



2025 GP Symposium Programme

11th October 2025
Sir Owen G Glenn Building
Auckland

Sponsored by:



Endorsed by:



The Heart Group 2025 GP Symposium has been endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) and has been approved for up to 4.5 CME credits for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) purposes.

2025 GP Symposium Programme

0800 – 0830 Coffee

0830 – 0840 **Opening**
Symposium Opening and Housekeeping
Dr Tom Pasley

0840 – 1030 **Session One**
Chairperson: Dr Cara Wasywich

0840 – 0905 **Atrial Fibrillation in 2025: From wearables to phenotype**
Dr Jamie Voss and Dr Anthony Kueh

Learning aims:

- Interpret common presentations of wearable-detected atrial fibrillation.
- Apply strategies for upstream AF prevention and risk factor modification.
- Explain the use of CHADS-VA score in guiding anticoagulation decisions.
- Choose appropriate rhythm control strategies based on patient phenotype.

0905 – 0930 **Orthostatic Intolerance in the Young: Key Messages for GPs**
Dr Ross Nicholson and Dr Fiona Stewart

Learning aims:

- Review a systematic approach to diagnosis and appropriate investigations.
- Review the initial non-pharmacological management strategies.
- How to select the right pharmacologic agents for the patients symptoms.

0930 – 0955 **Genetic Cardiac Conditions: Who needs screening and when**
Dr Bryan Michelson and Dr Ivor Gerber

Learning aims:

- Review the principles of screening genetic cardiac conditions. When and Who?
- What are implications of screening?
- Common conditions where screening may be recommended : HCM, DCM, Aortopathies, Bicuspid aortic valve.

0955 – 1030 **IntraCare and The Heart Group Showcase**
Dr Jith Somaratne and Dr Andrew Martin

Learning aims:

- Describe recent changes in referrals and care patterns at IntraCare.
- Demonstrate how to access and apply INTRA and THG resources in clinical practice.

1030 – 1110 **Morning Tea**
Meet and Greet IntraCare and The Heart Group Cardiologists

1110 – 1300

Session Two

Chairperson: Prof Rob Doughty

1115 – 1140

Medical Aspects of Fitness to Drive – A chance to question the co-authors

Assoc Prof Nigel Lever and Prof Ralph Stewart

Learning aims:

- Describe clinician responsibilities under the 2024 guidance on fitness to drive.
- Summarise licensing requirements across vehicle classes (1/6 vs 2–5 / P endorsement).
- Practice how to discuss driving cessation with patients compassionately and effectively.

1140 – 1205

Heart Failure in Special Populations: Renal impairment and the Elderly

Dr Michael Stubbs and Dr Mariana Lamacie

Learning aims:

- Apply principles of safe heart failure prescribing in patients with renal impairment.
- Evaluate when to continue or deprescribe heart failure medications in older adults.
- Define destination medical therapy and its relevance in elderly heart failure care.

1205 – 1230

ECG Challenge

Dr David Heaven and Dr Nezar Amir

Learning aims:

- Interpret a range of ECGs with clinically relevant arrhythmias.
- Recognise and explain the significance common abnormalities such as prolongation of the QT interval.

1230 – 1255

Weight Loss Drugs Debate – Cardiovascular Benefit First?

Dr Jeffrey Sebastian, Dr Shakiya Ershad, Dr Sarah Fitzsimons and Dr Tim Sutton. Debate Chair: Dr Daniel Chan

Motion: “This house believes that the primary indication for GLP-1 agonists should be cardiovascular benefit.”

Debate + panel Q&A

Learning aims:

- Compare the cardiovascular and metabolic benefits of GLP-1 agonists.
- Evaluate the evidence supporting cardiovascular indications for weight loss drugs.
- Discuss readiness for broader implementation of these therapies in Aotearoa New Zealand.

1300

Closing Remarks

Dr Ruvin Gabriel



Cardiologists



Dr Andrew Martin



Dr Anthony Kueh



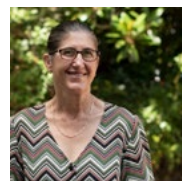
Dr Arthur Coverdale



Dr Boris Lowe



Dr Bryan Mitchelson



Dr Cara Wasywich



Dr Chris Ellis



Dr Colin Edwards



Dr Daniel Chan



Dr David Heaven



Dr Fiona Stewart



Dr Ivor Gerber



Assoc Prof
Gerry Devlin



Dr Jamie Voss



Dr Jeffrey Sebastian



Dr Jen-li Looi



Dr Jith Somaratne



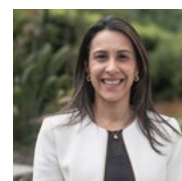
Dr Jonathon White



Dr Kok Lam Chow



Dr Mansi Turaga



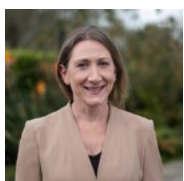
Dr Mariana Lamacié



Dr Matt O'Connor



Dr Michael Stubbs



Dr Miriam Wheeler



Dr Nezar Amir



Assoc Prof
Nigel Lever



Dr Peter Barr



Dr Peter Ruygrok



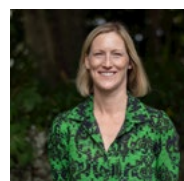
Prof Rob Doughty



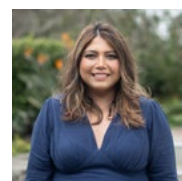
Dr Ross Nicholson



Dr Ruvin Gabriel



Dr Sarah Fitzsimons



Dr Shakiya Ershad



Dr Tim Sutton



Prof Tom Gentles



Dr Tom Pasley



Dr Wil Harrison



Prof Ralph Stewart

theheartgroup.co.nz
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Clinics held in Epsom, North Shore,
Ormiston Hospital, Pukekohe, New Lynn,
St Heliers and Whangārei.