevant meetings are welcome. Please send to: editor@theasm.com.au

2008

12 November 2008

Food Science Australia, Brisbane QLD

Food Microbiology Seminar Series:

Tales from the Green Book

Gary Grohman (Enviro Path) on Ch.22 – Viruses

Sofroni Eglezos, Series Coordinator & ASM Food Micro SIG

Tel (07) 3848 3622

Email sofroni@eml.com.au

4-7 December 2008

Fosban, China

**2nd Annual World Congress of Gene-2008 (WCG 2008):
Decoding Life for Human Health**

The tradition of the conference dates back to 3 years ago in Dalian, China, which brought together five Noble Prize Laureates and more than 3000 participants to celebrate the discovery of the double helix.

www.bitlifesciences.com/wcg2008

2009 – Golden Jubilee Year

22-25 February 2009

Baltimore, MD, USA

7th ASM Biodefense and Emerging Diseases Research Meeting

25-28 March 2009

Cypress Lakes Resort, Hunter Valley NSW

**ASID 2009 – Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases
(ASID) Annual Scientific Meeting**

www.asid.net.au

30 March – 2 April 2009

Harrogate International Centre, UK

SGM 164th Meeting

7-9 May 2009

**The Carrington Hotel, Katoomba,
Blue Mountains, NSW**

Viruses in May

Australia's only meeting focused specifically on the clinical, diagnostic & management aspects of viral infections.

Programme themes:

- Principles of clinical virology
- Congenital infection
- Paediatric infection & vaccination
- Blood borne viruses
- Hepatitis

Convenors: Professor Bill Rawlinson & Dr Monica Lahra

Conference Management: Australian Society for Microbiology

Contact: Meg Lukies, Event Coordinator

www.virusesinmay.com

10-13 May 2009

Buenos Aires, Argentina

**VTEC 2009 – 7th International Symposium on Shiga Toxin
(Verocytotoxin) – Producing *Escherichia coli* Infections**

www.vtec2009.com.ar

17-21 May 2009

Philadelphia, PA, USA

109th General Meeting of American Society for Microbiology

www.asm.org

21-25 June 2009

Hamilton Island QLD Australia

**10th International Symposium on
Double-Stranded RNA Viruses**

Coordinators: Barbara Coulson & John Taylor

www.dsRNA2009.org

28 June – 2 July 2009

Goteborg, Sweden

**FEMS 2009 – Third Congress of European Microbiologists:
Microbes and Man – Interdependence and Future Challenges**

www2.kenes.com/fems-microbiology/Pages/home.aspx

6-10 July 2009

Perth Convention Centre, Perth WA

ASM 2009 Perth – Annual Scientific Meeting & Exhibition

Australia's largest microbiology event for 2009 celebrating ASM's 50th Golden Jubilee Year.

Chair, Local Organising Committee: Rod Bowman

Chair, Scientific Programme Committee: Harry Sakellaris

Conference Management: Australian Society for Microbiology

Contact: Janette Sofronidis, Conference Manager

29-31 October 2009

Hamilton Island, QLD

Mycology MasterClass IV

**[1 November 2009 – Additional MasterClass Workshop for
laboratory staff]**

Convenor: Associate Professor David Ellis

Conference Management: Australian Society for Microbiology

Contact: Janette Sofronidis, Conference Manager

2010

28 June – 1 July 2010

**Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre,
Melbourne VIC**

**11th International Symposium on the Genetics of Industrial
Microorganisms**

Chair: Ian Macreadie

www.gim2010.org

4-8 July 2010

Darling Harbour Convention Centre, Sydney NSW

ASM 2010 Sydney

Australian Society for Microbiology Incorporated

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