



The Society for Redox Research AUSTRALASIA

NEWSLETTER (November 2024)

<p>President <i>Term: 2023-2024</i> ANDREW BULMER School of Medical Science and Menzies Health Institute Queensland Griffith University Parklands Drive, Southport, QLD 4222 AUSTRALIA Email: a.bulmer@griffith.edu.au</p>	<p>Treasurer <i>Term: 2024-2027</i> BELAL CHAMI Redox & Inflammation Group, Molecular Biomedicine, School of Medical Sciences The University of Sydney Charles Perkins Centre, Sydney, NSW 2006 AUSTRALIA E-mail: belal.chami@sydney.edu.au</p>
<p>Secretary <i>Term: 2021-2024</i> LOUISA ASHBY Mātai Hāora - Centre for Redox Biology & Medicine, Department of Pathology and Biomedical Science, University of Otago Christchurch 2 Riccarton Avenue, Christchurch 8011 NEW ZEALAND Email: louisa.ashby@otago.ac.nz</p>	<p>President-Elect <i>Term: 2023-2024</i> NINA DICKERHOF Mātai Hāora - Centre for Redox Biology & Medicine, Department of Pathology and Biomedical Science, University of Otago Christchurch 2 Riccarton Avenue, Christchurch 8011 NEW ZEALAND Email: nina.dickerhof@otago.ac.nz</p>
<p>Early Career Researcher Representative <i>Term: 2024-2027</i> NATASHA VASSILEFF Clear Vision Research. The John Curtin School of Medical Research, The Australian National University Canberra, ACT 2600 AUSTRALIA Email: Natasha.Vassileff@anu.edu.au</p>	

Contact email and Website:

The Society has an email managed by the secretary: sfrrasecretariat@gmail.com

The SFRRRA website is as follows: www.sfrr-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,

I do hope that this newsletter finds you in good spirits as another challenging year comes to an end. 2024 presented challenges of heightened inflation, and additional tightening of research budgets due to tertiary education sector's diminished income, in line with reductions in international student enrolments. This has led to further tightening of budgets which challenges our ability to travel and attend conferences. However, as a resourceful group, it was pleasing to meet online in 2023 (thank you again to our node leads; Stanley Chan, Nina Dickerhof, Paul Witting, Liz Ledgerwood and Peter Sly) for giving your time to make our science accessible to the community.



Prof Andrew Bulmer

As this is my last year as the SFRR(A) President, it's been an absolute pleasure to work along-side inspirational colleagues Louisa Ashby (whose 4 year term as Secretary is coming to an end), Nina Dickerhof (stepping into the President's role), Stanley Chan (who stayed on as Treasurer *ex officio*), Balal Chami (who joined as Treasurer) and Natasha Vassileff (Early Career Representative). We've met monthly and always had a full agenda of discussions and decision making to complete (with a few laughs!). This year, we've finalised our move to a new bank, allowing the Society to complete all transactions online (previous transactions had to be completed in-person - very challenging with Executive members in different cities and states!). With this new banking system in place, we will see easier ways to pay our registration fees in future, making membership more accessible for all. Secondly, we've continued to support our early career researchers in their attendance of national and international conferences, so that they can share their science and gain valuable presentation experience and networking opportunities. This support includes providing sponsorship of the upcoming SFRR(I) conference (hosted by SFRR(Europe)) in Galway, Ireland in 2025 (a must for Ed Sheeran and Free Radical fans alike) – we hope to see you there! I've also taken considerable steps to broaden the engagement with other regional Societies including SfrBM, SFRR(Asia) and SFRR(Europe). Of note was my recent attendance of the SFRR(Asia) meeting in Beijing, where I met with SFRR(International) President Giovanni Mann, SFRR(Europe) President Juan Sastre, SFRR (Asia) President Chang Chen and SfrBM VP Organisational Health Lin Mantell regarding enhancing our international engagement. Clear plans were developed to foster greater collaboration and integration between our Societies, and I look forward to these coming to fruition in 2025 – watch this space!

As this year comes to an end, I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. I do look forward to seeing you at our Society's Joint SFRR Australasia and Japan meeting in Canberra and wish you the very best for 2025 and beyond.

With Kindest Regards,
Andrew Bulmer

President Elect's Update

Nearly two years have passed since I decided to run for SFRRRA president, a decision sparked after talking to the then-immediate past and current presidents over burgers and beers at Christchurch's Astro Lounge during our in-person conference. Much like the bar's futuristic ambiance, the past two years have felt like an exploration of a different galaxy for me—stepping away from my home planet of science and venturing into the vast universe of governance. As I look ahead to 2025, I feel confident that Captain Andrew and his SFRRRA executive crew have prepared me well to take the reins.



Dr Nina Dickerhof

The executive committee also bids farewell to its secretary, Louisa, after four years of dedicated service. Louisa has worked tirelessly to keep the society's affairs organised, and her drive, efficiency, humour, and inquisitiveness will be missed. On the other hand, I am very excited to see a surge of interest among our members in joining the executive next year. It is motivating to witness fellow redox researchers willing to dedicate their energy to contribution to our scientific community in this way. I look forward to welcoming and working with new executive members in the coming year.

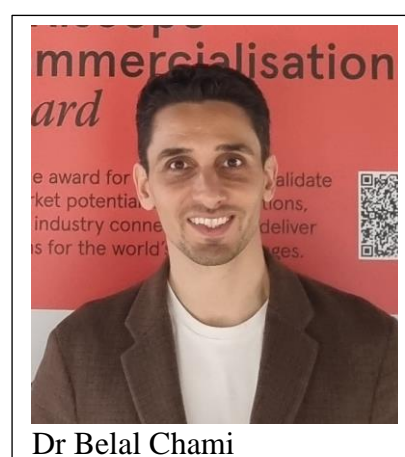
As SFRRRA president, I intend to continue exploring opportunities for regional redox societies to work more closely together and for growing our membership. These are crucial steps towards strengthening collaborations both among our members, and between the Australasian and international redox research communities.

Finally, I hope to reconnect with many of you personally at the Canberra meeting in a few weeks' time. My thanks to Jereme, Natasha and the whole organising committee for all their hard work in bringing our in-person meeting to Australia's capital for the first time. I am sure it will be a memorable event, with great science being shared, collaborations forged, and ideas for future investigations born.

Treasurer's Update

I have belonged to this society for over 10 years and I see it fit to contribute back to the SRFFA at the executive level in the capacity as Treasurer. I would like to thank Stanley Chan for his guidance in this transition period and Guy Jameson for generously lending his time as we navigated the complex task for changing our bank. This involved the arduous tasks of multiple and coordinated in-person banking trips to help bring this to a successful conclusion.

During my first year as Treasurer, we set up our new Westpac account with a fixed-term account to generate an additional revenue source capitalising on our cash reserve. From an administrative point-of-view, payments are much more efficient.



Dr Belal Chami

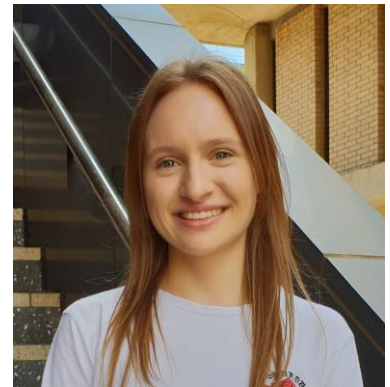
Stanley and the executive team presided over our society's name change and in 2024, the new executive team completed the final stage which was to reflect our name change on the ABR (Australian Business Register) website.

There is still much more to do and I look forward to giving back to a society I consider my home-base.

ECR Representative's Update

There was an excellent turnout at the 31st SFRRRA online meeting held last December. Half of the speakers that day were new and existing ECR members of our Society, it was great to hear about their interesting research. This year, to continue the excellent work previously undertaken to reduce the carbon footprint of our Society, we have continued to apply for several ECR initiatives aiming to reduce our carbon footprint. Our SFRRRA committee has reached out to the other SFRR Societies to engage with researchers in similar fields and we have maintained an active network with the SFRBM and SFRRRI on Twitter/X.

Our Twitter/X username is @SFRRRAustralasia.



Dr Natasha Vassileff

The SFRRRA also joined the SFRRJ to organize a joint conference that will be held in Canberra from the 9th to 11th of December. Additionally, as part of the conference the SFRRRA has successfully secured two school locations within the ACT to plant trees as part of the ECR initiative aimed at reducing the societies carbon footprint associated with travel to the conference.

Secretary's Update

We're currently approaching the end of November in what has been another busy and challenging year. In a year where research funding has gone from increasingly tight to near impossible, I've become aware similar difficulties are felt by researchers around the world. I hope our Society can provide a little congeniality and foster good research vibes into the future. We're a small Society but I think it is vital to aim for closer links within Australasia, in addition to our role of contributing to the SFRRRI.

I've enjoyed looking back to our last SFRRRA meeting, which was an online symposium day (6 hours with breaks) incorporating the Annual General Meeting held on 11th December 2023. The meeting was attended by 31 people, mostly present at in-person nodes around Australia and the South Island of New Zealand. An interesting variety of research topics were covered by the 14 speakers, some of whom were new to the Society. Please see the end of this newsletter for copies of the 2023 Treasurer's report, and the minutes of our 2023 Annual General Meeting.



Dr Louisa Ashby

Now I'm looking forward to the conference that's coming up soon in Canberra, it'll be great to meet up again with familiar as well as new faces. I feel grateful for my time as secretary, I have learnt a lot from the role and have enjoyed the sense of community that comes from the regular meetings with colleagues. A big heartfelt thank you to all my fellow committee members over the years for making it interesting and fun. Finally, to the current and incoming new members - keep up the good work and best wishes from me.

ATTENTION! Open call for nominations for SFRR Secretary and President-Elect

At this year's AGM (in Canberra, Dec 2024), we need to **appoint two new members of the Executive Committee**; Secretary and President-Elect. This presents exciting opportunities for two enthusiastic members of the SFRR. The position of Secretary has a standard four-year term, and President-Elect is for 2 years followed by 2 years as President. Please advise the SFRR 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:

2024 ECR Travel Awards

32nd Meeting of SFRR-Australasia & 11th Joint Meeting with SFRR-Japan To be held 9th-11th December 2024 in Canberra, Australia.

Congratulations to the following Early Career Researcher members who won awards and will present in Canberra:

4 SFRR travel awardees		
Carl Soltau	Queensland	PhD student
Kangzhe (Steven) Xie	Sydney	PhD student
Dr Mikaela Peglow Pinz	Sydney	Postdoc
Dr Grace Borichevsky	Christchurch	Postdoc

Dates for your diary 2025

SFRR-International (22nd SFRR Biennial Meeting, hosted by SFRR-Europe)

The New Era of Redox Biology: from Basic Biochemistry to Redox Omics

June 3-6 2025

Galway, Ireland. <https://www.sfrgalway2025.com/>

SfRBM 2025

November 19-22, 2025

Capital Hilton, Washington DC, USA. <https://sfrbm.org/about/events/sfrbm-2025/>

Publishing Partners

Taylor & Francis provide annual financial support of our 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).

Treasurer's report (2023)

1. Comments

Memberships are automatically renewed for those that have attended the SFRR Australasia & Japan Conference 2022 at Christchurch. I would like to thank all the current financial members that have made the effort to pay their membership fees to the Society for 2023. We do encourage everyone to consider renewing their membership as form of support to the Society (Full, AUD\$50/NZD\$50; Student, AUD\$30/NZ\$30).

Membership forms and payment details are available on the website (<http://www.sfr-australasia.org>) or by contacting myself (outgoing Treasurer) (stanley.chan@rmit.edu.au) or the secretary (sfrasecretariat@gmail.com).

2. Summary of Australian Accounts (01/12/2022-21/11/2023)

Opening Balance (01/12/2022) of Australian accounts:	<u>\$66,047.74</u>
Cheque Account Bearing Interest:	\$20,266.23
Term Deposit	\$45,781.51
Total Income:	\$624.69
Total Expenditure:	\$10,166.61
<u>Income – Expenditure:</u>	<u>-\$9,541.92</u>
Closing Balance (21/11/2023) of Australian accounts:	<u>\$56,505.82</u>
Cheque Account Bearing Interest:	\$10,259.62
Term Deposit	\$46,246.20

3. Summary of BNZ Account in New Zealand

Opening Balance (24/11/2022) of New Zealand account:	<u>NZD\$7,756.08</u>
<i>Deposits</i>	
SFRRRA 2023 Membership fees collected at SFRRRA&J 2022	NZD\$2,940.00
SFRRRA&J Conf profit (surplus from registrations+sponsorship-costs)	NZD\$309.00
Interest on NZ current account	NZD\$55.39
Total NZ Income (24/11/2022 – 06/12/2023):	NZD\$3,304.39
<i>Withdrawals (Note \$500 of SFRRJ went to the conference in Oct 2022)</i>	
SFRR-Japan contribution to SFRRRA&J 2022 Conference	NZD\$2,500.00
Travel awards for SFRRRA&J 2022 and SfRBM-SFRRRI 2023	NZD\$3,620.00
Poster prizes for NZSBMB 2023 Conference	NZD\$500.00
Total NZ Expenditure (24/11/2022 – 06/12/2023):	NZD\$6,620.00
<u>Income – Expenditure:</u>	<u>-NZD\$3,315.61</u>
Closing Balance (06/12/2023) of New Zealand account:	<u>NZ\$4,440.47</u>

Minutes from the 2023 Annual General Meeting



The Society for
Redox Research
AUSTRALASIA

Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Society for Redox Research (Australasia)

Monday 11th Dec 2023 – meeting held via zoom during the SFRRRA Research Symposium 2023 which was a hybrid event; five physical nodes across Australasia of members attending together in seminar rooms as well as individual zoom attendees.

Chair: Andrew Bulmer (President)

Minutes: Louisa Ashby (Secretary)

Other SFRRRA Executive members present – Nina Dickerhof (President-elect), Stanley Chan (Treasurer), and Jereme Spiers (ECR rep). Apologies: none received.

Attendance details: **19 members present in nodes at the time of this meeting**, including exec members, **and up to 12 additional participants logged on individually via zoom.**

The split across the nodes was Christchurch (7)/ Sydney (7)/ Brisbane (2)/ Melbourne (2)/Dunedin (1).

AGM opened 2:58 pm (NZ time)

1. President's address

- Andrew Bulmer thanked Tony Kettle and the team of organisers for last year's meeting in Christchurch – the joint SFRRRA&J Conference 2022, it was a very successful in-person meeting.
- Andrew expressed thanks to Louisa and other exec members for the Newsletter 2023 recently distributed, and to the Node leaders and speakers for the Symposium we're enjoying today.
- Special appreciation goes to Stanley Chan and Jereme Spiers who are now completing their four year terms as Treasurer and the first ECR Rep, respectively. They have worked hard and been excellent committee members – they have earnestly served the Society well.

2. Elections of new executive officers

- Andrew invited the self-nominated candidates to introduce themselves briefly in advance of voting:
 - Dr Belal Chami – candidate for role as Treasurer, member of SFRRRA since 2015 as a student, now a group leader at Uni. Sydney. Keen to get involved and support the Society.
 - Dr Natasha Vassileff – standing for ECR Representative position, a new SFRRRA member, working in redox field for last 3 years, is at ANU Canberra. Already involved in the carbon offset initiative.
 - Dr Pramod Subedi – standing for ECR Rep. Unable to attend today's symposium, he provided a video recording that was viewed by all. He studied in the redox field for his Masters and PhD, and is now continuing at La Trobe Uni, Melbourne. Motivated to nominate after attending SFRRRA&J 22 in NZ.

RESULTS: via Slido.com voting app on attendees' mobile phones:

Treasurer – Belal Chami appointed (sole candidate, unopposed in Slido.com test vote, n=20 votes)

ECR Rep – Natasha Vassileff appointed (86% votes, Pramod Subedi 14% votes, n=21 votes via Slido)

Thank you to all nominees, congratulations and welcome to Belal and Natasha.

- Extra vote undertaken by members: Appointment of Stanley Chan as additional Proxy Treasurer (for 2024 only) in order to facilitate the closure of the current account (Commonwealth Bank), in relation to setting up new e-banking facility in Australia for SFRRRA.

Results via Slido - In favour: 95%, Against: 5% (n=20 votes) Carried.

3. Treasurer's report 2022-2023

- Powerpoint slides presented by Stanley Chan: Current financial membership is estimated at 60 full members and 35 student members. At our first in-person conference since Sydney 2019, last year in

Christchurch (91 delegates) there were 68 SFRRRA registrations and membership fees collected. The majority of other attendees were members of SFRR-Japan.

- Expenditure from the Australian account during 2023 totalled AUD\$10.3K, a large proportion of which was the award of six ECR travel awards of AUD\$750 for SFRRRA&J 2022 in Christchurch, and dues to SFRRRI for membership and sponsorship (AUD\$3.8K) of the conference in Uruguay. The major income to SFRRRA remains the continued sponsorship arrangement with Taylor&Francis publishers (T&F) which annually provides approx. AUD\$3.6K net (varies depending on exchange rate). Payment to bring this up to date is in progress, due to arrive in the account imminently. The 21/11/2023 closing balance in Australia is AUD\$56.6K, AUD \$42.2K of which is on Term Deposit.

- The New Zealand account closing balance 24/11/23 NZD\$4.4K incorporates major items of NZD\$2.9K SFRRRA membership fees collected at the 2022 conference, overall NZD\$309 conference profit, and expenditure items of ECR travel awards NZD\$3.6K and Poster prizes NZD\$500.

- Treasurer's report was opened for discussion: Liz Ledgerwood commented that it would be good to see anticipated outlay for Travel Awards included in the upcoming year's budget. Also it would be worth considering the security of the T&F arrangement going forward, ie: can this be expected to continue? it is relied on for the stable status of the SFRRRA finances. Christine Winterbourn queried how the money transfer from T&F works - answer; it is by deposit of GBP and return payment of AUD.

- Andrew Bulmer added that it is worth noting that there are increases in the costs of our insurance (previously \$600 now \$945) as well as travel costs (affecting value of travel awards) so it would be good to ensure term deposit interest is optimised (considering direct access account options when internet banking is established), as well as thinking of possible new ideas around useful increases in sponsorship income (maybe new industry partners). Stanley Chan added that maybe non-conference (in-person) years could provide good periods to benefit from term deposits with better rates.

4. ECR Representative's report

- Jereme Spiers congratulated all Early Career Researchers who were recipients of the various awards made available this year. There were several young investigator awards (for presentations – from SfrBM and T&F) in addition to the travel awards (SFRRRA and SFRRRI) that help ECR attend those conferences. We (SFRRRA) also provided support of related research societies – the Australia and New Zealand Societies for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ECR poster prizes).

- Jereme described being inspired by the Tree-Planting charity carbon offset surcharge of the SFRRRA&J 2022 conference to seek out ongoing funding support for similar environmental initiatives in Australia before our next in-person meeting. He has applied to three funders (Murphy initiative and Future Earth Australia, both run through Australian Academy of Science, and a third independent one) and is waiting to hear soon if successful. He expressed congratulations to Natasha and Belal on their appointment to the exec committee, and gratitude to SFRRRA for his term as the first ECR Rep.

5. Other Business

- Andrew Bulmer announced that the drawn-out name change process for SFRRRA (Society for Redox Research Australasia) is now formally complete, confirmatory paperwork received from the Fairtrade register, although their online listing still needs to be updated. Special thanks go to Paul Witting for acting as proxy listing officer resident in NSW. The initial concept of a name change to better reflect the society's research scope was made in 2018, so it has been a long road.

- Andrew reported that two of our members were put forward as nominees for the Trevor Slater and Lester Packer awards made at the recent SFRRRI conference in Uruguay. Unfortunately our SFRRRA nominations were not successful, and he had noted the need to provide stronger applications to be competitive in future (every two years) as other societies had included multiple-signatory letters of support etc.

- Andrew wanted to inform that the executive committee is interested in new ways to improve SFRRRA's international engagement and global visibility in science. Current ideas include SFRRRA expert

presentations to be shared online, and possibly an advisory group that could help with recommendations for increasing global involvement.

- Liz Ledgerwood said she was pleased to represent our society at the SFRRRI conference in Uruguay, and attended their executive meeting on behalf of SFRRRA. She has calculated that on a per capita basis, we actually have a strong society for a relatively small region, with high membership rates compared to the larger societies in Europe and USA, for example. The Europe society (SFRRE) has introduced regular shared seminars, but she doesn't know how well these are attended in terms of the percentage of members. For initiating something similar, we should remember we have smaller numbers and comparatively our institutes and universities are under higher financial strain. We rely on volunteers whereas the US society can afford to pay a company to organise events, so if we can make links with their existing activities that might be worthwhile.

- Judy de Haan, president of the Australian Atherosclerosis Society (AAS), said they run a virtual seminar series that is well attended. This started during the Covid pandemic and has been successful for three years. Maybe SFRRRA could consider doing something similar quarterly, especially to strengthen the connection across the Tasman.

6. Plans for SFRRRA in-person conference - venue/hosts for 2024

- There have been two expressions of interest about possible Australian host cities.

- Jereme Spiers shared two slides proposing the ANU campus conference venue in Canberra as possible host for SFRRRA conference in Nov/Dec 2024. It would be first time our conference was held in Canberra, excellent university facility with 300-seat tiered theatre, maybe residential colleges for accommodation. Direct flights for domestic travellers, internationals would come via Sydney airport then maybe transfer bus. Venue is a 15 walk from city centre.

- Judy de Haan showed a slide about a venue she used for the AAS conference last year – The Monash Conference Centre in the CBD of Melbourne. It has two large rooms; one holds up to 80 and the other about 50, plus an additional small meeting room.

- Christine Winterbourn wondered if the Melbourne venue might be too small especially considering the need for space to display posters.


- Nina Dickerhof enquired about the organising team for each suggested city. Judy said due to her AAS commitments she could offer some help but not be lead organiser in Melbourne. Jereme said there was a small group of interested helpers with him in Canberra, plus Paul Witting and Belal Chami have offered their support from Sydney.

- Louisa Ashby asked about the availability of the Canberra venue. Jereme and Paul replied that ANU is a multi-conference venue with good availability in Nov/Dec as teaching will be finished for the year.

Motion – Louisa Ashby moved that the executive committee discusses the options with the involved parties in January, then decides on the SFRRRA 2024 conference venue, and reports back to the membership. Seconded – Liz Ledgerwood. Unopposed.

Meeting closed at 3:56 pm (NZ time).

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



Prof Andrew Bulmer

President