

## School of Chemistry & Molecular Biosciences

### Research Student Advisory Group

**DATE:** Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**TIME:** 10:30am – 11:30am

**PLACE:** Room 363, Building 76

**Present:** Dr Evelyne Deplazes (DHDR), Prof Mikael Boden (HDR Committee), Carol Pomfret (Finance Advisory), Dr Chris McMillan (EMCR Rep), Georgina Becerra Parra, Sejal Jain, Vishal Pandey, Jieyu Song, Sanjana Hari Krishnan, Indraraj Malav, Kaitlin Blockley (GRS), Amanda Carozzi (GRS)

**Absence:** De Jun Julian Sng

#### 1. Welcome:

Evelyne welcomed members RSAG for 2026 to the committee-each member introduced themselves and indicated their lab affiliation.

#### 2. Appointment of RSAG Executive positions for 2026 SCMB •

Name	Position	Lab Group
Vishal Pandey*	Chair	B. Kobe Lab (PhD)
Sanjana Hari Krishnan	Deputy Chair	R. Young Lab (PhD)
Sejal Jain	Treasurer	P. Shaw Lab (PhD)
Indraraj Malav	Secretary	R. Young Lab (PhD)

- Chair will be away Aug-September: Co Chair to act in role during that period

#### 3. Members of the RSAG committee for 2026 SCMB RSAG

Name	Lab Group
Indraraj Malav	R. Young Lab (PhD)
Jieyu Song	B. Kobe Lab (PhD)
Sanjana Hari Krishn	R. Young Lab (PhD)
Sejal Jain	P. Shaw Lab (PhD)
Vishal Pandey	B. Kobe Lab (PhD)
Georgina Becerra Parra	D. Ascher Lab (PhD)
De Jun Julian SNG	D. Muller Lab (PhD)
	Honours TBC
	Honours TBC

#### 4. Appointment of representatives from RSAG on other Committees

##### SCMB Research Committee:

Evelyne explained the purpose of the SCMB Research Committee and the expectations of the student representative. They would serve as a conduit between the Research Committee and RSAG (reporting to and from the RSAG committee) and give a voice to this committee that would be heard by the SCMB Executive, via the Research Committee. This committee meets monthly.

*Sejal Jain agreed to serve as the RSAG representative on the SCMB Research Committee.*

##### the SCMB Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee (EDIC)

The EDIC identifies equity, diversity and inclusiveness issues that may exist within the School, to develop and trial measures that address those issues, to encourage the commitment of all staff and students to the process, and to ensure a realistic time frame for resolution of any issues. They meet approximately quarterly.

*Georgina Becerra Parra agreed to serve as the RSAG representative on the EDIC committee.*

##### The Engagement & Advancement Committee (EAC)

The EAC works cooperatively with the Faculty of Science units of Marketing, Communications & Future Students and Advancement and with relevant UQ units. This committee meets monthly, with the next meeting next week.

*Indraraj Malav agreed to serve as the RSAG representative on the EAC committee.*

##### SCMB Student Representative for the Graduate Research School

HDR Representatives play an important role in supporting a collaborative research training environment between the Graduate Research School (GRS), who administers the program, and the AOU, who provide the research training, by providing a structured mechanism for candidate engagement and feedback.

It is an opportunity for AOU Representatives (who represent their HDR AOU cohort) to meet one another and to both obtain the latest information on HDR matters and share the concerns and great initiatives of the with the GRS and other HDR Representatives.

*Sanjana Hari Krishnan agreed to serve as the RSAG representative on the HDR Student representative forum.*

*Note that all RSAG representatives, attending other Committees, are expected to provide a brief report to RSAG at the next scheduled RSAG meeting, following their attendance at the other Committee.*

#### 5. Annual SCMB Research Students Symposium

One of the major roles of the RSAG committee is to organise the annual SCMB research student symposium, usually held at the end of November keeping in mind Exams, External Conferences, Venue Availability.

Action items:

**Commented [VS1]:** I'd spell out the collaboration is between GRS, who administers the program, and AOU, who provide the research training.

**Commented [SK2R1]:** Done

Documents from previous years and material to support the Symposium can be found on the Shared drive (<\\nas02.storage.uq.edu.au\SCI\SCMB\Operations\RSCC>)

All new RSAG members will be given access to this drive which can be access via their student account

Priorities will be to:

- Set a date for this year's symposium (**current plan is for November-first or last week, mid-week**)-factors to consider are: competing conferences, venue availability and Honours seminars
- Assign jobs – this will be finalised when we have the full team in person, key roles have been filled to get things moving.

Jobs	Assigned	Progress
Venue	All – Indraraj main contact	
Finance and Sponsorship	Sejal & Jieyu	
Plenary Speaker		
Opening and Closing Speakers	Vishal & Honours students	
Advertising/Promotion	Georgina	
Sourcing of Judges		
Catering	Sanjana	
Booklet Production		
Receipt of abstracts, speaker selection (develop selection criteria), contact selected speakers		
General event logistics	Vishal & Hons students & Chris	
Collecting feedback on the event		
Prizes and Award certificates		
Timetable	Vishal & Honours students	
Printing: e.g. nametags, feedback sheets, marking sheets, etc		

#### 7. Other Business

None yet

#### 8. Tasks, prior to next meeting -

**Evelyne** – find out when Hons. Week is before next meeting.

**All members** to discuss upcoming conferences with their PAs to see if anything clashes with potential Symposium dates

**Indraraj** – check previous venues used in place of Hawkins & Steele and find out how we book them.

**Kaitlin** – Ensure everyone has access to the Shared drive and intranet as soon as possible.

**Sejal** - Chat to Carol for finance set up (intranet site for Sponsors as a starting point)

SCMB RSAG

Meeting April 2026

**9. Next Meeting**

6<sup>th</sup> May -12noon – 1pm Wednesday

Wednesdays at 12noon seem to be the best time moving forward