

Australasian Virology Society

AVS- building virology connections

2022 Annual General Meeting.

Date and time: Thursday December 8th 2022, 12.15pm Australian EDT.
Place: JW Marriott Hotel, Gold Coast, Queensland.

Draft minutes.

1. Present and apologies.

1.1 Present.

Gilda Tachedjian, Emma Harding, Jill Carr, Omid Fakhri, Stephanie Waller, Bennett Hengeler, Johnson Mak, Julio Carrera, Joshua Deerain, Paulina Koszalka, Fasseli Coulibaly, Glenn Marsh, Svenja Fritzlär, Alice Trennery, Turgut Esad Aktepe, Andy Pombiouros, Felicia Schlotthauer, Brianna Jesaveluk, Monica Miranda-Saksena, Allison Abendroth, Lok Bahadur Shrestha, Jackie Mahar, Mary Patrone, Rhys Parry, Thomas Tu, Michael Beard, Damian Purcell, Penny Rudd, Grant Logan, Tony Cunningham, Ina Smith, Andreii Slonchak, Peter White, Paul Young, Jason Mackenzie, Sarah Londrigan, Karla Helbig, Johanna Fraser, Greg Moseley, David Harrich, Alexandra Spencer, Nathan Bartlett, Sassan Asgari, Karyn Johnson, Zahra Telikani, Ebony Monson, Jacinta Agius, Jay Laws, Robson Krieger Loterio, Nick Eyre, Stephanie Lynch, Sevim Mese, Matthew Gartner, Justin Roby, Ajani Athukorala, Connor Scott, Natalee Newton, Paula Ellenberg, Rowena Bull, Barry Slobedman, Paola Vaz, Patrick Reading, Robin MacDiarmid, Kirsten Spann, Caolingzhi Tang,

Via Zoom: David Tucharke, Daniel Rawle, Timothy Mahony.

1.2 Apologies.

Vernon Ward, Kirsty Short, Helle Bielefeldt-Ohmann, Natalie Prow, Natalie Netzler, Marilyn Hibma.

2. Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting (Dec. 7th 2021).

Actions arising out of the minutes: none.

It was proposed that the minutes be accepted. Proposer: G Tachedjian, seconder: S. Londrigan. Passed.

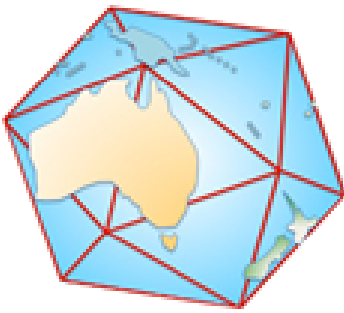
3. President's report. HD presented this.

AVS11 – We sincerely thank Lara Herrero and the entire local organizing committee:

Lara Herrero (Convenor), Paul Young, Nigel McMillan, Peter Speck, Karla Helbig, Sarah Londrigan, Rowena Bull, Kirsty Short, Marilyn Hibma, Xiang Liu, Helene Stewart (LA).

for organization of the most successful AVS meetings on record.

She thanked the Committee of Management, in particular Emma Harding, the first student to serve on the CoM. Mentioned students can provide suggestions via website. Thanks to LA and Helene.



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She spoke to the AVS's **recent achievements:**

- ▶ AVS continues to build on its reputation as a recognised entity representing virologists – approached to provide letters of support and consultation on matters of National importance
- ▶ The Committee of Management reviewed its current PCO arrangements and asked both Leishman's Associates and ASN events to bid for business for 2023-2024. Both were re-interviewed and the CoM voted to change PCO to ASN events.
- ▶ The Australasian Society for Virology would like to sincerely thank LA for their service through a difficult period and their organization of both the NZ and Gold Coast meetings.
- ▶ Associated with this change is a brand refresh. Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry into the logo competition. The winner will be announced at the awards session. Please vote for your favourite entry.

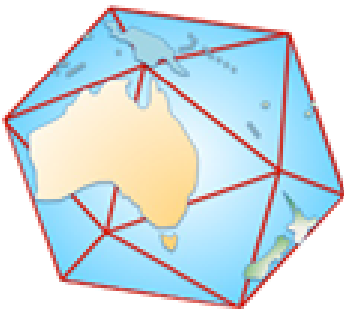
Spoke to journal relationships with journals.

- ▶ AVS has three affiliated journals for which members can receive discounts
 - ▶ J Gen Virology (20% discount)
 - ▶ Retrovirology (15% discount) to be discontinued at request of retrovirology.
 - ▶ Viruses (15% discount) (Under review). Concern has been raised by members and the CoM that the journal is borderline predatory. This has been raised directly with Eric Freed (GT, HD) and there has been no change in practices. Should we consider removing Viruses? Should we consider Virology or other journals?

PY said members don't know what's going on. HD spoke to pressure. RMacD spoke to deadlines for predatory journals. RB spoke to new journal formats. And cost. Too high. J Mak apologises for Retrovirology. HD: will continue to manage this and review.

Advocacy:

- ▶ Advocacy 1– letter of support written for successful grant application for THRIVE (the Training Hub promoting Regional Industry and Innovation in Virology and Epidemiology) hosted by Charles Sturt University and led by Justin Roby and Jade Forwood. \$AUD 3.99 million.
- ▶ Advocacy 2 - letter to Hon Mark Butler to ensure Australasian Virology Society is consulted on formation of new Australian Centre for Disease Control. Jason MacKenzie and Rowena Bull attended consultation day in Hobart 27th November. AVS members were also consulted and comments incorporated into response due 5th December.
- ▶ Advocacy 3- Letter in support of extension of extension to the public health emergency order. The Australasian Virology Society supported the 6 month extension to the public health emergency order to provide sufficient capacity and capability to the COVID-19 workforces.
- ▶ AVS responded to Strengthening pandemic preparedness draft report for CSIRO.
 - ▶ Consulted key opinion leaders
 - ▶ Commented on 7 of the recommendations
- ▶ **Twitter campaign @AusVirologySoc**
 - ▶ Led by Karla Helbig, Gilda Tachedjian, Lara Herrero, Paul Young, Reese Parry
- ▶ Twitter followers have grown to 2,559



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▶ **New Membership Model introduced.**

- ▶ Students can become members for free if supervisors are members, and retired members get discounted membership
- ▶ Ensures long term financial sustainability of society
- ▶ Provides a register of AVS members
- ▶ Members provided with benefits such as access to prizes, journal discounts, discounted registration. Additional flexibility for membership options will be introduced next year.

▶ **Deductible gift recipient status (DGR).**

- ▶ Required a special GM to introduce changes to our constitution.
- ▶ Sincere thanks to our Secretary Peter Speck for organizing and leading this for the AVS. This allows the society to take donations that can be tax deductible. Peter Speck to discuss later how this fund will operate and how funds will be used.

What's planned for 2023:

- ▶ AVS Hour-subcommittee formed to organize National/NZ forum for short presentations by students, EMCRs, & subject matter experts for additional opportunity to present work, network and establish collaborations, and get feedback.
 - ▶ Expressions of interest sought from interested parties who would like to host a hub.
- ▶ **AVS-ASV reciprocal society agreement.** Sincere thanks to Miguel Quinones Mateu for leading this.
 - ▶ The AVS welcome Professor Colin Parrish who is here from the ASV to discuss the arrangement.
 - ▶ Reciprocal travel arrangement for late-stage PhD students to attend respective meetings.
 - ▶ Other ideas welcome.
- ▶ **Formation of a media communication sub-committee.**
 - ▶ Development of policy on how and when to engage with media and who
 - ▶ Promote society

Vale:

Professor Ruth Bishop, Professor Tony Della Porta, Professor Bill Mason, Dr Tony Simmons.

Congratulations: to Professor Peter Revill, awarded an AM.

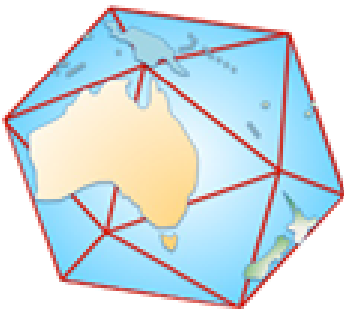
Spoke to new student membership model.

Other as in slides.

Deaths congrats.

VP report thanks HD esp re CDC. And LH. . Peer Hub.

5. Treasurers' report.



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AVS Account:	EOFY \$76,924.87
	(Current: \$74,919.42)
LA Holding account:	\$141,973.20
Deposits paid:	\$110,693.38
Accounts total:	<u>\$327,586.00</u>
Assets total:	<u>\$336,985.26</u>

Details were separately provided to the members.

2023:

- DGR status (thanks Peter)
 - We should explore ways to benefit for this status
- Investment options
 - ~\$50K for 6 months
 - Just exploring potential options

The Treasurer thanked Peter White for his financial contribution to the AVS. The meeting resolved that the Treasurer would explore options for investment of Society funds.

6. Secretary's report.

The AVS now reports to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission, where our records are up to date and financial requirements are met.

Proposal for AVS scholarships:

This arose out of acknowledging the terrible impact of viruses on indigenous Australians:

For example, mortality in First Nations peoples due to smallpox, in the years after First Fleet arrival, has been reported at 50-90%

so there is a need to give something back.

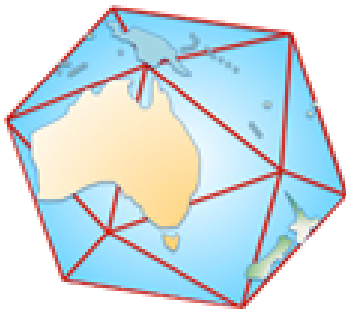
A proposal for scholarships that aim to encourage kids into a career in virology or an allied discipline.

Targeting disadvantaged Australians, such as Indigenous, rural, remote, and female.

In conjunction with a program to mentor scholarship recipients.

Has been developed in discussion with the CoM. The Secretary proposed ways that the AVS could carry out fundraising:

- (i) Corporate sponsorship.
- (ii) Online methods such as crowd-funding.
- (iii) appeals to AVS members.



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(iv) appeals for bequests.

It is proposed that fundraising would take place in every state in Australia, and that the AVS undertake all necessary registration with state authorities. To not disadvantage New Zealand members, an AVS overseas scholarship scheme would also be required. Two new bank accounts would be required: first, the Australasian Virology Society Australian Scholarship Fund, and second, the Australasian Virology Society Overseas Scholarship Fund.

Robyn McDiarmid – similar discussions have occurred within the Australasian plant pathology society. Peter and Robyn to discuss out of session.

Motion: ‘That the AVS continue to work towards developing a scholarship program and the necessary fund-raising and required approval processes as described to support it, and to open bank accounts as described.’

Proposed by Peter Speck, seconded by Heidi Drummer, carried.

Subscriptions. The secretary spoke to the need to pass a resolution around subscriptions at each AGM.

Subscription fees:

(i) Full member:	\$200
(ii) Student member: (supervisor is/is not a full member)	free/\$100
(iii) retiree membership:	\$100
(iv) LMIC researcher membership:	\$100

There is no change to the current fees.

A motion was proposed that the fee structure be accepted. Proposed: P Speck, seconded, J Mackenzie. Passed.

The secretary spoke to the proposals, as circulated, to change the date of the end of the financial year to June 30, so that member’s submission of abstracts and meeting attendance would be in the same financial year; to clarify the position of non-financial members, and to enable the charging of a joining fee.

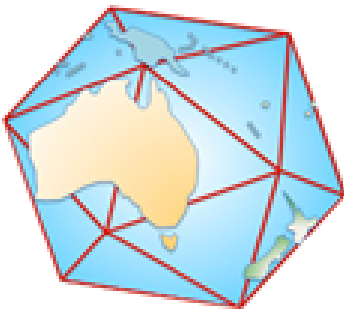
A **Special Resolution** was proposed to:

- (i) change date of end of financial year to June 30.
- (ii) clarify position of non-financial members.
- (iii) enable charging a joining fee.

Proposed Peter Speck; seconded Jason Mackenzie; Motion carried

7. AVS11, 2022 Biennial Scientific Meeting: Meeting Convener, A/Prof Lara Herrero, to report. LH reported. Thanked LOC. Spoke to the awards, with recipients as follows:

Science Bites



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Session One; Leo Lee (Uni Melbourne)

Session Two ; Mikaela Bell (UQ)

Poster sessions

Session One

Erin Harvey (Uni Sydney)

Leo Lee (Uni Melbourne)

Ariel Isaacs (UQ)

Session Two

Henry De Malmanche (UQ)

Wen Shi Lee (Uni Melbourne)

Svenja Fritzlar (Uni Melbourne)

Oral session Winners

Session 1: Animal and Wildlife Viruses; Emma Harding (UNSW)

Session 2: Innate Immunity; Ruby Farrukee (Uni Melbourne)

Session 3: Antivirals and Vaccines; No eligible speakers

Session 4: Virus Structures, Receptors, Assembly and Replication; Morgan Freney (UQ)

Session 5: Viral epidemiology and Diagnostics; Jessica Harrison (UQ)

Session 6: Systems Virology and Viromes; Zahara Telikani (La Trobe)

Session 7: Virus Host Interactions; Daniel Rawle (QIMR)

Session 8: Viral Immunology ; Wuji Zhang (Uni of Melbourne)

Session 9 (a): Antiviral and Vaccines II; Julio Carrera-Montoya (Uni of Melbourne)

Session 9 (b): Viral Immunology II; Isabelle Foo (Uni of Melbourne)

Session 10 (a): Viral host interactions II; Robson Krieger Loterio (Monash University)

Session 10 (b): Innate Immunology II ; Shivam Purohit (Uni of Sydney)

Session 11: Unusual Viruses, Phages and Plant Viruses; Agathe Colmant (Aix-Marseille University)

Session 12: Focus on virology in First Nation communities; Ashely Hirons (Uni of Melbourne)

Session 13: Clinical Virology; Stephanie Lynch (Westmead)

Best Overall Oral; Ruby Farrukee (Uni Melbourne)

AVS11 Rising Star; Ebony Monson (La Trobe)

Travel award winners

Emma Harding (UNSW)

Zahra Telikani (La Trobe)

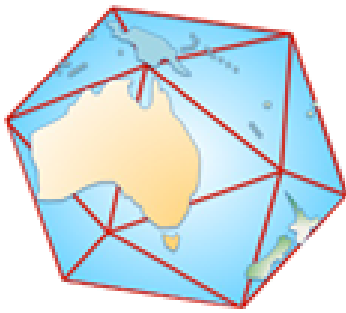
Ryan Johnston (UQ)

Danyelle Assis Ferreira (Griffith)

Ruby Farrukee (Uni Melb)

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Special mention Shirt



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Ryan Johnston

Best shorts/shirt

Damian Purcell

Best student questions

Brooke Trowbridge- Uni of Adelaide

Jason Herbert- WESTMEAD

Hudson Smith- Monash

Gael Martin- Griffith University

LH spoke to the number of delegates:

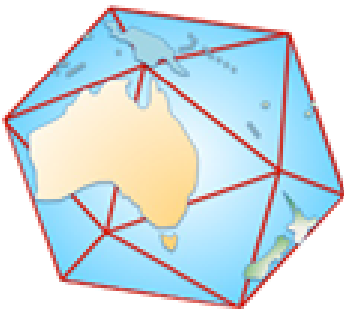
- ▶ 298 registered delegates
- ▶ 97 students
- ▶ 201 full reg (this includes 18 sponsor/exhibitor registrations)
- ▶ Gender balance 50/50

And where they were from:

VIC	95
ACT	10
SA	20
QLD	92
NSW	50
NT	1
France	4
UK	4
USA	3
South Korea	5
Singapore	4
Netherlands	2
Germany	1
NZ	6
Canada	1

8. Membership Secretary's report. NP report.

- ▶ Data from AVS10: Total of 562 current and past members
 - ▶ 199 Current financial members (=attended AVS9 or joined after AVS9)
 - ▶ 363 Past members (=financial members prior to AVS9 but did not attend AVS9)
- ▶ Since we started formal membership process in 2020:
- ▶ Total of 222 current members
 - ▶ 179 current full members
 - ▶ 3 retired members
 - ▶ 40 student members
- ▶ Gender breakdown
 - ▶ 93 female

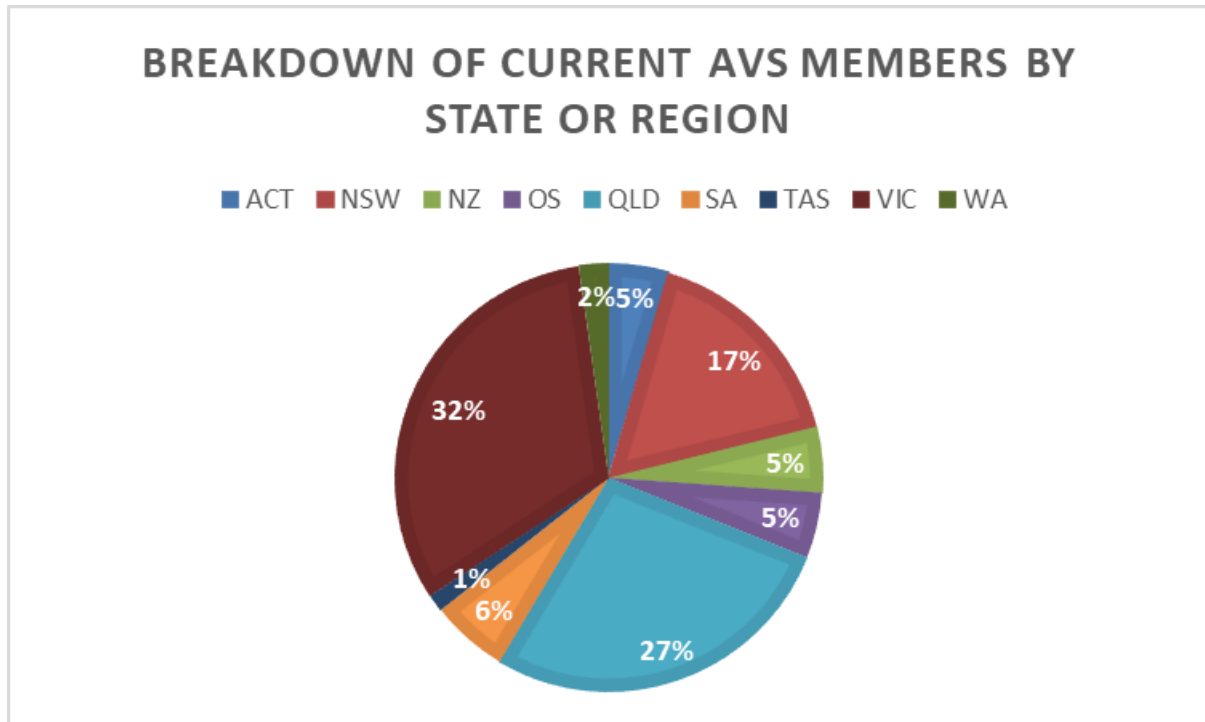


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- ▶ 91 males
- ▶ 38 not declared

A breakdown of AVS members by state or region was provided:



9. AVS12: 2024 Biennial Scientific Meeting. Proposal by A/Prof Greg Moseley and Dr Joanna Fraser, Monash University. There was discussion around this proposal, and the venue, in Daylesford, Vic.

A motion was proposed: that the meeting accept the proposal to hold AVS12 in Daylesford in 2024. Proposed: P Speck, seconded, H Drummer, passed.

J Mak spoke to the possibility of AVS hosting the Retrovirology meeting in 2024.

10. Any other business. PY suggested annual meetings. HD spoke to symposia. PY spoke to IUMS meeting. 2024.

11. Close of meeting: 1.15pm.