

# NZIMLS Council Newsletter / Pānui

## August 2025

### News from the Council

Congratulations and welcome to our new Council members:

**Kirsten Birrell** (Region 3), **Ginna Alston** (Region 4) and **Leah Pringle** (Region 5). We look forward to working with you on Council.

We said goodbye and extend a heartfelt 'thank you' to three Council members at the 2025 AGM.

- **Sue Melvin** for her three terms on Council. This was Sue's second time on Council, and we have really appreciated her input representing Region 5 for the last six years and being the voice for the smaller and rural labs.
- **Gavin Atkinson** for his two terms on Council. As a representative from NZBS, Gavin contributed from a different perspective and was always keen to participate in robust discussion.
- **Lynne Morgan** for her one term on Council. Lynne was a great representative both for Region 3 and also for technicians.

Thanks to all three of you for your unwavering support of our profession and your numerous hours of volunteer work. We wish you all the very best.

We still have a vacancy for a Technician Representative on Council. Should this interest you, please contact [sharon@nzimls.org.nz](mailto:sharon@nzimls.org.nz) for further information.

#### Council email addresses:

President: Tony Barnett; [president@nzimls.org.nz](mailto:president@nzimls.org.nz)

Vice-president: Sujata Hemmady; [v.president@nzimls.org.nz](mailto:v.president@nzimls.org.nz)

Secretary/Treasurer: Ajesh Joseph; [ajesh.joseph@nzimls.org.nz](mailto:ajesh.joseph@nzimls.org.nz)

Region 1 representative: Melanie Adriaansen; [melanie.adriaansen@waitematadhb.govt.nz](mailto:melanie.adriaansen@waitematadhb.govt.nz)

Region 2 representative: Hollie Beall; [hollie.beall@waikatodhb.health.nz](mailto:hollie.beall@waikatodhb.health.nz)

Region 3 representative: Kirsten Birrell; [kirsten.birrell@hbdhb.govt.nz](mailto:kirsten.birrell@hbdhb.govt.nz)

Region 4 representative: Ginna Alston; [ginna.alston@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:ginna.alston@cdhb.health.nz)

Region 5 representative: Leah Pringle; [leah.pringle@awanuilabs.co.nz](mailto:leah.pringle@awanuilabs.co.nz)

Congratulations must also go to our new Life Members: Mary-Ann Janssen, Terry Taylor and Phil Wakem. All very deserving of this prestigious award.

### CPD News

The NZIMLS Council met with the Medical Sciences Council during the Annual Scientific Meeting, and clarified a few things that we often receive queries on. Of note:

- The 'confusing' pro-forma document on the MSCNZ website is to be removed. Members enrolled in the NZIMLS CPD programme are encouraged to use NZIMLS documentation available from our website.
- The bi-annual audit would proceed the same as the previous audit with no changes in policy, however there may be some changes in how documentation is to be presented.
- NZIMLS have requested an audit report from the MSCNZ so we can see how our members are faring in the CPD audit.
- Jillian Broadbent (CPD Coordinator) will be conducting short internal CPD audits from time-to-time to ensure you are claiming points correctly and not double-dipping, or claiming the incorrect number of points.





## New NZIMLS Scholarship announced!

The NZIMLS Council is excited to announce a new Scholarship for Technicians wanting to qualify as an MLS via the PGDip programme.

The scholarship is named "The Michael Legge Higher Education Scholarship" in honour of Dr Mike Legge, our Professional Advisor who spends a large number of hours working in the background with both Otago University and the Auckland University of Technology.

Two Michael Legge Higher Education Scholarships will be offered each year, to the value of \$3,000.00 each, awarded at the discretion of the NZIMLS Council.

Application forms will be available on our website by the end of September. Application for each scholarship closes on 1 November for consideration by Council at their November meeting. Members will be emailed once the application form is available.

## From the 2025 Annual General Meeting

Thank you to all members who attended the 2025 AGM, both in person and via Zoom. The AGM is your opportunity to speak with Council members and to learn more about what the NZIMLS does for you. It was disappointing that a number of members registered, then did not attend - this leaves us out of pocket as we have paid for your breakfast based on you registering to attend. Please, if you register for the AGM and cannot attend, let us know so we can alter the catering numbers in plenty of time! And if you do attend the AGM breakfast, it is expected that you also attend the AGM! The Minutes of the AGM are available on our website, and will also be circulated in the November Journal.

One question we received from the floor, was why do NZIMLS carry a surplus when we are a not-for-profit business. It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer to ensure that there are enough funds available to run all the exams, conferences, CPD programme, SIG meetings and seminars each year and to produce the quarterly Journal. There is an awful amount of administration involved in organising and running these for you, and we do our very best to keep the registration/enrolment costs as low as possible. Any surplus goes back to the membership by way of presentation prizes, the Barrie Edwards and Rod Kennedy Scholarships, Research Grants, Hugh Bloore Poster Prizes (at ASM), University Top BMLSc Student prizes, speaker gifts, QMLT top candidate prizes, QMLT examiner and moderator payments, and the newly minted Michael Legge Higher Education Scholarships etc. We also do our very best to keep our costs as low as possible, always with the members in mind.

## Special Interest Groups

Are you interested in volunteering for your SIG? Then we want you!

We still require a SIG Convenor for the Immunology SIG.

If this is something you would like to do, or would like more information on, then don't delay!



Email Cathy: [admin@nzimls.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzimls.org.nz) today, and we will send you everything you need to know!

## QMLT Examinations

Council unanimously agreed to rename the QMLT - General examination. This decision was made due to some confusion around what 'General' meant. This qualification will be renamed QMLT - Core, with the new name effective from the 2026 examinations.

We have received some concerns from a few current candidates who feel they are not receiving the support they should from their employer/supervisor toward their QMLT study. Please ensure you offer as much help as you can to these trainees. Remember, you were all trainees once!

# Scope of Practice and Standards of Competence Reviews

The Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand (MSCNZ) has advised that they will be sending consultation documents on both the Scope of Practice and Standards of Competence for practitioners early next year.



NZIMLS strongly advise that members actively participate in the consultation process for both documents. It is important that you have your say, so keep an eye on your inbox next year!

## Retiring members

NZIMLS would like to acknowledge the commitment to the profession of the following members who have recently retired:

Gregory Cupido, Waikato Health (Member for 20 years)

Lilia Sadumiano, Waikato Health (Member for 12 years)

Johannes Bouwhuis, Waikato Health (Member for 20 years)

Jan Spaans, Waikato Health (Member for 9 years)

Vivienne O'Brien, Waikato Health (Member for 20 years)

Rosie Hawes, NZBS (Member for 43 years)

We wish these members all the very best for their retirement.

If you know of anyone who has recently retired, or if you are due to retire, please let us know!

email [admin@nzimls.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzimls.org.nz)

## NZIMLS Annual Scientific Meeting 2025, The Distinction Hotel, Hamilton WOW!

With over 500 delegates visiting the conference during 27-29 August, the Distinction Hotel was simply buzzing! As has become the norm with NZIMLS conferences, the event ran extremely well with massive thanks to our Conference Management team, Daniela Olphert, D.O. Events, Sharon Tozer, NZIMLS, and Convenor Andrea Lee, LabPLUS. The Conference Committee of Carla Shailer, Yii Sen Wee, Michael McRae (Pathlab), Christy Farrow, Mabel Nyashanu (NZ Blood) and Ajesh Joseph (NZIMLS) were outstanding in putting an excellent programme together and welcoming delegates to Conference.

A big thank you to all who Chaired sessions and to those who presented. Feedback on all presentations has been very positive! Keynote speakers, Kylie Price (Malaghan Institute), Dr Wendy Sweet (Australasian Society of Lifestyle Medicine) and Jack Jensen (Spark that Chat) were absolutely amazing and had everyone talking about their topics well after the presentations were complete.

Speakers were presented with a woven kete, (representing the ASM slogan of interweaving of science and people), filled with locally sourced honey and chocolates.

The Gala Dinner was attended by 130 delegates and what a party it was! Black and Gold had us on the dancefloor from the first song well into the night, after a scrumptious three-course dinner prepared by Arun, the amazing Chef at Distinction Hotel. Everyone looked fantastic in their garden party best, or garden party dress-up. Congratulations to best-dressed winners: Andrea Lee (Queen of the Garden Fairies), Michael McCrae (Garden Gnome) and the team from Middlemore Phlebotomy (Fairies at the bottom of the garden).

Photo's of the 2025 ASM will be available for download once Daniela is back from a very well-deserved break. Delegates will be emailed a link.

**CPD Certificates for attendance will be emailed to delegates by the end of next week.**







## Journal

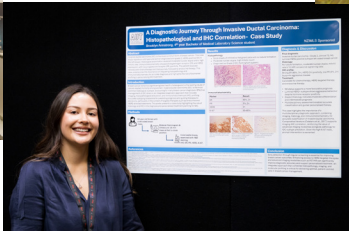
Are you a creative person? Then we want you! Next year the NZIMLS turns 80 and to celebrate we want a fabulous new Journal Cover! All options will be considered and the best (chosen by the Journal Editorial team) will win \$1,000.00 prize-money! Please note, entries created using AI will not be considered.

Get those creative juices running and design a new cover!

Send entries in to the Executive Office, to [sharon@nzimls.org.nz](mailto:sharon@nzimls.org.nz)

**Entries close 1 November 2025.**

If you presented at the NZIMLS ASM, now is the opportunity to have your presentation published. The Editorial team are available to help you turn your presentation into an article - just email Lisa Cambridge, [editor@nzimls.org.nz](mailto:editor@nzimls.org.nz) for further information.



See you next year for our 80th anniversary!  
Tākina Convention and Exhibition Centre,  
19 - 21 August 2026