

## NZ ASI Meeting Programme

Tuesday 2 September – Wednesday 3 September, 2025  
Te Pae, Christchurch, New Zealand

### Tuesday 2 September

Time	Details	Location
7.30am-8.00am	<b>Mihi Whakatau</b> <i>Registration required</i> <i>Please wait outside the room until you are invited in</i>	Conway C5
8.00am-8.15am	<b>Comfort break</b>	
<b><u>Session 1: Adaptive and Tissue Immunology</u></b> <b>Chaired by Dr Inken Kelch (The University of Auckland)</b>		
8.15am-8.25am	<b>ASI NZ WELCOME</b>	Conway C4
8.25am-9.10am	<b>Professor Sarah Robertson (A1)</b> The University of Adelaide <i>The immune response to conception and why it matters</i>	Conway C4
9.13am-9.24am	<b>Caitlin Brown (A2)</b> Malaghan Institute of Medical Research <i>Aspergillus exposure protects against influenza-induced lethality in mice</i>	Conway C4
9.25am-9.36am	<b>Rebecca Palmer (A3)</b> Malaghan Institute of Medical Research <i>A high dimensional spectral cytometry method for comprehensive phenotyping of murine pulmonary cells</i>	Conway C4
9.37am-9.48am	<b>Dr. Jessica Barnes (A4)</b> The University Of Newcastle <i>The Hidden Identity of Th22 Cells: Stem-like Sentinels of the Mucosa in the Face of Bacterial Infection</i>	Conway C4
9.49am-10.00am	<b>Claire Harlick (A5)</b> Malaghan Institute of Medical Research <i>Investigating how Interleukin-4 and 13 influence cholesterol and organelle distribution in bone marrow derived dendritic cells</i>	Conway C4
10.00am-10.30am	<b>Morning Tea</b>	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
<b><u>Session 2: Clinical Immunology</u></b> <b>Chaired by Dr Alicia Didsbury (The University of Auckland, Te Aka Mātauranga Matepukupuku Centre for Cancer Research)</b>		
10.35am-11.10am	<b>Dr. Lisa Connor (A6)</b> Malaghan Institute of Medical Research  <i>An end-to-end pipeline for designing and testing pan-virus, universal RNA vaccines</i>	Conway C4
11.10am-11.45am	<b>Professor Alexander Mclellan (A7)</b> University of Otago	Conway C4

	<i>Teamwork for the cure: combination NK cell and CAR T cell therapy</i>	
11.45am-12.00pm	<b>Dr Katharina Robichon (A8)</b> University of Otago <i>High-dimensional unbiased immune profiling reveals treatment-specific immune signatures in people with multiple sclerosis undergoing disease-modifying therapy.</i>	Conway C4
12.00pm-1.30pm	<b>Lunch</b>	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
12.30pm-1.30pm	<b>ASI NZ Annual General Meeting</b>	Conway C4
<b><u>Session 3: Cancer Immunology &amp; Immunotherapy</u></b> <b>Chaired by Dr Daniel Verdon (The University of Auckland)</b>		
1.30pm-2.15pm	<b>Associate Professor Paul Beavis (A9)</b> Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, Australia <i>Enhancing the efficacy of CAR T cells in solid tumours.</i>	Conway C4
2.15pm-2.26pm	<b>Dr. Alex du Rand (A10)</b> The University of Auckland <i>Using gene editing to fine-tune gene expression and dissect the immune checkpoint inhibitor response in melanoma</i>	Conway C4
2.26pm-2.37pm	<b>Dr. Kevin Ly (A11)</b> University of Otago <i>Δ133p53-like isoform exerts context-dependent effects on immunotherapy and tumour survival</i>	Conway C4
2.37pm-2.48pm	<b>Ben Buttle (A12)</b> The University of Auckland <i>Using Advance Genome Editing Techniques to Reprogramme T-cells for Cancer Immunotherapy</i>	Conway C4
2.48pm-2.59pm	<b>Dr. Jennifer Eom (A13)</b> The University of Auckland <i>Selecting antigenic targets for personalised, adoptive T-cell therapy based on the multiplexed immunofluorescence imaging of epithelial ovarian cancer tissues</i>	Conway C4
2.59pm-3.10pm	<b>Dr. Lachie Dobson (A14)</b> University of Otago <i>CAR T cells synergise with parallel-expanded autologous natural killer cells to improve solid cancer immunotherapy</i>	Conway C4
3.10pm-3.30pm	<b>Dr. Alicia Didsbury (A15)</b> The University of Auckland, Te Aka Mātauranga Matepukupuku Centre for Cancer Research <i>Translating Immunology into Clinical Impact for New Zealand Patients</i>	Conway C4
3.30pm-4.00pm	<b>Afternoon Break</b>	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
<b><u>Session 4: Watson Oration.</u></b> <b>Chaired by Dr Hilary Sheppard (The University of Auckland)</b>		
4.00pm-5.30pm	<b>Professor Rod Dunbar (A16)</b> <b>Watson Oration</b> <b>University of Auckland</b>	Conway C4
6.00pm-8.30pm	<b>Poster Session</b>	Exhibition Hall E1+E2

6.30pm-8.00pm	<b>Evening Social Function</b> <i>Sponsored by Decode Science</i>	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
8.00pm -	<b>ASI NZ Conference Dinner</b> <i>Ticket required. Please wear your name badge.</i> <i>Sponsored by Medi'Ray NZ and Genscript</i>	Original Sin Restaurant

## Wednesday 3 September

Time	Details	Location
<b>Session 5: Innate Immunology and Immunization</b> <b>Chaired by Dr Sofia Khanum (AgResearch, Bioeconomy Science Institute)</b>		
8.15am-9.00am	<b>Dr. Larisa Labzin (A17)</b> The University Of Queensland <i>Discovering how human macrophages sense and respond to viral infection</i>	Conway C4
9.01am-9.12am	<b>Zoe Robinson (A18)</b> University of Otago <i>Investigating characteristics of the highly fatal Yellow-Eyed Penguin Gyrovirus</i>	Conway C4
9.13am – 9.24am	<b>Lydia White (A19)</b> Malaghan Institute Of Medical Research <i>Modular design of circular RNA for optimised customisable vaccines</i>	Conway C4
9.25am-9.36am	<b>Mejo Chiratteparambil Korah (A20)</b> University of Auckland <i>Development of Vaccines against Gonococcal Disease using the PilVax Platform</i>	Conway C4
9.37am-9.48am	<b>Dr. Fiona Radcliff (A21)</b> University of Auckland <i>Translation of a potential vaccine for Staphylococcus aureus from protein to mRNA</i>	Conway C4
9.49am- 10.00am	<b>Hannah Boswell (A22)</b> Malaghan Institute of Medical Research <i>MAIT cell modulation of dendritic cells promotes regulatory immune responses in the lung</i>	Conway C4
10.00am-10.30am	<b>Morning Tea</b>	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
<b>Session 6: Viruses and Vaccines</b> <b>Chaired by Dr Kunyu Li (University of Otago)</b>		
10.35am-11.20am	<b>Professor Marc Pellegrini (A23)</b> Centenary Institute, Sydney, Australia <i>Death Becomes Them – Host Cells and their viruses</i>	Conway C4
11.20am-11.55am	<b>Dr. Axel Heiser (A24)</b> AgResearch, Bioeconomy Science Institute <i>The Pathway to Veterinary RNA Vaccines</i>	Conway C4
12.00pm-1.00pm	<b>Lunch</b>	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
<b>Session 7: Adaptive and Innate Immunology</b> <b>Chaired by Dr. Catherine Tsai (University of Auckland)</b>		
1.00pm-1.45pm	<b>Professor Tak W. Mak (A25)</b> Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University of Toronto <i>Metabolic and Neural Regulation of Immunity and Cancer</i>	Conway C4
1.49pm-2.00pm	<b>Dr. Sotaro Ochiai (A26)</b> Malaghan Institute of Medical Research	Conway C4

	<i>IL-4 driven differentiation of dermal CD11b-low cDC2s during skin allergy</i>	
2.01pm-2.12pm	<b>Brianna Mouariki Otto (A27)</b> Victoria University of Wellington <i>Characterising the host macrophage response to Bartonella quintana using an in vitro cell line model</i>	Conway C4
2.13pm-2.24pm	<b>Dr. Olivier Lamiable (A28)</b> Malaghan Institute of Medical Research <i>How Interleukin 13 conditions skin migratory dendritic cells toward Th2 priming.</i>	Conway C4
2.25pm-2.36pm	<b>Professor Marilyn Hibma (A29)</b> University Of Otago <i>Large extracellular vesicles derived from keratinocytes modulate Langerhans-like cell activation of T cells</i>	Conway C4
2.37pm-2.48pm	<b>Marcus Ooi (A30)</b> The University of Auckland <i>Mapping the Spatial Niches of Antigen-Presenting Cell Subsets in the Human Lymph Node</i>	Conway C4
2.49pm-3.00pm	<b>Abbie Larson (A31)</b> Malaghan Institute of Medical Research <i>Control of skin DC2 development by IRF4</i>	Conway C4
3.00pm-3.30pm	<b>Afternoon Break</b>	Exhibition Hall E1+E2
<b><u>Session 8: Genetic and Cellular Control of Immunity</u></b> <b>Chaired by Ben Topham (Mackenzie Cancer Research Group, University of Otago)</b>		
3.30pm-4.05pm	<b>Dr. Charis Teh (A32)</b> The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne, Australia <i>Harnessing the cell's inbuilt suicide switches to combat cancer</i>	Conway C4
4.05pm-4.40pm	<b>Dr. Natalie Netzler (A33)</b> University of Auckland <i>Unique Pacific gene variants and impacts on immunity and infection.</i>	Conway C4
4.40pm-5.00pm	<b>Awards and Closing</b> <i>Awards sponsored by Genscript and Miltenyi</i>	Conway C4
	<b>QRW Panel Discussion &amp; Plenary Lecture</b>	
5.30pm-5.40pm	<b>Introduction</b>	Auditorium A3+A4
5.40pm-6.25pm	<b>Panel Discussion on Aotearoa New Zealand's future research, science &amp; innovation sector</b> (moderated by Dr Marie Bradley) <b>Sir Peter Gluckman</b> ONZ KNZM FRSNZ, University of Auckland <b>Professor Emily Parker</b> FRSNZ, Victoria University of Wellington <b>Mark Piper</b> , Transitional CEO, Bioeconomy Science Institute <b>Professor David R. Grattan</b> FRSNZ, University of Otago	Auditorium A3+A4

6.30pm-7.40pm	<b>QRW Plenary Lecture</b> <i>Sponsored by Mediscope International Limited</i> <b>Prof. Tak Mak</b> Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University of Toronto and Centre of Oncology and Immunology, University of Hong Kong <i>Beyond immune checkpoint blockade: emerging strategies</i>	Auditorium A3+A4
7.45pm-9.30pm	<b>Evening Social Function</b> <i>Sponsored by Thermo Fisher Scientific</i> Drinks and nibbles The Great QMB Trivia Night with Pierre de Cordovez	Exhibition Hall E1+E2