

Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand

Gold Medal Award Citation

Leanne Maria Te Karu FPS

November 2022



**Muaūpoko/Whanganui Ngāti Rangi, Ngāti Kurawhatia,
Ngāti Patutokotoko**

*"He aha te nui mea o te ao?
He tangata, he tangata, he tangata."*

So many words can describe Leanne, but this whakatauki personifies Leanne's view of the world. Leanne is about the People and her enthusiasm, passion and selfless dedication to their wellbeing and reducing inequity is truly inspirational. Leanne has shown outstanding leadership that extends well beyond Pharmacy, but she has always advocated for pharmacy in her work with government, communities and in academia.

She has shown her compassion and caring about people in her work with tangata whairoa – people who seek to be well, throughout her almost thirty years work in pharmacy – in hospital, community and now in primary care pharmacy with her gout, cardiovascular disease and respiratory disease clinics at Pihanga Health Centre and at Papakura marae. Her vast clinical knowledge and understanding, coupled with her amazing interpersonal skills, holistic approach within a te Ao Māori approach, contributes extensively to the improvement in health outcomes for the people she cares for.

Always seeking to advance mātauranga, Leanne completed her Master of Clinical Pharmacy in 2011, investigating the impact of gout for Maori – and the gaps in treatment. She then immediately went on to become one of the first pharmacist prescribers and so continues to learn and apply her knowledge to the people she cares for, and to lead the way for other pharmacists.

Leanne is completing her PhD, investigating access and optimising medicines for Māori, and exploring models of care and service delivery which will help reduce inequity. She has over 25 publications in international peer reviewed journals, and 373 citations and is called upon to present papers and workshops in New Zealand and internationally.

It is also about helping people when Leanne takes on her Leadership roles – which are so numerous. She lectures for both the Otago and Auckland Schools of Pharmacy, has held roles at Christchurch School of Medicine at the Māori Indigenous Health Institute and continues to provide motivation and mentoring for students. She is Associate Dean, Māori at the University of Otago and established the Hiwinui Heke Māori Pharmacy Student Scholarship.

Beyond helping her patients and our young students, Leanne strives to help reduce health disparities, displaying a remarkable energy and commitment. Leanne founded Ngā Kaitiaki o Te Puna Rongoā o Aotearoa - The Māori Pharmacists Association and has served on the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand. She was instrumental in establishing PRISM the Pharmacy Responsiveness plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for Māori, a very inclusive organisation that, in typical Leanne style, had everyone working together.

Leanne also represents pharmacy through her work with the Expert Advisory Panel for the Atlas of Health Variation, the Health Quality and Safety Commission, PHARMAC, the BPAC Advisory Board, the Rheumatic Fever Forum, the Māori Gout Action Group, the Health Literacy project and she leads the multi-disciplinary team within He Rongoā Pai, He Oranga Whānau - a medicines optimisation programme that engages hundreds of health care workers. More recently Leanne has been a leader for Te Rōpū Whakakaupapa Urutā, the National Māori Pandemic group, made up of New Zealand's leading Māori medical and health experts. Leanne strongly advocates for the advancement of pharmacists as key Primary Health Care members of this group. Her voluntary work for pharmacy on marae is extraordinary – but something Leanne is incredibly humble about.

Leanne is passionate about pharmacy and people, and particularly the plight of inequity for Māori. She has merged these passions and is well recognised for her work with Māori. We as a profession, but also as individuals, have benefited from Leanne's leadership, integrity and outstanding qualities as she has guided us through Cultural Safety with the Māori Health Strategy for the profession, helping us incorporate it into our everyday practice.

Leanne has undertaken key roles as a clinical teacher, medical researcher, national health care leader and practicing clinician that is inspirational to many - from students to experienced practitioners. She epitomises mana, rangatiratanga and passion for tangata whaiora and for pharmacy that has resulted in the advancement of the profession and recognition of the roles pharmacists can undertake.

Leanne's energy and dedication goes above and beyond and means she is a very worthy recipient of the Gold Medal of the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand.