

2026
IBD SYMPOSIUM
New Zealand Society of Gastroenterology Inc.
Sponsored by Pharmaco & Ferring

Programme – Day 1

Friday 7 August 2026	
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm – 3:00pm	Session 1: Epidemiology & Future Burden Chairs: Dr Sophia Savva and Professor Richard Gearry As IBD prevalence continues to rise across New Zealand and Australia, how do we continue to deliver high-quality care? This session explores emerging epidemiological data, future projections, innovative service models, and the evolving role of IBD nurses in meeting growing demand. Australian guest speaker Associate Professor Emily Wright (Melbourne) will discuss models of care and service delivery for the next generation of IBD services.
1:00pm – 1:10pm	Mihi Whakatau and Welcome
1:10pm – 1:20pm	Clinical Case <i>Registrar</i>
1:20pm – 1:40pm	Future Burden of IBD in New Zealand <i>Angela Forbes</i>
1:40pm – 2:00pm	Models of Care and Service Delivery <i>Associate Professor Emily Wright</i>
2:00pm – 2:20pm	Evolving Nursing Roles and Workforce Innovation in IBD <i>To be confirmed</i>
2:20pm – 3:00pm	Panel Discussion
3:00pm – 3:20pm	Afternoon Tea

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3:20pm – 5:00pm	Session 2: Epidemiology of IBD in Aotearoa New Zealand – Implications for Services Chairs: Dr Tom Mules and Megan Mackay Advances in translational science are reshaping our understanding of IBD as a disease of barrier dysfunction. Featuring leading New Zealand and Australian researchers, this session explores the interaction between the mucosa, microbiota and epithelial barrier, and how these discoveries may influence future treatment paradigms. Australian guest speaker Associate Professor Jakob Begun (Brisbane) will present emerging insights into epithelial integrity and barrier biology.
3:20pm – 3:30pm	Clinical Case <i>Registrar</i>
3:30pm – 3:50pm	Gut Barrier Dysfunction: Translational Insights <i>Dr Tom Mules</i>
3:50pm – 4:10pm	Mucosa–Microbiota Interactions in IBD <i>Dr Jeffry Tang</i>
4:10pm – 4:30pm	Epithelial Integrity and the Future of Barrier-Based Therapies <i>Associate Professor Jakob Begun</i>
4:30pm – 5:00pm	Panel Discussion
6:30pm	Parliament Dinner
	Parliamentary Debate This House Believes the Pursuit of Ever More Ambitious Treatment Targets Has Led to Overtreatment in IBD

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Programme – Day 2

Saturday 8 August 2026	
7:00am – 8:15am	Breakfast at Leisure
8:20am – 10:00am	Session 3: Non-Invasive Monitoring Chairs: Dr Caroline Jiang and Dr Andrew Lane How should we assess disease activity in 2026 and beyond? This session examines the rapidly evolving role of biomarkers, intestinal ultrasound and treat-to-target strategies in IBD care. Biomarkers, cross-sectional assessment and intestinal ultrasound will be explored within modern monitoring pathways, with Australian guest speaker Dr Yoon An (Brisbane) discussing the growing role of intestinal ultrasound in contemporary IBD practice.
8:20am – 8:30am	Clinical Case <i>Registrar</i>
8:30am – 8:50am	Biomarkers and Disease Assessment in IBD <i>Dr Akhilesh Swaminathan</i>
8:50am – 9:10am	Intestinal Ultrasound in Contemporary IBD Practice <i>Dr Yoon An</i>
9:10am – 9:30am	The Future of Monitoring: Integrating Ultrasound, Cross-Sectional Imaging, Capsule Endoscopy and Colonoscopy <i>Dr Melissa Haines</i>
9:30am – 10:00am	Panel Discussion
10:00am – 10:20am	Morning Tea

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10:20am – 12:10pm	Session 4: The Future of IBD Care – Choosing and Optimising Therapies in 2026 Chairs: Associate Professor Stephen Inns and Dr Kayla Sliman The symposium concludes with a keynote address from Professor Miles Sparrow (Melbourne) exploring therapeutic optimisation, treatment targets, advanced treatment strategies and the changing landscape of IBD care. The session will culminate in an interactive case forum featuring a multidisciplinary faculty from New Zealand and Australia, tackling some of the most challenging treatment decisions encountered in everyday clinical practice.
10:20am – 11:00am	Keynote Address Optimising Medical Therapies in IBD in 2026 <i>Professor Miles Sparrow</i>
11:00am – 12:10pm	Interactive Case Forum: What Would You Do? Cases presented by A/Prof Stephen Inns and Dr Kayla Sliman, with multidisciplinary panel discussion and audience participation. • Case 1: When Success Becomes a Problem • Case 2: The Sequencing Dilemma • Case 3: Beyond the Gut
12:10pm – 12:15pm	Closing Remarks
12:15pm	Lunch

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