



CLINICAL PHYSIOLOGISTS' NEWSLETTER

Renal Physiology • Cardiac • Pay Equity • Delegates • Workplans

07 JULY 2021

Dear colleagues

There has been a lot happening for our members across the spectrum of physiology and so timely to provide an update to all.

Renal Physiology

New AUT course to commence

The Renal Physiology qualification run through Manukau Institute of Technology ceased in 2019, leaving no ability to train in New Zealand in this specialty and services becoming reliant on sourcing overseas candidates or employing nurses in these services. In the current environment and difficulty in sourcing non New Zealand applicants this position is untenable. Best practice also dictates the value of renal physiologists in these services, a position supported by New Zealand renal physicians.

As a result and with the continued work of the New Zealand and Australia Society of Renal Dialysis Practice Board, of which some are members of APEX, and assistance with contacts APEX has made with the AUT sciences faculty, the AUT academic board has given approval for a course. The course is expected to commence in Jan 2022, and will be a one year (fulltime) Graduate Diploma – Renal Physiology qualification.

Care closer to home

Auckland DHB is opening a new community dialysis unit, Kereru Kidney Centre, which will operate from August this year. This unit will allow those in the Tamaki area to access renal service closer to where they live instead of travelling to hospitals or clinics closer to central Auckland. The DHB has plans to work with the community to grow the centre to also provide for education of the population on kidney disease. It is hoped this will make care more accessible to dialysis patients who often require public transport to get them to appointments.

Cardiac



Order of Merit Honour

Fiona Riddell the Charge Cardiac Physiologist at Auckland City Hospital has been honoured in the recent Queens Birthdays honours with the “Order of Merit Honour” for her services to Cardiac Physiology. Fiona has been the Charge since 1986 and is currently Chairperson of the New Zealand Society of Cardiopulmonary Technology. Fiona was the inaugural Chairperson of the Cardiopulmonary Registration Board from 1996 to 2004, then chaired the replacement Clinical Physiologists



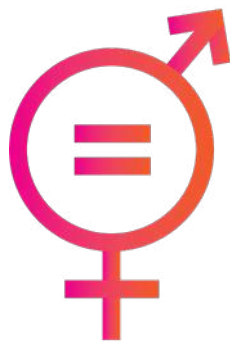
Registration Board from 2005 to 2013. She has had a key role in developing a national training framework and registration for the profession. She has made a major contribution to pacemaker and implantable defibrillator research at Greenlane and Auckland Hospitals and was a member of the international team developing the subcutaneous defibrillator. Her efforts in fostering the nascent service at Auckland has allowed comparable services to be established at North Shore and Northland Hospitals. Fiona has also played a key role in establishing pacemaker services in the Pacific Islands, this has included voluntary work in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. We join with members on congratulating Fiona on receiving this honour and in thanking her for her continued efforts in progressing the profession and services of cardiac physiology both here in New Zealand and in the Pacific.

things will soon start to move quickly, and you will need delegates to be the eyes and ears of APEX, to contact APEX at the earliest opportunities about changes that may affect how, where and when you work, and any other changes your employer may be thinking about making to your conditions of work, and to engage with your employer to ensure your rights are maintained. So, if you don't have a local delegate, now is an opportunity for you to discuss this and let the APEX office know if you would like to become a delegate. In September we will be holding our annual delegates training with a large focus on change management and the new proposed structures in health. It will be imperative that all delegates attend this training.

If you are a delegate or would like to become one, and are interested in attending delegates' training, you can sign up [here](#).

Pay equity

The first tranche of interviews have commenced, and although physiologists are not in this group, don't worry the claim has been raised on all female dominated workforces across all Allied and Scientific workforces employed by DHBs, and as such any settlement will occur at the same time for all of these professions. Interviews of physiologists will follow in the next tranche.



Workplans

There are opportunities with the upcoming changes to the health structure moving to one employer in 2022 to look to opportunities for Physiology and our patients. Things to be considered include the needs of each subspecialty, how and which will become regional or national services, community access, certainty and access to training, expansion of scopes, specialisation, the future, and technologies. We want to get ahead of the game, start scoping what this will look like, engaging with the employer, and making sure the contribution physiology can and will make, is on the radar. There is a session at the upcoming delegates training looking at this, and we will be seeking input from members. We will get more information to you as we start to draft these plans.

Delegates

With the raft of changes that will occur as a result of the change of employer from DHBs to one entity (Health New Zealand), it will be more important than ever that you as APEX members are supported in your various workplaces, and that you have delegates at these sites. Although there is a year to go,



Like APEX on Facebook