

Molecular Diagnostics Special Interest Group Programme

Date: Friday 26 June 2026

Venue: Mecure Tauranga (formerly Hotel Armitage & Conference Centre), 28 Brown Street Tauranga

Time: 1000 – 1700



PROGRAMME		
1000	Registration with arrival, tea and coffee	
1020	Welcome and Housekeeping. Chair : Roberto Mazzaschi	
1030	Holo-Q Waka Te Ira Omniscan [30mins] Virtual Presentation	Patrick Gladding, Waitemata
1100	Routine Pharmacogenomics in a Clinical Setting [30 mins]	Kevin Smith, Waitemata
1130	Multiplex PCRs: Should we just test for everything on all patients? [40 mins]	Dr. Michael Addidle, Pathlab Tauranga.
1210	Lunch	
	Chair: Roberto Mazzaschi	
1310	The NZIMLS	Ginna Alston, Microbiology Service Manager, Canterbury Health Laboratories
1320	Closing the gap: Enabling local HRD testing to guide PARPi therapy in New Zealand	Magda Ratajska, PhD Research Fellow / Associate Professor University of Otago Ōtākou Whakaihū Waka
1340	Integrating NGS and Cryo-EM to Decipher RNA–Capsid Crosstalk in Picornavirus Genome Packaging [40 mins]	Shakeel Waqqar, LabPlus Auckland
1420	Detection of Syphilis on multiplex lesion panel assays [20 mins]	Shafin Khan, Pathlab Tauranga
1440	Afternoon Tea	
	Chair: Roberto Mazzaschi	
1510	Implementing liquid biopsy for <i>EGFR</i> variant detection in lung cancer at IGENZ	Bronwyn Neumann IGENZ, Auckland
1530	Prenatal DNA extraction EZ2 [20 mins]	Kathryn Isaac Wellington Genetics.
1550	Prenatal extraction [30mins]	Jon Tomasik QIAGEN
1620	Three Targets, One Suspect: Unmasking pathogenic <i>Leptospira</i> via an In-house Triplex PCR on LC 480	Nikhat Nisha – Waikato Hospital Molecular Biology Department.
1650	Prizes	
1700	End	

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