

Expressions of Interest to Join the Ageing Well National Science Challenge Science Leadership Team

Ageing Well National Science Challenge: Vision and Mission

The Ageing Well National Science Challenge vision is to add life to years for all older New Zealanders. This will be achieved by harnessing science to sustain health and wellbeing into the later years of life.

The mission of Ageing Well is to push back disability thresholds to enable all New Zealanders to reach their full potential through the life course with particular reference to the latter years of life.

Through working with colleagues at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and the University of Otago as the Challenge Contractor, Ageing Well's researchers will deliver five interlinking strands of mission-led research to address the mission. These are:

- Enabling independence and autonomy / tino rangatiratanga of older individuals and their whānau and families
- Ensuring a meaningful life through social integration and engagement
- Recognising at a societal level the value of ongoing contributions of knowledge and experience of older people
- Reducing disability
- Developing age-friendly environments

These strands will incorporate work to push back the disability threshold by optimising brain and body health, and social and physical environments for older people.

Role of the Science Leadership Team

The key function of the Ageing Well National Science Challenge's Science Leadership Team is to act as expert scientific advisory group to the Challenge's Governance Group and to provide a strategic view of the Challenge's activity. In so doing, the Science Leadership Team can help ensure research is mission-led and will offer tangible and demonstrable improvements to the lives of all New Zealanders.

Chaired by the Challenge Director, the Science Leadership Team's work programme can be summarised as follows:

- scientific oversight of the Ageing Well Research and Business Plan (2015—2019) and the 10 year strategic plan (<http://hs-wpress-p01.registry.otago.ac.nz/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Ageing-Well-FINAL-submission.pdf>)

- providing expertise and scientific recommendations on any proposed changes in research priorities, activities and funding or related activities required to deliver outcomes and impact expected by MBIE to the Governance Group for their overall review and decision;
- provide expert advice in the gap analysis process and/or the contestable round funding processes, for the Governance Group's final decision and review
- interact with other Challenge Science Leaders to ensure research coordination across the Challenge, and minimise the creation of silos.

Who we are looking for

We are looking to appoint a Science Leadership team of approximately six people – to ensure continuity, some of whom will likely have already served – to help both shape the Challenge and ensure we fulfil our vision and mission to the benefit of all New Zealanders. A commitment to helping to ensure Vision Mātauranga outcomes are achieved in practice is required.

Ideally, the Science Leadership Team will comprise a broad base of research expertise and experience across the many research areas and disciplines relevant to the five research strands of the Ageing Well National Science Challenge. No single member of the team will possess the requisite expertise across all of the five research strands; rather, we are looking for individuals who are committed and able to contribute across the strands, as well as having extensive track records in research and leadership within their respective fields.

We are looking for science leaders who are well connected in research and/or key stakeholder groups in New Zealand working across their area of research and expertise. Having a good understanding of the international research trends and major findings for ageing well would be an advantage, as would a good knowledge of assessment processes and gaps in knowledge that could be used to inform the Challenge's Contestable Funding research round. Aligned to the key function of the Challenge, we are looking for science leaders who can demonstrate an understanding of – and contribution to – mission-led research.

Time commitment required

It is anticipated that four meetings per year will be held (two face-to-face, likely in Wellington, and two meetings by teleconference), as well as participation in Challenge activities. Up to half a day of preparation time will likely be required for each meeting.

Independent Members of the Science Leadership Team will receive a per diem and relevant expenses to attend meetings and other Challenge activities. Staggered appointment terms of up to three years would be offered, subject to Governance Group agreement.

Criteria for selection

The Challenge's Management Directorate will make recommendations to the Ageing Well National Science Challenge Governance Group regarding the appointment of the Science Leadership Team.

The following criteria will be used when selecting members for the Science Leadership Team. An objective assessment of the mix of skills and experience will also inform the final decision.

- Understanding of the Challenge Mission and Programme objectives. For the Science Leadership Team to operate effectively it will require people who understand the Objective and Mission of the Challenge.
- Leadership. To make a successful contribution to the Science Leadership Team, extensive and demonstrable leadership experience in their area of expertise would be required.
- Networks and Connections. To effectively raise awareness of the Challenge with key stakeholders and to be able to represent the Challenge effectively, a good network in the science outreach and/or stakeholder community would be an advantage.
- Knowledge of engagement with Māori (including of Vision Mātauranga). This knowledge will assist with the engagement and communication with whānau, hapū and iwi participants in the Challenge
- Knowledge of engagement with Pacific Peoples and/or Asian Communities would be a significant advantage.

Application Process

Please submit your CV together with a covering letter outlining your science leadership experience, why you are interested in joining the Ageing Well Science Leadership Team and how you meet the criteria described above.

Please submit your application by **Friday, 20 November** to administrator.ageingwell@otago.ac.nz

For more information regarding Science Leadership Team positions or to arrange an informal conversation regarding the role, please contact Challenge Director Professor David Baxter (director.ageingwell@otago.ac.nz)