

Meet our New Members

Auckland Anatomical Pathologist who reels them in.

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It is seven months now since I gained my fellowship in Anatomical Pathology and joined the team at LabPlus, Auckland. Pathology certainly wasn't on the top of my list of career choices when I finished medical school. I enjoyed the subject, but was not aware of it as a discipline outside of medical school tutorials. I initially wanted to be a paediatrician, but that desire quickly vaporized when I started work in paediatrics. I didn't like paediatric resuscitations, and I certainly didn't want to spend my life being on call. While I was casting around for options my husband suggested pathology, and to their credit Palmerston North Medlab took me on board.

I spent three of my training years in Palmerston North, and successfully completed Part 1 from there. The nature of the lab, being relatively small and intimate with constant one to one consultant teaching provided an excellent grounding in the approach to pathology. I think this was particularly beneficial for me as it took a while for me to feel like I understood the slides enough to see the wood for the trees.

Subsequently we moved to Auckland to finish training and have been settled here for almost 3 years. Both of us enjoy Auckland, both for the work and lifestyle opportunities. I have really only started to explore the lifestyle part of life of course, having only just had one year of sweet freedom from study and exams. We've bought a boat and spend our weekends with decent weather on the water beside Kauwau Island (about 1 1/2 hours north of Auckland), then come home to eat fresh fish and dream of a bigger boat and island bach!! The included photo is from our recent trip to the Solomon Islands (where my parents live) where we combined a family holiday with a fly-fishing trip to Marovo Lagoon. The fish is Mahi-Mahi, and has the dubious distinction of probably being the first caught on fly in the Solomons, and my largest fish to date.

At work my interests include gastrointestinal pathology, working alongside Kai Chau at LabPlus. This is a large area, with a lot of upper as well as lower GI surgery in Auckland. I also coordinated a New Zealand wide registrar weekend (with Irene Low of Middlemore) earlier in the year, which was very successful thanks to the efforts of our contributing consultants. The idea arose out of long pre-Part 2 study break discussions during which we lamented the demise of the Monash course in Australia.

Ian and I are currently awaiting the arrival of our first child, due in November, and I am gradually winding down and starting to focus more on other matters. I've booked a year off work, and am looking forward to the break and change of pace. I envision a year of lazy brunches, gardening, concrete sculpture, and the odd tropical fishing holiday, although some have tried to tell me that it is really all about sleepless nights, nappies and baby poo. **I guess we shall see!**