



AUCKLAND MEDICAL HISTORY SOCIETY

2025 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Founders' Lecture on Wednesday 5 November 2025

This year's Founders' Lecture will be given by paediatrician Professor Stuart Dalziel on the history of the Auckland Steroid study.

Annual General Meeting

The Founders' Lecture will be followed by the Annual General Meeting. It is very important that as many people as possible stay for the AGM. The AGM will include the election of a new President and Executive Committee.

Programme 2025.

The AMHS has run another successful programme this year. This year our meetings were held on Wednesday evenings, the idea being to avoid regular clashes with other events on Thursdays. The year got off to a good start in March when we had two excellent lectures: one from Iain Wakefield on Dr Philson and the other by Ali Mirajalili from the Anatomy Department on Vesalius. In May, the Professor of Ophthalmology, Charles McGhee delivered an outstanding lecture on the history of cataract surgery and Shilpan Patel, Senior Neurology Registrar, Auckland Hospital, gave an excellent lecture on the history of nitrous oxide and its abuse. Shilpan has led the effort to bring the problem of nitrous oxide abuse to the attention of health authorities and the general public. In July the meeting was held in the auditorium in the Clinical Education Centre, where we benefited from the superior audiovisual system at that venue. The evening started with Robert Bartholomew's fascinating lecture on the Havana Syndrome. He was followed by two short but informative presentations by third year medical students from Jessica Parr's medical history course in the Medical Humanities Programme. Sudikshya Parajuli gave an excellent account on the history of anaesthesia. She was followed by Charlotte Turuki's outstanding talk on the history of ketogenic diet. Once again, special thanks to Jessica Parr for arranging these lectures which have been consistently among the best each year. In September the AMHS organised a special screening of *The Doctor's Wife*, a documentary featuring Hazel and Alan Kerr. The Kerrs were able to attend the event along with the film's director, Paula Whetu-Jones. This was the best attended meeting of the year. At the last meeting, Professor Cindy Farquhar gave an excellent lecture on the history of New Zealand's women doctors to introduce her book on the same topic. At the same meeting Professor Bruce Arroll gave another excellent lecture on the history of penicillin and two St. Kentigern's College students presented the results of their research on a topic related to medical history: Hannah Anderson on Maurice Wilkins and James Wang on Maui Pomare. Special thanks to their teacher, Biliana Kostova, for arranging this.

Programme 2026

David Black is organising the programme for next year. We are very dependent on members' suggestions for speakers. If you would like to present a lecture yourself, or know of someone else who would be an appropriate speaker, please contact David via:

secretary@amhs.co.nz



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Website

This is an important reminder to regularly consult the AMHS website for all information about the Society's activities including the programme.

Donations

This year Peter Stone made an extraordinarily generous donation of over \$5,000 to the AMHS. Peter's donation will be invested as part of the AMHS's Endowment Fund with the University of Auckland's Medical and Health Sciences Foundation (see below). **THANK YOU VERY MUCH, PETER.**

We have not been charging an annual subscription, but the Society relies on donations to keep the programme running. Please remember to make donations, either at the meetings or on-line. (Details on the website.)

Financial

This year I signed an Endowment Donation Agreement with the University of Auckland Medical and Health Sciences Foundation and the University of Auckland. This donation is largely comprised of the **Newman Fund**, the **Gluckman Fund** and Peter Stone's generous donation (see above). The Endowment Fund will be known as the **Auckland Medical History Society Endowment Fund**. Income from the Endowment Fund will be used to support our activities related to medical history. The timing of the gift means that the first distribution will probably be made in 2027, but the AMHS has a small residual fund to finance operations up until the first distribution is available.

Peter Stone has played a key role in arranging this Endowment Donation with the University. The AMHS is also very grateful to the Dean, Professor Warwick Bagg, and Paul Cunningham of the Foundation, for their support.

Copyright Breach

In July the AMHS was informed by PicRights Australia acting on behalf of Reuters, that there had been a breach of copyright by AMHS. This was a 3rd party breach of which AMHS has no control, where one image from a student's archived presentation two years ago, breached copyright regulations. We acted immediately removing the offending slide; links to website Archives were disabled and the Privacy Statement & the website Terms of Use updated to ensure that all AMHS website users including speakers, know the importance of compliance with statutory regulations. After several exchanges of correspondence between PicRights and the Society President, PicRights agreed to waive the financial penalty and close the case. Archives held on the website are now password protected; selected information may be available on request to the AMHS Executive or the Ernest & Marion Davis Library. Enquiries: EMDavisLib@adhb.govt.nz

Executive Committee

I want to thank all the members of the committee for their contributions to the management of the AMHS: Neil Pollock, Benson Chen, David Black, Jocelyn Peach and Tony Mark. Neil Pollock has continued to serve us well as the Secretary, but this year he handed the responsibility of Treasurer to one of our new committee members, Benson Chen. Benson has



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been extremely helpful in this role. David Black succeeded Peter Stone as the organiser of our lecture programme. **Please contact David with suggestions for lectures for 2026** via: secretary@amhs.co.nz.

Judy Murphy and Helen Taber stepped down from the committee at the end of last year, but they both have continued to contribute as ex officio members of the committee. Judy Murphy continues to supervise the website and communications, and Jocelyn, Helen and Judy have been mainly responsible for running our bimonthly meetings. Peter Stone also stepped down from the committee last year, but he has continued to help by liaising with the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science and the University of Auckland Medical and Health Sciences Foundation.

Curator

Last year the role of Curator of the Ernest and Marion Davis Library was taken over by Claire Freeman. Claire has been assisted by Victoria Bell, whose principal responsibility is the library, and Celia Walker. They have continued to help the AMHS in many ways. The historical library collection is not used anywhere near as much as it should be; remember the books are available for borrowing. Enquiries: EMDavisLib@adhb.govt.nz

Michael Boyle.

I want to make a special point of thanking Michael Boyle for helping to organise our meetings in the Ernest and Marion Davis Library. He has done this cheerfully and energetically. He is a major factor in the successful operation of the AMHS

I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 5 November.

Neil Anderson

President AMHS

E: NeilA@adhb.govt.nz

1 November 2025