

## **New Zealand 2022 Virtual Conference General & Vascular Presenter Biographies in Order of Appearance**

### **Dr Carmen Ruiz**

MB ChB, MD, FRCS (Ed)

Carmen is a Vascular Surgeon living and working in Nelson, with over 20 years of surgical experience. She has specialist expertise in managing varicose veins and can tailor your treatment based on your specific needs. Carmen is from Glasgow, Scotland. She graduated from the University of Glasgow in 1998 and in 2007 was awarded a postgraduate MD for her research on arterial disease. Carmen trained in General and Vascular surgery across Scotland and completed this in 2012 with her Fellowship from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Following this, Carmen completed a year-long fellowship in Christchurch before returning to Scotland where she began her consultant practice in Ayrshire. She returned to New Zealand in 2016 to become the sole Vascular surgeon in Nelson Marlborough DHB. In her spare time, Carmen enjoys running and cycling in the great Nelson/Tasman outdoors and plays for a local hockey team.



### **Matthew Versteeg**

Matthew is an experienced Vascular Sonographer with a history of working in reputable vascular laboratories in Brisbane, Sydney and Otago. Including his time as researcher he has been involved with vascular science for 10 years and has published peer reviewed papers relating to a diverse range of topics within vascular ultrasound.



### **Andy Kindon**

Andy is a vascular sonographer at Christchurch Vascular Group. He has had a long-standing interest in abdominal aortic aneurysms, having worked as a clinical skills trainer in the UK's AAA screening programme. Andy is currently carrying out research into AAA epidemiology as part of a PhD at the University of Canterbury.



### **Bridget August**

Bridget has been a qualified vascular sonographer for over 20 years. Bridget is American but trained in vascular ultrasound in London, England where she lived for 15 years. She has been living and working in New Zealand for 12 years and lives with her husband and pampered overweight cat near Hamilton Lake. When she is not walking around the lake or at the gym training for bodybuilding, she loves working in Waikato Hospital Vascular Lab. Varicose vein scans are Bridget's favourite scan due to their simplicity and Bridget would love to chat about them over email, please feel free to email her at [bridget.august@waikatodhb.health.nz](mailto:bridget.august@waikatodhb.health.nz)



### **Carolynne Cormack**

BAppSc(MedRad) GDUlt GCHPE FASA AMS

Senior Sonographer, PoCUS Educator, Monash Health, Victoria.

Carolynne is a senior sonographer and passionate ultrasound educator. She has been instrumental to the growth and success of a large point of care ultrasound (PoCUS) program at Monash Health. Carolynne was awarded Australasian Sonographers Association (ASA) Educator of the Year in 2016 and recognised as an inaugural ASA Fellow in 2018. She serves on the board of Emergency Medicine Ultrasound Groups (EMUGs) and ASUM CCPU/CAHPU special advisory group. Carolynne is currently underway with Master of Philosophy research on the development of PoCUS education in Australasia.



### **Martin Necas**

Martin works as a clinical specialist sonographer in Hamilton, New Zealand. Martin completed training in general and vascular ultrasound in Seattle, USA in 1996 and subsequently attained a Master's Degree in Sonography at the University of South Australia in 2007. Martin has practiced diagnostic ultrasound in USA, New Zealand and Australia in a wide variety of clinical settings ranging from private centers to tertiary teaching hospitals. Martin is an ultrasound enthusiast, keen clinical instructor, lecturer and a prolific conference speaker. He is an author of a range of journal articles as well as a book titled *Artifacts in Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound*.



### **Holly Smith**

Holly studied Radiation Therapy through the University of Otago, practicing at Waikato Hospital for five years and specialising in brachytherapy (radiation delivered by intracavitary or interstitial means). During this time, the department moved from planning prostate brachytherapy using CT acquired images, to ultrasound-based planning, and also using ultrasound to check the position of the intracavitary implants used for cervical brachytherapy, piquing my interest in sonography. In early 2020 I started studying ultrasound through the University of Auckland, obtaining a training position later in the year at Waikato Hospital. Holly is loving the change and enjoys the challenge of the clinical and academic environment. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family and in the winter escaping to the snow for the weekend.



### **Prof Gillian Whalley**

Professor Gillian Whalley is an echocardiographer and clinical researcher at the University of Otago (Dunedin, New Zealand) with interests in heart failure and indigenous cardiovascular care. Her research has evaluated the role of cardiovascular ultrasound in prognosis; the use of ultrasound to screen asymptomatic high-risk populations; and indexing heart size for body composition and ethnicity. She is currently finishing a study, funded by the Health Research Council, to establish the appropriateness of echocardiographic reference ranges for Maori and Pacific New Zealanders. Professor Whalley's lifelong passion for echocardiography began as a trainee sonographer in 1985. She started working in research in 1990 and then completed a PhD in Medicine in 2006. She has published over 150 journal papers and been involved with clinical trials, methodological studies and has an interest in meta-analyses of ultrasound data. She has supervised several successful PhD and Masters candidates. Professor Whalley has served as an Associate Editor for the several international journals including AJUM since 2018.



### **Nicole Curtis**

Nicole may be the only nutritionist vascular sonographer in existence. Initially, she studied human nutrition at the University of Otago and worked as a nutrition researcher in Vancouver, Canada. Nicole returned to New Zealand as a medical research coordinator for the University of Otago and launched the successful abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening program in Dunedin. Over the course of this programme, she screened over 3000 at-risk people for AAA. Nicole completed the Diploma of Medical Ultrasonography and now works as a specialist vascular sonographer in Nelson, New Zealand. She is a published author of multiple vascular research articles in peer-reviewed journals and is passionate about keeping up to date with new and emerging areas of ultrasound.



### **Dr Chris Cassady**

Dr. Christopher Cassady is a paediatric-fellowship trained radiologist working at Starship Children's Hospital in Auckland, New Zealand, where he practices diagnostic and interventional radiology. Prior to his appointment in New Zealand, he was for nearly 20 years at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, where his roles included Chief of Fetal and Neonatal Imaging, Chief of Interventional Radiology, and Medical Director for Vascular Access. He has recently served as the President and Board Chair of the Society for Paediatric Radiology. He has co-authored numerous peer-reviewed articles on fetal imaging and neonatal outcomes, particularly related to fetal neck, chest and abdominal pathologies. His interest in neonates and ultrasound led him to the larynx.



### **Dr David Perry**

### **Dr Jaynaya Marlow**

Dr Jay Marlow is the current National Clinical Director for the NZ Maternal Fetal Medicine Network (NZMFMN). She works as an MFM sub-specialist at Wellington Regional Hospital and a Sonologist at Wellington Ultrasound. Jay is passionate about the patient journey and ensuring the patient and their family have a tailored care journey. She loves ultrasound and hopes to share that passion with you.



### **Dr Karen Mizia**

Dr Mizia is an Obstetrician Gynaecologist and recognised subspecialist in Obstetric and Gynaecological Ultrasound. She has worked in O&G ultrasound for over 15 years and has a high level of expertise in the diagnosis, procedural skills, management and delivery of complex fetal anomalies and gynaecological issues. She currently holds the following positions:

- President of the Australasian Society of Ultrasound in Medicine
- Head of Department, Maternal Fetal Medicine, Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney
- Medical Director, Ultrasound Care Australia
- Honorary Clinical Lecturer, Australian National University
- Member and past Chair of the NSW Regional Committee for the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrician Gynaecologists



- Chair, Nuchal Translucency steering committee
- Examiner for RANZCOG, ANU, Sydney University and ASUM

**Marilyn Zelesco**

Marilyn is a WA trained MIT who gained a post graduate ultrasound qualification in ultrasound 1991 and completed her Masters in Ultrasound through the RMIT in 2007. Marilyn has received professional awards from the AIR, ASA and is an ASUM Honorary Fellow. She is the Lead Sonographer at the Fiona Stanley Hospital in Perth and oversees ultrasound training across Perth's South Metropolitan Health Service, and has an interest in hepatic, bowel and male reproductive tract ultrasound, elastography, CEUS, renal transplants, research, sonography education and sonography in indigenous health care.

