

AACB New Zealand Branch

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2024

AACB New Zealand Branch AGM, March 22nd 2024.

The meeting opened at 1405 hrs.

Present: Roger Barton, Christian, David Peart, Shonal Krishna, Philippa Holdaway, Colleen Harvey, Chris Florkowsky, Leo Luk.

Apologies: Alison Connolly

Minutes of last AGM: Moved by Colleen Harvey

Education report: (Ping Tat (Leo) Luk)

This year, the AACB New Zealand Branch organised two events:

1. NZIMLS and AACB Combined Biochemistry Seminar

This year, on the 28th of October, the biochemistry seminar at Otago Museum organised by the NZIMLS and AACB. There were many people attending, despite the seminar being organised in a restricted time frame. However, we were fortunate enough to have a Roman Lecturer from Norway give the attendees a lecture on External Quality Assurance (EQA) and Point of Care (POC). Also, multiple guest researchers around the world presented lectures on their current research projects and their findings. All attendees' experienced how medical laboratory science supported the research from the university and got insight about how there can be opportunities for medical laboratory scientists to provide their expertise on being a part of any cutting-edge medical research in the near future.

2. Roman Lecture at Middlemore Hospital, Auckland

The lecture was held on 30th October and sponsored by the Bio-Rad and Radiometer. Before the lecture, Professor Sverre Sandberg and I were given a laboratory tour in the Middlemore Hospital laboratory by chemical pathologists and the charge scientist in biochemistry. We exchanged ideas during the tour and continued during the lunch session. The lecture turnout was less than we expected, but it allowed the speakers and attendees to have a closer interaction.

The overall seminar went smoothly; everyone enjoyed the time to keep themselves up to date and enjoyed the networking time between colleagues around the country.

3. Possible free membership for university students (to be discussed in the educational reps meeting).

Email from NZIMLS regarding future combined SIG/SES.

Trust all is well with you.

At the Council meeting last week, it was decided that the Biochemistry SIG 2024 would be held independently of AACB. It is our opinion that there is more content applicable to our members when the programme is based on presentations from our members.

Please consider a date for the SIG next year; and let me know if you have anyone interested in convening the SIG.

Thanks!

Kind regards

Sharon

Auckland region report: (Shonal S Khrisna) - None

Wellington region report: (David Peart)

David is hoping for the next SES to be held in Wellington.

Waikato region report: (Jo Bouwhuis)

Canterbury region report:

Chris Florkowsky received the Geoffrey Kellerman Award for 2023. There is one possible candidates for Canterbury rep, which is Berit Jenssen. Chris is hoping that one of the venues for this year Roman lecture is Christchurch.

Otago/southland region report: (Roger Barton)

Chairperson's report: (Roger Barton)

The NZ Branch has a steady 55 financial members who have full access to AACB resources. Branch activities in 2023 included the successful format of a branch SES combined with the Roman Lecture. The combined AACB SES /NZIMLS BSIG was not as well attended as in 2022, probably due to late planning, but still attracted 40-50 people. The NZIMLS have chosen not to have a combined educational meeting in 2024 unfortunately, so AACB NZ Branch will proceed to plan for a combined SES/Roman Lecture in Wellington, and standalone Roman Lecture in Christchurch in October. Watch your e-mail for notifications.

The 2024 AGM marks the end of my tenure as Branch Chair. I have enjoyed working with the rest of the committee to organise the NZ SES and Roman Lectures since 2018, interrupted of course by the pandemic. A highlight was the very successful post pandemic Auckland SES combined with NZIMLS in late 2022. Alison Connolly takes up the reins of Chair and I know she will capably take it on. Huge thanks to Christian who is a great secretary, and Leo who juggles being education rep for both AACB and NZIMLS. Thanks also to David (Wellington rep) and Shonal (Auckland rep) for your support. I will continue to be part of the branch committee in the role of representative for Otago & Southland.

Motion for consideration:

1. Question whether SES is recognised by NZIMLS for those who are on NZIMLS CPD programme- We will apply this year SES and Roman Lecture to be recognised by NZIMLS.
2. QR code to be used for this year SES and Roman Lecture for attendance and certificate.
3. Thank you Roger Barton for his service as the Chairman of the AACB NZ Branch for many years.

Election of officers:

Chairperson (Casual):	Alison Connolly (Nominated by Roger Barton and Christian, carried by all present)
Secretary:	Christian (carried by all present)
Education representative:	Ping Tat (Leo) Luk (carried by all present)
Auckland representative:	Shonal S Krishna (carried by all present)
Wellington representative:	David Peart (carried by all present)
Canterbury representative:	Vacant
Otago/Southland representative:	Roger Barton (carried by all present)

Scholarships: None

To be offered in 2024 for the value of NZD.600.00.

Prizes:

- Harry Ward-Hayes (University of Otago) – Presented by Roger Barton
- Lilian Barkett (AUT) – Presented by Leo Luk

Roman Lecture 2024: Rita Horvath

- Wellington – 19/10/2024
- Christchurch – 21/10/2024

SES 2024

- Wellington – 19/10/2024

The Meeting closed at 1435 hrs.