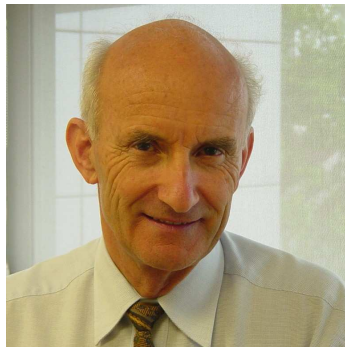


Farewell Dr Barker



Tony Barker
BSc, MB, ChB, MSc, MAACB, FRCPA
Chemical Pathologist
Clinical Director

Tony joined the Auckland Hospital Board in 1971 as a house surgeon and is retiring on the 7th December 2008 after 38 years of continuous service. His current position is Clinical Director and Chemical Pathologist, LabPLUS, Auckland City Hospital.

Tony's 38 years at Auckland Hospital marks a career of dedicated and loyal service to Chemical Pathology and unquestionable institutional support and knowledge that will be irreplaceable.

His medical, hospital and professional appointments are extensive, but key amongst them were roles within the Royal College of Pathologists as an examiner, an educational representative, Professional advisor, a NZ Councillor and Executive member, all being recognised with RCPA Medal in 2002 with the engraved citation "in recognition of Distinguished Service in the Advancement of Pathology in New Zealand".

One of Tony's major professional interests within pathology has been Quality Assurance in medical testing. He was a member of the IANZ Medical Testing Professional Advisory Committee and helped write the Specific Criteria for NZ laboratories, some of which have been incorporated into the current ISO 15189 standard for Medical Laboratories.

Tony was a founding member of the Auckland Regional QA Group, formed in 1977 with the aim of standardising reference intervals in the Auckland Region. This has been largely achieved and now includes most laboratories in the upper North Island.

The LabPLUS Laboratory handbook, both hardcopy and electronic versions are a direct result of Tony's hard work and editorial finesse. They will be a perpetual legacy to his time here, his very high ethical and professional values, his strong sense of fairness, his honesty, his considered and well thought through opinions, his belief in the science and in Pathology, and in his encouragement to those around him to strive for excellence in everything they do.

We wish Dr Barker all the best for his retirement.

Sally Roberts will be Acting Clinical Director at LabPlus until we appoint a replacement.

Test updates:

Withdrawal of Enterovirus serology

Effective 1st January 2009, LabPlus will discontinue serological testing for enterovirus infection.

Enterovirus serology is based on group antigens, and lacks both sensitivity and specificity for identification of specific enterovirus infection. Detection of virus, either by culture or PCR, is the preferred diagnostic test.

After 1st January 2009, any further requests for serology will be sent to ICPMR at Westmead Hospital, Sydney, Australia.

Paul Austin
Section Leader – Serology
Department of Virology & Immunology, LabPlus, Auckland Hospital.

Email: paustin@adhb.govt.nz

LabPLUS Christmas and New Year Service:

| Date | Service |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 25 Dec - 28 Dec | Limited Service* |
| 29 Dec-31 Dec | Normal Service |
| 1 Jan - 4 Jan | Limited Service* |
| 5 Jan | Normal Service |

* Contact Laboratory (09) 307 8995

Please note that there will be no routine courier services on the statutory holidays and we advise that samples outside of Auckland are not to be sent on 24th and 31st Dec.

LabLINK (call centre) will be operating 8am-6pm (Mon-Fri) on ordinary working days only from 24th Dec – 9th Jan. Calls outside of these hours will be forwarded through our automated system. Normal services will resume from 10th Jan.

*Merry Christmas
and Happy New
Year from
LabPLUS*

