Supporting early career scientists

Jane is a strong advocate for the representation and support of early career researchers (ECR) in New Zealand.

Through activities such as Queenstown Research Week meetings she has focused on ensuring that students and emerging researchers are supported.

This support may be via opportunities to speak, travel grants, and career advisory sessions with representatives from a wide range of science careers in NZ, as well as those able to give advice on how to pursue PhD and postdoctoral positions overseas.

She helped to establish the Royal Society of New Zealand early career researcher forum and is the inaugural chair.

As part of the forum, she has helped to organise a nationwide series of Science Media SAVVY workshops, and the involvement of NZ researchers in a “180 seconds of science” competition, which gave NZ ECRs a chance to share their scientific passion with the public.

Jane is also an early career representative on many university and Royal Society committees.

Jane Allison

2004 Bachelor of Science with Honours, UC
2008 PhD, Chemistry Department, University of Cambridge

Jane’s goal is to understand the molecular mechanisms that underpin life. Her research has already provided insight into the molecular basis of Parkinson’s disease.

Jane attended Cashmere High School before attending UC where she was awarded the Percival Memorial Prize and the Sir George Grey Senior Scholarship before completing her BSc(Hons).

She was then awarded a Woolf Fisher Scholarship for PhD study at Trinity College, University of Cambridge.

While studying at Cambridge Jane maintained her sporting interests. She captained the Cambridge University Women’s Cricket team, scoring a century at Lord’s, and represented Trinity and the university in football, cross-country and rowing.

In 2007 Jane took up a Postdoctoral Research position at ETH Zurich in Switzerland, where she continued to row, winning a gold medal at the European University Championships, before accepting a Lecturer position at Massey University in 2012.

Jane began a 5 year Rutherford Discovery Fellowship in 2016 to research new frontiers in biomolecular simulation.

Her research bridges the gap between computational predictions and experimental observations. She has pioneered the use of structural modelling and simulation to investigate evolutionary relationships.

Jane regularly communicates her research to a wide range of different audiences and is a strong advocate for early career researchers.