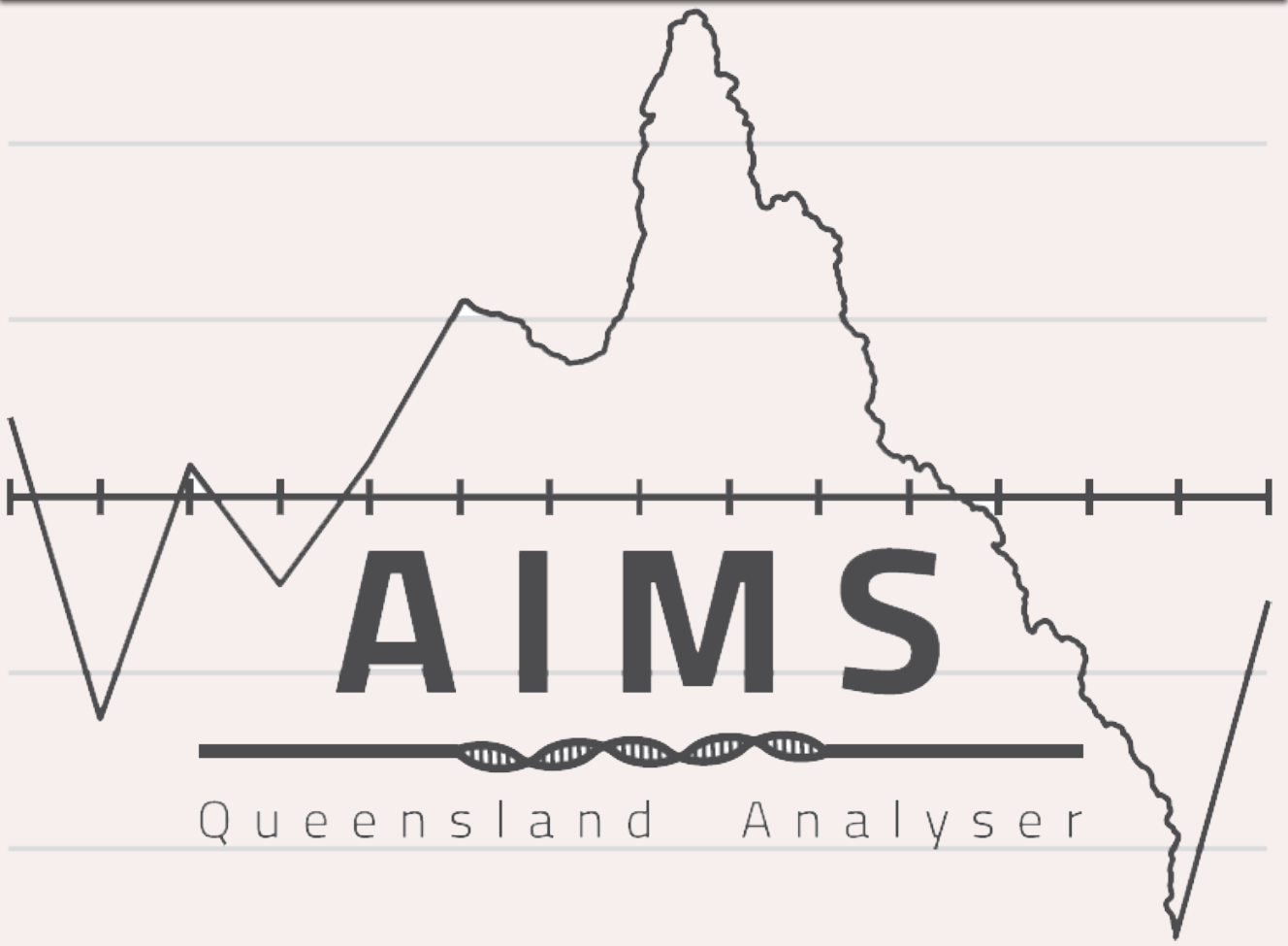
The Official Newsletter of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Institute of Medical and Clinical Scientists



In this Edition - ***August 2021***

AIMS QLD Branch Committee Members 2021

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Vice-Chair: Anne-Marie Christensen

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Committee Member: Deborah Orr (PaLs)

Student Members: Caitlin Devonport & Melinda McConnell (QUT)

Arthur Colquhoun & Andre Jones-Dorr (Griffith)

For all branch enquiries, please contact queenslandaims@gmail.com

AIMS QLD Branch Chair's Report August 2021

Welcome to the Queensland Analyser August 2021.

The recent past activities included AIMS/AACB Annual Trivia night at QUT Botanic Bar on 20th April 2021 and AIMS QLD Tropical Division scientific meeting at Townsville in June 2021. After missing out on annual trivia in late 2020, it was breadth of fresh air for more than 50 of our colleagues to meet for a face-to-face fun, prizes and food night. Thanks to AIMS QLD Branch organising committee, AACB to entertaining MC Steven Weier and Abacus for sponsoring the event. Second face to face even larger event was also a great success and very well attended not only northern Queenslanders but by members across the state and some from Northern New South Wales. The theme was "That doesn't kill makes you stronger". It was a very well organised event and thanks go to AIMS Tropical Division Chair Donna Rudd and the Committee members for the successful event under challenging times of COVID era.

This issue of the Analyser includes the flyers of 3 more upcoming events in 2021 and some information about the AIMS Queensland State conference in July 2022. One of the regular features '5 minutes with' features Maureen Jacobsen, the team leader of transfusion in NSW Health Pathology. It is our pleasure to share experience of young graduate from Pathology Queensland's Graduate Program. Thanks to Rebecca Donkin for her article identifying research interest of tertiary academics teaching in Laboratory Medicine programs. Anne Marie Christensen makes us aware of the benefits of listening to podcast and its application in improving our knowledge and awareness about latest developments in field of Medical Laboratory Science in our very busy but movement restricted life.

Be informed about the APACE continuing professional development platform, a good support for those looking to join the National Certification scheme for Medical Laboratory Scientists and Technicians. You will also find a flyer for structured CPD program in Essential Haematology being offered for a week in November 2021 at Griffith University.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in one or all our upcoming events.

Have a fruitful and enjoyable time reading this newsletter.

Indu Singh

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Plugin and podcast…

Anne-Marie Christensen

Are you one of the 26% of the Australian population who regularly listened to podcasts last year? I am and wish there was more time for listening every day! In a busy world, podcasts are a great way to explore a wide range of topics and views, catch up on the news and current affairs and have a bit of quiet time with yourself. The recently published *Infinite Dial Australia 2021* survey, conducted annually by Edison Research, revealed around 5.6 million Australians (>12 years) listened to an average of just over 12 hours a week last year. If you are curious who these other people are and what they listen to (locally and globally), you can check out this report from the News and Media Research Centre at the University of Canberra published late last year. To share and spread the love of podcasts, starting this edition of the Queensland Analyser. We are going to have a regular page featuring interesting podcasts and recommendations to share what we've been listening too. The three suggestions below for this edition of the newsletter come from our own ABC Radio National so easy to listen to online or on the ABC Listen app. We are keen to encourage our readers (you!) to contribute your favourite podcasts (or shows) to this page as well. So, if you have listened to something recently and want to share, please email us at queenslandaims@gmail.com so we can include it next time. Till then, happy listening!

14-day rule on human embryo research – why do scientists want it lifted?
Click here to listen – Science Friction (ABC Radio National, 13 June 2021)

Why was the use of human embryos restricted to ≤14-days more than 40 years ago, and what do the revised guidelines for stem cell research and clinical translation released by the International Society for Stem Cell Research, mean for future research? This is an interesting and ethically thought provoking podcast that features the latest research on embryo models (embryoids) and how are they driving calls for change.

Improving the way we make decisions
Click here to listen – Big Ideas (ABC Radio National, 13 July 2021)

What is system noise, how does it influence automatic and effort-driven decision making. How does it differ to bias? In this podcast, Professor of Psychology, Daniel Kahneman (Princeton University) discusses how decisions are made, and the pros and cons associated. Why do we sometimes end up with two different diagnoses when the same results and information is available/considered?

Delirium in the ICU
Click here to listen – All in the Mind (ABC Radio National, 25 July 2021)

It is not uncommon for patients to experience disturbing aural and visual hallucinations in ICU. Many also report continuous exposure to triggers and experiences known to be risk factors for the development of delirium in the ICU and PTSD post-hospitalisation. This podcast shares personal patient stories and experiences and the latest research being conducted into the mental health issues associated with surviving critical illness.

Recent Events

AIMS/AACB Trivia Night

Written by Caitlin Devonport and Melinda McConnell

How many people have landed on the moon?

This brain-twisting question was one of many asked of us at the AIMS/AACB Trivia Night hosted by QUT's Botanical bar on the 20th April. More than 50 competitors amongst 12 teams from various labs, vied for top spot to flaunt their general trivia knowledge.

The trivia night kicked off with a focus on sport. Round One had us remembering the challenging year of 2020, with points awarded to those who knew the location of the

AIMS/AACB Trivia Night

Continued…

AFL 2020 Grand Final. We were also quizzed on what LA Dodgers player Justin Turner was famous for during the 2020 World series – breaking quarantine! For those of us with selective amnesia of this particular year, questions on the 'albatross' in golf and 'maximum break' in Snooker were fortunately included in this initial round.

Round Two centered on science. Players were asked which single vitamin is excluded in an egg and what Einstein offered to his wife after divorce. Another Nobel prize winner, Dr. Barry Marshall, was mentioned in this round and to win the coveted bonus point, players had to name his scientific colleague. As you can probably predict, we had some high scores in this round!

Then came Round Three – easy for some, not so easy for others – dedicated to movies. Players were required to know how many Academy awards were won by *Lord of the Rings: Return of the King*. Challengers also had to answer which the country the 2008 movie 'Rambo' was set in. There was plenty of head-scratching, when asked which cosmetic company was mentioned numerous times in *Edward Scissorhands.*

History and Geography were last on the list. We were quizzed on the World's longest river and its' saltiest sea. We were asked which country has more lakes than the rest of the world combined. With borders shut and international travel restricted, "can't touch this" by MC Hammer resonated strongly through these final rounds, as we were reminded the single was released in our 1990's history.

It was a spectacular night MC'd by AACB's Steven Weier and sponsored by Abacus Dx. The QUT student team 'Hoot 'a' nanny' impressed many with their trivia knowledge taking out the big prize.

Article

Identifying the research interest and publication profile of medical laboratory science academics

R Donkin, K Broome, and L Swanepoel
School of Health and Sport Sciences, University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland 4556, Australia

This paper was presented at the AIMS Tropical Division conference in Townsville on June 13th and is a summary from the published article:

Donkin, R., Broome, K., & Swanepoel, L. (2020). Benchmarking the research track record and level of appointment of Australian medical laboratory science academics. BMC Medical Education, 20(1), 364–364. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-020-02298-9

Introduction

University education for medical laboratory science (MLS) students is mostly provided by medical laboratory academics who teach general science and health subjects such as anatomy and physiology alongside more specialised medical laboratory science subjects including clinical chemistry, haematology, medical microbiology etc. These academics often have a vast experience as a medical scientist in their discipline as well. While teaching remains a primary responsibility of many academics, a teaching and research appointment is common. Academic research performance is a major contributor towards career advancement and standards in the MLS profession, because research informs teaching.

Other Australian allied health professions have published in this area[1,2] but there is limited MLS research productivity knowledge for Australian academics. In the United States clinical laboratory science academics have reported low research productivity, reporting a third of clinical laboratory academics not publishing a research paper or abstract over 7 years[3] and over two thirds reporting that they have never participated in research activities[4]. Predominantly in the US only 10% of clinical laboratory academics produce half of the scholarly activities[3].

The aim of the study was to report the research track record of Australian MLS academics and provide insight into how research productivity correlates with the level of appointment of MLS academics.

Methods

A bibliographic analysis of Australian medical laboratory science faculty websites and corresponding Scopus citation database profiles was conducted. A description of current research track record and relationships with holding a doctorate, academic appointment level, research and teaching interests, and institutional characteristics were explored through publicly available website information from Australian universities that had an undergraduate program of study in Medical Laboratory Science, or its equivalent.

The data was collected in December 2019, so all academic promotion positions were complete for that year to limit error of appointment classification. Because only publicly available data was used the study was provided with an exemption from human ethical approval.

Academics who were exclusively research, clinical only or were in a faculty/discipline outside of MLS (e.g. dentistry) but taught into an MLS subject (for example anatomy and physiology) were excluded as their research track record would likely skew the data. Website biographies were reviewed to establish major teaching and research interest. These were correlated with explicit research outcomes such as grant, award, and publication data if available to obtain a major theme.

From the Scopus profile, key metrics were recorded which included: total number of documents by author; total number of citations, *h*-index, and total number of co-authors. Scopus was chosen as the tool to measure research outputs as it automatically generates precise citation and scholarly record information by individual and institution profiles. The Research subject areas were also categorised in Scopus and were compared with the academic's webpage information.

Each Scopus Author Profile is a unique record of that researcher's publication activity. The details come from peer-reviewed articles and other publications that are indexed in Scopus where the researcher is specified as an author. The information in a profile includes the author name, affiliation(s), subject area(s), publications, citations, and co-authors. The profiles do not cover editorship, managerial or executive roles, or teaching positions. Scopus profiles includes the *h*-index which is a numerical indicator of how productive and influential a researcher is, which is more accurate than counting citation score alone to measure research impact.

Results

Of the 13 universities analysed, there were 124 academics (n = 56 female) who had a teaching and research position in an undergraduate MLS program in Australia. The number of publications ranged from 0-217, with molecular biology ranked as the number one major research interest. The median number of citations considerably increased with academic level, which was reflected by the increase in number of publications as shown in Table 1. Associate lecturers are not reported, as no MLS associate lecturers in Australia had a research track record.

Table 1. Research track record of Australian MLS academics by appointment

		Academic level				
		Lecturer (N = 41)	**Senior Lecturer (N = 50)**	**Associate Professor (N = 21)**	**Professor (N = 9)**	**All (N = 121)**
#publications	Range	0-56	3-98	14-79	50-217	0-217
	Median (IQR)	10 (24)	24 (27)	53 (17)	82 (104)	26 (41)
# citations	Range	0-2132	33-3340	187-4492	1466-8242	0-8242
	Median (IQR)	131 (499)	448 (775)	960 (1252)	1813 (3102)	450 (995)
# co-authors	Range	0-174	5-585	36-2950	93-590	0-2950
	Median (IQR)	27 (64)	56.5 (63)	120 (89)	136 (219)	63 (96)
***h*-index**	Range	0-24	3-26	9-25	15-48	0-48
	Median (IQR)	6 (10)	11 (9)	17 (9)	22 (14)	11 (12)

In the case of Australian MLS academics, the top 20% of researchers had authored almost a half (49%) of the overall publications. As illustrated in Figure 1 the number of publications was skewed towards the lower end.

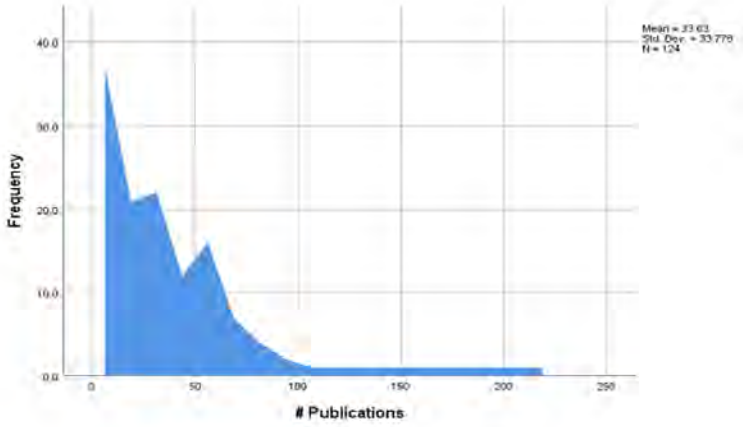
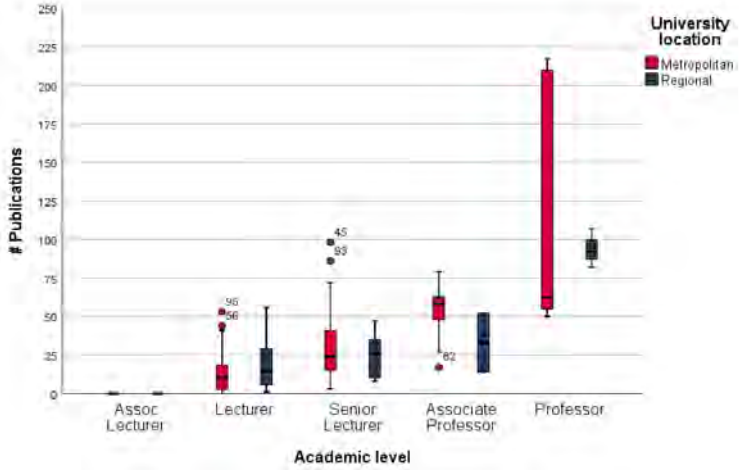


Figure 1. Number of publications of Australian MLS academics (Dec, 2019)

The major research interest did not align with major teaching interest for the majority of Australian MLS academics, with the exception of microbiology. However, alignment between teaching and research had no influence on the number of publications (median 25 versus 27). Molecular biology ranked the highest major research interest, followed by microbiology, education and cancer rounding out the top research interests for MLS academics. The top three teaching interests were biochemistry, microbiology, and haematology.

Institution was a determining factor for *h*-index with higher scores achieved at metropolitan institutes predominantly by male academics with a research interest in molecular biology (Figure 2). Researching popular fields at higher ranked universities may result in elevated citation rates and *h*-index, with more papers in the field offering potential citations.

Figure 2. Number of publications against academic level and location of university



Discussion

Data from this study illustrates the breadth and depth of interests and publications that MLS academics produce at each level of appointment. Holding a doctorate strongly influences the number of publications as does the location of the institution (regional vs metropolitan). However, diversity in MLS research is lacking with under representation of minority and ethnic groups. Further investigation into the type of research publications would provide insight into the depth and diversity of research published in the MLS field. Of note articles published in AJMS are not citable in Scopus and were not recorded in this study. Authors should check journal citation and impact before submitting a manuscript to a specific journal if they are interested in Scopus citation database profiles.

Although academic progression should not use narrow measures of research productivity, this data afforded development of a predictive equation that could be used by MLS academics wishing to calculate their own expected level of appointment based on research track. For example, if an MLS academic had 25 publications and worked at a metropolitan university, the expected academic level of appointment would be Senior Lecturer.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Academic level (where associate lecturer} = 0 \text{ to professor} = 4) &= 0.381 \\ &+(-0.288 * \text{works at a regional university [yes} = 1, \text{no} = 0]) \\ &+(0.572 * \text{cubic root of number of publications})\end{aligned}$$

Linear regression was chosen over ordinal regression for its ability to create a predictive equation for academics to benchmark their own level of appointment. A significant model ($p < 0.001$, $R2 = 0.510$) was found with only two explanatory variables: regional university location, and number of publications. The MLS predictive algorithm included institute location and number of publications, but no reference to reach (e.g., citations or *h*-index), which suggests that publication quantity is currently key to academic advancement.

Further investigation into how academic research influences MLS student learning and graduate outcomes is still required. The next study "Who is educating our future Scientists? Benchmarking academics and student outcomes in AIMS accredited medical laboratory science (MLS) programs in Australia" is currently underway. We anticipate knowledge attained from this study will inform the tertiary sector and the AIMS organisation on accurate data of academics teaching in medical laboratory science (MLS) programs in Australia and provide accurate data on student graduate outcomes and employability.

The authors are currently recruiting MLS academics from all AIMS accredited programs in Australia to complete an online survey questionnaire. If you are interested in participating or would like further information please contact Dr Rebecca Donkin at rdonkin@usc.edu.au

References

1. Broome K, Gray M. Benchmarking the research track record and level of appointment of Australian occupational therapy academics. Aust Occ Ther Acad Jo. 2017;64(5):400–7.

2. Broome K, Swanepoel L. Benchmarking the research track record and level of appointment of Australian dietetic academics. Nut Diet. 2020;77:160–6

3. Waller K, Clutter J, Karni K. Research and scholarship of clinical laboratory science faculty members. Clin Lab Sci. 2010;23(3):3–32.

4. Laudicina R, Fenn J, Freeman V, McCoy C, McLane M, Mundt L, et al. Research in clinical laboratory science: Professionals' involvement. Clin Lab Sci. 2011;24(4):235 –42

Pathology Queensland Graduate Program Student Experience by Chelsea Gillett

Chelsea graduated from the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) in April 2021 with academic commendation in both the Associate Degree in Medical Laboratory Science and the Bachelor of Biomedical Science (minor in Haematology). She commenced the PQ graduate program in January 2021 at the Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH) as well as having multidiscipline training at Robina Hospital.

My first week of the program

The first week of training was in both haematology and transfusion with a week of batch training with all of the graduates to up-skill us together. Haematology focused on morphology and how we report the various morphological conditions we may come across in white cells, red cells and platelets. Transfusion focused on manual grouping and screening methods as well as the allocation process for the various products - red cells (including computer or IAT crossmatching), FFP/CDP (thawing modification process), platelets and batch products. We also were trained in the process of despatching them. We also covered antibody detection with various panel exercises as well as phenotyping methods.

My training at GCUH

HAEMATOLOGY: FBC and coagulation validation, training on the Sysmex XN, Sysmex SP 1000 and XP-ACL TOP for running patients and performing QC and maintenance. Morphology training and competency, ESR, as well as G6PD, malaria and IM screening. I will soon learn Keilhauer's and malarias.

TRANSFUSION: training on the IH Com 500, IH Com 1000, Banjo card reader for running patients and performing QC and maintenance. Performing blood groups and antibody screens manually (including Rh screen), weak D testing, antibody detection, performing DAT's, phenotyping, elution's, computer and IAT crossmatching, product allocation, despatching and returns. Emergency product supply – medevac and lifebox. Inventory control with BloodNet.

MICROBIOLOGY: trained in urine, fluid and CSF microscopy cell counts with phase contract with the ability to recognise leucocytes, RBCs and their various morphologies, epithelial cells, yeasts and hyphae, and differentiate and casts. Some training in performing and reporting on gram stains and blood culture wet prep and set up.

CHEMISTRY: Training and competency in Siemens Atellica analyser and Beckman coulter DXC and Access for running patients and performing QC and maintenance, osmometer, CSF bilirubin xanthochromia, DCA vantage Hb1Ac portable analyser, GeneXpert, i-STAT, manual dilutions, qualitative HCG, Radiometer 800 blood gas analyser, RapidPoint 500 blood gas analyser and Unity Real Time and Unity Connect training and competency.

Positive experiences on graduate program

The PQ graduate program is fantastic. The opportunity to learn from so many industry professionals in all the departments is incredible. Everyone in the lab is very helpful with my ongoing education and with any questions I may have.

How I got on the PQ graduate program

My studies at USC and the experience I gained through my student placements assisted in my development of not only various scientific processes in all main core lab disciplines, quality assurance systems, and equipment, but also in problem solving skills and attention to detail.
USC helped me develop a strong base of scientific knowledge in all areas of a multi-discipline laboratory. The educators involved in the program always encouraged my learning and helped form the scientist I am today. They also supported not only my education but my professional development by encouraging involvement in a variety of conferences and professional bodies.

My advice for other students thinking of applying for the graduate program

The graduate program is an excellent opportunity. Prepare for your interview and apply your knowledge in the workplace. There is a lot of information to take in for the first six months of the program, so take notes and use them throughout your consolidation training. Refer to the QIS documents as they will have all the procedural answers.
Don't be afraid to ask questions and its always best to check if in doubt. Everyone had to start somewhere and if you're struggling with a particular aspect talk to your supervisor as they will be able to help you if you need additional training or assist you in finding resources that might help with clarification.

My future plans

I have just received an offer to join the GCUH haematology/transfusion department as a HP3 scientist. Next year and into the future I hope to continue in this position and continue my learning and experience.

5 minutes with Maureen Jacobsen

1. Where do you work?

I work for NSW Health Pathology, in the Core Laboratory in Lismore, where I am the team leader in transfusion.

2. What do you like best about being a medical scientist?

The best part of being a medical scientist is that every day delivers a new challenge. To provide an up-to-date and the best possible pathology service, medical scientists must take up these challenges and become part of the change process. Embracing the change is part of being a medical scientist. When some say “But we have always done it this way”, “It will never happen”, or “it cannot be done”, I say, “Why Not?” Medical scientists must be a part of the ever-changing world that is medical science, not just carried along lamenting progress. I have always accepted the new technologies, ways of performing better, more efficiently and any innovation that will aid in the diagnosis, treatment and prevent harm to the members of our community that that rely on pathology services for their wellbeing.

Hand in hand with change, is the need for ongoing education, learning new skills, honing old ones, and passing this knowledge on to others. I have always had a keen interest in ongoing education and continuing professional development (CPD), so welcomed the introduction of APACE in 1997. I took up the challenge and was rewarded with my first APACE certificate in 1999. I have remained APACE certified ever since. When expressions of interest were called to join the APACE committee, in 2004, I again took up the challenge and sent in an application. Following my joining the APACE committee in 2004. I was asked to chair the Committee between 2006 to 2010 and again in 2019. I have also been privileged to serve on the AIMS National Council, the NSM organizing and the AIMS board. Taking up these positions was daunting, and I feared beyond my capabilities but engaging in professional service has made me a better medical scientist and the reason I love my profession. I encourage all to be more involved, take on roles within your professional organization, engage in CPD, become APACE certified. Believe me the personal rewards are worth the effort.

3. Do you believe that there will be any lasting changes to the Pathology industry in the post Covid-19 world?

We have already seen some changes to the way ongoing education is being delivered. Professional organizations and workplaces are now moving or have moved to on-line learning, zoom meetings, webinars, and hybrid meetings. This has seen an increase in attendees at these meeting compared to when they were all face to face only. Participation at monthly meeting of special interest groups has increased, as these meetings now available to a wide audience especially encouraging participates from outside the usual catchment area and even interstate, are now registering and attending. Recently the APACE program has changed to make the needs for this greater availability of on-line meetings, by increasing the points allocated and removing the limits previously in place. I have attended an AGM, one special interest group meeting and a day seminar by zoom and the only thing missing is the networking and catching up with colleagues. The plus is no travel costs, less time away from home, and usually these meetings are at a reduced or no cost to attend.

4. What future development/s direction/s in the industry are you excited about?

I am really excited about the introduction of the certification of medical scientists and medical technicians. I was privileged to be invited to attend, the workshops and participate in the Delphi conferencing facilitated by the Human Capital Alliance which led to the formation of the ACCMLSW. It is the most significant development in the pathology industry in the last 20 years. In many European countries, the UK, Canada and New Zealand, all medical scientists and those the medical science workforce are registered. The certification program moves Australia a step closer to registration and in line with medical scientists in other part of the world. I have visited New Zealand on many occasions and the engagement in CDP by all levels of the medical science workforce is exceptional. In time, certification will become compulsory, employer groups will prefer or only employ certified scientists, so I encourage all to engage in CPD, join APACE to record you CDP and become certified as soon as you are able. Check out the website for more details if you have not already done so.

5. If you could choose to have any superpower, what would it be and how would you use it?

Not exactly a superpower but a device, like the "Timer Turner" Hermione Granger used in the second Harry Potter book. Firstly, Hermione used the device to cover her heavy workload (that would be an advantage) but towards the end of the story, she uses it to go back in time and change the past. I would use the "Time Turner" and go back to prevent the circumstances that caused the COVID pandemic. Thus, saving over one million lives, preventing over 3.5 million people from suffering from the infection and the many millions of others from the stress, anxiety and mental health issues caused by the lockdowns, separation from family and friends and loss of livelihoods.

AIMS Tropical Division Annual Scientific Meeting

WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU MAKES YOU STRONGER

By Arthur Forrest

This year's Tropical Division annual scientific Conference was held at the Ville Resort in Townsville. The first day consisted of specialisation sessions on blood banking, biochemistry, and haematology. A night filled with cocktails and excitement was held following these sessions. On Saturday the Mayor of Townsville, Mayor Jenny Hill spoke to us about the resilience of the rural city and coming together as a community. We were also delighted to have Professor Maxine Whitacker discuss one health and Dr Norman Swan discuss the current Covid-19 crisis and the newest developments. We also had many fantastic speakers who covered topics such as *Leptospirosis* in the tropical north, transgender pathology, and the microbiome.

the conference dinner was a massive hit with fantastic food and the theme of "survivor" entertaining the scientists. The following day the theme of the conference "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger" was exemplified through some fantastic presentations about box jellyfish, snakes, wild animal and human interactions and "worm spit". After lunch, more presentations were held including topics such as the KidMIN study, *Burkholderia Psuedomallei* and haematology case studies. A big thank you to every presenter, AIMS members and guests who made the conference so successful and enjoyable.

Photos taken during the AIMS Tropical Division Annual Scientific Meeting 2021

Griffith University
School of Medical Science
Continuing Professional Development workshops
Essential Haematology & Immunohaematology
1st - 5th November 2021

One week (40 hours) intensive refresher training course on Gold Coast Campus
Workshop Convenors: Prof Indu Singh & Ms Alison Weston

Registration Link:
https://app.secure.griffith.edu.au/griffithpay/essential-haematology-immunohaematology.html

	0800-1000 Lecture Room: To be advised		1030-1330 Hands on Lab with 30 mins pre-lab Room: G05_1.01		1400-1700 Hands on Lab with 30 mins post-lab wrap up Room: G05_1.01
Monday 01/11/2021	Haematology I Indu Singh	MORNING TEA	**RBC disorders morphology** Indu Singh, Bob Horwood, Alison Weston & Avinash Kundur	LUNCH	**Perform HbEp, review blood film for Hbopathy case study + interpretation with FBE, ISTUD & HPLC** Indu Singh, Avinash Kundur & Bob Horwood
Tuesday 02/11/2021	Haematology II Indu Singh		**WBC disorders morphology** Robyn Wells		**Malaria Morphology** Robyn Wells
Wednesday 03/11/2021	Haemostasis Indu Singh		**Platelet & Coagulopathy morphology** Anne Marie Christensen		**PT, APTT, Mixing studies & Lupus case studies + blood film** Alison Weston, Bob Horwood & Anne Marie Christensen
Thursday 04/11/2021	Immunohaem/ Transfusion I Indu Singh		**Group, Screen & Blood Group Anomalies - manual method** **Full panel – CAT technique** Alison Weston, Avinash Kundur, Bob Horwood & Kathy Mitchell		**Phenotyping - CAT & XM – Manual method** Alison Weston, Avinash Kundur, Bob Horwood & Kathy Mitchell
Friday 05/11/2021	Immunohaem/ Transfusion II Indu Singh		**Group, Screen & Elution – CAT technique** Alison Weston, Avinash Kundur, Bob Horwood & Astrid Lefringhausen		**XM - CAT technique & Transfusion reaction investigation** Alison Weston, Bob Horwood, Avinash Kundur & Astrid Lefringhausen

Morning Tea and Lunch will be provided

Supporters:

1. **Ms Robyn Wells** will be presenting morphology session on Tuesday.
2. **Ms Anne Marie Christensen** will be presenting morphology session on Wednesday.
3. **Ms Kathy Morant from Biorad** supports blood banking/transfusion.
4. **Ms Astrid Lefringhausen from Grifols** supports blood banking/transfusion.
5. **AIMS** continuing professional development program **APACE** offering 50 Credit units for whole 5 days' workshop, 30 credit units for 3 days & 20 credit units for 2 days.
6. **Griffith University** provides Griffith University Micro-Credentials and Digital Badge for completion of the 5 days workshops or a certificate of completion for 2 or 3 days of attendance.

FEES AND REGISTRATION DETAILS ON NEXT PAGE

ESSENTIAL HAEMATOLOGY & IMMUNOHAEMATOLOGY/TRANSFUSION CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

AIMS

Workshop convenors: Prof Indu Singh & Ms Alison Weston

One-week (40 hours) intensive refresher training course
Essential Haematology & Immunohematology: Theory & Practical

Contact Prof Indu Singh: i.singh@griffith.edu.au

Who can benefit: Scientists, technicians or other medical science graduates working in pathology related fields returning to work after a break, wanting to rotate around as multi-skilled scientists after a period of working in a specific discipline only? Anyone interested in refreshing his or her knowledge in essential Haematology and Immunohematology (Blood Banking). It will be useful to have some basic knowledge of Haematology and Transfusion to get most out of this refresher course.

When: 1st November 2021 – 5th November 2021

How long: 0800-1700 everyday (Morning Tea, Lunch and Parking provided)

Where: Griffith University Gold Coast Campus

Cost: Maximum $1500 for all 5 days with discounts for attending 2 or 3 days only or where an organisation sends more than 2 attendees. AIMS members pay $1300 for 5 days. All prices excluding GST.

Course content: Two days will be dedicated to morphology and haemoglobin electrophoresis; one day will cover haemostasis and 2 days for immunohematology/ transfusion/ blood banking. Everyday first 2 hours lecture will provide the theoretical background including physiology, pathophysiology, and principles behind the material to be covered in hands on laboratory session on the day. All attendees will get a chance to perform all the tests under supervision of experienced practising scientists also involved in teaching medical laboratory science students at university.

Certification: Griffith University will provide micro-credentials and digital badge for completion of the 5 days workshops or a certificate of completion for 2 or 3 days of attendance. AIMS will provide 10 CPD credit points towards APACE for each day attended (50 CPD for full 5-day course).

Maximum Capacity: Only 20 attendees can be accommodated on each day due to need for individualized supervision during laboratory session.

AIMS QLD Branch Annual Meeting 2021

Notice of Annual Meeting – AIMS Queensland Branch

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Australian Institute of Medical and Clinical Scientists Queensland Branch will be held via ZOOM on:

Thursday 19th of August 2021 at 17:30 pm.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of previous minutes
3. Report from Chairperson
4. Report from Treasurer
5. Any other Business

Note:

1. In the event of a member desiring to vote for or against any resolution, that member shall instruct the proxy holder accordingly. Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy holder may vote, as they consider fit
2. A member shall not be entitled to vote if their annual subscription is more than one month in arrears as of the date of the meeting (AIMS By-laws section 6.7.2)
3. Elections for the Branch Committee Members were held in August 2020 and are two-year terms from 2020 -2022. The next round of elections will be held in August 2022.

To attend the AIMS QLD Branch Annual Meeting 2021, it is FREE event, however, registration is **required**. After registration, you will be emailed the ZOOM link.

Link (click text):

AIMS QLD Branch Annual Meeting 2021

DIRECT ENQUIRIES TO:

Avinash Kundur / Trish Laube
Branch Secretary
AIMS Qld Branch
C/O National Head Office
PO Box 1911
Milton QLD 4064

Email: queenslandaims@gmail.com

HEART

A COMBINED SCIENTIFIC MEETING BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE

HISTOTECHNOLOGY GROUP of QUEENSLAND
&
AIMS QUEENSLAND STATE BRANCH

Thursday 19th August 2021

6.30pm – 8.30pm
LOCATION: ZOOM

Dr Antony McNamee - Research Fellow, BioRheology Research Laboratory; Griffith University
Beating the problem with Artificial Hearts

Rebekah Goodrich - Assistant Director; Queensland Tissue Bank
Donation and Production at QTB

Dr. Luke Vasanthakumar - AP Registrar, Mater Hospital
Ventricular Septal Defects

Please register by click the following text:

Combined QLD AIMS & HGQ Scientific Meeting 2021

RSVP by 17/8/2021 @ 3pm AEST
FREE for AIMS and HGQ members/student members

AIMS QUEENSLAND STATE BRANCH

&

AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS

SCIENTIFIC MEETING

THEME "BURNS"

Come along and enjoy the company of colleagues, interesting discussions and complimentary catering

Tuesday the 12th of October @
Griffith University Southbank
Campus, S02_6.37.

6.00pm for 6.30pm START

Associate Professor Leila Cuttle
Queensland University of Technology

Dr Bronwyn Griffin
Griffith University

Free for AIMS and AACB* members
Non Members $5.00

Click here to register
BY SATURDAY THE 9TH OF OCT (for catering)

**AACB Members will need to make contact with AIMS National Office to Register for FREE. Email: events@aims.org.au*

SAVE THE DATE

AIMS QUEENSLAND STATE BRANCH
&
PREANALYTICAL & LABORATORY STAFF (PaLs)

NETWORKING MEETING

Come along and enjoy the company of colleagues, interesting discussions and complimentary catering

Thursday 18th November 2021
The Park View Room, Pineapple Hotel
706 Main Street, Kangaroo Point

5.30pm for 5.45pm START

Topics: Understanding Cold Agglutinins
Explaining Short Synacthen Stimulation testing

RSVP VIA EMAIL TO deborah.orr@health.qld.gov.au

By Thursday 15 November (for catering)

The **APACE** (**Australasian Professional Acknowledgement of Continuing Education**) scheme is a voluntary programme that recognises continuing education, formal courses and a wide range of professional activities which contribute to your professional growth.

The healthcare industry is undergoing rapid change. We are expected to keep our knowledge and skills up to date to enable us to perform to the highest professional standard. The **APACE** scheme provides a method by which your professional activities are recognised.

APACE has been approved by the **New Zealand Medical Laboratory Science Board** as a re-certification programme for **New Zealand Medical Laboratory Scientists**.

APACE has been approved by the **Royal College of Pathologists Australia** (**RCPA**) as a continuing professional development recognition programme for Fellows of the Faculty of Science.

Why should I join the APACE Scheme?

APACE credit points can be claimed for all approved continuing education participated in over a 2-year period. It is simple and easy to do. Collect an attendance certificate or alternatively all AIMS run activities have an attendance sheet which is sent to head office as a record. A wide range of activities will contribute to points, ranging from employment to serving on professional committees.

What are the benefits of being APACE accredited?

- APACE provides formal recognition of activities that may have been pursed without recognition elsewhere- contributes to a professional development portfolio.
- Apace certificate looks great in a Resume.
- Encourages individuals to maintain, improve and extend their knowledge and skills.
- CPD is about keeping up with current and new developments and practices.
- Encouraging staff participation ensures a competent workforce and enhanced service quality and reliability.
- CPD demonstrates personal commitment to ongoing continuing education and professional development to current and future employers.
- Knowledge gained through CPD may enable individuals to reframe complex problems and gain new insights.

How do I start collecting Points?

- APACE is open to and included in your membership fee for all AIMS members, and also open to AACB, ASM, ASTH, ANZSBT, and FSA (SIRT) for a small fee.
- The Activity Credit guide is located online, Login to the AIMS website and go to the members area to check for included activities and points values.
- Keep a record of all activities completed, including dates and a description of the activity.
- Activities are conveniently logged online, no need for hard copies.
- An APACE Certificate is issued when you notify head office that you have accrued 100CEU in a 2-year period.
- Limits on types of activities have been temporarily removed, in recognition of the difficulties in accessing activities during the pandemic. Limits will be reestablished when things return to normal.
- Then you are well on your way to your APACE Certificate! ☺

For more information and to enrol visit http://www.aims.org.au/apace

Note on Student Membership Application Forms

The one-page form is currently for full-time students only and has to be signed or emailed from institutional email address by the Course Coordinator or an officer of the university. The two-page form is for all other applicants. Both forms are available at http://www.aims.org.au/membershipinformation/join

Letter from APACE Committee to all Members

Dear Member,

At the last APACE Committee meeting the current situation in regard to the limited opportunities for CPD due to covid-19 restrictions was discussed. The borders have been closed and most international, national, state and SIG scientific meetings and workshops have been cancelled for 2020. Due to social distancing and staff working in isolated teams, many work places have cancelled Grand Rounds, film clubs, journal clubs and lunchtime educational sessions. For most members, being able to accrue the required 100 points in two years to gain APACE certification or re-certification has become very challenging, if not impossible.

Therefore, the APACE Committee has decided to extend the time frame to three years. Also, the limits for on-line learning, webinars, structured and journal reading will be removed. These changes will remain in place until CPD activities return to normal across the country.

A list of sites that provide on-line learning is available on the AIMS website. Any member who has undertaken on-line learning at other websites please do not hesitate to contact the AIMS National Office with details, so these can be added to the list.

The Committee is also undertaking a review of APACE activities and the credits assigned to each activity. Details of the changes will be announced when the review is completed. If any member would like to provide feedback or comments regarding this review, they can be forwarded to AIMS National Office.

Maureen Jacobsen MAIMS
Chair APACE committee

24 June 2020