



# ASM VSP Event Report

## Dr Vanessa Bailey

### “Through the Eye of the Needle: Microbes, Water, and their Connection through Soil Pores”



The ASM Visiting Speakers Program welcomed Dr. Vanessa Bailey from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory on Thursday the 14th of February 2019 at the University of Melbourne. Vanessa was a plenary speaker at this year's Australian Microbial Ecology Conference in Western Australia, and was invited to present her work as part of a VSP tour in Victoria and Queensland. Dr. Bailey gave a fascinating talk entitled “Through the Eye of the Needle: Microbes, Water and their Connection through Soil Pores”.

Dr. Bailey spoke about her laboratory's research on how the physical structure of soil, in combination with the water conditions, can affect the microbial communities in very slight but significant ways. Furthermore, Dr. Bailey and her group have investigated how drought versus saturation conditions alter the soil Carbon mobilisation and subsequently microbial transformation. Dr. Bailey's research group continue to investigate the relationship between soil structures, water, and Carbon cycling and use a multi omics approach to understand the diversity and differences in microbes within soil communities.

We had a range of attendees on the night from University of Melbourne, La Trobe University, Swinburne University and Scale Free Network, of which half were postgraduate students. A special thank you to Dr. Dax Kitchen for providing catering and to Prof. Linda Blackall from the University of Melbourne for hosting Dr. Bailey in Melbourne for the ASM Vic Branch leg of the VSP tour.

*Report contributed by Lauren Zavan*