



Australian Society for Antimicrobials

22nd Annual General Meeting
Online via Zoom
1300-1430
Thursday 4th March 2021

1. **Welcome:** The President welcomed the members to the 22nd AGM of the ASA.
2. **Apologies:** Anna Allman, Carolyn Beckett, Wendy Munckhof, Minyon Avent, Merrin Tulloch, Aiveen Bannan
3. The **Minutes of the 21st AGM** were endorsed as a true and accurate record. Moved by Keryn Christiansen, seconded by Graeme Nimmo and accepted by all present.
4. **President's Report** (Geoff Coombs)

ASA Committee

GC thanked Ben Howden and Sam Abraham for their past participation on the ASA committee and welcomed Louise Cooley as a new member.

The members of the ASA Committee 2020-2022 are:

President (2020-2024)	Geoffrey Coombs (GC)
Past President	Benjamin Howden (BH)
Vice President	David Kong (DK)
Secretary	Denise Daley (DD)
Treasurer	Keryn Christiansen (KC)
Member	Louise Cooley (LC)
Member	Thomas Gottlieb (TG)
Member	Sally Partridge (SP)
Member	Benjamin Rogers (BR)

The gender representation on the 2020 – 2022 committee is balanced (50:50) and the three major professions are well represented (medical, scientific and pharmacy). However, it should be noted although there have been six ASA Presidents, the Society has only had one female President.

ASA Committee Secondments:

AGAR Representative	Graeme Nimmo
EUCAST/CLSI Representative	John Turnidge

ASID Representative
ASA Business Manager

Joshua Davis (Allen Cheng)
Jacson Chung

ASA 2020 Committee Meetings

There were no face-to-face committee meetings in 2020, however three zoom meetings were held.

The major issues were:

- The financial implications of COVID-19 on the Society and its programs
- Antimicrobials 2021 and the two international meetings (ISSSI and ICC)
- Antimicrobials Online
- ASA Research Grant

ASA Membership

ASA membership continues to grow at a healthy rate. As of 31st January 2021, there were 1,024 members, 29 associate members, 39 honorary members and 9 foundation members.

The percentage breakdown of the professional background of members is 35% medical, 34% scientific, 15% pharmacy and 8% other.

There are ten Bronze Foundation members including MSD, Mayne Pharma, Pfizer, Cepheid, Hologic, bioMérieux, BD, Abbott, Illumina, and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. GC thanked the Industry for their continuing support of the Society.

ASA Communications

During the year, the Newsletter Editor Andrew Stewardson and the ASA Business Manager Jacson Chung produced two excellent ASA Breakpoint newsletters covering the following topics:

- Australia's Updated National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy
- PHLN statement on nucleic acid test false positive results for SARS-CoV-2
- New Report from the National Alert System for Critical Antimicrobial Resistances
- Antimicrobials Online
- Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard
- REVIVE/GARDP Antimicrobial Encyclopaedia
- AGAR 2019 Program Reports

GC thanked Andrew and Jacson for all their efforts and hard work. Andrew has recently resigned as Newsletter Editor and Iain Abbott has taken up the position. ASA members are encouraged to contact Iain or Jacson with suggestions or contributions to include in the newsletter.

ASA now has a Social Media Coordinator - Aryan Shahabi-Sirjani. ASA has profiles on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.

ASA Webpage

Updates to the website include:

Members Area:

- Antimicrobials 2020 Presentations
- Annual General Meeting
- Breakpoint Newsletter

Home Page:

- Meeting announcements
- Global emails
- ASA on Twitter @AusAntibiotics

Useful Links

- Serum/Plasma Antimicrobial Assays

ACSQHC

- Drop Down Tabs

AGAR

- 2019 AGAR Reports

Travel Awards

There were no ASA travel awards for 2021.

The 2020 ASA Poster Travel Award was awarded to Melinda Ashcroft from the University of Melbourne.

The bioMérieux Identifying Resistance Travel Award was awarded to Joanne Teh from Flinders Medical Centre.

ASA Research Grant

Due to the financial restrictions caused by COVID, ASA was not able to offer a Research Grant in 2020. However, it is anticipated a research grant will be offered in 2021.

ASA 2021 Representation

Australian Scientific and Technical Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance:

ASA Past President - Ben Howden

AGAR Chair - Geoff Coombs

Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases – ASA President – Geoff Coombs

ASA Affiliations

International Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (ISAC)

- Geoff Coombs President-Elect (2019 – 2021)
- 2020 ISAC Project Grant – Bianca Graves, Queensland
- Early Career Working Group – Jinxin Zhao, Victoria

Asia-Pacific Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infection (APSCMI)

International Society for Infectious Diseases (ISID)

European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST)

- John Turnidge Scientific Secretary of the EUCAST Steering Committee

European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID)

Australian Group for Antimicrobial Resistance (AGAR)

AGAR continues to be a working group of ASA. The AGAR Executive manages the activities and operations of AGAR. An AGAR representative, as recommended by the AGAR Executive, is co-opted onto the ASA Committee to provide a report on AGAR activities.

2020-2023 AGAR Executive:

Chair - Geoff Coombs

Deputy Chair – Thomas Gottlieb

Graeme Nimmo

Jenny Robson

Louise Cooley

Peter Collignon

Jon Iredell

Morgyn Warner

Scientific Officers:

Denise Daley

Jan Bell

Database Management Committee:

Graeme Nimmo

Denise Daley

Jan Bell

ASA Program Chairs:

Geoff Coombs – ASSOP

Geoff Coombs – AESOP

Jon Iredell – GnSOP

For the last five years The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (ACSQHC) has funded the AGAR surveillance programs. However, to assist in transitioning to the federal government's one health model of antimicrobial resistance and usage surveillance, as from 1st January 2021 AGAR will be funded by the Department of Health.

AGAR Publications:

The ASSOP, AESOP and GnSOP 2019 Sepsis Outcome Reports were published in CDI in 2020.

The ACSQHC has published:

- Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in Australia: MRSA bacteraemia – 2013-2018.
- AGAR Sepsis Outcome Program – 2019 Report
- AURA 2019

on its website

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/antimicrobial-resistance/antimicrobial-use-and-resistance-australia-surveillance-system-aura/community-antimicrobial-resistance/australian-group-antimicrobial-resistance>

There are also many excellent factsheets available.

The AGAR website <https://agargroup.org.au> has reports and publications available.

In Memorium

Professor Keiichi Hiramatsu passed away on 5 June 2020 after a long battle with leukaemia. Prof Hiramatsu was an invited plenary speaker at Antimicrobials 2002 and at the 13th International Symposium on Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Infections (ISSSI) held in Cairns in 2008. A close friend of ASA he will be best known for his achievements in MRSA research including the development of a rapid PCR detection method for MRSA now used in Europe and the USA (1996); discovery of the first VISA Mu50 and hetero-VISA Mu30 (1997); and identification of SCCmec types I~III from healthcare-associated MRSA (HA-MRSA) and types IV, V from community-associated MRSA (CAMRSA) (1999~2004). He was the first to sequence *S. aureus* (N315, Mu50) (2001) and CA-MRSA MW2 (2002). He also proposed thickened cell wall and 'peptidoglycan clogging' as a mechanism for vancomycin resistance in VISA strains (2003~2007) and discovered the origin of *mecA* gene in *S. fleurette* (2010). He will be greatly missed at the 2022 ISSSI to be held in Perth 2022

GC sent condolences to Prof Hiramatsu's family and colleagues on behalf of ASA.

5. Treasurer's Financial Report

An audited statement of the Society's finances was presented by the treasurer Dr Keryn Christensen which are available on the ASA website.

There were no questions regarding the report and the report was moved by Graeme Nimmo, seconded by John Iredell and accepted by all at the meeting.

6. ASA Constitution

The ASA constitution had not been revised since its inception in 1999.

Proposed changes to the constitution were circulated to the members six weeks prior to this meeting.

Changes to wording

- 6.1. ...from time to time at ~~the annual~~ general meeting...
- 6.2. Treasurer ~~or delegate~~...
- 7.1. The Secretary ~~or delegate~~...
- 7.2. The Secretary ~~or delegate~~...
- 8.1. The Secretary ~~or delegate~~...
- 9.1..and four ~~ordinary committee~~ members
- 9.3. ..shall be eligible for re-election for a further two ~~two-year~~ terms
- 9.7. The quorum for a ~~committee~~ meeting shall be five
- 10.3. The Secretary ~~or delegate~~...
- 10.4. Treasurer ~~or delegate~~...
- 12.2. The Secretary ~~or delegate~~...
- 12.4. the Secretary ~~or delegate~~...
- 13.4. The Secretary ~~or delegate~~...
- 9.4. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt ~~two~~ additional members
- 13.1 In this clause the word 'member' means a financial ~~full~~ member

These changes were moved by Keryn Christiansen, seconded by Tom Gottlieb and accepted by all at the meeting.

Changes to Membership

- 5.1 There shall be four types of membership, full membership, associate/~~retired~~ membership, honorary life membership and ~~sustaining corporate~~ membership.
- 5.2 Full membership of the ~~association Society~~ is open to any person....
- 5.4 ~~Retired membership will be available to retiring full or associate members~~
- 5.4 becomes 5.5
- 5.5 becomes 5.6 ~~Sustaining Corporate~~ membership will be made available to any ~~individuals or companies government or non-government agencies~~
- 5.6 becomes 5.7 Each applicant for any class of membership of the Society shall be made in writing to the ~~Committee Society~~...
- 5.7 becomes 5.8 ~~The Committee members shall consider each application made~~ Membership will be provided under subrules (5.2, 5.3, 5.4, ~~5.5~~ and ~~5.6~~ and shall at the Committee meeting or at a ~~subsequent~~ Committee meeting ~~may~~ accept or reject that application.
- 5.8 becomes 5.9 Only full and ~~life-associate/retired~~ members shall have voting rights.

These changes were moved by Peter Taylor, seconded by David Kong and accepted by all at the meeting.

Changes to the AGM

12.1 There shall be a **face to face or virtual** General Meeting of the Society at least once every year. **Virtual meetings can be held using one or more technologies that enables all persons entitled to participate without being physically present at the venue.**

These changes were moved by Louise Cooley, seconded by David Kong and accepted by all at the meeting.

Changes to Voting

12.10 ...show of hands (**virtual or non-virtual**)

12.12 ...show of hands (virtual or non-virtual)

12.12, 12.13, 12.14, 12.15 and 12.16 removal of **postal** ballot

12.7 No member shall have the right to vote by proxy or attorney

Peter Taylor asked if electronic voting could be performed prior to the meeting. It was decided that this would not be done as voting should be anonymous.

These changes were moved by Graeme Nimmo, seconded by Denise Daley and accepted by all at the meeting.

Changes to Notices

17.1 A notice may be served by or on behalf of the Society upon any member either personally ~~or~~ , **electronically** or by sending it by post.....

17.2 Where a document is **electronically sent or** properly addressed....
....delivered **electronically or** in the ordinary course of post.

These changes were moved by Peter Taylor, seconded by Denise Daley and accepted by all at the meeting.

7. Antimicrobials Online

Antimicrobials Online will typically provide monthly live 60 to 90 minutes educational sessions. The live format will enables participation in the question and answer session following each presentation. The sessions are open to members only, with the exception of the EUCAST workshop which has open access.

ASA Foundation Members will hold industry sessions similar to the successful breakfast and lunch industry sessions held at the Society's annual scientific meeting.

The sessions have open access.

Registration is complementary for ASA financial members.

Registration provides full access to the virtual platform including:

- Live-streamed presentations and participation in Q&A
- On demand sessions, with all sessions being recorded
- Meet and interact with foundation members in the virtual exhibition, with instant or pre-scheduled one-on-one meetings
- Connect with fellow attendees via the meeting hub and discussion forum
- Participate in live interactive networking functions
- Ability to create your own agenda, access downloadable content and export notes and contacts at any time

Antimicrobials Online will continue until November 2021. All sessions are recorded.

2020 Antimicrobials Online Program

- EUCAST Workshop- John Turnidge, Louise Cooley, Maryza Graham and Rick Streitberg. 279 registrations, recording available online
- COVID-Therapeutics, 270 registrations, recording available online
- Cepheid, 413 registrations, recording available online

2021 Antimicrobials Online Program

- The Year in Clinical Microbiology – Tony Korman. Tuesday, Feb 9 1400 – 1500, 314 registrations
- Using Genomics to Detect Clinical Resistance - Norelle Sherry, Jon Iredell and Andrew Henderson, Tuesday, March 9 1400 – 1500
- The Year of Therapeutics - Anton Peleg, Tuesday April 13 1400 - 1500
- Antimicrobial Stewardship: Massaging Prescribing Policies - Kirsty Buising, Julia Clark, Mieke van Driel, Jacqui Norris and Jaclyn Bishop, Tuesday May 11 1400 – 1500
- Mobile Genetic Elements: Diving into the Antimicrobial Resistance Gene Pool - Josh Ramsay, Sally Partridge and David Whiley, Tuesday June 8 1400 - 1500
- Responding to Emerging Threats - Krispin Hajkowitz, Patrick Harris and Naomi Runnegar, Tuesday July 13 1400 – 1500

2021 Industry Sessions

- ACSQHC, Thursday, Feb 25 1400 – 1500
- Illumina, Thursday, March 25 1400 – 1500
- BD, Thursday April 29 1400 – 1500
- bioMérieux, Thursday May 27 1400 – 1500
- Hologic, Thursday June 24 1400 – 1500
- Pfizer, Thursday July 22 1400 – 1500
- MSD, Thursday August 26 1400 – 1500
- MaynePharma - Thursday October 21 1400 – 1500

Tony Korman praised the Society for the format and content of the sessions.

GC would like to continue Antimicrobials Online after November 2021, perhaps one session per quarter. JT, GN, DK agreed and this will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

8. Antimicrobials 2022 (Brisbane)

To be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre 24th -26th February 2022.

The Plenary speakers and the Howard Florey Oration who were scheduled to speak in 2021 have agreed to speak in 2022.

Orthopaedic Infections

Professor Frederic Laurent, Lyon, France

A Holistic Economic Approach to Future Healthcare for Man, Animals and Our Environment

Professor Lloyd Reeve-Johnson, Queensland

Gram-negative Resistance

A/Professor Yohei Doi, Nagoya, Japan

Howard Florey Oration

Dr Sally Roberts, Auckland, New Zealand

9. International Symposium on Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Infection (ISSSI) 2020

The last ISSSI conference to be held in Australia was in Cairns in 2008. ISSSI 2020 was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is scheduled for Perth 28th -31st August 2022, Perth Convention Centre. The program will be on the website soon <https://www.issisi2022.com>

Organising Committee:

Geoff Coombs (Chair)

Graeme Nimmo

Denise Daley

Anders Larsen

Dorte Frees

Scientific Program Committee:

International:

Marc Stegger (Denmark)

Robin Patel (USA)

Matthew Holden (UK)

Jodi Lindsay (UK)

Stefan Schwarz (Germany)

Margaret Ip (Hong Kong)

Barbara Kahl (Germany)
Ruth Massey (UK)
Yang Soo Kim (Korea)
Michael Otto (USA)
Susan Huang (USA)

Regional:

Rosni Ibrahim (Malaysia)
Deborah Williamson (Australia)
Asha Bowen (Australia)
Josh Ramsay (Australia)
Andrew Henderson (Australia)
Owen Robinson (Australia)
Sarath Ranganathan (Australia)
Ian Monk (Australia)
Steven Tong (Australia)
Tim Stinear (Australia)
Margreet Vos (The Netherlands)
Anton Peleg (Australia)

10. International Congress on Chemotherapy (ASAC/ASA) Perth

This meeting will be held on 26th to 30th November 2022 and is co-hosted by ASA

Organising Committee

ISAC:

President: Andreas Voss
Program Committee Co-Chair: Serhat Unal
Treasurer: Raphael Saginur
Secretary: TBC
CEO: Fiona MacKenzie

ASA:

President: Geoff Coombs
Program Committee Co-Chair: TBC
Treasurer: Keryn Christiansen
Secretary: Denise Daley
CEO: Jacson Chung

Program Committee

ISAC:

Co-Chair: Serhat Unal
Heiman Wertheim
Souha Kanj
Kazuhiro Tateda
Stefania Stefani
Jean-Marc Rolain

Matthew Dryden
Po-Ren Hsueh
Anuradha Chowdhary
APSCMI representative: Paul Tambyah / David Lye TBC

ASA:

Co-Chair: John Turnidge

Thomas Gottlieb
Louise Cooley
Geoffrey Coombs
Steven Tong
David Kong
Jian Li
Ben Rogers
Chris Blyth
Jinxin Zhao

11. Antimicrobials 2023 (23rd – 25th February 2023) Sydney

Venue to be confirmed.

12. Other Business

No other business

Attendees:

Jacson Chung
Geoff Coombs
Keryn Christiansen
Graeme Nimmo
Sally Partridge
Denise Daley
Abi Krause
Despina Kotsanas
John Turnidge
Iain Abbott
Jan Bell
Narelle George
Benjamin Rogers
Peter Taylor
Aryan Shahabi-Sirjani
Ian Woolley
Louise Cooley
Tom Gottlieb
Tony Korman
David Kong

Genevieve McKew
Ben Howden
Andrew Ginn
Shaxx Mowlaboccus
Sarah Elliott
Khin Chaw
Menuk Jayawardena