

ASM Education SIG News

Letter

September 2022



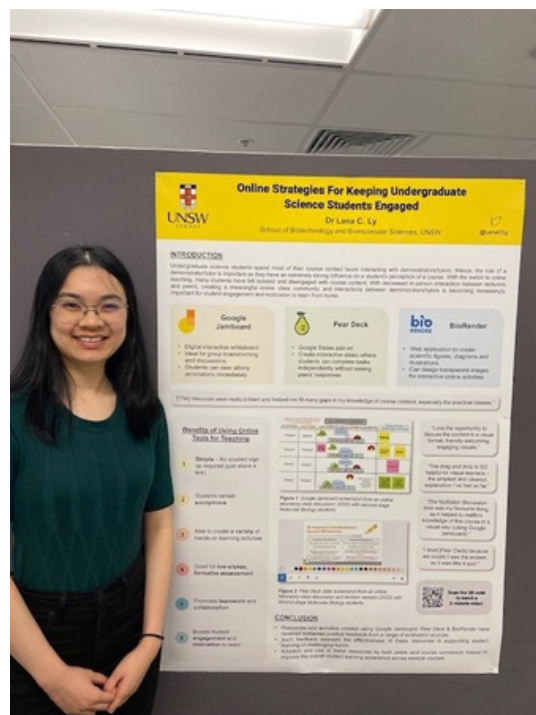
EduCon 2022

My Reflection on ASM EduCoN 2022 Senaka Ranadheera

I was so excited to attend EduCon 2022 at the Teachers Federation Conference Centre in Sydney for many reasons. It was my first time presenting a poster on food microbiology education, and I was the recipient of this year ASM Teachers Travel Award. Above all, it was so exciting to finally meet most of our friendly Ed SIG colleagues and dedicated microbiology educators in-person.



R: Poster presentation by **Lana C. Ly**
Online strategies to keep undergraduate students engaged



Thank you to the EduCon 2022 committee

Thiru Vanniasinkham, Priscilla Johanesen, Meredith Hughes, Gal Winter Ziv, Seneka Ranadheera, Megan Lloyd, Ipek Kurtböke, Rebecca LeBard, Megan Lenardon

Some colleagues joined via zoom as the event was hybrid – both in-person and online. Throughout the program I was introduced to new ideas and innovations on learning and teaching, and it was very inspiring to listen and talk to the presenters and participants. Everyone was so friendly and was ready to share ideas and experiences in a positive manner.

The program commenced with an engaging talk on professionalising student work with authentic assessments by Meredith Hughes, one of the passionate microbiology educators from Monash University. Meredith was also the recipient of the prestigious ASM David White Excellence in Teaching Award 2021. It was a fascinating talk with new ideas, and I learnt so much. Presentations from Bryan Dewsbury and authors of some selected abstracts were inspiring, informative, and very interesting.

Two workshops conducted by microbiology teaching teams of Charles Sturt University (facilitated by Thiru Vanniasinkam) and University of New England (facilitated by Nick Andronicus and Gal Winter) provided us with new knowledge and insights on good practices in learning and teaching. The poster presentation session was highlighted some microbiology and life science education research, classroom techniques, innovative laboratory exercises and tips for better teaching and learning.

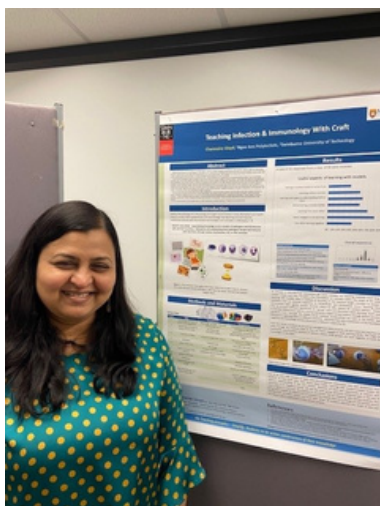
The afternoon roundtable discussion facilitated by Ipek Kurtboke on importance of microbiology teaching for achieving sustainable development goals was another great highlight of this event.

I feel so lucky to have this opportunity to not only present a poster, meet our colleagues and some pioneers in microbiology education in Australia, and networking but also learn about innovations in learning and teaching. I would like to thank ASM, Ed SIG, our Convenor Thiru Vanniasinkam, all presents and participants for providing such a wonderful experience. I look forward to seeing you all at the next ASM EduCon in Perth.

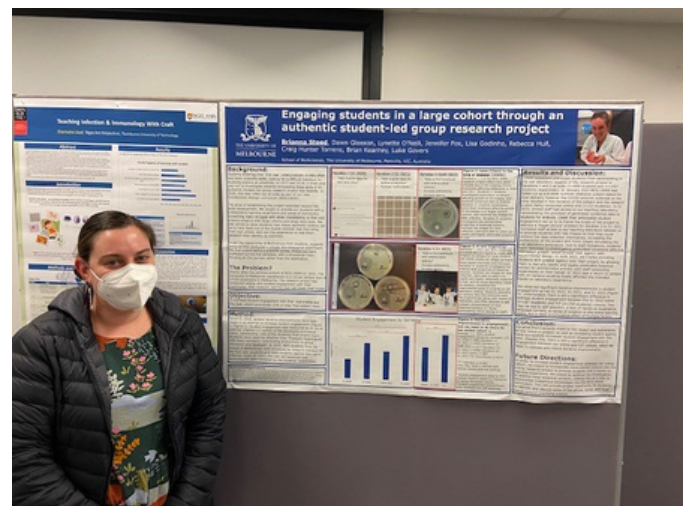
Senaka Ranadheera,
Faculty of Veterinary & Agricultural Science,
The University of Melbourne.



Above - **Nathan Higgins**
Development of self-regulated learning: A longitudinal study on academic performance in undergraduate science



Left - **Charmaine Lloyd**
Teaching infection & immunity with craft materials



Right - **Brianna Steed**
Engaging students in a large cohort through an authentic student-led group research project

My reflections on EduCon 2022



Gal Winter
Biomedical Sciences –
School of Science and Technology,
University of New England.

Confession time, I usually do not enjoy conferences. Maybe it is imposter syndrome raising its ugly head or the “work” involved in networking. ASM EduCon is the big exception to this rule. From the first year I attended, I felt supported and inspired by the talks/workshops and mostly by being in the company of other microbiology educators who seek to share their experiences in the most authentic way.

EduCon 2022 inspired me to re-think my assessments with great examples of authentic assessments by A/Prof Meredith Hughes and a detailed workshop on the importance of language used in setting learning objectives by a team from CSU.

It was also good to hear from other educators on the post-pandemic changes that we need to introduce in order to stay agile.

To me, the most thought-provoking message came from Dr Brian Dewsbury in his talk on the inclusive classroom. Dr Dewsbury presented compelling evidence for his approach of investing more time in getting to know the student cohort, even at the account of reducing course content. This idea resonates with me however its application is challenging.

As usual, the conversations during break time were just as valuable as the talks and workshops. We are fortunate to be a part of such a supportive community of educators. Looking forward to ASM Educon 2023!

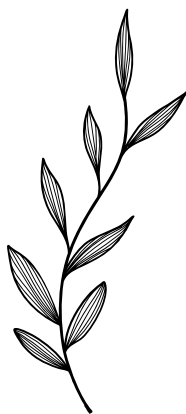
TEQSA 2022 6th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Fit for the Future:
Leadership, Quality, Integrity



Australian Government
Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

23-24 November
Sofitel Melbourne on Collins
teqsaconference.org.au



HERDSA
2023
Annual
Conference

4-7 July
2023

Brisbane Convention
& Exhibition Centre
Brisbane, Australia



ASERA 54 – 2023 Conference

Face to Face (F2F) Conference at the Cairns Convention Centre

Tuesday 27th June to Friday 30th June 2023

Austaliasian Science Education Research
Association

Our Mission

The Education Special Interest Group (EdSIG) is focused on advancing microbiology educators and supporting scholarship of teaching and learning in microbiology.

Please send any images for inclusion in our online image library. Must be sharable (Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License).

<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/>
Send to
megan.lloyd@uwa.edu.au

If you have any suggestions for topics that you would like to see presented at EduCon 2023 in Perth, please contact Thiru Vanniasinkam (tvanniasinkam@csu.edu.au)

