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Conference season kicks off this month



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The Due Drop Events Centre in south Auckland, the venue for the Goodfellow Symposium later this month [Image: NZD]

Organisers advise against gowns and speeches, instead recommending “suitable walking shoes”

Forget the Hollywood awards season – the New Zealand medical conference season is kicking off.

It starts with the Goodfellow Symposium on the weekend of 23 and 24 March at Auckland’s Due Drop Events Centre, where *New Zealand Doctor Rata Aotearoa* will also have a stand. The conference has four pre-symposium workshops on Friday, 22 March, including dermatoscopy and diabetes.

The main conference officially kicks off on Saturday, 23 March, at 8.30am with a welcome and keynote presentation from David Kuhl, a professor in the faculty of medicine at the University of British Columbia, on the impact fathers have on their children’s long-term health.

READ MORE: See some of our coverage from last year's conferences here:

- › **Goodfellow**
- › **GPCME**
- › **OPINION: One quiet voice – a view from WONCA**
- › **IN PICTURES**

Finish off the first day with canapes and drinks at the networking event from 5.30pm – and don't forget to pose when *New Zealand Doctor* reporters come past with their cameras in hand.

Our Auckland-based reporters and editors will cover both days of the conference, delving into the presentations and clinical updates and mingling at the drinks and morning tea, ready to chat.

Topics covered at this year's conference include developments in COPD management, eating disorders, eczema, suicide, bariatric surgery and trans healthcare. Clinic sessions include differing presentations of heart disease in women compared with men, ADHD in children and teens, statins, mental health and pre-menstrual disorders.

Rural conference

Following a break for Easter, editor Barbara Fountain and reporter Fiona Cassie will head to Wellington for the National Rural Health Conference on 5 and 6 April at Tākina: Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The pre-conference session on Thursday, 4 April includes a PRIME workshop, a rural hospital medicine registrar day, and finishes with a welcome reception of canapes and drinks.

The main conference starts on Friday morning with the option of a 30-minute waterfront walk to mark the professorship of Garry Nixon and his contribution to rural health. Further details about the 7am inaugural walk, including departure location, will be released one week before the conference, but organisers advise against gowns and speeches, instead recommending “suitable walking shoes”.

Broadcaster and journalist Jehan Casinader will MC the two-day conference. The panel discussion on Friday morning will surely keep him on his toes: “Andrew Little enraged the sector in 2022 when he said, ‘Part of the problem with rural health services is that there are old-fashioned business models that don’t work anymore.’ What are the future funding and business models that will ensure strong rural health services?”



Health minister Shane Reti will deliver a speech to rural conference attendees in Wellington next month
[Image: NZD]

Health minister Shane Reti will also deliver a speech to attendees that morning. Unfortunately, he won't be taking part in the panel discussion. Still, Grant Davidson, chief executive of Hauora Taiwhenua, says he hopes to persuade Dr Reti to stay until morning tea so he can spend time talking to participants.

Finish your Friday in style with a three-course meal and drinks at the conference and awards dinner.

Saturday's programme focuses on climate change – starting and ending the day with discussions concerning the climate emergency. A morning panel discussion will cover lessons learned in preparing and responding to a climate emergency. A keynote address titled, "Solving global climate change from the Ngāūranga Gorge", will be given by physicist Ratu Mataira, founder and CEO of OpenStar Technologies.

Other topics to be covered through the conference include workforce, recruitment and midwifery.

Dates for your diary – conferences 2024

New Zealand Doctor will be bringing you the latest news and happenings from the primary care conferences this year, including:

- Goodfellow: 23 and 24 March, Due Drop Events Centre, Auckland
- National Rural Health Conference: 5 and 6 April, Tākina: Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wellington
- NZ Women in Medicine Conference: 16 to 18 May 2024, Tākina: Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wellington
- GP CME Rotorua: 6 to 9 June, Rotorua Energy Events Centre, Rotorua
- GP24: 25 to 28 July, Tākina: Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wellington
- GP CME South: 15 to 18 August, Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre, Christchurch
- PMAANZ: 12 to 14 September, Cordis Hotel, Auckland

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