

## Veterinary Microbiology special interest group

Ala Mohan

The Veterinary Microbiology special interest group (SIG) recently organised a seminar series focusing on zoonotic pathogens.

Prof. Suresh V. Kuchupudi from the Penn State University gave a lecture on SARS-CoV2 in white-tailed deer in USA.

Prof. S. S. Vasan, Director of Health, WA spoke on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia, under the zoonotic diseases umbrella.

Dr Samuel Phillips, research fellow at The Centre for Bioinnovation, University of the Sunshine Coast, and Honorary Fellow at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (Infection and Immunity) and the Royal Women's Hospital (Centre for Women's Infectious Diseases) gave a presentation on the chlamydia vaccine for koalas and discussed their research.

Prof. Ruth Zadoks, Sydney School of Veterinary Science, spoke on strep B and mastitis in dairy cattle.

Nagendra Singanallur, Senior Research Scientist with the CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness in Geelong, Australia, gave a lecture on systems approaches in studying host–pathogen interactions.

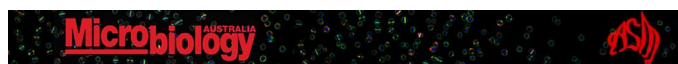
Our SIG also aims to cover antimicrobial resistance (AMR), the silent pandemic and zoonoses in the coming sessions in December 2023. We are finalising the speakers at the moment. We aim to continue to bring speakers from the field of food safety, and wastewater and AMR in the coming year's SIG seminars.

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## Mycobacterium special interest group

Maria Globan

The Mycobacteria special interest group (MSIG) is a special interest group within the ASM community that serves to provide a forum for those members that have a particular interest in mycobacteria. The group attracts not only members that are employed within specialised state mycobacterial reference laboratories but also scientists who perform mycobacterial culture and microscopy within non-reference laboratories.

The MSIG hosts an annual 2-day meeting that is strategically held on or near World Tuberculosis (TB) Day, which is

24 March. The meeting location rotates through each Australian state, where it is hosted by each state reference laboratory, who also set the program. This has expanded to include the National Mycobacterium Reference Laboratory in Auckland, New Zealand, where the 2024 meeting is scheduled for 21–22 March. This meeting attracts a varied audience including diagnostic and research scientists, medical microbiologists and clinicians. Invitees are those who have registered with the MSIG convenor as a member or by word of mouth.

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