PANEL: ENGAGEMENT IN AOTEAROA'S RESEARCH SYSTEM

Join chair Rhian Salmon and a panel of engagement specialists to discuss the key challenges and opportunities related to engagement in New Zealand research. Our panel share their experiences, insights and hopes for the future from a wide variety of perspectives as we discuss engagement in Aotearoa's research system.

Rhian Salmon
Panel Facilitator, Rhian is Associate Professor at the Centre for Science in Society at Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka. Her research explores the context within which science communication and engagement operates both in Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally. She has expertise in catalysing conversations between scientists and different publics and has worked with a range of audiences on science festivals, public debates, global community events and expeditions.

Prof Gary Evans
Prof Gary Evans is a Medicinal Chemist based at Victoria University of Wellington's Ferrier Research Institute and is seconded for 80% of his time to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment as their Chief Science Advisor where he heads the Science Leadership team. His research involves drug development, designing and synthesising enzyme inhibitors for treating and combating disease. He invented the drug Ulodesine, which completed Phase II clinical trials for the treatment of gout. He was also part the team that synthesised Mundesine which has been approved in Japan for the treatment of peripheral T-Cell lymphoma. Prof Evans earned his PhD at Otago University, before accepting a postdoctoral position at Oxford University. He then worked in the biotechnology sector in United Kingdom. He was appointed a Member of NZ Order of Merit in 2014 and has received several prestigious awards, including the 2014 Janssen Best Innovation Award, the 2011 MacDiarmid Medal from the Royal Society of New Zealand, and the 2004 Nufarm Prize for Excellence in Industrial and Applied Chemistry.

Fleur Templeton
Fleur Templeton works part-time as the Knowledge Exchange manager at Healthier Lives – He Oranga Hauora National Science Challenge, based at the Wellington campus of the University of Otago. She also freelances as a communications specialist and science writer. Her role as Knowledge Exchange manager covers two-way engagement and communications for the Challenge. Fleur has a background in science and journalism, and has spent much of her working life communicating science and making technical information accessible and understandable to different audiences. She has a BSc (First Class Hons) in Zoology from the University of Otago, and a Master of Arts in science, health and environmental journalism from New York University, USA. Fleur has worked as a journalist and in communications and engagement for a wide variety of organisations including the former Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), GNS Science, Parliament, MBIE, Department of Conservation, ACC and most recently for the University of Otago, Wellington. She is a longstanding member of the Science Communicators of New Zealand (SCANZ) as well as the Public Sector Network of Communicators.

Vanessa Young
Vanessa Young is Strategic Engagement and Communications Manager at the MacDairmid Institute for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology. She has an honours degree in Biochemistry from VUW and has spent much of her career working in central government in policy and engagement.

Dr Pauline Harris (Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Rakaipaka, Ngāti Kahungunu)
Dr Pauline Harris is a Senior Lecturer for the Centre for Science and Society at Victoria University of Wellington (VUW). Dr Harris has a background in physics with a PhD and Masters focussed on gamma ray bursts, high-energy neutrino production and inflationary cosmology. Dr Harris has also lectured in Physics at VUW and now focuses on mātauranga Māori associated with Māori astronomy and traditional Māori calendars called maramataka. Currently, Dr Harris is the Chairperson of the Society for Māori Astronomy Research and Traditions (SMART), there, she is dedicated to the collation and the revitalisation of Māori astronomical star lore and maramataka. Dr Harris has been instrumental and a leader in science education and the delivery of largescale Māori astronomy programmes nationwide for the past 10 years. Dr Harris also holds senior positions with the MacDiarmid Institute for advanced Materials and Nanotechnology and is the Associate Vision Mātauranga Theme Leader for the Science for Technological Innovation National Science Challenge.

Prof Dave Frame
Professor Dave Frame is Director of the New Zealand Climate Change Research Institute (NZCCRI) at Victoria University of Wellington. He has a background in physics, philosophy and policy. Previous posts have included research positions at the University of Oxford's Departments of Physics and Geography, and as Deputy Director of the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment. He has also worked at the New Zealand Treasury, and served on secondment at the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change. He has been a Lead Author on the Fifth and Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Dacia Herbulock
Dacia Herbulock is the Director of the Science Media Centre (NZ). The aim of the SMC is to promote accurate, evidence-based reporting on science and technology by helping the media work more closely with the scientific community. Since the Science Media Centre's launch in 2008, she has played a pivotal role in shaping the Centre's direction, leading initiatives to build scientists' capacity for communicating effectively with media and the public, and supporting journalists covering complex science-related issues by making relevant angles and information accessible to all media when science is in the headlines. She serves on the Executive Committee of the Science Communicators Association (SCANZ) and has a background in radio, film, documentary and television news in the US, China and NZ. Her research interests are in media reporting of science, evaluating impact in media and science communication training for researchers, building the evidence base for strategic science communication and public perceptions of science and technology.