

Infectious Diseases Aotearoa

Thursday 3 September – Friday 4 September, 2026
Te Pae, Christchurch, New Zealand

Wednesday 2 September

Time	Details	Location
QRW Plenary Lecture <i>sponsored by Decode Science</i>		
4.45pm	Audience take seats	
5.00pm-5.10pm	Introduction	Conway C2+C3 live feed to C4 and C5
5.00pm-6.00pm	QRW Plenary Lecture: Prof. Sir Graham Le Gros Malaghan Institute of Medical Research <i>Harnessing the Power of the Immune System Using Basic Science and Cutting Edge Technologies</i>	Conway C2+C3 live feed to C4 and C5
6.00pm-8.00pm	Evening Social Function & The Great QMB Trivia Night <i>sponsored by Thermo Fisher Scientific</i>	Exhibition Area

Thursday 3 September

Time	Details	Location
Session 1: Pandemics and emerging threats Chaired by Jemma Geoghegan, Joanna Hicks and Natalie Netzler		
8.45am - 9.00am	Welcome	Conway C5
9.00am - 9.30am	Professor Deborah Williamson (ID1) University of St Andrews <i>Integrating genomics and diagnostics for preparedness</i>	Conway C5
9.30am - 10.00am	Professor Eddie Holmes (ID2) University of Sydney <i>Virus diversity, emergence and preventing future pandemics</i>	Conway C5
10.00am - 10.30am	Morning Tea	Exhibition Area
Session 2: Host-microbe interactions Chaired by Joanna Hicks (University of Waikato)		
10.30am -11.00 am	Professor Gene Tyson (ID3) Queensland University of Technology <i>From a descriptive to a predictive understanding of the human microbiome: mapping mobile genetic elements, microbial interactions and viruses across gut microbial communities</i>	Conway C5
11.00am - 11.15am	Dr Ashley Nutsford (ID4)	Conway C5

	University of Auckland <i>A novel glycoform of the rotavirus outer capsid protein VP7 is secreted from polarized cells</i>	
11.15am - 11.30am	Professor Shane T Grey (ID5) University of New South Wales, Sydney <i>Going Viral - Evolutionary Responses to Viral Infections and Impact on Human Health</i>	Conway C5
11.30am - 11.45am	Dr Stacy van Niekerk (ID6) University of Waikato <i>Sulfur metabolism in Neisseria gonorrhoeae.</i>	Conway C5
11.45am - 12.00pm	Dr Stephanie Waller (ID7) University of Otago <i>Viral community structure in New Zealand's aquatic birds is associated with scavenging behaviour</i>	Conway C5
12.00pm - 12.15pm	Dr Rachel Purcell (ID8) University of Otago Christchurch <i>Tumour microbiome-immune crosstalk and response to cancer therapy</i>	Conway C5
12.15pm-12.30pm	Associate Professor Matt McNeil (ID9) University of Otago <i>Drug-resistance restricts the ability of Mycobacterium tuberculosis to adapt to changes in nutrient availability</i>	Conway C5
12.30pm-1.30pm	Lunch	Exhibition Area
Session 3: Infectious diseases across the Pacific Chaired by Jessica Smith (University of Waikato)		
1.30pm-2.00pm	Asiata Professor Satupaitea Viali (ID10) Oceania University of Medicine, Samoa <i>Infectious Diseases Challenges in Samoa</i>	Conway C5
2.00pm - 2.15pm	Dr Natalie Netzler (ID11) University of Auckland <i>Harnessing the antiviral activities of Indigenous Pacific medicines</i>	Conway C5
2.15pm - 2.30pm	Dr Alice Eruera (ID12) University of Otago <i>The "Good" Virus; Māori Perspectives on the Use of Viruses in Modern Biotechnology</i>	Conway C5
2.30pm - 2.45pm	Dr Chris Puli'uuea (ID13) Auckland University of Technology <i>TNFAIP3 T108A/1207L: Linking Immune variation and function to infectious disease susceptibility</i>	Conway C5
2.45pm -3.00 pm	To'oa Brown (ID14) University of Otago <i>Developing mRNA-based vaccines for measles virus</i>	Conway C5
3.00pm-3.30pm	Afternoon Break	Exhibition Area

Session 4: Pathogen genomics Chaired by Natalie Netzler (University of Auckland)		
3.30pm-3.45pm	Professor Jemma Geoghegan (ID15) University of Otago <i>Genomics-informed diagnostics for animal disease investigations</i>	Conway C5
3.45pm-4.00pm	Dr David Winter (ID16) PHF Science <i>Any pathogen, any sample. Pathogen genomics for public health at PHF Science</i>	Conway C5
4.00pm-4.15pm	Distinguished Professor Nigel French (ID17) Massey University <i>Utility and pitfalls of using phylodynamic models to inform the management of ongoing epidemics and outbreaks</i>	Conway C5
4.15pm-4.30pm	Dr Emma Voss (ID18) Livestock Improvement Corporation <i>Genomic Epidemiology of Staphylococcus aureus in Dairy Cattle</i>	Conway C5
4.30pm - 4.45pm	Associate Professor Htin Lin Aung (ID19) University of Otago <i>Genomic Epidemiology of Mycobacterium tuberculosis Complex in Fiji Reveals Community Transmission of Mycobacterium tuberculosis and Emergence of Zoonotic Bovine Tuberculosis</i>	Conway C5
4.45pm-5.00pm	Dr Rhys White (ID20) PHF Science <i>Moving threats: mobile DNA, pathogen emergence, and genomic surveillance in New Zealand</i>	Conway C5
5.30pm-7.30pm	Poster Session & Social Mixer <i>sponsored by Lab Supply</i>	Exhibition Area
7.30pm-late	Infectious Disease Satellite Social Function Ticket only	Perch Dining + Bar, 107 Hereford Street, Christchurch Central

Friday 4 September		
Time	Details	Location
Session 5 Immune Responses and Vaccine Innovation in Infectious Disease Chaired by Nigel French (Massey University)		
9.00am - 9.30am	Professor Nikki Moreland (ID21) University of Auckland <i>How much is too much? Deciphering exaggerated immune responses in acute rheumatic fever</i>	Conway C5
9.30am - 9.45am	Dr Lisa Connor (ID22) The Malaghan Institute <i>A non-live alternative to MMR: mRNA measles vaccine design for high-risk populations</i>	Conway C5
9.45am - 10.00am	Dr Reuben McGregor (ID23) University of Auckland <i>iSOoTH: a study of children's sore throats to inform Group A Streptococcal vaccine development</i>	Conway C5
10.00am-10.30am	Morning Tea	Exhibition Area
Session 6: Vaccines and therapeutics Chaired by Natalie Lorenz (University of Auckland)		
10.30am-11.00am	Professor Daniel Watterson (ID24) University of Queensland <i>Structure-guided vaccines and antibody therapeutics against emerging henipaviruses</i>	Conway C5
11.00am-11.20am	Dr Michelle Linterman (ID25) Malaghan Institute <i>Redesigning mRNA-LNP vaccines for improved vaccine responses in ageing</i>	Conway C5
11.20am-11.40am	Dr Michaela Harbison-Price (ID26) University of Otago <i>Preclinical efficacy of an mRNA vaccine encoding five conserved Group A Streptococcus antigens</i>	Conway C5
11.40am-12.00pm	Professor Emily Parker (ID27) Victoria University of Wellington <i>A ligand-dependent mechanism regulates histidine biosynthesis in Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Conway C5
12.00am–12.15pm	Dr Simon Jackson (ID28) University of Waikato <i>Bringing phage therapy to Aotearoa New Zealand: from phage discovery and genomics to clinical access</i>	Conway C5
12.15pm-12.30pm	Professor Vernon Ward (ID29) University of Otago <i>Differential Effects of RNA Polymerase Inhibitors upon Nucleotidylation of Human Norovirus VPg</i>	Conway C5
12.30pm-1.30pm	Lunch	Exhibition Area
Session 7 Vaccines and therapeutics continued Chaired by Jemma Geoghegan, Joanna Hicks and Natalie Netzler		
1.30pm-2.00pm	Professor Kate Seib (ID30) Griffith University, Australia	Conway C5

	<i>Progress and Challenges in Gonorrhoea Vaccine Development</i>	
2.00pm-2.15pm	Dr Leah Smith (ID31) University of Otago <i>Beyond exponential growth: Understanding phage infection of non-replicating bacteria to advance anti-biofilm strategies</i>	Conway C5
2.15pm-2.45pm	Steve Barnes Infectious Disease Research Platform <i>An update on the platform plan</i>	Conway C5
2.45pm-3.00pm	Poster awards and final remarks	Conway C5
3.00pm-3.30pm	Afternoon Break	Exhibition Area