President’s Note

Kia ora, greetings!

By the time you receive this newsletter the SRNT conference in Baltimore will be over and done with. For those of us who registered but couldn’t attend in person because of COVID-19-related travel restrictions, we at least have access to recorded material to pore through.

The challenge for me in such situations is how to carve out the time to do it! Without blocking off my diary I am likely to, at best, skim across a few sessions only.

That is why we have arranged a ‘satellite’ post-conference Oceania Symposium next month – this meeting is for those of you who gave recorded talks at the conference to deliver them in real-time to your colleagues in Oceania and to have the opportunity for some real-time interaction via Q&A. More details are to follow but please ‘save the day’ and sign up to attend and/or present.

Conferences aren’t the only research activity affected by COVID-19. Many of us have experienced disruptions to research projects, with challenges in engaging with communities and individuals potentially taking part, recruitment, follow up of participants and so on. If you have been struggling with limited institutional support, and don’t know what to do to rescue your study, I encourage you to connect with colleagues in the SRNT-O network to discuss your challenges and work on finding solutions. It can be
very stressful working in relative isolation when things are not going to plan. As a small Chapter, we can’t do everything, but we can support each other.

A Maori whakatauki/proverb expresses this sentiment rather nicely: “Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa” - Let’s keep close together, not far apart. Keeping close together is possible even when we are separated by physical distance. This is especially important at this time of such uncertainty.

Take care and keep safe.

Ngā mihinui

Chris Bullen, President

Upcoming Symposium

Oceania Member Presentations from SRNT Baltimore – LIVE!

*** Save the date ***

Friday 29 April 2022

2:00pm NZST | 12:00pm AEST

Join a fabulous live presentation from SRNT Oceania chapter members who had presentations accepted at the Baltimore conference

Opportunities for Q&A with a dynamic panel presentation

Further details including Registration to follow...

SRNT-O Board Elections

Elections are coming – is it your turn to serve on the SRNT-O Board?
Each mid-year we elect two new SRNT-O members to the nine-member Board. We will soon be calling for nominations so this is to give you a bit of notice it is coming up. SRNT-O Board elections are to specific Board positions:

**President-Elect.** The individual elected to this position will serve as President-Elect in their first year, President in their second year, and Past-President in their third year.

**Other Board positions.** These include Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Lead, Capacity Building Lead, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Lead, Maori Lead and Pacific Region Lead and are elected on a rolling basis.

In addition, the SRNT-O Board includes the SRNT Member Delegate for Oceania who is elected for three years by the Oceania membership of SRNT in an election organised by SRNT. All Board members can be re-elected at the end of their term.

This year, our call for candidates will be sent via email to each SRNT-O member in late April. The deadline for applications to be received is one month later, in late May. SRNT-O members will be invited to cast their vote no later than the end of June.

Candidates can self-nominate. To be eligible, they must be full members of SRNT-O residing in Oceania; their application must be supported by two SRNT-O members; and they must provide a brief CV (<250 words), and complete our SRNT disclosure of competing interest form.

Votes are sent by E-mail to the President of SRNT-O and the results of the election will be communicated to members no later than the end of September. Please consider if you would like to serve and support your organisation this way.

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**World No Tobacco Day - May 31 2022**

Every year, 31st May is observed as the World No Tobacco Day. From its inception in 1987, this yearly celebration draws public attention to the worldwide fight of WHO and other public health bodies to curb tobacco epidemic.

This year’s theme is ‘Tobacco’s threat to our
The campaign will also expose the tobacco industry’s effort to greenwash its reputation and to make its products more appealing by marketing them as environmentally friendly. See [Protect the environment, World No Tobacco Day 2022 will give you one more reason to quit (who.int)] for more details.

**Australian National Tobacco Strategy 2022 - 2030**

The [draft National Tobacco Strategy 2022–2030](#) is being developed based on feedback received from stakeholders and consultation activities. The first round of public consultation occurred in 2018 to inform the initial drafting of the next National Tobacco Strategy.

The [second public consultation on the draft National Tobacco Strategy 2022–2030](#) is now open and available on our Consultation Hub. It closes on 24 March 2022.

The purpose of this next consultation is to seek broader stakeholder and community views and feedback on the first draft. The perspectives, experiences and knowledge of all stakeholders are valued and will contribute to the final National Tobacco Strategy 2022-2030.

We urge all SRNT Oceania members to share your views and provide feedback on the draft using this [Online Survey Link](#).
The New Zealand Ministry of Health announced its 'ground-breaking' Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 Action Plan in December 2021, a vision to eliminate the harm caused to communities by smoked tobacco products, by transforming Aotearoa New Zealand to a smokefree nation by 2025.

The plan is the culmination of many years of hard work, gearing towards the goal of daily smoking prevalence less than five percent for all population groups in New Zealand. Its performance will be measured against three outcomes:

1. Eliminating inequities in smoking rates and smoking-related illnesses
2. Creating a smokefree generation by increasing the number of children and young people who remain smokefree
3. Increasing the number of people who successfully quit smoking

A detailed outline of the ambitious plan, its history and its focus areas can be found at Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 Action Plan | Ministry of Health NZ

SRNT-O Member Accolades

Three SRNT Oceania members have been conferred SRNT Fellow status in recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of nicotine and tobacco research, and of service to SRNT.

Chris Bullen from the University of Aukland, New Zealand, Coral Gartner, from the University of Queensland, Australia and Hayden McRobbie from the University of New South Wales, Australia have all become SRNT Fellows in the class of 2022 for their dedication to public health and tobacco control both nationally and internationally. Congratulations to Chris, Coral and Hayden!
Recent publications from Oceania

The journal *Tobacco Control* recently celebrated its 30th Anniversary with a special issue that included commissioned articles and editorials on key tobacco control issues, developments and debates. The issue can be accessed here: [https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/2](https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/2)

Researchers and smokefree leaders from the Oceania region contributed to many of the papers and commentaries, including the following (apologies if we missed any):

- Gifford H, Tautolo E-S, McCool JP, Gartner C, Edwards R, Maddox R. *Getting there together: highlights, challenges and opportunities for tobacco control in the Oceania region.* Tobacco Control 2022;31:164-168. [https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/2/164](https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/2/164)
- Hefler M, Bianco E, Bradbrook S, Arnold D, Dorotheo EU. *What facilitates policy audacity in tobacco control? An analysis of approaches and supportive factors for innovation in seven countries.* Tobacco Control 2022;31:328-334. [https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/2/328](https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/2/328)
- Hird TR, Gallagher AWA, Evans-Reeves K, Zatoński M, Dance S, Diethelm PA, Edwards R, Gilmore AB. *Understanding the long-term policy influence strategies of the tobacco industry: two contemporary case studies* Tobacco Control 2022;31:297-307. [https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/2/297](https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/2/297)
- Edwards R, Hoek J, Karreman N, Gilmore A. *Evaluating tobacco industry ‘transformation’: a proposed rubric and analysis.* Tobacco Control 2022;31:313-321. [https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/2/313](https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/2/313)
- Maddox R, Bovill M, Waa A, Gifford H, Tautolo E-S, Henderson PN, Martinez S, Clark H, Bradbrook S, Calma T. *Reflections on Indigenous commercial tobacco control: ‘The dolphins will always take us home’.* Tobacco Control 2022;31:348-351. [https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/2/348](https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/2/348)
- Hoek J, Edwards R, Waa A. *From social accessory to societal disapproval: smoking, social norms and tobacco endgames.* Tobacco Control 2022;31:358-364. [https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/2/358](https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/2/358)
- Robertson L. *Need for continued tobacco industry monitoring.* Tobacco Control 2022;31:382. [https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/2/382](https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/2/382)
- Moodie P, Hoek J, Hammond D, Gallopel-Morvan K, Sendoya D, Rosen L, Özcan B, van der Eijk, Y. *Plain tobacco packaging: progress, challenges, learning and opportunities.* Tobacco Control 2022;31:263-271. [https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/2/263](https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/2/263)
Previous SRNT-O Webinars

In October 2021, a webinar was held to showcase Early-Mid Career Researchers from the Oceania region present on their research work.

Oceans of Talent: SRNT-Oceania Early-Mid Career Researcher Showcase was compered by Chris Bullen and Nia Luxton, with presentations from Joshua Trigg, Tabassum Rahman and Mel Jackson.

If you have missed any of the previous SRNT Oceania Webinars, you can watch the recorded version, available at SRNT University under SRNT Webinars and Plenary Lectures / Chapter Webinars.

Call for Volunteers

We are putting out a call for volunteers who might be interested in assisting Board Members with future SRNT-O events, such as conferences or webinars. The coordination of these events requires a great deal of human effort, so we are compiling a list of those interested in assisting to call on as the need arises.

This might be suitable for students or ECRs who wish to gain valuable experience and/or network with others involved in nicotine and tobacco research. It would also be great to hear from those skilled in areas of webinar development, virtual conferencing or event management.

If you are interested, please drop us a line here.