



NEW ZEALAND  
SBMB

03 July 2018

Kia ora NZSBMB-ers,

Welcome to our July update (even more jam-packed than usual!).

**\*New regional activity:** In our last newsletter, we made a call for regional activities. We are pleased to be able to support the Manawatu region's idea: "The Honest Abstract Competition". This was submitted by Ruby Roach, an NZSBMB student member from Massey University.

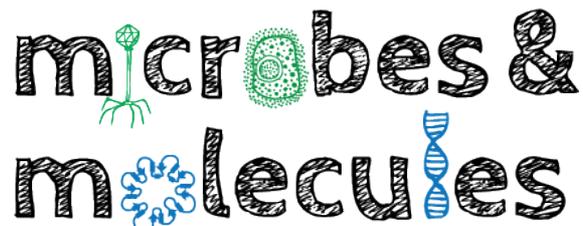
*The Honest Abstract Competition: "Students and staff can submit abstracts that are an actual reflection of their day-to-day research activities, including both successes and failures. We hope that this event will not only be informative on the range of research activities that we have in science at Massey University, but also give a sense of comradery between students who might feel like they're the only ones who don't succeed all the time."*

We look forward to hearing about this great event in an upcoming NZSBMB newsletter.

We still have 2x \$500 seed grants available, so keep the ideas coming. If you are interested, send us a brief statement (~300 words) of who will be involved, and what you would like to do. Applications which involve early-career researchers will be viewed particularly favourably. Application statements should be sent to [newzealandSBMB@gmail.com](mailto:newzealandSBMB@gmail.com).

**\* Registration is now open for our Annual Conference.** This year our Annual Conference will be in conjunction with the NZ Microbiological Society 26-29th November 2018 in Dunedin. We have a great line-up of international speakers (and a discount on registration if you are a member of NZSBMB).

More information is on the conference website at [www.nzmsconference.org.nz](http://www.nzmsconference.org.nz)



**\*New Regional Rep for Waikato!**



Dr. Joanna Hicks is a Lecturer in Biochemistry at the University of Waikato and has a strong interest in all things to do with RNA. Her current research looks at transcriptional regulation and metabolism in pathogenic bacteria such as *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and enzyme engineering for RNA based biotechnology applications. We are very grateful for Joanna volunteering to represent us in the Waikato region – and we look forward to growing our presence there.

We also are super pleased that **Prof. Kathryn Stowell** has volunteered to help out as the Regional Rep for Manawatu, while we look for a longer term replacement. Prof. Stowell has a long history with the NZSBMB, having been a regional rep and secretary for the NZSBMB before, as well as editor of New Zealand Bioscience. She has put her hand up to fill the gap (temporarily) for Manawatu as she thinks it is important for all the centres to be represented and fly the flag for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in New Zealand. (And we agree!).



We still have openings in Dunedin and Manawatu for regional reps. Our reps are an important presence for us at the local level, and play a big part in growing/maintaining our membership numbers. If you are interested in volunteering as one of our regional representatives (it isn't a big time commitment – honest!), please let us know at [newzealandSBMB@gmail.com](mailto:newzealandSBMB@gmail.com)

### **\*Postdoc/technical staff support.**

We know that travel funding is scarce for postdocs and technical staff, therefore, to show our support for these important members of our community, we are offering three free registrations to attend our annual conference in November. The application is available on our website:  
<https://www.nzsbmb.org/other-conference-funding/>  
Applications close 30 August.



### **\*NZSBMB is moving and shaking internationally.**



The NZSBMB has close ties with our partner society in Korea: the Korean Society for Molecular and Cellular Biology (KSMCB). As part of our agreement, we have reciprocal speaking invites at our annual meetings. This year, we are pleased that Dr. Vanita Malekar (Lincoln University) will represent the NZSBMB at the Korean Annual meeting in Seoul (17-19 September, 2018). The conference also has an amazing international line-up, and it would be great to see some of our members attending this conference, if you plan to go, please let us know. The KSMCB has kindly made their travel awards open to our members. The program can be found here:

<http://www.ksmcb.or.kr/icksmbc2018/program/sub03.html>

The NZSBMS is also a member of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB). Our IUBMB representative, Dr. Wayne Patrick (Victoria University) recently attended the 2018 Congress in Seoul. At the congress, we threw our support behind our Aussie partner society (Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) to host the IUBMB Congress in 2024. This clearly made all the difference, as the ASBMB was awarded the 2024 meeting. This is great news, as NZSBMB will be a partner society for the Congress. This prestigious international meeting will help to further grow biochemistry and molecular biology in New Zealand and Australia.



**\*Membership update.** Thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership so far. Currently we have 149 paid-up members; 43 members whose membership has lapsed in the last year or so; and another 80 or so 'lurkers' (mostly former students that haven't rejoined as full members, but are keen to stay on our mailing list). As a thanks to those of you that have signed up and/or renewed your membership via the new website, we gave away 10 NZSBMB coffee mugs. The lucky winners are:

Peter Fineran (Otago)  
Parastoo Khajeaian (Victoria)  
Andrew Cridge (Otago)  
Renjie Huang (Auckland)  
Ant Poole (Auckland)  
Sean Bisset (Massey)  
James Morton (Lincoln)  
Stephanie Baird (Massey)  
Mitja Remus-Emsermann (Canterbury)  
and Joanna Hicks (Waikato).

Your mugs are on their way – congrats! (We'd love to see some selfies of our members with their new mugs 😊).

For those of you that aren't signed up yet, it's easy to do. Just go to: [www.joinit.org/o/nzsbmb](http://www.joinit.org/o/nzsbmb)

**And finally, thanks to all of our members for your support of the NZSBMB.** Keep the feedback and ideas coming. As always, feel free to email me with your thoughts, suggestions (or rants) at [monica.gerth@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:monica.gerth@vuw.ac.nz).

Kia ora rawa atu (many thanks),

Monica Gerth, President

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