

ANZMAG NEWS – MARCH 2020

By Prof. Oliver A.H. Jones (RMIT University - oliver.jones@rmit.edu.au)

Dear all,

Welcome to the March 2020 edition of ANZMAG News. We are all probably still reeling from the effects of COVID-19 (and possibly too much chocolate at Easter) but here is the newsletter.

ANZMAGers IN THE NEWS

Perhaps not quite the news as such but I would like to highlight former ANZMAG president Glenn King's excellent online TEDx entitled "*Deadly cures: how venomous animals could save your life*" Which you can find at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DybEzz6A6z4>

I am not sure if this counts but I was glad to see that New Zealand based Magritek now has their own entry on Wikipedia - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magritek> as does Prof Frances Separovic https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frances_Separovic

TEACHING

If any of our readers are teaching remotely please don't forget the ANZMAG YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBJcwZxXugv5PgzFgm-n2eA> There are a large range of lectures from basic introductions to advanced spin dynamics. You can also read more about how this resource is used at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.jchemed.8b00523>

PAPER OF THE MONTH

This month's paper of the month is entitled "Using benchtop NMR spectroscopy as an online non-invasive in vivo lipid sensor for microalgae cultivated in photobioreactors" by Bouillaud et al and published in Process Biochemistry I thought it was quite an interesting approach for low-field NMR. You can read it at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1359511320300878>

AWARDS AND PRIZES

The RACI has made the decision to continue with their National Awards. Applications/Nominations opened 1 April and close 12 June. Please see <https://www.raci.org.au/events-awards/national-awards> and click on the white category label for more.

The Australian Academy of Sciences list of awards for the recognition and support of outstanding contributions to the advancement of science. can be seen at <https://www.science.org.au/supporting-science/awards-and-opportunities> I dream about winning one of these though I doubt I ever will. You have to be in it to win though.

The Australian Museum Eureka Prizes have had their deadline extended to 15th May 2020. See <https://australianmuseum.net.au/get-involved/eureka-prizes/> and please do think about nominating worthy people for these sorts of things.

The Society of Chemical Industry is running an essay competition for undergraduate and honours students in Chemistry Chemical Engineering and related areas. Full details at <https://www.soci.org/awards/society-prizes/australia-essay-competition>

COVID-19 How can I help

In the current situation it can feel a bit like there is not much we can do to help. I've spotted a few options online that might be of interest to some who are keen to help. **Note I am only passing these on for information/consideration there is no pressure. I know everyone is even busier than usual.**

- 1) First up, sign up - We could all sign up to the [joint Academy COVID-19 Expert Database](https://www.science.org.au/covid19/experts) at <https://www.science.org.au/covid19/experts> (all areas of science and technology needed)
- Similarly, [The Australian Society for Microbiology](https://www.soci.org/awards/society-prizes/australia-essay-competition) has a call for the database of qualified people who are willing to be called upon in case of a potential staff shortage to assist with COVID-19 testing See <https://tinyurl.com/v862bbp>
- The Victorian Government has put out a call for expressions of interest for [health and biomedical focussed workers](https://healthworkforceresponse.dhhs.vic.gov.au/) that may be of interest see <https://healthworkforceresponse.dhhs.vic.gov.au/>
- 2) The citizen-science game project, known as [Foldit](https://fold.it/), is now looking at COVID19 drug interactions and you. It could maybe be a good distraction for older children. Please see <https://fold.it/> for more.
- 3) If you are a research intensive academic please spare a thought for those who teach frantically trying to move lectures and pracs online, design new assessments to replace exams and keep up with research. If you can help with the teaching and marking of any course, I am sure people will really appreciate it. A similar option might be to offer to help friends and family with online schooling of their children or even hosting online classes in your area of expertise for staff and students.

PODCASTS

Some of us might be looking for things to keep busy that aren't teaching or research (another lit review) while on lockdown. I thought the Antigen podcast was very topical and interesting. It is easy to find online (<https://www.pfizer.com/news/features/podcasts/the-antigen>) or via your podcast app.

If you want a break from Science I also highly recommend the Gertie's Law podcase (<https://www.supremecourt.vic.gov.au/podcast>) from the Supreme court of Victoria.

STORIES FROM THE WEB

- <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/5/10/eaay1394>
A story on extending electron paramagnetic resonance to nanoliter volume protein single crystals
- <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-07182-7>
It is a couple of years old but the story about the world's strongest MRI machines 910.5 Tesla and beyond) caught my attention.
- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesconca/2020/04/14/scientist-takes-magnetic-aim-at-the-coronavirus-at-the-pacific-northwest-national-laboratory/#708ce0725bc3>
I thought this story about the use of NMR to look at SARS-CoV-2 was at least topical.