

## Update of SSMB activities in 2020-2021

The 47th Annual General Meeting of the Singapore Society for Microbiology and Biotechnology was held at 300 pm on Monday, 24 August 2020 virtually. The President and Treasurer reports were presented, and we hosted two well-received talks on (1) “Leapfrogging COVID-19 vaccine development” by Prof Ooi Eng Eong, Duke-NUS Medical School, and (2) “The ecology of desert microbes – from Earth to Mars” by Prof Stephen Pointing, Yale-NUS College, NUS.

SSMB sponsored a Special award in Microbiology for deserving students during the annual Singapore Science & Engineering Fair (SSEF) on 31 March 2021. Out of 12 competitive presentations, one project was short-listed and judged by SSMB council members to be the top in term of clarity, enthusiasm and understanding of the work. Three students from Raffles Institution were awarded a 3-year student membership to SSMB. Other than that, SSMB has also challenged NUS undergraduates to write an essay on topics of interest related to microbiology. These includes topics on Neglected Tropical Diseases, Sustainability, food microbiology and others. Nine selected pieces are left unedited to reflect students’ personal views, and has been published on the SSMB webpage. Authors have been granted a 1-year membership to SSMB as a token of appreciation.

A seminar on Soleris Ng Rapid Microbial Testing System “Microbiology at the speed of Light” is jointly organised by Singapore Society for Microbiology and Biotechnology (SSMB), Neogen (USA) and Chokim Scientific (S) Pte Ltd on 23 April 2021. The talk was well-received including over 40 participants from Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and Korea. The speaker is Mr Jason Kircos, who has played a key role in the development of the Soleris NG platform for real-time microbiology testing.