



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

**MSC
NEWS**

NEWSLETTER OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

FROM THE CHAIR

It is with sadness that we farewell our Registrar, Margaret Steel, having been with the Medical Sciences Council for three and a half years. We wish her well as she leaves to retire to the South Island and further adventures on 30 April 2021. On behalf of the Medical Sciences Council, I would like to welcome the new Registrar, Caleb Bridgeman who has worked in both the private and public sectors.

With the national roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme, the Medical Sciences Council is supporting and encouraging practitioners to get vaccinated help to protect themselves, their patients, and the wider community. A link to further information on the vaccination programme has been included in the Newsletter.

The new Medical Sciences Council's website is also going live this week and you may notice some changes to the site.

Ngā mihi,

Brett Besley
MSC Chair

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Once you are registered, you have a legal requirement to notify the Council of any changes to your residential, postal or work address within one month of the change. You can do this by logging into "My Profile" on the website.

COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITY

The primary responsibility of the Council is to protect the health and safety of the New Zealand public by ensuring practitioners registered in the professions of medical laboratory science, and anaesthetic technology are competent and fit to practise.

Introduction from the Registrar

Kia ora koutou

Ko Caleb toku ingoa / My name is Caleb Bridgeman, I have taken up the task of filling Margaret's shoes. Margaret held the role for three and a half years and in that time has done excellent mahi.

I come to the Registrar role from a legal / litigation background. My work has included criminal prosecution and working for the Waitangi Tribunal.

Most recently, I was practising as an arbitrator and mediator. This involved resolving various disputes across a range of jurisdictions. I have also worked in in the banking and insurance sectors and I have had the privilege of working as an English teacher in South Korea.

I appreciate the critical role Regulatory Authorities play in Aotearoa / NZ's health system and I look forward to playing my part in ensuring the health and safety of the NZ public.

Caleb's contact details are:

Email: caleb.bridgeman@medsci.co.nz

Phone: 04 801 6250 extn 246

MSC 2020/2021 Approved Registrations

2020/2021

SOP	Overseas	NZ
AT	22	29
MLS	24	109
MLT	56	125
MLPAT	35	107
Total	137	370

2019/2020

SOP	Overseas	NZ
AT	34	50
MLS	34	94
MLT	63	85
MLPAT	55	121
Total	186	350

The registration statistics show that there has been a drop in overseas registrations between the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 year, however the overall total registrations between the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 year only varies by 4 registrations for medical laboratory science practitioners but 33 registrations for anaesthetic technicians.

The anaesthetic technician registration numbers for the 2019/2020 were artificially inflated due to an unusually high number of candidates passing the March 2019 exam whose registrations were then granted after 1 April 2019, hence falling into the 2019/2020 year.

2020/2021 numbers are low because the March 2021 exam was held later than usual, which meant that those candidates could not be registered before the 31 March 2021 statistics cut-off date.

Getting your COVID-19 Vaccination

To register for your COVID-19 vaccination, the Medical Sciences Council advises medical laboratory science practitioners and anaesthetic technicians to contact their DHB or employer.

COVID-19 Vaccine Education and Training

The Council has been asked to disseminate the below information from the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC):

The IMAC are a nationwide organisation based at the School of Population Health at The University of Auckland. They provide New Zealanders with a local source of independent, factual information based on international and New Zealand scientific research regarding vaccine-preventable diseases and the benefits and risks of immunisation.

Medical Sciences Council practitioners are able to vaccinate within their current scope (with appropriate training). Therefore IMAC would like to provide online training, support and education to assist you to become COVID vaccinators. In providing this training and information IMAC can also ensure your client base has access to accurate information around the COVID vaccines and to provide support and increase confidence within this workforce when having vaccine conversations.

Introductory guide to COVID vaccine programme: <https://covid.immune.org.nz/about/introductory-guide-covid-19-vaccination-programme>

Covid Vaccination programme: <https://covid.immune.org.nz/about/introductory-guide-covid-19-vaccination-programme>

General information: <https://covid.immune.org.nz/>
