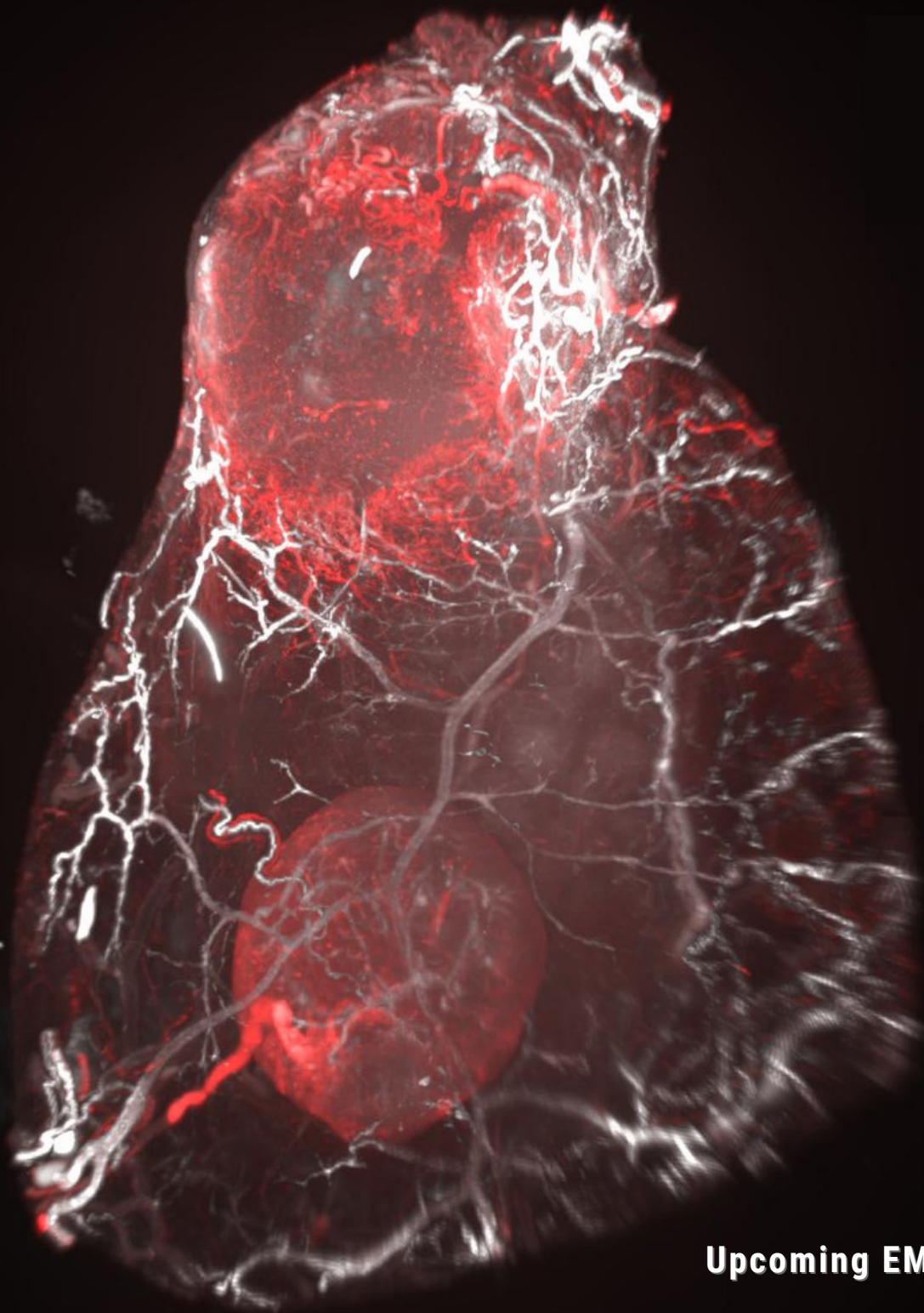


NEWSLETTER

Monash Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences



Upcoming EMCR Events

New FPPS EMCR committee members

Her Research Matters Update

Upcoming Grants and Seminars

FPPS EMCR NEWSLETTER



A letter from the editors

Welcome to the August edition of the FPPS EMCR Newsletter!

This year your EMCR Committee has focused on engaging with the broader Parkville EMCR community. Read about some past and upcoming social events (pages 5-6), as well as an upcoming inter-institute EMCR Symposium (page 9). In addition, we aim to deliver a cohesive series of educational seminars and workshops centred around the theme of community engagement (page 5).

We have said goodbye to Ben as our EMCR Committee co-president and welcomed Shane Hellyer into the role. We would like to extend a big thank you to Ben for the great events he helped to conduct during his time as president. Shane has put a great deal of effort into establishing the EMCR Newsletter and we are very thankful for his time as a founding co-editor in chief. As Shane transitions into his new presidential role, we are lucky to welcome Aili Langford as co-editor in chief! You can find out a bit more about Aili, and fellow new EMCR committee member Jeff Luo, on page 3.

As always, we welcome you to get involved in all FPPS EMCR events and to engage with us via our channels below:

 pharm-emcr-committee@monash.edu

 @EMCR_MIPS  MIPS EMCR GROUP

**Liam Koehn and
Aili Langford**

*Co-editors in chief,
FPPS EMCR Newsletter*



IN THIS ISSUE

02 Chairs' report

03 New EMCR committee members

04 HRM update

05 Consumer Engagement Workshops

06 Coffee catch-up sessions

07 Cover image profile: Aeson Chang

08 Upcoming grants and awards

09 Upcoming seminars, events and conferences

F P P S E M C R C O M M I T T E E

COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

This year has been a time of reflection within the EMCR committee, with a focus in reinvigorating our vision and priorities to best suit the needs of our wonderful EMCR community. We said goodbye to our co-chair Ben, and thank him immensely for his contributions to the committee. Shane Hellyer has stepped up to replace Ben as co-chair, and is looking forward to helping lead our great team of EMCR representatives. We have also welcomed Aili and



defnewsletter editor and inter-institute representative, respectively. Jeff has been instrumental in getting MIPS involved in the new Melbourne Emerging Leaders society. The committee has invested a lot of our time, energy and budget to this great initiative, to best use our resources to help our EMCR cohort engage with the wider biomedical fraternity. We'd also like to thank Parisa, who has also helped MIPS EMCRs engage as part of the new society's social committee, which you can read more about on page 6. We are also excited about our upcoming consumer engagement workshops; a more focused take on our prior FASTTrack sessions. We hope that the EMCR community engages with these new initiatives and come out of them educated, invigorated and as excited to have been a part of them as we have in organising them.

Sam McNeil and Shane Hellyer, committee co-chairs

It was with great honour that I have served on the MIPS EMCR committee. Over the past year I have served on the Events committee and had the opportunity of joining Emma van der Westhuizen as co-chair. Being a part of the EMCR committee was a joyous experience, which allowed me to meet and connect with several like-minded people. During my time on the committee, we have organised the yearly MIPS-EMCR symposium, 3 networking events, and 4 FASTtrack career development sessions. I would like to thank everyone who has helped in the successful delivery of these



events. Furthermore, I would like to congratulate Shane Hellyer and Liam Koehn for giving rise to the EMCR newsletter, which, I am sure, is read by many a people around MIPS. Sadly, I am currently stepping down from the committee as our family at home expanded. This leaves me with less time to commit to the EMCR committee. Nevertheless, the committee is in the excellent hands of Sam McNeill and Shane Hellyer who have the support of an amazing entourage of EMCR committee members. I am looking forward to seeing what the committee brings in 2023 and beyond. It was a great pleasure to have been part of the EMCR committee and I wish everyone all the best in their future endeavours. Finally, I would like to thank Arthur Christopoulos, Chris Porter, Peter Scammels, Gaby Bright, Neil Owens and Sandra Vargas for their ongoing support of the EMCR committee.

Benoit Smeuninx, outgoing co-chair

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW FPPS EMCR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jeff (Zijie) Luo**Kaur Group, Medicinal Chemistry**

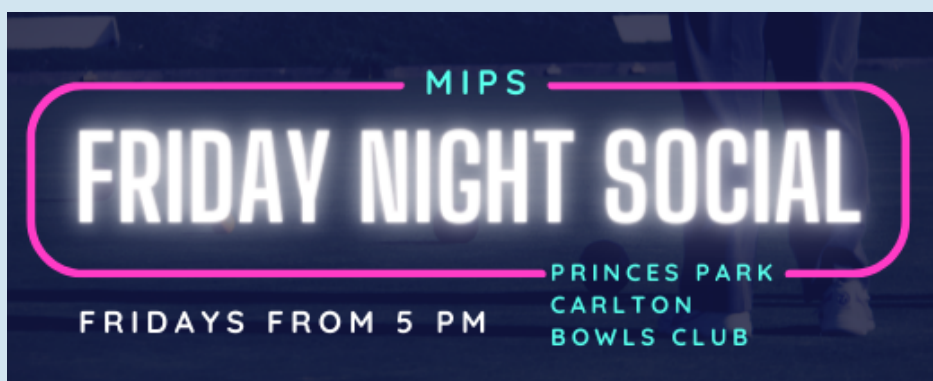
I am a research fellow in Dr. Amandeep Kaur's group (MedChem) at the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences. I completed my PhD in 2022 at The University of New South Wales. My current research investigates the development of fluorescent probes for super-resolution imaging and sensing for visualising biological events and processes. I joined the EMCR committee in 2023 and have been involved with the Inter-institutional network to organize Melbourne Emerging Leaders in Biomedical Research Symposium 2023. I am keen to support EMCR development and encourage interdisciplinary collaboration within MIPS.

**Aili Langford****Centre for Medicine Use and Safety (CMUS)**

I am a pharmacist and postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre for Medicine Use and Safety (CMUS). My research focuses on reducing medication-related harm through medication monitoring and deprescribing (*medication dose reduction and cessation*). I joined Monash University at the end of last year, after completing my PhD at the University of Sydney. During this time, I led the development of the NHMRC approved Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guideline for Deprescribing Opioid Analgesics. I am currently working with Dr Emily Reeve (*Senior Research Fellow, CMUS*), investigating when and how to integrate deprescribing recommendations into clinical practice guidelines.



I had the opportunity to meet other FPPS EMCR committee members at the PharmAlliance meeting in Prato this year and learnt more about the wonderful work being done by EMCRs across the Faculty. I am excited to contribute to the committee as co-editor of the newsletter.



The Princes Park Bowls Club have kindly offered to host us every Friday so we can get together at the end of our busy weeks. We are inviting all staff and HDR students from all themes to join us at the weekly MIPS

Friday Night Social. This is a great way to mingle and meet new people from across the faculty. **Happy Hour between 5-7pm (25% discount) if you present your staff card.**

HER RESEARCH MATTERS SCIENCE MEETS PARLIAMENT



In March, several members of HRM were sponsored to attend the Science Meets Parliament 2023 event organised by Science & Technology Australia. Our researchers joined either in person or virtually to learn about the connection between science and the Australian government, and strategies for our research to reach the broader community. They heard from several expert speakers and had the chance to meet other like-minded individuals. Our members enjoyed the opportunity to learn about a different perspective to science, and they reflected on their favourite parts of the event.

Dr Amanda Cross' favourite parts of the event were "getting to talk about healthcare and the vital role for pharmacists with Dr Gordon Reid MP, meeting the Chief Scientist Dr Cathy Foley, and networking with amazing scientists from around Australia."

"Attending the Science Meets Parliament event was a delightful and informative experience," says Dr Sanju Babu Reddiar. "It offered a unique opportunity to learn about the intersection of science and politics whilst connecting with like-minded individuals." She says she "left feeling inspired and more aware of the importance of connecting with policymakers."

Our members found learning about different communication styles particularly useful. "The speakers were engaging," Dr Natalie Diepenhorst says. "They shared great examples of how to communicate effectively in a pitch style. I'm certainly inspired to start practising my research pitch to anyone willing to listen!"

Dr Ghizal Siddiqui found learning how to communicate in writing with a parliamentarian very useful. She loved learning more about "how to write a proposal that will generate wonder and curiosity in the senator reading your simple proposal." One particularly useful strategy she found was when writing, you "should have had a "parent-check" - so if your parents can understand it, then certainly the senator would."

Dr Amandeep Kaur also found this experience eye-opening, and "realised that it's important to engage with everyone, not just those whose beliefs align with ours."

Overall, our researchers were very grateful for the opportunity to attend, leaving the event with new skills and an open mind.

"Learning about the skills for interacting with politicians, storytelling, and engaging with the media were invaluable", says Dr Kaur.

HRM collectively would like to thank everyone who generously supported our members to attend this valuable event.



Dr Sanju Babu Reddiar and Dr Amanda Cross at Parliament House for the Science Meets Parliament event.

**Would you like know
more or get involved?**



pharmacy-HRM@monash.edu



@HRM_MIPS



[www.linkedin.com/company/
her-research-matters](https://www.linkedin.com/company/her-research-matters)



[https://www.monash.edu/
pharm/about/people/hrm](https://www.monash.edu/pharm/about/people/hrm)

RECENT EVENTS

INTER-INSTITUTE PUB CRAWL

The Melbourne Emerging Leaders in Biomedical Science is a new society set-up between a number of research institutes that aims to bring Melbourne postdocs from across the city together. On August 18th, the society held its inaugural social event; a Fitzroy pub crawl. This event was an excellent opportunity for MIPS researchers to connect with fellow EMCRs, forge new friendships, and foster a sense of community within the biomedical research field. The bars in Fitzroy were a perfect setting to unwind, relax, and celebrate the launch of our new society. Overall, around 50 postdocs attended, including almost 15 from MIPS alone. It was great to see such a good turnout and we are looking forward to hearing what people thought of the night! This was a great lead in to the upcoming Emerging Leaders scientific symposium on the 1st of September (see page 9 for more details).



If you have any feedback on this or other social events, or have ideas regarding new social events, ways to enhance engagement at FPPS EMCR social events or any other comments, please let us know! You can email the committee at pharm-emcr-committee@monash.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

Consumer engagement is the main focus of the FPPS EMCR committee FASTTrack agenda for 2023. Consumer engagement has emerged as an important facet of the research ecosystem. You may find many funding schemes, partner organisations and even journals asking about consumer engagement. Ultimately, we want to address the following questions:

- What is consumer engagement?
- Why is it so important for “consumers” to be involved with my research program?
- How can I go about engaging with consumers?
- What are the missions from both the foundation and the researchers?
- How to pitch my research with a consumer focus in mind?

These sessions will take place over the course of three weeks, with each session focusing on a different aspect of consumer engagement:

Workshop 1: Consumer Advocates 101 - *how to mind the gap?*

Workshop 2: What are our missions?

Workshop 3: How to pitch our research?

Keep your eye out for more updates and a confirmation of dates soon!

UPCOMING EVENTS


COFFEE CATCH UP SERIES



EMCR Social Coffee Event (Coffee on us!)

Sign up to connect with members from the EMCR community across MIPS and enjoy a free coffee together!

If you choose to join, you will be matched with up to 5 others from different themes across MIPS to get to know each other over a coffee. An EMCR representative will also be present at each timeslot, so it also provides a great way for you to voice your concerns or provide suggestions directly to the EMCR committee.

Register here! 

Scan me!



COVER IMAGE

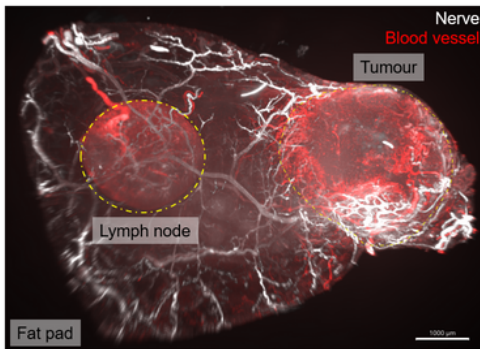
AESON CHANG

Who am I?

I'm Aeson Chang, Cancer Neuroscientist from the Cancer Neural Immune Lab.

What is the image?

This image is a 3D projection showing blood vessels (red) and nerves (white) in a cleared tumour (the "blob" on the right) that is embedded in a mammary fatpad (the whole structure). The lymph node in the fatpad is the circular structure on the left.



Why do i love it?

I love this image as it is the first time I get to look into where the neural projection into the tumour originates from. It is also the first time I get to see neo-vascularisation in a whole tumour at the early stage of cancer progression.



[✉ aeson.chang@monash.edu](mailto:aeson.chang@monash.edu)

EMCR HIGHLIGHT

LAURA HUMPHRYS

Who am I?

Laura Humphrys, a postdoctoral researcher fresh from my first postdoc position in Regensburg, Germany. I did my PhD in Nottingham, UK.

What is my research area?

Molecular pharmacology of GPCRs, if you go by my publications, although I have dabbled in neuroscience (patho)physiology. Astrocytes are cool. I've worked on a range of GPCRs and their biochemical transduction pathways, such as neuropeptide Y receptors, adrenoceptors and their chimeric optogenetic counterparts, muscarinic DREADDs and class A orphans. Right now, I am working on CRISPR/Cas9 genetic modification of cell lines to help elucidate the native interactions of class B GPCRs with the delightful Family B group. I am particularly interested in how receptor expression, genetic modifications, isoforms and localisation impact ligand binding, downstream signalling and ultimately the physiological response. I am always up for networking and learning about work in or outside my expertise, so feel free to come by the office for a decent cup of tea (Building 4, level 3, 4.324).

What are my interests outside of work?

When I find the time, jack of all trades, certainly master of none. Any sport (watching and playing, albeit badly), reading (mainly fantasy, sci-fi and non-fiction, my current 'book of the decade' is Anthony Weir's Project Hail Mary), gaming (currently Spiritfarer with my partner and Cyberpunk 2077/Hollow Knight alone), music (listening to skilled musicians, and play cello and viola da gamba; 'learning guitar' indefinitely), veggie cuisine, beer and hot sauce (I'm sure that counts as an interest), developing my German, and cross-stitch/embroidery. Let me know if you're keen for a game of squash, I need squash friends. Or a German conversation. In fact, why not both?



[✉ laura.humphrys@monash.edu](mailto:laura.humphrys@monash.edu)

UPCOMING FUNDING: SEP - DEC

FUNDING & AWARDS

Date	Funding opportunity	Amount	Website
Opens 13/9 Closes 8/11	NHMRC Investigator	Salary + research costs (\$50k for EL1, \$200k for EL2, \$400k for leadership) for 5 years	https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/find-funding/investigator-grants
23/11	ARC Future Fellowships	Salary + \$60k research costs	https://www.arc.gov.au/funding-research/funding-schemes/discovery-program/future-fellowships
29/11	NHMRC Partnership Projects	\$1,500,000 for five years	https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/find-funding/partnership-projects
07/12	DECRA	\$112,897 salary plus \$50,000 research costs for 3 years	https://www.arc.gov.au/funding-research/funding-schemes/discovery-program/discovery-early-career-researcher-award-decra
13/12	ARC Linkage Projects	\$50,000 to \$300,000 for two to five years	https://www.arc.gov.au/funding-research/grants-calendar/linkage-projects-2023

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

ASCEPT 2023 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

ASCEPT Annual Scientific Meeting

*Transformational
Pharmacology & Toxicology*

20-23 NOV 2023

International Convention Centre, Sydney



Abstract submission deadline Wednesday 6 September, 2023

[VIEW THE MEETING PROGRAM](#)

[REGISTER](#)

[SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT](#)

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

INTER-INSTITUTE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

MELBOURNE EMERGING LEADERS IN
BIOMEDICAL
 research
 society presents

*"The 2023 Inaugural Emerging Leaders
 Symposium: Advancing Discovery"*

**Registration
 and abstract
 submission
 NOW open**



Date:

1st September 2023



Location:

Melbourne Brain Centre,
 Parkville



Cost:

\$50 incl. morning/
 afternoon tea, lunch &
 networking event

Open to all postdoctoral researchers!



LA TROBE
 UNIVERSITY



MONASH University
 Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences



CENTRE FOR
 Eye Research
 Australia



MONASH
 University

MONASH
 BIOMEDICINE
 DISCOVERY
 INSTITUTE



**Olivia
 Newton-John**
 Cancer Research Institute



MHTP
 Monash Health
 Translation Precinct



SVI
 St Vincent's Institute
 MEDICAL RESEARCH



MACH
 Melbourne Academic
 Centre for Health

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

ASCEPT SIG VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM**2023 Respiratory & Inflammation and
Neuropharmacology SIG
Virtual Symposium****Tuesday 31st October
9 am- 3 pm****Featuring invited keynote presentations and
selected short-talks from ECRs and students**

*A prize will be awarded to the best written abstract
and best speaker.*

Registration is FREE!

*Email abstracts to: simone.deluca@RMIT.edu.au or
luke.grundy@flinders.edu.au*

Abstract submission and registration close 6th September

For more information contact the organising committee:
Respiratory/Inflammation SIG Simone De Luca, Chantal Donovan
Neuropharmacology SIG Luke Grundy

UPCOMING CONFERENCES
SMDD-HIT ID 2023 SYMPOSIUM

Lectures | Panel Discussion | Mock Pitch | Q&A | Networking Drinks



Small Molecules Hit ID Symposium 2023

27 October 2023 | 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Melbourne University

Woodward Conference Centre



Register now: <https://shop.monash.edu/hit-id-symposium-2023.html>



IAN STREET
Oncology One
Children's Cancer
Institute



MARTIN SCANLON
Monash University



JEFF MITCHELL
WEHI



JESSICA HOLIEN
RMIT University



CHRIS BURNS
Amplia Therapeutics

The upcoming SMDD-Hit ID symposium will be held on 27 October 2023 at the Woodward Conference Centre. This event will consist of scientific presentations, interactive sessions and networking opportunities focussed on introducing delegates to the topic of hit identification within a small molecule drug discovery setting.

This is the first small molecule drug discovery symposium showcasing the hit identification infrastructure available within Melbourne's Parkville precinct, with a series of drug development success stories. The event provides a unique opportunity to be involved in a wide-reaching symposium that will focus on hit-finding screening campaigns in drug discovery.

UPCOMING SEMINARS

MIPS SEMINAR SERIES

Date	Presenter	Title	Host	Room/Time
September 6th	Dr Joanne Britto	Manager, Consumer Involvement - Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre	Dr Natalie Diepenhorst	Lecture Theatre 3, midday

The seminars will be held every third Wednesday at Monash University's Parkville campus, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria, at midday.

If you wish to be added to the seminar mailing list email sandra.vargas@monash.edu

UPCOMING SEMINARS

CCEMP SEMINAR SERIES



Date	Presenter	Title	Location
September 12th	Dr. Max Clabbers, Department of Biological Chemistry, University of California, LA	Recent advances in MicroED: membrane protein structure determination, direct electron detection, and ab initio phasing	Zoom
October 10th	Associate Professor Steve Reichow	TBD	Zoom
October 17th	Assistant Professor Tian Hua	TBD	Zoom (NOTE: special time 4-5pm)
November 14th	Dr. Susan Buchanan	TBD	Zoom

Seminars will be held online at 10:00-11:00 AM AEDT/AEST on the second Tuesday of each month.

If you would like to be invited to the seminars, please register for the events at:

<https://ccemmp.org/news/ccemmp-seminar-series/>

CALL for CONTENT

We want your contributions and suggestions for content to include in future issues of the EMCR newsletter! Anything that you are proud of or think the EMCR community should know about will be welcome, including:



Images for
the front
cover



Researcher
interviews



Grants and
funding



Awards



Publications



Feedback
on events



Content relating to any and all other groups/societies
and associations that would interest EMCRs e.g. HRM

Send your content, suggestions or feedback to:



pharm-emcr-committee@monash.edu

or tag us on social media:



@EMCR_MIPS



MIPS EMCR GROUP