



Acupuncture New Zealand Conference 2024
16th, 17th, 18th August
James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, Wellington

Introducing our Speakers

We are very excited to introduce this year's fantastic line up of inspirational and insightful speakers for the Acupuncture New Zealand 47th Annual Conference.

We have over 20 Local and International speakers lined up for this year's Conference.

Register now

We look forward to welcoming you to a great weekend!



Associate Prof, Dr Mike Armour (PhD)

Presentation: How can we produce conducive Chinese herbal medicine case reports to inform the community?

Assoc Prof Dr Mike Armour is an experienced traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) practitioner with a specific focus on endometriosis and pelvic pain. Mike completed his honours degree in biomedicine at the University of Auckland before going on to study traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture. Mike is an associate professor in reproductive health at NICM Health Research Institute, Western Sydney University where he is currently running several clinical trials on endometriosis, menstrual health, and complementary medicine.

Mike has published over 100 peer reviewed articles on various aspects of women's health including medicinal cannabis and both western and Chinese herbal medicine. Mike has had significant media attention on his work including 14 articles in The Conversation, an SBS Insight special on endometriosis, an SBS special on herbal medicine for period pain and over 300 pieces of international news media with an estimated readership of 80 million across over 100 countries including Channel 7 News, ABC News, and The Guardian.

Mike is heavily involved in research and treatment of endometriosis, and he was the invited complementary medicine expert on the endometriosis expert working group (EEWG) for the Royal Australia and New Zealand College of Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) that developed the first Australian guidelines for Endometriosis, released in January 2021. Mike is also a World Endometriosis Society Ambassador, Chair of Endometriosis Australia's clinical advisory committee, Chair of Endometriosis Australia's research committee, Academic lead of the Menstrual Cycle Research Network (MCRN) at Western Sydney University and Chair of the Australasian Interdisciplinary Researchers in Endometriosis (AIRE).



Matthew Bauer

Presentation: A Tale of Two Campaigns – Peripheral Neuropathy and Problems with Acupuncture Research

Matthew has been successfully treating Peripheral neuropathy for 40 years. In addition to his years in full-time practice in Southern California, Matthew has written two books, dozens of articles, and co-authored a peer-reviewed article on acupuncture dosage and another on electro-acupuncture for peripheral neuropathy. He founded the non-profit

Acupuncture Now Foundation in 2014 to educate the public, healthcare providers and health policymakers about the benefits of acupuncture.



Dr Chris Bowden (PhD)

Presentation: Trauma Informed Care

Dr. Chris Bowden is a lecturer in Te Puna Akopai/School of Education at Te Herenga Waka/Victoria University of Wellington. He teaches child and adolescent development in the undergraduate programme, child and adolescent mental health and counselling in the Masters of Educational Psychology programme. His areas of expertise include: grief and loss, coping and resiliency, complex/interpersonal trauma and trauma-informed and resiliency-oriented education, counselling/therapy and interventions that are trauma-focused. His research focuses on suicide postvention and suicide bereavement, male childhood sexual abuse survivorship, resiliency, and wellbeing.

Chris has authored and co-authored research journal articles; contributed to government reports on suicide prevention, early childhood resiliency, and childhood sexual abuse; and written best-practice guidelines for those working with victims/survivors. Chris is passionate about developing more trauma-informed systems and helping people develop more compassionate, safe, and evidence-based effective responses to people affected by trauma, grief, and loss. He developed Waves New Zealand's first national psychoeducational support programme for people bereaved by suicide in partnership with Skylight. Chris's is also a community educator, and trainer and provides advice to regional suicide prevention and postvention coordinators. He is the Academic Director for Mates in Construction NZ who work to prevent suicide in the construction sector, a member of the Mental Health Foundation's Suicide Bereavement Service Lived Experience Advisory Group and was an agent of Child and Youth Mortality Review Group for the Hutt Valley and CCDHBs. He received a LifeKeepers National Suicide Prevention Award in 2018.



Dr Yuanbin Chen

Presentation: Randomized controlled trial and clinical application of Chinese medicine percolating agents based on the theory of meridian flow

Yuanbin Chen, Ph.D., Master's Supervisor, Visiting Scholar at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia.

Yuanbin is the Deputy Chief Physician of Respiratory Department at Guangdong Provincial Hospital of Chinese Medicine and a standing Committee Member and Deputy Secretary of Guangdong Provincial Acupuncture and Moxibustion Society Meridian Flow Acupuncture and Medicine Specialized Committee.



Nicola Douglas

Presentation: Cultivating Purpose & Supporting Transformation During Menopause

Nicola practices in New Plymouth, with a special interest in working in women's health, from menarche to menopause - and everything in between. She comes from a background in Nursing and while her roots are firmly planted in east Asian medicine now, she enjoys an integrative approach within her practice. Her eclectic learning style includes a Diploma in Fertility Acupuncture, while more recently she has taken a deep dive into Classical Chinese Medicine Her mission is to empower women to understand and take control of their own health.



Jolie Davis (Ngāti Kurī, Te Rarawa)

Jolie is the founder and lead practitioner of Manawa Ora Mirimiri and Workshops, the largest provider of Rongoā Māori in the Wellington region. Jolie is a member of the ACC Rongoā Māori Advisory Panel.

A trained nurse, Jolie brings some 25 plus years' experience as a traditionally trained Mirimiri Romiromi practitioner, educator and advocate, active in revitalising Rongoā Māori, the original system of health and wellbeing in Aotearoa New Zealand. Since moving her practice to the Wellington region in 2019, Jolie has trained

numerous practitioners and grown Manawa Ora to a staff of fourteen, plus volunteers. Manawa Ora provides some 6,000 treatments each year through its Ngauranga clinic alone, complemented by regular community clinics, workshops and education in workplaces and tertiary institutions across Wellington and beyond.

Each week you'll find Jolie where she is most at home: training the next generation of practitioners; sharing matauranga; alleviating pain, stress and distress in whānau; and supporting whānau to find wellbeing and self-empowerment through healing. In her spare time, Jolie enjoys performing with the Pacific Connection Choir.



Vanessa Eldridge

Presentation: Ūtaina Ōmahu

Vanessa Eldridge (Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Kahungūnu) is an Associate with Te Arahanga o Ngā Iwi – an agency focussed on Māori development. She also works with Te Piringa Hapu Authority Trust in Omaha Heretaunga with a focus on wellbeing and the recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle. She has a background in nursing and has led and developed several programmes relating to loss and grief for Māori, compassionate communities in her previous roles within Palliative Care.

Vanessa has contributed to national research, publications and professional development material and is a qualified bi-cultural supervisor. Vanessa has two sons and lives in Wellington.



Dr Richard Everts

Dr Everts is a hospital and community Infectious Disease Specialist Physician and Medical Microbiologist, based in Nelson and Marlborough in New Zealand. I also provide several Pacific Islands with antibiotic stewardship and guidelines, infection prevention and control, and microbiology laboratory support. I work with ACC as an advisor on complex infection and vaccine-related claims. Recent clinical and research interests include antibiotic pharmacokinetics, chronic fatigue and long-COVID, FMT, facemasks, building ventilation and wounds.



David Hartmann

Workshop 1: The Yi fills the Middle

Workshop 2: Using Tuning Forks in a Chinese Medicine Clinic

David Hartmann lives in Brisbane, Australia and has been practicing acupuncture since 1997 (graduating at the age of just 23). He has also been a Chinese medicine lecturer at various colleges since 2000. Currently, he is researching, developing, writing, and presenting workshops nationally and internationally, both live in-person and online.

David has written two textbooks on Chinese medicine – *'The Principles and Practical Application of Acupuncture Point Combinations'* (published by Singing Dragon in 2020) and *'Acupoint Dictionary 2e'* (published by Elsevier Churchill Livingstone as a 2nd edition in 2009). David had a busy 2009. Apart from writing the Acupoint Dictionary he also completed his Masters of Acupuncture with his Project Thesis titled "How did Ancient Confucianism view Virtue? Can it be incorporated into a Modern Western World?".

David has written courses, presented at conferences, and done his own stand-alone seminars in fifteen countries around the world. He has also developed online workshops for eleven companies world-wide.



Dawson Guangyi Huang

Presentation: The connection between Yi Jing(I-Ching) and Chinese Medicine

Dawson obtained his Bachelor of Chinese Medicine from Henan University of TCM in 2009. Situated in the Yellow River Basin, his university was in the heart of ancient Chinese civilization. During his studies, Dawson delved deeply into Chinese ancient history and culture, even visiting the birthplace of Zhouyi (周易) to observe the Tai Chi Bagua Formation. This profound understanding greatly shapes his clinical practice. As a skilled practitioner, he has aided patients from over 70 countries. Dawson is also the

founder of the Taiji International TCM Foundation, dedicated to helping TCM practitioners enhance their knowledge and skills.



Huanlin Lynn Huang

Presentation: The application of ear seeds in relieving anxiety

Huanlin (Lynn) Huang is a CMCNZ registered practitioner, also a specialist in Education and Mental Health. Her expertise stems from rigorous training in TCM and acupuncture at Southern Medical University (formerly the First Military Medical University) in China, where she earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in TCM and Clinical Medicine. Lynn is currently working as a program leader at the New Zealand School of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (NZSATCM). Beyond her academic roles, Lynn is actively involved in global initiatives within the realm of TCM. She serves as an executive board member of the 10th Executive Committee of the WFAS and an executive council member of the 1st Board of the Specialty Committee of Fuyang of the WFCMS.



Heiko Lade

Presentation: Introduction to Tung Style Acupuncture

Heiko Lade will have been in practice this 2024 for 40 years. Initially he completed a Diploma of TCM from The NSW College of Natural Therapies before working in China, Hangzhou in 1984. Upon his return from China he worked in Sydney Chinatown where he further developed his herbal skills. He completed a Masters in TCM in the late 1990's and moved to New Zealand where he has been living for over 20 years. Whilst in New Zealand, he has taught acupuncture and Chinese herbs both in Christchurch and Auckland before residing in Hawkes Bay, where he has been for over 15 years.



Thomas Lin

Presentation: Clinical management experience, a personal insight

Thomas Lin, Acupuncturist, Chinese Herbalist; Director of TCM Chinese Medical Centre; Advisor member of WFAS (World Federation of Acupuncture and Moxibustion Societies), former vice president of Acupuncture New Zealand, he has been working in ACC as the Asian Cultural Advisor, ACC treatment Provider; he has studied Chinese medicine and Western Medicine in China, he graduated in 1991 with degree of medicine, he has been practicing Acupuncture and Chinese medicine in New Zealand since 1994.



John Kennedy

Presentation: The Jing and Stem Cell Connection

John Kennedy studied acupuncture and tradition Chinese medicine at the NZ school of TCM, graduating in 1999. John is the founder and owner of 'The Acupuncture Clinic' in Masterton. I have a keen interest in helping my patients to understand how their health is controlled by the decisions they make on a daily basis, and how the wisdom of the past can help carry them forward with a healthier mind, body and spirit.



Vicki Martin Mackay

Presentation: Rescuing the Human Gut Ecosystem: Therapeutic Strategies for the Restoration of Gut Microbial Health in Gastro-Intestinal Disease

Vicki Martin Mackay is a Registered New Zealand Dietitian and Nutritionist, with a Master's Degree in Health Sciences from the University of Auckland. She has additional qualifications in Naturopathy and Traditional Chinese Medicine. Vicki studied TCM in both Japan and China for two years and gained Advanced Certification in TCM at training institutions for foreign students in both countries. She has practiced acupuncture, TCM herbals, and TCM dietary therapy for 30 years in New Zealand and is now solely focused on TCM Dietary Therapy for her private practice clients.



Evan Rabinowitz

Presentation: Tongue Diagnosis for Common and Complex Gynecological Disorders: Findings for Fibroids, Cysts, Breast Diseases and Gynecological Cancers

Dr. Evan M. Rabinowitz is the founder of Yao Shan Center for Chinese Medicine in Washington, DC. where he has had an active clinical practice for the last 23 years. He is a professor at Daoist Traditions College of Chinese Medical Arts, Asheville, North Carolina. Evan served as Director of Chinese Herbal Medicine at the Maryland University of Integrative Health (MUIH) until 2018. During his 8 year tenure he was instrumental in the creation of the University's Masters and Doctorate programs in Oriental Medicine. Previously, he was an instructor and Chinese herbal supervisor at the Academy for Five Element Acupuncture, Gainesville, Florida. He is currently a lecturer at Georgetown University School of Medicine within its integrative medicine and health sciences master's degree program and has been a guest lecturer on Asian medicine and philosophy at various colleges and universities around the United States. Evan studied extensively with Jeffrey Yuen for two decades. He is a graduate of the George Washington University (B.A.), Traditional Acupuncture Institute (M.Ac.) and Maryland University of Integrative Health (D.Ac.). He has an active private teaching schedule, offering continuing education for practitioners across the country and internationally.

Evan is the director of Yao Shan Seminars, an online platform for Chinese Medicine continuing education. Currently, he teaches an online, 10-month comprehensive training program in Chinese Herbal Medicine, Yao Shan Herb Program, in addition to his multiple online and in-person courses.



Dr Kate Roberts (CMCNZ Professional Advisor)

Presentation: Regulatory Remedies: Ensuring Lawful and Ethical Advertising of Chinese Medicine in NZ

Kate Roberts holds a PhD in Primary Health Care, a Masters in Traditional Chinese Medicine, a Post-graduate Certificate in Psychological Medicine and a Bachelors of Acupuncture. She is the founder and Chair of the Acupuncture for Mental Health group in Wellington which builds collaborative care pathways and advocates for Chinese medicine as a treatment option for mental wellness.

Kate's clinical practice focuses on the treatment of mental health and musculo-skeletal conditions. She utilises an evidence informed approach and works within a collaborative framework with other allied and mainstream practitioners.

Kate has profound respect and support for Te Reo Māori, Te Ao Māori and the Treaty of Waitangi. She has completed two years of full immersion in Te Reo Māori at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa and continues to be involved with Te Ataarangi. She recognizes the invaluable contributions of Māori culture, language, and knowledge, and is eager to collaborate with diverse perspectives and engage in meaningful dialogue that honors the principles set forth in the Treaty.

Currently Kate also works as a professional advisor to the Chinese Medical Council of New Zealand and has been involved in the development and consultation of the recertification framework for Chinese Medicine Practitioners.



Ada Sobieszczuk

Workshop: An introduction to the Divergent Channels 粗之所易，上之所难

Ada Sobieszczuk is a graduate of Beijing University of Chinese Medicine in China and Middlesex University in London, UK. She furthered her studies by completing distinct mentorship programmes with Sean Tuten and Ann Cecil-Sterman to better understand the Huang Di Nei Jing and how to apply it in clinical practice. Ada's passion for classical acupuncture is palpable, and she endeavours to impart this enthusiasm to her fellow practitioners. Through her lectures, workshops, and study groups, she seeks to reignite the spark of inspiration that drew them to acupuncture in the first place. For Ada, acupuncture transcends mere technique—it embodies a holistic philosophy that honours the intricate interconnectedness of mind, body, and spirit.



Ben Tameifuna

Presentation: Engaging Pasifika: Pasifika Cultural Competency

Ben serves as the Cultural Lead at Le Va and is a Senior Manager overseeing the national portfolios for Disability and Public Health, along with Le Va’s national cultural competency programme, Engaging Pasifika. With over 22 years of experience in the health and social services sectors, Ben has dedicated his career to mental health and disabilities. Ben is passionate about promoting equitable outcomes through intersectoral collaboration, genuine community engagement, and strategic leadership in policy and strategy development.

Ben is of Tongan descent and was born and raised in Auckland. His father, Ikamafana, hails from Niuva, born and raised in Kolofo’ou Nuku’alofa and mother, Alisi, is from Vaini, Tongatapu. Ben is a proud father of four children and four beautiful grandchildren.



Max Tuipulotu

Max Tuipulotu a proud New Zealand-born Tongan, bred out of South Auckland via Ōtāhuhu. As a registered social worker, he dedicated his early career to supporting at-risk, disengaged youth. Max then transitioned to providing wrap-around services for young Pasifika parents. Currently, he serves as a Senior Project Coordinator at Le Va, contributing to the engaging Pasifika team. Beyond his professional roles, Max’s passion lies in Tongan dance choreography, where he has over 15 years of experience teaching a blend of traditional and contemporary styles.



Professor Zhongwen Wang

Workshop: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Principles for Emotional Distress Related Insomnia

- Deputy Chief Physician
- Holder of the TCM Knowledge Protection Project - “Zi-Wu-Liu-Zhu” Acupuncture and Diagnosis and Treatment Techniques
- Guiding Mentor at the Wang Zhong Wen Academic Experience Inheritance Studio, Guangdong Provincial Hospital of TCM
- Inaugural Chairman of the Guangdong Provincial “Zi-Wu-Liu-Zhu” Acupuncture and Medicine Committee



Peifeng Alice Xian

Presentation: The Relationship between Qigong, Tai Chi and the principals of Yi Presentation: Tuina and the Principles of Yi

Alice Xian is an experienced acupuncturist and TCM practitioner with a focus on Acupuncture Analgesia. Alice is a lecturer at the NZSATCM in TCM theory and Tuina. She is a registered Taichi 6th Duan Taichi Coach and instructor and Vice President of the New Zealand Tai Chi Association.



Renjie Jay Xi

Presentation: An innovative approach for non-native speakers to learn Chinese Characters in TCM Classics

After graduating with a Master’s Degree, Renjie has been practising Acupuncture and TCM for more than 10 years, with 5 years in Auckland. In his four years as a member representative and the Vice President of Acupuncture NZ, he is always inspired by the enthusiasm of the TCM practitioners in NZ. He continues to work on reducing the barriers of professional and cultural communication among the membership and other

health care practitioners by facilitating a variety of development events.



Dr Yisheng Xu

Presentation: Application of Meridian Flow Acupuncture in Postoperative Analgesia after Knee Arthroplasty

- Dr Yisheng Xu, Ph.D., is the Deputy Chief Physician working in Guangdong Provincial Hospital of TCM and also the secretary of the Orthopaedic department.
- Learning from several national famous old Chinese medicine.
- Director of Wang Zhongwen academic successor.
- Vice chairman and secretary of Guangdong Provincial Acupuncture
- Moxibustion Society Meridian Flow Acupuncture and Medicine Specialized Committee



Hong Yuan

Presentation: Fostering Holistic Wellbeing Through Collective Efforts: Exploring Collaborative Opportunities to Enhance the Wellbeing of the Asian Community by Acupuncturists

Hong Yuan, the National Public Health Lead at Asian Family Services, is committed to enhancing community wellbeing through holistic public health strategies. Originally from China, she has called Wellington home since 2012. With a fervent passion for improving public health outcomes, Hong spearheads various national initiatives, including Asian Hauora Day and Asian Wellbeing Workshops. Leading the public health team at Asian Family Services, she actively engages with diverse Asian communities across New Zealand, including Chinese, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, Japanese, Indian, and other ethnic groups. Hong firmly believes in the power of collective efforts to achieve shared wellbeing goals.



Dr Vesna Zdravkovic

Presentation: Safe Practice Education for Acupuncture in New Zealand

Vesna Zdravkovic has more than 30 years of medical study and practical experience as a General Practitioner, Nutritionist, Su Jok practitioner, and lecturer of Biomedicine subjects in undergraduate degrees for acupuncture.

Vesna completed her Medical studies in Serbia and after working for a year as a GP, completed her Postgraduate Diploma in Nutritional Science at Massey University. Vesna has been an academic for 15 years. In the last year, Vesna has started her research journey.



Carol Yang

Carol has more than 20 years of experience as a Chinese Medicine practitioner. She spent eight years studying Chinese Medicine and gained two tertiary qualifications: a 5-year Bachelor's degree (1996) and a 3-year Master's degree (1999) from Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine, China. Carol specialises in digestive disorders, chronic pain conditions, mental and emotional disorders. Her particular interest is the research of herbal therapy for gynaecological disorders.



Dr Kay Fielden

Kay Fielden has been an academic for more than 40 years. Kay has taught, supervised, and researched across all sectors of tertiary education, Polytechnic, University, and Private Training. In this time, Kay has taught at all academic levels between 5 and 10. Kay is an active researcher and postgraduate supervisor, examiner, and mentor for others new to supervision.

Kay has been a mentor at several tertiary institutions, training staff to be postgraduate supervisors, using different training models. Kay's academic expertise spans the following academic areas in Research, Business, Information Technology, Leadership, Health, and Education.