



24 January 2024

Subject:

Exciting News: Appointment of Permanent Directors for the NZ RNA Development Platform!

Dear RNA community,

We are delighted to share with you a significant milestone in the development of the New Zealand RNA Development Platform: the appointment of Professor Kjesten Wiig and Professor Gary Evans as the co-Directors of the RNA Platform.

Professors Wiig and Evans were appointed after a rigorous process, in collaboration with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), that included discussions with a researcher focus group in addition to the interview process.

The appointments of Professor Gary Evans and Professor Kjesten Wiig mark a pivotal moment in our journey as we transition from the Establishment phase to the official launch of the RNA Development Platform. Their wealth of experience and leadership, and commitment to advancing RNA research, will undoubtedly propel the platform to new heights.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Professor John Fraser from the University of Auckland for his invaluable contributions as a co-Director during the Establishment phase. His dedication and expertise have played a crucial role in laying a solid foundation for the RNA Development Platform.

Kjesten and Gary are looking forward to engaging with the research community across the country in the upcoming weeks. Kjesten says, "As co-Directors we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and the impact the RNA Development Platform will have on advancing research and innovation in New Zealand and beyond."

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for the NZ RNA Development Platform.

Sincerely,

Margaret Hyland and Frank Bloomfield on behalf of the RNA Platform Oversight Group