



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



NEW ZEALAND AOTEAROA NEURO-ONCOLOGY SOCIETY

New Zealand Aotearoa Neuro-Oncology Society

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

2023-2024 Society summary	3
Members	3
Committee members & activities	3
Events	3
Society website	3
Looking Ahead	3
2024 Wellington conference summary	4
Conference dinner - Foxglove Bar & Kitchen	6
Prize winners	7
<i>Prizes sponsored by Servier & Centre for Brain Research</i>	7
Acknowledgements	7
Updates on nz national brain tumour registry	8

2023-2024 SOCIETY SUMMARY

Members

In the past year, our membership number has grown from ~80 members to now >130! We continue to welcome anyone interested in neuro-oncology in Aotearoa to become a member. Please contact info@nanos.co.nz to register your membership.

Committee members & activities

Co-Chairs: Dr Thomas Park - Scientific, Dr Catherine Han - Clinical

Committee members: Dr Dean Singleton, Mrs Caroline Woon, Dr Melissa James, A. Prof. Tania Slatter, Dr Fouzia Ziad

Treasurer: Dr Catherine Han

Secretary: Dr Susan Li

Patient advisor: Mr Chris Tse

Māori advisor: Dr Makarena Dudley

Since the AGM at the August conference in 2023, the Committee has met 5 times to discuss the running of the Society and to plan for the 2024 conference just past.

A working committee has also been formed since April 2024 to work on the National Brain Tumour Registry.

Events

8th - 9th June 2024 saw the Society hold its second annual meeting at the Wellington Regional Hospital, this two-day conference hosted ~70 attendees to discuss all things related to neuro-oncology. For a summary of the conference, please see later in this report.

Society website

The website for the Society is now live! Visit www.nanos.co.nz to access information about upcoming conferences, summaries from previous conferences, and links to affiliated organisations.

Looking Ahead

The Committee is now under active preparation for the 2025 Annual Conference which will be held in Christchurch.

The co-chairs Thomas and Catherine will be bidding for the right to host the 2028 Asian Society of Neuro-Oncology annual meeting in NZ!

2024 WELLINGTON CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Day 1

Conference opened by **Mr Peter Jackson**

Introduction & Welcome - **Caroline Woon**

Patient Focus - Chaired by Chris Tse

- ⇒ Update on Brain Tumour Support NZ - **Chris Tse**
- ⇒ Raising a Child with Craniopharyngioma - **Sarah Verran** (Caregiver)
- ⇒ Living with a Low-Grade Brain Tumour - patient experience
- ⇒ The Impact of a Glioblastoma Diagnosis - patient experience

Tumours - Chaired by Melissa James

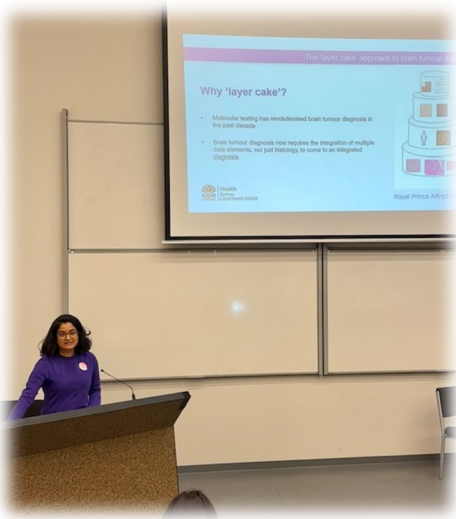
- ⇒ **Keynote:** Integrated morphological and molecular diagnosis of glial tumours - **Dr Laveniya Satgunaseelan** (Sydney, Australia)
- ⇒ **Keynote:** The integration of trials into neuro-oncology: past, present and future - **Associate Professor Eng-Siew Koh** (Sydney, Australia)
- ⇒ Panel discussion: Developing brain tumour research in NZ - Chair: Thomas Park,



- ⇒ Panel (left to right): Dean Singleton, Catherine Han, Laveniya Satgunaseelan, Melissa James, Eng-Siew Koh

Wellington research highlights - Chaired by Caroline Woon

- ⇒ Targeting cancer stem cells with repurposed drugs in glioblastoma organoid models - **Freya Weth** (GMRI, Wellington)
- ⇒ Exploring the hormonal influence and sex-specific effects on drug metabolism in meningothelial and atypical meningioma - **Clara López** (GMRI, Wellington)
- ⇒ Do no harm: treatment of GBM in the elderly - **Rosanna Rahman** (Wellington Hospital)
- ⇒ New mouse glioblastoma model has highly immune suppressed phenotype: lessons from immunotherapy - **Devlin Forsythe** (Victoria University of Wellington)



Day 2

Low grade tumours - Chaired by Catherine Han

- ⇒ Low grade tumours from a radiological perspective - **Slavka Kudrnova** (Wellington Hospital)
- ⇒ Identifying novel gene dependencies in IDH1 mutant glioma using functional genomics - **Dean Singleton** (ACSRC, University of Auckland)
- ⇒ Management of IDH-mutant gliomas - **Catherine Han** (University of Auckland)
- ⇒ The management of craniopharyngioma from a neurosurgical perspective - **Abinav Jain** (Wellington Hospital)

Tumours - Chaired by Thomas Park

- ⇒ Ketogenic diet in GBM: an update - **Matthew Phillips** (Waikato Hospital)
- ⇒ High-grade brain tumour drug discovery - **Thomas Park** (CBR, University of Auckland)
- ⇒ Digital diagnosis - **Chun Kiet Vong** (ABI, University of Auckland)
- ⇒ PDGF signalling in GBM - **Susan Li** (CBR, University of Auckland)

- ⇒ National brain tumour registry: an update - **Holly Wilson** (University of Auckland)
- ⇒ Poster: Addressing factors of glioblastoma therapy contributing to recurrence - **Jasmine White** (GMRI, Wellington)
- ⇒ Poster: Unlocking therapeutic potential: repurposed drugs & sex effects in meningioma - **Matt Munro** (GMRI, Wellington)
- ⇒ Poster: How are stromal cells involved in the response to radiation therapy? - **Danielle Lewthwaite** (Victoria University of Wellington)
- ⇒ Poster: Can BCL6 drive tumour formation in brain cancers? - **Naychi Myo Min** (Victoria University of Wellington)
- ⇒ Planning and reconstruction for craniofacial/skull base tumours - **Agadha Wickremesekera & Charles Davis** (Wellington Hospital)

Paediatrics - Chaired by Caroline Woon

- ⇒ Brain tumours through the lens of a paediatric neurosurgical clinical nurse specialist - **Stephanie Moore** (Auckland City Hospital)
- ⇒ Diagnosis of paediatric tumours - **Mags Strauss** (Auckland City Hospital)

Conference closed by **Caroline Woon**

Conference dinner – Foxglove Bar & Kitchen

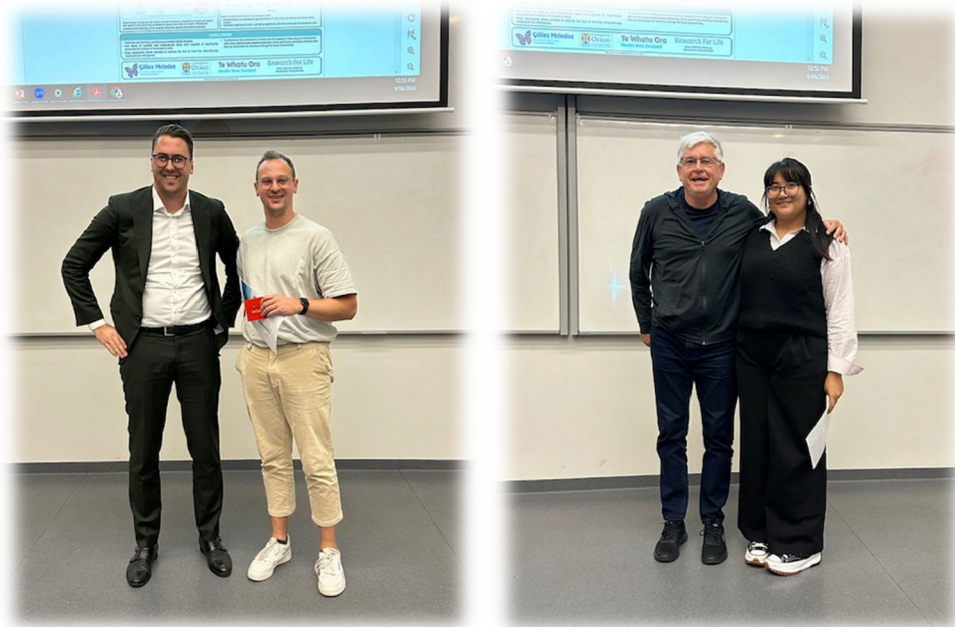


Prize winners

Prizes sponsored by Servier & Centre for Brain Research

Congratulations to the winner of the best student oral presentation, **Devlin Forsythe!**

Congratulations to the winner of the best student poster, **Naychi Myo Min!**



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank our sponsors for kindly sponsoring this conference:

Servier - Gold sponsor

Centre for Brain Research, University of Auckland - Silver sponsor



TE HUINGA HINENGARO
**CENTRE FOR
BRAIN RESEARCH**

We would like to thank the NANOS Committee, especially **Caroline Woon**, for organising the conference.

We would like to thank the keynote speakers, Dr Laveniya Satgunaseelan & Associate Professor Eng-Siew Koh, for travelling to NZ and attending our conference.

We would like to thank the members for attending the conference.

We would like to thank the patients and caregivers for sharing their experiences.

UPDATES ON NZ NATIONAL BRAIN TUMOUR REGISTRY

(Prepared by NZ National Brain Tumour Registry Coordinator, Holly Wilson)

Each year around 1,200 people are diagnosed with a primary brain tumour, and we have very little data on this cohort of patients. As such, NANOS have made the formation of a national brain tumour registry a key priority. At this year's NANOS annual conference we heard from Holly Wilson, the NZ National Brain Tumour Registry Coordinator. Through initial funding from The University of Auckland, Holly started this role in April and has been working hard on building a framework for our national brain tumour registry.

A lot of time has been spent studying both domestic and international examples of clinical registries. Holly has analysed how clinical registries are established, how they are structured, and how they function. Using a range of case studies, she has established several models that demonstrate how our national brain tumour registry could be structured within our healthcare system, and how our registry could interact with other existing clinical registries in New Zealand.

In addition to this work, Holly has spent a lot of time consulting with neuro-oncology clinicians and patient advocacy groups across New Zealand to determine how the neuro-oncology system is structured, what the brain tumour patient pathway is, and what kind of data we would like our registry to collect. So far, a big focus has been placed on brain tumour pathology. There are over 100 different types of brain tumours; with the help of neuropathologists, Holly has designed a categorisation system to simplify the data collection process of all these tumours, allowing us to maximise the data we collect without unnecessary complexities. Holly is currently working on building a Minimum Dataset, a document that outlines the core data fields that will build the basis for the registry's data collection.

Holly has also spent time researching our ethical obligations, drafting an ethical framework, and analysing the issues we face in the context of the wider New Zealand healthcare system. She is now working on consolidating this research into various reports, documents, and manuscripts. Holly has made a lot of headway on this project thus far, and we are excited to see the New Zealand Brain Tumour Registry gain traction!

If you have any questions or want to get involved in this project, feel free to contact Holly Wilson at h.wilson@auckland.ac.nz.