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NZACRes



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Wellington Symposium August 2024 Review:

The NZACRes Executive Committee hosted a one-day symposium at Wellington Regional Hospital on August 29th, bringing together members from across the research community for an engaging day of updates from the research industry, healthcare sector, and government. It also provided a valuable opportunity for senior leadership to connect and share insights. With membership at NZACRes continuing to grow, the executive board remains focused on finding new ways to serve and support the community.

The event featured a diverse lineup of speakers who generously shared their expertise. Elisabeth Thorn (Callaghan Innovation) and Cassandra Findley (Inland Revenue) delivered timely updates on the Research and Development Tax Incentive, a topic that sparked great interest as we navigate the current funding landscape. Tim Vines from Ministry of Health Manatū Hauora also provided a much-anticipated briefing on the repeal of the TPA and what this means for the future. Meanwhile, Robyn Whittaker from Health NZ Te Whatu Ora gave us a glimpse into Health NZ's support of the conduct of high-quality research to include a front door with streamlined processes, enhanced support and infrastructure, leading to more research being conducted in our health services.

After lunch, we enjoyed a thought-provoking series of presentations on research, ethics, and AI from Rochelle Style and Elisabeth Bohm, followed by an insightful online presentation from the Proud Science Alliance, who also kindly sponsored our afternoon tea. Rounding off the day, executive board member Marina Dzhelali (HiRO/MRINZ) spoke on quality assurance in clinical trials, before we wrapped up with a panel session chaired by Erica Currie, featuring Sophie Goodger, Rosane Joseph, and Maureen Blackmore.

Thank you to all the members who stayed on for the AGM. Just a reminder: all symposium presentations are available online for NZACRes members. We look forward to seeing you at our next event—watch this space!



New Zealand Association of Clinical Research

NZACRes Executive Committee Updates

We are extremely grateful for the time and energy Meghan McIlwain has given to NZACRes over the past 2 years as President and many more on the Committee! We would like to take this opportunity to thank Meghan for her dedication and service as she steps down from this role.

Your current committee members are:

Ruth Lucas (Chair/President)

Erica Currie (Secretary)

Jo Sanders (Privacy Officer)

Chris Taylor (Treasurer)

Marina Dzhelali

Katie Borroz

Deb Matich.

We have space for another 1 to 2 members on the executive committee and welcome expressions of interest if you would like to join us. We are particularly looking for members that have expertise in devices, non-commercial research, IT and AI, fundraising, and Māori /Pasifika, although all applications are very welcome. If you would like more information or would like to be considered, please send your CV or questions to: info@nzacres.org.nz

Thank you to Sharon Jefferies, our admin support, who looks after this mailbox for us and helps to field questions to the right place, along with her myriad of other skills that keeps the committee in order!



NZACRes Key Activities 2024-2025

The Committee has been working hard towards delivering the association goals, thank you to all the Executive Committee members for your time and support to deliver this.

Our overarching goal is to promote and support clinical research in New Zealand by:

Providing information and resources for the industry in New Zealand:

- NZACRes continues to support our freely available online [resources](#), such as the contract templates, costing tool, and standard indemnity document. The latest Health NZ Te Whatu Ora research newsletter is available on our website for all researchers to access. Keep an eye out for more resources coming soon!
- We are in the process of updating our website. This will make sure that the website is maintained and securely monitored, to help us avoid any cyber-attacks. It will also allow us to share more resources and promote activities like networking events and training opportunities.
- Committee members respond to queries and requests for information received via our website and through email at info@nzacres.org.nz.

Acting as a conduit for networking within the industry:

- NZACRes will be holding a networking event in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington before the end of 2024. Look out for more information on these events in the next few weeks.

Providing opportunities for discussion and resolution of issues pertinent to clinical research in New Zealand:

- NZACRes will shortly be setting up industry working groups that all NZACRes members are welcome to apply to join. These working groups are to provide feedback and potential solutions for challenges across the clinical research ecosystem and share knowledge and experience across the research community.
- The first working group that we will be requesting expressions of interest for is NZ Ethics Approval. Many thanks to Julie Jones for chairing this group. If you are interested in participating in this group, please email expression of interest to info@nzacres.org.nz. Registration is essential and the link will be provided prior to the first session.
- Other working group topics for 2025 include 'Quality and Best Practice', 'Data Management', 'Commercial Trial Budget Template Standardisation', and 'Study Coordination'. If you have requests for other topics or would like to join a group, please let us know.

Supporting and encouraging training opportunities for our members:

- NZACRes will be bringing back our popular webinar series for 2024-2025! Keep an eye out for more information on dates, with the first topics confirmed as 'Part 11 Compliance and System Validation' and 'Block Chain in Clinical Trials for eConsent and eCRF'.
- We will provide links for options of online training that you can use on our new website, available soon.
- NZACRes is collaborating with ARCS in Australia to bring you options for in-person and online training. In addition, Health NZ has been working with PRAXIS to provide NZ training courses which will also be available for the wider research community to access. Look out for more information soon on training course availability.



Current Industry Trends

If you would like to post news or events of interest to members, please send details to info@nzacres.org.nz

CAN WE HELP?

Contact us at info@nzacres.org.nz with your suggestions.

Where do you believe NZACRes can add the most benefit to the clinical research industry in New Zealand?

How can NZACRes best support its members and the New Zealand Clinical Research Environment?

Gene Technology Updates

New Zealand's gene technology legislation is under review. Changes are expected to enable the application of scientific and technology advancements, by removing regulatory barriers and ensuring regulations are fit for purpose. The new regulations will accommodate gene technology used in advanced therapeutic medicinal products (ATMPs) and provide a significant increase in treatment opportunities for patients. They also aim to reduce the burden and timelines for healthcare regulatory applications, particularly within the clinical trials space.

The reform has been initiated by Minister Hon Judith Collins, the Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology and is led by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). The draft legislation is expected to be ready in Q4 of 2024, with select committee review in Q1 of 2025. The proposed legislation will closely align with the Australian legislation and is anticipated to be passed, and in operation, by the end of 2025.

The new law:

- Allows for greater use of gene editing.
- Is risk-proportionate and evidence-based.
- Is internationally aligned.
- Retains public participation.
- Focuses on the management of risks.
- Leverages overseas expertise.
- Has streamlined, efficient, and transparent processes.

Upcoming Events

- **17-19 October** New Zealand Society for Oncology (NZSO) Annual Scientific Meeting (<https://www.nzsoncology.org.nz/conference>)
- **18 October** Close of submissions to NZACRes for updates to NZ clinical trial regulations, send feedback to info@nzacres.org.nz
- **22 October 6-7pm** Miracle Medicine: How antenatal steroids revolutionized neonatal care, Auckland ([Registration Required, Register Here](#))
- **27 October** close of all submissions for updates to NZ clinical trial regulations
- **12-15 November** International Indigenous Research Conference, University of Auckland (<https://www.iirc.ac.nz/>)
- **13-14 November** University Research Offices of New Zealand (URONZ) Conference, Wellington ([URONZ 2024 registration page - URONZ 2024 - Research in a changing landscape \(eventsair.com\)](#))
- **27 November** Pharmacoepidemiology Research Network Symposium, Dunedin (<https://www.otago.ac.nz/pharmacoepidemiology/news/symposium/registration>)
- **04 December** ARCS 2024 Clinical Summit, Melbourne (<https://www.arcs.com.au/events/2024-clinical-summit/>)

Hold The Date!

2025 Conference
coming...
21-22 Aug 2025
Auckland



**New Zealand
Association of Clinical Research**