

The 35th Annual Queenstown Molecular Biology Meeting

Thursday 4 September – Friday 5 September, 2025

Te Pae, Christchurch, New Zealand

Wednesday 3 September

Time	Details	Location
QRW Plenary Lecture		
5.30pm-5.40pm	Introduction	Auditorium A3+A4
5.40pm-6.25pm	Panel Discussion on Aotearoa New Zealand's future research, science & innovation sector (moderated by Dr Marie Bradley) Sir Peter Gluckman ONZ KNZM FRSNZ, University of Auckland Professor Emily Parker FRSNZ, Victoria University of Wellington Mark Piper , Transitional CEO, Bioeconomy Science Institute Professor David R. Grattan FRSNZ, University of Otago	Auditorium A3+A4
6.30pm-7.40pm	Plenary Lecture <i>Sponsored by Mediscope International Limited</i> Prof. Tak W Mak 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 A3+A4
7.45pm-9.30pm	Evening Social Function <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
Biology Research in Space Chaired by Craig Herbold (University of Canterbury)		
8.30am-8.50am	Assoc. Prof. Sarah Kessans Q1 University of Canterbury, New Zealand <i>Bringing Kiwi science to new heights: developing platforms for biological research in microgravity</i>	Conway C2+C3
8.50am-9.10 am	Dr Brian Russell Q2 Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand <i>Space Medicine, AI, and Earth-Independent Clinical Decision Support: Enabling Autonomy in Deep Space Missions</i>	Conway C2+C3
9.10am-9.25am	Dr Vanessa Morris Q3 University of Canterbury, New Zealand <i>Cosmic radiation triggers thiol-based amyloid formation of the human tumour suppressor p16</i>	Conway C2+C3

9.25am-9.40am	Dr David Hooks Q4 AgResearch Ltd., Palmerston North, New Zealand <i>Sustainable Biofabrication in Space: Microgravity Production of Bacterial Nanocellulose via Synthetic Microbial Communities</i>	Conway C2+C3
9.40am-10.00am	Zach Preston Q5 Dawn Aerospace <i>Practical Pathways to Microgravity Research with Dawn Aerospace</i>	Conway C2+C3
10.00am-10.30am	Morning Tea	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
<u>Molecular Physiology Across Systems</u> Chaired by Vanessa Morris (University of Canterbury)		
10.30am-11.00am	Prof. Marc Pellegrini Q6 Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne, Australia <i>Death Becomes Them – Host Cells and their viruses</i>	Conway C2+C3
11.00am-11.20am	Dr Amy Yewdall Q7 University of Canterbury, New Zealand <i>Droplets that organise life</i>	Conway C2+C3
11.20am-11.40am	Dr Angus Lindsay Q8 University of Canterbury, New Zealand <i>Dystrophin-deficiency disrupts skeletal muscle biomechanics</i>	Conway C2+C3
11.40am-12.00pm	Prof. Gavin Reid Q9 University of Melbourne, Australia <i>Integrated Multi-omics and Lipid-Protein Interactome Analysis to Characterise the Role of Aberrant Lipid Metabolism in Multisystem Mitochondrial Disease</i>	Conway C2+C3
12.00pm-1.30pm	Lunch	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
<u>Commercialization in Life Sciences</u> Chaired by Hilary Sheppard (University of Auckland)		
1.30pm-1.50pm	Prof. Tak W Mak Q10 Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University of Toronto and Centre of Oncology and Immunology, University of Hong Kong <i>From Basic Research to Real World Impact</i>	Conway C2+C3
1.50pm-2.10pm	Dr Stuart M Chambers Q11 Brightfield Therapeutics, South San Francisco, USA <i>Navigating academic and industry uses of induced pluripotent stem cell-derived definitive haematopoiesis</i>	Conway C2+C3
2.10pm-2.30pm	Irina Miller Q12 Daisy Lab, New Zealand <i>The development and commercialisation of recombinant dairy proteins</i>	Conway C2+C3
2.30pm-2.50pm	Dr Taylor Hibbard Q13 Bontio Bio, New Zealand <i>Commercialisation of a novel class of anti-parasitic compounds from nature</i>	Conway C2+C3
2.50pm-3.10pm	Dr Christophe Collet Q14	Conway C2+C3

	Scion group/BSI <i>From Bench to Bioreactor: Collaborative Scale-Up Solutions for Biotech Start-Ups</i>	
3.10pm-3.30pm	Panel discussion with the session speakers <i>(moderated by Andrew Munkacsi)</i>	Conway C2+C3
3.30pm-4.00pm	Afternoon Break	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
4.00pm-5.30pm	Poster Session <i>Sponsored by Mediray NZ Ltd & Eppendorf & Miltenyi Biotec</i>	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
7.00pm-late	QMB & MedSci Conference Dinner <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
AGM and prize session		
8.00am-8.45am	Annual general meeting of the QMB society	Conway C2+C3
8.45am-9.00am	Poster awards presentation	Conway C2+C3
9.00am-9.20am	illumina™ Emerging Researcher Award 2025 Q15	Conway C2+C3
9.20am-9.40am	The Queenstown Molecular Biology Society Māori Early-Career Researcher Award 2025 Q16	Conway C2+C3
9.40am-10.00am	Thermo Fisher Scientific award for excellence in molecular biology 2025 Q17	Conway C2+C3
10.00am-10.30am	Morning Tea	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
Molecular Ecology and Evolution Chaired by Bjorn Oback (Plant & Food Research)		
10.30am-10.45am	Dr Sarah Knight Q18 University of Auckland, New Zealand <i>Exploring Aotearoa New Zealand's yeast diversity</i>	Conway C2+C3
10.45am-11.00am	Dr Catherine Collins Q19 University of Otago, New Zealand <i>Population structure in New Zealand Rattus rattus</i>	Conway C2+C3
11.00am-11.15am	Dr James Davies Q20 Victor Chang Institute, Australia <i>The structural basis of carnitine transport</i>	Conway C2+C3
11.15am-11.30am	Dr Alana Alexander Q21 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	Sarah Manners 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-12.00pm	Assoc. Prof. Evelyn Sattlegger Q22 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	Lunch	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
Technology & Molecular Medicine Chaired by Arielle Sulit (University of Otago Christchurch)		
1.00pm-1.20pm	Assoc. Prof. Simon Hinkley Q23 Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand <i>The application of heparan sulfate as a human therapeutic</i>	Conway C2+C3

1.20pm-1.35pm	Jordon Lima Q24 University of Otago, New Zealand <i>Māu Tēnā Kīwai o te Kete, Māku Tēnei: Equitable Application of Circulating Tumour DNA to the NZ Māori Population.</i>	Conway C2+C3
1.35pm-1.50pm	Dr Hilary Sheppard Q25 University of Auckland, New Zealand <i>Optimised high rates of gene editing for skin engineering applications</i>	Conway C2+C3
1.50pm-2.05pm	Keri Multerer Q26 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	Prof. Tony Kettle Q27 University of Otago Christchurch, New Zealand <i>Neutrophils produce hydrogen cyanide and cyanogen chloride during inflammation</i>	Conway C2+C3
2.25pm-2.40pm	Ben Buttle Q28 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	Prof. Tim Woodfield Q29 University of Otago Christchurch, New Zealand <i>Bioprinting of 3D in vitro Organoid Models for Investigating Tissue Fusion in Healthy and Diseased Microenvironments</i>	Conway C2+C3
3.00pm-3.30pm	Afternoon Break	Conway Atrium
<u>Cellular Biology: Mechanisms & Models</u> Chaired by Amy Osborne (University of Canterbury)		
3.30pm-4.00pm	Dr Grace Q Gong Q30 University of Cambridge, United Kingdom <i>Can activation of an oncoprotein do good things?</i>	Conway C2+C3
4.00pm-4.15pm	Dr Adam Middleton Q31 University of Otago, New Zealand <i>Decoding protein degradation with structural biology and machine learning</i>	Conway C2+C3
4.15pm-4.30pm	Emilie Hamzah Q32 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	Dr Artem Efremov Q33 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	Dr Davide Mercadante Q34 University of Auckland, New Zealand <i>Martini3-NMR: empowering coarse-grained simulations with AI-predicted NMR observables</i>	Conway C2+C3
5.00pm-5.15pm	Dr Nina Dickerhof Q35 University of Otago Christchurch, New Zealand <i>Targeting antioxidant systems in Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	Conway C2+C3
5.15pm-5.35pm	Abigail Schwartfeger Q36 University of Canterbury, New Zealand <i>Caspase-8 amyloid aggregation: A redox-driven switch in cell fate</i>	Conway C2+C3