

QMB Meeting Programme

Tuesday 1 September – Wednesday 2 September, 2026
Te Pae, Christchurch, New Zealand

Tuesday 1 September

Time	Details	Location
Session 1 Title		
Chaired by Chair Name (Institution)		
8.30am-9.00am	Mihi Whakatau	Conway C2+C3
9.00am-9.30am	Morning Tea	Exhibition Area
Session 1 Translational Genetics & Genomics		
Chaired by Chair Name (Institution)		
9.30am-10.30am	Manolis Kellis (Q1) QMB Keynote Speaker <i>Title TBC</i>	Conway C2+C3
10.30am-10.40am	<i>10 mins comfort break</i>	
10.40am-10.50am	Hannah Lee-Harwood (Q2) Victoria University of Wellington <i>Functional metagenomic discovery: From antimicrobial resistance to industrial applications</i>	Conway C2+C3
10.50am-11.00am	Hilary Sheppard (Q3) University of Auckland <i>Using advanced genome editing techniques to reprogramme T-cells for cancer immunotherapy</i>	
11.00am-11.10am	Alicia Didsbury (Q4) University of Auckland <i>Title TBC</i>	
11.10am-11.20am	Essie Van Zuylen (Q5) University of Canterbury <i>He taoka nō te whenua: Māori sovereignty and the native Psilocybe of Aotearoa</i>	
11.20am-11.30am	Phillip Wilcox (Q6) University of Otago <i>Title TBC</i>	
11.30am-11.40am	Hannah Darroch (Q7) University of Otago <i>An Aotearoa-relevant role for JAZF1 in the development of metabolic disease</i>	
11.40am-11.50am	Heather Hendrickson (Q8) University of Canterbury <i>Title TBC</i>	
11.50am-12.00pm	Louise Bicknell (Q9) University of Otago	

12.00pm-12.10pm	<i>Title TBC</i> Candice Quin (Q10) Victoria University of Wellington <i>From dysbiosis to frailty: Gut microbiota shape inflammation and immune remodeling in aging</i>	
12.15pm-12.20pm	Sponsor presentation - Thermo Fisher Scientific <i>Title TBC</i>	Conway C2+C3
12.23pm-12.28pm	Sponsor presentation - Decode Science <i>Title TBC</i>	Conway C2+C3
12.30pm-1.30pm	Lunch	Exhibition Area
Session 2 AI-Driven Biology Chaired by Chair Name (Institution)		
1.30pm-1.43pm	Annabel Whibley (Q11) Bragato Research Institute <i>From data to solutions: striving for precision and efficiency in viticulture and winemaking</i>	Conway C2+C3
1.43pm-1.56pm	Te Taka Keegan (Q12) University of Waikato <i>AI and Māori Data Sovereignty of te Reo Māori</i>	
1.56pm-2.09pm	Arthur Morley-Bunker (Q13) University of Otago <i>Title TBC</i>	
2.09pm-2.22pm	Jack Flanagan (Q14) University of Auckland <i>Chemical space travel connects patients to early stage drug discovery science</i>	
2.22pm-2.35pm	Binh Nguyen (Q15) Victoria University of Wellington <i>Integrating Artificial Intelligence and molecular sciences for drug discovery</i>	
2.35pm-2.47pm	William Schierding (Q16) University of Auckland <i>Multi-omics for glaucoma: Integrating molecular, neuroimaging, and clinical data across a multimodal systems biology framework</i>	
2.47pm-3.00pm	Justin O'Sullivan (Q17) University of Auckland <i>From genome to therapy: AI-driven systems biology for precision medicine</i>	
3.00pm-3.30pm	Afternoon Break	Exhibition Area
3.30pm-5.30pm	Poster Session <i>sponsored by Mediray</i>	Exhibition Area

5.30pm-6.30pm	Annual General Meeting (AGM) of The Queenstown Molecular Biology Society <i>All are welcome to attend and contribute to planning of future meetings</i>	
7.00pm-late	QMB & MedSci Conference Cocktail Function Ticket only <i>sponsored by Thermo Fisher Scientific and Maurice Wilkins Centre</i>	Art Gallery

Wednesday 2 September		
Time	Details	Location
<u>Session 3 Chemical Biology & Biodiscovery</u> Chaired by Chair Name (Institution)		
8.00am-8.15am	Alan Cameron (Q18) University of Auckland <i>Developing a cancer prodrug for activation by an oncolytic virus</i>	Conway C2+C3
8.15am-8.30am	Marina Fuhrer/Ruth Pay (Q19) University of Auckland/Victoria University of Wellington <i>Studies towards His-Tyr-Bridged cyclic lipopeptides: Aciculitins</i>	
8.30am-8.45am	Christelle Andre (Q20) New Zealand Institute for Bioeconomy Science <i>Unique bibenzyl cannabinoids in the New Zealand endemic liverwort <i>Radula marginata</i>: Biosynthetic insights and cultural perspectives</i>	
8.45am-9.00am	Meika Foster (Q21) Edible Research Limited, University of Auckland, AuOra Limited, Wakatū Incorporation <i>Beyond chemistry: Implementing an Indigenous-led value-creation and benefit-sharing system for biodiscovery research and innovation</i>	
9.00am-9.15am	Siouxie Wiles (Q22) University of Auckland <i>Searching Aotearoa New Zealand's fungi for novel antimicrobial compounds</i>	
9.15am-9.30am	James Strong (Q23) New Zealand Institute for Bioeconomy Science <i>Title TBC</i>	
9.30am-9.45am	Alistair Brown (Q24) Victoria University of Wellington <i>Indigoidine synthetases: Driving the synthesis of novel C-nucleosides and bioactive pigments</i>	
9.45am-9.52am	Sarah Douglas (Q25)	

9.52am-10.00am	Ferrier Research Institute <i>Investigating novel enzymes in indole diterpene biosynthesis</i> Sereyboth Soth (Q26) Lincoln University <i>Metatranscriptomic insights into microbial functional responses to fungal volatile organic compound seed treatment in perennial ryegrass under drought stress</i>	
10.00am-10.30am	Morning Tea	Exhibition Area
<u>Session 4 Spatial & Systems Biology</u> Chaired by Chair Name (Institution)		
10.30am-10.42am	Austen Ganley (Q27) University of Auckland <i>Levels of background transcription and splicing in the human genome</i>	Conway C2+C3
10.42am-10.54am	Anh Thu Tran Tran Nguyen (Q28) University of Otago <i>Sensing RNA-protein interactions with ONT nanopore sequencing</i>	
10.54am-11.06am	Arielle Sulit (Q29) University of Otago <i>SEQing Space in response prediction to chemoradiotherapy in rectal cancers</i>	
11.06am-11.18am	Saem Park (Q30) University of Auckland <i>Mapping the spatial architecture and cellular neighbourhoods of the tumour microenvironment</i>	
11.18am-11.30am	Zaramasina Clark (Q31) Victoria University of Wellington <i>Title TBC</i>	
11.30am-11.42am	Rachael Zemek (Q32) University of Auckland <i>Cancer surgery, mapped over time: turning the wound-healing response into therapy</i>	
11.42am-11.54am	Ava Handley (Q33) Malaghan Institute of Medical Research <i>Spatially resolving tissue immunity during infection</i>	
11.54am-12.06pm	Zacharia McLean (Q34) Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, The Broad Institute of M.I.T. and Harvard <i>Splice-regulatory variation at MSH3 modifies Huntington's Disease onset</i>	

12.06pm-12.18pm	Olivia Harrison (Q35) University of Otago <i>Anxiety and cardiovascular disease risk: Early indicators of enhanced cardiorespiratory system sensitivity</i>	
12.18pm-12.30pm	Carlos Cardoso (Q36) Universidade de São Paulo <i>DNA methyltransferases regulate social perception in honey bees</i>	
12.30pm-1.30pm	Lunch	Exhibition Area
<u>Session 5 Protein Biology & Structure</u> Chaired by Chair Name (Institution)		
1.30pm-1.43pm	Wanting Jiao (Q37) Ferrier Research Institute <i>Exploring enzyme function using computational tools – insights into the catalytic mechanism of anthranilate phosphoribosyltransferase</i>	Conway C2+C3
1.43pm-1.56pm	Kurt Krause (Q38) University of Otago <i>Using a team approach to develop broad spectrum antivirals – establishing a pipeline that will help New Zealand prepare for the next pandemic</i>	
1.56pm-2.09pm	Abigail Schwartfeger (Q39) University of Canterbury <i>Smuggling death across membranes; an endolysin against Gram-negative bacteria</i>	
2.09pm-2.22pm	Christoph Göbl (Q40) University of Otago <i>The tumour suppressor protein p16 undergoes reversible and fully redox- controlled amyloid formation</i>	
2.22pm-2.35pm	Timothy Allison (Q41) University of Canterbury <i>The confusing structural forms of small proteins in type VII secretion systems</i>	
2.35pm-2.48pm	Shaun Lott (Q42) University of Auckland <i>The structure of a bacterial teneurin homologue gives clues to the origin of intercellular interactions in the evolution of complex eukaryotes</i>	
2.48pm-3.00pm	Jack Forsman (Q43) Umeå University, Uppsala University <i>The effect of high light on the structure of Photosystem II from Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	

3.00pm-3.30pm	Afternoon Break	Exhibition Area
Session 6 QMB Award Lectures Chaired by Chair Name (Institution)		
3.30pm-3.45pm	Award Lecture for the Biomolecular Interaction Centre Māori Early Career Researcher Award: Speaker Name (Q44) Institution Title	
3.45pm-4.00pm	Award Lecture for the Thermo Fisher Scientific Award for Excellence in Molecular Biology: Speaker Name (Q45) Institution Title	
QRW Plenary Lecture sponsored by Decode Science		
5.00pm-6.00pm	Plenary Lecture: Graham Le Gros (Q46) Malaghan Institute of Medical Research Title TBC	Conway rooms
6.00pm-8.00pm	Evening Social Function: The 2nd Annual Great QMB Trivia Night sponsored by Thermo Fisher Scientific	Exhibition Area