

# EDOR

Edgar Diabetes and Obesity Research Centre newsletter

December 2024

## Meet our directors

The Edgar Diabetes and Obesity Research Centre (EDOR) Director is Professor Rachael Taylor (pictured right).

Professor Sir Jim Mann (pictured centre), Associate Professor Justine Camp (pictured left) and Dr Andrew Reynolds (pictured below) complete the team of EDOR Co-Directors.



## Timataka

EDOR was established in 2003 through the generous support of Sir Eion and Jan, Lady Edgar, as part of the University of Otago Leading Thinkers Initiative.

## Our Mission

EDOR strives to realise mauri ora by improving diabetes and obesity outcomes through equitable partnerships and research excellence.

## Our People

Find out more about our research partners, postgraduate students and research projects by visiting the EDOR website: [www.otago.ac.nz/diabetes](http://www.otago.ac.nz/diabetes)

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Andrew Reynolds, Co-Director of EDOR, was awarded the OUSA New Supervisor of the Year

EDOR was established 21 years ago as the first University of Otago Leading Thinkers initiative. Supported by the generosity of Sir Eion Edgar and the KPS society, EDOR hosts two Leading Thinkers, Professors Jim Mann and Rachael Taylor.



The Leading Thinkers initiative was celebrated at a University of Otago event, highlighting the extraordinary benefits of this investment. [Read more](#)



## Diabetes trial shows life-changing results

Managing type 1 diabetes provides unique challenges for children, youth and their whānau.

EDOR researcher Professor Ben Wheeler and his team have published data showing how new technologies can transform diabetes management for young people. [Read more](#)



## Child health research career acknowledged

Professor Barry Taylor's research and clinical work has made a significant contribution to many aspects of child health, including in the areas of diabetes and obesity.

An event to celebrate these achievements included an acknowledgment by EDOR Director and colleague, Professor Rachael Taylor. [Read more](#)



## Screens and teens - how to maximise sleep

EDOR research includes investigations of sleep in children and teenagers. Better sleep health is linked with improved wellbeing and lower rates of obesity.

A recent EDOR sleep study in teenagers, using wearable body cameras, has revealed some surprising results which challenge current sleep guidelines. [Read more](#)

## Health Science leadership role for EDOR Co-Director

Associate Professor Justine Camp has been appointed as the inaugural Pro-Vice-Chancellor Māori for the University of Otago Health Sciences division.

[Find out](#) what motivates EDOR's Co-Director to ensure that the wellbeing of taurira and their communities can thrive.



## Baby feeding methods - the latest results

EDOR members have co-led the First Foods study, which has provided insights into infant feeding practices and their relationship with appetite and nutrient intake.

This First Foods study revealed some unexpected findings around food pouch use in New Zealand infants. [Read more](#)



## The GluCoast Research Study - recruiting soon

Based on the West Coast of the South Island, the GluCoast study is investigating how two different dietary approaches (partial meal replacement and time-restricted eating) can affect blood glucose control in people with type 2 diabetes.

For more information, contact Kate Campbell [glu.coast@otago.ac.nz](mailto:glu.coast@otago.ac.nz)

## Recent EDOR achievements

EDOR doctoral students Alice Cox and Rosie Jackson have recently graduated with their PhDs.

Alice's thesis investigated the relationship between different feeding methods and weight status in infants, as part of the [First Foods study](#). Rosie's thesis examined the effects of sleep loss on eating behaviour and screen-time in children through the [DREAM study](#).

Congratulations to Dr Melyssa Roy, who recently passed her Public Health Medicine Fellowship exam.



Professor Rachael Taylor with PhD graduate, Dr Alice Cox



Dr Melyssa Roy



## Meri Kirihimete ki a koutou!

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