

## The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Queenstown Molecular Biology Meeting

Thursday 4 September – Friday 5 September, 2025

Te Pae, Christchurch, New Zealand

### Wednesday 3 September

Time	Details	Location
<b>QRW Plenary Lecture</b>		
5.30pm-5.40pm	<b>Introduction</b>	Auditorium
5.40pm-6.25pm	<b>Panel Discussion on Aotearoa New Zealand's future research, science &amp; innovation sector</b> <b>Sir Peter Gluckman</b> ONZ KNZM FRSNZ, University of Auckland <b>Professor Emily Parker</b> FRSNZ, Victoria University of Wellington <b>Mark Piper</b> , CEO, Plant & Food Research <b>Professor David R. Grattan</b> FRSNZ, University of Otago	Auditorium
6.30pm-7.40pm	<b>Plenary Lecture</b> <i>Sponsored by Mediscope International Limited</i> <b>Prof. Tak W Mak</b> Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University of Toronto and Centre of Oncology and Immunology, University of Hong Kong <i>Beyond immune checkpoint blockade: emerging strategies</i>	Auditorium
7.45pm-9.30pm	<b>Evening Social Function</b> <i>sponsored by Thermo Fisher Scientific</i> Drinks and Nibbles The Great QMB Trivia Night with Pierre de Cordovez	Exhibition Hall E1+E2

### Thursday 4 September

Time	Details	Location
<b>Biology Research in Space</b> <b>Chaired by Chair Name (Institution)</b>		
8.30am-9.00am	<b>Assoc. Prof. Sarah Kessans</b> University of Canterbury, New Zealand <i>Development and Applications of a Bovine 50,000 SNP Chip</i>	Conway C2+C3
9.00am-9.20 am	<b>Dr Brian Russell</b> Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand TBA	Conway C2+C3
9.20am-9.40am	<b>Dr Vanessa Morris</b> University of Canterbury, New Zealand TBA	Conway C2+C3
9.40am-10.00am	<b>Dr David Hooks</b> AgResearch Ltd., Palmerston North, New Zealand TBA	Conway C2+C3
10.00am-10.30am	<b>Morning Tea</b>	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
<b>Molecular Physiology Across Systems</b> <b>Chaired by Chair Name (Institution)</b>		

10.30am-11:00am	<b>Prof. Marc Pellegrini</b> Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne, Australia <i>TBA</i>	Conway C2+C3
11:00am-11:20am	<b>Dr Amy Yewdall</b> University of Canterbury, New Zealand <i>Droplets that organise life</i>	Conway C2+C3
11:20am-11:40am	<b>Dr Angus Lindsay</b> University of Canterbury, New Zealand <i>Fatiguing and eccentric exercise exacerbates dystrophin-deficiency-induced disruption to skeletal muscle biomechanics in vivo</i>	Conway C2+C3
11:40am-12:00am	<b>Abigail Schwartfeger</b> University of Canterbury, New Zealand <i>Caspase-8 amyloid aggregation: A redox-driven switch in cell fate</i>	Conway C2+C3
12.00pm-1.30pm	<b>Lunch</b>	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
<b>Commercialization in Life Sciences</b> <b>Chaired by Chair Name (Institution)</b>		
	<b>Dr Stuart M Chambers</b> Brightfield Therapeutics, South San Francisco, USA <i>Navigating academic and industry uses of induced pluripotent stem cell-derived definitive haematopoiesis</i>	Conway C2+C3
1.30pm-3.30pm	<b>Speaker Name (Q4)</b> Institution Title	Conway C2+C3
3.30pm-4.00pm	<b>Afternoon Break</b>	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
4.00pm-5.30pm	<b>Poster Session</b> <i>Sponsored by Mediray NZ Ltd &amp; Eppendorf &amp; Miltenyi Biotec</i>	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
7.00pm-late	<b>QMB &amp; MedSci Conference Dinner</b> <i>Sponsored by Thermo Fisher Scientific and Maurice Wilkins Centre</i> Ticket only. Please wear your name badge	Waitaki room, Te Pae

## Friday 5 September

Time	Details	Location
<b>AGM and prize session</b>		
8.00am-8.45am	<b>Annual general meeting of the QMB society</b>	Conway C2+C3
8.45am-9.00am	<b>Poster awards presentation</b>	Conway C2+C3
9.00am-9.20am	<b>illumina™ Emerging Researcher Award 2025</b>	Conway C2+C3
9.20am-9.40am	<i>The Queenstown Molecular Biology Society Māori Early-Career Researcher Award 2025 – to be confirmed</i>	Conway C2+C3
9.40am-10.00am	<b>Thermo Fisher Scientific award for excellence in molecular biology 2025</b>	Conway C2+C3
10.00am-10.30am	<b>Morning Tea</b>	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
<b>Molecular Ecology and Evolution Chaired by Chair Name (Institution)</b>		
10.30am-10.45am	<b>Dr Sarah Knight</b> University of Auckland, New Zealand <i>TBA</i>	Conway C2+C3
10.45am-11.00am	<b>Dr Catherine Collins</b> University of Otago, New Zealand <i>TBA</i>	Conway C2+C3
11.00am-11.15am	<b>Dr James Davies</b> Victor Chang Institute, Australia <i>The structural basis of carnitine transport</i>	Conway C2+C3
11.15am-11.30am	<b>Dr Alana Alexander</b> University of Otago, New Zealand <i>From Ice Age to Isolation: Historical Demography and Inbreeding Depression in New Zealand's Endemic Hector's and Māui Dolphins</i>	Conway C2+C3
11.30am-11.45am	<b>Sarah Manners</b> University of Canterbury, New Zealand <i>Boiling over Bad Smells: Harnessing Thermophilic Enzymes to Sniff out Volatile Sulfur Compounds in Wine</i>	Conway C2+C3
11.45am-12.00am	<b>Assoc. Prof. Evelyn Sattlegger</b> Massey University, New Zealand <i>Towards Dissecting the Molecular Mechanisms Underlying GCN2 Activation – A Protein Kinase with Known Links to Health and Disease</i>	Conway C2+C3
12.00pm-1.00pm	<b>Lunch</b>	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
<b>Technology &amp; Molecular Medicine Chaired by Chair Name (Institution)</b>		
1.00pm-1.20pm	<b>Assoc. Prof. Simon Hinkley</b> Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand <i>The application of heparan sulfate as a human therapeutic</i>	Conway C2+C3
1.20pm-1.35pm	<b>Jordon Lima</b> University of Otago, New Zealand <i>TBA</i>	Conway C2+C3
1.35pm-1.50pm	<b>Dr Hilary Sheppard</b>	Conway C2+C3

	University of Auckland, New Zealand <i>TBA</i>	
1.50pm-2.05pm	<b>Keri Multerer</b> Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand <i>The contribution of gene-gene and gene-environment epistasis to polygenic risk predictions for common, complex diseases</i>	Conway C2+C3
2.05pm-2.25pm	<b>Prof. Tony Kettle</b> University of Otago Christchurch, New Zealand <i>Neutrophils produce hydrogen cyanide and cyanogen chloride during inflammation</i>	Conway C2+C3
2.25pm-2.40pm	<b>Ben Buttle</b> University of Auckland, New Zealand <i>Using Advanced Genome Editing Techniques to Reprogramme T-cells for Cancer Immunotherapy</i>	Conway C2+C3
2.40pm-3.00pm	<b>Prof. Tim Woodfield</b> University of Otago Christchurch, New Zealand <i>TBA</i>	Conway C2+C3
3.00pm-3.30pm	<b>Afternoon Break</b>	Conway Atrium
<b>Cellular Biology: Mechanisms &amp; Models</b> <b>Chaired by Chair Name (Institution)</b>		
3.30pm-4.00pm	<b>Dr Grace Q Gong</b> University of Cambridge, United Kingdom <i>Can activation of an oncoprotein do good things?</i>	Conway C2+C3
4.00pm-4.15pm	<b>Dr Adam Middleton</b> University of Otago, New Zealand <i>Decoding protein degradation with structural biology and machine learning</i>	Conway C2+C3
4.15pm-4.30pm	<b>Emilie Hamzah</b> University of Canterbury, New Zealand <i>Thiolate oxidation of ankyrin repeat proteins triggers transition into amyloid structures</i>	Conway C2+C3
4.30pm-4.45pm	<b>Dr Artem Efremov</b> Institute of Systems and Physical Biology, Shenzhen Bay Laboratory, China <i>Mechanosensitive endonuclease ANKLE1 processes chromatin bridges by cleaving mechanically strained DNA</i>	Conway C2+C3
4.45pm-5.00pm	<b>Dr Davide Mercadante</b> University of Auckland, New Zealand <i>How do independent coarse-grained models converge on defining accurate ensembles of intrinsically disordered proteins?</i>	Conway C2+C3
5.00pm-5.15pm	<b>Dr Nina Dickerhof</b> University of Otago Christchurch, New Zealand <i>Insights into the mechanism of the Streptococcus pneumoniae glutathione import system</i>	Conway C2+C3
5:15am-5:45am	<b>Prof. Gavin Reid</b> University of Melbourne, Australia <i>TBA</i>	Conway C2+C3

