

AVS newsletter – February 2024

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Australasian Virology Society for 2024.

AGM and online symposium– 12th Dec 2023

On 12th December 2023 we held an online symposium and AGM.

At the AGM we welcomed our new Executive committee and Committee of Management.



Rowena Bull
President



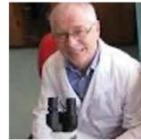
Heidi Drummer
Past President



Jason Mackenzie
Vice President



Nicholas Eyre
Treasurer



Peter Speck
Secretary



Stacey Lynch
Membership Secretary

Committee of Management members: Larisa Labzin, Barry Slobedman, Kirsten Spann, Andreii Slonchak.

ECR subcommittee: Alyssa Peterson, Emma Harding, Kevin John Selva.

Gender equity and diversity subcommittee: Justin Roby, Sevim Mese.

Partnerships subcommittee: Allison Imrie, Sarah Londrigan.

New Zealand representative: Jemma Geoghegan.

2024 meeting conveners (jointly): Greg Moseley, Johanna Fraser, Michelle Tate.

A big thank you to our outgoing committee members, Lara Herrero, Natalie Prow, Miguel Quinones-Mateu and Karla Helbig. Also a special thankyou to our outgoing President Prof Heidi Drummer, who will remain on the Executive as Past President. Heidi has established several new partnerships for our society and continued to advocate for virology research in Australia.

The symposium was held in partnership with the American Society of Virology (ASV). We had 230 register for the online meeting, which was excellent. We had several amazing speakers including ASVs two 2023 Ann Palmenberg Junior Investigator awardees and NHMRCs new CEO, Steve Wesselingh, who provided an overview of his future plans for NHMRC. His slides are attached. We also heard from several of our own local talented virologists including A/Prof Stuart Turville from the Kirby Institute and our own AVS Rising Star Dr Ebony Monson. There were several abstract selected talks from several of our MCRS, ECRs and students.

AVS12. Preparations are well underway for AVS12 with dates set for December 2-5, 2024 at RACV Goldfields in Creswick, Victoria. Our international speakers are Prof Chantal Abergel and Prof Heiner Wedermeyer. Abstracts open April 2024.

Updates to the meeting and program can be found here: <https://www.avs2024.org>

The banner features a background image of a large, modern building with a glass facade, likely the RACV Goldfields. Overlaid on the image is a dark, rounded rectangular box containing the text '12th Australasian Virology Society Meeting 2024' in white. Below this, in smaller white text, it says '2nd - 5th December 2024 | RACV Goldfields, Creswick Victoria'. To the right of the text is a circular graphic of a virus particle. At the bottom of the banner, the text 'Abstracts open April 2024' is displayed in a light grey font.

Other AVS news

Peter Speck – rally.

In April Peter Speck will drive his ancient 1996 Ford Falcon from Adelaide to Perth, via Yulara, as part of the Shitbox Rally. We call our team Gone Viral and we'll cover >3500km of Australia's worst roads, to raise money for cancer research. The rally is the Cancer Council's largest community-lead support, having raised over \$41m, and they support NHMRC near-miss applications, so there's great transparency around how their money is spent. The rally requires cars to be over 25 years old, worth <\$1500, and not be a 4WD; with the rally mainly on rough dirt roads this provides for constant adventure. Fundraising is the hardest part, with each team required to raise at least \$5000.



The link for donation is here: <https://autumn2024.shitboxrally.com.au/gone-viral>

Job opportunities in virology

Tenure Track position at Rocky Mountain

Contact: bcaughey@nih.gov

Open Position Molecular Virology Heidelberg University.

Successor to Prof. Ralf Bartenschlager

<https://berufungsportal.medizinische-fakultaet-hd.uni-heidelberg.de>

Postdoctoral Researcher in Systems Viral Immunology

Department of Virology, Immunology & Microbiology, Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine. Atomic Lab at the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories, Boston, MA 02118

<https://atomic-lab.org>

Upcoming conferences in Virology in 2024

International Society for Antiviral Research (ISAR) <https://isaricar.wildapricot.org/ICAR2024>

37th International Conference on Antiviral Research (ICAR), 20th-24th May 2024. Gold Coast, Australia.

ICAR2024 is right around the corner!

Don't miss your chance to be part of

one of the most exciting, interdisciplinary, and interactive meetings in the world of antivirals, virology, medicinal chemistry, and other areas, in beautiful Gold Coast. The International Conference on Antiviral Research (ICAR) is organized by the International Society for Antiviral Research (ISAR) to foster the interactions and collaborations among researchers in: Academia; Startups; Small, medium and large pharmaceutical companies; Industry; Governmental and nongovernmental organizations; and all others working on the different areas of critical importance for immediate or future antiviral development, including all aspects of virology, medicinal chemistry, immunology, animal experiments, epidemiology, computational biology, large data and machine learning, pharmacology, and clinical tests, among others. ICAR2024 will include oral and poster sessions, plenary talks, ISAR awardee lectures and several special sessions and networking events. Poster submission and registration is now open. Oral and poster late-breaker submissions open April 1.



American Society of Virology <https://asv.org/asv2024/>
ASV 2024 June 24 - 28, 2024. Columbus, Ohio



Australian Society of Microbiology <https://www.theasm.org.au>

ASM National Meeting 1-4 Jul 2024. Brisbane
Convention & Exhibition Centre, Australia.

Viruses of Microbes 2024

15-19 Jul 2024. Cairns Convention Centre,
Australia. <https://www.theasm.org.au>



**OPTIONS XII for the
Control of Influenza**

29 SEPT - 2 OCT 2024 | BRISBANE

Abstracts close April 5th



APCMV ASIA-PACIFIC
CONGRESS
2024 OF MEDICAL
VIROLOGY

19 - 21 NOVEMBER • SINGAPORE EXPO MAX ATRIA

The **Asia-Pacific Congress of Medical Virology (APCMV)** is a triennial international meeting that focuses on diagnostic, public health, research and clinical virology, with emphasis on the Asia Pacific region. The aim is to foster collaboration and information sharing of the latest research on medically important viruses and treatments against them.