

SfRBM Featured Woman in Science



[Christine Winterbourn, Ph.D.](#)

Hometown:

Christchurch, New Zealand

Title and current institution:

Professor, Centre for Free Radical Research, Department of Pathology and Biomedical Science, University of Otago Christchurch

Research interests:

I have a broad interest in the biological chemistry of free radicals and oxidative stress, and how we can translate this chemistry into cells and tissues. My current interests include the role of thiols in antioxidant defence and redox regulation; the biochemistry and cellular function of peroxiredoxins; reactive oxidant production by neutrophils and the role of myeloperoxidase products in microbial killing and inflammatory disease.

How I fell in love with chemistry:

Fascinated with mixing things up and seeing what happened from age about 11 when I got my first chemistry set.

A life challenge you had to overcome:

Being invisible as a scientist amongst the medical hierarchy of a traditional medical school.

Best advice you have ever received:

Even though you work in a small “out of the way” place, your research can make it in science. But be astute in your choice of topic.

Pet peeves in science:

Redox articles that get published in the high profile journals when the quality of the redox data would be way below that acceptable for FRBM.

The tenuous career structure for a lot of talented biomedical scientists.

Book or article that you would recommend:

It is hard to go past Halliwell and Gutteridge in this field.

Three things people may not know about me:

I still worry before I give a talk that my mind is going to blank out on what I want to say.

I've watched kiwis (the birds) feeding on the beach at midnight.

I'm one of a minority of New Zealanders who doesn't rave over the Lord of the Rings movies (too much fighting for me, I don't have a problem with the books).