**Audrey Baker – Cornell University**

Audrey Baker is a PhD student in Science & Technology Studies at Cornell University. Her research interests centre on emerging sociotechnical food regimes, including how institutional, political, technological and ecological systems are co-created with emerging food production strategies, how these impact and may be influenced by food/land sovereignty movements and priorities at different scales, and which experts get to define a healthy, sustainable, just food system. Audrey's current project investigates values motivating different actors in cellular agriculture and cultivated meat and seafood research, and how moral/ethical and political visions may shape the field’s technological development. While working on the PhD part-time, Audrey is also an instructor and program manager with Cornell’s Master of Public Health Program. Before working at Cornell, Audrey spent over a decade developing and teaching food and agriculture education programs for youth and adults. Audrey lives with her 10 year old son in Ithaca, New York.

**Rachel Bennie – University of Canterbury**

Rachel Bennie is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Canterbury. She obtained her Ph.D. from the University of Canterbury in 2022 under the supervision of Prof. Ian Shaw. Following her doctoral studies, she joined Prof Renwick Dobson’s research group as a Postdoc on the MBIE Catalyst Future Foods Research Programme in collaboration with the University of Auckland. Rachel’s research focuses on safe cell line development and hybrid cultivated meats, aiming to understand the cell-plant protein interactions to improve organoleptic properties and how we can inform government on policies and legislations for cultivated meats in New Zealand.

**Katy Bluett – Future Foods Aotearoa**

Katy is an experienced food industry professional. Through bespoke consulting services in her business Appetite for Change, she supports ambitious businesses to innovate, commercialise and grow faster.

Katy is also Executive Director of Future Food Aotearoa, a founders movement formed in 2020 to accelerate the growth and impact of foodtech businesses from New Zealand.

Katy has worked in a variety of local and international leadership roles across top FMCG, ingredients and technology companies, launching over 1000 F&B products along the way. She has also led the F&B sector for Callaghan Innovation, the Government’s Innovation agency, working with more than 400 of NZ’s most innovative and promising F&B businesses, fuelling her passion for food systems transformation.

**Claire Bomkamp – Good Food Institute**

Dr Claire Bomkamp serves as Senior Lead Scientist, Cultivated Meat & Seafood and is a member of GFI’s Sustainable Seafood Initiative. She focuses on analysing the technical landscape of the cultivated meat and seafood industry, identifying bottlenecks, and engaging researchers in order to move cultivated meat and seafood technology forward. She holds a PhD in neuroscience from the University of British Columbia and a bachelor’s degree in behavioural neuroscience from Western Washington University.

**Denise Conroy – Plant and Food Research**

Dr. Denise Conroy is a Principal Scientist and Team Leader of Stakeholder and Consumer Research at Plant & Food Research, Auckland, New Zealand. Prior to joining Plant & Food Research Denise was an academic at The University of Auckland where she taught consumer behaviour and advanced research methods for 20 years. Denise is a research psychologist, specialising in understanding the attitudes, emotions, values, and cognitions that motivate people to consume specific products, brands, or experiences, or to reject these offerings. As an interpretivist researcher Denise is a skilled methodologist, working largely with qualitative methods and data. She is very experienced at leading complex, transdisciplinary teams, to reach a common goal. Much of Denise’s research is Asia focussed and, as the Consumer Insights P.I. for the High Value Nutrition National Science Challenge, her team explored how consumers across the Asia Pacific region construe their relationships between food and health. Denise’s research largely focuses on the future – exploring consumer responses to future foods and the technologies that will achieve them, across a wide range of countries and cultures.

**Laura Domigan – Opo Bio Aotearoa**

Dr Laura Domigan is the co-founder and Chief Scientist at Opo Bio Aotearoa, a cell line development start-up company located in Auckland. Opo Bio spun out of the University of Auckland in 2022, and the founding technology was based on work carried out in Laura's lab in Chemical and Materials Engineering. Laura is a protein biochemist and tissue engineer, with a PhD from the University of Canterbury, followed by a post-doctoral fellowship at Tufts University, USA. Laura is a long-time supporter of cultivated meat, and is excited about the future of this technology in Aotearoa New Zealand.

**Georgina Dowd – Plant and Food Research**

Dr. Georgina Dowd is a senior scientist and research team leader of the Marine Cell Technologies Team at Plant & Food Research. Her work focuses on developing cell lines from finfish, with applications ranging from cellular agriculture to biotechnology advancements. She is currently leading the MBIE Endeavour Programme Fish Cell Production Systems (FCPS), driving innovation in cultivated seafood and marine products.

With expertise in marine cell biology and biotechnology, Georgina is passionate about advancing sustainable food solutions and bridging the gap between scientific research and industry applications. She also has an interest in Māori perspectives on food systems, ensuring a thoughtful approach to integrating new technologies within broader cultural and environmental contexts.

Beyond research, Georgina is actively involved in growing the cellular agriculture community in New Zealand, fostering industry collaborations and discussions to support the development of this emerging sector.

**Maui Hudson – University of Waikato**

Associate Professor Maui Hudson (Whakatōhea) is the Director of the Te Kotahi Research Institute at the University of Waikato. He has authored guidelines on Genetic Research with Māori, Genetic Research with Indigenous Flora and Fauna, and Protecting Cultural Intellectual Property in Research and Innovation. Maui Is a co-author of the CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance, as well as a strategic advisor for Local Contexts which promotes Traditional Knowledge and Biocultural Labels.

**David Kaplan – Tufts University, USA (Keynote)**

David Kaplan is the Stern Family Endowed Professor of Engineering at Tufts University, a Distinguished University Professor, and Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering. He directs the Tufts University Center for Cellular Agriculture (TUCCA) and the USDA-sponsored Institute for Cellular Agriculture. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Inventors, and the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering.

**Irina Miller – Daisy Lab**

Irina is a business consultant turned deep-tech entrepreneur. She got excited about the possibilities of precision fermentation technology for creating food ingredients when she was working in the dairy industry. She paired with a distinguished molecular biologist, Dr Nikki Freed and a Master’s student Emily McIsaac and they started working on creating dairy-identical ingredients using microbes, not cows. She hopes that in the future New Zealand will continue to lead in the field of protein production, but will shift towards plant-based, algal and fermentation derived proteins as the world decreases its reliance on animal agriculture.

**Paul Miller – Kernohan Engineering**

Paul Miller is CEO and Director of Kernohan Engineering with a proven history of working in the engineering and manufacturing sector. He graduated from the University of Canterbury with a PhD in physics in 2009 before moving to Scotland to join a tech start-up developing innovative products for industrial applications. After 11 years, and progressing to the role of Managing Director, Paul returned to New Zealand with his family. He joined Kernohan Engineering in 2020, impressed by the strong and trusted brand they had built over five decades of business and the opportunity it provided to bridge the gap between science and engineering. Solving problems that matter drives Paul’s commitment to innovation, and the region’s economy and wellbeing.

**Olivia Ogilvie – Opo Bio Aotearoa**

Dr Olivia Ogilvie is co-founder and CEO of Opo Bio, a leading biotech ingredient supplier to the biomanufacturing industry. In 2024 she was named as Forbes 30 under 30 Asia list. She holds a PhD in biochemistry from University of Auckland and current position as Senior Research Fellow at the University of Canterbury. She has worked across the science commercialisation ecosystem in New Zealand, from knowledge creation to venture capital. Dr. Ogilvie's dedication to advancing biotechnology and sustainable food systems positions her as a leading figure in the global effort to develop innovative solutions for the future of food.

**Munish Puri – Riddet Institute**

Professor Munish Puri is the inaugural Riddet-Ag-Research Chair in Alternative Proteins at the Riddet Institute, Massey University. He is an internationally recognised Industrial Biotechnologist and ranks among the top 10 Australian researchers in the field as well as advisor to review government investments in the emerging food-biotechnology industry. He spearheads a research team leveraging bioprocessing - precision fermentation, metabolic engineering and downstream processing-to address global challenges in sustainability, food security, and human well-being. His recent work focuses on a) cell factories for metabolite production such as proteins, enzymes and lipids, b) food biotechnology for nutraceutical extraction, functional foods and novel foods development relating to Omega-3/6 fatty acids, and c) nanobiotechnology for stabilising enzymes and bioenergy production. At Riddet Institute, NZ, his mission is to innovate, develop, and deliver sustainable, nutritious foods, by cost-effective utilising underutilised streams to shape the future of the global food industry.

**James Ryall – James Ryall Consulting, Australia (International)**

Dr. James Ryall brings nearly 25 years of extensive experience in the biotech sector, including 20 years as a research academic and over four years as the Chief Scientist at Vow, a pioneering cultured meat company in Sydney, NSW. Dr Ryall continues to provide support to the cultured meat and cellular agriculture industries through his role as an advisory board member at Cellular Agriculture Australia. He now leverages his deep expertise as a strategic advisor to startups and scaleups, specialising in biomanufacturing. Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Ryall has received numerous awards and fellowships, notably the AK McIntyre Award from the Australian Physiological Society for his outstanding contributions to physiology. He continues to contribute to academic research as an Honorary Research Fellow at The University of Melbourne.

**Ben Schon – Plant and Food Research**

Dr Ben Schon is a Senior Scientist within the Food Materials & Structure Team at Plant and Food Research, New Zealand. His focus is on new materials and technologies to better understand and improve food substances from a materials perspective. Ben currently leads a programme of work focused on exploring the viability of cellular horticulture as a food production method - how plant cell foods may be produced in vitro using a combination of fabrication techniques and plant cells.

**Ben Sutherland – Food Standards Australia New Zealand (International)**

Ben Sutherland is the Principal Food Technologist for Food Standards Australia New Zealand. He provides food technology input into FSANZ’s many initiatives and manages applications to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code. His role involves becoming an expert in pretty much everything to do with food – enzymatic production of D-allulose one day, cell cultured foods the next! Bridging the knowledge gap between consumers, entrepreneurs, the food industry and food regulation is also a focus of Ben’s work at FSANZ. Ben is currently managing FSANZ’s first assessment of a cell cultured food.

**Joanne Tunna – Cellular Agriculture Australia (International)**

Jo is the Chief Operating Officer of Cellular Agriculture Australia and brings over 15 years of experience across government, not-for-profit and private sectors. She has a breadth of expertise spanning strategy, project management, business development, and corporate sustainability. Jo is dedicated to working with impact-driven organisations to decarbonise our food system and has been focused on accelerating the development of alternative proteins since joining Cellular Agriculture Australia in 2021.

**Byron van Vugt - Movac**

Byron is an Investment Manager at Movac, New Zealand’s most experienced and successful venture capital firm providing support to Kiwi founders & leaders to help accelerate the growth of their tech businesses. As a sector agnostic investor Movac has made several agriculture industry investments to date and Byron has personally been involved in investments into Miruku, Cropsy and BioLumic. He holds a Master of Engineering in Bioengineering and a conjoint Bachelor of Engineering and Commerce.

**Lyn Wise – University of Otago**

Associate Professor Lyn Wise heads the Tissue Repair and Regeneration Lab at the University of Otago. Lyn completed a PhD in Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Otago, where her interest in regenerative medicine was stimulated by her discovery as to how virus lesions could heal without scarring. After a stint at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research in Melbourne, Lyn returned to the University of Otago to lead Health Research Council-funded programmes resulting in the commercialisation of biologic therapies for wound complications. Working with local and international collaborators, Lyn has since applied her suite of cellular and animal models to the development of various natural and synthetic molecules aimed at healing and regenerating human tissues. Recently, this has included Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment-funded research into materials generated from algal and fish sources that act as scaffolds for tissue production, with applications in both regenerative medicine and cellular agriculture.