



The Society for Redox Research AUSTRALASIA

NEWSLETTER (November 2020)

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| <p><i>President</i> ELIZABETH LEDGERWOOD Department of Biochemistry University of Otago 710 Cumberland Street Dunedin 9016 NEW ZEALAND Phone: +64 3 479 5195 E-mail: liz.ledgerwood@otago.ac.nz</p> | <p><i>Treasurer</i> STANLEY CHAN RMIT 405 Liverpool St Darlinghurst, NSW 2010 AUSTRALIA Phone: +61 2 9295 8714 E-mail: stanley.chan@rmit.edu.au</p> |
| <p><i>Secretary</i> ANDREW BULMER School of Medical Science and Menzies Health Institute Queensland Griffith University Parklands Drive, Southport, QLD 4222 AUSTRALIA Phone: +61 7 5552 8215 Email: a.bulmer@griffith.edu.au</p> | <p><i>President-Elect</i> GUY JAMESON School of Chemistry Bio21 Molecular Science and Biotechnology Institute 30 Flemington Road The University of Melbourne, Parkville Vic 3010 AUSTRALIA Phone: +61 383 447 098 Email: guy.jameson@unimelb.edu.au</p> |

News items wanted

Please send any news items or articles for the newsletter to the Secretary (sfrasecretariat@gmail.com). Please send your research group website URL in case the current one is obsolete, if you would like it to be added to our website (www.sfr-australasia.org).

President's Report



A/Prof Liz Ledgerwood

Dear Fellow SFRR(A) members,

One year ago we were all about to attend the 2019 joint SFRRRA+J conference. While we saw the evidence of the devastating Australian bush fires, no one would have predicted the disruption to come in 2020.

I would like to reflect on the 2019 conference in Sydney. With around 100 attendees this was a very successful joint conference with our Japanese colleagues, and I want to thank Paul Witting and his team for their hard work in putting together an excellent programme covering the breadth of work that occurs within our society.

The AGM marked a major milestone with the vote to change the name of the Society to “Society for Redox Research Australasia”. This had been an item of discussion over a number of years and it was good to get a strong endorsement of the change in name. We were pleased to confirm Jereme Spiers as our inaugural Early Career Representative on the executive committee. You can read more about Jereme and his initiatives elsewhere in the newsletter. After three years in the role, Anita Ayer handed over the reins as Treasurer to Stanley Chan. Thanks to Anita for carrying out this critical role for the society, and thanks to Stanley for putting his name forward to take over. The challenges of COVID have meant that Anita continued some Treasurer responsibilities in 2020 – changing bank signatories is challenging at the best of times, and even more so this year.

The 2020 conference was due to be held in Melbourne, organised by our President-Elect Guy Jameson. I am grateful to Guy, Jereme and Stanley for putting together our one day online meeting on December 1st. This will provide an opportunity for our community to come together and for our early career researchers to present their work.

2020 has been difficult for all of us, and while some will have relished the lockdown time for the ability to focus on writing, for many the challenges of combining moving to online teaching, remote graduate student supervision and home schooling have made 2020 a year that we hope won't be repeated. Whatever your situation, I hope you are able to enjoy some relaxing holiday time over the summer and look forward to when we are able to meet in person to discuss the excitement of redox research in all its various guises.

SFRR(A) President Elect

It has been a long and arduous year for all. Here in Victoria it has been particularly hard on all fronts. Teaching has been online. Research has been “start stop” with an emphasis on “stop”. For long periods nobody in my group was in the lab and home-schooling 7 year old twins – well the least said about that the better! But things are really looking up now. My students are getting exciting results in the labs and summer is here. It is a great time to catch up with colleagues and friends from the Society. My plan was to have the meeting in Melbourne in Bio21 over three days. Now the annual meeting will be over Zoom and over one day but will highlight research from our younger members. I am really excited, and I hope you all are too. See you online soon!



A/Prof Guy Jameson

Treasurer's Update

Dr. Stanley Chan is a research fellow at RMIT University with expertise in metabolic research and chronic lung diseases. His research demonstrated aberrant redox signalling may be a key to the manifestation of metabolic disorders, particularly in chronic lung diseases. He aspires to contribute to advancing research and education into redox signalling processes that would bring benefit the public. Most recently, he was elected to the position of SFRRA Treasurer. In this position Stanley hopes to contribute to the growth and development of the society. By working closely with other members of the Executive Committee, he will manage all aspects of financial affairs of the organization.



Dr Stanley Chan

Secretary's Update

2020 has been an incredibly turbulent year for all and we appreciate the challenge this this has caused for our members. During this time the Society has relied heavily upon online communication and I'd like to thank this year's conference organisers for creating an online and accessible conference for all. As the Secretary, I do hope that you have received our occasional emails with updates and wanted to thank everyone for their communications over the past 6 years. I look forward to handing the reigns over to our next Secretary and assisting in the transfer of responsibilities so that we have a smooth transition. Thanks to strong leadership and our committed membership, the Society is placed well to counter COVID-19 and we are well positioned to bounce back with vigor in 2021. I do wish you all the very best and look forward to keeping in touch into the future.



A/Prof Andrew Bulmer

Early Career Representative's Update



Dr Jereme Spiers

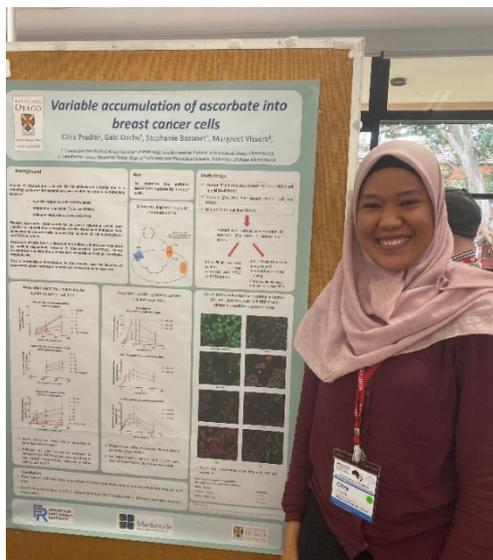
I'm a postdoctoral early career researcher at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Victoria. My research focuses on investigating the relationship between psychological stress and free radical biology in the brain. I first joined SFRRA in 2015 while doing my PhD at The University of Queensland in Brisbane. After my PhD I joined the Nitric Oxide Synaptic Toxicity Group as a Post-doctoral researcher at the MRC Toxicology Unit in the United Kingdom where I studied the early changes in stress and nitric oxide systems occurring in mouse models of neurodegeneration. In 2018, I relocated back to Australia and joined the Laboratory of Prof. Andrew Hill where I'm investigating the role of stress, free radical biology, and micro RNA regulation in physiology and neurodegenerative diseases. As part of the SFRRA, I joined the Executive Committee as the Early Career Research member to help develop initiatives that benefit ECRs in our

society. Our first focus this year has been the establishment of a Twitter profile to increase exposure of ECR publications and achievements with our wider international companion groups. So when your paper gets accepted let us know and we can help you get it out there!

Conference Reports from SFRRRA/SFRRJ Sydney

SFRR(A) Conference Travel Awards

Recipient 1 – Ms Citra Praditi - Centre for Free Radical Research, University of Otago, Christchurch, New Zealand



It was an honour to attend the 27th Annual Meeting of the Society for Free Radical Research Australasia (SFRRRA) in collaboration with SFRR Japan held in Sydney, December 2019, as well as receiving the Young Investigator Travel Award. At this conference, I had the privilege to present my work and meet other researchers working in the same field as me. Among the speakers, two topics that resonate with me the most were the talks by Prof Des Richardson about the metastasis suppressor NDRG1 and by Prof Ken Itoh about the Nrf2 transcription factor. Since I am working with cancer metastasis under hypoxia control, Prof Richardson's talk gave me overview of the other potential pathways to inhibit metastasis. Meanwhile Nrf2 is also one of my interests, and the talk by Prof Ken Itoh improved my understanding of cellular defense mechanisms towards oxidative

stress. These two talks not only expanded my knowledge in cancer metastasis and antioxidant defense in molecular level, but also helped me frame my thoughts in my research project and science in general. Overall, I had a wonderful time in Sydney, and the organising committee had done a great job accommodating the conference. Despite the unexpected events in Sydney at that time, the committees were still able to manage the conference schedule very well. Lastly, this conference provided a great opportunity to build networks among researchers, from entry level scientists to professionals, and I highly encourage anyone with similar interests, especially young scientists, to take part in this community.

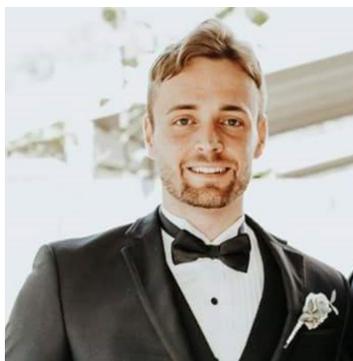
Recipient 2 – *Ms Heather Shearer – Centre for Free Radical Research, University of Otago, Christchurch, New Zealand*



From the 8-12th of December in 2019, I was given the opportunity to attend the 9th Joint Meeting of the Society for Free Radical Research Australasia and Japan in Sydney. I would like to thank the SFRRRA for awarding me a Young Investigator Travel Award to attend this conference and for the opportunity to present data from my first year as a PhD student in an oral presentation titled “Sensitivity of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* to oxidative stress”. This was both my first international conference and the first time presenting my own research at a conference. I received valuable feedback and thoughtful questions about my research, attended interesting talks and had the pleasure of networking with other students and researchers in the free radical research field. Several talks during the conference were relevant to my research area, including those on oxidase and peroxidase enzymes, inflammation and immunity, and selenium. The presentations given were informative, enjoyable and of a high standard. Unfortunately, the planned excursion was cancelled due to the smoke in Sydney from the bushfires.

However, the conference organisers were able to arrange a trip to the Sydney Wildlife Centre at Darling Harbour, which was a well organised alternative, especially given the circumstances. This was a great opportunity to see some Australian wildlife while keeping out of the smoke and see more of Sydney. I am very grateful for the opportunity I was given to present and attend this conference and would like to thank the conference organisers for a fantastic conference.

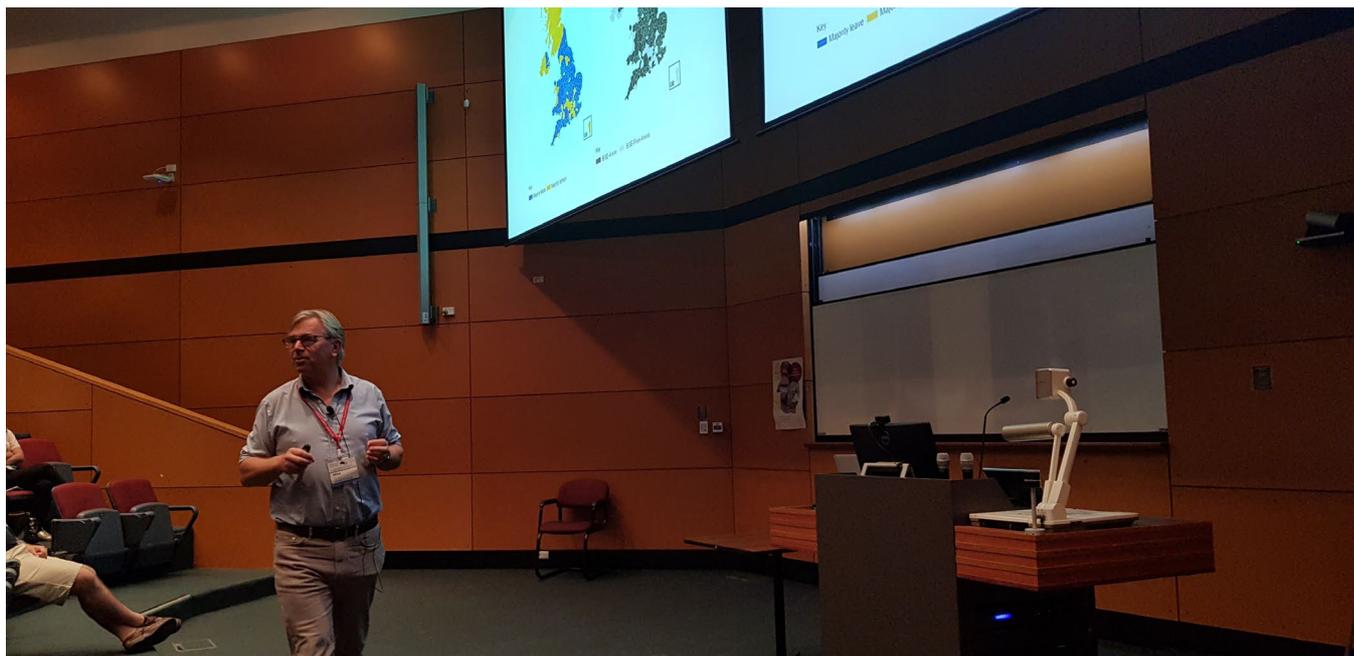
Recipient 3 – *Mr Josif Vidimce – School of Medical Science, Griffith University, Gold Coast, Australia.*



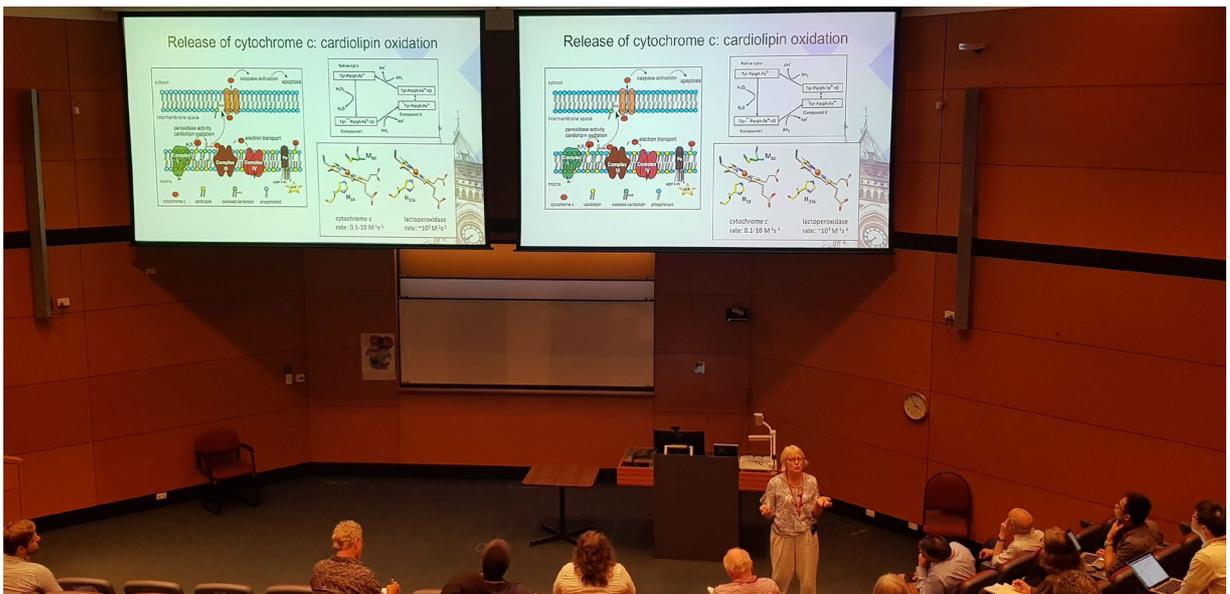
In 2019 I was fortunate to receive a young investigator travel grant to attend the Sydney conference of the Society for Free Radical Research Australasia and Japan (SFFRRAJ) on the 9th of December. At the conference I had the opportunity to give an oral presentation on the effect of elevated bilirubin, an endogenous antioxidant, on lipid metabolism. Not only did I find it exciting to present my research, but it was also a great learning experience for my public speaking to present in front of over a hundred other scientists. At the conference, there were many great presentations by scientists including world-renowned experts in free radical research and there were

plenty of events for socialising. I personally learnt a great deal about the role of free radicals in health and disease at this conference, and I loved the opportunity to network and meet many of these world-renowned experts during the social events. Overall, I would like to thank SFFRRAJ for awarding me a travel grant because without it would not have been possible for me attend their great conference. Furthermore, I highly recommend this conference for young investigators aspiring to build a career in free radical research, and I look forward to the next meeting.

Selected 2019 Conference Photographs







Treasurer's report (2019)

1. Comments

Membership numbers are up from a very successful SFRRRA 2019 Conference. I would like to thank all those current financial members that have made the effort to pay their membership fees to the Society for 2020.

For those who have not paid the membership on the website membership fees are due by end of the year (Full, A\$45/NZ\$50; Student, A\$25/NZ\$27).

Membership forms and payment details are available on the website (<http://www.sfrr-australasia.org>) or by contacting Stanley Chan (stanley.chan@rmit.edu.au) or the secretary.

2. Summary of Australian Accounts (1/11/18-31/10/19)

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Opening Balance (1/11/18) of Australian accounts: | <u>\$44,903.94</u> |
| Cheque Account Bearing Interest: | \$9158.90 |
| Term Deposit | <u>\$54,062.84</u> |

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Total Income: | \$14,139.00 |
| Total Expenditure: | \$8719.68 |
| <u>Income – Expenditure:</u> | <u>\$5419.32</u> |

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Closing Balance (31/10/19) of Australian accounts: | <u>\$60,087.60</u> |
| Cheque Account Bearing Interest: | \$14,577.32 |
| Term Deposit | <u>\$45,510.28</u> |

3. Summary of BNZ Account in New Zealand

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Opening Balance (1/11/18) of New Zealand account: | <u>NZ\$8889.08</u> |
| <i>Deposits</i> | |
| Membership fees: Payments for 2019 | NZ\$279.00 |
| Total NZ Income (1/11/18 – 31/10/19): | <u>NZ\$305.48</u> |

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Total NZ Expenditure (1/11/18– 31/10/19): | <u>NZ\$3200.00</u> |
| BST Prize (2018 meeting) | NZ\$200 |
| SFRRRA 2019 Travel Awards | NZ\$3200 |
| <u>Income – Expenditure:</u> | <u>NZ\$5995.08</u> |
| Closing Balance (31/10/19) of New Zealand account: | <u>NZ\$5972.56</u> |

Current balance: NZ\$5994.56

Minutes from the 2019 Annual General Meeting



The Society for Free Radical Research AUSTRALASIA

Starting time: 12:25 pm 09/12/2019

Department of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney, Campbelltown, Sydney.

Chair: Liz Ledgerwood (President)

Minutes: Andrew Bulmer (Secretary)

Meeting opened

1. 2018 AGM minutes ratified, accepted by Mike Davies, seconded by Andrew Bulmer.

2. Presidents report

- Website

Jiri Neuzil (JN) was acknowledged for revitalising the website last year, with ownership now transferred to Liz Ledgerwood (LL), who has now made some minor changes. LL intends to transfer the format of the website to wordpress, which makes it easier to edit. LL invited other members to help with wordpress editing of the website.

- Taylor and Francis agreement

Previously the Society had a 3 year relationship with T&F, which has now expired. This relationship meant that SFRRA received £4000 per year (~AUD7280) in sponsorship, in return we purchased 50 memberships at £1260 per year (~AUD2290). T&F are happy to continue for a further 3 years.

LL asked how should we decide 50 names? Students and/or ECRs should be prioritised? An email will be sent to members asking if anyone would like to make a request. Otherwise SFRRA executive would nominate individuals from membership.

- 2018 memberships

LL indicated that due to membership not being included in 2018 SFRRA conference registration, this represented a \$2600 loss to the 2019 budget. The Executive attempted to minimise this loss by approaching individuals throughout 2019 to secure membership and acknowledged those members who had paid 2019 dues.

In response to this loss, the executive had developed some standard instructions for conference organisers. This will be shared in 2020. Please note membership should always be included in conference registration.

- Membership fees

SFRRI increased their membership from 2.5 to 5 pounds. Therefore, due to SFRRI membership being included for SFRRA membership, the Society needs to increase the membership fee to account for this.

Propose to increase AUD student membership fee from \$20 to \$25

Propose to increase NZD student membership from \$22 to \$27

Propose to increase AUD full membership from \$40 to \$45

Propose to increase NZD full membership from \$45 to \$50

Motion to increase memberships supported by majority vote.

- 2020 SFRRRA and other meetings

LL mentioned that Kevin Croft and Trevor Mori indicated Perth not a suitable venue on this occasion. Therefore, approximately, 3 weeks ago the executive decided to potentially change the venue to either Gold Coast Dec 1-5 (join with HBPRCA, AAS) or to run the meeting in Melbourne (organised at BIO21 by Guy Jamieson; GJ). Guy proposed holding the meeting between 24-27 Nov (with other groups; 1 day overlap) Jeremie Spiers (JS) offered to help Guy.

No other members indicated a willingness to organise a conference in 2020.

For noting - next joint meeting (Japan) due in 2021.

For noting - a FAOBMB meeting is being organised in 2021 in Christchurch. Margreet Vissers (MV) is on the organising committee. Joining this meeting will be explored.

- Society name change

Based upon online polling of members, the Society name does not seem to be a big issue. Of approx 100 members polled – 13 responded in favour and 11 were against a name change (total of 24 responses – suggesting 75% of the membership had no preference).

The executive interpreted this as there being no great need for change.

JN indicated that despite people being vocal during meetings, people are silent when it came to responding to Society communications. Christine Winterbourne (CW) indicated she likes the name, but is now more in favour in making a change. For example, many members do redox type work that do not actively participate in meetings – these individuals are potential members. The words ‘Free Radical’ might make researchers feel the Society is not a good fit for them. CW likes the name Society For Redox Research and would not require a change the acronym. MV agrees with CW –using the term ‘redox’ captures more potential researchers than ‘free radical’.

Questions were raised regarding whether a problem would occur if we chose a name different to the international society.

Christopher Stanley indicated a name change would improve the marketing the society.

Josif Vidimce indicated that a name including ‘redox biology’ is more relevant to disease/physiology.

Ben Rayner indicated that trying to ‘sell’ to the medical field is advantageous and would include recruitment of new members.

Paul Witting indicated that the number of chemistry members was decreasing and that the name could reflect more contemporary activities but still include the chemistry of free radicals.

A ballot was conducted as to whether the Society for Free Radical Research should change its name (Yes or No)

Results - 17 Yes, 3 No

A second ballot was then performed for specific naming alternatives, with the following result.

Results:

Society For Redox Research (Australasia) (SFRRRA) - 17

Society For Redox Biology (SFRB) - 2

The Executive will discuss the implication of the result over 2020 and notify the membership when consultation with SFRR(I) has occurred.

3. Treasurer’s report

AA is standing down in 2019 as Treasurer and therefore a new Treasurer will be required for 2020.

AA presented treasurer’s report.

PW indicated it was advantageous to have treasurer and president in the same city.

In terms of budgeting Tony Kettle (TK) wondered whether that it appears the Society has a lot of money (ie. in term deposit) and that some could be used to support ECRs to attend future meetings. The low current interest rate does question the value of investing versus expending some of these funds. JV asked whether different investment options existed for Society funds? Mike Davies (MD) indicated there is a legal barrier to other investment options (i.e. Societies must not make large amounts of profit) – however investment options are available.

Ben Raynor suggested that some funds could be used to facilitate exchange relationship – (ie. travel grants to visit another lab). MD indicated that similar schemes had worked well.

4. Secretary's report

Andrew Bulmer congratulated recipients of 2019 SFRRRA travel awards.
Citra Praditi, Heather Shearer, Josif Vidimce.

5. Election of SFRRRA Executive members for 2020-2021

Early Career Representative - One nomination: Dr Jereme Spiers. JS accepted the nomination and was elected unopposed as Early Career Representative.

Treasurer – One nomination: Dr Stanley Chan, SC accepted the nomination and was elected unopposed as Treasurer.

6. SFRRRA Financial Authority

The authority for SFRRRA bank accounts with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (Society Checking Account and Term Deposit) will be transferred from Anita Ayer and Paul Witting to Guy Jameson (President Elect) and Stanley Chan (Treasurer). This will take effect immediately. Guy Jameson and Stanley Chan will remain the delegated authorities over the Bank accounts until otherwise stated.

| | BSB number | Account number | Name of account |
|---|------------|----------------|--|
| 1 | 062 284 | 1017 8136 | SFRR Australasia |
| 2 | 062 284 | 5012 9443 | Society for Free Radical Research (Australasia) Term Deposit |

Attendees: 30 + Liz Ledgerwood and Andrew Bulmer

Meeting closed at 1:15 pm.

The content of the above minutes is confirmed to be accurate and a true reflection of the meeting on the day.



A/Prof Andrew Bulmer
Secretary



A/Prof Liz Ledgerwood
President

Dates for your diary

2021-2022

March 15-18, 2021

Society for Free Radical Research International
Location: Virtual meeting (hosted by SFRR-Europe)
Abstract Deadline: 9th December, 2020
Further Information: <https://sfri2021.com>

April 22-24, 2021

World Congress on Hydrogen Sulfide in Biology and Medicine
Location: Danubius Health Spa Resort Margitsziget, Budapest, Hungary (likely to be online)
Further Information: <http://h2s2020.hu/>

June 15-18, 2021

Society for Free Radical Research (Europe) Meeting
Location: Belgrade, Serbia (likely to be online)
Further information: www.sfre2021belgrade.rs

September 20-26, 2021

Society for Free Radical Research (Europe) Summer School / FEBS Advanced Course: Redox Alterations and Cellular Responses: From Signalling to Interventions
Location: Spetses, Greece
Further information: <https://redoxalterations2021.febsevents.org/>

November 17 – 20, 2021

Society for Redox Biology and Medicine Annual meeting
Location: Westin Savannah Harbor, Savannah, Georgia, USA.
Further information: <https://sfrbm.org/>

July 17-22, 2022

Gordon Research Conference: Mitochondria and Chloroplasts
Location: Mount Snow, West Dover, VE, USA.
Further Information: <https://www.grc.org/mitochondria-and-chloroplasts-conference/2022/>

Australian residents – complete this form

Society for Redox Research Australasia
2021 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM
Australia

Title: _____ **Name:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

E-mail: _____

Annual Fees:

Full Membership A\$45 Student Membership A\$25

Electronic Funds Transfer Account name: SFRR Australasia
Account number: 06 2284 10178136
BSB: 06 2284 (Commonwealth Bank, Univ of Sydney, NSW)

Please tick the appropriate box above to indicate category of membership. For payment please make an electronic funds transfer to the account detailed above.

Please email the membership form to: sfrasecretariat@gmail.com

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

(Student membership only - ask your supervisor to complete the declaration below)

I confirm that the above applicant is at present a student under my supervision.

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____

Institution: _____ **Date:** _____

Society for Redox Research Australasia
2021 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM
New Zealand

Title: _____ **Name:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

E-mail: _____

Annual Fees:

Full Membership NZ\$50

Student Membership NZ\$27

Electronic Funds Transfer

Account name: SFRRA

Account number: 02 0800 0858347 000

BNZ, New Zealand (BKNZNZ22)

Please tick the appropriate box above to indicate category of membership. For payment please make an electronic funds transfer to the account detailed above.

Please email the membership form to: sfrasecretariat@gmail.com

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

(Student membership only - ask your supervisor to complete the declaration below)

I confirm that the above applicant is at present a student under my supervision.

Name:

Signature:

Institution:

Date:
