

MEDIA RELEASE

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New ANZSPM Aotearoa Committee

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine (ANZSPM) welcomes Dr Rachel Wiseman as Chair of the ANZSPM Aotearoa Committee following the ANZSPM Aotearoa Annual Education Update held in Wellington over the weekend.

Dr Wiseman takes over from Dr Salina Iupati, who stepped down after nearly four years on the committee, including two in the role of Chair.

Dr Wiseman said, "I'm excited about the opportunity to lead the Aotearoa Committee and look forward to representing ANZSPM members in New Zealand and continuing to grow the specialty in New Zealand through the professional development opportunities we provide, through advocacy, and through collaborations with other key organisations.

"I was fortunate to have worked closely with Salina on the Aotearoa Committee over the past two years and I'm grateful for the leadership, dedication and hands-on support she provided to the committee over that time and to be able to build on her work."

Dr Iupati said, "Rachel has made a fantastic contribution to the Aotearoa Committee since joining in 2016 and brings a wealth of experience to the role of Chair. I'm thrilled to see her stepping into the role!

"It has been a privilege to chair the ANZSPM Aotearoa Committee for the past two years as well as contributing as a member of the ANZSPM Council and to be able to serve not just New Zealand Members but the wider ANZSPM membership over that period. I'm proud of our achievements over that time and look forward to seeing new opportunities driven by Rachel and the committee as they continue to serve ANZSPM's New Zealand Members."

Dr Wiseman qualified as both a Palliative Medicine Physician and Respiratory Physician in 2012. She currently holds a joint position in both Respiratory and Palliative Medicine at Christchurch Hospital. Having trained in the United Kingdom, Dr Wiseman fell in love with New Zealand when she and her now husband arrived in 2004. Despite only intending to visit for 6 months, she stayed and completed her training, also spending 18 months working in Australia. Dr Wiseman's current professional interests are advanced COPD, dyspnoea, oxygen therapy and advance care planning. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her two young children, mountain biking, tramping and skiing.

The Aotearoa Committee has also welcomed two new members, Dr Dean Fourie and Dr Catherine D'Souza, following the departure of Dr Iupati and Dr Astrid Adams who is returning to the UK.

Dr Fourie was born in South Africa and immigrated to New Zealand in 1997. Dr Fourie is a Palliative Medicine Specialist at Mercy Hospital, Auckland (since 2017) and his interests include palliative medicine, internal medicine and obstetric medicine. He is married with two children.

Dr D'Souza recently relocated to New Zealand from the United Kingdom and is working as a consultant in Palliative Medicine in Timaru, South Canterbury. Prior to moving to New Zealand, Dr D'Souza worked at Sobell House in Oxford UK. During her training, Dr D'Souza also took time out to live and work in Cameroon, setting up palliative care units. She lives with her husband and two daughters.

The new Aotearoa Committee, with effect from Sunday 1 July, includes Dr Rachel Wiseman (Chair), Dr Vicki Jones (Vice-Chair), Dr Jane Greville (Treasurer), Dr Catherine D'Souza (Secretary), Dr Moira Cunningham (Committee Member), Dr Dean Fourie (Committee Member) and Dr Amanda Somerfeldt (Committee Member).

Ends.

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