

Speakers Biographies

Scleroderma NZ Conference Lower Hutt 2027

Professor Rebecca Grainger



Professor Rebecca Grainger is a rheumatologist, educator and health systems researcher whose work focuses on improving outcomes for people living with arthritis and other immune-mediated diseases. She is Head of the Department of Medicine at the University of Otago, Wellington, and a consultant rheumatologist in the Wellington region.

Rebecca leads research spanning inflammatory arthritis, gout and systemic autoimmune disease, with a particular focus on digital health, models of care, patient-reported outcomes, and health service innovation. Her research aims to translate evidence into practical solutions that improve access, quality and equity of care for people with chronic conditions.

A recognised leader in medical education, Rebecca has extensive experience in curriculum design, assessment and health professions education research. She works closely with clinicians, patients, policy makers and community organisations to ensure that research delivers meaningful benefits for people, whānau and health systems.

Associate Professor Stephen Inns



Stephen is a gastroenterologist and general physician who is dedicated to providing high quality, modern, gastroenterological services to the Hutt Valley. He works at both Hutt Valley and The Rutherford Clinic. He offers a friendly, patient centered and evidence based approach to the full range of gastroenterological conditions.

Stephen's doctoral thesis work was regarding dietary interventions in inflammatory bowel disease and irritable bowel syndrome. He has completed a 3 year fellowship in luminal gastroenterology and endoscopy at University College Hospital, London.

Dr Andrew Aitken



Andrew studied medicine at University of Otago, qualifying in 1987. He was a junior doctor in Wellington region and pursued cardiology, achieving FRACP in 1998. Post fellowship training in Edinburgh. Andrew returned to New Zealand in 2000, and has been a full time cardiologist in the Wellington region since then.

In addition to being an Interventional Cardiologist, Andrew has a specific interest in the care of children and young adults with

congenital heart disease. Andrew also has expertise in the management of pulmonary hypertension and the oversight of cardiology conditions for women during pregnancy.

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Amanda Johnson



Amanda has been practicing as a physiotherapist since 1998 and specialising in hand therapy since 2000. During her initial yrs of practice, Amanda worked in the public system mostly treating neurological conditions, such as stroke and spinal cord injuries.

Amanda has the following qualifications and memberships:

- Bachelor of Physiotherapy (1997)
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Health Sciences – endorsed in Musculoskeletal Management (2002)
- Member of Hand Therapy New Zealand (Registered Member in 2004)
- Member of Physiotherapy New Zealand

Adrienne Walton - Jones



Adrienne has an Occupational Therapy background, graduating from Otago in 1993. Adrienne worked at Wellington Hospital on the New Graduate Rotation before heading to Hutt Hospital in 1995 to take up a Role as the Occupational Therapist and Hand Therapist for the Burns and

Adrienne has the following qualifications and memberships:

- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy – Otago 1993
 - Member of Hand Therapy New Zealand (Registered Member since 2001)
 - Member of Occupational Therapy NZ – Whakaora
 - Ngangahau AotearoaRegistered
- Member of the Occupational Therapy Board.