Centre for Biodiscovery Newsletter July

Keep up to date with what's going on at the Centre for Biodiscovery.

July 2019

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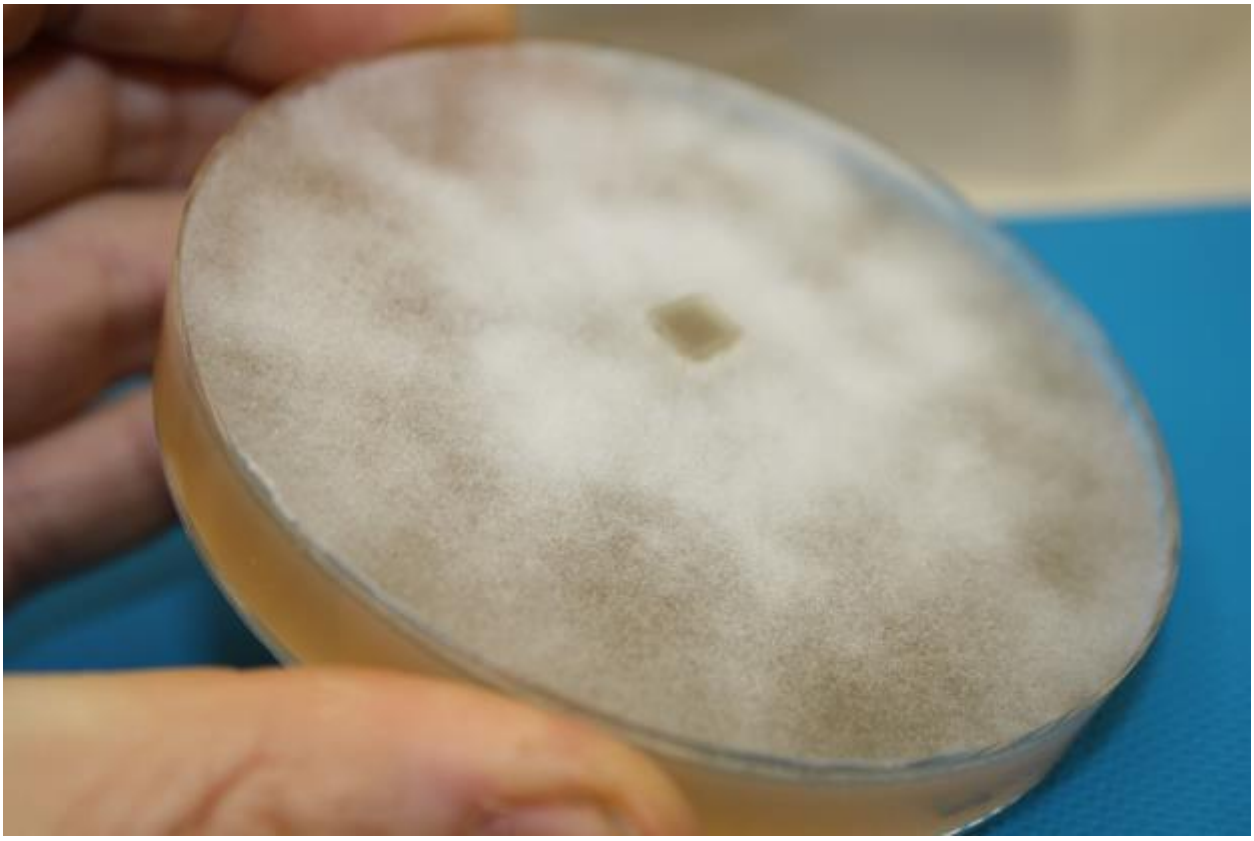

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From the Director's Chair

Kia ora, Biodiscoverers!

It has certainly been a busy time for the Centre since the last newsletter. Read on to learn more about travel grants, new appointments, conference shenanigans, and more.

From my point of view, this month's Biodiscovery & Biochemistry conference was both the high point, and the biggest time commitment. I missed the fine print saying I would gain an encyclopaedic knowledge of poster boards and catering logistics during my time as Director. But of course it was all worth it when the crowds started to arrive and the exciting science started to flow. With delegates from seven NZ universities, the Malaghan and Cawthron Institutes, two CRIs, MPI, biotech start-ups, IP firms and 12 exhibitors/sponsors, it is very clear that there is passion and expertise in biodiscovery research in this part of the world.

Far from resting on our laurels, conference success has fired us up for the Centre's end-of-year Symposium. Like usual, this will be "by the students, for the students". Unlike usual, we are likely to be joined by a cohort of keen early-career researchers from Massey University. More details will be revealed over the next couple of months. Watch this space.

Finally, by the time you read this Sonja Hummel will be tidying her desk, selling the last of her stuff on Vic Deals, and getting ready to leave us for a PhD at the University of Utah. On behalf of the Centre, I wish you all the best Sonja – we'll miss you! Be sure to keep in touch, even if it is just to point out all the things we should correct on our web page J

Ngā mihi nui,

Wayne Patrick, Director

wayne.patrick@vuw.ac.nz

News and Announcements

Farewell to Sonja, Welcome Vimal!

Sonja

As Wayne mentioned earlier in his Director's chair, I am packing my last things as we speak, putting my last items for sale on VicDeals and am getting ready to board my flight to SLC. What a journey it has been!

Thank you all for making my time here so memorable! I will truly miss the 9am morning meet-ups with Wayne to discuss the strategies for the future of the Centre and other conversations while sipping on my coconut cappuccinos. I'll miss the great energy and science enthusiasms at the end-of-year student symposia and the chaotic but wonderful organisations of mid-year Biodiscovery conferences.

While I'm sure that my German sparkle is gonna be missed, I'll leave you all in the great hands of Vimal. I know he'll look after you well and I'm sure he'll do a better job than me in no time!

Saying that, don't be strangers!

Alles Gute fuer die Zukunft und bis wir uns mal wieder sehen!

Sonja

Vimal

After recently completing my PhD in Drug Discovery, I was looking for ways to contribute to the running of the Centre for Biodiscovery as it had supported me during my studies. It was a bittersweet moment

hearing about the opportunity to take over from Sonja as I've enjoyed being friends and cubicle-mates during our studies and it's sad to see her go. She has left some big shoes to fill, but I look forward to that challenge. I've met many great people and made many great friends through the Centre and I look forward to continuing being part of such a great network. And to Sonja, all the best for your next adventure and thank you for settling me into my new role!

Vimal

HRC grant success: Emily Parker

Professor Emily Parker and Dr Scott Cameron from the Ferrier Research Institute are investigating new ways of countering antimicrobial resistance to current antibiotics.

"The advent of antibiotics revolutionised our treatment of infectious diseases but growing antimicrobial resistance to current frontline antibiotics is an increasing concern," Professor Parker says.

The Ferrier Research Institute's research investigates one of the ways bacteria develop resistance to antibiotics—through production of a bacterial enzyme that destroys the antibiotics and stops them from working.

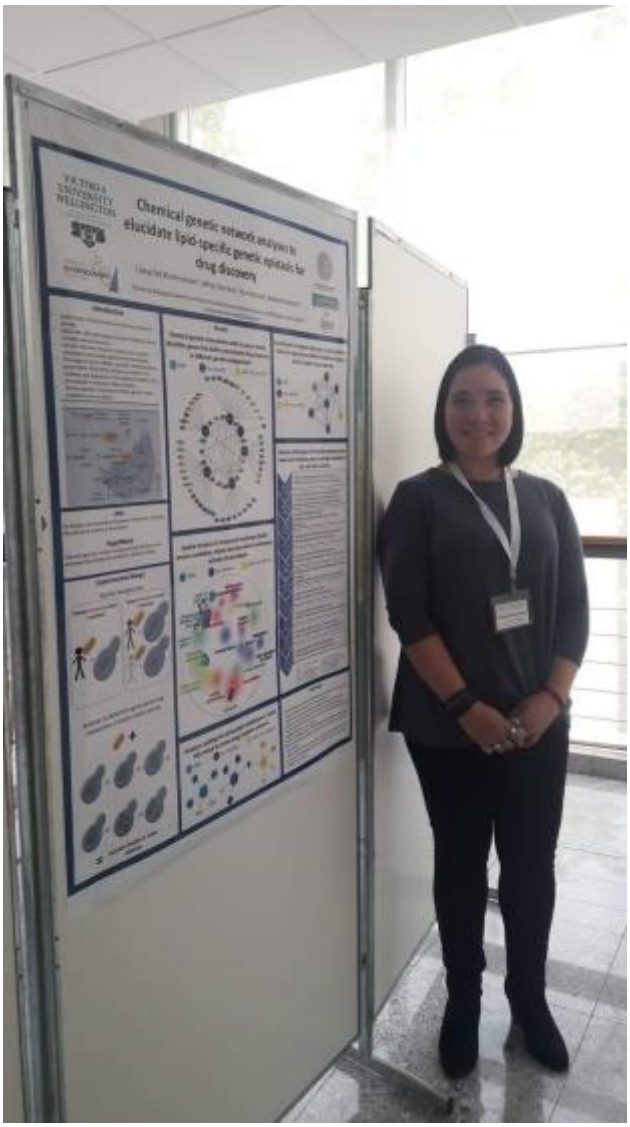
"We plan to develop new ways to combat this enzyme," Professor Parker says. "If we can stop this antibiotic-destroying enzyme from working, current antibiotics will still be effective against bacteria."

To complete this research, Professor Parker, Dr Scott Cameron and their team will use the transition-state design approach pioneered by the Ferrier Research Institute —the same approach responsible for Mundesine®, an anti-lymphoma drug currently available in Japan that is the second medical therapeutic to be commercialised internationally from a New Zealand laboratory.

"Now that Mundesine®, has hit the market, we are keen to replicate this success with our new research," Professor Parker says.

These projects were funded through the Health Research Council's Project funding. The Health Research Council aims to benefit New Zealand through health research, supporting the health of people, families, and communities.

Conference and travel grants: the successful recipients



*1 - **Cintya Del Rio - Yeast Lipid Conference***

Cintya Del Rio, a PhD student in the Chemical Genetics Laboratory at Victoria University of Wellington, received a travel grant of $200 to present a poster of her research findings at the Yeast Lipid Conference at the Institut "Jožef Stefan" in Ljubljana, one of the top ten research institutes in Europe. She also visited Professor Sepp Kohlwein at the University of Graz in Austria, an invited speaker to this conference and an expert in yeast lipid metabolism, mainly to receive training in microscopy analyses that are specific to investigate the density and characteristics of lipid storage organelles.

Cintya's research focuses on the anticancer activity of statins, one of the most prescribed drugs worldwide used to control the levels of cholesterol. Lipid metabolism disorders play a fundamental role in the development of cancer, which partly explains why a lipid-lowering drug shows anticancer activity. Cintya is using yeast as a model of study, whose use for cancer research has increased exponentially in the past years due to the high similarity of relevant pathways with humans. After attending the Yeast Lipid Conference and visiting Professor Kohlwein's laboratory, Cintya will now be able to apply and teach others the techniques

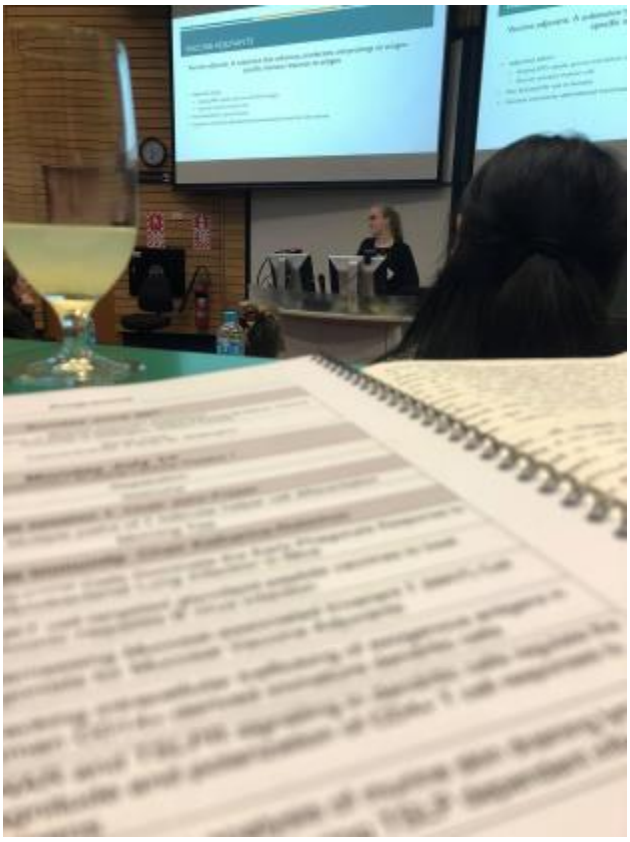
she learned and is looking forward to further look into the pathways that specialised scientists suggested at the conference to strengthen her research outcomes.

*2 - **Olga Palmer - New Zealand Branch of the Australasian Society of Immunology conference***

From 30th June to 2nd July, I was able to attend the 2019 New Zealand Branch of the Australasian Society of Immunology (NZ ASI) conference held in Wellington and present my research with the generous support of a travel grant from the Centre for Biodiscovery. NZ ASI was an enriching conference that aimed to facilitate collaborations and networks across New Zealand, with presentations from several leading international immunologists, and provided a forum for scientists at all levels to share their research.

I gave an oral presentation about my work establishing an immunisation model using a synthetic peptide vaccine and comparing the resulting immune responses in different administration sites, such as the skin and lung. The vaccine targets tissue-resident cells, such as natural killer T cells and dendritic cells, which we hypothesise would initiate a unique immune cascade in each microenvironment due to the various cell populations and influencing factors present. My presentation was well-received, and I had the chance to answer questions and discuss suggestions about how to improve my work.

As my first conference, my attendance provided me with an invaluable opportunity to begin building my scientific career. Being able to network and brainstorm with other immunologists was an amazing professional development experience and an ideal way to gain exposure to what research is all about. I particularly enjoyed meeting Dr. Joanna Groom from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne, as her research has many parallels with my own. Listening to the guest speakers, asking questions, and establishing contacts immensely benefitted me as a first-time conference attendee and aspiring young scientist.



*3 - **Kaitlin Buick - New Zealand Branch of the Australasian Society of Immunology conference***

I was lucky enough to attend the New Zealand Branch of the Australian Society for Immunology 2019 Conference held between 30th June – 2nd July. The conference focused on bringing together both expert leaders, and young Immunologist from around New Zealand and Australia to share their research in the many branches of immunology. The keynote speakers, Dr Joanna Groom, Professor Axel Kallies, Professor Ruth Ganss and Dr Rob Weinkove, showed the diversity of immunology as a field, presenting on areas from T cell differentiation and Treg populations in adipose tissue, to cancer and alternative treatments. These talks displayed the complexity of the immune system as a whole, but also considered very specific niches and microenvironments, reminding me to consider my project from a wider scope. Along with hearing their talks, we were also given the opportunity to interact and speak with the keynote speakers where they were able to share their experiences and insights in science.

Not only did NZ ASI showcase senior experienced scientists research but also gave the opportunity for young scientists to share their work to the wider New Zealand immunology community. The conference gave me the opportunity to communicate my work as a presentation. I presented my work on harnessing Mucosal-associated invariant T cells as cellular adjuvants in mucosal vaccines. This gave me my first experience at presenting at a conference where I gained valuable feedback from the other attendees. We were also able to network with other young scientists from around New Zealand and hear about their exciting science. Additionally, part of the conference involved trade exhibits which enabled us to explore some of the new technology in immunology research. My attendance at the NZ ASI conference was a valuable and rewarding experience that was supported by the Centre for Biodiscovery.

*4 - **Joe Bracegirdle - XVI International Symposium on Marine Natural Products (MaNaPro) | XI European Conference on Marine Natural Products***

I am currently in the third year of my PhD under the supervision of Dr Rob Keyzers (SCPS) and Dr Jeremy Owen (SBS), exploring the chemistry of natural products produced by marine organisms for the discovery of new drugs. The Centre for Biodiscovery travel grant will be used to attend the "XVI International Symposium on Marine Natural Products (MaNaPro) | XI European Conference on Marine Natural Products" in Peniche, Portugal in September 2019, where I will be presenting the discovery of novel nucleosides isolated from a Tongan bryozoan. This conference occurs every three years, and is by far the largest gathering of the leading researchers of the marine natural products field, therefore I am most looking forward to meeting the world leaders in the field, and hearing how they approach the field through their presentations. This conference will also provide a great platform for networking with other research groups which will be able to help with securing a post-doctoral fellowship to begin in the middle of 2020. The MaNaPro also has an extensive social program, such as tours to the islands off the Portuguese coast, so this conference will allow some travel and relaxation with other members of the field.

*5 - **Matt Munro - Royal Australasian College of Surgeons 88th Annual Scientific Congress***

From May 6th-10th of this year I was lucky enough to attend the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons 88th Annual Scientific Congress as an invited speaker. The conference was held at the Centara Grand in Bangkok and was attended by over 1500 delegates from New Zealand, Australia, the Pacific and Asia, the US and Europe. It covered topics ranging from global healthcare systems and healthcare data management to emerging cancer treatment options. I attended the surgical oncology meeting where I shared some preliminary data from my PhD as part of a session exploring clinical implications and applications of oncological research. Overall, the conference reinforced that translating basic science research to the clinic is vital for improving patient management and outcomes, and that this requires reciprocal dialogue between surgeons and researchers.

This was my first visit to Asia and I was glad to have the opportunity during the conference to experience a different culture. This was partly facilitated by the extensive social program arranged by the organisers. It was also my first time presenting at a conference, and I appreciated the chance to share my findings and ideas with surgeons and fellow researchers, to receive their questions, feedback and suggestions, and to have the chance to meet other people with similar research interests but fresh perspectives.

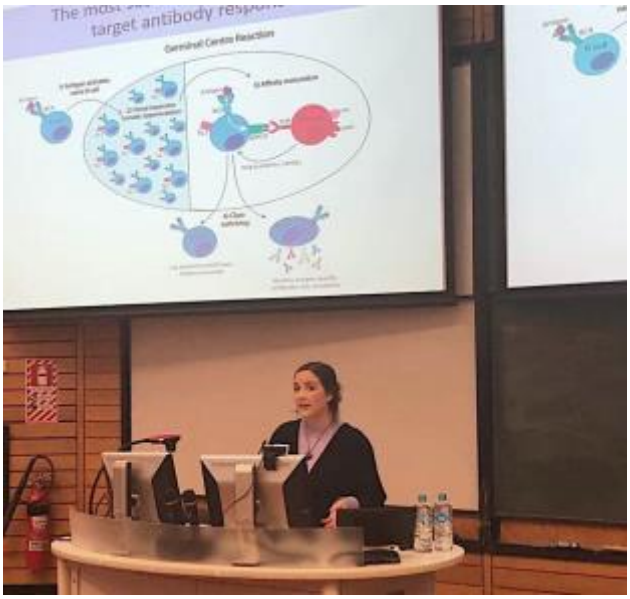
I'd like to thank the Centre for Biodiscovery for their support which contributed toward my attendance at this conference.

*6 - **Kendra Boyes - Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research (AWCBR)***

The Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research (AWCBR) is New Zealand's leading neuroscience conference held each year as part of Queenstown Research Week. This conference covers a broad range of contemporary neuroscience subjects with local and international speakers who offer a multi-disciplinary approach to these areas. This year, I will be presenting a poster with data that I have completed from the first year of my PhD. I hope to not only promote my results from this year, but also promote VUW as a first-class research institute. I look forward to networking with fellow scientists and I am hoping to build upon my current knowledge and skill set. In particular, I am looking forward to the symposiums "PsychoNeuroImmunology Across the Lifespan" and "Brain Plasticity – From Neurogenesis to Cell Remodeling" as they are related to my PhD subject area. This conference also allows attendees the day to explore what Queenstown has to offer with sessions in the morning, afternoon and evening. At this beginning stage of my research career, AWCBR it is an excellent opportunity to develop my presentation and networking skills in addition to learning new techniques and ideas. I am very grateful for receiving support from the Center for Biodiscovery to attend this conference and look forward to sharing the knowledge that I gained.

*7 - **Kelsi Hall - Enzyme Engineering Conference XXV***

In September of this year, I will be attending the Enzyme Engineering Conference XXV which is being held in Whistler, Canada. This conference is the leading international forum for the discussion of enzyme engineering and is of direct relevance to my research. It is widely attended by the enzyme engineering community and provides the unique opportunity for scientists all around the world to come together and discuss new developments and findings in this field. This year topics to be discussed include new tools for enzyme engineering, enzyme engineering for biomedical applications, enzyme promiscuity and evolution, and industrial applications of enzyme engineering. I am looking forward to attending talks from leading scientists in this field, in particular Dr Shelley Copley, whose work I have referenced extensively in my research. I am presenting a poster on my PhD research at this conference titled "Using E. coli *NfsA as a model to improve our understanding of enzyme engineering". This will provide me with the opportunity to present my research to researchers who work in a similar field of work to me. I will be able to incorporate any techniques and knowledge I have gained to my research when I return to Wellington. I would like to thank the Centre for Biodiscovery for helping to support me attend this conference.*



*8 - **Theresa Pankhurst - New Zealand Branch of the Australasian Society of Immunology conference***

This month I attended the NZASI 2019 meeting held in Wellington, a meeting that aims to encourage and support the discipline of immunology, providing a fantastic opportunity for networking and collaborations between immunologists working across Australasia.

NZASI 2019 included an impressive line-up of invited speakers, some of which were leading scientists in the field of immunotherapy, immune cell differentiation and diversity. I was lucky enough to discuss my research with many accomplished researchers, gaining many exciting ideas to pursue moving forward with my PhD research.

The talk I gave addressed my work on targeting natural killer T (NKT) cells in the mucosa via intranasal vaccination with NKT-cell agonist α-Galactosylceramide (α-Galcer), co-delivered with model antigen (ovalbumin) and investigating how this enhances antigen-specific antibody responses. The feedback I received after this talk with experts in the field will be incredibly helpful moving forward with our research goal to develop safe and effective mucosal vaccines that harness NKT cells as adjuvants. I was also awarded the 2019 Buck Award for best student presentation. I would like to thank the Centre for Biodiscovery for supporting my attendance and presentation of my research at this meeting.

Upcoming conferences

*9 - **New Zealand annual MapNet meeting***

This year's New Zealand annual MapNet meeting for genomics, bioinformatics and applied genetics will be held at Victoria University of Wellington from Monday 18 to Tuesday 19 November 2019.

Registrations on MapNet2019.nz are now open.

Session topics include:

• Primary sector genotyping and breeding

• Ecological and evolutionary genomics

• Māori kaupapa/Te Ao Māori into genetics/genomics teaching and research

• Microbial genomics and eDNA

• Methodology advances in statistical genetics

• Human & health genomics and epigenomics

The meeting will be held in the Te Toki a Rata building lecture theatre (TTR L1) on the Kelburn Campus.

*10 - **Queenstown Molecular Biology Meeting***

Do you like science?

Do you like good times?

Do you like amazing scenery?

If you answered yes to any of the above, you should really attend the Queenstown Molecular Biology Meeting. 2-4 September 2019, Rydges Hotel, Queenstown.

Abstract submission deadline is July 19th. There is an amazing line up of international and national speakers this year, and there are some excellent satellite meetings before and after the main meeting. You can find more info here:

https://www.queenstownresearchweek.org/

Furthermore, there are still scholarships available, which you can apply for if you are a student, or require childcare during the conference attendance period. These can be applied for when submitting an abstract here:

https://dinamics.eventsair.com/PresentationPortal/queenstown-research-week-2019/abstracts2019

*11 - **NZ Society for Oncology conference***

This year the Conference will be held in Wellington (24 - 26 October), convened by incoming president, Kate Clarke, and Melanie McConnell. As always, we will offer student travel awards, so encourage your students (at any level) to come and present.

Don't miss your opportunity to present your knowledge, experience or research at the 2019 New Zealand Society of Oncology Conference. Ensure you submit your abstract by midnight Monday 15 July, to be considered for the programme.

Key dates:

Abstract presenters notified | mid August

Registration open | NOW

Early bird registration closes | 13 September 2019

Applications are still being accepted for the following awards.

- *Roche Translational Cancer Research Fellowship*
- *PHARMAC Emerging Researcher Award*
- *New Zealand Society for Oncology Translational Research Award*
- *ESMO Asia Travel Awards*

*12 - **New Zealand Conference on Microscopy***

NZ's next conference on microscopy and microanalysis is coming soon. This year it is being held at the University of Waikato.

These conferences are a fantastic opportunity to build a network in NZ and find out what research is going on around the country. Yet there will also be highly topical international speakers such as Professor Juliet A. Gerrad, Professor Jason Swedlow and Professor Raynald Gauvin.

There is normally an excellent mixture of scientists, technical staff and students. Instrumentation and related companies will be on site to relay the latest info on what's available.

All kinds of advanced microscopy methods are covered and these conferences have always been an excellent way of breaking out of ones discipline-based filter bubble.

Early bird registrations close on the 27th September, the conference is 11-14 November.

More information can be found at http://microscopy2019.co.nz/

Call for interest - metabolomics access

Dear CfB members,

As you may be aware, SCPS recently commissioned a new suite of NMR spectrometers, all of which are equipped with multi-slot autosamplers. This opens up opportunities for running lots of samples under various conditions one after the other in an automated sense, which paves the way for things like metabolomics analyses by NMR. Currently we are trying to ascertain what level of interest there may be across SBS, SCPS and other aligned groups for NMR-based metabolomics, so if this is a technology that may be of interest to you, can you please contact Rob Keyzers (rob.keyzers@vuw.ac.nz) and Ian Vorster (ian.vorster@vuw.ac.nz)?

Many thanks,

Rob

NZSBMB and CfB joint meeting

The Biochemistry and Biodiscovery conference

The mid-year break between trimesters may have been short, but it was also action-packed!

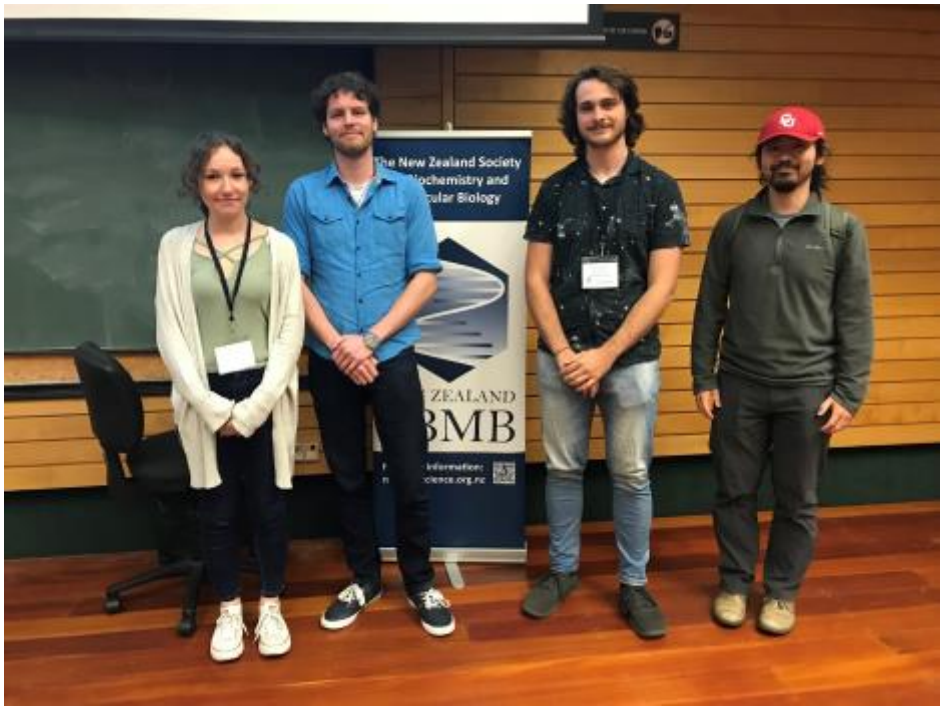
Lisa Connor and her organising committee (from SBS and the Malaghan) kicked things off. They hosted the annual meeting of the Australasian Society for Immunology's NZ branch (NZASI), which brought together 80 of the finest minds in Australasian immunology. Many past and present members of the Centre for Biodiscovery gave talks, but special mention goes to Anne la Flamme, who gave the Watson Oration. This is an invited plenary presentation in honour of the contributions made to NZ immunology by Jim Watson (1943-2017). Each year, an eminent NZ immunologist is selected to present their career-wide perspective on the field. Congratulations to Anne on being selected as the 2019 Orator!

13 - Smiling delegates, photographed approximately 5 µs before the southerly storm hit with full force.

NZASI rolled smoothly into Biodiscovery & Biochemistry – a joint meeting of the Centre for Biodiscovery and the NZ Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. This ended up exceeding all expectations, with almost 180 delegates, talks, posters, trade exhibits, workshops, a public lecture (from A/Prof Siouxsie Wiles), and more. The conference co-chairs, Wayne Patrick and Monica Gerth, were especially grateful to Sonja Hummel and Emma Nickelsen for all the behind-the-scenes organisation they did to ensure the conference went (mostly) without a hitch.

Now all we need is someone to organise next year's Wellington Research Week…go on, you know you want to!

14 - Winners of the student speaker prizes (left to right): Elsie Dunkley (VUW, 3rd place); Ruby Roach (Massey University, 2nd place); and Luke Stevenson (VUW, 1st place) together with Trish Fenton from AlphaTech, which generously sponsored the awards.



15 - Winners of the poster prizes (left to right): Shannon Ormond (Massey University, 3rd place student); Sean Bisset (Massey University, 2nd place student); Alvey Little (VUW, 1st place student); and Yiwei Diao (University of Auckland, 1st place technician/postdoc). The poster prizes were kindly sponsored by dnature.

Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa visits Centre for Biodiscovery

A fact finding mission about further biomedical research avenues

On June 4th and 5th, the Centre for Biodiscovery hosted two visitors, Dr Fiame Leo and Mr Viliamu Ah Sam, from the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa (SROS). Fiame and Viliamu were visiting the Maurice Wilkins Centre CORE on a two week "fact finding" mission about further biomedical research avenues that could be established in Samoa, and how the MWC and CfB could assist. The main focus of the visit was for SROS to investigate opportunities in utilizing native Samoan biota as sources of valuable bioactive natural products, and also to determine requirements for the setup of both natural products chemistry and mammalian cell line culture facilities in Apia.

The meeting built upon an existing relationship between Wellington and Samoa. VUW and SROS already have an MOU in place to help govern academic and research interactions between the two organisations, which has seen five SROS staff members obtaining a PhD, two MSc and two post-grad diplomas and degrees. Moreover, hopefully two SROS staff will be joining SCPS and SBS for short term training and development later in the year. A further goal of this current visit to those outlined above was to strengthen these ties to seek more bilateral staff visits across both countries.

The meeting built upon an existing relationship between Wellington and Samoa

16 - Dr Fiame Leo (left) and Mr Viliamu Ah Sam (right) sonicating a sponge extract

17 - Viliamu running an extract through a chromatography column

18 - Viliamu preparing a sponge solvent extract

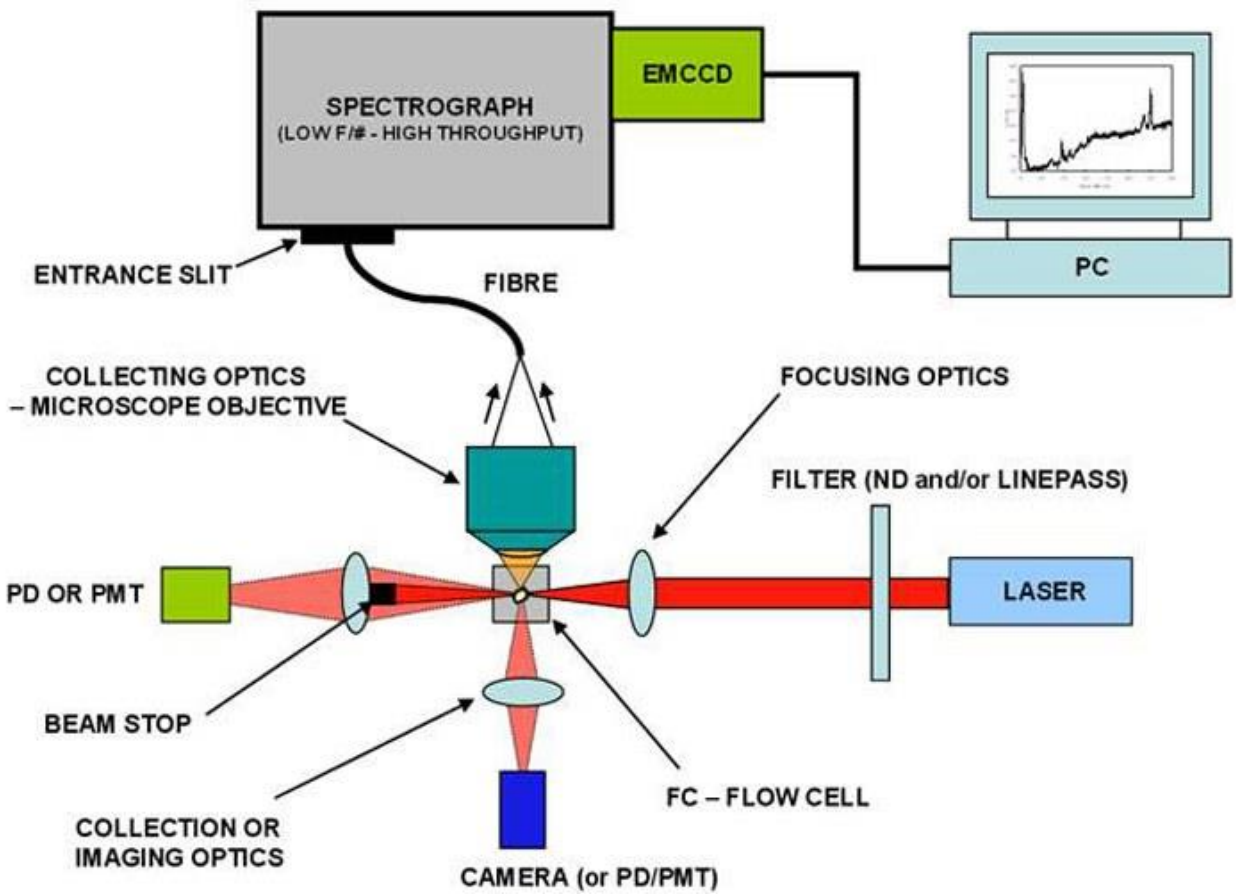
Overall, the visit was very positive. Fiame and Viliamu were primarily hosted by Dr Rob Keyzers and Assoc Prof Paul Teesdale-Spittle, and the visit included both research meetings with PI's from the CfB

(Rob, Paul, Dr Andrew Munkacsi, Dr Helen Woolner and Assoc Prof Wayne Patrick), a formal meeting with Dame Winnie Laban (AVC Pasifika), as well as some practical hands-on experiments in Rob's lab. The team took part in the extraction and first-stage fractionation of sponge natural products from a local NZ invertebrate, to see how natural products chemistry has been tackled here in Wellington.

Going forward, the goal is for staff from the CfB to make a visit to SROS in return, to help advise on lab set-up and protocols on a number of research initiatives that SROS has in the pipeline.

Going forward, the goal is for staff from the CfB to make a visit to SROS in return, to help advise on lab set-up and protocols on a number of research initiatives that SROS has in the pipeline. The ultimate aim is to have productive, two-way research programme that involves people from both countries, and where both Samoa, VUW, MWC and CfB all benefit with impactful science.

#whatyougot?



Call for equipment database

At Centre for Biodiscovery, we commit to facilitating research communications and efficient use of resources. If you have an equipment or technique that others may be interested in, please contact Vimal Patel (Vimal.Patel@vuw.ac.nz) for it to be featured in our newsletter and contribute to the CfB equipment database.

Equipment showcase

We have 3 Cytek Aurora Full Spectrum Flow Cytometers at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research.

Flow cytometry is a technique used to detect and measure physical and chemical characteristics of a population of cells or particles. Spectral cytometers are similar to conventional flow cytometers except they use spectral unmixing to deconvolve fluorescence signatures thus enabling scientists to build bigger panels using more overlapping dyes. This means scientists can ask more complex questions of their samples. Currently we have 25 colour panels running at MIMR but expect to be able to run 32 colours (fluorochromes) by the end of 2019. Spectral unmixing improves resolution compared to traditional flow cytometry and even allows users to subtract autofluorescence from their samples.

Come and see what this powerful technology can do for you and your research.

We have two Auroras with three lasers (Violet, Blue and Red) and 38 fluorescence detectors and one Aurora with four lasers (Violet, Blue, Yellow-Green and Red) and 48 fluorescence detectors, both have blue and violet scatter. We are expecting all our spectral cytometers to have a UV laser upgrade by the end of 2019.

Contact Kylie Price

Head of Research Technology at MIMR

kprice@malaghan.org.nz

Impact Through Commercialisation

Firstly, thank you to all those who attended the "Commercial Opportunities for Healthcare Research" seminar run by Cure Kids Ventures last month. There was a great turn-out and I hope that everyone learned something new that they can use to guide their research strategies.

The other highlight for me recently was attending the Biodiscovery & Biochemistry 2019 conference where I got to see a number of you present your work. What it really reinforced for me was the level of world leading research we are doing here at Vic. Not only pushing out the boundaries of knowledge but also creating valuable intellectual assets along the way. From natural products identification and synthesis through to metagenomics and molecular machinery – together with Viclink we can help you be world leaders in advancing healthcare technologies.

The other highlight for me recently was attending the Biodiscovery & Biochemistry 2019 conference

One of the key roles the Biotech team at Viclink plays is to build relationships with global biotech and pharmaceutical companies to provide development paths for your commercialisation projects. Last month, 5 of us (including Prof Ackerley) attended the 'USBIO Convention' in Philadelphia. This event is a

great opportunity to validate opportunities and engage with development partners. USBIO is an annual business partnering convention that gathers together all of the major (and minor) players in the Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical industries to meet and discuss new developments. This year the event was attended by 17,300 delegates with nearly 50,000 meetings held across 3 days. It is a very unique, high energy, highly rewarding experience with each meeting only being 30 minutes before you have to rush off to your next one. This is often referred to as speed dating for commercialisation opportunities. There is definitely no other event like it! Our schedule was very busy this year with the team attending over 60 meetings for 15 projects - 13 of which were from your research at the Centre for Biodiscovery.

Pharmaceutical companies are looking to engage deeper with research organisations and Universities than ever before

This is the third USBIO I have attended and one of the notable shifts I observed this year was that many of the Pharmaceutical companies are looking to engage deeper with research organisations and Universities than ever before. What this means for us is that they are much more likely to want to talk about earlier stage projects. They were open to discussing early proof of concept projects where we may only have in vitro efficacy data or early animal work. Engaging at this early stage allows us to obtain guidance on the research path and advice on key validation experiments. Where the projects are in key areas of interest for the companies, they may even fund further development or assist with access to in-house disease models and other researchers.

Please send me any questions you may have about your research and the commercialisation process; I can use this column as a medium to answer and share insights to the wider group. As always, if you just want a chat don't please hesitate to contact me, I'll even buy the coffee!

Jeremy Jones (021 834 284, Jeremy.jones@viclink.co.nz)

Contact Us

If you have any questions, feedback or want to collaborate:

Centre for Biodiscovery

Te Toki a Rata

Victoria University of Wellington

04 4634779

biodiscovery@vuw.ac.nz

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