



ASM SA Branch Newsletter

April 2011

Upcoming events.

May 3rd

News From The Hospitals

Hackney Hotel

Late July or Early August

SA Branch AGM

Sept 30th to Oct 1st

ASM Tri-State Meeting , Alice Springs.

Behind the microscope.

SA Branch Chair, Chris Ossowicz

Welcome once again to our first newsletter this year and a special welcome to any new members to our society, you know who you are! 2011 is shaping up to be a busy year for the state branch kicking off in April with our annual 'News From the Hospitals' night followed by our AGM in June. At the beginning of July is the National Conference in Hobart, better get your woollies ready for that one if you are going! At the end of September is the Tri-State meeting in Alice Springs which is in the early stages of being planned as I speak. October heralds our Virology night and November is the student awards night. Phew! That should do it for one year, I'm exhausted just thinking about it all. Apart from that the branch needs to form a local organising committee for the National Conference being held in Adelaide in 2013. This must be completed by June end, giving us just two years to be ready. I have already sent out a call for volunteers but I again ask for the help of members toward this task. Adelaide last hosted the National Conference in 2007 and it was a resounding success as most Adelaide events are. Our challenge is to equal and surpass our last effort but we cannot do this without your help. So please consider nominating for the LOC and let me know before the end of June of your intention.

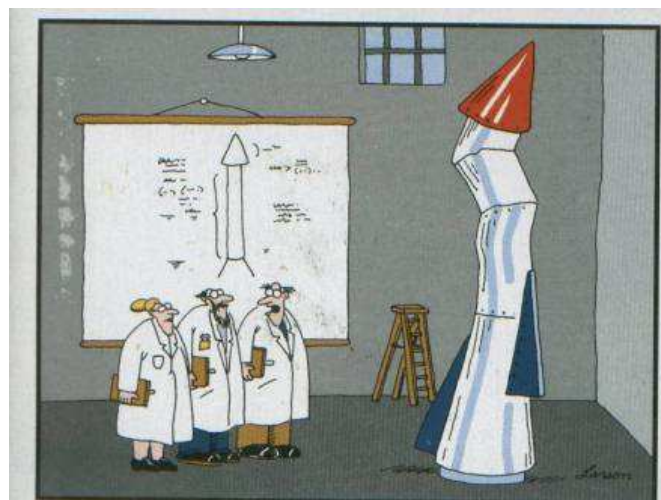
That about wraps it up from me. Look out for more information on the events planned this year, dates and venues etc will be posted as they arise.

Your Chair

Chris Ossowicz

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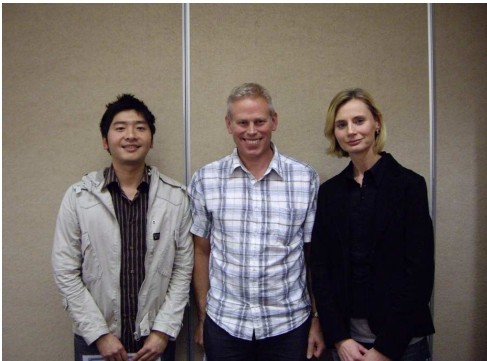
"It's time we face reality, my friends. ... We're not exactly rocket scientists."

BD Student Awards Night 2010

Student Award Night

The Student Awards Night was held on the 16th November 2010 at the Women's & Children's Hospital. Six excellent presentations were heard by a crowded room of interested parties. The quality again was outstanding, so much so that it took the judges quite some time to deliberate the winners. The main BD Award was won by Sylvia Baltzer from Flinders Uni for her presentation entitled 'Confirming topology and functional characterisation of the small multidrug transporter QacC'. The SA branch award was won by Chee Quin Teoh from Adelaide Uni for his presentation entitled 'Entecavir treatment combined with DNA vaccine and recombinant fowl pox virus "prime boost" vaccination for Hepatitis B virus infection'. Congratulations again go to the two winners for a superb effort. The evening was completed with pizza and the prize ceremony, ending once again a successful evening. We look forward to seeing you all next year.

Chris Ossowicz.



From the BD student award winner 2009

I was born in The Netherlands where I also obtained a Bachelor's degree in Medical Microbiology and a Master's degree in Molecular Biology. My final internship as part of the Master's degree took place at the Ludwig Institute in Melbourne. Although my main interest has always been microbiology, it allowed me to familiarise myself with the English language and live in a different and interesting country. I contacted Assoc. Prof Melissa Brown towards the end of the project and expressed my interest in doing a PhD in her lab to study multidrug resistance in the Gram-negative pathogen *Acinetobacter baumannii*. Obtaining an International Postgraduate Research scholarship from the School of Biological Sciences at Flinders University gave me the opportunity to start my PhD in Melissa's lab. Now towards the end of my PhD, I have extended my interest from multidrug resistance to various other important factors that contribute to the success of *A. baumannii* as a nosocomial pathogen. I presented my findings on the *A. baumannii* iron acquisition mechanisms during the BD student award night in November 2009. It was the second time that I participated, therefore winning the BD award was fantastic. It is a nice form of recognition for all the hard work you put in as a PhD student. Winning this award gives you the opportunity to present your work during a plenary session at the following ASM meeting in the main auditorium. In my case it was last year's ASM meeting in Sydney. Representing the lab and South Australia was very exciting, especially during the remainder of the meeting when other microbiologists recognise you and show their interest in your work. Speaking to senior scientists about your work at a conference is often difficult, however, winning the BD award appears to have opened those doors. Finally, I would like to thank the South Australian branch of the ASM and BD for organising these award nights and financially supporting the winner to travel to the following ASM meeting.

Bart Eijkelkamp



ASM Committee Member Profile— Christopher Ossowicz.

Where do you currently work?

Flinders Medical Centre.

How long have you worked in microbiology?

From 1980-1991 Veterinary Microbiology and 1995 to present Medical Microbiology. So 26 years all up.

How long have you been an ASM member?

Approximately 7 years.

When did you join the committee?

In 2007.

What made you join the ASM?

I joined because I felt I needed to better contribute to the professional development of the field of microbiology.

What benefits do you believe there is to being an ASM member?

Initially the ASM gave me opportunities to broaden my knowledge of microbiology and network with other people in the field. Since joining the committee and becoming treasurer/chairperson, I have acquired new skills which have helped me personally and professionally. Certain things that I have been required to do have taken me way out of my comfort zone allowing me to grow as an individual. This has been a very rewarding and insightful experience, one that I would recommend others to follow. For young people, joining the ASM shows that you have a real interest in microbiology, which can be beneficial from a career perspective. Also, being a member of a recognized professional body may give an individual an edge over another job applicant.

What event has been most memorable for you since joining the ASM?

The ASM national conference in 2008 was a real highlight for me. The functions were fantastic, and the scientific content was of extremely high quality. An all round worthwhile experience.

What are some of the things your looking forward to in the future with regards to the ASM?

I'm very much looking forward to the national conference in Adelaide in 2013 and playing a significant role in organizing that event. I really hope in the coming years we can maintain the high quality of our meetings and increase our already strong South Australian membership base.

ASM SA Branch committee 2011

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SA ASM Website

The SA ASM website is undergoing a process of redesign, any ideas or suggestions would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to email me at ryan.taylor2@health.sa.gov.au.

Newsletter Contributions

Contributions to the newsletter are gratefully received. Please email to ryan.taylor2@health.sa.gov.au

Suggestions include upcoming meetings of interest, conference and meeting reports, interesting case studies or isolates, photographs, quizzes, crosswords or other puzzles or any other appropriate material that the members would enjoy reading.