

MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS SIG

Date: Friday 10th October 2025
 Venue: Ernest & Marion Davis Lecture Theatre, Auckland City Hospital, Grafton, Auckland
 Time: 0800 – 1700

PROGRAMME		
0800	Registration with arrival, tea and coffee	
0830	Welcome and Housekeeping Chair: Pippa Grainger	
0840	The Evolution of Genomics & the Role of Multidisciplinary-based approach in Constraint Healthcare Services	Dr. Patrick Yap
0910	Research to Clinical NGS - an Exome Evaluation.	Jason Copedo, Grafton Clinical Genomics, University of Auckland
0940	Vascular anomalies and genetics.	Dr. Mike Watson, Histopathology, LabPlus Auckland
0955	Morning tea	
	Chair: Roberto Mazzaschi	
1015	Off the beaten track: Bespoke assays for rare BCR::ABL1 fusions.	Geraldine Duncan, PhD Canterbury Health Laboratories
1040	Why Chromosome analysis, FISH and Microarray are equally important tools in genetic disorders	Tareeqanwar Mohammed Diagnostic Genetics, LabPlus Auckland
1105	QFPCR to the rescue! A chimaera case study.	Sarah Mitchell & Dr. Freeman Apou, Diagnostic Genetics, LabPlus Auckland
1130	Screening for Cystic Fibrosis in Newborns	Arne Koefoed, Wellington Genetics Laboratory
1145	MinION at LabPlus: Against All Odds	Fahimeh Rahnama, LabPlus Auckland
1200	Lunch	
	Chair: TBC	
1250	Analytical Validation Of Cxbladder Triage PLUS	Kimberley Hughes
1320	The Art of Single Atom level RNA Virus Engineering for Drug Deliver in Solid Tumours	Shakeel Waqqar LabPlus Auckland
1350	RAT testing for Flu A,B/RSV/SARS	Dr. Joshua Freeman
1410	Profiling a Killer – The journey of WGS of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in Aotearoa	Mareike Erdmann
1425	Characterising a panel of clinical and environmental Mycobacterium chimaera isolates	Siouxie Wiles, Associate Professor, University of Auckland
1455	Afternoon Tea	
	Chair: Mareike Erdmann	
1505	Heavy metal poisoning- A case study presentation	Hossain Khundker, Northland
1535	Unbiased metagenomic sequencing as a new powerful diagnostic tool in microbiology	Dr Meik Dilcher, Canterbury Health Laboratories
1605	Supporting hepatitis C elimination with dried blood spot testing	Gary McAuliffe, LabPlus Auckland
1625	Contamination in the PCR lab: a cautionary tale	Elliot Pollen, LabPlus Auckland
1650	Prizes. Plan for 2026 SIG	
1700	End – Thank-you & See you Next Year!	

With thanks to our sponsors:



**Venue is: The Marion Davis Library (downstairs meeting room)
No.43 on the map**

