



The Australian Society for Microbiology is a not-for-profit organisation, formed in 1959 as a learned society devoted to furthering the science of microbiology.



The Australian Society
for **Microbiology**
bringing Microbiologists together!

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

Our unseen bedfellows: friend or foe?

Microorganisms have been in existence for over three billion years. They will probably outlive the human race, and yet we know relatively little about them. They usually come to our attention in dire circumstances, such as when there is an outbreak of swine flu or SARS - events that have major repercussions. There is growing evidence that they are involved in diseases we have never considered to be infectious, such as cancers and maybe even obesity.

What we don't hear is that microorganisms contribute to our life and world in many positive ways. Have we done them justice? Do we know enough about them? Would we be better off without them? Are they mostly safe? Or could they wipe out the human race, given the chance? Should we encourage or limit vaccination? If we kill them all, can we live without them? Would we finally be safe without them?

In this forum, **Nobel prize winner Harald zur Hausen**, who first discovered the link between virus infection and cervical cancer, and three prominent Australian microbiologists will discuss the role of microorganisms in our lives, the challenges facing science and the future, and how such tiny things are capable of making the biggest impact to life on earth!

Led by the **Director of UTS Institute for Biotechnology of Infectious Diseases, Professor Ian Charles**, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and participate in this forum.

EXPERT PANEL

Professor Harald zur Hausen – Winner of the 2008 Nobel Prize for Medicine

"We are profoundly interested in finding further links between infectious agents and widespread human cancers, and the role of infections in human tumors..."

Professor Michael Gillings – Environmental microbiologist and microbe champion

"We normally think of microorganisms as 'germs' that are dangerous for us. But the overwhelming majority of microorganisms are actually beneficial and essential to our bodies, plants or animals."

Dr Alan Hampson – Flu expert and Chairman of the Influenza Specialist Group

"Influenza has been described as the chameleon of viruses, the last great plague of man, the only known pathogen capable of producing a truly global catastrophe."

Dr Malcolm McDonald – Infectious disease doctor in remote Aboriginal communities

"The stark contrast between the health of two populations - Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal - living within the same national borders, exists for no other people and on no other continent."

When

Sunday 4 July 2010, 2.00pm start; concludes 4.00pm

Where

Guthrie Theatre,
Level 3, Building 6, UTS City Campus, Broadway (Guthrie Theatre is located on Harris Street, next to ABC Ultimo Centre)

RSVP: Complete an online registration (<http://surveys.uts.edu.au/surveys/registrationourunseenbedfellowsf/index.cfm>) by Friday 2 July 2010 to register for this event.



UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

This free public lecture is hosted by the Faculty of Science, University of Technology, Sydney (UTS).