

Biographical Sketch NZIMLS President

Tony Barnett

	Current NZIMLS Membership Status	Full Member
Present Position	Charge Scientist, Medlab South, Nelson	
Date Qualified	1989	
Details of Institute, Council, SIG Involvement	• NZIMLS President 2023 - 2025 • Council Secretary/Treasurer 2014 -2023 • Council Region 4 Representative 2009 – 2013 • NZIMLS Board of Examiners • Member of the NZIMLS since 1989 • Involved with the restructure of the NZIMLS QMLT examinations over the several years and believe we are heading in the right direction. • Meeting convenor for both SIG meetings and an Annual Scientific Meeting in Nelson	
Previous Positions	• 2010 Elected to Council as Region 4 Representative • 2014 Elected as NZIMLS Secretary/Treasurer • 2023 Elected as NZIMLS President	
Outside Activities	I enjoy watching and playing all sports but most particularly basketball and also like to get out on the water and fishing as often as time allows.	
Statement of reasons for standing for office	I continue to believe the NZIMLS is still a relevant and essential part of our profession's requirements. We provide educational and learning opportunities, a platform for presenters and publishers, we offer registerable professional examinations and an accredited CPD programme, and as a current member of the NZIMLS Council I feel I still have more to offer to our profession and this organisation.	

Biographical Sketch NZIMLS Vice-President

Sujata Hemmady
LabPLUS, Auckland

	Current NZIMLS Membership Status	Full Member
Present Position	Scientist Unit Manager, Automation and Laboratory Support Services, LabPLUS	
Date Qualified	2009	
Qualifications	Masters in Medical Laboratory Science	
Previous Positions	2017-2023 NZIMLS Region 1 Representative Section Leader, Specialist Chemical Pathology, LabPLUS Scientist Unit Manager, Anatomical Pathology Service.	
Details of Institute, Council, SIG Involvement	I have been a full member of the NZIMLS since 2009 and remain deeply committed to the advancement of our profession. Over the years, I have contributed journal articles and scientific posters and participated actively in SIGs. I have served as an examiner for the QMLT-Biochemistry examination and have provided mentorship to numerous students undertaking placements in our laboratory, supporting the next generation of medical laboratory scientists. In 2017, I had the privilege of representing Region 1 on the NZIMLS Council. This role provided me with valuable insight into the Institute's governance and strategic direction and has allowed me to contribute meaningfully to key discussions shaping the future of our profession. My involvement on the organising committees of the ASMs and the SPC – most recently in Auckland 2023, offered opportunities to collaborate with like-minded professionals. Serving as Vice-President for the past two years has further broadened my leadership experience and given me the platform to contribute at a national level. I am particularly proud of my role in co-authoring several position papers on behalf of the NZIMLS—work that aligns with my passion for advocacy and professional standards. These papers have aimed to clarify, support, and elevate the scope and practice of medical laboratory science across New Zealand. Throughout my professional journey, I have remained committed to fostering collaboration, promoting equity within the workforce, and encouraging high standards of scientific practice. I continue to be inspired by the dedication of our members and the important role we play in the wider healthcare system.	
Outside Activities	I love to read and listen to classical music, am a keen sports enthusiast and gardening is a new hobby.	
Statement of reasons for standing for office	My primary motivation for standing for the position of Vice-President is to continue making a meaningful contribution to the NZIMLS. I have deeply valued the opportunity to engage with our practitioners and remain committed to supporting initiatives that promote the growth and advancement of our profession, particularly in today's dynamic and evolving healthcare landscape. I hope to provide support, mentorship, and guidance to new Regional Representatives and Institute members, while fostering a culture of collaboration and shared commitment to professional excellence.	

Biographical Sketch

NZIMLS Secretary/Treasurer

Ajesh Joseph
Health New Zealand, Waikato

	Current NZIMLS Membership Status	Associate Member
Present Position	Medical Laboratory Technician	
Date Qualified	2005	
Details of Institute, Council, SIG Involvement	• 2018-2023 Technician Representative NZIMLS Council • 2023-2025 Secretary/Treasurer NZIMLS Council • Pre-Analytical SIG Convenor	
Statement of reasons for standing for office	I started my laboratory career in 2005 and have completed 20 years in this noble profession. I joined NZIMLS in 2007 and became the Convenor of the Pre-Analytical Special Interest Group in 2017. In this role, I had the opportunity to organise SIG meetings, seminars, and participate in QMLT syllabus reviews. I am proud to have represented Technicians on the NZIMLS Council since 2018. When the Council decided to host the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Wellington, I was nominated as the Convenor of ASM. I remain grateful to the entire NZIMLS family for their tremendous support in making the event such a great success. In 2023, I was privileged to be elected as the Secretary/Treasurer of NZIMLS. This role has greatly enhanced my understanding of the Executive's responsibilities, especially in relation to financial management and decision-making. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of all our members, we have successfully organised several events over the past two years and maintained a strong financial position for the NZIMLS. As Secretary/Treasurer, I have had the opportunity to work with the organising committees of ASM 2024 and 2025 and contribute to the success of these events. I wish to continue my journey with NZIMLS and express my interest in continuing as Secretary/Treasurer with the next Council. I remain committed to supporting our workforce in the best possible way and humbly seek your support and encouragement for my nomination.	

Biographical Sketch

NZIMLS Region 1 Representative

Melanie Adriaansen
Health New Zealand, Waitematā

	Current NZIMLS Membership Status	Full Member
Date Qualified		2010
Details of Institute, Council, SIG Involvement		• Region 1 NZIMLS Representative for the 2023-2025 period. • Chair of the Quality section at the South Pacific Congress
Previous Positions		• Previous Chair of the National Laboratory Quality Managers group. • Primary author of three Journal articles that have been published in the NZ Journal of Medical Laboratory Science. • Frequent speaker at Laboratory education events, including Pre-analytical SIG's, the Waitematā Scientific Seminar and the South Pacific Congress (August 2023). As well as this, I am currently coordinating some of Waitematā's in-house Laboratory SIG's. • Guest speaker for the NGO Te Ngākau Kahukura webinar series talking on laboratory testing. Through this, I hope to raise the profile of our industry. • Completed three papers in Te Reo Māori at Auckland University of Technology. I believe equity builds better communities and I want to honour my Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations.
Statement of reasons for standing for office		I am a Medical Laboratory Scientist with over 10 years' experience across a range of laboratory roles. I highly value the essential skills our Phlebotomists, Technicians, and Scientists bring to the healthcare system. Diagnostic services continue to function because of the dedication and goodwill of our workforce—something that deserves recognition, respect, and investment. I understand the pressing need for greater support in staff recruitment, professional development, and the implementation of modern technologies. As a Quality Manager, I've worked closely with patients and clinicians to receive feedback and to continuously improve the services we provide. I am experienced at regional collaboration, where I have helped to align laboratory processes across districts. I have a strong understanding of both operational and systemic challenges in our field and by representing the Northern Region, I would like to advocate for practical solutions, and to ensure the voice of our profession is heard.

Biographical Sketch

NZIMLS Region 2 Representative

Hollie Beall
Health New Zealand Waikato

	NZIMLS Membership Status	Full Member
Present Position	Medical Laboratory Scientist Microbiology, Te Whatu Ora Waikato	
Date Qualified	2013, Massey University	
Other Qualifications	• BSc Biological Sciences – University of Waikato, 2009 • GDip Medical Laboratory Sciences – Massey University, 2013 • PgCert Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases – Edinburgh University, 2018	
Details of Institute, Council, SIG Involvement	• Region 2 Representative NZIMLS 2023-2025 • 2024 North Island Seminar organiser • Presented at several Microbiology SIGs and North Island Seminars over the years. I have previously been involved in the organisation and Chairing of the North Island Seminar • I have enjoyed my time as Region 2 Representative on the NZIMLS Council over the previous two years, and have had the opportunity to learn more about the QMLT and its coordination	
Statement of reasons for standing for office	I am passionate about my profession and being an advocate for others. I would like the opportunity to continue to represent my region, and to promote the invaluable work we do in the laboratory. I would also like to continue my involvement with the QMLT examinations.	

Biographical Sketch

NZIMLS Region 4 Representative

Ginna Alston
Canterbury Health Laboratories, Christchurch

	Current NZIMLS Membership Status	Full Member
Present Position	Service Manager, Microbiology	
Date Qualified	1994 (BMLSc awarded with credit)	
Previous Positions	• Qualified Technical Assistant Virology 2003 • Post Graduate Diploma in Public Health (awarded with distinction) 2006	
Details of Institute, Council, SIG Involvement	I am actively involved in continuing education for the profession including being on the organising committee for the Molecular SIG 2022, NZIMLS ASM 2024 and convening the South Island Seminar 2025.	
Statement of reasons for standing for office	I studied for a BMLSc at the University of Otago, in the first intake of the degree course in the early 1990s. I then worked as a Medical Laboratory Scientist in microbiology laboratories in New Zealand, Australia, Saudi Arabia, and the UK. On my return to New Zealand, I gained a position in Virology at Canterbury Health Laboratories, completed a QMLT in Virology and a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Health. After a career break to raise my family, I returned to the profession in 2013. Over the past 12 years I have held various roles at Canterbury Health Laboratories including as a scientist in Bacteriology, Team Leader for the Covid-19 Pandemic Response and as Project Support for the High-Volume Automation Project. My current role is Service Manager for Microbiology. As a member of the NZIMLS Council I would bring my passion for medical laboratory science and continued education of our workforce. My aim is to work for the benefit of NZIMLS members, enhance the profile of medical laboratory science and promote excellence within the profession.	

Biographical Sketch

NZIMLS Region 4 Representative

Rebecca Lu
Canterbury Health Laboratories, Christchurch

	Current NZIMLS Membership Status	Full member
Present Position	Medical Laboratory Scientist, Haematology	
Date Qualified	2007	
Previous Positions	Medical Laboratory Scientist at Awanui Laboratories Christchurch and Invercargill.	
Details of Institute, Council, SIG Involvement	• Medical Sciences Council examination content writer since 2020 • QMLT Haematology examiner in 2018 and 2019 • ASM 2018 committee member • Member of organising committee for South Island Seminar 2017 • Providing technical & administrative assistance on the day of Haematology SIG 2017 • Current member of Course and Conference Advisory Group (CCAG) at Canterbury Health Laboratories since 2024 • CPD Chapter member at Awanui Laboratories Christchurch in 2022 and 2023.	
Statement of reasons for standing for office	With 19 years of experience working at several hospital and/or community-based laboratories in the South Island, Rebecca greatly appreciates the hard-work laboratory staff put in to ensure the continuous operation of the pathology services in New Zealand. Therefore, the laboratory staff deserve to be recognised and given the opportunities to undertake continuing education and remain connected within the profession. Rebecca would like to be the channel between the NZIMLS and the members to promote the growth of the profession.	

Biographical Sketch

NZIMLS Region 5

Amy Christie
NZ Blood Service, Dunedin

 Current NZIMLS Membership Status	Full Member
Present Position	Medical Laboratory Scientist
Date Qualified	2002
Details of Institute, Council, SIG Involvement	• Transfusion Science SIG member
Statement of reasons for standing for office	I have worked as a Medical Laboratory Scientist in Dunedin Blood bank for over 20 years. As member of the Transfusion Medicine SIG for several years, I have contributed at conferences by speaking, chairing sessions and judging best speaker awards. I am very interested in the knowledge sharing which can be achieved with the Journal and conference activities provided by the NZIMLS. I would like to be able to take a more active role in the medical sciences community.

Biographical Sketch
NZIMLS Region 5 Representative

Tessy George
Pacific Edge Ltd, Dunedin

	Current NZIMLS Membership Status	Full Member
Present Position	Senior Clinical Laboratory Scientist/Quality Manager (Pacific Edge Diagnostics NZ Ltd, Dunedin)	
Date Qualified	2018	
Previous Positions	Medlab Central, Palmerston North Massey University, Palmerston North Blis Technologies Ltd, Dunedin	
Details of Institute, Council, SIG Involvement	• NZIMLS examiner • Member of New Zealand Medical Laboratory Quality Managers Group • Member of New Zealand Microbiological Society	
Statement of reasons for standing for office	I would like the opportunity to enthusiastically represent medical laboratory staff to promote continuing professional development programmes and facilitate communication between regional medical laboratories to enable better outcomes for colleagues.	

Biographical Sketch

NZIMLS Region 5

Representative

Leah Pringle
Awanui Laboratories, Dunedin

 Current NZIMLS Membership Status	Full Member
Present Position	Medical Laboratory Scientist, Haematology since 2012
Date Qualified	2012
Previous Positions	Laboratory Assistant, Haematology
Details of Institute, Council, SIG Involvement	I am currently registered as a medical laboratory scientist with the Medical Sciences Council, holding an active Annual Practicing Certificate. I have presented at numerous conferences across the last 13 years including the Haematology SIG in 2015 with a case study on Haemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis where I was awarded the Runner-up prize for the Best Presentation. I also presented case studies at the 2017 Haematology SIG and the 2021 NZIMLS South Island Seminar. Additionally, I have presented at various Awanui run Otago/Southland seminars. In 2018 I wrote a case study for the NZIMLS Journal (Methylene blue stained reticulocytes in a Giemsa film – a case study) and was awarded the Best Article of the year prize in 2018.
Outside Activities	Outside of work, I am Secretary for the Dunedin Archery Club and spend time making sure the club runs smoothly, members are up to date with upcoming events/protocols and boosting the club's community engagement. Recently we have had a focus on making the club (and archery in general) more accessible for those with physical disabilities.
Statement of reasons for standing for office	I would love the opportunity to meaningfully contribute to the medical laboratory profession. I have always had a strong focus on clear communication and ensuring that all voices can contribute to an engaging and interesting profession. Throughout various projects and roles within my time working in Dunedin, I have been in contact with many people from all around the Otago/Southland region and I would look to build connections across the region to hear thoughts/ideas/inspirations that can then be spread across the country and boost the profile of medical laboratory science.