

2019 ASM Nancy Millis Student Awards Event Report



Assoc. Prof. Catherine Satzke (fourth from the left) accompanied by many of the undergraduate academic prize winners.

The annual ASM Nancy Millis Student Awards were held at La Trobe University, Bundoora on Tuesday 26 February 2019. The evening was chaired by Assoc. Prof. Karena Waller (University of Melbourne). The evening commenced with light refreshments before the presentation of fourteen undergraduate prizes for top achieving microbiology student studying at various Victorian Universities, including Monash University, RMIT University, La Trobe University (Bundoora and Bendigo campuses) and The University of Melbourne. Each of the undergraduate prizes consisted of a certificate, a cheque and a year's student membership to the ASM.

The evening then continued with two research presentations from research students competing in the categories of ASM VIC Branch Award (for Honours and Masters by Coursework students). Yenglei (Jenny) Hua (Murdoch Children's Research Institute presented *"Investigation of pneumococcal gene expression*

associated with pneumonia pathogenesis" and Madeleine Wemyss (Hudson Institute of Medical Research) presented "*Salmonella Typhimurium induces cIAP degradation in macrophages in a SPI-1 dependent manner*". Following deliberations by the judges the ASM VIC Branch Award was awarded to Yinglei (Jenny) Hua (pictured below). As the winner of this award, Yinglei will receive a prize consisting of registration at the Annual Meeting in Adelaide (July 2019), plus \$400 towards the costs of attending the meeting.

Six speakers, Ebony Monson (La Trobe University), Miku Kuba (University of Melbourne), Vik Ven Eng (Hudson Institute of Medical Research), Fernando Villalon Letelier (University of Melbourne), Lauren Zavan (La Trobe University) and Fernando Gordillo-Altamirano (Monash University) competed for the ASM Nancy Millis Student Award, and a prize consisting of registration at the ASM Annual Meeting in Adelaide (July 2019), an airfare and \$500 towards the cost of attending the meeting. The winner of this prize was Fernando Gordillo-Altamirano (pictured below) who presented "*Between a rock and a hard place: Acinetobacter baumannii loses virulence and antibiotic resistance when escaping killing by lytic phages*".

The evening concluded with supper and drinks prepared by Bread & Butta Catering (La Trobe University). Overall, it was a great night for Microbiology! Over 60 people enjoyed the evening's activities.

Congratulations must be extended to all students who competed for prizes on the night – their research presentations were outstanding!



Left to right: Karena Waller, Fernando Gordillo-Altamirano, Yinglei (Jenny) Hua) and Catherine Satzke (ASM VIC Branch Chair)

Report contributed by Karena Waller