



# PARASITOLOGY

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## New Zealand Society for Parasitology Newsletter

### Hello Parasitologists,

Welcome to the last quarter of the year!  
It is rapidly racing by - I hope you have had a chance to stop and smell the roses on the way through. Our annual conference is at the end of this month. This will be a good opportunity to meet up and reacquaint yourselves with your peers and update them on what has happened in 2017.

### Conference update:

The annual conference will be held at Massey University, in ICLT at the base of the vet tower, October 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> 2017.

This will be preceded by the Parasite Advisory Day on the 25<sup>th</sup> October. This year the Parasite Advisory Day will have a practical bent, with worm counting and practical information on FECRTs and interpretation.

Bill Pomroy has been working hard at making this years conference another one to remember. There will be a good proportion of time spent on Theileria and with visiting Australian parasitologists.

The conference program is available on the website just go to <https://nzsop.hoppon.net/conference/>

Registration has been extended from the date shown on the website to 13 October -contact Bill Pomroy [W.Pomroy@massey.ac.nz](mailto:W.Pomroy@massey.ac.nz) to register-its only \$120 for 2 days! Such a bargain!

### Student Travel Grant:

As usual, NZSP may provide subsidies for students to attend the October conference. Any students wishing to attend and present your work, please get in touch with the committee.

Note: you must have been a NZSP member for the previous year.

### Royal Society elections:

Each year the Royal Society holds elections for positions on the Royal Society Te Apārangi Council. Your committee voted for Liz Gordon and she was re-elected!

2017 Council elections results

Professor **Richard Blaikie** FRSNZ;

has been elected as Vice President (Physical Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Technology and Engineering);

Dr **Liz Gordon** has been re-elected the Constituent Organisation's representative;

Professor **Ken Strongman** FRSNZ has been elected as the Branches' representative.

All positions are for a three-year term beginning 1 July 2017.

### AGM reminder:

The AGM will be held at the annual conference at Massey, where the Strategic Plan will be ratified (since we have received no feedback!)

Please consider potential nominations for the committee, we have two committee members standing down so there is space on the committee for two newbies, not to mention re-election of the existing committee (or not as the case may be!). If you would like to be on the committee or know someone who does, please feel free to get nominated/nominate someone for the AGM and get let the committee know.

### Membership:

Thanks to all those who have paid their subs, and apologies to any who I berated wrongly for not paying when you did pay! It is impossible to

identify who a \$20 payment comes from when no name has been attached to the payment! If you are unsure if you have paid your subs can you please email our Treasurer Tania Waghorn [tania.waghorn@agresearch.co.nz](mailto:tania.waghorn@agresearch.co.nz)

to check. If you don't have email you can write to her

Attention Tania Waghorn, Grasslands Research Centre, Private Bag 11008, Palmerston North 4442.

If this is all too hard you can try phoning her on 06 351 8086 but don't be surprised if she is too busy in her lab to answer! Also if you no longer want to be a member, please let us know so we stop pestering you!

If any of your contact (email) details have changed or you know someone else who has changed contact details, jobs etc, please let us know so we can keep in touch.

Another membership drive to widen the circle of influence and improve sustainability of the society is needed. We have decided that whoever nominates the most number (of suitable, not your 3 yr old children!) to become members, will win a free membership in 2017/18!! Now that's a wicked incentive!

#### **Strategic Plan Actions:**

Part of our strategic plan was to provide knowledge in schools. We have started with Massey since that was the opportunity presented to us and the push is just as needed at tertiary level as primary. Members of the NZSP spoke to >100 students over 6 weeks with the aim to fire them up and get passionate about parasites and why they should be involved with this subject.

Justin Hurst, Paul Hughes, Victoria Chapman, Clive Bingham, Saleh Umair and Andrew Dowling were the lucky speakers. Thanks to all of you for "volunteering" for this!

#### **Website**

Our website is undergoing an overhaul, very kindly, by Olivia McPherson a student member at Otago. It will be ready, imminently....!! You can visit it here in the interim <http://nzsop.hoppon.net> . Any ideas that will make this more user friendly for you is most welcome

#### **Membership Updates**

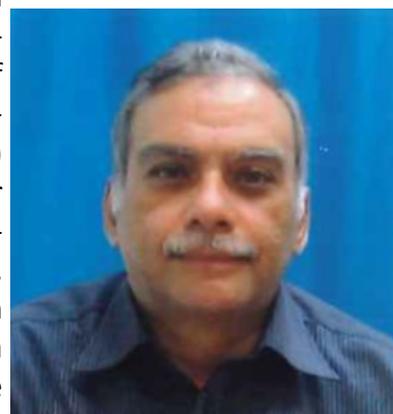
**Dhanasekaran Sakthivel**, has successfully completed his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) course under the supervision of Associate Professor Dr. David Piedrafita from Monash University. He is currently working at the Center for Live-stock interaction with pathogens (CLiP), part of AgriBio, at La Trobe University as a research fellow.

His PhD research is titled "Deciphering the Galectin role code in host parasite interaction." It has the objective of investigating the role of sheep galectin-11 and galectin-14 in host immune responses. Specifically their interaction with glycoconjugates of *H. contortus* and *F. hepatica* by combined structural and molecular studies.

The key findings of Mr. Sakthivel's doctoral studies have provided novel insights of host immune resistance to improve disease resistance in livestock ruminants system.

New Professor, **Mohamed Adel Elkadi** (PhD)

Graduated in 1982 with a Bachelor degree of Medicine and Surgery ( MB,ChB) from Al-Azhar University, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo, Egypt. In 1988 granted a Master's Degree



(M.Sc.) Medical Parasitology from Al-Azhar University. In 1992, granted a Doctorate in Medicine degree (Ph.D /MD), a course programme and research study from Al-Azhar University. In 1997, I got another Master's degree (M.Sc. Clinical Dermatology and STDs) from Al-Azhar University.

My Educational and Academic experiences are variable to serve multitasks. I have served as a: Coordinator, Lecturer and Examiner of Medical parasitology and Immunology: undergraduate and graduate students of Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Medical Laboratory Technology, Health officers and Environmental Health schools (Al-Azhar University, Egypt/ Jimma University, Ethiopia/ USIM University Malaysia).

Coordinator and Lecturer of special course on History of Medicine, USIM (Malaysia).

Advisor and Reviewer scholarly articles and Journal club activities: Jimma University Medical Journal, Ethiopia.

Researcher in the fields of specialization.

Supervisor of Master's Degree and Ph.D degree students in Egypt, Ethiopia and Malaysia.

I have published 25 articles in scholarly journals.

I have been selected as a member of Curriculum planning, Accreditation requirement and editorial boards in Faculties of Medicine and health sciences, Ethiopia and Malaysia.

I shared as guest speaker on Ozone therapy: USANA, New Zealand on September 2015, and Modern Perspectives in Biology and Medicine as online presentation to Oceania University of Medicine (OUM), Florida, USA on February 2017.

**Dr. Hayman** is an Associate Professor in Veterinary Public Health and Co-Director of the Molecular Epidemiology and Public Health Laboratory (<sup>m</sup>EpiLab) at **Massey University**, New Zealand.

EpiLab is an OIE Collaborating Centre and its mission is to improve the health of New Zealanders by developing and applying new techniques to



inform decision making and guide the prevention and control of infectious disease. Dr. Hayman holds a PhD from University of Cambridge, a Master of Science from the University of Kent and Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery from the University of Edinburgh. Dr. Hayman is actively working in remote areas of Africa and Asia developing research programs that improve public health and wildlife conservation outcomes using multidisciplinary approaches (including molecular, serological, and quantitative techniques). Dr. Hayman's research is improving our understanding of the ecological and anthropogenic changes leading to increased pathogen emergence and how multidisciplinary approaches can improve human and ecological health. His research in New Zealand includes work on *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*. Dr. Hayman is the author of more than 50 peer-reviewed publications and textbook chapters in microbiology, public health and emerging infectious diseases.

**Dr Garcia-R** is an evolutionary ecologist working as a Researcher at the Molecular Epidemiology and Public Health Laboratory (EpiLab), **Massey University**, New Zealand.

Dr Garcia-R holds a PhD in Evolutionary Ecology from Massey University (NZ), a Master of Science in Biology from the Universidad del Valle (Valle State University, Colombia) and Bachelor of Ecology from the Fundacion Universitaria de Popayan (University Foundation of Popayan, Colombia). Dr Garcia-R interest covers macro- and micro-evolutionary studies to help understand the modes of diversification in different eukaryote groups, with a current focus in protozoan parasites. His research experience has focused on working at or across any level of ecological organization ranging from molecules to ecosystems in broad areas of interest including, but not limited to, phylogenetics, population genetics, phylogeography, ecology, and bioinformatics. More information about Dr Garcia-R



can be found at [https://scholar.google.co.nz/citations?hl=en&user=T-Rkre8AAAAJ&view\\_op=list\\_works&sortby=pub\\_date](https://scholar.google.co.nz/citations?hl=en&user=T-Rkre8AAAAJ&view_op=list_works&sortby=pub_date)

**Mr Anthony Pita** is a researcher with the Molecular Epidemiology and Public Health Laboratory (EpiLab), **Massey University**, New Zealand and also Laboratory Manager of Micro-AquaTech, a commercial laboratory based within EpiLab. Mr Pita has a NZCS (Biology) and joined Massey University over 20 years ago. Active work areas include isolation and detection of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* in drinking/ environmental waters and also the genotyping of these organisms from human and animal samples



His other roles and responsibilities have included: assisting in the education of Health Protection Officers; quality control inter-laboratory proficiency testing with other PTA (formerly NATA) accredited laboratories; and assessing other biological water testing laboratories for IANZ accreditation.

Anthony has an extensive network of national contacts with city councils, regional councils, swimming pool operators, and filter manufacturers and importers, and has both national and international contacts with other protozoa research and testing laboratories

He is a skilled microscopist and in molecular biological techniques. He is a member of the New Zealand Water and Waste Association and has attended conferences of the NZWWA, the International Water Association, and the International Workshop on Opportunistic Protists.

**Paul Field** graduated from London in 2008 and worked in mixed practice in the UK for a year before moving to New Zealand where he has worked in predominantly dairy practice with a smattering of sheep, beef and deer work for the

past 8 years. He is currently working for **VetOra**, based in their Otorohanga clinic. His main interest in parasitology is from creating health plans for optimal dairy youngstock growth and performance that are sustainable in the long term. He feels this is becoming of increasing importance, with more and more dairy grazing blocks now being made up of just one stock class.

### **Michael Cateley**

I graduated in 2014 from Massey University in parasite prolific Palmerston North. I spent my first 3 years of practice in Central Hawkes Bay learning the ins and outs of sheep, beef,



deer and working dog parasitology. Hawkes Bay was too dry so I moved to greener summer pastures with **Vetora** in Otorohanga where dairy farming is being added to the repertoire. Parasitology is an all-encompassing important specialty that farmers have in the forefront of their minds for their efficient farming businesses. My main interests are animal health planning to create economic and efficient to minimise production loss and prevent resistance build-up.