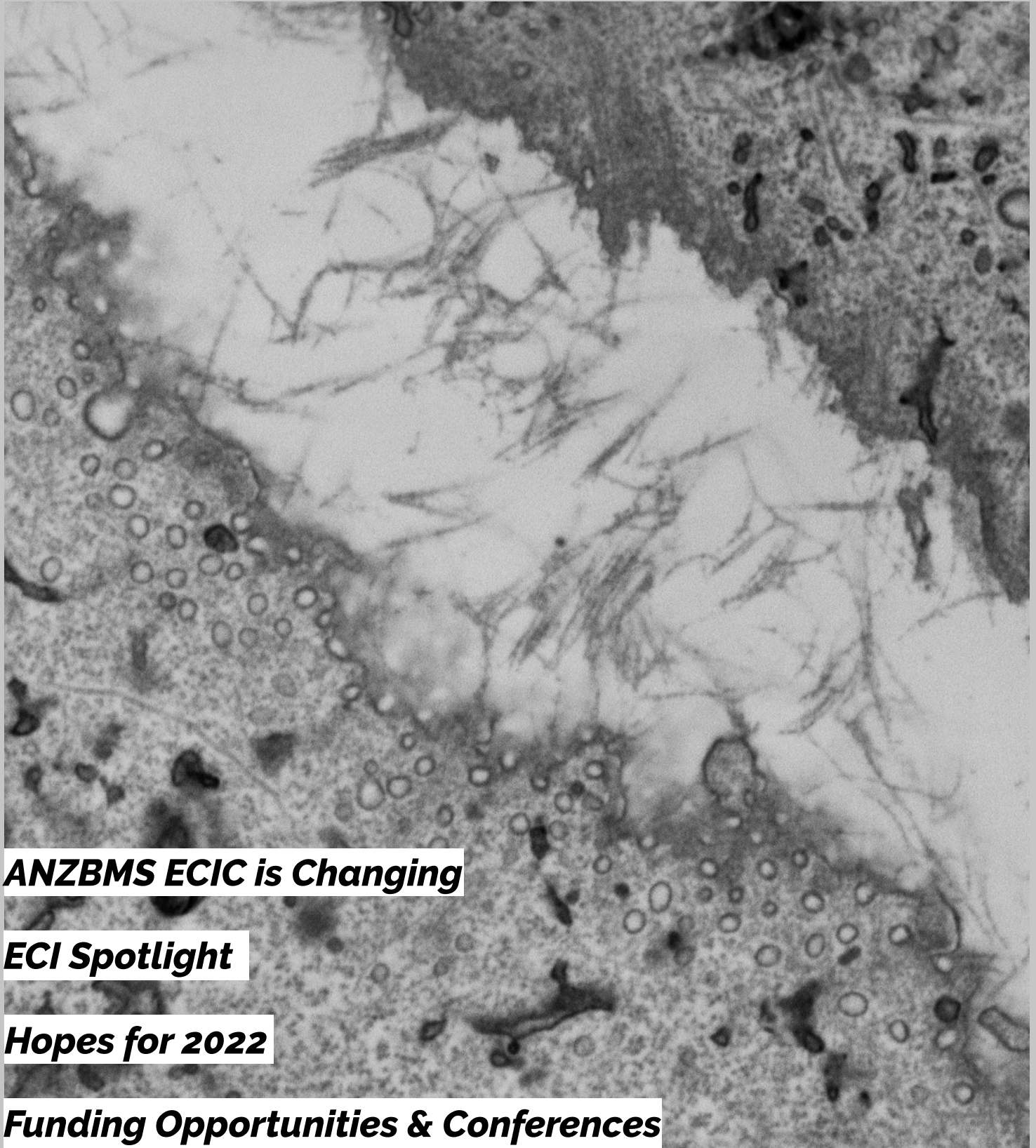


# EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR Newsletter



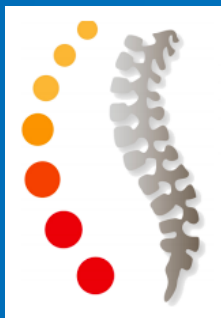
***ANZBMS ECIC is Changing***

***ECI Spotlight***

***Hopes for 2022***

***Funding Opportunities & Conferences***

Cover Image: Differentiating osteoblasts under electron microscopy.  
Image taken by Kai Chen, Research Associate at the School of Molecular Sciences,  
University of Western Australia, Perth.



## In this issue

- ECIC Co-Chairs Report (2)
- The ECIC & Editorial Board are changing (3)
- ECI Spotlight (4)
- Hopes for 2022 (5-6)
- ANZBMS ECIC 2022 Initiatives (7)
- ANZBMS ECI Awards (8)
- Upcoming Conferences (9-10)
- Funding Opportunities (11-12)

*ECIs please send us your scientific images - the best will feature on the front page of our next issue.*

 [ecinewsletter@anzbms.org.au](mailto:ecinewsletter@anzbms.org.au)

 [@anzbms\\_ecic](https://twitter.com/anzbms_ecic)

**Editor in Chief: Dr. Alex Barker**  
**Copy Editors: Dr. Emma Buckels & Behnaz Azimi Manavi**

## Editorial Board



**Dr. Alex Barker**



**Mei Lin Tay**



**Jakub Mesinovic**



**Laura Trainor**



**Dr. Shanal Kumar**



**Dr. Emma Buckels**



**Amy Ribet**



**Behnaz Azimi Manavi**



**Dr. Madhuni Herath**

## ECIC Co-Chairs Report

Welcome to the first ECI Newsletter for 2022. We hope you have enjoyed a well-deserved holiday and are returning to work with renewed energy and motivation. We are cautiously optimistic that Australia has reached the peak of the Omicron outbreak and that our ECIs will experience a year that is free of pandemic-related disruptions. The possibility of resuming in-person scientific meetings this year is extremely exciting, as is the prospect of catching up with colleagues at this year's Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM).

The ECIC has been preparing for the busy year ahead. **Bridie Mulholland has recently been elected as our new co-chair.** Bridie takes over from Melissa Cantley who has been an exceptional leader over the past two years and to whom we are incredibly grateful. We have also assigned **new subcommittee leads:** Alex Barker (Communications), Niloufar Ansari (Events), Emma Buckels (Career Development) and Albert Kim (Clinical). We would also like to welcome a **new ECIC member**, Pamela Rufus-Membere, who will be taking over from Scott Youtlen.

A key aim of the ECIC is to implement initiatives that improve track records and elevate profiles of ECIs. In line with this, we are proud to announce a new initiative wherein **ASBMR and ANZBMS will be trialling a reciprocal young investigator award program called the Bridging Overseas Networking and Exchange (B.O.N.E) program, to support one individual to attend and present at each organisation's ASM.** We would like to thank members of the ECIC and ANZBMS council for getting this over the line, and we strongly encourage our ECIs to make the most of this exciting opportunity. The ECIC is also committed to celebrating the achievements of our members and we would like to congratulate Ayse Zengin for delivering an outstanding talk for the joint **ECTS Academy/ANZBMS ECIC webinar series;** and Marc Sim for being selected to present at the Bone Research Society Annual Meeting in the UK, as part of the B.O.N.E program.

Finally, the ECIC will continue to provide opportunities to meet senior members through our **virtual coffee catchups**, and as part of our commitment to improve ECI grant success, we will be launching the second iteration of our Fellowship Coaching Program in May. We are also planning a series of **networking, social, clinical and career development events that will take place at this year's ASM.** Be sure to follow our ECIC Twitter account where information regarding the many exciting initiatives mentioned here will be announced.

Wishing you a happy and productive 2022.



Dr. Bridie Mulholland & Dr. John Kemp

**ANZBMS ECIC Co-Chairs**



# The ECIC & Editorial Board are Changing!



**Dr. Bridie Mulholland:** I am at the beginning of my career, having finished up my PhD in July of 2021. I am currently based in the Australian Health Services Research Institute at the University of Wollongong. During my PhD I was involved in basic bone biology research, but I have since made a leap over to clinical research. I now work on large population based studies (think big data) that aim to improve health outcomes and inform health service planning - I focus on how bone health is managed in the healthcare system. ECIC's are such a critical tool in developing the skills of ECIs and are especially important as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. As an ECI myself, I am passionate about ensuring ECIs have the necessary tools to excel in their careers - being part of the ECIC allows me to stay engaged with other ECIs, and improve and expand the support available to them.

**Dr. Pamela Rufus-Membere:** I am a postdoctoral research fellow at the Institute for Mental and Physical Health and Clinical Translation, Deakin University. I am an emerging leader in the field of osteoporosis assessment and fracture prevention. Specifically, I am part of a team pioneering the sub-field of bone impact microindentation technology in Australia. My goal is to augment my research capacity through gaining more knowledge, training and expanding my resource base. Being a part of the ECI Committee gives me an opportunity to work closely with a team which informs and supports research development in early career researchers, while also contributing my knowledge and expertise to the collective goals of the ECIC. Further, networks thus forged may create exciting opportunities for future collaborations to answer bigger research questions, which could ultimately progress the field.



**Dr. Madhuni Herath:** I am an endocrinologist in the first year of my PhD through the Hudson Institute of Medical Research and Monash University. My research is focused on optimising the management of osteoporosis in younger adults. As an ECI I have found the ANZBMS ECI Newsletter extremely helpful - it has helped me stay up-to-date regarding the any creative initiatives organised by the ECIC as well as other opportunities available to ECIs. As the new copy-editor of the ECI newsletter I look forward to working with other ECIs to keep the content interesting and relevant.

**Dr. Melissa Cantley:** It has been an honour to be Co-Chair of the ANZBMS ECIC over the last two years. The ECIC is a motivated and hard-working group that provides valuable opportunities and initiatives for ECIs within the society to develop and progress their careers. My advice to ECIs would be to make the most of these opportunities to gain new skills and experiences and meet others. I look forward to seeing the ECIC continue to succeed and to develop new and exciting initiatives for ECIs.



**Dr. Emma Buckels:** I had only just begun my bone research journey when I joined the newsletter editorial board. Working alongside other ECIs in an informal setting was a lovely way to meet some of my peers and the more senior researchers in the broader ANZBMS society. Becoming a copy editor also gave me an outlet for my detail-oriented tendencies and a creative outlet to make things visually look good on the page. I now step away from the newsletter editorial board with many happy memories and having contributed to 8 editions of this great newsletter. I'm looking forward to reading many more editions in the future.

**Ms. Amy Ribet:** As a member of this newsletter's editorial board, I have enjoyed connecting with ECI members and bringing them the latest updates on ECI achievements, awards and funding opportunities. I leave the editorial board having made many new connections with fellow researchers that I hope I will get the chance to meet face to face at this year's ASM. I look forward to discovering the next issues of this newsletter beyond my departure as I know it is in capable hands.





# Dr Albert Kim

Research Officer

Endocrinologist and PhD Candidate

Bone Biology Laboratory

Garvan Institute of Medical Research

*ANZBMS ECIC Clinical Subcommittee Lead*



### **Can you briefly describe what your research is about?**

Using a bench-to-bedside approach, the long-term goal of my project is to improve the management of osteoporosis over a lifetime. Our lab at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research have recently uncovered a novel process via which osteoclasts 'recycle' and with this knowledge, I am looking at how osteoclasts behave under the influence of different osteoporosis therapies.

### **What was your highlight of the ANZBMS ASM in 2021?**

Having a joint meeting with the Endocrine Society of Australia for the 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting meant that I was able to indulge my clinical interests in Endocrinology and learn so much about the amazing musculoskeletal research happening around Australia and New Zealand. There were so many great sessions but if I had to choose one, I found the ESA/ANZBMS Symposium on Transgender Health very impactful and informative. I felt very proud to be part of a society that values and promotes diversity and I think having representation at a national forum was a powerful experience for everyone involved..

### **What advice do you have for other ECIs in getting the most out of conferences?**

Look at the program and the abstract book ahead of time to plan which sessions you'd like to attend and find people whose work and interest line up with yours. The poster sessions are great places to have a quick chat to find out what people are up to and ask questions about their work.

I would highly encourage attending the social events. This is a great way to network and engage with other delegates in a fun setting. Also, seek out and get to know your fellow ECIs to gain insight into the research that's happening and can lead to introductions to senior researchers.

### **What are your goals for the future?**

In the short term, I'll be focusing on my PhD and generating exciting data to share. I've recently completed my training as an Endocrinologist so I am very excited to further develop my clinical career. Longer term, I want to establish a long and fruitful career as a clinician-scientist as many of my inspiring mentors have done before me.

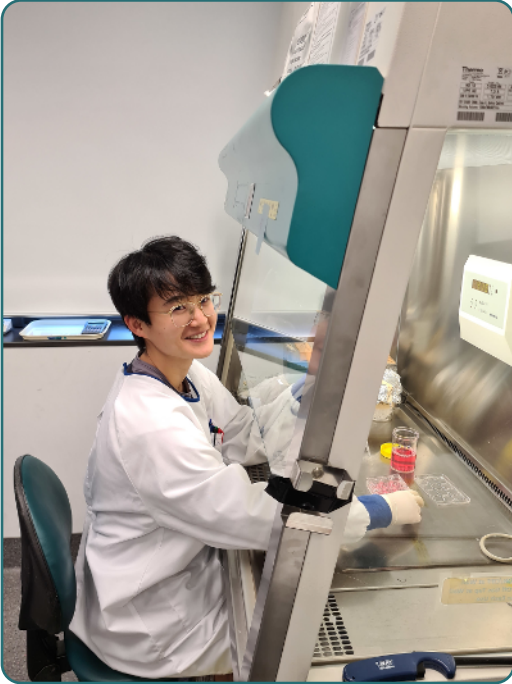


@AlbertEndoc



## Hopes for 2022

We asked ECIs what they are looking forward to the most in 2022, at both career and personal levels.



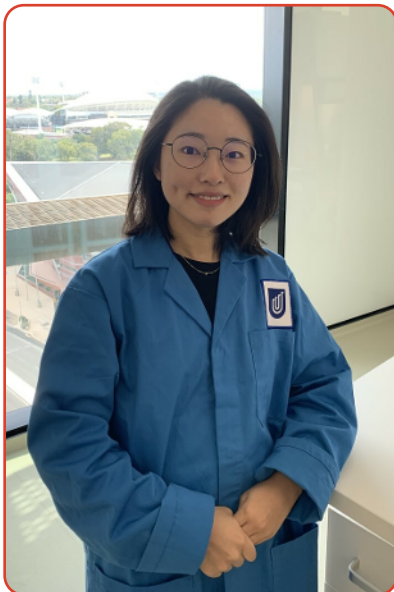
I want to present at international conferences **IN PERSON** and finish all my experiments for my PhD in 2022!

**Ms. Ye Cao**  
University of Auckland.



In 2022, I am looking forward to being a dad for the second time 🥰 and learning ice skating 🥰. Beside that I really look forward to publishing my papers and applying for a NIH grant 🙌🙌.

**Dr. Yaser Peymanfar**  
The Forsyth Institute, Harvard Medical School.



I am very optimistic and hopeful that in 2022 we can start to breathe normally without wearing a mask and traveling more, both for holidays and work-related (it would be great if I have an opportunity to go to an overseas conference sometime this year!). On a personal level, I am most looking forward to finishing up my PhD journey and visiting family overseas.

**Ms. Olivia Lee**  
University of South Australia.

I am looking forward to face-to-face conferences returning and getting to finally meet the amazing members of the ANZBMS ECIC that I have been working with over the last couple of years. It will be great to interact, socialise and talk all things bone and science in person again.

**Dr. Melissa Cantley**  
The University of Adelaide.





# Hopes for 2022



**In 2022, I aspire to have an improved grant success and leadership acumen, connect more with relevant people and networks, and enhance my overall sense of achievement.**

**Dr. Pamela Rufus-Membere**  
Deakin University.



**I'm looking forward to travelling internationally again and sharing my love of the outdoors with my baby!**

**Dr. Madhuni Herath**  
Hudson Institute of Medical Research and Monash University.



**In 2022, I aim to publish four first-author publications. I am also looking forward to my and my partner's small business continuing to succeed (despite all the pandemic is throwing at us) and getting to see my friends for coffee/brunch/dinner again.**

Pictured: PhD students/postdocs of the UoA bone lab out for dinner.

**Dr. Emma Buckels**  
The University of Auckland.



**Academia consumed me during 2021. I set up an independent research group, diversified my research interests and drove strategic research projects that will hopefully increase my future chances of fellowship success. My goal for the latter half of 2022 is to regain my work life balance and spend more time with my family.**

**Dr. John Kemp**  
The University of Queensland.



# ANZBMS ECIC 2022 Initiatives

## ECIC Coffee Catch-ups in 2022:

The Coffee Catch-ups are an opportunity for ECIs to hear advice on particular topics that are often challenging in early career research. ECIs are encouraged to ask questions and interact directly with invited speakers and each other in an informal virtual setting.

In 2022, the ECIC plans to cover topics including, **collaboration with industry**, research jobs **outside academia** & maintaining society connections, and small/philanthropic **grants**

*Click the flyer to register for the March Coffee-Catch up*

**Virtual  
Coffee Catch-up**

Please join us for our next Virtual Coffee-Catch up

*EMCR's perspectives into securing funding for bone research*



Friday March 25th 10.00 - 11.00am (AEDT)



A/Prof. Michelle McDonald  
Garvan Institute of Medical Research



Dr. Melissa Cantley  
South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute

Please register in advance: <https://forms.gle/epfpMefyDXGPqmwZ7>  
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the virtual catch-up.  
Contact us on Twitter or email us questions you would like answered.

 [ecic@anzbms.org.au](mailto:ecic@anzbms.org.au) [@ANZBMS\\_ECIC](https://twitter.com/ANZBMS_ECIC)  
[#ANZBMSCoffeeCatchups](https://twitter.com/ANZBMS_ECIC)

## ECI Networking events for ANZBMS/MEPSA/ANZORS 2022 meeting

Date: Monday 1st August 7.30pm – 10pm

*Stay tuned for more info!*

# ANZBMS - MEPSA - ANZORS 2022

## SAVE THE DATE 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

### Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre

Combined Scientific Meetings of the Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society, The Molecular and Experimental Pathology Society of Australasia & The Australian and New Zealand Orthopaedic Research Society.

[www.anzbms-mepsa-anzors.org](http://www.anzbms-mepsa-anzors.org)





## ANZBMS ECI Awards

**Congratulations to the following ECIs on their amazing achievements:**



### **2022 ASBMR John Haddad Young Investigator Award Recipient**

**Dr. Natalie Wee**

St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research



### **Suzette Gately & Arthritis Foundation of Australia Grant Recipient**

**Dr. Feng Pan**

University of Tasmania - Menzies Institute for Medical Res



### **Arthritis SA & Arthritis Foundation of Australia Grant Recipient**

**Dr. Julia Kuliwaba**

University of Adelaide - Discipline of Orthopaedics & Trauma



### **Arthritis WA & Arthritis Foundation of Australia Recipient**

**Dr. Kai Chen**

University of Western Australia - School of Molecular Sciences



### **Bone Health Foundation Grant Recipient**

**Dr. Alex Barker**

University of South Australia



### **Bone Health Foundation Grant Recipient**

**Dr. Dzenita Muratovic**

University of Adelaide



### **Bone Health Foundation Grant Recipient**

**Ms. Yea Rin (Olivia) Lee**

University of South Australia

***ECIs, if you have received any awards or funding, please email us at [ecinewsletter@anzbms.org.au](mailto:ecinewsletter@anzbms.org.au).***

***We would love to share and celebrate your success!***



# Upcoming Conferences

## Major Conferences 2022



**WCO-IOF-ESCEO**  
**24-26 March 2022**  
Virtual congress



**ECTS Congress**  
**7-10 May 2022**  
Helsinki, Finland



**Bone Research Society ASM**  
**6-8 July 2022**  
Manchester, England



**Australian and New Zealand Society  
for Sarcopenia and Frailty Research**  
2022 ANNUAL MEETING • HYBRID • 7-9 JULY

**ANZSSFR ASM**  
**7-9 July 2022**  
Brisbane, Australia



**JSBMR ASM**  
**22-23 July 2022**  
Gifu, Japan



**ANZBMS MEPSA**



**ANZBMS-MEPSA-ANZORS**  
**1 - 4 August 2022**  
Gold Coast, Australia



# Upcoming Conferences

## Major Conferences 2022



**ICORS Congress**  
**7-9 September 2022**  
Edinburgh, Scotland



**Queenstown Research Week**  
**29 August - 1 September 2022**  
Queenstown, New Zealand



**ASBMR ASM**  
**9-12 September 2022**  
Austin, Texas, USA



**Vitamin D Workshop**  
**7-9 September 2022**  
Austin, Texas, USA



**BMA2022 Meeting**  
**28-30 September 2022**  
Athens, Greece



**Combined Annual Scientific Meeting**  
30 Oct - 3 Nov 2022 | Christchurch, New Zealand  
**Togetherness | Diversity | Sustainability**  
[www.aoa.org.au/events/key-aoa-events](http://www.aoa.org.au/events/key-aoa-events)



**NZOA & AOA Combined ASM**  
**30 October - 3 November 2022**  
Christchurch, New Zealand



# Funding Opportunities

Grant/fellowship name	Application period	Website
<b><i>ANZBMS &amp; Bone Health Foundation: Research Grants-in-Aid</i></b>	Open now until 12th March 2022	<a href="https://www.anzbms.org.au/award-anzbms-bone-health-foundation-grant.asp">https://www.anzbms.org.au/award-anzbms-bone-health-foundation-grant.asp</a>
<b><i>Health Research Council - Health Delivery Research Activation Grant, Health Delivery Research Career Development Award Emerging Researcher First Grants (NZ)</i></b>	16th Feb - 16th March 2022 (EOI) 6th April 2022 (Full)	<a href="https://gateway.hrc.govt.nz/funding/funding-calendar">https://gateway.hrc.govt.nz/funding/funding-calendar</a>
<b><i>Ian Potter Foundation</i></b>	14th March - 7th April 2022 & 6th June - 24th June 2022	<a href="https://www.ianpotter.org.au/funding-rounds/">https://www.ianpotter.org.au/funding-rounds/</a>
<b><i>Cancer Council Postdoctoral Fellowships</i></b>	1st Feb - 8th April 2022	<a href="https://www.cancervic.org.au/research/grants/postdoc_fellowships%20">https://www.cancervic.org.au/research/grants/postdoc_fellowships%20</a>
<b><i>Heart Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowships</i></b>	28th Feb - 8th April 2022	<a href="https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/research/Postdoctoral-Fellowship">https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/research/Postdoctoral-Fellowship</a>
<b><i>Royal Society Te Apārangi: Catalyst Fund: Leaders (NZ)</i></b>	Open now until 14th April 2022	<a href="https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/catalyst-fund/catalyst-leaders/current-open-call/">https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/catalyst-fund/catalyst-leaders/current-open-call/</a>
<b><i>Royal Society Te Apārangi: Rutherford Discovery Fellowship (NZ)</i></b>	3rd March - 29th April 2022	<a href="https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/rutherford-discovery-fellowships/apply-for-rutherford-discovery-fellowships/">https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/rutherford-discovery-fellowships/apply-for-rutherford-discovery-fellowships/</a>
<b><i>Heart Foundation Future Leader Fellowships</i></b>	21st March - 29th April 2022	<a href="https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/research/Future-Leader-Fellowship">https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/research/Future-Leader-Fellowship</a>
<b><i>Heart Foundation Vanguard Grants</i></b>	28th March - 6th May 2022	<a href="https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/research/Vanguard-Grants">https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/research/Vanguard-Grants</a>



# Funding Opportunities

Grant/fellowship name	Application period	Website
<b>Heart Foundation PhD Scholarships</b>	28th March - 6th May 2022	<a href="https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/research/PhD-Scholarship">https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/research/PhD-Scholarship</a>
<b>NHMRC PhD Scholarships</b>	13th April - 8th June 2022	<a href="https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/find-funding/postgraduate-scholarships">https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/find-funding/postgraduate-scholarships</a>
<b>NHMRC Development Grants</b>	20th April - 15th June 2022	<a href="https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/find-funding/development-grants">https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/find-funding/development-grants</a>
<b>MRFF Early to Mid-Career Research Grants</b>	21st Dec 2021 - 13th July 2022	<a href="https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/find-funding/mrff-2021-early-mid-career-researchers-grant">https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/find-funding/mrff-2021-early-mid-career-researchers-grant</a>
<b>HRC 2023 Project Grants (NZ)</b>	Est. June - July 2022 (EOI) & October - November 2022 (Full)	<a href="https://gateway.hrc.govt.nz/funding/researcher-initiated-proposals">https://gateway.hrc.govt.nz/funding/researcher-initiated-proposals</a>
<b>Lottery Health Research Fund - (translational research projects, equipment, postdoctoral fellowships, and PhD scholarships) (NZ)</b>	6th July - 31st Aug 2022	<a href="https://communitymatters.govt.nz/lottery-health-research">https://communitymatters.govt.nz/lottery-health-research</a>
<b>Cure Kids Project Grants</b>	Est. August 2022	<a href="https://grantshelp.curekids.org.nz/index.php?src=65531#428-en">https://grantshelp.curekids.org.nz/index.php?src=65531#428-en</a>
<b>HRC 2023 Emerging Researcher First Grants (NZ)</b>	Est. August - October 2022 (Full)	<a href="https://gateway.hrc.govt.nz/funding/researcher-initiated">https://gateway.hrc.govt.nz/funding/researcher-initiated</a>
<b>Snow Fellowships</b>	15th Feb - Sep 2022	<a href="https://snowmedical.org.au/snow-fellowship/">https://snowmedical.org.au/snow-fellowship/</a>
<b>Royal Society Te Apārangi Marsden Fund Fast-Start Grant and Standard Grant (NZ)</b>	Dec 2022 - Feb 2023	<a href="https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden/">https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden/</a>

# ANZBMS-MEPSA-ANZORS 2022



**SAVE THE DATE 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre**

Combined Scientific Meetings of the Australian and New Zealand  
Bone and Mineral Society, The Molecular and Experimental  
Pathology Society of Australasia & The Australian and  
New Zealand Orthopaedic Research Society.

Abstract Submission Deadline: **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

Earlybird Registration Deadline: **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

[www.anzbms-mepsa-anzors.org](http://www.anzbms-mepsa-anzors.org)



**MEPSA**





WE WANT  
YOU!

Early career investigators of ANZBMS:

**we want to share and celebrate  
your wins!**

We are on the lookout for early-career ANZBMS members who have celebrated a success to be highlighted in our ECI Spotlight section in upcoming editions of this newsletter.

We would also love to highlight your beautiful research-related images on our newsletter cover.

If you know of someone or want to self-nominate for an ECI Spotlight or cover art, please email us at **[ecinewsletter@anzbms.org.au](mailto:ecinewsletter@anzbms.org.au)**, or tag us on Twitter (**[@anzbms\\_ecic](https://twitter.com/anzbms_ecic)**).