

## **Introducing the MelNet Executive Committee Members and Candidates for 2015/2016**

According to the Rules of the Melanoma Network of New Zealand Incorporated:

- The Executive Committee shall comprise at least 8 and no more than 10 members *“elected from amongst the Members, provided that consideration should be given to the occupations of the Members at clause 9.1 to ensure their occupations span the melanoma control continuum (prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and research) and represent a range of disciplines”.*
- *“A retiring Executive Committee Member is eligible for immediate re-election but will not be eligible for more than 3 successive terms of 2 years except where it has been resolved by the Executive Committee or at the AGM that a further term or terms may be served by a retiring Executive Committee Member.”*

At the Annual General Meeting on 6 November 2015, members will be asked to support five candidates. The remaining five committee members will be serving the second year of their two-year term.

### **Candidates for Election**

#### **Megan Chapman**

Megan is the Manager of the Child and Family Health team at the Health Promotion Agency (HPA). Since mid-October 2015, Megan also has been managing HPA's skin cancer prevention programme.

Along with support from other key organisations, HPA's skin cancer prevention programme aims to reduce the incidence and impact of skin cancer through increased knowledge of the risks and benefits from UV radiation among the public, health professionals and policy makers. Megan also is a registered social worker.

#### **Mr Gary Duncan**

Gary is a plastic surgeon with a special interest in skin cancer, including melanoma. For a number of years Gary has recognised the need for national leadership in melanoma control in New Zealand and for national meetings of health professionals. He therefore was instrumental in the establishment of MelNet and in the planning of the current and three previous successful Melanoma Summits to date.

Gary has been both the Co-Chair and Chair of the MelNet Committee since its inception. He is keen to ensure the future of MelNet and to progress the organisation to become the recognised leader in facilitating coordination and collaboration among health professionals as well as promoting the advancement of best practice in melanoma prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care in New Zealand.

#### **Dr Fiona Larsen**

Fiona is a dermatologist, sub specialty trained in both dermatopathology and Moh's surgery for skin cancer. She currently works in private practice in Auckland, dealing almost exclusively with skin cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Early detection and prevention of melanoma are of particular interest to Fiona. During her subspecialty training in the USA she was actively involved in national screening programmes for melanoma. Fiona also has represented the New Zealand Dermatological Society Incorporated (NZDSI) on the national skin cancer steering committee in helping develop a framework for prevention and early detection of skin cancer, particularly melanoma.

**Mr Richard Martin**

Richard is a Cutaneous Surgical Oncologist based in Auckland who trained at the Sydney Melanoma Unit. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Melanoma New Zealand and an Executive Member of the Australia and New Zealand Melanoma Trials Group (ANZMTG). Richard currently works in the multidisciplinary New Zealand Melanoma Unit team at the Waitemata District Health Board. He also is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Auckland.

**Mr Jeremy Simcock**

Jeremy is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Otago, Christchurch and Plastic Surgeon at the Canterbury District Health Board. His teaching and research interests include skin cancer, and he had a key role in development of the Canterbury District Health Board Health Pathway for Melanoma.

**Committee Members to serve a second year**

**Dr Chris Boberg**

Chris is a General Practitioner with a sub-specialist interest in early detection and management of skin cancer.

During his career he has had a special interest in melanoma from a primary care perspective. Chris has been the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners representative on the MelNet Committee since its inception and has served as the Committee's Deputy Chair during the past four years.

**Dr Catherine Barrow**

Catherine is a Consultant Medical Oncologist at the Wellington Blood and Cancer Centre (WBCC), Wellington Hospital. She also is a visiting Consultant Medical Oncologist at the monthly multidisciplinary Wellington Regional Melanoma Clinic based at the Plastic Surgical Unit at the Hutt Hospital. She was first elected to the MelNet Executive Committee for a two-year term in 2012.

At the WBCC, Catherine is Principal Investigator of melanoma clinical trials, many of which have attracted patients from other New Zealand centres.

**Professor Mike Eccles**

Mike is a biomedical researcher and the New Zealand Institute for Cancer Research Trust Chair in Cancer Pathology in the Pathology Department at the University of Otago.

He heads the Developmental Genetics and Pathology Laboratory and has authored more than 100 publications on molecular aspects of cancer and developmental biology, including

melanoma. Mike has a strong interest in melanoma and has been a member of the MelNet Committee since its inception.

**Dr Patrick Emanuel**

Patrick is a histopathologist currently practicing in Auckland and an Honorary Associate Professor of Pathology at the University of Auckland.

He is particularly interested in the diagnosis of inflammatory disorders and cutaneous malignancies. Patrick's research interests include epigenetic modifications in melanoma and the application of molecular techniques for diagnostically difficult melanocytic lesions.

**Trish Leathem**

Trish is a Skin Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialist working in Counties Manukau District Health Board, Auckland.

She has been employed for nine years within the Plastic Surgical Department where she contributes on multiple levels including cancer care coordinator, specialist nurse and patient liaison. Trish's current focus is with melanoma patients coming forward for treatment, along with other skin cancer patients. She participates in multidisciplinary treatment discussions at both North Shore and Middlemore hospitals.