

13-14 February 2024, Te Papa Tongarewa
Wellington | Te Whanganui-a-Tara

National
SCIENCE
Challenges

HEALTHIER
LIVES

He Oranga
Hauora



Kōrero Tahi 2024

equity and beyond

.....

A hui for researchers, kaupapa partners and stakeholders of the Healthier Lives–He Oranga Hauora National Science Challenge



Kia ora and welcome

Kia ora and welcome to **Kōrero Tahi 2024: equity and beyond**, the final gathering of researchers, kaupapa partners and stakeholders of the Healthier Lives–He Oranga Hauora National Science Challenge.

The New Zealand Government established Healthier Lives in 2015 with the ambitious mission of reducing the burden of four major non-communicable diseases – cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity – through novel prevention and treatment approaches that would enable equitable health outcomes in Aotearoa New Zealand.




The importance of this mission was underscored during the Challenge launch at the Ōtākou Marae in December 2015, when we were reminded that Te Tiriti obligations in relation to Māori health had not been met, and were charged with working in new ways to change this. From the beginning of the Challenge, we have also been conscious of the pressing need to improve health outcomes for Pacific Peoples in this country.

Adopting co-governance in 2016 was a critical step in the evolution of Healthier Lives and delivered clarity about how to tackle our daunting mission. Forming inclusive research teams with kaupapa partners and stakeholders was crucially important for delivering results.




Over the nine years of the Challenge's life, our research teams have maintained a consistent and determined focus on the goal of achieving health equity, while investigating a wide range of approaches to improving the health of all New Zealanders. They have produced new tools, new health programmes and new knowledge. Some Healthier Lives research findings have already been implemented. The recently established Healthier Lives Implementation Network will continue to support communities aspiring to improve health outcomes through novel, evidence-based programmes. However, full realisation of the value of Healthier Lives research is dependent on further implementation by communities, the health system, and government.

This two-day kōrero is intended as an exploration of how the research evidence generated through Healthier Lives can be implemented in future. We hope it will also initiate connections and discussions that will lead to new research and implementation collaborations. While National Science Challenges end in June 2024, the relationships, ideas, energy, and new ways of working generated through Healthier Lives will continue, and our mission of achieving health equity and better health for all should remain a key goal for the health system and wider society.

Jerry Mateparae and Jim Mann

<p>Tuesday, 13 February 2024 Icon Room, Te Papa Tongarewa</p>		
<p>9.15am</p>	<p>Mihi whakataua</p>	
	<p>Opening remarks</p>	<p>Jerry Mateparae</p>
	<p>KEYNOTE ADDRESS Preventing type 2 diabetes: going upstream</p>	<p>Nick Wareham</p>
<p>10.40am</p>	<p>Morning tea</p>	
<p>Healthy food and physical activity environments</p>		<p>Co-chairs / Kevin Hague and Kathryn King</p> 
<p>11.00am</p>	<p>Chairs' overview</p>	
	<p>Theme Leader overview</p>	<p>Cliona Ni Mhurchu</p>
	<p>RESEARCH PRESENTATION Towards a healthy sustainable food system for Aotearoa</p>	<p>Cliona Ni Mhurchu, Magda Rosin, Cristina Cleghorn, Hemi Enright</p>
	<p>RESEARCH PRESENTATION The ability of active, shared and low carbon transport interventions to enhance wellbeing</p>	<p>Karen Witten, Kimiora Raerino, Simon Kingham, Els Russell</p>
	<p>Chairs' summary</p> 	
<p>1.00pm</p>	<p>Lunch</p>	
<p>Precision medicine</p>		<p>Co-chairs / Sayali Pendharkar and Peter Larsen</p> 
<p>2.00pm</p>	<p>Chairs' overview</p>	
	<p>Theme Leader overview</p>	<p>Parry Guilford</p>
	<p>RESEARCH PRESENTATION Monitoring cancer treatment response with ctDNA</p>	<p>Parry Guilford, Jordon Lima, Cris Print, Sandra Fitzgerald</p>
	<p>RESEARCH PRESENTATION Developing more precise and equitable cardiovascular disease risk prediction tools in Aotearoa</p>	<p>Greg Jones, Anna Rolleston</p>
	<p>Chairs' summary</p>	
<p>4.00pm</p>	<p>Afternoon tea</p>	

Wednesday, 14 February 2024 | Icon Room, Te Papa Tongarewa

9.30am	Welcome and Theme Leader overview	Andrew Sporle
	KEYNOTE ADDRESS Where health starts: tackling the economic drivers of illness	Max Rashbrooke
	REPORT LAUNCH Co-designing health research in Aotearoa New Zealand: Lessons from the Healthier Lives National Science Challenge	Amohia Boulton, Debbie Goodwin
10.40am	Morning tea	
1	Culturally-engaged healthcare for Māori and Pacific peoples (Tahi)	Co-chairs / Megan Tunks and Viliami Puloka 
11.00am	Chairs' overview	
	RESEARCH PRESENTATION Community-led research for sustainable futures	Ridvan Firestone, Penina Hitti, Elizabeth Okiakama
	RESEARCH PRESENTATION A DiRECT approach to weight loss in Aotearoa	Andrew Reynolds, Justine Camp, Kate Campbell
	IMPLEMENTATION NETWORK Partnering with Māori and Pacific community providers to support effective implementation of health programmes and services	Akarere Henry, Renei Ngawati, Tori Te Puke 
	Chairs' summary	
1.00pm	Lunch	
2	Culturally-engaged healthcare for Māori and Pacific peoples (Rua)	Co-chairs / Selah Hart and Markerita Poutasi
2.00pm	Chairs' overview	
	RESEARCH PRESENTATION Designing heart health services to achieve Māori and Pacific health equity	Corina Grey, Karen Brewer, Sandra Hanchard, Tāria Tane
	RESEARCH PRESENTATION Implementing equitable health interventions – tools for use in the Aotearoa New Zealand context	Karen Bartholomew, Michelle Lambert 
	Chairs' summary	
3.45pm	Closing remarks	Jim Mann
4.00pm	Afternoon tea	

Keynote Speakers

Professor Nick Wareham

Nick is the Director of the British Medical Research Council (MRC) Epidemiology Unit, Co-Director of the Institute of Metabolic Science, Honorary Consultant at Addenbrooke's Hospital, and Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Cambridge, England. He studied Medicine at St Thomas' Hospital Medical School and Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Cambridge University. In 1992-3 he was a Harkness Fellow at the Harvard School of Public Health. After research fellowships at the University of Cambridge, he took up the Directorship of the MRC Epidemiology Unit when it was founded in 2003. His main research interests are in understanding the aetiology of type 2 diabetes, particularly in generating understanding about the interplay between genetic, developmental and behavioural risk factors. He also researches strategies for the early detection and prevention of diabetes, including individual and societal level interventions.



Max Rashbrooke

Max is a Wellington-based writer and public intellectual, with twin interests in economic inequality and democratic renewal. His latest book is *Too Much Money: How Wealth Disparities are Unbalancing Aotearoa New Zealand*, based on research he carried out as the 2020 J. D. Stout Fellow at Victoria University of Wellington. His previous works include *Government for the Public Good: The Surprising Science of Large-Scale Collective Action* and *Inequality: A New Zealand Crisis*, both published by Bridget Williams Books. A senior research fellow at Victoria University's School of Government, he writes a fortnightly column for The Post, and his work appears in outlets such as the Guardian and Prospect magazine. His TED.com talk on upgrading democracy has been viewed 1.5 million times.



Messages to the future

Our vision is of Aotearoa New Zealand with equitable health outcomes and a substantially reduced burden of non-communicable diseases.

THEME

1

Healthy food and physical activity environments



ACTIVATION

In 2024, Aotearoa New Zealand is locked into a system of transport-land use planning which is perfectly calibrated to perpetuate car dependency. Levels of active travel continue to decline and traffic-related injuries to rise, compromising our health and wellbeing. Our planetary environment is also struggling from greenhouse gas emissions. This is a shameful legacy to leave the next generation, and so we begin, with research evidence and activism, the slow unpicking of acquired habits and social norms locked into place by decades of poorly planned urban development. To forego the habit and convenience of car dependency is a choice only possible where alternative ways of moving become easy choices for all, and this includes making alternative transport options more attractive.

HYPE (Healthy Policy Evaluation)

The HYPE team would like the National Healthy Food and Drink Policy to be endorsed as a mandatory policy across Te Whatu Ora food services, excluding inpatient meals. Our comprehensive evaluation generated valuable insights into how the policy should be effectively implemented. All staff should be consulted about how to implement the policy, and resources allocated to support food-service staff to provide nourishing, tasty and affordable food. Te Whatu Ora could be a positive role model with other NZ workplaces seeing the benefits of the policy and implementing it. Staff spend a lot of time at work so access to healthy food will improve their health, wellbeing and productivity.

Sustainable New Zealand Kai

We would like to see the Government invest in policies that support New Zealanders to eat healthy and environmentally sustainable kai. The rich data from the Sustainable New Zealand Kai project could be used to select feasible policies that, if implemented, would help address health inequity between Māori and non-Māori and produce health and environmental co-benefits. Implicit to a Kai Sovereignty stance is Māori practicing Tino Rangatiratanga in the sustainable and healthy kai space. By exploring Māori views on healthy and sustainable kai, this project elaborates on how policy can enable Māori to practice self-determination.

THEME

2



Culturally-engaged healthcare for Māori and Pacific peoples

Co-design research

We want a future where co-design is not just an overused word, but a real opportunity for partnership, and a way to deliver better outcomes. Authentic co-design with Māori and Pacific communities relies on transparency and negotiation of the processes for designing together. Community partners need to be included in decisions at the front end of the research. These organisations often have significant long-term relationships and networks that require integrity in the research relationship and a high level of accountability to their communities; researchers need to acknowledge these relationships. Communities and community organisations are well placed to know what works and they bring cultural expertise, community knowledge and social capital that is necessary for better services, better engagement, and better implementation.

Implementing equitable health interventions

We envisage a health system that promotes the equitable implementation of interventions using tools developed specifically for Aotearoa New Zealand. Two new tools draw on established evidence, providing a structured way to design and implement interventions in an equitable way. Our research aims to inform systemic change by using implementation science approaches, practical local knowledge and a focus on ethnic-specific inequities to develop and test tools that will assist in intervention design and implementation in a variety of healthcare settings (an equity-focused implementation science framework), and in assessing the readiness to implement (equity readiness assessment tool). When finalised, the tools that result from our research will be available for all to use when planning an intervention for their target population, with the aim to ensure equity in that implementation.

Healthier Lives Implementation Network

Our network is developing an infrastructure and a process for facilitating the translation of research into practice for the benefit of Māori and Pacific communities. Our approach is to work in partnership with, and be informed by the mana of, Māori and Pacific community providers to help them adapt and implement health programmes. Our research aims to illustrate how to complete effective implementation that meets the needs of these providers and their communities rather than a focus on the needs of researchers or the system.

Manawataki Fatu Fatu

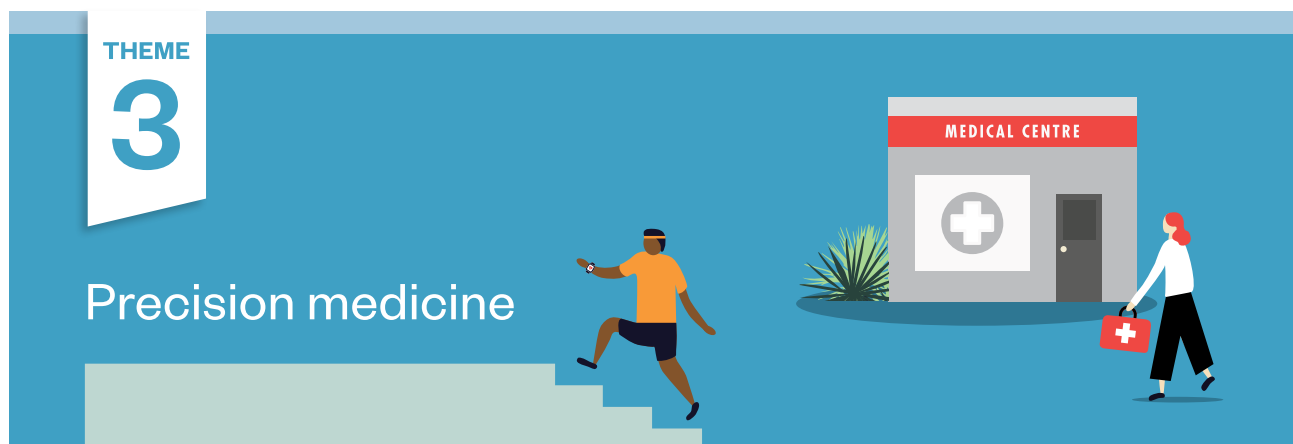
In the future, we want to see heart health services and programmes that put Māori and Pacific people and their whānau at the centre, ensuring that their needs and aspirations are met, when and where they need them to be met. This includes clear and understandable information about people's condition(s), how they and their whānau members can live well with those conditions (acknowledging that this requires addressing physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of well-being) and when and how to access health services and support. We want to see more Māori and Pacific heart health workers and researchers, ensuring that these workforces are culturally responsive and reflect the populations they serve, and that whānau have the choice to be served by Māori and Pacific health workers and providers.

Oire Tokoroa Family Diabetes Prevention Programme

In the future we hope to see a flourishing of community-led research for Pasifika people in New Zealand. This will allow for the generation of knowledge and implementation to happen at the grassroots in communities. A collaborative approach, rooted in cultural richness, will empower Pacific communities to actively contribute to and shape research agendas. Emphasizing cooperation, this approach fosters mutual respect between researchers and the communities they serve, ensuring the co-creation of knowledge that addresses real needs and challenges. This visionary model embraces indigenous wisdom, fostering sustainable solutions that resonate with the unique socio-cultural contexts of Pasifika communities, and ultimately bridging the gap between research and actionable change.

Te Kāika DiRECT

We would like to see healthy choices become the easy choices for all people in Aotearoa. In the context of what we eat, this will require a national food strategy as well as stronger government regulation of the food environment. People with existing health conditions can require additional support, so providing a range of options in the dietary management of non-communicable diseases is particularly important. Our research aims to inform and advocate for both the additional support needed, and the large systemic changes that are necessary, to protect the health of Aotearoa and her people.



Circulating tumour DNA

Effective cancer treatment is severely inhibited by difficulties in readily measuring response to treatment and the emergence of drug resistance. It is now clear that circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA) gives us the means to provide this information, easily and affordably. The challenge for future researchers and clinicians is to change the status quo of cancer clinical management in this country by ensuring each patient's treatment is informed by the genomic and quantitative data provided by ctDNA. These dynamic measurements of tumour growth or regression will lead to truly personalised cancer care, that will maximise clinical response and patient wellbeing.

Epigenetics

DNA methylation-based blood tests have potential to revolutionise precision medicine. These tests are capable of quantifying the biological effects of environmental exposures, such as smoking, diet, exercise and stress, and have been proposed as useful additions to primary healthcare risk prediction tools for conditions such as heart disease and cancer. However, genetic variation between individuals and population groups can confound DNA methylation measures and therefore detecting these effects is paramount for their equitable utility within diverse populations. The Healthier Lives Epigenetics project assessed a multi-ethnic Aotearoa heart disease patient cohort to develop a new generation of precision medicine cardiovascular disease risk tools that appear to be sensitive, specific and equitable.

Chairs and Speakers

Dr Karen Bartholomew

Karen is a public health physician and researcher, and is the Director of Health Equity in Service Innovation and Improvement, Te Whatu Ora (Health New Zealand). Her research focuses on screening, health inequities and implementation science. Karen leads an HPV self-testing programme, abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) research, an endometrial cancer programme and is a co-investigator for the Māori-led Lung Cancer Screening programme Te Oranga Pūkahu. Karen has a microbiology degree, is a medical doctor, and has a Masters of Public Health. She is a current member of the NZ National Screening Advisory Committee.



Dr Amohia Boulton

Ngāti Ranginui, Ngai te Rangi, Ngāti Pukenga, Ngāti Mutunga and Te Āti Awa o te Waka a Māui

Amohia is Director of Whakauae Research Services, a tribally-owned health research centre in Whanganui. She is an adjunct professor at both Victoria University of Wellington and Auckland University of Technology. Her research focuses on the relationship between government policy and wellbeing outcomes for Māori. She received the Royal Society of New Zealand's Te Tohu Rapuora Medal for her contribution to advancing Māori health knowledge. Amohia is a member of the Healthier Lives Governance Group and Kāhui Māori and the Māori Advisory Board of the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research. She is a fellow of Te Mata o Te Tau, Massey University's Academy for Māori Research and Scholarship, and the Australian Evaluation Society.



Dr Karen Brewer

Whakatōhea, Ngaiterangi

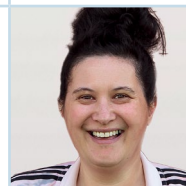
Karen is a speech-language therapist and kaupapa Māori researcher at Waipapa Taumata Rau | The University of Auckland. She is the co-director Māori of Pūtahi Manawa | Healthy Hearts for Aotearoa New Zealand (CoRE), and senior lecturer in speech science, psychology. Karen worked on the qualitative aspects of the Manawataki Fatu Fatu for ACCESS research programme from 2020-2023.



Associate Professor Justine Camp

Kāi Tahu, Kāti Mamoe, Waitaha

Justine is associate dean Māori for the School of Medicine, and a research associate professor and co-director of the Edgar Diabetes and Obesity Research Centre at the University of Otago. Justine is a member of the Healthier Lives Governance Group and Kāhui Māori and holds several other governance roles. She is also part of a mana whenua design team who work on the co-design of the new Dunedin Hospital. Justine has developed new Māori clinics and models of care, as well as design briefs, to ensure the Hospital fulfils promises made with the signing of the Treaty. She is a mother and a Taua of one.



Kate Campbell

Kate is a PhD student interested in diabetes, nutrition, and strategies to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for all New Zealanders. Her thesis explores the role of meal replacement interventions for people with type 2 diabetes and a desire to lose weight, and she is looking forward to contributing to ongoing research in this field.



Dr Cristina Cleghorn

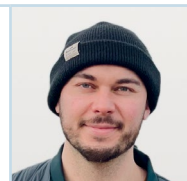
Cristina is a public health nutrition researcher in the Department of Public Health at the University of Otago, Wellington. She has a strong interest in sustainable nutrition and the prevention of chronic disease through food intake. Her Healthier Lives Sustainable Kai project is modelling the health, equity and greenhouse gas emission impacts of dietary policy that could be implemented in New Zealand. This has involved discussions with stakeholders about what constitutes sustainable dietary intake and what kinds of policies are likely to be acceptable, feasible and effective in shifting our intake towards healthier and more sustainable kai.



Dr Hemi Enright

Te Mahurehure, Ngāti Ruanui, Ngāruahine

Hemi is a GP Registrar working in Porirua. He joined the Healthier Lives Sustainable Kai project while completing a Master of Public Health programme through the University of Otago Wellington. He is looking forward to sharing findings and insights from his dissertation: "What about Haumia? What about Rongo? Exploring Māori views on healthy and sustainable kai in Aotearoa".



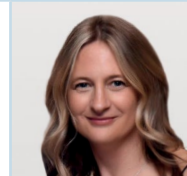
Associate Professor Ridvan Firestone

Ridvan (Riz) undertakes research to investigate and understand the social-cultural and health inequities experienced by Pacific peoples living in New Zealand. Over the past five years, she has developed expertise in co-developing programmes with Pacific and Māori communities, particularly focusing on youth empowerment and family-based models of diabetes prevention. Riz is committed to co-designing research in partnership with communities and to building the capacity and capability of a strong Pacific health research workforce. Outside academic life, she has a passion for sports and fitness, and is the mother of three very active children who keep her busy with their sporting and cultural activities.



Dr Sandra Fitzgerald

Sandra is a research fellow at the University of Auckland. Her PhD focused on developing technologies for the detection of circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA) in the blood of cancer patients. She continued this research on a Healthier Lives project to develop rapid and sensitive testing modalities for monitoring cancer treatment in a variety of clinical settings, including the potential for using ctDNA technology to improve access to care for patients in rural areas by developing a new community-based method for monitoring cancer treatment. Sandra assisted with COVID testing at the University of Auckland and Auckland City Hospital and hopes that the expertise achieved in a clinical diagnostic laboratory as a medical laboratory scientist can be utilised to translate minimally invasive liquid biopsy technologies into clinical implementation.



Dr Debbie Goodwin

Ngai Tūhoe, Whakatōhea, Pākehā

Debbie is an evaluation researcher working in her consultancy DBZ Consultancy Ltd and as part of the Tuakana Teina Evaluation Collective. She has led evaluation projects commissioned by New Zealand government agencies and been a team member on national, local government, and NGO evaluations. Debbie is passionate about Māori development and has a particular focus on supporting communities and whānau on the ground. She has recently been involved in evaluation mahi with Oranga Tamariki co-design projects, Māori-led co-design, and Healthier Lives co-design research. She currently serves as a Community Psychology Associate of the University of Waikato Graduate Programme, is an executive member of Mā Te Rae Māori Evaluation Association, and was the regional representative for the International Organisation for Co-operation in Evaluation (2017-2020).



Dr Corina Grey

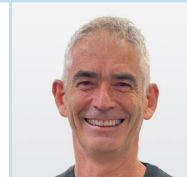
Samoa

Corina is a public health physician and epidemiologist. Alongside Associate Professor Matire Harwood, she is co-principal investigator of the Manawataki Fatu Fatu project, co funded by Healthier Lives and the Heart Foundation. Corina is Deputy Secretary, Data & Insights, at the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, and was previously Chief Clinical Advisor, Pacific Health at Manatū Hauora.



Professor Parry Guilford

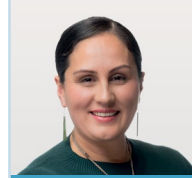
Parry is a professor of cancer genetics at the University of Otago, Dunedin. He completed his MSc at Otago in 1983, and his PhD at Cambridge University in 1989. He is a co-founder of the cancer diagnostics company Pacific Edge Ltd, a board member of the New Zealand Health Research Council and a deputy director of Healthier Lives. His research interests include both the management of inherited cancer syndromes and the reduction of inequities in healthcare through the development and implementation of genomics-based cancer diagnostic tools.



Selah Hart

Ngāti Kūia, Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngāti Apa Ki Te Ra To, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa

Selah has worked in various roles in Māori health since 2006, including as CEO for Hāpai Te Hauora. She is now Maiaka Hāpori Deputy Chief Executive Public and Population Health at Te Aka Whai Ora, where she is focused on advancing health outcomes, equity, and accessibility for Māori. Dedicated to the aspiration of whānau, hapu, iwi and hāpori in achieving hauora, Selah has led many advocacy campaigns in addressing and creating systemic changes to the health system with a focus on addressing inequities. In her years of experience leading such work, she has learnt that community engagement and relationship-building is central to driving change.



Kevin Hague

Kevin Hague is chair of the Public Health Advisory Committee, the West Coast Primary Health Organisation and Takiwā Poutini, and deputy chair of Te Hiringa Mahara (Mental Health & Wellbeing Commission). He was a Member of Parliament for 8 years and has held various leadership positions in the community, business and government sectors, including as CEO of the West Coast District Health Board. He lives in Māwhera (Greymouth) with his partner.



Dr Sandra Hanchard

Tonga

Sandra holds a Pacific research fellowship from the Heart Foundation and Pūtahi Manawa HHANZ CoRE. Her project investigates equity-focused discharge planning for heart failure. Sandra currently serves as a council member on Whānau, Consumer and Clinician Digital Council for Te Whatu Ora and advisory board member for the Healthier Lives Implementation Network. Drawing on her background in the digital sector, Sandra is passionate about achieving seamless equitable health services for whānau.



Akarere Henry

Cook Islands

Akarere is the CEO of South Waikato Pacific Islands Community Services (SWPICS) which was established in 1991 to deliver a range of community health, education, social and Whānau Ora services focused on supporting Pasifika (and non-Pasifika) families to improve their health and wellbeing, and reach their full potential. She is a Cook Islander, born and raised in Tokoroa, a place where she says the Pasifika community is thriving. SWPICS has taken a lead role in supporting South Waikato families during the COVID-19 pandemic, delivering health services such as COVID-19 vaccination clinics and testing, as well as ensuring that the welfare needs of families are met.



Penina Hitti

Penina is an emerging Pacific researcher, currently undertaking a Master of Public Health at Massey University with a focus on spiritual health. Integrating academic knowledge with practical experience, her primary interest lies in holistic health. Penina serves as project manager for Pacific health research projects at Research Centre for Health and Hauora, Massey University, specializing in health interventions that directly address community needs. Beyond her research commitments, she is actively involved in running empowerment programs for youth and participating in various community initiatives.



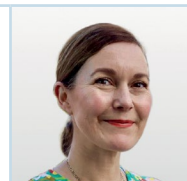
Professor Greg Jones

Greg is an experienced biomedical researcher who leads a multi-disciplinary team, based in Ōtepoti Dunedin, investigating a broad range of cardiovascular diseases. The team has a strong focus on improved risk prediction, screening and management of both arterial (including heart disease, stroke and aneurysms) and venous disease (varicose veins). Their research includes the fields of genetics, epigenetics, protein biomarkers and vascular imaging. His group is funded by the Healthier Lives National Science Challenge and the Health Research Council.



Kathryn King

Kathryn is Waka Kotahi's Urban Mobility Manager, responsible for opening up streets across the motu so that everyone can travel in ways that are good for their own health and that of the planet. Her team tackles system barriers to ensure streets support community wellbeing and meet everyone's needs. Prior to joining Waka Kotahi, Kathryn headed up the Walking and Cycling Programme at Auckland Transport, overseeing a step change in the way active mode programmes are delivered in Tāmaki Makaurau. Kathryn spent almost two decades abroad, leading a number of award-winning projects in London, and gaining valuable experience in what it takes to make healthy travel possible.



Professor Simon Kingham

Simon is Ahorangi o te Matawhenua | Professor of Geography at Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | the University of Canterbury in Ōtautahi | Christchurch. In this role he teaches and researches on a range of issues related to the impact of the urban environment on wellbeing, with a specific focus on transport. He is also seconded to Te Manatū Waka | the Ministry of Transport as their Kaitohutohu Matua Pūtaiao | Chief Science Advisor. His role there is to ensure that policy is evidence-based.



Michelle Lambert

Michelle is a Research Fellow in the Ngāi Tahu Māori Health Research Unit at the University of Otago. She is the Project Manager of the Healthier Lives Implementing Equitable Health Intervention project. Her research focus is health services improvement with the aim of reducing the long-standing health inequities. This includes studies in health services improvement and intervention development using a kaupapa Māori framework as well as qualitative studies to help improve primary care, injury rehabilitation and other health services for Māori. With extensive experience in the design and implementation of interventions and qualitative data analysis, her research aims to improve health outcomes for Māori.



Associate Professor Peter Larsen

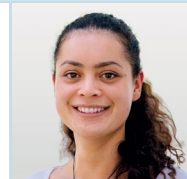
Peter is a cardiovascular physiologist doing research in the area of cardiovascular disease with a particular interest in cardiac rhythm disorders and acute coronary syndromes. His research interests have spanned basic science, translational work, clinical research and public health. His experience in clinical research has expanded to include clinical audits, clinical trials and quality improvement initiatives, and includes studies in general surgery and emergency medicine as well as in cardiology. He has a special interest in helping early career academics develop their career paths.



Jordon Lima

Ngāti Pōrou, Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti

Jordon is completing her PhD in Te Aho Matatū (The Centre for Translational Cancer Research) and Te Tumu – the School of Māori, Pacific, and Indigenous Studies at the University of Otago, Dunedin. Her project aims to determine how precision medicine technologies such as circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA) and third generation sequencing (TGS) can improve cancer diagnostics and surveillance for Ngāti Porou communities, and to explore the experiences of Ngāti Porou cancer patients, their whānau, and their cancer care providers.



Professor Jim Mann

Jim has led research relating to the prevention and management of non-communicable disease at the University of Otago since 1988 and was a consultant physician in endocrinology at the Dunedin Hospital for over 30 years. He has served on numerous international expert advisory groups and has also led committees which developed guidelines for the management of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease risk assessment in New Zealand. Jim is Patron of Diabetes New Zealand and a board member of the New Zealand Heart Foundation. He is director of the Healthier Lives–He Oranga Hauora National Science Challenge, co-director of the Edgar Diabetes and Obesity Research Centre, director of the New Zealand–China Non-Communicable Diseases Research Collaboration Centre, and principal investigator for the Riddet Institute.



Sir Jerry Mateparae

Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Kahungunu, Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangī, Ngāti Tamakōpiri, Ngāti Rangī

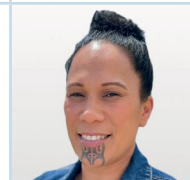
Sir Jerry has been chair of the Healthier Lives National Science Challenge since June 2020. He has spent almost 50 years in public service, serving as New Zealand's 20th Governor General and the 27th New Zealand High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. Prior to that, he worked at senior levels in the New Zealand Defence Force and public service. Sir Jerry is of Māori descent, and in addition to his tribal affiliations also has links to Ngai Tūhoe.



Renei Ngawati

Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Pōrou

Renei works for Toi Tangata as a community researcher for the Healthier Lives Implementation Network. Her professional background has been a mix of sport, education, health and Māori development within her roles as a lecturer in Māori health and development, Māori health research, and project management. Renei works towards creating whānau outcomes through platforms that Māori enjoy including kori tinana, sport, kai oranga and recreation. She has experience in creating equity and equality-based outcomes for Māori internal and external government agencies. She is a mother to four tamariki and has been able to work, study and raise tamariki with the help of her whānau over the last 20 years.



Professor Cliona Ni Mhurchu

Cliona directs a research programme on population nutrition and scalable dietary interventions. She is director of the HRC-funded DIET research programme, deputy director of the Healthier Lives National Science Challenge, and lead investigator of a team contracted to develop tools and methods for a New Zealand National Nutrition Survey. Cliona is Associate Dean (Research) in the University of Auckland's Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences and a Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Fellow.



Elizabeth Okiakama

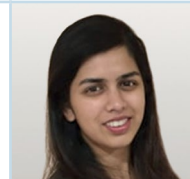
Cook Islands

Elizabeth is a mother of three boys and has always had a strong interest and passion around diabetes, with family connections to this particular illness and its effect on the wider family. She has been fortunate to work in the prediabetes codesign space for the last 5 years, initially with a grouping of young people who for 3 years participated in a codesigned community intervention, and most recently as part of the Oire Tokoroa "Kai Tari" initiative in partnership with Massey University. All these learnings have allowed her to be informed about the best approaches to prevent diabetes and to enable the community to find solutions to support their wellbeing. Meitaki ngao.



Dr Sayali Pendharkar

Sayali is Deputy Chief Science Advisor for Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora and holds an honorary position at the Department of Surgery, University of Auckland. Prior to joining the Ministry, she co-directed the Surgical Trials Unit and worked as an academic. Sayali has published extensively and won several research awards. Alongside the Chief Science Advisor, she leads a small but incredible team (the Office of the Chief Science Advisor) which provides independent, strategic, scientific advice and recommendations to decision-makers to ensure good evidence underpins the Ministry's stewardship role. As both an academic and public servant, Sayali is driven by her passion to support our healthcare system to enable and sustain healthier lives for all people.



Professor Cristin Print

Cris graduated in medicine from the University of Auckland in 1989 and began research while working as a house surgeon in Dunedin. A PhD at the University of Auckland led to work for 10 years in Australia and the United Kingdom, before returning to the University of Auckland where he leads a cross-disciplinary research team of clinicians, biologists and data scientists who use genomics and bioinformatics to better understand human disease, especially cancer.



Markerita Poutasi

Markerita is the National Director, Pacific Health for Te Whatu Ora. The Pacific Health group was established as part of the health reforms in 2022, with a vision of a health system that delivers equitable health outcomes for Pacific people, and a future where Pacific families live longer, healthier lives. She is a partnerships specialist with a background in law and Pacific development, and is experienced in change leadership, Pacific health equity, and designing new models of care with communities. Prior to taking up this role, Markerita was Chief of Strategy at Te Whatu Ora - Te Toka Tumai Auckland, and director of Pacific Health for the Northern Region Coordination Centre.



Dr Viliami Puloka

Viliami is a native son of the island Kingdom of Tonga. He is a public health physician currently working as Senior Health Promotion Strategist with the Health Promotion Forum of New Zealand. He is also a research fellow and lecturer with Otago University based in the Public Health and Policy unit, Wellington campus. Viliami specialises in Pacific health and has a special interest in diabetes and obesity. He has gained a deep appreciation and wide understanding of Pacific culture, health, and wellbeing while working for the Pacific Community/SPC for almost ten years. He was the team leader, leading the fight against non-communicable diseases in the 22 Pacific Island countries and territories. Viliami believes “culture is not taught but caught”.



Dr Kimiora Raerino

Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Rangiwewehi

Kimiora is a research officer at SHORE Whariki research centre, Massey University, Auckland. Her kaupapa Māori research work centres on environmental health, urban Māori and marae, cultural landscapes and urban street design. Central to Kimiora’s research interests is the exploration of Māori autonomy and identity in their cultural-collective urban spaces and everyday living places. Current research projects include reindigenising streetscapes, tangata whenua engagement in community design, kaumātua mobility and active transport behaviours, and streetscape health equity for whānau Māori.



Dr Andrew Reynolds

Andrew is a senior research fellow within the Department of Medicine at the University of Otago, based in Ōtepoti Dunedin. He conducts evidence synthesis to inform international clinical or dietary guidelines, and runs randomised controlled trials to generate new evidence that informs health care.



Dr Anna Rolleston

Anna is Managing Director of The Centre for Health. Her vision and lifelong mission is to create a healthcare system that works for you and with you. A system where you are fully informed of your choices and where you get to choose your own pathway to better health and wellbeing. Anna leads the philosophical direction at The Centre for Health which is grounded in values that come from a Māori worldview and acknowledges an all-of-person, and culturally appropriate approach to health and wellbeing regardless of your cultural context. Anna is a recognised health practitioner and health researcher and holds various governance roles within the health sector.



Magda Rosin

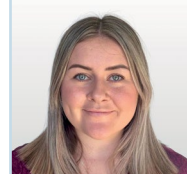
Magda is a PhD candidate at the School of Population Health, University of Auckland, working under the supervision of Professor Cliona Ni Mhurchu and Dr Sally Mackay. She is a recipient of the Healthier Lives National Science Challenge Population Nutrition PhD Scholarship. Magda is also a public health registered dietitian interested in understanding the relationships between policy interventions, population diets and health outcomes.



Els Russell

Ngāti Maru (Hauraki)

Els is a teaching fellow and assistant research fellow in the Department of Population Health at Otago University in Christchurch. She completed her Masters of Public Health in 2022 as part of the ACTIVATION research project. Her thesis used a kaupapa Māori research methodology and explored the experiences of Māori social housing residents living in Ōtautahi Christchurch. Els is currently teaching within the public health programme at Otago and working across several research projects exploring the social determinants of health including housing and transport. Her focus is on the experiences Māori have accessing these social health determinants.



Associate Professor Andrew Sporle

Ngāti Apa, Rangitāne, Te Rarawa

Andrew is the managing director of iNZight Analytics, an honorary associate professor of statistics at the University of Auckland, the national contact point (Māori) for the EU's Horizon Europe Research Fund, and a deputy-director of the Healthier Lives National Science Challenge. He is a board member for several Māori or Indigenous research committees, advisor on government data and research initiatives in Aotearoa and Australia, co-lead for the iNZight statistical software and on the executive of the International Sociological Association Research Committee on Racism, Nationalism, Indigeneity and Ethnicity.



Tāria Tane

Te Roroa, Ngāpuhi

Tāria is a doctoral student with the Manawataki Fatu Fatu for ACCESS research programme, studying population health at the University of Auckland. Tāria's doctoral research explores factors that influence access to cardiovascular care for rural Māori in Te Tai Tokerau Northland. Tāria is also a skilled and seasoned project manager who has worked on diverse projects spanning primary care, mental health, child health, digital health, and long-term conditions.



Tori Te Puke

Tori works for South Waikato Pacific Island Community Services Trust as a community researcher for the Healthier Lives Implementation Network. Tori is a former employee of Hato Hone (St John) where she was an emergency medical assistant. Tori has ample experience working at the frontline in multicultural populations and is passionate about improving health and health systems for Māori and Pacific peoples. She wants to help her people before they get to the point of needing an ambulance.



Megan Tunks

Te Whānau-a-Apanui, Te Whakatōhea

Megan has a long background in Māori public health, in a variety of national and regional leadership roles. Based in Tauranga Moana, Megan is currently on secondment from Te Aka Whai Ora to a chief advisor role in the Promotion Directorate, National Public Health Service. In her previous role as CEO of Te Hotu Manawa Maori Trust trading as Toi Tangata, Megan was involved with the Healthier Lives OL@-OR@ project which developed an mHealth tool. She is a previous board member of the ANA (Activity Nutrition Aotearoa) and a current board member of Sport Bay of Plenty, 20/20 Digital Trust and HIRA Governance Group.



Professor Karen Witten

Karen is a social scientist based in Tāmaki Makaurau. Her primary research interests centre on interactions between the built environment characteristics of cities and neighbourhoods and the social relationships, transport choices and health-related practices of residents. She leads the ACTIVATION study investigating strategies to promote active travel through streetscape re-design and community-led interventions. She is a professor of public health at the SHORE & Whariki Research Centre, Massey University.



HEALTHIER
LIVES

He Oranga
Hauora

Healthier Lives–He Oranga Hauora National Science Challenge

Vision

Our vision is of Aotearoa New Zealand with equitable health outcomes and a substantially reduced burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

Te Kitenga

Tō mātou kitenga kia noho a Aotearoa New Zealand hei whenua he ōrite ngā putanga hua hauora mō te tangata, kia iti iho hoki ngā pūkauranga o ngā māuiui kāore e taea te tuku ki te tangata kē (Ngā NCD).



HEALTHIER
LIVES

He Oranga Hauora

National
SCIENCE
Challenges

Contact Healthier Lives

phone: (03) 470 9859

email: healthier.lives@otago.ac.nz

website: www.healthierlives.co.nz



**Healthier
Lives**
Implementation
Network

www.healthierlivesimplementationnetwork.co.nz



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

agresearch
āta mātai, mātai whetū



**MASSEY
UNIVERSITY**
TE KUNENGA KI PŪREHUROA
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND

