

AUMSA March 2024 Newsletter



Kia Ora Medical students of Waipapa Taumata Rau

Hope you had a restful Easter! It has been a relatively quiet time for AUMSA as the first half of semester one comes to an end.

Some updates from us:

The AUMSA committee will be meeting with the Faculty for our first SSCC meeting of the year so if you have any concerns please pass these on to your class reps or site reps so they can be raised at this meeting. The minutes will be posted on our website so you can see what is discussed and what the outcomes are.

For those who applied to the Innovation Fund, we will be reviewing the applications this week and will update you on the outcome later in the week.

Make sure to buy your tickets for our Album Cover stein on the 24th of April - come dressed as your favourite album or artist. Open to anyone!! The next day is a public holiday so there really is no excuse for missing out!! Hope to see you all there!

Otherwise we hope everyone's study for the first progress test of the year is going well, good luck to everyone especially 2nd years sitting prog for the first time ever!

For our 2nd and 3rd years - enjoy the rest of your mid-semester break and to our clinical students hang in there!!

Kia kaha,
AUMSA 2024 Council





Student Caregivers and Postgraduate Group

Our lovely Students with Dependents rep has created a staff-supported group that is established to support all students who are caregivers (parent or someone else, intermittent or continuous), or who entered the program as a postgraduate. If that applies to you and you are looking for more support or the opportunity to connect with other students in the same situation - use the link below to join:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1144503532950143>

AUMSA, APhi and TOKĀ statement on Māori and Pacific student spaces

Mālo e Lelei and Kia Ora e te whānau,

Over the past week, a substantial amount of harmful rhetoric has hit the internet, news and social media regarding our Māori and Pacific student spaces. While it has provoked discourse around inequities that are too comfortably a part of our lived experiences, it has been met with misunderstanding and hostility.

We understand that this time has been difficult for Māori and Pasifika, and we want to validate the feelings that many may be experiencing. We also want to reiterate that our number one priority is the safety and inclusivity of our students. Noah and I are committed to ensuring that the voices of Māori and Pacific students are heard and respected during this time.

Please see the next page for a joint statement from AUMSA and our Māori and Pacific FMHS counterparts - APhi and TOKĀ. In addition to our statement, we also have listed some other resources to draw upon for extra support- please do not hesitate to reach out if you are concerned or need an arm to lean upon:

- APhi - aphiexecutive@gmail.com
- TOKĀ - toka.kaituhi@gmail.com
- MAPAS Student Support Advisors
- Noah Appleby - napp650@aucklanduni.ac.nz OR mangaimaori@aumsa.org.nz
- Lily Tualau - ltua430@aucklanduni.ac.nz
- Te Papa Manaaki | Campus Care (<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/students/student-support/personal-support/te-papa-manaaki-campus-care.html>)



Ki ngā taurira o Waipapa Taumata Rau,

In times of adversity, it's crucial that we come together as a community, supporting and uplifting one another. As representatives of the Māori and Pasifika students within the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland, we acknowledge the tensions that have recently surfaced online and on campus regarding the spaces held for our communities.

We want to affirm and validate the feelings that many Māori and Pasifika students may be experiencing during this time. It is entirely understandable to feel unsettled, frustrated, or even fearful in the face of verbal and other forms of hate. Your emotions are valid, and you are not alone in navigating them.

While the reasons for the spaces are complex and span beyond the University, they exist for the same reason they were created 60 years ago. They serve as sanctuaries where our students can find belonging and share their experiences and heritage without fear of prejudice. They serve as a forum for learning in ways that mainstream education cannot provide. They are spaces that foster a sense of community in an environment that celebrates the strengths of Māori and Pasifika.

We are proud of our diverse cultures and rich tapestry represented within the University and advocate for the creation and maintenance of spaces that foster equity on campus. This diversity's contribution to the institution and, by extension, the workforce is unequivocal. Together, we will continue to fight for a campus environment that celebrates diversity and mutual respect.

To our Māori and Pasifika whānau within the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, remember that you are valued and you are supported. Reach out to one another, seek support from the resources available, and know that we stand beside you.

Noho ora mai,

Lily Tualau (AUMSA Pasifika Rep)
Noah Appleby (AUMSA Māngai Māori)
Rosa Pillissi (APHI Co-President)
Taki Havea (APHI Co-President)
Hine Parata-Walker (TOKĀ Tumuaiki)



AUMSA

Auckland University Medical Students' Association



Inspiring Doctors

Our Students with Dependents rep and ND editors have collaborated on a series called Inspiring Doctors where we get to know some of our teachers and their journeys a little better. The first edition is on Miriam Nakatsuji from the Clinical Skills Team. There will be more of these released in the ND Quack magazine later this semester so keep an eye out for that!!

Flexibility to continue to pursue our passions

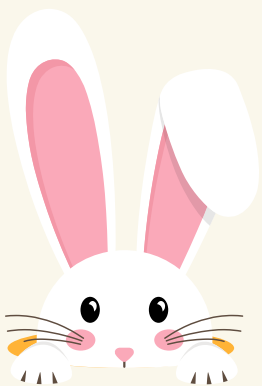
Throughout high school I loved languages, studying Japanese and Te Reo Māori, and spending 3 months at a school in Japan. After high school I was torn between studying languages/ linguistics/education at Uni vs Medicine. I'm glad I chose Med as it's been an incredible journey. I've loved working clinically in South Auckland and really enjoy teaching clinical skills.



Although I chose Med over languages, it's been great to find ways of pursuing that passion along the way. In Year 2 & 3 med I took stage 2 and 3 Japanese as additional classes. Then took a year off between years 3 and 4 Med to work in Japan - a mixture of English teaching and work for a clinical research company. (And my Japanese man followed me to NZ at end of that year - we've now been married 20yr). I'm grateful to have been able to do courses in Te Reo Māori through Te Wānanga o Aotearoa over several years which have been amazing. Much of the learning from those has been learning history, context, tikanga, and hearing the experiences of Māori classmates and their whānau. I've been inspired by incredible and passionate Kaiako who try to challenge taurira beyond their comfort zone while also ensuring a safe supportive space to try things out. I've learned a lot about teaching from them.

My husband and I spoke only Japanese to our kids until they started school. It was amazing to see our eldest speak Japanese as his first language and start to correct my Japanese. One time at a playground a girl who'd overheard us came up to me and said "You don't look like that language"! Unfortunately, we found that too hard to keep up when our kids started school, and we also got busier, and they lost a lot of that language. They're learning again now (ages 10 & 13) and I'm trying to use more Japanese with them again.

There are other interests I've lost along the way with the demands of medicine. But we all need interests and passions outside of Med to keep us sane - I hope students can find something to keep pursuing despite the busyness of study.





Upcoming Events

April

16th - 2nd Year Musculoskeletal PBL

24th - AUMSA x Les Mills Ceremony Class

24th - AUMSA Album Cover Stein

May

17th - Pink Shirt Day

22nd - 3rd Year Sensory PBL

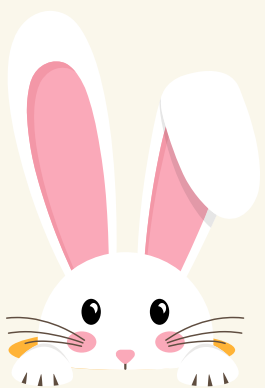
June

1st - AUMSA goes to the Rugby

14th-16th - NZMSA IGNITE conference

21st - Students With Dependents Social Event

Check out the next page for photos from our recent Soiree event!



Soiree



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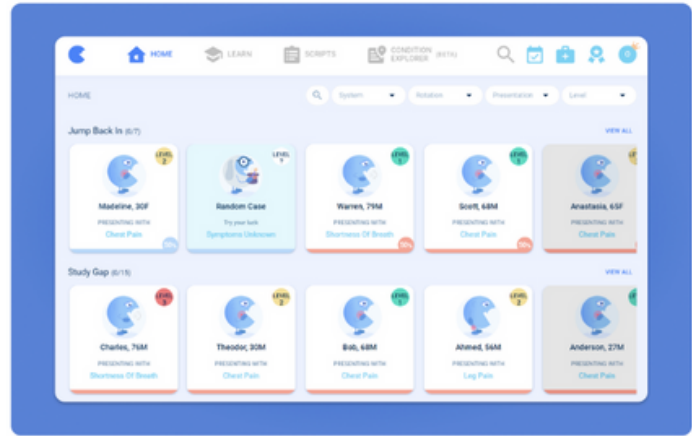
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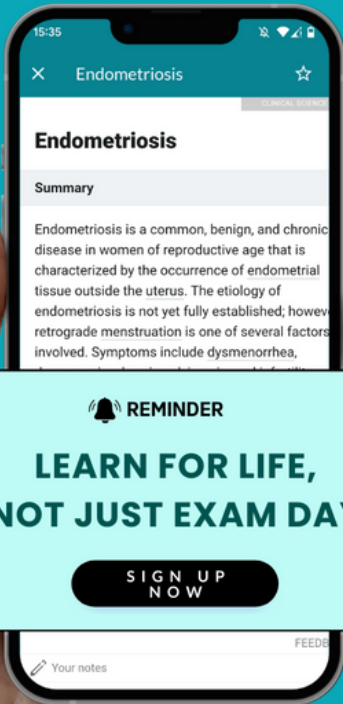


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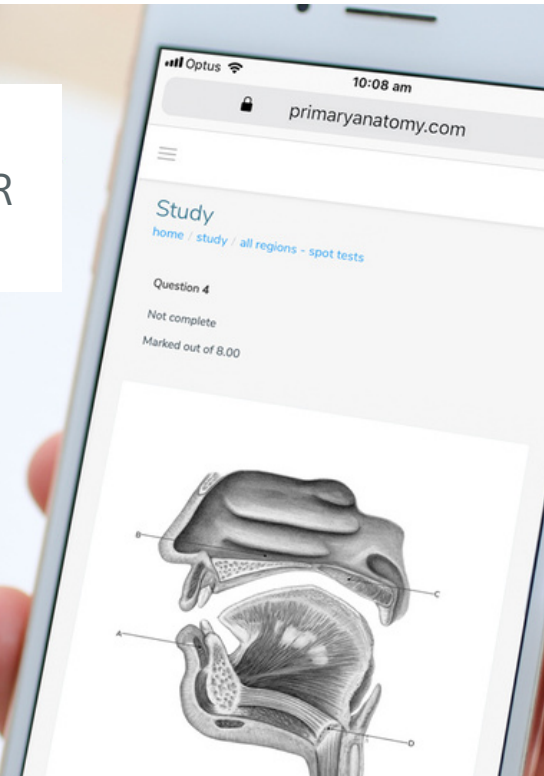


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