

NZIMLS Council Newsletter / Pānui

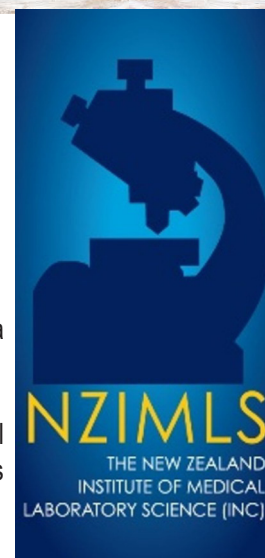
December 2025

News from the Council

Council had a very productive meeting at the end of November, welcoming our three new regional members, Ginna Alston, Kirsten Birrell and Leah Pringle who all added valuable contributions to our discussions.

After an unsuccessful call for a Council Technician representative for the 2025 Elections, we sent an invitation to all Associate Members to register interest in this position. We were overwhelmed by the response! Our congratulations go to Carolyn Olsen, Pathlab Lakes, who Council have elected as the new Technician Representative on Council.

Around the regions, things continue to be busy however, we would appreciate it if Managers could respond to their Council Representative when contacted for updates.



Awards



We are very pleased to announce the following awards to our members:

- Michael Legge Higher Education Scholarship (inaugural winner): **Elizabeth Giles**, Canterbury Health Labs
- 2026 Rob Siebers Journal Prize: **Savannah Young**, NZBS Palmerston North, for the article titled A curious case of haemolytic disease of the newborn caused by cold-reacting Anti-M: a New Zealand case report. 2025; 79(2): 57-60
- Journal cover competition winner: With an overwhelming number of excellent entries, the Editorial team had a very difficult task to choose a winner. To that end, we have selected the entry from **Kelly Craig**, as the winner for the 80th Anniversary editions and it was agreed by both the Editorial team and Council that another prize should be awarded for the 2027 cover. Therefore we also offer congratulations to **Isla and Juliet Revell** whose design will be used for the 2027 editions.
- 2025 QMLT Top Candidate Overall: **Max Millar**, Awanui Labs Nelson, Microbiology
- 2025 QMLT Top Candidate (Phlebotomy): **Anna Johnston**, Pathlab Waikato, Phlebotomy
- Laboratory Christmas Quiz winners: NZ Blood Service, Donor Accreditation, Auckland and Waikato Hospital, Microbiology Team both gained 100% in the Quiz.

Congratulations to you all!

2025 Examinations

The 2025 Examination process ran extremely smoothly this year. NZIMLS Council and the Executive Office would like to extend our thanks to the Examiners and Moderators for all their hard work in exam setting, checking and marking. This is not an easy task, and many volunteer hours are dedicated to ensuring we deliver a quality examination so that technicians gain a highly regarded qualification.

The new Examination Management System worked very well and helped to speed up the marking process, resulting in candidates receiving their results a week earlier than anticipated!

Congratulations to all those who passed their examinations. We look forward to you continuing your membership with NZIMLS and partaking in our CPD programme.





2026 Opportunities

- Barrie Edwards & Rod Kennedy Scholarship (<https://www.nzimls.org.nz/scholarships>)
- Michael Legge Higher Education Scholarship (<https://www.nzimls.org.nz/scholarships>)
- NZIMLS Research Grant (<https://www.nzimls.org.nz/research-grant>)
- Hugh Bloore Memorial Poster Prize (<https://www.nzimls.org.nz/awards>)
- NZIMLS Fellowship (<https://www.nzimls.org.nz/nzimls-fellowship>)
- Qualified Medical Laboratory Technician Examination (applications open 1 February 2026)
- Rob Siebers Journal Prize
- Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Laboratory Science (<https://www.nzimls.org.nz/events/39>)

NZIMLS Calendar 2026

Council meetings	Venue	Contact
19-20 February 2026	Auckland	Sharon Tozer sharon@nzimls.org.nz
28 – 29 May 2026	Christchurch	
17 – 18 August 2026	Wellington	
26 – 27 November 2026	Christchurch	
Seminars (Dates subject to change)		Venue/Convenor
21 February 2026	Haematology SIG	Waipuna Events Centre, Auckland Mala Govender (Awanui Labs)
21 March 2026	Immunology SIG	JetPark Auckland Nitika Devi (Awanui Labs)
11 April 2026	South Island Seminar	Dunedin Kay Jones (Awanui Labs)
May 2026	NICE weekend	TBC
13 June 2026	North Island Seminar	Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands Sailesh Singh/Kritika Kumar (Bay of Islands Hospital)
26 June	Molecular Diagnostics SIG	Hotel Armitage, Tauranga Roberto Mazzaschi (LabPlus)
27 June 2026	Microbiology SIG	Hotel Armitage, Tauranga Jo Madden (Pathlab)
June 2026	Biochemistry SIG	TBC
19-21 August 2026	ASM & 80 th Anniversary & Annual General Meeting	Tākina Events Centre, Wellington Sharon Tozer (NZIMLS)
October 2026	Anatomical Pathology SIG	Auckland Shobashini Perumal (ADHB)
October/November 2026	Mortuary SIG	TBC
November 2026	Preanalytical SIG	TBC

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 today, and we will send you everything you need to know!



Retiring members

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

Susan Powell (Member 8 years)
Madhu Parbhu (Member 48 years)
Brenda Pither (Member 25 years)
Penelope Clarke (Member 5 years)
Jocelyn Smith (Member 19 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

We've done it again!!

We are thrilled to announce that once again, the NZIMLS has won awards in the Most Trusted Business Awards! A huge thank you to the Executive Office team for always presenting themselves professionally and responding to our members with honesty and courtesy!

This year we won the following awards:

- Number 6 in the Top 50 Most Trusted Businesses
- Most Trusted Not-for-Profit Winner
- Nationwide Brand Winner
- Most Trusted Professional Organisation for Medical Laboratory Science
- Industry Award Winner



Thank you to our members and industry partners for voting for us again this year. We are humbled by the response and to receive these awards for the second year in a row.

Mandaluyong Declaration on Patient Safety

Weaving Strengths for the Future of Patient Safety Throughout the Healthcare Continuum

7th Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety

Mandaluyong, Philippines

Date: April 3-4, 2025

We, the Patient Safety Weavers, gathered at the 7th Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety in Mandaluyong, Philippines, on April 3-4, 2025, building upon the principles and outcomes of all previous summits - London (2016), Bonn (2017), Tokyo (2018), Jeddah (2019), Montreux (2023), and Santiago (2024) - including the Tokyo Declaration, Jeddah Declaration, Montreux Charter, and Santiago Commitment Charter, reaffirm our unwavering determination to make patient safety a universal imperative.

Our collective commitments align firmly with the World Health Assembly 72.6 resolution on Global action on patient safety as well as the corresponding Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030. With renewed urgency, we choose to advance our actions in establishing patient safety as a foundational pillar of resilient, people-centered and equitable health systems that deliver high-quality care and drive improved health outcomes.

NZIMLS has joined this collaboration and signed this document.

Read more, including the letter to the Minister of Health, Rt Hon Simeon Brown at <https://www.nzimls.org.nz/documents>

New Award Announced!

NZIMLS President's Award for Outstanding Service to the Profession



Purpose of the Award

The President's Award aims to acknowledge and celebrate outstanding service by members to the medical laboratory profession. It recognises individuals whose commitment, dedication, and contributions have made a significant impact on the advancement and reputation of the profession in New Zealand.

Full eligibility and criteria information, along with the application form are available on our website at: <https://www.nzimls.org.nz/awards>



We're taking a break from 23 December 2025!

Sharon, Jillian, Fran and Cathy wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year. We hope you have time to spend with your families and to enjoy what Summer has to offer.

We will be back in full swing from Monday 12 January 2026!

The NZIMLS Council also wish all members, staff, industry partners, SIG Convenors, Examiners, Moderators and all our volunteers a very happy Christmas.

