

Date: Friday June 25 | Time: 1pm-2pm

As Fiji battles the second wave of the COVID-19 infection, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services has also strengthened its efforts in the roll-out of the Astrazeneca (AZ) vaccination programme across the country. However, discussions across social media tell us that most of us in Fiji still have many questions about the AZ vaccine, the COVID test and the science behind them, given that there are endless sources of information that our people are referring to.

In this panel discussion, the Fiji Institute of Pacific Health Research (FIPHR) at the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences (CMNHS) brings together experts who will share their thoughts on these most-asked questions about COVID-19 and the AZ vaccine.



Professor Nikki Turner

Panelist

Nikki is an academic General Practitioner. She is a Professor in the Department of General Practice and Primary Care and Medical Director of the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC), at the University of

Auckland. She has developed and evolved IMAC from its inception in 1996 into a national communication, coordination, education and research centre. She works part time as a General Practitioner at the NUHS Broadway clinic in Strathmore, Wellington

Nikki's academic interests are in immunisation, primary health care and preventive child health. She represents the RNZCGP (College of General Practitioners) in child health interests, and is a health spokesperson for the Child Poverty Action Group. She was a member of the World Health Organization Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization and Chair of the Measles and Rubella elimination subcommittee from 2016 to 2020. She is on a range of national committees supporting the NZ immunisation programme and the COVID vaccination delivery. In 2021 this includes chair of the National Verification Committee for measles and rubella elimination; a member of the Pharmac PITAG immunisation subcommittee; a member of the Ministry Technical Advisory Committee (TAG) and Immunisation Implementation Advisory Committee (IIAG) for COVID vaccination and a member of the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group to the Government.



Dr Rachel Devi

Panelist

Dr Devi is a public health physician who is currently Fiji's National Advisor for Family Health, and the national co-ordinator for the current COVID-19 vaccination programme. She is passionate to see the vaccination programme succeed, and hopes to address the common questions around the vaccination programme in Fiji.



Dr Donald Wilson

Moderator

Dr Wilson is an epidemiologist and a public health physician by background. He is currently the Associate Dean Research and Director of the Fiji Institute of Pacific Health Research (FIPHR) for the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) at FNU.

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