



AVS Member Newsletter September, 2019

Call for Expressions of Interest: Venue for 2021 AVS Biennial Scientific Meeting and Position of Meeting Convener.

At the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Society, planning will commence for the 2021 AVS11 biennial conference. Any member of the Society who wishes to put forward a proposal to host the 2021 meeting is welcome to do so. Anyone interested is strongly encouraged to email AVS Secretary Peter Speck to register their interest by 31st of October 2019 for planning purposes. Proposals will be presented at the AGM through a 3-4 minute powerpoint presentation. If there is more than one proposal, members will vote for the preferred bid. The AGM is scheduled for 12:30-14:00 pm, Thursday December 5th, at the Millenium Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand.

Indigenous awards, AVS10.

An Indigenous Virologist/Virology Research Award is on offer at AVS10. Any AVS member who identifies as indigenous is encouraged to apply. For more information, contact Dr Greg Moseley at greg.moseley@monash.edu by close of business Friday October 11.

NHMRC assessor self-nomination through RGMS system.

AVS members are encouraged to self-nominate for membership of NHMRC panels. As a reminder, this is reached by logging on to RGMS, then your profile>properties>Pro-PN: panel nominations. Self-nominations need to be updated annually. Nominations for 2020 Ideas Grants are currently open on RGMS. We need virologists to nominate because we all want virology applications to be assessed by virologists.

Upcoming AGM: nominations sought for committee positions.

All executive committee positions will be up for election. New committee members are most welcome. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact any current committee member for further information.

Proposed new subscription system for AVS members.

The AVS started as simply running a meeting. The Society's activities have expanded, and now include:

- A dramatically improved website which offers information on what virology labs are doing, biographies for lab heads, jobs listings, upcoming virology meetings.
- Advocating for virology, by making representations to governments, policy-makers, and the general public.
- Affiliations with prominent journals, giving discounted rates for members.
- An active twitter presence providing immediate connection with Australasian virologists.
- Heavily discounted rates for student members to our biennial meeting.



- Awards for student and "Rising Star" virologists.
- Strong commitment towards promoting gender equity.
- Education resources.
- Professional development sessions at AVS meetings
- The Society is affiliated with the Australian Society for Medical Research, which represents health and medical research societies in Australia.
- From 2020, the Society will provide annual financial support for the ICTV.

For some months the Executive Committee has been considering the issue of the rising costs of running meetings and the increasing difficulties of obtaining sponsorship. As a result a proposal to charge AVS members an annual subscription fee is to be considered at the AGM. This proposed subscription fee will no longer be rolled into the meeting registration fee. In other words, subscription fees will be separate from AVS meeting fees, although AVS members will enjoy substantial discounts on meeting registration fees.

The proposed fees are:

- Full membership: \$110/year or \$210/2 years, discounted to \$100/\$190 for on-time payment;
- Student membership: \$60/year or \$110/2 years, discounted to \$50/\$95 for on-time payment;
- Joining fee: \$50. This will apply to new members joining after 1/11/2020 (the first day of the AVS financial year), or any previous member who has become unfinancial (defined as Membership fees unpaid >90 days). AVS10 delegates will not be charged this fee.

Important points:

- The proposed fees are at the low end of the range of fees typically charged by professional societies in our region.
- The aim of subscription fees is not to build up a large cash reserve but to provide financial security for the Society and guarantee its long-term financial viability. This source of cash-flow will make the job of the Local Organizing Committee a lot less worrisome.
- The cost of running the subscription system is estimated at \$6000/year. The surplus generated by subscription fees, after costs, is likely to be \$10-20,000/year, depending on the exact number of members and the proportion of student members. If the subscription fee raises more money than anticipated, members will enjoy the benefits in the form of awards and reduced membership fees.
- The option of paying 2 years at once is intended to reduce the paperwork burden for members.
- Members will pay the same dollar amount on both sides of the Tasman. For example, AU\$100 in Australia and NZ\$100 in New Zealand.



Australasian **VIROLOGY Society**

AVS - building virology connections

- Professional society subscriptions are tax-deductible in Australia.
- The large discount that will be offered to members on meeting registration fees will be a keen incentive to being a member.
- To eligible for awards, nominees (and their supervisors, for student awards), must have been a member for 12 months.
- In accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2012, passing of this change is by a simple majority vote at the 2019 AGM.
- On-time payment will be defined as the Society receiving payment within 30 days of the date of the subscription notice.
- Members who are not resident in Australia or New Zealand will be asked to pay in Australian dollars.
- The joining fee for unfinancial members is intended to encourage members to maintain current membership.
- The proposed start date for the subscription charge is November 1, 2020.
- Any member who wishes to provide feedback on this proposal is asked to do so by email to the Secretary: peter.speck@flinders.edu.au by October 31, 2019.