

**Free Webinar: Thursday 2 November 7.30pm (1 hour with Q&A)**  
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## Spotlight on Autism Research:

- Long-term benefits of funding support in health and education
- Cutting-edge research: gut microbiome transfers to relieve gut issues, world first trial in Auckland!

Dr Nick Bowden will be speaking about his research on the impact of health and education-based supports for autistic young people. Nick will discuss how population-level data can be used to quantify the benefits of funding support in health and education for young autistic people.

He will present the findings of study showing that while Autistic students are suspended and stood down at higher rates than non-autistic students, those with high need education-based funding support, have substantially lower rates of suspensions. His talk will also highlight the potential for future research. Nick is a Research Fellow at the Department of Women's and Children's Health within the Dunedin School of Medicine at the University of Otago.



Director of the Liggins Institute Professor Justin O'Sullivan (pictured below right) will be speaking about the very latest of what we know about the genetics of autism through his team's research. Researchers have known that genes contribute to autism since the 1970's. More recently scientists have used new technologies to examine the role genes play more closely in autism.

Justin has a PhD in molecular microbiology from the University of Otago and joined the University of Auckland Waipapa Taumata Rau as a Senior Research Fellow at the Liggins Institute in 2012. He was recently appointed Director of the Liggins Institute in July 2023.



Professor Wayne Cutfield (pictured left) will be speaking on the gut microbiome and the benefits of gut microbiome transfer for autism. The gut microbiome refers to the collection of microorganisms including bacteria that naturally live in our gut. These bacteria help us to digest and extract nutrients from food. Gut microbiome transfer is an emerging therapy for microbiome restoration that involves the transfer of gut microbiome from healthy donors to people with a disordered gut microbiome. Gut microbiome transfer is currently being tested as a treatment in a range of conditions.

Wayne is a Professor of Paediatric Endocrinology at the Liggins Institute, a practising paediatric endocrinologist at Starship Children's Hospital as well as the Director of A Better Start, one of 11 government funded National Science Challenges.

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*Spotlight on Autism Research Partners:*

