NZFBOC

New Zealand Familial Breast & Ovarian Cancer Conference
Te Pou Manaaki Whānau Mate ā-ira pukupuku o Aotearoa

Cancer Society - Ōtautahi Christchurch
74 Langdons Road
Papanui, Christchurch

6-7 NOVEMBER 2026

Conference - Friday 6 November

7.30 – 8.30am	Arrival tea/coffee and registration
8.30 – 8.45am	**Mihi Whakatau** **Welcome and opening comments**
8.45 – 9.15am	**The enduring legacy of whakapapa: Whānau, genetics and cancer risk** *Prof Karyn Paringatai, Programme Coordinator, Māori Studies Te Tumu School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies, Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka, University of Otago*
9.15 – 10.00am	**Mapping the genetic terrain** • Beyond BRCA: Exploring the expanding genetic terrain • Where two paths meet: Tumour-first testing and germline discovery *Cindy Zaitsoff, Senior Genetic Counsellor, Genetic Health Service New Zealand* *Emma Felix, Senior Genetic Counsellor, Genetic Health Service New Zealand*
10.00 - 10.30am	**Morning tea**
10.30 – 10.50am	**Choosing a path** Mainstreaming and access *Emma Felix, Senior Genetic Counsellor, Genetic Health Service New Zealand*
10.50 – 11.20am	Benefits of multimodality breast imaging in higher risk patients *Dr Sugania Reddy, Radiologist, Allevia Radiology, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland*
11.20am – 12.00pm	Choices at the crossroads - risk-reducing breast surgery *Mr Jeremy Simcock, Senior Lecturer Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon, Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka University of Otago*
12.00 – 1.00pm	**Lunch**

CHANGING LANDSCAPES

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	Evolving care in practice: Prevention, treatment and decision-making
1.00 – 1.45pm	On shifting ground: Redefining risk, prevention and care in familial breast and ovarian cancer *Prof Ian Campbell, Head, Cancer Genetics Laboratory, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Victoria, Australia*
1.45 – 2.15pm	New frontiers in treatment: Targeted therapies for hereditary breast and ovarian cancer *A/Prof Yoland Antill, Medical Oncologist and Cancer Genetics Specialist, Victoria, Australia*
2.15 – 3.00pm	Between risk and relief: Hormonal choices in familial breast and ovarian cancer *Dr Megan Ogilvie, Endocrinologist, Endocrine and Reproductive Health Associates, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland*
3.00 - 3.30pm	**Afternoon tea**
3.30 – 4.15pm	**Beyond Reassurance: Understanding psychological responses to cancer risk** *Dr Kumari Valentine, Clinical Psychologist, Ōtepoti Dunedin*
4.15 – 4.50pm	**Panel: Beyond the horizon: The next chapter in familial cancer care** *Prof Ian Campbell, Dr Sugania Reddy, A/Prof Yoland Antill, Prof Karyn Paringatai, Dr Kumari Valentine, Emma Felix Fay Sowerby (Chair)*
4.50 – 5.00pm	Day close

Workshops - Saturday 7 November

9.45 - 10.15am	**The path is changing: What's new in familial breast and ovarian cancer care in Aotearoa New Zealand** *Cindy Zaitsoff, Senior Genetic Counsellor, Genetic Health Service New Zealand* *Emma Felix, Senior Genetic Counsellor, Genetic Health Service New Zealand* Livestreamed from the Community Day
10.30am – 12.00pm	**Workshop 1: Genetics 101** *Magda Ratajska, Senior Research Fellow, Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka University of Otago* *George Wiggins, Researcher / PhD Researcher, Mackenzie Cancer Research Group, Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka University of Otago*
12.00 - 1.00pm	**Lunch**
1.00 – 2.30pm	**Workshop 2: Genetic risk assessment** *Cindy Zaitsoff, Senior Genetic Counsellor, Genetic Health Service New Zealand* *Emma Felix, Senior Genetic Counsellor, Genetic Health Service New Zealand*

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SPEAKERS

in order of appearance

Prof Karyn Paringatai



Karyn is a Professor in Te Tumu - School of Māori, Pacific & Indigenous Studies at the University of Otago. She researches in the broader discipline of Māori Studies, with a particular focus, for now, on whānau (family) experiences of carrying the CDH1 gene. She is part of a wider Research Team that won the 2023 Prime Minister's Science Prize for their whānau-centred, whakapapa-informed collaborative approach for delivering effective and equitable management of healthcare for CDH1 whānau.

Cindy Zaitsoff



Cindy is a genetic counsellor with over 25 years of clinical experience, working with Genetic Health Service NZ within Te Whatu Ora / Auckland City Hospital. Her clinical practice includes all aspects of genetics, with a focus on cancer genetics. She is passionate about translating advances in genetic testing into meaningful, equitable and patient-centered care for individuals and families.

Emma Felix



Emma is a Registered Genetic Counsellor and Fellow of the Human Genetics Society of Australasia (FHGSA), practising in Wellington. She began her career with the NZ Genetic Health Service in 2003, following 12 years working as a Diagnostic Genetic Scientist in the UK. Emma has a particular passion for cancer genetics and supporting whānau affected by cancer. Her work includes establishing a national rapid treatment-related genetic testing pathway for ovarian cancer and facilitating oncology-based genetic testing for people with ovarian and breast cancer. She also has special interests in genetic counsellor training, clinical supervision and genetic education for health professionals.

Driven by a commitment to supporting people beyond the clinical aspects of their cancer experience, Emma is currently undertaking additional training as part of a Master's in counselling working with the Cancer Society.

Dr Sugania Reddy



Sugania is a Radiologist with sub speciality interest in woman's imaging mainly breast and gynaecology. Clinical lead for Breast imaging at Allevia Radiology after having gained further experience following breast and gynaecology visiting fellowships at University of Virginia, Charlottesville and Memorial Sloane Kettering, New York and a 13-year consultant radiologist position at Middlemore Hospital.

Mr Jeremy Simcock



Jeremy is a Plastic Surgeon and Associate Dean of Medical Education at the University of Otago, Christchurch. After completing training in New Zealand, he gained further experience in the UK and Melbourne where he completed an MD before returning to New Zealand in 2007.

His clinical work encompasses general reconstructive surgery and hand surgery with particular focus on microsurgical cancer reconstruction and management of neuromuscular upper limb conditions. His areas of research interest include medical education, skin cancer and upper limb reconstruction.

SPEAKERS

in order of appearance

Prof Ian Campbell



Ian is currently a group leader at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Professor in the Sir Peter MacCallum Department of Oncology at the University of Melbourne and is Principal investigator of the Lifepool cohort study. Prof Campbell completed his PhD (1986) in the Department of Microbiology, University of Western Australia and undertook 5 years of post-doctoral work in London, UK at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund (now Cancer Research UK). In 1993 he headed his own laboratory at the Princess Anne Hospital, University of Southampton, UK where he gained international recognition research into the genetics of breast and ovarian cancer.

In 1999 he was recruited as a group leader at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre where his laboratory is regarded as one of Australia's leading breast and ovarian cancer genetics facilities and his laboratory has international recognition for work on the discovery of new familial breast and ovarian cancer predisposition genes through innovative large scale sequencing approaches. Professor Campbell has also made a series of seminal contributions to the understanding of the aetiology of ovarian cancer and continues a leading international role into somatic molecular analyses of breast and ovarian cancers. He is the lead investigator of the Lifepool cohort which is a cohort of 55,000 women attending Breast Screening services (www.lifepool.org) and is a leading international resource for research into breast cancer epidemiology, biology and genetics.

A/Prof Yoland Antill



Yoland is a Medical Oncologist and Cancer Genetics specialist in Victoria with both public (Peninsula University Hospital, Royal Melbourne Hospital) together with private practice (Cabrini Health). She is a Clinician Researcher and holds an adjunct clinical position in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at Monash University. She has more than 25 years' experience in both medical oncology and in the diagnosis and management of hereditary cancer syndromes and has published widely in these areas.

Her working and research interests are in the management of Breast and Gynaecological cancers together with Hereditary Cancer Syndromes. She is the Chair of the Australian and New Zealand Gynaecology Oncology Group (ANZGOG) Research Advisory Board, a senior executive member of the Endometrial Cancer Research Steering Committee (EDEN) and a senior member of the MPCCC Molecular Tumour Board.

Dr Megan Ogilvie



Megan is a specialist in general and reproductive endocrinology with over 25 years of experience working in women's hormonal health. She is a founding partner at ERH Associates and also works at Te Whatu Ora.

As the New Zealand representative on the Board of the Australasian Menopause Society, she is actively involved in medical education, research and advocacy.

Megan is passionate about advancing evidence-based women's healthcare and empowering women to make informed decisions about their hormonal health.

SPEAKERS

in order of appearance

Dr Kumari Valentine



Kumari is a consultant clinical psychologist based in Ōtepoti Dunedin, with more than 20 years' experience. Her work focuses on trauma, stress, rumination, mindfulness and self-compassion, and her PhD explored rumination and thought suppression. She combines psychological science with practical, compassionate approaches to help people navigate difficult emotions, uncertainty and experiences of threat. Through her clinical work, teaching and podcast, Just a Minute with Dr Kumari, she explores how small moments of awareness, connection and care can support meaningful change.

Fay Sowerby



Fay has more than 30 years of governance and commercial experience, underpinned by a background in industrial psychology and a 20-year consulting career with KPMG, KPMG Consulting and her own practice. She has led major change and technology implementation projects in New Zealand and internationally across a range of industries, served on boards and committees spanning sport, education, Crown entities, NGOs and health.

Fay joined Breast Cancer Cure as a Trustee in 2009 and has served as Chair since 2017, with BCC funding more than $12M innovative research. Following her own breast cancer diagnosis in 2013, Fay became an active advocate and consumer representative bringing a precision focus across cancer research, screening, clinical trials, genomics and equitable access to benefit all New Zealanders. Her focus is that cancer should become a survivable and livable condition. Her current roles include:

- Breast Cancer Cure Chair
- Secretary and committee member of Breast Cancer Aotearoa Coalition
- Co-lead, alongside Professor Andrew Shelling, of Against Genomic Discrimination Aotearoa
- Coordinator of the New Zealand Genomic Medicine Collaboration
- National committees and advisory roles across several projects

Fay is a member of the Institute of Directors, the New Zealand Society for Oncology and the European Society for Medical Oncology. Married to Warren and a proud mother and grandmother to two daughters and their families living in New Zealand and the United States.

Dr Magdalena Ratajska



Magdalena (Magda) is a human geneticist, registered medical laboratory scientist and researcher at the University of Otago. She is also a Fellow of the Faculty of Science of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (FFSc RCPA). Her research explores how genetic and epigenetic changes can help guide treatment for breast and ovarian cancer. Combining research with laboratory expertise, she works to bring new molecular tests into routine clinical care and helps train future medical laboratory scientists.

Dr George Wiggins



George is a cancer geneticist and researcher at the University of Otago, Christchurch. His research focuses on improving risk prediction and developing new approaches for cancer prevention in BRCA1 and BRCA2 carrier. He is actively involved in international research collaborations, including CIMBA and ENIGMA, and contributes to the ClinGen Splicing Working Group, helping improve how genetic changes are interpreted in clinical genetic testing.