



AUCKLAND MEDICAL HISTORY SOCIETY

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Wednesday
5 March 2025 at 7pm**

Venue

Ernest and Marion Davis Library (EMDL)
Building 43, Auckland City Hospital

Lecture titles

Dr Philson

To be presented by

Iain Wakefield

Versalius-The origin of modern anatomy

To be presented by

Ali Mirjalili

(Biographical details and abstract attached)

*Please note AMHS meetings are now held on a **Wednesday** evening (not Thursday as previously)*

The EMDL will be open from **6pm**
All welcome

See the AMHS website Latest News page for updates and links to the 2025 Programme

Donations to the Society are invited & can be made on the night or preferably online.
Bank account: 02 0160 0237509 00



Lecture title: *Dr Philson*

Abstract

TBC

Speaker biography

Dr Iain Wakefield

Lecture title: *Vesalius-The origin of modern anatomy*

Abstract

The field of modern human anatomy owes much of its development to the pioneering work of Andreas Vesalius, whose groundbreaking contributions in the 16th century laid the foundation for contemporary anatomical study. This talk first examines the historical and scientific significance of Vesalius' work, with particular focus on his seminal text *De humani corporis fabrica* (1543) and its *Epitome* (1543). By challenging centuries of traditional anatomical teachings and promoting direct dissection and observation, Vesalius revolutionised the understanding of human anatomy. His meticulous illustrations, coupled with a rigorous scientific approach, marked a departure from the medieval reliance on ancient texts, such as those of Galen, and initiated a shift toward empirical, evidence-based medical practice. This talk also explores the influence of Vesalius' innovations on the evolution of anatomical education, the scientific method, and the broader medical field, highlighting his role in the transition from theoretical to practical knowledge in the anatomy of the human body. The presenter further challenges the notion that anatomy is a "dead" subject by exploring its ongoing significance in the development of modern imaging technologies, as well as minimally invasive and robotic surgery.

Speaker biography

Associate Professor Ali Mirjalili is the Chair of Anatomy at RACs. He has authored several textbooks, such as *Gray's Anatomy* and *Last's Anatomy*. Ali is a medically qualified clinical anatomist with an interest in using modern imaging in his research. He is also focused on understanding the functional anatomy of the lymphatic system, including pressure and flow in lymphatic vessels.