

## LENScience Senior Biology Seminar Series

### Student Update Number 5– 25th May, 2010

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#### Welcome to new schools

Welcome to Logan Park High School and Otago Girls' High School who've just joined us in the seminar series. We look forward to seeing your contributions.

#### Seminar 3: What's happening this week?

This week you need to have a go at answering the challenge questions (found in the [Using Animal Models to Understand Aging Discussion Paper](#)). Hopefully your teacher will run a post-seminar workshop where you can discuss these questions and share your ideas. Remember it's by attempting these challenge questions and then getting feedback on your answers that helps to give you the best preparation for Merit, Excellence and Scholarship. If there are things you still don't understand then post a question onto our [Animal Models and Aging Discussion](#) page. Michal and Sarah will be checking the wiki and responding to your discussion

If you're not feeling very confident about the challenge questions then how about getting together with some other students from your school and posting a combined answer to one of the challenge questions onto the wiki?

There seems to be a bit of a competition going between Himanshu from Dilworth School and Richard from Sacred Heart in the answers to the challenge questions. If you haven't seen their answers go and have a look on the discussion pages. But I'm sure there are lots of other students out there who can challenge these two—so give it a go!

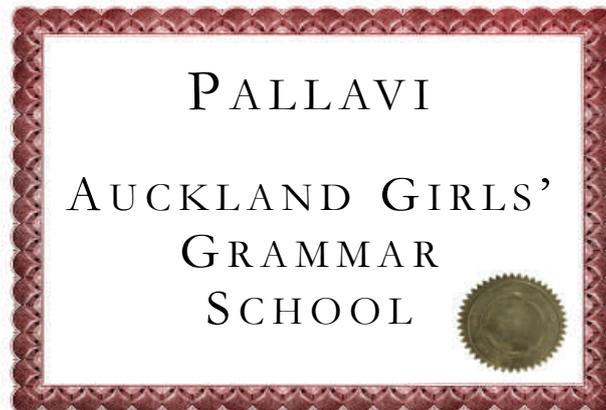
#### Seminar 3: Questions

We had some very good questions at the end of the seminar last week. Congratulations to all of the students on the seminar chat and in the live audience for your excellent questions. Our scientists are impressed by the quality of the thinking that you are displaying.

## So who's top in getting our scientists thinking?

- The students from Tauranga Girls—who, by the way, all use the same chat login, which has caused a little bit of confusion on the chat as their login name is Richard 😊
- The students from Onehunga High School and Rangitoto College —it's neat to see so many of you actively involved in the chat
- Nicola from Southland Girls—great to see one of our southern most schools taking part in the chat.

But the prize for the best question in Seminar 3 goes to:



Pallavi was in the live audience here at Liggins and asked a number of thought provoking questions.

The challenge now goes out to students from the rest of the country to get involved. I'm sure you all have questions during the seminar, so how about getting a [chat login](#) and giving it a go?

## [Essay Competition: Animal-based research in New Zealand. Where to from here?](#)

The National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NZEAC) is running an essay competition for senior science students about the use of animals in research. The prize is a \$500 voucher.



In the essay you need to provide an overview of animal-based research in New Zealand, including examples of why animals are used and how their use is regulated and controlled, different views about the use of animals in research and your justified opinion on the future of animal-based research in New Zealand. This ties in really well with the second challenge question from Seminar 3. So if you've given Challenge 2 a go, then your answer could provide the starting point for the essay.

For more information see the NAEAC website: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/animal-welfare/nz/naeac>

## [A Reminder about Registrations](#)

To register for:

1. Student Updates: click [here](#)
2. Seminar chat username and password: click [here](#)
3. Wiki username and password: click [here](#)



Remember: The seminar question and discussion pages are protected so that only registered users can write to them. When you want to ask a question or write to the discussion – you have to login. You can either use your school login and password, which your school liaison teacher has, or you can get your own.

## Meet our student ambassadors

Those of you who have been taking part in the live seminar chat will know that there are a number of University of Auckland people who pop in and out. Over the next few updates I'm going to introduce you to some of them. In this update it will be two of our student ambassadors.

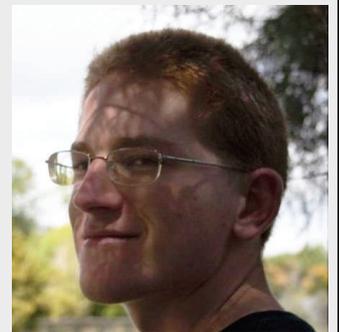


Mrinal Murali

Hey guys. My name's Mrinal. I'm currently in my first year of Biomedical Science at the University of Auckland. I am originally from Mt Roskill Grammar School. I came into contact with Liggins through receiving the LENSscience Biomedical Scholarship at the end of Year 13. It's a great opportunity and an awesome learning experience. Hope you guys are enjoying the seminars and making the most of it. Feel free to ask me any questions regarding the seminars or about biomed or anything 😊

Nick Young

I am currently studying first year Bachelor of Health Sciences, with the hope of getting into Medicine at the end of the year. Last year, I completed Year 13 at Alfriston College, in Manurewa, South Auckland. My Biology teacher was Michal Denny, who has since started working at Liggins.



I was very involved in the Liggins seminars last year, both in the Senior Biology Series and the Darwin Anniversary Celebration public lectures. celebrating I found these greatly helped my understanding of Biology, and often meant I had a basic understanding of concepts before they were taught in my Biology class (such as mtDNA). One of the things that I enjoyed the most about the Senior Biology Seminars was the seminar chat. I remember that no matter how crazy an idea was, we were always keen to discuss it, and it was through those questions that we discovered more about why scientists chose the solutions they chose.

At the end of last year, I was one of the lucky few to be selected for the LENSscience Friedlander Biomedical Science Scholarship. We were given the opportunity to do some pretty awesome science, such as genetically modifying some *E.coli* to make it bioluminesce under UV light!



**ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS FROM SEMINAR 3 WILL BE POSTED THIS WEEK—KEEP CHECKING THE SITE AND KEEP ASKING QUESTIONS**



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