

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

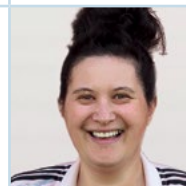
Karen is a speech-language therapist and kaupapa Māori researcher at Waipapa Taumata Rau | The University of Auckland. She is the co-director Māori of Pūtahi Manawa | Healthy Hearts for Aotearoa New Zealand (CoRE), and senior lecturer in speech science, psychology. Karen worked on the qualitative aspects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



Rochelle Ellison-Lupena

Ngāti Porou, Ngai Tahu, Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Mutunga, Rarotonga

Rochelle is a doctoral student at Waipapa Taumata Rau | The University of Auckland. Her thesis, currently under examination, explores the barriers and enablers for Māori patients and whānau accessing acute cardiac care in the community. She is also a lecturer in Hauora Māori at Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington.



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.



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.



Michelle Mako

Michelle is Director Hauora Māori Tūmatanui at Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui | the Public Health Agency. In previous roles, she worked on the development of the Healthy Eating Health Action (HEHA) strategy and implementation plan, and led the nutrition social marketing work programme for the Health Sponsorship Council/Health Promotion Agency over a number of years. Originally trained as a cardiac nurse, Michelle completed a Master of Public Health focussed on the role of food marketing in influencing Māori children's food preferences, and is currently a Doctoral Candidate in the School of Health Nursing and Midwifery at Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University where her research explores tikanga Māori approaches to increasing Māori women's participation in cancer screening.



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.



Sulita Povaru-Bourne

Cook Islands, Samoa

Sulita is a health educator with more than 20 years' experience of community development and youth work. She is currently employed by South Waikato Pacific Island Community Services Trust as a community researcher for the Healthier Lives Implementation Network. She has a Bachelor of Social Services and a Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Supervision. Her passion is to serve her community by connecting, educating, and supporting them to make informed decisions for themselves.



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

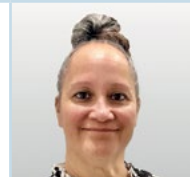
Viliami is a native son of the island Kingdom of Tonga. He is a public health physician currently working as Senior Health Promotion Strategist with the Health Promotion Forum of New Zealand. He is also a research fellow and lecturer with Otago University based in the Public Health and Policy unit, Wellington 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.



Dr Tua Tauetia-Su'a

Tua is currently working as a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Auckland. She trained as a New Zealand Registered Nurse and has worked in many areas of health, including management roles. Tua established the first Pacific Health Unit in New Zealand, at Hutt hospital in the 1990s. Her passion for teaching and education led her to lecture at the Whitireia Polytechnic Nursing school. Tua chairs the National Cervical Screening Pacific Campaign group which has many challenges, given the many different Pacific nations in Aotearoa. She focuses on health promotion and early detection of health concerns for Pacific peoples.



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.

