

Celebration of the Medical Laboratory Science Profession

The NZIMLS Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) held in Wellington from 31st August to 2nd September was a timely celebration for the Medical Laboratory Science profession in Aotearoa New Zealand. From a purely selfish point of view, I had craved for the in person social interactions that are the cornerstone of the coordination and collaborations within our profession. The NZIMLS is indebted to all those who were part of this meeting but also to those who held the fort back in the diagnostic laboratories, training institutions and service industries.

The opening morning set the scene perfectly with the Chair of Te Whatu Ora, Rob Campbell following my opening speech (see link below). Dr Andrew Old, the Deputy Director of Health and Public Health Agency head followed, with Dean Rutherford stepping in at short notice on behalf of Dr Dianne Sarfati the Director General of Health. The message was loud and clear, not just the health system but the entire country was indebted to the outstanding work and professionalism of our medical laboratory scientists and technicians. The other messages were around the changes on the horizon. Our publicly funded pathology services are to have priorities around coordination and collaboration of services to address the current inequities of access of pathology testing and data sharing. Research and development interfaces with diagnostics will be incorporated into our future service provision. Exciting if not a little daunting times ahead; however, it was reiterated many times that the advisory involvement of the NZIMLS and practitioners will be a vital part of this new future.

The scientific component of the ASM was detailed and compelling with some of the movers and shakers of our profession giving presentations on a wide range of disciplines. Some of the familiar wider health sector expert voices also gave presentations to tie in directly how our profession is vital for virtually all health and social interactions. Trust me when I say we will never be the 'forgotten' profession again.

I take this time to thank our industry sponsors and participants, the organising committee, the speakers, and the delegates who attended. Onwards and upward for the profession of medical laboratory science, embrace the positive changes coming and the NZIMLS will keep lobbying for the professional stability we all deserve. This meeting clearly highlighted the prominent and critical status that our profession holds within Te Whatu Ora and the future reformed health and disability system.

Terry Taylor

NZIMLS President

[President's Opening Speech ASM 2022](#)