



# The Society for Redox Research AUSTRALASIA

## NEWSLETTER (December 2023)

<p><b>President</b> <i>Term: 2023-2024</i> <b>ANDREW BULMER</b> School of Medical Science and Menziess Health Institute Queensland Griffith University Parklands Drive, Southport, QLD 4222 AUSTRALIA Phone: +61 7 5552 8215 Email: <a href="mailto:a.bulmer@griffith.edu.au">a.bulmer@griffith.edu.au</a></p>	<p><b>Treasurer</b> <i>Term: 2020-2023</i> <b>STANLEY CHAN</b> School of Health and Biomedical Sciences, Bundoora Campus, RMIT University 264 Plenty Road, Mill Park VIC 3082 AUSTRALIA Phone: +61 399 257 353 E-mail: <a href="mailto:stanley.chan@rmit.edu.au">stanley.chan@rmit.edu.au</a></p>
<p><b>Secretary</b> <i>Term: 2021-2024</i> <b>LOUISA ASHBY</b> Mātai Hāora - Centre for Redox Biology &amp; Medicine, Department of Pathology and Biomedical Science, University of Otago Christchurch 2 Riccarton Avenue, Christchurch 8011 NEW ZEALAND Phone: +64 3 378 6223 Email: <a href="mailto:louisa.ashby@otago.ac.nz">louisa.ashby@otago.ac.nz</a></p>	<p><b>President-Elect</b> <i>Term: 2023-2024</i> <b>NINA DICKERHOF</b> Mātai Hāora - Centre for Redox Biology &amp; Medicine, Department of Pathology and Biomedical Science, University of Otago Christchurch 2 Riccarton Avenue, Christchurch 8011 NEW ZEALAND Phone: +64 3 378 6223 Email: <a href="mailto:nina.dickerhof@otago.ac.nz">nina.dickerhof@otago.ac.nz</a></p>
<p><b>Early Career Researcher Representative</b> <i>Term: 2020-2023</i> <b>JEREME SPIERS</b> College of Health and Medicine, Australian National University Canberra, ACT 2600 AUSTRALIA Phone: +61 2 6125 5111 Email: <a href="mailto:jereme.spiers@anu.edu.au">jereme.spiers@anu.edu.au</a></p>	

### Contact email and Website:

The Society has an email managed by the secretary: [sfrasecretariat@gmail.com](mailto:sfrasecretariat@gmail.com)

The SFRA website is as follows: [www.sfr-australasia.org](http://www.sfr-australasia.org)

Please get in touch if you would like to post any news, notices, links and other items of interest to Society members.

## President's Report

Dear colleagues,

2023 has been a year of great opportunity as we re-emerged from the COVID pandemic. Research activity is clearly recovering and I can feel an air of excitement as we look forward to hearing announcements regarding our grant applications. I do hope you have had the opportunity to taste success in your respective projects and have been able to share those findings with the scientific and general community.

Many activities have occurred over the past year and I would like to acknowledge Tony Kettle and the organising committee for running a highly successful SFRR(A) conference last year. It was wonderful to engage with each other again in person and share some great science in Christchurch. I'd also like to acknowledge the tireless



Prof Andrew Bulmer

efforts of the SFRR(A) Executive including Guy Jameson (past president) for passing the reigns of the Society over (in great heath) last year and to our vital Secretary Louisa Ashby. Louisa has been an incredible source of experience and organisation in helping to co-ordinate many of the activities we have all become accustomed to within the SFRR(A). These include communications between members and the executive, organising travel awards, compilation of the newsletter and AGM minutes, in addition to keeping the Executive updated on the 'close-out' of last year's conference. Many thanks are also extended to both Stanley Chan (Treasurer) and Jereme Spiers (Early-career representative), whose terms will come to an end this year. Stanley (and Paul Witting), thank you for guiding the Society through, to completion, the name change process this year. This was a highly complex and time consuming process and was initially discussed in the 2018 AGM. Stanley's co-ordination of the finances has also been much appreciated and we look forward to actioning his plans to switch banks in the coming year (this will make completing business within the Society much easier in future). It has been a great pleasure to work with Jereme and Louisa, who initiated many new opportunities to benefit ECRs, including co-ordinating poster awards for redox topics at the New Zealand and Australian Societies for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Jereme has also promoted the Society within the Australian Academy of Science and has also applied for grants to offset the Society's future carbon emissions to reduce any impact on climate change.

In summary, the activities above have been vital to increasing awareness of the Society more broadly, promoting our science by investing time and money into multiple initiatives and attracting new members. These activities strengthen the long term viability and further growth of the SFRR(A). In 2024, the Society will continue its mission to engage more broadly with the community and our partner Societies, promoting our outstanding and early career researchers as momentum continues to develop after the initial COVID pandemic. Many thanks to our members for their engagement, I feel that 2024 is going to be a great year and look forward to engaging with you in the pursuit of outstanding science.

Kindest Regards,

Andrew

## President Elect's Update

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the trust you have placed in me by casting your votes at the Christchurch meeting in December 2022. It was a true privilege to welcome you all here in Christchurch for our first in-person meeting since the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The atmosphere was buzzing with positive energy, reminding us of how the invigorating power of face-to-face exchanges among our members.

It was a pleasure to be part of the hard-working SFRRRA executive committee this year and I am impressed by the team's dedication to the success and longevity of the society. Special thanks go to Andrew for skilfully steering our executive ship and to Louisa for her exceptional organisational skills and attention to detail.

I am stoked to observe the society's commitment to sustainability, with steps taken towards mitigating the carbon footprint of our next in-person conference through grant-funded tree planting initiatives, spear-headed by Jereme. As I am writing this, I am looking forward to our Hybrid Online Research Symposium. This promises to be a fantastic opportunity to hear from our Early Career Researchers and to extend a warm invitation to potential new members. Their participation and engagement are vital to the continued success of our society.

As we approach the Christmas break, I want to wish you all a restful and safe holiday season. May it be filled with joy, relaxation, and moments of reflection.



Dr Nina Dickerhof

## Treasurer's Update

I am pleased to present the financial standing of our society. On the Australian side, our total assets stand at \$56K, marking a net loss of \$9.5K compared to the same period in 2022. In line with the Society's commitment in supporting redox research, the Society has provided 6 travel awards to ECRs to attend the Christchurch Conference 2022, each worth \$750. Moreover, the Society have also sponsored (USD\$2.5K) the Society for Free Radical Research International's (SFRRI) 21st Biennial Congress which was held in conjunction with the Society for Redox Biology and Medicine's (SfRBM), in Uruguay. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new members to the Society and the commitment of existing members who have diligently renewed their membership, which remains a significant driver of the Society's financial health. The support from our members not only fosters a sense of community but also provides a vital source of revenue, enabling us to further our mission and activities.

Additionally, the society has benefited from interest earned on term deposits, particularly in recent months. This increase in interest income is a direct consequence of the interest rate rise implemented by the federal reserve bank. The prudent management of our financial instruments and investments has proven to be a key factor in capitalizing on the changing economic landscape. The executive committee has embarked on the process of transitioning to a new financial institution, Westpac Bank. We anticipate the new account to be fully operational by mid-2024. This strategic move is aimed at enhancing the efficiency of the Society's banking processes. Notably, the Westpac account will introduce a two-step signatory authorization system for transactions, allowing for remote approval. This feature is expected to streamline our financial operations, providing a secure and convenient method for overseeing transactions without the need for physical presence.

The New Zealand bank account has been active in the last year due to the joint SFRR-Australasia and -Japan societies' conference held in Christchurch, December 2022. The society received 68 SFRRRA membership fees (2023) from attending delegates, the remaining delegates were from Japan. Through sponsorship, including a contribution from SFRR-Japan, the conference organisers recovered all costs to break even (profit returned to our society NZD\$309). The NZ account provided 4 travel awards of \$500 to ECR attending the conference from elsewhere in NZ. During 2023 the account also provided the international travel award for the SFRRI Uruguay conference, and two poster awards in support of the New Zealand Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The current balance is \$4.4K.



Dr Stanley Chan

## ECR Representative's Update

With the move to biennial in-person meetings passed through the last AGM, our Society has made sustainability a key focus area we would like to promote. To continue the excellent lead taken by the organisers of the 30<sup>th</sup> SFRRRA meeting in Christchurch, we have applied for several ECR initiatives aiming to reduce the carbon footprint of our Society. The SFRRRA has also sponsored ECR awards through the SFRRRI, & ASBMB/NZBMB Societies to engage with researchers in similar fields and grow our Society. We have also worked to promote ECR networking events hosted by the Australian Academy of Science and hope to work closely with them again in the future.



Dr Jereme Spiers

## Secretary's Update

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at our SFRRRA Symposium on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023. The year has flown by since our in-person conference in Christchurch, and the society has been busy. I'd like to thank Paul Witting for acting as NSW representative to help bring the society name change finally to completion. Huge thanks also to Guy Jameson and Liz Ledgerwood (website manager) for your continued interest and support of the society. I feel sad about Stanley and Jereme finishing up their posts on the executive, but I know we will remain in contact which will be great. You both have a calm and organised approach in getting things done, and I have really appreciated all your effort and expertise in the missions you have undertaken for the society. Your help to me as exec members who got there a year before me has been huge, thank you! To all members old and new, please keep up the enthusiasm we felt when you came to Christchurch last year, it was fun. I hope you enjoy the photos squeezed into the limited space on the coming pages, and please read on to see the Minutes and Treasurer's Summary from last year's AGM. See you soon, and best wishes for the holiday season.



Dr Louisa Ashby

### **ATTENTION! Open call for nominations for SFRRRA Treasurer and ECR Rep**

At this year's AGM (11 Dec 2023, Symposium day), we need to **appoint two new members of the Executive Committee; Treasurer and ECR Representative**. This presents an exciting opportunity for two enthusiastic members of the SFRRRA. Both positions have a four-year term as standard.

Please advise the SFRRRA executive committee of nominations. Also feel free to make enquiries or put forward an expression of interest – Andrew Bulmer is coordinating this, please contact him directly: [a.bulmer@griffith.edu.au](mailto:a.bulmer@griffith.edu.au)

# Conference Reports from ECR Travel Award winners

## 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SFRR-Australasia & 10<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting with SFRR-Japan Theme: Redox Pathways in Biology and Medicine 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 in Christchurch, New Zealand

6 SFRR travel awardees from Australia		
Ayaho Yamamoto	Queensland	PhD student
Hayley Turnham	Melbourne	MSc student
Noralyn Manucat-Tan	Adelaide	Postdoc
Tamara Ortiz Cerda	Sydney	Postdoc
Thomas O'Neil	Sydney	PhD student
Albaraa Mojadadi	Sydney	PhD student

4 SFRR travel awardees from New Zealand		
Renita Martis	Auckland	Postdoc
Zachary Tillet	Dunedin	MSc student
Ansa Thomas	Dunedin	PhD student
Chloe Mountain	Dunedin	MSc student



### Ayaho Yamamoto

*Child Health Research Centre, University of Queensland*

I was very grateful to receive a SFRR Early Career Travel Award to attend the SFRR Australasia & Japan Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand. The conference brought 2, interesting, and high quality, I have gained new knowledge and insights. I have also learned a lot from the lectures. I was given the opportunity to present my work and received great feedback that useful for future investigations. The conference was an excellent opportunity to meet and learn from the leading minds in redox biology. I found that the senior researchers were actually very friendly, approachable, and supportive. I felt privileged to have conversations with both fellow and senior researchers, and to discuss the possibility of future collaborations. The meeting was very engaging, well organised and managed, I enjoyed the whole experience of face-to-face conference. A plus for me was that there was a lot of food and never got starved! Conference dinner was a lot of fun playing games with the whole group. It was my first time visiting New Zealand, I found it beautiful especially the lake Tekapo, and I would visit again. Overall, the conference was invaluable and fantastic experience. I look forward to attending future SFRR conferences.



### Dr Renita Martis

*School of Medical Science, University of Auckland*

I want to thank everyone who organized the conference and for the travel award which enabled me to attend the SFRR conference. Since the pandemic, this was my first in-person conference. I enjoyed the conference for many reasons, the first being the topic of interest. As an optometrist, it is rare for me to attend conferences that are biochemistry heavy as I find it difficult to grasp certain concepts, however most of the presentations were easy to understand and I was able to learn a lot. I especially enjoyed the Dawn Dialogues as I learnt new ideas on redox signaling as well as various types of oxidative biomarkers. I can now apply these to my research and understand how this affects the eye. The second reason the conference was great was the opportunity to build collaborations and networks which I would not have been able to build at a regular ocular conference. In this conference, I was able to talk with others and gain ideas on how to make my experiments more robust. Additionally, due to my niche research area (I work on the eyes), I don't often get a chance to learn about how oxidative stress affects other systems. Having a variety of topics and discussions with

experts in those areas, I was able to expand my knowledge and think of ways to apply those concepts within my own research area. Lastly, I enjoyed the socializing at the conference. Getting to know people, especially at the conference dinner was great. It provided a more informal forum to get to know people apart from their work. Everyone from the organizers to the participants were very friendly and approachable. Getting to know our Japanese delegates was also great albeit language was a bit of a barrier. This conference was a great end to a stressful year and I want to once again thank the committee for the travel award which provided me the opportunity to attend.



### **Zachary Tillet**

*Department of Biochemistry, University of Otago*

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the December 2022, SFRRA meeting in Christchurch. As my postgraduate study has been during the COVID era, this was a unique opportunity and experience for me. Getting to present the results of my research to a group with many esteemed researchers was a valuable learning experience for me, and I greatly appreciated those who had conversations with me regarding my work. I found the interactions with fellow scientists to be the most valuable aspect of the conference, and hope I will be able to maintain the connections made at the conference as I transition into my career.



### **Hayley Turnham**

*Bio21 Institute and The Florey Institute, University of Melbourne*

It was a pleasure to attend the 2022 Society for Redox Research Australasia and Japan Meeting. It was my first time attending a SFRRA meeting and first time travelling overseas for a conference.

I was impressed with the diverse array of talks presented and was intrigued hearing about the different applications of redox chemistry and biology, especially in fields of research that I don't typically hear about in my day-to-day work.

It was great to see work presented by individuals in various stages of their careers, from students to leaders in their fields, through both the talks and posters presented. I was very grateful for the opportunity to present some of my master's work at the conference. It was such an exciting experience, and I valued the discussion with other researchers wanting to ask questions or provide suggestions on my project.

Overall, I had an amazing experience at the conference. I had the opportunity to attend with both of my supervisors and a couple of other researchers from our labs in Melbourne. It was great to share this experience with them and have their support. I also particularly enjoyed attending the Conference dinner. It was great to mingle with other researchers and we had a fun night chatting and playing trivia in a beautiful location. A huge thank you to the SFRRA&J Conference organising committee for hosting such a lovely conference! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend, it was an invaluable experience.

## Chloe Mountain

*Department of Biochemistry, University of Otago*

In December 2022, I had the privilege of attending the 30<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the SFRR Australasia and 10<sup>th</sup> joint meeting with Japan in Christchurch. I had the amazing experience of presenting a poster of my research to the many people that attended. This was the first experience I had to be a guest at a conference and physically present my work to an audience. This experience allowed me to engage and gain insightful advice into my project and other sections of free radical research. It provided insight into the dynamics of an organised event and the ability to see the great expanse of research which encompasses the redox biology field whilst also creating large amounts of opportunity to network with experts that are leading in their fields. I would like to thank the organisers and all participants for making this event memorable. I would also like to thank the SFRR for awarding me the Young Investigator Travel Award which made it possible to attend this conference in person and I am very grateful and proud to be the recipient of the Young Investigator Award, sponsored by Redox Report and awarded for the presentation of my poster. It was an amazing experience, and I am excited to participate in future conferences. I highly recommend other students to attend the SFRR&J meetings if given the opportunity.



Chloe receiving her Taylor & Francis sponsored award from President Guy.



Taylor & Francis (*Redox Report*) provided 4 ECR awards for best presentations:

Best ECR posters	Best ECR talks
Chloe Mountain	Hayley Turnham
Tamara Ortiz Cerda	Heather Shearer

## Ansa Thomas

*Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology, University of Otago*

I was awarded a travel grant to attend SFRR&J 2022 conference held in University of Otago, Christchurch Campus held on 5-7th December 2022. The aim of the conference was to provide platform for discussions mainly about redox chemistry and free radicals. The conference contained useful presentations, great talks, and posters on a range of topics related to redox chemistry and free radicals as well as interactive sessions after each talk. I presented a poster and a 3-minute pitch talk during the conference. As an early career researcher, it was an amazing and exciting opportunity to present in front of the legends of science and other fellow researchers.

Attendance to this conference gave me the opportunity gain further experience in presenting my research and the opportunity to network with professionals in the same field and sharing thoughts about future research. I would like to thank all the members of SFRRRA society especially the organising committee and members from Christchurch campus who had done an amazing job to arrange all the needs for the attendees of the conference it's appreciable, Thanks for the delicious food served on all the three days of the meeting. I am honoured to associated with the SFRRRA since 2020. Thank you again for the travel award and looking forward to seeing you for the next meeting.



### **Tamara Ortiz Cerda**

*Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney*

Lots of things I could say about the SFRR & Japan conference 2022, such as the stunning spot chosen to hold the conference that New Zealand is, the friendly and multicultural people and a high scientific level. Was my first time at this conference, I was used to assist to European conferences, and I must highlight the transversal topics touched by the speakers, from molecular and chemical pathways until more biomedical and medical application. Furthermore, the conference offered the last updating about new approaches and novel strategies for different pathologies related with inflammation and oxidative stress like nanomedicine, proton therapy among others. At the same time, it is relevant to notice that the oral and poster abstracts were of a high scientific quality, but even more, realising that young researchers are able to reach a high scientific level and we have enough tools and skills to transmit our advances and knowledges to our peers. About this last point, my sincere gratefulness to The Society for Redox Research Australasia that gave us the opportunity to apply to the award travel and for the recognizing to our early career investigators, without a doubt this is a great incentive to continue working in quality research.

### **Albaraa Mojadadi**

*Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney*

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for awarding me the Early Researcher Travel Award. The conference was well-organized, and I was impressed by the level of detail that went into the planning and execution of the event. From the venue selection to the presentation of the keynote speakers, everything was executed to perfection. The conference provided a platform for researchers and experts in the field of redox research to share their latest findings, network, and collaborate with one another. I was particularly impressed by the diversity of topics covered and the high standard of presentations. The keynote speakers were outstanding, and their presentations were both engaging and thought-provoking. They inspired me to think more deeply about my own research and to consider new approaches to research. I also appreciated the opportunity to participate in the presentations.

Receiving this award has not only been a great honour but has also provided me with a valuable opportunity to attend this prestigious conference. The experience was truly enriching, and I was able to gain valuable insights and make important connections with other researchers in the field. The social events were a great way to relax and network with other attendees, and I was particularly impressed by the warm hospitality of the local organizers. The conference provided a unique opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds and cultures, and I feel privileged to have been a part of it.

### **Thomas O'Neil**

*Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney*

This was my first attendance to a SFRRRA meeting and it was really excellent. I was glad to receive a travel award to come and present my lab's research and the methods we've been using to investigate the immune cell landscape of human tissue. Having seen the presentations and read the posters, I was



reminded of the depth of understanding for diseases, cells and tissue that members of this society contribute to, that I have not been able to fully appreciate as an ECR in immunology/virology. I was particularly interested in the talks from Mike Berridge, Gemma Figtree and Hayley Turnham. I found that all members were incredibly friendly, open and engaging and I had many excellent conversations before and during the conference dinner. The organisers deserve praise for this conference, too. It was well planned, with such a great diversity of talks and groups, and much support for ECRs and students. I particularly enjoyed the Dawn Dialogues, which felt very candid, honest and open, allowing for a bit more of speculation and discussion on some topics. My last note of appreciation has to be on the location. I've always loved New Zealand and having the opportunity to come over during "work time" was amazing. To get away from the endless traffic of Sydney and walk through the park every morning was a breath of fresh air. Thank you to everyone involved in the organising, everyone who presented and to all I had the pleasure of meeting.



Thomas O'Neil, Albaraa Mojadadi and Tamara Ortiz Cerda with their SFERRA travel award certificates, and work colleagues.

### Noralyn Mañucat-Tan

*Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute, Flinders University*

The 30th Meeting of SFRR Australasia and the 10th Joint Meeting with SFRR Japan, held at the University of Otago in Christchurch, New Zealand, was my first post-PhD overseas conference. I am honoured to receive an SFRR (A) Early Career Travel Award and present my work on the effect of hypochlorite on amyloid beta toxicity and aggregation *in vitro* as a selected talk. I had the chance to hear amazing talks from experts in the field of redox biology as well as from my fellow early-career researchers and amazing PhD candidates. I particularly enjoyed hearing the work of Professor John Aitken on how oxidative stress causes infertility, and this new-found knowledge inspires me to pursue this field. I was also grateful to learn from Prof. Mark Hampton that measuring peroxiredoxins in glial cells is potentially a more reliable method to measure amyloid-beta-induced oxidative stress. The benefit of



attending this conference is the chance to discuss my research and receive invaluable feedback from experts such as Prof. Hampton. One of the highlights of the conference for me was being able to meet and chat with Prof. Hampton, Prof. Christine Winterbourn, and Prof. Anthony Kettle, who are the authors of my go-to papers when I want to revisit the important role of myeloperoxidase in innate immunity and protein modifications. Last but not the least, I am impressed by the effort of the SFRRA&J committee in providing a fantastic venue, a well-catered event, and a delightful conference dinner.

### Some more photos from the SFRRA&J Conference 2022:





## Joint Conference of SfRBM (30<sup>th</sup>) & SFRI (21<sup>st</sup>) 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in Punta del Este, Uruguay

Mid-2023, a panel of six SFRA members (three of the executive committee and three other judges) had the difficult job of selecting a winner for an international travel award. There were three ECR applicants and the standard was very high. The award was won by Dr Heather Shearer, a recently graduated PhD student from the Mātai Hāora group in Christchurch, currently in a post-doc collaboration with University of Canterbury. Congratulations on the travel award Heather!

### Dr Heather Shearer

*University of Otago Christchurch & University of Canterbury*

In November, I was given the opportunity to attend the Society for Redox Biology and Medicine's 30<sup>th</sup> annual conference in conjunction with the Society for Free Radical Research International's (SFRI) 21<sup>st</sup> biennial conference in Punta del Este, Uruguay. I would like to thank the SFRA for awarding me a travel award to attend this conference. It was my first time attending a SFRI conference and visiting South America. I was fortunate to be selected to present in my research in an oral presentation in the session of Microbial Redox Biology, alongside other great scientists from various stages in their careers. This session was dedicated to understanding how the unique redox machinery of microbes can lead to the discovery of new drugs to treat disease. I received valuable feedback and thoughtful questions about my research and had the pleasure of networking with other early career researchers and academics in the field of free radical research. In addition to the main conference program, the Sunrise Free Radical School and workshops including topics such as tackling imposter syndrome in academia and transitioning to industry, were highly educational and inspirational. I am very grateful for the opportunity I was given to present and attend this conference, which would not have been possible without the travel award from the SFRA.



Another ECR member of SFRA received a travel award – from SFRI-International. This was won by Kangzhe (Steven) Xie, who is currently doing his PhD in the Redox Biology Group, Sydney. His poster presentation in Uruguay was so good he was also awarded an SfRBM Young Investigator prize providing entry and financial support to attend another SfRBM conference – well done Steven!

### Kangzhe (Steven) Xie

*Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney*

I was given an opportunity to attend my first international conference, the SFRI-SfRBM 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial Meeting in Punta del Este, Uruguay between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of November this year. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to Society for Free Radical Research International for supporting my travel with a SFRI 2023 travel award. At the conference, I had the privilege to present my work as a poster entitled: "neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs) inhibition in experimental colitis model of inflammatory bowel disease", where I received valuable feedback and suggestions for my research. My poster presentation was also awarded the Society for Redox Biology and Medicine (SfRBM) Young Investigator Award at the closing Banquet.



Additionally, this conference also provided an opportunity for me to network and connect with other researchers in the field of free radical research. The presentations and lectures presented at the conference were highly informative. Notably, the opening plenary lecture by Dr. Bruce Freeman painted the potential of utilising multi-target drugs to modulate anti-inflammatory lipid signalling pathways, whilst Dr. Donna Zhang and Dr. Antonio Cuadrado's presentations highlighted the double edge sword nature of Nrf2 therapeutics in antioxidant settings. During my time in Uruguay, I was also fortunate enough to visit Casapueblo, a previous summer home and workshop now museum of Uruguayan artist Carlos Páez Vilaró. Lastly, I would like to thank my supervisor Professor Paul Witting and my lab Redox Biology Group at the Charles Perkins Centre for supporting my research project and SFFR-I and SfrBM for the awards. My experience at the conference and in Uruguay was nothing but positive and I strongly recommend aspiring young investigator in the field of free radical research to attend future SfrBM and SFRR conferences.



## SFRRA engagement with the science community

### **Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ASBMB 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at Australian National University, Canberra**

The recipients of the two ECR poster prizes sponsored by SFRRA in support of ASBMB 2023 were:

Suyan Yee, PhD student, for her poster “Unravelling the cellular communication networks driving stress-resilient photosynthesis in specialised leaf cells”, from the Division of Plant Sciences, ANU Canberra.

Dr Dalton Ngu, for his poster “Characterisation of the solute-binding protein ModA from *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and its role in molybdenum homeostasis.” Dalton is a postdoc in the School of Chemistry & Molecular Biosciences, Uni. Queensland.



### **New Zealand Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NZSBMB 28<sup>th</sup> November -1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 at Hanmer Springs, NZ**

The recipients of the two ECR poster prizes sponsored by SFRRA in support of NZSBMB 2023 were:

Olivia Paxie, PhD student, for her poster “Understanding the functional role of respiratory oxidase enzymes in the bacterial pathogen *Enterococcus faecalis*”, from the Microbiology & Immunology Department, University of Otago, Dunedin.

Mackenzie Flannery, Masters student, for her poster “Interactions between superoxide and myeloperoxidase inside phagocytic neutrophils”, from the Mātai Hāora – Centre for Redox Biology & Medicine, University of Otago Christchurch.

Pictured with Ass. Prof. Peter Mace, President NZSBMB



# Treasurer's report (2022)

## 1. Comments

Memberships were carried forward from 2020 and 2021. This year we have a significant number of renewals and new memberships, particular ECRs and students. I would like to thank all those current financial members that have made the effort to pay their membership fees to the Society for 2022 and a warm welcome to the new Society members!

Please note that memberships from 2021 are not being carry forward. For those who have not paid the membership for 2022 or are unable to attend the annual conference at Christchurch in December, SFRR(A) membership fees are due by end of the year (Full, AUD\$45/NZD\$50; Student, AUD\$25/NZ\$27).

Membership forms and payment details will be available on the website (<http://www.sfrr-australasia.org>) or by contacting myself ([stanley.chan@rmit.edu.au](mailto:stanley.chan@rmit.edu.au)) or the secretary.

## 2. Summary of Australian Accounts (24/11/2021-25/11/2022)

<b>Opening Balance (24/11/2021) of Australian accounts:</b>	<b><u>\$61,341.51</u></b>
Cheque Account Bearing Interest:	\$15,640.61
Term Deposit	\$45,700.90
Total Income:	\$14,494.27
Total Expenditure:	\$8,679.40
<u>Income – Expenditure:</u>	<u>\$5,814.87</u>
<b>Closing Balance (25/11/2022) of Australian accounts:</b>	<b><u>\$66,547.74</u></b>
Cheque Account Bearing Interest:	\$20,766.23
Term Deposit	\$45,781.51

## 3. Summary of BNZ Account in New Zealand

<b>Opening Balance (28/02/2022) of New Zealand account:</b>	<b><u>NZD\$4,994.71</u></b>
<i>Deposits</i>	
Membership fees: Payments for 2022	NZD\$258.00
SFRR-Japan	NZD\$3,000
Interest on NZ current account	NZD\$4.06
<b>Total NZ Income (28/02/2022 – 24/11/2022):</b>	<b><u>NZD\$3,262.06</u></b>
<b>Total NZ Expenditure (28/02/2022 – 24/11/2022):</b>	<b><u>NZD\$500.00</u></b>
<u>Income – Expenditure:</u>	<u>NZD\$2,762.06</u>
<b>Closing Balance (24/11/2022) of New Zealand account:</b>	<b><u>NZ\$7,756.08</u></b>

# Minutes from the 2022 Annual General Meeting



The Society for  
Redox Research  
AUSTRALASIA

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022** – location: Rolleston Lecture Theatre, University of Otago Christchurch, during the 30<sup>th</sup> SFRRRA meeting (also the 10<sup>th</sup> joint meeting with SFRR-Japan).

**Chair: Guy Jameson (President)**

Minutes: Louisa Ashby (Secretary)

Other SFRRRA Executive members present – Andrew Bulmer (President-elect), and Jereme Spiers (ECR rep). Apologies from Stanley Chan (Treasurer).

Attendance sheet details: **Total 39 present including executive members. No zoom component.**

Resident in Australia / New Zealand (Christchurch): 12 / 27 (20)

AGM opened 1:18pm (NZ time)

## 1. President's report (incorporating the Treasurer's and ECR representative's reports)

- Guy Jameson thanked the organisers of the current Christchurch conference, expressing appreciation for the return of in-person meetings.
- Just prior to his term as SFRRRA president, Guy led the organisation of the online SFRRRA meeting 2020. That year, two SFRRRA prizes for talks were awarded; Sarah Heath (UOC) and Simone de Luca (RMIT), and two SFRRRA prizes were awarded for posters; Kevin Mon (RMIT) and Kurt Brassington (RMIT).
- Guy reflected on his time as President in 2021/22, the COVID-19 pandemic years. The pandemic brought challenges to normal Society activities such as banking which has always required two in-person authorisation. Guy and Stanley have been investigating online banking options for the Australian accounts.
- Other issues were encountered due to the Society's name change (to Society for Redox Research Australasia) in relation to banking and the Charities/Not-for-profit register. The register requires there to be a NSW-resident member on the SFRRRA committee, Paul Witting agreed to fill this role.
- Two slides prepared by Stanley Chan, showed the summary of Australian and New Zealand financial activity for SFRRRA over the last year (see the one page Treasurer's Report 2022). The smaller balance of the NZ account remains stable at around \$5K. No questions from the floor.
- Guy also showed a summary 5 year plot of the term Australian accounts; a term deposit and a cheque account. There have been committee discussions about investing a portion of the \$45<sup>+</sup>K into a longer term to get more interest now that better rates are becoming available. For the cheque account, the longstanding sponsorship/membership arrangement with Taylor&Francis continues to be the main income since COVID caused memberships to go into a carry-over phase. More financial activity is imminent, relating to the current in-person conference allowing collection of 2023 subscription fees from delegates, and the naming of 11 members to receive SFRRRA ECR Travel awards.
- Jereme Spiers presented one slide detailing the value for new researchers using social media platforms such as Twitter, which can be tracked by Altmetric. The SFRRRA twitter subscription is increasing, and he is using the current conference to help build an ECR email list. Jereme congratulated the 7 Australian and 4 NZ ECR members selected for SFRRRA Travel awards to attend the current 2022 conference in Christchurch.
- Paul Witting showed a slide to update members of the T&F Publishing group's journal Redox Report. Please consider this journal for relevant publications, as T&F is a great supporter of our Society and Redox Report's impact factor for 2021 was near 6, now awaiting release of the 2022 value.

## 2. Secretary's report

Information was provided for the President's report.

**Motion:** Mark Hampton moved that the Minutes of the 2021 AGM, as distributed in the Newsletter 2022 (email and website) be accepted as an accurate and true record of events at that meeting.

Seconded: Tony Kettle. Unopposed. **Carried.**

### 3. **Mobile phone Poll – run by Guy Jameson**

-To initiate discussion and gauge members' opinions over current issues that require decisions, Guy used a web-based polling tool called Poll Everywhere. The poll questions and discussions proceeded as recorded below. After the electronic Poll finished, three motions were passed with show-of-hands votes and the results are inserted here.

#### **a. Do you support the idea of having an in-person SFRRRA meeting every second year?**

Electronic poll result > **70% Yes**

Discussion points:

Bob Anderson said if the meeting was every two years then some Honours students would miss out on attending. Mark Hampton is in favour of two yearly as it is difficult to find funding for travel each year, plus there are other meetings that we need to go to as well – less frequent SFRRRA meetings are likely to better ensure high attendance levels. Liz Ledgerwood wondered how going to two-yearly would affect the joint meetings with Japan, a knock-on effect could be to push joint meetings to be less frequent. Her concern is that SFRRRA delegations to conferences in Japan are already small. Bob Anderson said we should also consider the frequency and effect on attendance of SFRRRI meetings. Christine Winterbourn pointed out that historically SFRRRA's meetings were every two years but then it was changed to annual. She is aware many colleagues find online meetings to be of limited value, and suggested rather than an online meeting every second year, it might be better have small local in-person meetings at different sites. In relation to meetings held with SFRRJ, Christine suggested that to keep the frequency of meetings with SFRRJ high, Japanese members should be encouraged to join in with conferences in Australia/NZ as it is not feasible for many Australasian members to travel/get funding to Japan. Steven Gieseg said he doesn't like online meetings, and feels that a carbon footprint is inevitable for an Australasian society like ours. Tony Kettle is reluctant to support online meetings despite feeling that care of our planet is a top priority. He likes the idea of doing some sort of meeting every alternate year if we go to two-yearly, as he worries about students missing out, good conferences help young people. Belal Chami would like in-person conferences to be increased from 3 days to 4 day duration, to provide more presentation opportunities. Andrew Bulmer suggested we make a decision today about when to have the next meeting, and revisit this question again in the future. Margreet Vissers voiced her approval of this open discussion and thinks it is good to be willing to change. She said the FAOBMB conference that was run online during the pandemic was an example of how some online formats are good and can result in a worthwhile meeting.

**Motion:** Tony Kettle moved that the next in-person meeting for SFRRRA is held in 2024.

Seconded: Liz Ledgerwood. In favour: 38, Abstained: 0, Against: Steven Gieseg. **Carried.**

#### **b. Do you support raising the annual membership fees for SFRRRA (Full/student) from the current AUD\$45/\$27 up to AUD\$50/\$30 ?**

Electronic poll result > **70% Yes**

Discussion points:

Mark Hampton queried whether an increase was necessary in light of the healthy SFRRRA bank balances. Liz Ledgerwood said the last increase was made in 2018/19. Greg Giles and Andrew Bulmer pointed out that financial support from T&F is the reason for our good bank balance. Liz Ledgerwood and Louisa Ashby added that the outlay for travel awards has been low in recent years but this is changing now, as well as the cost of travel going up so the awards need to be larger \$ amounts.

**Motion:** Liz Ledgerwood moved that the SFRRRA annual membership fees are raised in line with AUD\$50/\$30.



Seconded: Nina Dickerhof. In favour: 38, Abstained: 0, Against: Mark Hampton. **Carried.**

### **c. Election of SFRRRA Executive officers**

A new President-Elect is required for the term of 2023/24, as current President-Elect Andrew Bulmer is vacating the post at the end of this year. Three nominations were received by Guy for the President-Elect role, he invited each candidate to come to the front and address the room. Here is a summary of the brief verbal self-introduction delivered by each nominee:

Nina Dickerhof – Nina feels the SFRRRA has been formative in her career. She can offer good organisational skills, she would be pleased to be another female officer on the committee.

Greg Giles – Greg has had a longstanding association with SFRRRA, and believes collaborations are paramount. He would be looking to make improvements to the Society.

Belal Chami – Belal enjoys SFRRRA and has been involved since 2015. He can offer good networking skills, and would be looking to use those to extend the membership of the Society.

### **Poll question - Please click on the candidate you vote to be the next President-Elect:**

**Nina Dickerhof or Greg Giles or Belal Chami**

The video link was disabled but Guy and Louisa were able to see the poll result on Guy's phone.

Electronic poll result > **70% for Nina Dickerhof**

**Motion:** Guy Jameson moved that on the basis of a strong majority in the electronic poll held just now, Nina Dickerhof is instated as the incoming President-Elect for 2023/24.

Seconded: Tony Kettle. Unopposed. **Carried.**

- 4. Andrew Bulmer – incoming SFRRRA President for 2023/24** – Andrew showed a few slides, firstly thanking Guy for his service as president over the last two years. He expressed appreciation of how much he learned from Guy as well as from Liz Ledgerwood who was the preceding president. Andrew introduced himself to those in the Society who don't know him already. He is a pathophysiological and Professor at Griffith University, Gold Coast, Queensland. He is passionate about encouraging equity for women in science, and promoting the impact of science to public society. He looks forward to taking up his new role in SFRRRA and will be in touch in 2023.

### **5. General Business**

Nothing further, out of time.

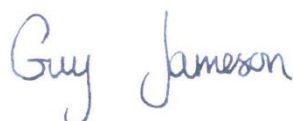
Meeting closed at 2:08 pm.

The content of the above minutes is confirmed to be accurate and a true reflection of the meeting on the day.



Dr Louisa Ashby

Secretary



A/Prof Guy Jameson

President

## Dates for your diary 2024

### **SFRR-Europe 2024**

From Molecules to Tissues: Redox Biology in Action

June 5-7 2024

Istanbul, Turkey

<https://www.redoxistanbul2024.com//>

### **SfRBM 2024**

November 20-23, 2024

Savannah Convention Center, Savannah, Georgia, USA

<https://sfrbm.org/>

## Publishing Partners

Please note that two publishing houses support our society – Taylor & Francis, and Elsevier.

Taylor & Francis provide annual financial support of the society, and *Redox Report* (ISSN: 1743-2928) is one of their relevant journals.

### Message from Elsevier:

Members of the Society for Redox Research Australasia are eligible for a society discount of 15% when publishing open access in the journal *Redox Biology* (ISSN: 2213-2317) and *Free Radical Biology & Medicine* (ISSN: 0891-5849)

Please state your membership when submitting a manuscript, the journal will undertake verification upon acceptance. To confirm membership, you will receive an automated email notification with validation requests. The notification is sent to you when an author enters their membership details during the completion of the rights and access form at acceptance of their article. The link in the notification directs you to the Elsevier Open Access Platform (EOAP).