

Including all voices: Examples and advice for doing better when working with communities historically excluded from health research.



Cheryl Davies

Cheryl Davies, Ko Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti WehiWehi, Ngāti Mutunga o te Wharekauri oku iwi. Cheryl is the manager of Tu Kotahi Māori Asthma Trust and a senior Māori researcher with the University of Otago. Cheryl has managed the Tu Kotahi Māori Asthma and Research Trust – the first Māori asthma society in New Zealand – for over 30 years. Cheryl has worked alongside the University of Otago on a number of key research studies involving Māori communities over the past 23 years. Cheryl is an expert in strengths based Kaupapa Māori (by Māori, for Māori) qualitative research methodologies. She is a strong advocate for Whānau Ora approaches to health centring whānau (family group as a whole) aspirations at the heart of research. She has led or contributed to numerous studies relevant to Māori health and is widely published.



Hemakumar Devan

Dr Hemakumar Devan (he/him) is a clinical academic in pain management from New Zealand, working as a Lecturer at the Rehabilitation Teaching and Research Unit, University of Otago and as a Pain Management Physiotherapist at the Wellington Regional Pain Service, Te Whatu Ora Capital, Coast and Hutt Valley. With equity and valuing lived experience expertise at the centre, Dr Devan's research programme aims to foster self-management support to empower people with persistent pain and their whānau (family and significant others). He currently co-leads a [HRC Health Delivery Project Grant](#) to co-develop and implement a story-based, whānau-focused, opioid tapering intervention for people with chronic non-cancer pain. Strategically, his goal is to address health inequities and improve health outcomes for people with persistent pain and their whānau.

In the past five years, Dr Devan has secured over \$3.5M in funding, published 40 peer-reviewed articles, and delivered 50+ national and international presentations in pain management. He is a co-chair of the IASP Sex, Gender and Race Special Interest Group, council member of the New Zealand Pain Society and the Deputy Director of Pain@Otago research theme. Dr Devan is a passionate science communicator often presenting his work in pain conferences and in social media ([@HemDevan](#)).



Sandra Jayacodi

Sandra a former solicitor in the UK embarked on her journey as a Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) Contributor following her own lived experiences of poor mental and physical health. Sandra is also an Improvement Leader Fellow. She currently holds a variety of portfolio including that of a being PPIE co applicant for research, a peer researcher, a peer coach and trainer, PPIE advisor and contributor for various health care providers in the UK. Sandra brings the patient, carer and public perspectives and their needs into health care research, quality improvement, service design and in policy and guidelines. She strongly believes that although some of us may have the same diagnosis of an illness, our lived experiences of it will vary, based on who we are, including our ethnicity, gender, age, deprivation or privilege, and personality. These lived experiences are pivotal in the design of health care services, policy, guidelines, research and quality improvement work. As a patient herself she strongly advocates for a meaningful leadership that is not top to bottom but bottom up that starts with the patients.



Alma McCormick

Alma McCormick is a member of the Crow Nation and the Executive Director of Messengers for Health, a Native American 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization located on the Crow reservation. She is a leader and a community activist for improved health and wellness among her people. Her educational background is in community health and she furthered her education in health and wellness at Montana State University Billings. She has been actively involved in cancer awareness outreach and advocacy among American Indian women in Montana since 1996.

McCormick has extensive experience in conducting community-based participatory research health projects while working in collaboration with Montana State University. She has traveled nationwide to present at health conferences to share the program's successes. She has also coauthored numerous peer-reviewed journal articles. Her passion for her work in community outreach stems from her personal experience of losing a young twin daughter to neuroblastoma cancer in 1985.

Moderated By

Joletta Belton



Hey there, thanks for reading my bio. I'm Jo, a reader, writer, dog mom, and nature lover. I'm also a fierce advocate for the equitable inclusion of lived expertise in the work of pain. I got hurt many a moon ago working as a firefighter paramedic. It wasn't much of anything at the time, then became life-altering and world upending. I was forced to medically retire from the career that had defined me and started down a path of trying to better understand pain and what to do about it. I'm still on that path.

MyCuppaJo.substack.com is where I make sense of pain through science, stories, philosophy, and art through the lens of my own lived experiences of pain and trauma and struggling to find the right care. I'm also a partner in pain research, an author on peer-reviewed papers and textbook chapters, founding co-chair of IASP's Global Alliance of Partners for Pain Advocacy, and the first Patient & Public Partnerships editor at the Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy.