

Annual Review

2024





We are a diverse group of specialists working across the depth and breadth of infectious diseases.

VISION

Our shared goal is to improve the quality of life for everyone, through advancing the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases in Australasian and global communities

MISSION

Advance postgraduate education in infectious diseases in Australasia and internationally

Promote research in all aspects of infectious diseases

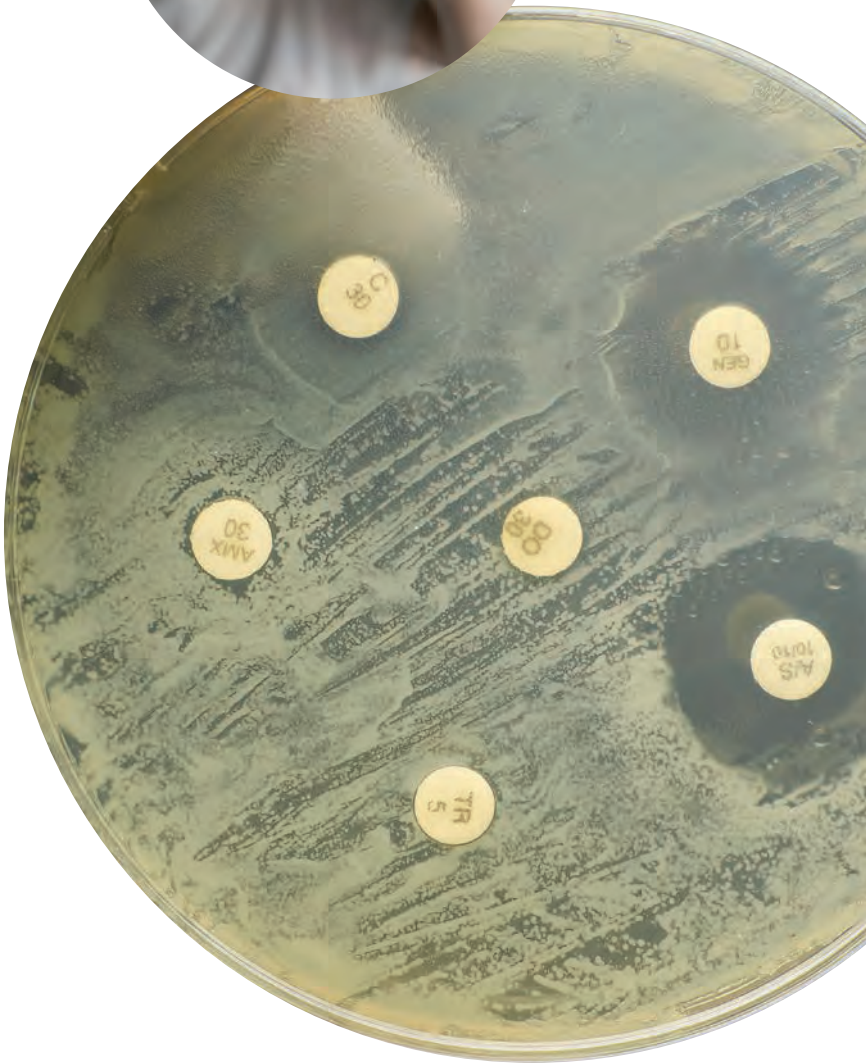
Advocate for sound and evidence-based public health policy in matters related to infectious diseases

asid.net.au

This Annual Review provides a summary of our activities and performance for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

Table of contents

The ASID Board	4
Our Council	5
ASID Council, Special Interest Groups and Committees	6
A message from our President	7
A message from our CEO	9
Treasurer’s report	10
Secretary’s report	11
Advocacy	12
New Zealand	14
Annual Science Meeting	15
Events and education	16
Award winners	18
Sponsors	19
Appendix	20



The ASID Board

The ASID Board features some of Australia's most distinguished experts in infectious diseases.



Professor Joseph Doyle
President



Professor Katie Flanagan
Immediate Past-President



Professor Chris Blyth
Honorary Treasurer



Professor David Paterson
Honorary Secretary



Professor Ben Marais



Dr Rekha Pai-Mangalore



Dr Candice Holland



**Associate Professor
Caitlin Keighley**

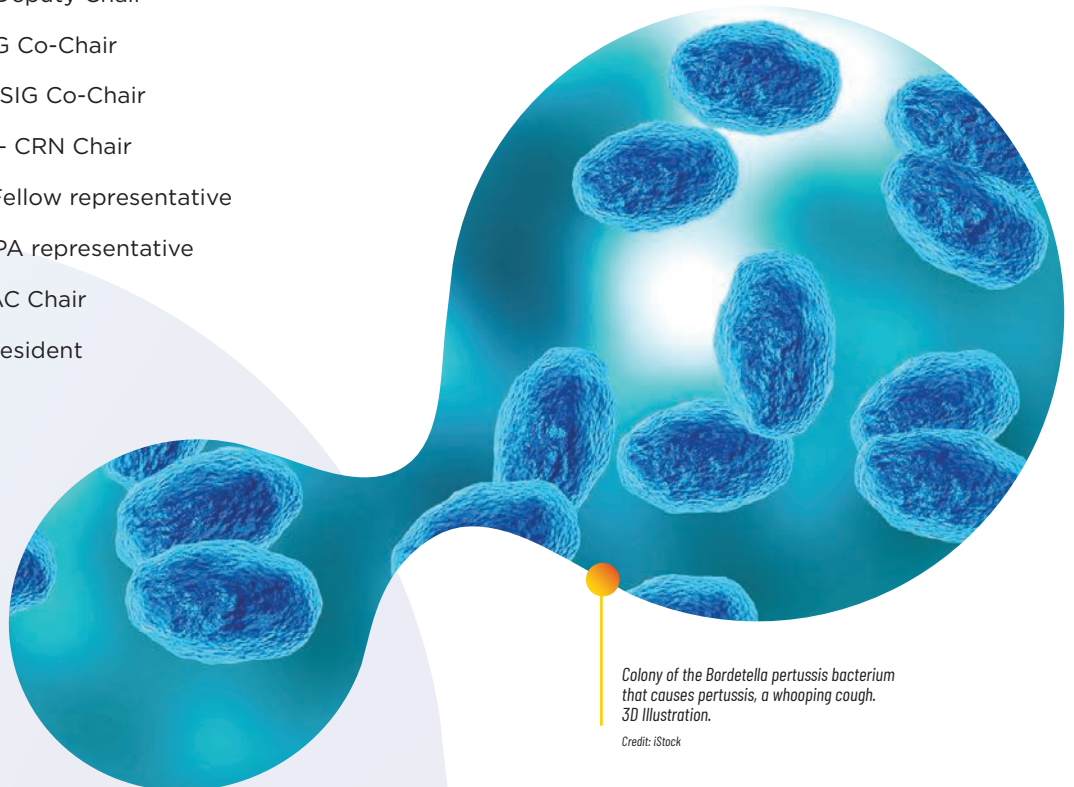


Dr Nigel Raymond

Our Council

In 2024, the ASID Council (comprised of the SIG Chairs and representatives from other affiliated medical societies) provided strategic input to the Board.

- Dr Michelle Balm** — NZ Sub-Committee Chair
- Dr Danielle Fitzpatrick** — Advanced Trainee representative
- Dr Brendan McMullan** — ANZPID Chair
- Dr Celia Cooper** — ANZMIG Co Chair
- Assoc Prof Caitlin Keighley** — ANZMIG Co-Chair
- Dr Andie Lee** — HICSIG Chair
- Dr Andrew Stewardson** — HICSIG Deputy Chair
- Professor Monica Slavin** — ICHSIG Chair
- Dr Ben Teh** — ICHSIG Deputy Chair
- Professor Fiona Russell** — VACSIG Chair
- Dr Archana Koirala** — VACSIG Deputy Chair
- Dr Sushena Krishnaswamy** — VH2SIG Chair
- Dr Emma Paige** — VH2SIG Deputy Chair
- Dr Kathryn Wilks** — ZOOSIG Co-Chair
- Dr Katrina Bosward** — ZOOSIG Co-Chair
- Professor Jason Trubiano** — CRN Chair
- Dr Beatrice Sim** — Recent Fellow representative
- Dr Indy Sandaradura** — RCPA representative
- Professor Paul Griffin** — JSAC Chair
- Dr Louise Cooley** — ASA President



Colony of the *Bordetella pertussis* bacterium that causes pertussis, a whooping cough. 3D Illustration.

Credit: iStock

ASID Council, Special Interest Groups and Committees



**Advocacy
and
Policy
Committee**



**Equity
and
Diversity
Committee**



ANZPID

Promoting child health in the field of paediatric infectious diseases.



ANZMIG

Promoting excellence in clinical and laboratory mycology through collaborative clinical and translational research focussed on improving patient centred outcomes.



CRN

Facilitating high quality, multicentred, investigator-initiated studies.



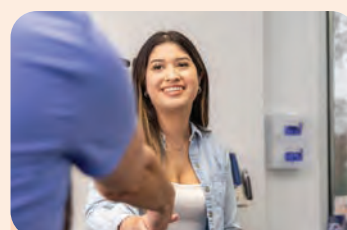
HICSIG

Representing clinical and / or research interests in infection prevention & control and / or antimicrobial stewardship.



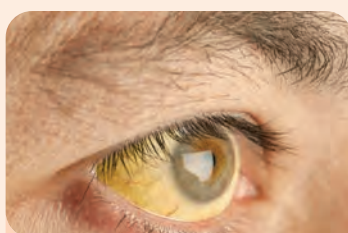
ICHSIG

Focuses on the continued expansion of new immune modulating therapies, the increasing number of patients receiving immunosuppression, and the scope of specialties managing immunocompromised hosts.



VACSIG

Acts as a focal point bringing together the many people working in the area of vaccination.



VH2SIG

Representing clinical and / or research interests in viral hepatitis.



ZOOSIG

Bringing together expertise on zoonoses, and the intersection between animal health, human health and agriculture.



Trainees

Representing ASID Associate members who are involved in training with either the RACP or the RCPA.

A message from our President

In 2024, ASID has increased its focus on advocacy, education, and events, while at the same time building the capacity in our team to support the growing number of members (now over 1200) and the increasing activities across ASID.

I am incredibly proud of our growing advocacy voice, the breadth of issues engaged on, and moves towards a proactive advocacy strategy. The ASID Advocacy and Policy Committee, established at the end of 2022 and chaired first by Professor Katie Flanagan and now Dr Candice Holland, has worked with the ASID Board and SIGs and advocated to state and national governments, and other stakeholders, on a variety of issues from responding to the COVID inquiry to highlighting the importance of vaccinations. Our statements have gained traction and are held in high regard by our stakeholders. Of note, ASID joined together with other organisations to push for the Australian Government to fully fund and establish a permanent Australian Centre for Disease Control (Australian CDC) — a model of national coordination, technical expertise, the structure of expert advice and good communicative practice.

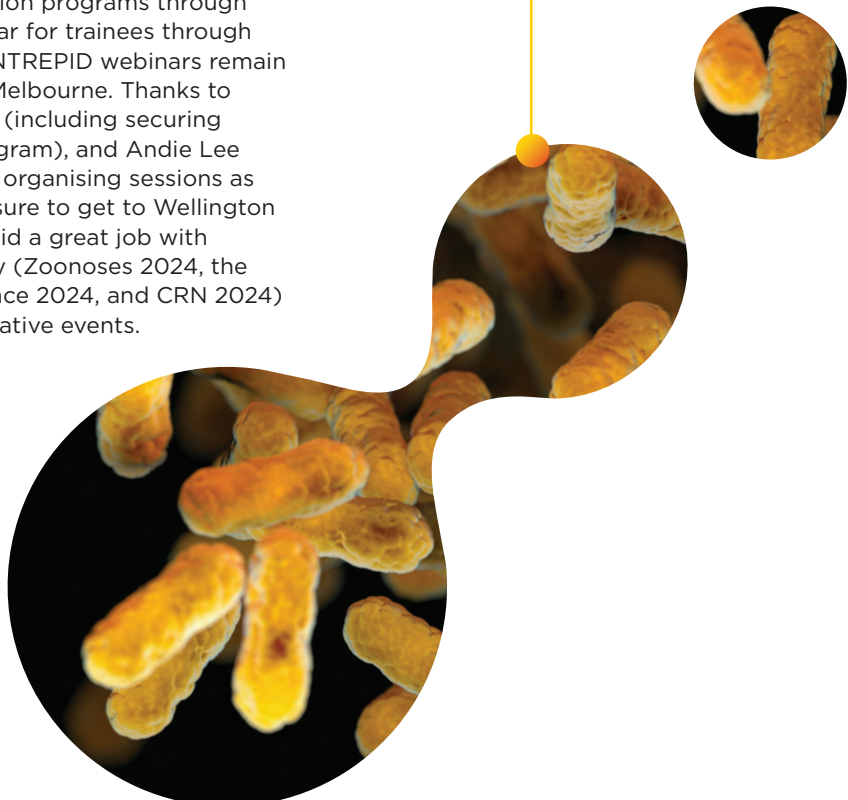
We know we have more to do and I encourage all members to get involved by contacting a SIG or the Committee if you feel ASID should be advocating on a particular issue. ASID prides itself on being a space for different voices to speak and be heard.

We continued to deliver top class education programs through webinars for all members, and in particular for trainees through the INTREPID program. The fortnightly INTREPID webinars remain popular, as was the Trainee Weekend in Melbourne. Thanks to Danielle Fitzpatrick for driving INTREPID (including securing a DOHA/RACP grant funding for the program), and Andie Lee (HICSIG) and Louise Cooley (ICHSIG) for organising sessions as part of the Weekend event. It was a pleasure to get to Wellington this year for the ASM. Olivia Bupha-Intr did a great job with her team. The three symposia held in July (Zoonoses 2024, the second Bone and Joint Infection Conference 2024, and CRN 2024) were successful educational and collaborative events.

Zoonoses 2024 was the first event where ASID hosted the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Veterinarian Officer of Australia, and allowed them to meet face to face for the first time — no mean feat to get them both in a room together. Thank you to Kathryn Wilks and Katrina Bosward (Zoonoses), Paul Chapman (BJI), Jason Trubiano, and Jason Kwong (CRN) for their efforts, as well as members of their SIGs who assisted.



Bordetella pertussis, bacteria causing whooping cough
Credit: CDC / Unsplash



ANZPID was particularly active in providing training and advocacy for our Paediatric Infectious Diseases members and trainees, and of note, the ANZMIG/AFWG program of webinars was very well attended this year.

The ASID Secretariat operated without a CEO for close to twelve months, and my thanks go to Maureen, Serena and Alison for keeping operations going while we took the time to restructure.

ASID continues to grow. We were excited to welcome Dr Irene Kourtis in early September to the new role of ASID CEO. You can read a progress update from her in the following pages. The appointment of a CEO is a significant one. Dr Kourtis is helping the Board consider ASID's strategic direction; and with a full time events function in place, we can provide more activities and events for the growing number of ASID members.

Finally, I would like to thank the many volunteers and ambassadors who help ASID. Thank you to my fellow Board members, and the Council who remain committed to ASID, ensuring our activities align with our values and mission. Thank you to all members, who volunteer their time, and breathe life into the SIGs. Thank you to all our volunteer members who contribute their time and expertise to SIGs, committees, events, webinars, training weekends and wider activities. Your updates across the sector and advocacy enrich ASID and the broader community. I also want to acknowledge members who assist with reviewing external requests, including providing letters of support for research, grant applications, and clinical guidelines. The success of ASID is built on the collective contributions of our vibrant volunteer community and ASID is grateful for your efforts.



Professor Joseph Doyle
President



A message from our Chief Executive Officer

The year 2024 has been a time of change, challenge and opportunity for ASID. I am honoured to be the inaugural CEO of ASID and to lead a long standing and respected society that represents the interests of our members and infectious diseases sector.

A priority in my first few months was meeting all SIGs and Committees. A standout is the incredible volunteering spirit and collaboration between our members and Board. It is through this commitment and generosity that ASID can achieve its goals and continue to thrive.

I would like to thank the Secretariat, Council and members for their generosity of both time and the sharing of information. It's been insightful to listen to your feedback and understand our challenges, what it means to be a member of ASID, opportunities ahead and how the Secretariat can better support your needs.

In response, we are reviewing our internal systems and processes; and strengthening the support offered to our members. We have increased our secretariat capability. This includes the appointment of full time Events Manager to support the growth across SIG events, symposia, webinars and meetings. Similarly, we have welcomed a full time Senior Administrator to the ASID team, providing much needed continuity and enhanced support to all our SIGs, Network and Committees.

In addition, we have embarked on strategy development that will pave the way forward to build on ASID's foundations. The Board held ASID's first strategy workshop in late October 2024 and will continue discussions in 2025 as well as engaging with Council and members.

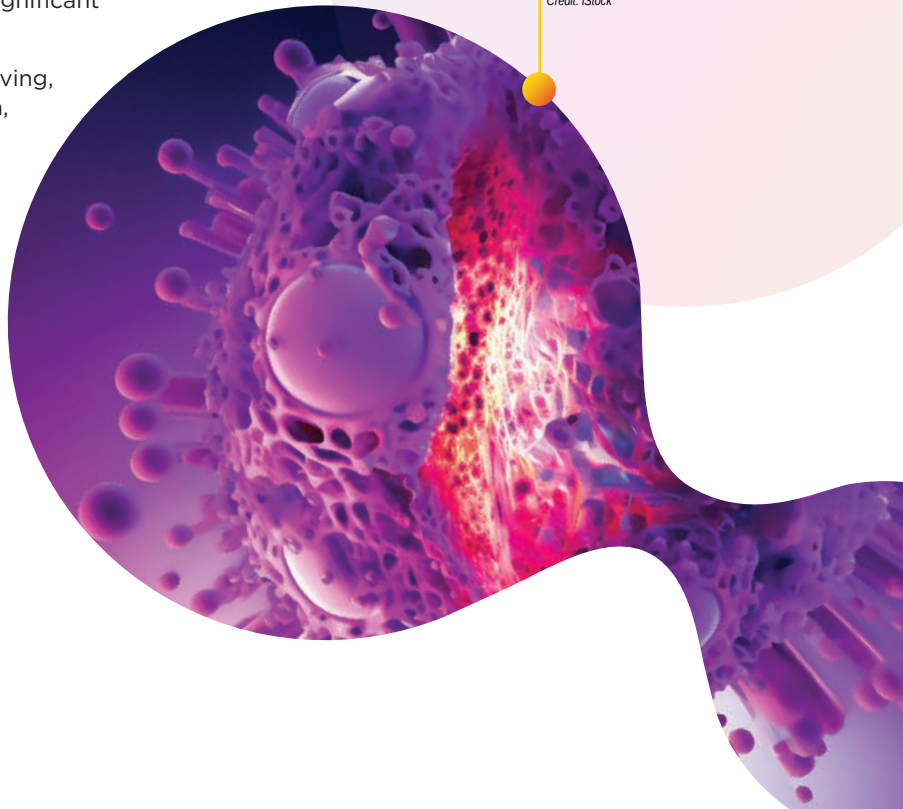
Looking ahead, I am excited to work with the Board, Council, and members across Australia and New Zealand on strategic initiatives to strengthen ASID's reach and influence. As the peak professional body for infectious diseases and clinical microbiology in Australasia, we have significant opportunities to expand our reach and impact.

The challenges of infectious diseases are ever evolving, and with our collective expertise and collaboration, I am confident we'll continue making a positive impact to our community.

In closing I want to express my deepest gratitude to our dedicated Board, Secretariat, ASID members and valued supports. Together we will continue to shape the future of infectious diseases.



(RSV) Respiratory Syncytial virus, human orthopneumovirus, is a common, contagious airborne virus that causes infections of the respiratory tract
Credit: iStock



Dr Irene Kourtis
Chief Executive Officer

Treasurer's report

From a financial perspective, 2024 has demonstrated the challenges of societies such as ours in the increasingly costly operating environment. Revenue for the society is, and has always been, dependent on subscriptions (with annual subscription fees remaining low compared to like societies) and revenue gained from attendance fees and sponsorship of our scientific meetings, particularly the Annual Scientific Meeting. The direct costs of holding such meetings, and several satellite meetings, as well as the staff costs required to support the delivery of high-quality meetings that ASID has come to expect, have continued to climb. These cashflow pressures see the society incurring a net loss of \$254,338 in 2024.

To ensure the sustainability of the society, we have invested surplus funds in a number of moderate-high yield investments, with returns of >7% from February to December 2024. We are looking at ways to grow membership and encourage attendance at the ASM and satellite meetings. Our board and CEO are re-establishing relationships with potential sponsors, ensuring greater contribution to our events. We have restructured our finances enabling us to acquit individual activities and meetings, thereby assisting future financial planning. The board and CEO are working closely with ASID Council, Special Interest Groups and Committees to plan future events, to optimise the financial support that is required.



Professor Chris Blyth
Honorary Treasurer



Secretary's report

During 2024 our Membership base continued the transition into a new Membership platform, MemberSpace.

Membership continues to have a strong representation in Australia, creating opportunity for increasing membership in NZ and Australasia.

We continue to see strong growth in the Full and Associate memberships across both Australia and New Zealand.

Our Full and Associate membership makes up 83% of our total membership revenue.

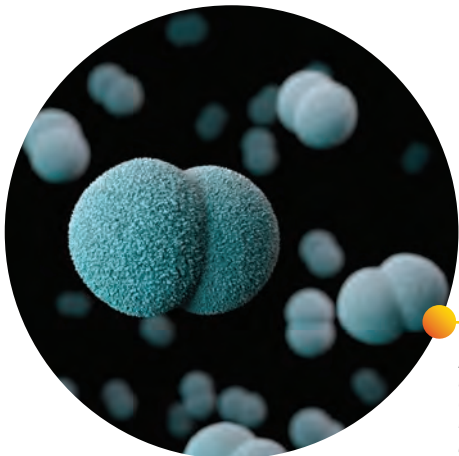
We have successfully navigated the complexities of the infectious disease's environment, thanks to the dedication and expertise of our members and partners. Our focus on fostering innovation, promoting best practices, and addressing the needs of diverse populations has strengthened our impact and reach.

As we move forward, we remain committed to our mission of improving health outcomes and supporting the infectious diseases community. We will continue to advocate for policies that benefit patients and providers, offer valuable resources and training, and build strong partnerships to address emerging health challenges.

This year, I will be stepping down from the ASID Board and as Honorary Secretary. Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to ASID. Together, we will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.



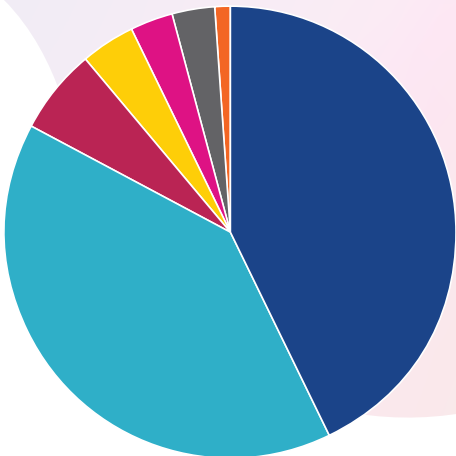
Professor David Paterson
Honorary Secretary



A 3D computer-generated image of a number of diplococcal, Gram-negative, *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria.
Credit: Unsplash / CDC

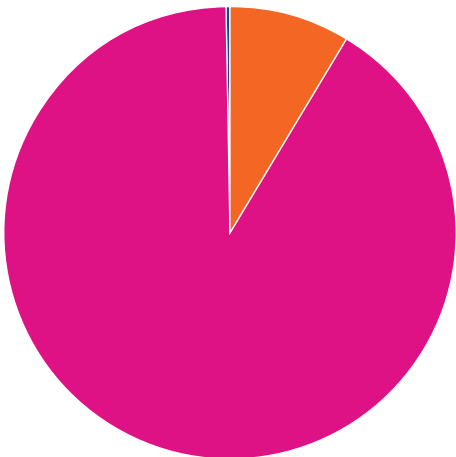
MEMBERSHIP TYPE 2024

Full AU	43%	
Associate AU	40%	
Full NZ/Other	6%	
Associate NZ/Other	4%	
Life Member	3%	
Retired	3%	
LMIC	1%	



MEMBERSHIP DEMOGRAPHIC 2024

Australia	1,087	
New Zealand	103	
Other	3	
TOTAL	1,193	



Advocacy

ASID's Advocacy and Policy Committee meets regularly to discuss a wide range of issues with the aim of working with the Board, SIGs and members to strengthen the Society's voice and build a stronger profile for ASID within healthcare advocacy. This includes position statements, news updates, advocacy letters, and submissions to Parliamentary Inquiries. All advocacy-related information can be found on the ASID website.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ASID, on its own, and collectively with the PHAA, CAHA, and RACP were called on by the Australian Government to fully fund and establish a permanent **Australian Centre for Disease Control (Australian CDC)**.
- ASID and ANZPID made separate submissions to the **Commonwealth Government COVID-19 Response Inquiry**.
- ASID advocated for **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** Voice to Parliament saying it would help improve infectious diseases health outcomes.
- ASID recommended the introduction of needle and syringe programs in Australian prisons to prevent infections. VACSIG and ANZPID members led the charge on whooping cough, RSV, and vaccine uptake and equity.
- ANZMIG raised concerns over the use of the new agricultural fungicide, ipflufenquin, in Australia.
- Committee members represented ASID at national roundtable discussions on congenital syphilis and antimicrobial stewardship.

In 2025, ASID looks forward to advancing public health through a unified, national ID voice and continuing to promote community awareness and education on ID issues.



Dr Candice Holland
Chair, Advocacy and
Policy Committee

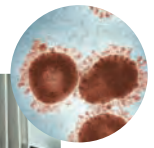


Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

ASID aims to proactively seek and include members from a diverse range of backgrounds, experiences, qualities and expression, and ensure our activities, operations, policy development and strategic management embrace a diversity of perspectives.

The Committee's work reflects contemporary community values in matters relating to equity and diversity. This year we have focused on ensuring that there is equity, diversity and inclusion in ASID activities.

For example, through our choices when we select speakers for panels and keynotes at conferences; our choice when we endorse research and award prizes; understanding the composition of our membership and developing avenues for mentorship and career advancement for trainees.



Dr Rekha Pai-Mangalore
Chair Equity, Diversity
and Inclusion Committee



New Zealand

The ASID New Zealand Sub-Committee has a keen interest in antimicrobial stewardship, a national approach to infections and health reforms. With a focus on advocacy and policy, members hold positions on national advisory groups, advising the PM and cabinet, are involved in trans Tasman research initiatives and participate in the Vaccine Alliance Aotearoa.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, some members have been involved in Te Niwha, the Infectious Diseases Research Platform established to prepare for known and emerging disease threats in New Zealand. ASID members have presented lessons and opportunities for improvement in the research response to future infectious diseases. The creation of Te Whatu Ora and Te Aka Whai Ora in 2022 as part of Aotearoa's health system reforms has led to ASID members becoming involved in its development.

Professor Chambers established the Infectious Diseases Department in Christchurch Hospital in 1987, growing the service over the next three decades until he retired from clinical ID in 2015. He has recruited, trained or mentored a large proportion of the Infectious Diseases specialists in New Zealand from their time as juniors, through Fellowship and as practising specialists, with strong advocacy for ASID membership and engagement.



One of the founding fathers of Infectious Diseases in New Zealand, Professor Stephen Chambers was awarded the 2024 ASID Life Member Award at the ASM Conference dinner.

Annual Scientific Meeting

ASM 2024

Wellington delivered an exceptional ASM!

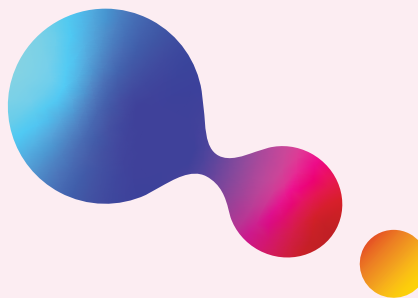
With over 75 presenters, 80+ posters, AGM, several meetings, pre-meeting symposium, and breakfast sessions spanning a busy four full days. Wellington treated over 250 delegates to beautiful autumn weather. Special thanks to Dr Olivia Bupha-Intr, her ASID team, our sponsors, and all local and international speakers for a very successful event.



Above: ASM 2024 Wellington Co-Convenor, Dr Olivia Bupha-Intr (left) accepts a gift from outgoing ASID President, Professor Katie Flanagan at the Conference Dinner.

Abstract 3D Render of
Human Metapneumovirus.
Credit: iStock

Events & education



BJI 2024

Bone and Joint Infection Conference

Local and international speakers met in the sunny Gold Coast for the second Bone and Joint Infection Conference. More than 200 delegates took up the opportunity to engage with ID specialists, orthopaedic surgeons and many others interested in the challenges faced in surgical site infections. Akubra hats were presented to all overseas speakers, including Dr Desmond Soares.

ZOONOSSES 2024

The Crossroads of Contagion

The Crossroads of Contagion event in Sydney attracted over 200 delegates and featured education sessions with an emphasis on highlighting the importance of the intersection of human and animal interactions and health.



In 2024, when Professor Paul Kelly announced his retirement, the Chief Veterinarian Officer (Dr Beth Cookson) posted on LinkedIn: "One of my fondest memories was co-presenting with Professor Kelly at the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases 'Zoonoses: Crossroads of Contagion' conference earlier in the year."

CRN 2024

The ASID Clinical Research Network

The ASID Clinical Research Network meeting in the Gold Coast attracted more than 50 delegates and had an amazing line up of local and international speakers, and was aimed at advancing the careers of Early and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs) in infectious diseases and connecting clinician researchers.



INTREPID 2024

ASID's popular **IN**troductory **TR**ainee **E**ducation **P**rogram in **I**nfectious **D**iseases (INTREPID) continued with a series of fortnightly webinars

INTREPID is made possible thanks to the generous support of ASID and the RACP / Department of Health.

2024 TRAINEE WEEKEND

The much awaited Trainee Weekend: two days tailored to incoming and current trainees and new Fellows, was held in Melbourne in November.

This year, the first morning was hosted by the trainees, and the afternoon was co-delivered with ASID's Immunocompromised Host Special Interest Group (ICHSIG) focusing on infections in haematology-oncology setting.

Prior to the weekend kicking off, a HICSIG Education day was held targeted to Infectious Diseases and Microbiology Trainees and Consultants.

ANZMIG EDUCATION WEBINARS

Two education webinars were held during the year for all those interested in everything mycology. Taking the form of case study discussions, they are popular education sessions. Hosted by the then ANZMIG Co-Chairs, Dr Celia Cooper and Dr Caitlin Keighley.

ANZMIG AFWG WEBINARS

A series of case study webinars presented by the Asia Fungal Working Group (AFWG) and ANZMIG. The webinars are held every quarter and cover interesting real-life cases brought in by a selected presenter. The case presentations are further discussed and supported by a panel of experts in the field from different regions of Asia Pacific.

ANZPID CLINICAL MEETING

The annual ANZPID clinical meeting was held in Brisbane, hosted by Dr Sophie Wen and Dr Angie Berkhout. There was also an ANZPID Trainee event following on from the clinical meeting themed: *Masterclasses on Key Skills*.



Award winners

Congratulations to all
ASID 2024 Award Winners.

ASID Frank Fenner Award for Advanced
Research in Infectious Diseases

Professor Joseph Doyle

ASID Research Grant

Dr Josh Osowicki

ASM Advanced Trainee Research Award

Professor Kate Drummond

ASM Best Poster Award

Dr Andrew Fox-Lewis
Heather Weerdenburg

Council Scholarships

Dr Alison Boast
Dr Eloise Williams
Dr Shio Yen Tio

International Travel Awards

Dr Annalise Unsworth
Dr Andrew Fox-Lewis

John Forbes Developing Nations Travelling
Scholarship

Dr Flora Lutui

ANZMIG Research Grant Award

Dr Julian Harris

ANZPID

Michael-John Fay



Professor Joseph Doyle accepting the Frank
Fenner Award from Professor Katie Flanagan.

NZ Trainee Award

Dr Thomas Wong

HICSIG

Professor Kate Drummond

ICHSIG

Heather Weerdenburg

VH2SIG

Dr Richard Sullivan

VACSIG

Dr Eloise Williams

CRN 2024 Best Oral Award

Elise Mitri

BJI 2024 Best Poster Award

Henco Nel
Kazuhika Udagawa

Sponsors

Thank you to our sponsors.

Pfizer

Astra Zeneca

BioMerieux Medical

Heraeus Medical

Spiral

Viiv

Wildlife Health Australia

WSPID

Biocomposites & LifeHealthCare

Takeda

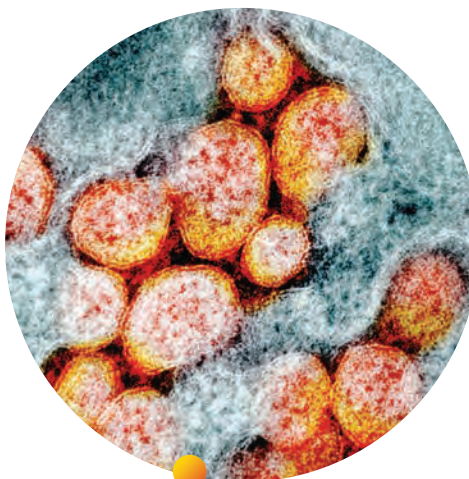
CABI

AKVA Surgical

OrthoDX

Herston Infectious Diseases Institute

NovusSurgical



Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 Transmission electron micrograph of SARS-CoV-2 virus particles, isolated from a patient.

Credit: NIAID





Appendix

We welcomed the following new members.

NEW FULL AUSTRALIAN MEMBERS

Dr Jason Armstrong
Dr Alison Peel
Dr Kerri Basile

NEW ASSOCIATE AUSTRALIAN MEMBERS

Dr Najma Kori
Dr Michael Riceman
Professor Kate Drummond
Hoi Yan Cheng
Marian Youseff
Joel Le Couteur
Dr Maurizio Stefani
Dr Daniel Townsend
Manu Prakash
Anna Schneider
Dr Christina Guo
Hannah Poole
Dr Sue Qian
Dr Nasim Salehnia
Madeleine Bangham
Andrew Strack
Dr Josh Bramwell
Dr Yonatan Mesfin
Dr Jack Skeggs
Malathy Balakrishnan
Dr Carrie Lee
Dr Maria Lean
Isaac Lee
Kate Lennard
Dr Ben Joseph
Dr Annalise Lance
Dr Suveena Ranzil
Dr Kate Worthing
Aidan McLachlan
Melissa Hardy
Heeral Thakkar
Gemma Webb
Wei Yao Ng

Dr Henco Nel
Dr Nicholas Yuen
Kathleen Ly
Dr Tim Crocker-Buque
Dr Mitchell Browne
Craig Forde
Dr Vicki Slinko
Dr Allisa Robertson
Dr Andrew Davis Ferguson
Abbey Lynch
Melanie Schwarz
Dr Thomas Kelly
Jack Anstey
Juliette Jeffreys
Dr Carolyn Jack
Dr Linda Lin
Dr Satwika Rompally
Dr Daniel Zhang
Dr James Kimber
Dr Pamodi Kodikara
Laura Bywater
Lee Kok How
Janine Roney
Benjamin Palladino
Dr Eda Gungormez
Peter Xie
Dr Lok Bahadur Shrestha
Dr Jessica Taylor
Sarina Gloekl
Dr David Goodman-Meza
Dr Andrew Chu
Dr Sally Abdulla
Daniel Nguyen

Dr Ben Dickson
Michael Marazita
Jacob Griffiths
Dr Joshua Sharp
Dr Md Saiful Islam
Nicholas Owens
Dr Chitra Ravi
Dr Sarah Fu
Karen Urbancic
Monica Delgado Ramirez
Dr Jane Lynch
Dr Celeste Donato
Angela Willemsen
Abha Kandalkar
Alice Gagebrown
Helen Miles

FULL NZ/OVERSEAS MEMBERS

Janine Carter
Irasha Harding
Dr Morgan Evans

ASSOCIATE NZ/OVERSEAS MEMBERS

Cat Li
Dr Christopher Clews
Dr Luke Sylvester
Jimmy Chancellor

LOWER-MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRY MEMBERS

Dr Rhondi Kauna



ASID acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Traditional Owners, Custodians and First Nations of Australia, and Māori as tangata whenua and Treaty of Waitangi partners in Aotearoa New Zealand.



PO Box Q379
QVB Sydney 1230
admin@asid.net.au

ABN 20 108 151 093
ACN 155 632 698