

Canberra Protein Group: an ASBMB Special Interest Group

The Canberra Protein Group (CPG) was established in June 2017 and has since been recognised as a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the ASBMB. The goal of the CPG is to promote research in all areas of protein science across the ACT, and to provide a platform for discussion between researchers and facilitate the establishment of new collaborations and networking opportunities. In particular, the CPG has a focus on providing opportunities for early- to mid-career researchers (EMCRs) and graduate students to communicate their research.



Since 2017, the CPG was holding regular monthly meetings with attendances of over 50 researchers, and saw three short talks from researchers, an announcements section and an open discussion session at the end. Unfortunately, COVID and shutdown periods (both at the university and state level) saw a reduction in our capacity to function. One highlight from this time was the competition for designing the CPG logo, and we would like to congratulate Joe Kaczmarek, who had

the winning design! After a short hiatus, we are back to running a dual-format (online and in-person) monthly meeting with a total of approximately 180 members on our mailing list, and after the establishment of our new CPG Executive Committee for 2022, we are looking to see our community return to its previous form.

One of the major changes for 2022 has been Simon Williams (co-founder of the CPG along with Matt Johnson) stepping down as the Chairperson, and we thank him for his contributions to the protein community in ACT. Megan Outram has been elected as Chairperson, and Sacha Pulsford and Stephen Fairweather have been welcomed onto the Committee. Rebecca Frkic, Matt Mortimer and Xiaoxiao Zhang have continued their contribution to the Committee. We started off the year strong with great talks from a new ANU group leader, Kai Chan, and Honours student Nick East. We have an exciting line up for the next few months, including speakers from the ANU Mass Spectrophotometry facility and Centre for Advanced Microscopy.

We recently held the annual CPG Symposium. Three PhD students, Sacha Pulsford, Cassidy Whitefield and Carl McCombe, were selected to present their research, with the best talk awardee having the opportunity to represent the CPG with a SIG talk at ComBio2022. An independent panel of six judges had the difficult task of selecting the awardee. Carl, whose work focuses on fungal nudix hydrolases, was judged to be the winner and was also the People's Choice Winner.



Carl McCombe.

We would love more Canberra-based protein researchers join us. For more information, visit our website: canberraproteingroup.wordpress.com and join our mailing list. Follow us on Twitter: [@CanberraProteinGroup](https://twitter.com/CanberraProteinGroup).

Megan Outram
Chairperson
Canberra Protein Group
Email megan.outram@csiro.au



CPG Symposium participants.