

Perth Protein Group: an ASBMB Special Interest Group

The Perth Protein Group (PPG) is now in its fifth year. In 2023, the Executive Committee for the PPG was Mark Agostino (Chairperson), Joel Haywood (Treasurer), Tahlia Bastholm (Secretary) and Josh Mylne (Webmaster). There were also four Events Officers, Aleshanee Paxman, Andrew Marshall, Brady Johnston and Farley Kwok van der Giezen. We held our 2023 AGM at the University of Western Australia Albany campus. Albany is a port city about 400 km south of Perth with a population of approximately 35,000. A popular stop off on the way was the Williams Woolshed providing a welcome respite from the long journey south and a crucial EV charging point. We stuck to the format of our first AGM, similar to the long-running and successful SPG/QPG East Coast Protein Meeting. Most delegates arrived on the Friday afternoon 3 November, and we opened proceedings with



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Delegates at the 2023 Perth Protein Group AGM at the University of Western Australia campus in Albany.

a keynote session by Dr Gavin Knott, titled Harnessing Microbial Dark Matter for Biotechnology. This was followed by a session of four more talks, before drinks and then dinner. Saturday included seven talks, starting with Professor Phoebe Rice from the University of Chicago and an industry session held by our sponsor, Cytiva. The program included sessions entitled Biological Chemistry, Biochemistry and Chemical Biology. The day ended with a poster session and the conference social at Due South in town. On the Sunday, we had one last session that showcased four early- and mid-career research talks. The day was closed out by awarding some prizes. There

were two winners, each taking home a \$200 prize: Anna Faber (Best Student Talk) and Brady Johnston (Best EMCR Talk), both sponsored by Cytiva.

Registration remained at the very low rate of \$60 for the early birds. We plan to continue using university campuses that are ideal for small conferences, provide a getaway and are usually very affordable. The venue for PPG 2024 is yet to be decided but will likely be at a Perth campus, with remote campus retreats occurring biannually.

Our most recent event was a special presentation by Professor Pavel Pevzner from UCSD, USA, titled Computational Natural Products Discovery: From Peptidogenomics to Genome Mining to Spectral Networks, held at the University of Western Australia on 24 March 2023. More recently, we have begun a monthly newsletter dedicated to showcasing the outstanding research publications of EMCRs and group leaders within our community. The primary goal of this newsletter is to cultivate collaborative efforts among our members and establish connections before our annual general meeting. Our database contains 170 current members. To be added to our database and kept up to date on PPG activities, email us at the address below.

**Joel Haywood, Curtin University
Chairperson, Perth Protein Group
Email perthproteins@gmail.com
Website <https://www.perthproteins.org>**



PPG members showcased since the PPG newsletter began in January 2024.

Top (from left): Amr Arishi (Chemical Science), Lois Balmer (PNAS Nexus and BMC Public Health), Brendan Chapman (Forensic Science International), Catherine Colas des Francs-Small (Plant Physiology), Melissa Eccles (FASEB) and Anna Faber (FEBS Journal).

Bottom (from left): Adam King (Journal of Chromatography A), Kim Melville and Muhammed Kamran (Current Biology), Georg Fritz (BioDesign Research), Sneha-Priya Pappula-Reddy (Environmental and Experimental Botany) and Chunbin Zhou (Non-coding RNA Research).