

Expression of Interest

Senior Scientific Leadership Appointment - Associate Director Research & Science or Co-Director

Pūtahi Manawa | Healthy Hearts for Aotearoa New Zealand

Pūtahi Manawa | Healthy Hearts for Aotearoa New Zealand Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE) is seeking expressions of interest for one senior scientific leadership appointment to complement the Centre's collective leadership and contribute to its current and future research direction.

Applicants may indicate a preference for Associate Director Research & Science or Co-Director. The Selection Committee will recommend both the preferred candidate and the appropriate appointment level, reflecting the function required, candidate capability and level of executive accountability. This gives effect to the Board's principle of function before title.

The appointment will be negotiated at 0.3 - 0.4 FTE from 1 November 2026 to 31 December 2028, with potential for extension subject to future funding.

About Pūtahi Manawa

Since 2021, Pūtahi Manawa has brought researchers, clinicians, educationalists and communities together to advance heart health equity in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Centre has demonstrated impact across cardiovascular research, Māori and Pacific leadership, community partnership, workforce development, education and translation. Our "business not as usual" approach brings scientific excellence together with Māori and Pacific leadership, community knowledge and pathways to meaningful impact. Pūtahi Manawa is a national Centre of Research Excellence funded by the Tertiary Education Commission and hosted by the University of Auckland.

The Opportunity

This is a significant opportunity to provide senior scientific leadership within an established national Centre, strengthen national and international research relationships, develop future research capability and help shape major future research and funding opportunities.

- Strengthen and articulate the quality, coherence, impact and competitiveness of Pūtahi Manawa research.
- Provide senior academic leadership and strengthen national and international research, clinical and translational networks.
- Identify emerging scientific opportunities, capability gaps and strategic partnerships.
- Develop the cardiovascular research workforce and emerging research leaders.
- Connect research excellence with clinical, community, policy and health-system impact.
- Provide senior scientific leadership for future research programmes and major funding opportunities.

The appointee will work alongside the Co-Directors and established Māori and Pacific leadership of the Centre.

Appointment Level

Associate Director Research & Science

Leads an agreed scientific and research portfolio within delegated authority, including research quality, academic networks, workforce development, scientific strategy and development of the scientific case and research programme for future funding.

Co-Director

Carries these scientific responsibilities together with collective whole-of-Centre accountability for strategy and performance, contractual and financial stewardship, risk and reputation, Board/funder/stakeholder relationships, portfolio integration and overall funding strategy.

More information on both roles can be found in the attached position descriptions for each role.

Key Criteria

- Strong academic and research reputation relevant to cardiovascular or heart-health research, with senior scientific leadership experience.
- Demonstrated leadership in securing major competitive research funding, including shaping research programmes, building funder and partner relationships and leading complex collaborative bids.
- Established national and international research networks.
- Ability to identify, strengthen and articulate research excellence and impact.
- Ability to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi within their responsibilities and work effectively alongside Māori leadership.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively alongside Pacific leadership, researchers and communities.
- Commitment to workforce development, research translation and strong collaborative, strategic and interpersonal leadership.
- Ability to connect research excellence with clinical, community, policy and health-system impact.
- Strong collaborative, strategic, project leadership, interpersonal and conflict-management capability.

For the Co-Director appointment, candidates should additionally demonstrate governance and Board engagement, financial and contractual stewardship, organisational risk and reputation, people leadership, and senior funder/stakeholder relationships.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Māori and Pacific Leadership

Pūtahi Manawa is committed to giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and to advancing heart health equity for Māori and Pacific peoples.

The appointee will be expected to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi within their mandate and work respectfully and effectively alongside established Māori leadership.

They will also work alongside established Pacific leadership, recognising Pacific equity, methodologies, knowledge, community relationships, workforce development and data interests as distinct and important components of the Centre's work.

Scientific excellence, Māori and Pacific leadership, community partnership and translation are interconnected elements of the Pūtahi Manawa model.

Future Funding Leadership

Future investment will be a significant focus. At Co-Director level, the appointee will share accountability for funding strategy, relationships, bid governance and delivery. At Associate Director level, the appointee will lead development of the scientific proposition, research programme and academic team. Any additional commitment required during defined bid periods, together with appropriate operational, financial and bid-development support, will be agreed with the successful candidate. The Ministry of Education and MBIE are currently conducting a policy review of the Centres of Research Excellence model which will be concluded in the first quarter of 2027. The funding round for future CoREs will not begin until after that, potentially in mid-late 2027.

Looking Ahead

The appointee will help Pūtahi Manawa identify what should be retained and strengthened from the current Centre and position its scientific excellence, partnerships and capability for future opportunities. The role will retain flexibility to adapt to the research and funding environment that emerges beyond the current CoRE term.

Application and Selection

Applicants should submit a CV (NZ RS&T or MBIE Narrative CV), a cover letter addressing the role and preferred appointment level, and two referees to the Pūtahi Manawa Research Operations Manager via l.fotherby@auckland.ac.nz by the end of the day, 27 September 2026.

If you would like to have a confidential conversation with the Co-Directors about these roles, please contact Linda Fotherby, l.fotherby@auckland.ac.nz.

Applications will be assessed by a Selection Committee with appropriate governance, Māori and Pacific leadership and senior scientific expertise. The Committee will recommend the preferred candidate and appointment level. Conflicts of interest will be managed and reference checks completed before appointment. Formal employment, reporting, Board accountability and approval arrangements will be confirmed consistently with University of Auckland requirements. The final decision on the appointment will be made by the University of Auckland Vice-Chancellor.

The final appointment level, Associate Director - Research & Science or Co-Director, will reflect the function required, candidate capability and appropriate level of leadership accountability.

Position Description



PŪTAHI MANAWA
HEALTHY HEARTS FOR
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Te Tūranga Position title	Co-Director of Pūtahi Manawa Healthy Hearts for Aotearoa New Zealand Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE)
Rīpoatatia ki Reports to	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), University of Auckland

ABOUT PŪTAHI MANAWA

Pūtahi Manawa | Healthy Hearts for Aotearoa New Zealand is a national Centre of Research Excellence funded by the Tertiary Education Commission and hosted by the University of Auckland. Since 2021, Pūtahi Manawa has brought researchers, clinicians, educationalists and communities together to advance heart health equity in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Centre has demonstrated impact across cardiovascular research, Māori and Pacific leadership, community partnership, workforce development, education and translation. Our “business not as usual” approach brings scientific excellence together with Māori and Pacific leadership, community knowledge and pathways to meaningful impact.

Pūtahi Manawa Vision

To achieve heart health equity for Māori, and for Pacific Peoples

PŪTAKE MATUA O TE TŪRANGA | MAIN PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

The Co-Director, in collaboration with the Co-Director Māori and Co-Director Pacific, is responsible for whole-of-Centre accountability for strategy and organisational performance; contractual and funding performance; financial stewardship; organisational risk and reputation; Board, host institution and funder relationships; major stakeholder and partner relationships; people and performance leadership; integration across the portfolio; and overall strategy, governance and delivery of future major funding propositions.

The Co-Director will also oversee research quality and scientific excellence; development of the research and scientific proposition; academic and clinical research networks; research workforce development; scientific benchmarking and emerging opportunities; and leadership of the scientific development of major funding bids

The Co-Director:

- Provides strategic and operational leadership of Pūtahi Manawa CoRE to meet the goals, KPIs and proposed outcomes of improved equity in heart health across Aotearoa New Zealand through research.
- Ensures that the management systems of Pūtahi Manawa’s research and finances are robust and meet the obligations of the funder, Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) and the University of Auckland.
- Applies a “business not as usual” approach to all that is Pūtahi Manawa, where the emphasis is on equity and innovation.
- Maintains oversight of the CoRE’s community engagement, outreach and co-design methodology across its portfolio.
- Represents the CoRE in engagements with major stakeholders and potential collaborators at a national and international level.
- Represents the directorship at the meetings of the Pūtahi Manawa Advisory Board; and the TEC CoREs events.
- Maintains good communication with the Tertiary Education Commission and ensures all reporting requirements are met.
- Strengthens and articulates the quality, coherence, impact and competitiveness of Pūtahi Manawa research.
- Provides senior academic leadership and strengthens national and international research, clinical and translational networks.

- Identifies emerging scientific opportunities, capability gaps and strategic partnerships.
- Develops the cardiovascular research workforce and emerging research leaders.
- Connects research excellence with clinical, community, policy and health-system impact.
- Provides senior scientific leadership for future research programmes and major funding opportunities.
- Ensures research excellence and leadership so that Putahi Manawa's research is of the highest academic and ethical standards and scientific integrity is upheld.
- Gives effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and works respectfully and effectively alongside established Māori leadership.
- Works alongside established Pacific leadership, recognising Pacific equity, methodologies, knowledge, community relationships, workforce development and data interests as distinct and important components of the Centre's work.
- Ensures that Pūtahi Manawa is operating in a manner that is mana enhancing

NGĀ WHĀINGA O TE TŪRANGA | WHAT YOU ARE EXPECTED TO DELIVER

Te Tiriti o Waitangi	• Ensure Te Tiriti o Waitangi is implemented across all aspects of the Centre's work
Academic Leadership	• Set the research direction and strategic priorities for the CoRE, ensuring alignment to the CoRE's aspirations and its outcomes framework. • Strengthen internal collaborative relationships across the centre's networks and collaborators. • Engage with senior academic leadership across tertiary institutions in support of Pūtahi Manawa's aims and objectives. • Facilitate leadership and build heart health equity research capacity and capability by supporting Māori and Pacific Researchers, Early Career Researchers and wāhine. • Lead the development of the of Pūtahi Manawa's research to ensure the delivery of excellent research with a demonstrable impact on heart health equity for Māori, and for Pacific Peoples. • Maintain oversight of Pūtahi Manawa's research to ensure the delivery of excellent research with a demonstrable impact on heart health equity for Māori, and for Pacific Peoples. • Ensure that the CoRE's funding processes are ethical, robust and adhere to the CoRE values and funding principles. • Provide leadership for public research events showcasing Putahi Manawa's research. • Lead the development of the scientific proposition, research programme, academic team and evidence of research excellence supporting major funding proposals..
Mana Taurite Equity	• Demonstrate equity behaviours and values aligned to the Centre's code of conduct in all day-to-day interactions with the team, stakeholders and the Centre • Ensure equity in employment and education for Māori, Pacific, women, LGBTQITakatāpui+, people with disabilities, those parenting and other equity groups www.equity.auckland.ac.nz.
Waipapa Herenga Waka Engagement/Service	• Actively seek out new partnerships and collaborations as they align to our mission and vision • Where appropriate, represent the centre and its constituents

NGA PŪKENGĀ MOTUHAKĒ | KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, EXPERIENCE AND CAPABILITIES

Tohu mātauranga Qualifications	Essential: PhD
Ngā Wheako Experience	• A strong academic and research reputation relevant to cardiovascular or heart-health research. • Demonstrated leadership in securing major competitive research funding, including shaping research programmes, building funder and partner relationships and leading complex collaborative bids. • Demonstrated commitment to advancing Māori and Pacific health equity and reducing inequities in cardiovascular outcomes. • Demonstrated capability to work within Te Tiriti-led research frameworks and support kaupapa Māori aspirations. • Demonstrated ability to work effectively alongside Pacific leadership, researchers and communities • Leadership experience in a national network of collaborators • Established connections with heart-health providers and clinicians • Significant experience in governance and Board reporting • Experience of financial and contractual stewardship, organisational risk and reputation. • Experience with people and performance leadership. • Experience with complex multi-institutional partnerships and senior funder and stakeholder relationships.
Skills and Knowledge Pūkenga me ngā Mōhiotanga	• Understanding of heart-health equity in Aotearoa New Zealand. • Ability to connect research excellence with clinical, community, policy and health-system impact. • Ability to identify, strengthen and articulate research excellence and impact. • Excellent understanding of multiple aspects of heart research. • Strong collaborative, strategic, project leadership, interpersonal and conflict-management capability. • Knowledge of international research networks and benchmarking • Good understanding of data sovereignty

NGĀ WHANAUNGATANGA MATUA | KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Internal: • Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation and Pro Vice-Chancellor Research Reputation and Performance of the Host (University of Auckland) • Co-Director(s) of Pūtahi Manawa • Operational team, including the Research Operations Manager • Pacific Leadership Team • Māori Leadership Team • Pou Tikanga • Faculty Dean, Director of Faculty Operations and Research Services Manager • The Host (Research and Innovation Office) • The Board and Board Chair • Host Faculty Finance Team • Manaaki Manawa	External: • Tertiary Education Commission • Directors of other CoREs • Researchers and collaborators in community and tertiary settings • Health organisations and health providers, including Te Whatu Ora and • Related government ministries and their representatives • The Heart Foundation, Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand and other related non-government organisations • Directors/Leaders of the CoRE collaborators including Heart Otago & Christchurch Heart Institute at the University of Otago, The Centre for Health, University of Canterbury, CureKids. • Other research centres/institutes and networks with areas of mutual interest such as Auckland
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	Bioengineering Institute, Medtech-iQ Aotearoa, AUT Institute of Biomedical Technologies, Te Poutoko Ora a Kiwa. • Māori communities and iwi that Pūtahi Manawa engages with • Pacific community groups
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Position Description



PŪTAHI MANAWA
HEALTHY HEARTS FOR
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Te Tūrangā Position title	Associate-Director Research and Science
Rīpoatatia ki Reports to	Co-Directors, Pūtahi Manawa Healthy Hearts for Aotearoa New Zealand CoRE

ABOUT PŪTAHI MANAWA

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Pūtahi Manawa Vision

To achieve heart health equity for Māori, and for Pacific Peoples

PŪTAKE MATUA O TE TŪRANGA | MAIN PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

The Associate Director Research and Science leads an agreed scientific and research portfolio within delegated authority, including research quality, academic networks, workforce development, scientific strategy and development of the scientific case and research programme for future funding.

The Associate Director Science and Research:

- Strengthens and articulates the quality, coherence, impact and competitiveness of Pūtahi Manawa research.
- Provides senior academic leadership and strengthen national and international research, clinical and translational networks.
- Identifies emerging scientific opportunities, capability gaps and strategic partnerships.
- Develops the cardiovascular research workforce and emerging research leaders.
- Connects research excellence with clinical, community, policy and health-system impact.
- Provides senior scientific leadership for future research programmes and major funding opportunities.
- Ensures research excellence and leadership so that Putahi Manawa’s research is of the highest academic and ethical standards and scientific integrity is upheld.
- Gives effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi within their mandate and work respectfully and effectively alongside established Māori leadership.
- Works alongside established Pacific leadership, recognising Pacific equity, methodologies, knowledge, community relationships, workforce development and data interests as distinct and important components of the Centre’s work.

NGĀ WHĀINGA O TE TŪRANGA | WHAT YOU ARE EXPECTED TO DELIVER

Te Tiriti o Waitangi	• Ensure Te Tiriti o Waitangi is implemented across all of the Centre’s research and workforce development initiatives.
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Academic Leadership	• In collaboration with the Co-Directors, set the research direction and strategic priorities for the CoRE, ensuring alignment to the CoRE's aspirations and its outcomes framework. • Strengthen internal collaborative relationships across the centre's research networks and collaborators. • Engage with senior academic leadership across tertiary institutions in support of Pūtahi Manawa's aims and objectives. • Facilitate leadership build heart health equity research capacity and capability by supporting Māori and Pacific Researchers, Early Career Researchers and wāhine. • Lead the development of the of Pūtahi Manawa's research to ensure the delivery of excellent research with a demonstrable impact on heart health equity for Māori, and for Pacific Peoples. • Maintain oversight of Pūtahi Manawa's research to ensure the delivery of excellent research with a demonstrable impact on heart health equity for Māori, and for Pacific Peoples. • Ensure that the CoRE's funding processes are ethical, robust and adhere to the CoRE values and funding principles. • Provide leadership for public research events showcasing Putahi Manawa's research. • Lead the development of the scientific proposition, research programme, academic team and evidence of research excellence supporting major funding proposals. • Support any reporting to the Tertiary Education Commission in the areas of research excellence and research workforce development.
Mana Taurite Equity	• Demonstrate equity behaviours and values aligned to the Centre's code of conduct in all day-to-day interactions with the team, stakeholders and the Centre • Ensure equity in employment and education for Māori, Pacific, women, LGBTQITakatāpui+, people with disabilities, those parenting and other equity groups www.equity.auckland.ac.nz.
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Tohu mātauranga Qualifications	Essential: PhD
Ngā Wheako Experience	• Strong academic and research reputation relevant to cardiovascular or heart-health research, with senior scientific leadership experience. • Leadership of complex collaborative research programmes and demonstrated leadership in securing major competitive research funding. • Demonstrated commitment to advancing Māori and Pacific health equity and reducing inequities in cardiovascular outcomes. • Demonstrated capability to work within Te Tiriti-led research frameworks and support kaupapa Māori aspirations. • Demonstrated ability to work effectively alongside Pacific leadership, researchers and communities • Leadership experience in a national network of collaborators

	• Established connections with heart-health providers and clinicians • Knowledge of international research networks and benchmarking
Skills and Knowledge Pūkenga me ngā Mōhiotanga	• Understanding of heart-health equity in Aotearoa New Zealand. • Ability to connect research excellence with clinical, community, policy and health-system impact. • Ability to identify, strengthen and articulate research excellence and impact. • Excellent understanding of multiple aspects of heart research. • Knowledge of international research networks and benchmarking • Good understanding of data sovereignty

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