

School of Chemistry & Molecular Biosciences Research Student Advisory Group

DATE: Thursday, 13th June 2024

TIME: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

PLACE: 68-306 (Chemistry Building)

Present: Mitchell Sorbello, Sean Riek, Ella Graham, Gabriel Wolvetang, Evelyne Deplazes, Jiankun Yang, Pallav Joshi, Jun Jet Hun, and Yixuan Liu.

Absent: Jody Peters, Quinn Zhao, Connor Scott, Julia Huang, Anthony William Bengochea, Zhihe Yang, Jiayu Li, Carol Pomfret, and Amanda Carozzi.

1. Acknowledgement of Country

An Acknowledgement of Country was spoken by Mitchell, in recognition of the traditional owners of the land on which the meeting was taking place.

2. Welcome and Apologies

Mitchell welcomed everyone and commenced the meeting at 11:03 am. Apologies and absences were noted.

3. Confirmation of minutes and business arising from meeting held 18 April 2024

Job	Assigned
Prepare agenda and circulate before meeting	Chair – completed
Prepare minutes and circulate after meeting	Secretary – completed
Confirm with Evelyne and James De Voss for opening and closing address	Chair – completed (confirmed)
Quotes for catering	Sean Riek – not yet completed (will be for next meeting)
Confirm on visiting speaker for plenary	Gabriel Wolvetang – not yet completed (waiting for EDIC meeting to be rescheduled)

The previously circulated minutes were confirmed a true and accurate record of that meeting by Sean Riek.

4. Research Student Social Committee report

Mitchell Sorbello reported:

- Their committee is eventually planning to hold a trivia event.
- Social mixers on Friday afternoons are ongoing and well received by member of the school.

5. RSAG representative reports

5.1 SCMB Research Committee

Meeting to be held on 26th June.

Nothing to report

5.2 SCMB HDR Committee

Yixuan Liu is invited to report

- Meeting to be held on 27th June.

5.3 SCMB EDIC Committee

Gabriel Wolvetang is invited to report

- Meeting was cancelled (next is for 8/08)
- Email correspondence regarding speaker

5.4 SCMB EAC Committee

Sean Riek is invited to report

- Micro and chemistry lectures coming up in 4th research quarter (however dates not confirmed) → good to encourage people to attend

5.5 HDR Student Representative Forum

Mitchell is invited to report

- HDR week coming up (not sure when)
- Trying to get HDRs from different schools to come up with social events for other HDR students (food trucks, yoga classes, games, silly debates are all idea). Potentially each school will host private events -> Here are some ideas for SCMB (and potentially opening up to AIBN, IMB and other affiliated schools). We need to check which week would be suitable and whether there's enough time to organise an event. Might not be as last year was in the same week as the RSAG symposium (18-22/11), therefore our event will likely be the symposium itself.
- They are trying to push to have student committees associated with APS (e.g. social committee)

6. Topics of relevance to SCMB research students

6.1 HDR

- Evelyne was contacted by Cameron West with regards to a student-staff-partnership project looking at the HDR statistical needs: "Common statistical concepts or topics that HDR students frequently struggle with in your faculty or school. Statistical needs and challenges that HDR students encounter during their research projects. What statistical resources are currently available for HDR students in your faculty or school and what resources you would like to see."
- Evelyne suggested that the best way to address this would be to send out a survey. It was noted that survey results may be logistically difficult to collate and implement due to the diversity of needs from different disciplines. An open-ended survey has already been created. They would like to develop resources that tailor specifically to the needs of SCMB and are able to persist in the long term, to avoid needing to conduct workshops as frequently. Work in specific programs (e.g. prism) would be universally helpful. The

developed resource/s need to be simple as current resources are overwhelming and complicated. Sean suggested to include a question asking what program students currently use for their statistics needs. Group leaders are also welcome to fill out the survey on behalf of their students.

- ➔ End goal would be a workshop with resources that remain available after the workshop is conducted.

Action: Evelynne to forward survey to Quinn who will send out to HDR students.

Action: Evelynne to create a flyer with a QR code linked to the survey to put in lifts.

- It was brought up that the university may not renew its Prism license at the end of the year. This was confirmed from an email that due to the Prism vender increasing the price 4-fold, UQ is not sure if it will renew the license. Alternative programs include Origin and Sigmaplot. It was also mentioned that BioRender has a new statistics/graphing feature. It was noted that python would not be a viable option for all researchers.

6.2 Honours

- Nothing to report.

7. Annual SCMB Research Students Symposium

7.1 Sponsorship

Pallav provided an update on sponsorship:

- Currently we have signed up \$6250 (not incl GST) from sponsors. The total we currently have after the 10% GST deduction is \$5681. APS has still not been confirmed as a sponsor.
 - This includes 1 platinum, 6 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze sponsors. It was noted that we may need to potentially restrict further sponsorships to silver and bronze due to restrictions in space for tables included in the gold and platinum packages.
- Due to a query from one of the confirmed sponsors who provided bank details for an overseas address, it was noted that the procedure for accepting money from foreign countries needs to be double checked.

Action: Pallav to email the school finance team to check what, if any, different procedures need to be adhered to in accepting funds from overseas accounts.

7.2 Plenary Speakers

- Welcome and closing addresses confirmed.
- Continuing the discussion from last meeting, it was acknowledged that Dr Kylie Agnew-Francis presented back in 2020, and as such might not be the best choice. It was therefore suggested to contact Dr Rachel Stephenson (UQ SCMB). Masnun is a post-doc representative for ECR who can be asked this at the next research committee meeting. Failing this an email can be sent to Rachel.

- Email correspondence was conducted with Paul Evans due to the absence of an EDIC meeting (regarding the main presentation that would likely incorporate both scientific work and the related cultural significance centring around Talaru Hotsprings):
“There may be a way around the costs (i.e. no cost), Ewamain do have a representative here in Brisbane who could present (I think that is part of his job). He is an elder (but I don’t think it would be Uncle Jim), I would have liked to get one of the young guys from up there to come down.

I will know more details later this in the next month when I visit them . If there were to be costs, I feel SCMB or the EDIC committee would also contribute, as indigenous engagement is a priority for the Faculty of Science (based on the less than stellar results in this area for the last Pulse Survey).”

7.3 Timeline

Job	Assigned	Progress	Next Steps
Venue	HLO	Completed.	n/a
Finance and sponsorship	Pallav Joshi, Yixuan Li, Jun Jet Hen, Julia Huang	See 7.1 above.	Sponsors will continue to be contacted, with only bronze and silver positions offered until we know much more capacity we have for gold and platinum packages.
Plenary speaker	Mitchell Sorbello	See 7.2 above.	Awaiting confirmation of Talaru Hotsprings presentation after next EDIC meeting or alternatively through emails. Dr Rachel Stephenson is being investigated as another potential speaker currently.
Opening and closing speakers	Mitchell Sorbello	Confirmed.	n/a
Advertising/Promotion	Gabriel Wolvetang	n/a	Advertising for abstract submissions and registrations will commence next month. Gabe to start making some flyers addressing this. Drafts to be reviewed next meeting. Action: Gabe to make flyers advertising registration openings. Registration link google doc to be made before

			next meeting where checking would occur. Action: Mitchell to create registration link to google doc.
Sourcing of judges	Anthony Bengochea, Connor Scott	n/a	Judges will be sourced closer to the date.
Catering	Ella Graham, Sean Riek, Julia Huang	n/a	Action: Sean to gather quotes for discussion at next meeting.
Booklet production	Jianjun Yang, Zhihe Yang	n/a	Booklets will be produced closer to the date once presenters are confirmed.
Receipt of abstracts, speaker selection	Mitchell Sorbello, Zhihe Yang, Jun Jet Hen	*Decision: Deadline will be 04/10 for submissions to be due. This includes group, poster or talk, as well as double blind interest.	Action: Mitchell to optimise last year's google form. *Decision: Abstracts will be received separately to help with google doc spreadsheet formatting and automation.
General event logistics	All	n/a	Will occur closer to the date.
Collecting feedback on the event	Gabriel Wolvetang	n/a	Will occur closer to the date.
Prizes and Award certificates	Josh Pallav	n/a	Will occur closer to the date.
Timetable	All	n/a	Will occur closer to the date.
Printing: e.g. nametags, feedback sheets, marking sheets, etc	Jiankun Yang, Zhihe Yang	n/a	Will occur closer to the date.

8. Other Business

- None brought up.

9. Next Meeting

- ❖ The next RSAG committee meeting has been scheduled for 11th of July 11-12:30 in room 68-306.

Meeting concluded at 12:55.