

Te Pūao Mātai NZSO Fellowship Policy

This policy outlines the purpose, structure, criteria, and procedures for the establishment and governance of a Fellowship and Awards system within the New Zealand Society for Oncology (NZSO).

1. Purpose

To establish a system of recognition for outstanding contribution to translational oncology research, leadership, equity, clinical oncology, and service to NZSO and its mission. Fellowship recognises sustained, high-impact contributions to oncology and / or to NZSO and its mission in New Zealand, beyond routine professional achievement.

2. Award Structure

There are two awards proposed:

- Fellow of NZSO (FNZSO) – Significant and sustained contribution with impact
- Emeritus FNZSO – for former (retired) members who have made a historic outstanding contribution to the organization; upon retirement from active practice and membership from NZSO, Fellows can apply to have emeritus status (acknowledging they may cease to be financial members of NZSO).
- recipients may use the post-nominal FNZSO in relation to activities relevant to the field of oncology.

3. Eligibility

- Must be a current financial member of NZSO (minimum 10 years is expected; exceptions can be considered in extraordinary circumstances). Emeritus FNZSO do not have to be full members.
- Contributions to cancer research, leadership, policy, innovations in care delivery, education, and equity advancement in New Zealand
- Special consideration for past Presidents, Life Members, and award recipients

4. Selection Process

Selection will be through the following process:

- Nomination by a peer (must be a current NZSO member) with supporting rationale and CV
- Review of nominated individuals by a subcommittee of the Executive (Awards Panel)
 - The Awards committee will consist of not less than four members, with at least 2 scientists and 2 clinicians.
 - Non-executive members or members of the lay public can be co-opted at the discretion of the Executive
 - The Awards panel will RANK nominations, and present rank order with attendant rationale, for the Executive Committee to consider. As well as RANK order, the subcommittee will recommend suitable for AWARD (or not fulfilling criteria)
 - This means that the Awards panel may deem as many applications as they see fit as suitable for award, but must rank-order with the Executive having the authority to determine the number of awards made.
- The final decision for Award sits with the Executive Committee, with ascent requiring at least 2/3 majority of the Executive.

- Panel members and executive must declare conflicts and recuse where appropriate (same institution/close collaborator/trainee relationship, etc.).
- Announcement awardees at the Annual Scientific Meeting

5. Criteria

- Duration of membership at least 10 years.
- Demonstration of sustained national leadership in one or more areas of: cancer research, leadership, policy, innovations in care delivery, education, and equity advancement
- Examples may include leadership of Special Interest Groups (SIGs), professional working groups such as MOWG, ROWG etc, leadership of major cancer-related committees or significant policy contributions, establishment or development of significant cancer or research related innovations, infrastructure (like tissue banks, or other key clinical or research infrastructure), or outstanding contribution to cancer education
- While international leadership is of note, the award is aimed primarily to recognize contribution to the national environment
- Note must be made of **impact** or **outcomes** that are affected. Membership of a committee is in itself insufficient to count as a contributing metric.
- Demonstrated impact on health equity, particularly Te Tiriti o Waitangi Articles and Principles
- Service to NZSO (e.g., Executive roles, conference convenorships, long-standing engagement)
- Recognition in the broader scientific or clinical community
- Achievement of NZSO awards such as the Bridget Robinson, Roche translational research award, Bruce Cain, or other key NZSO awards.

6. Number and Frequency of Awards

- There will be a foundation cohort of not more than 10 (ten) fellows.
- In the first five years following establishment, up to five awards per year may be made
- Following the establishment phase, no more than three Fellows (FNZSO) shall be awarded per year, unless otherwise agreed by a two-thirds vote of the Executive.
- There is no requirement to award FNZSO in any year if applications are not deemed suitable for award.

7. Implementation and Transitional Arrangements

- A 'foundation cohort' may include past Presidents, Life Members, and key contributors, as per 6 above
- Future appointments will follow nomination and review process outlined above
- Titles are honorary and do not imply legal membership rights beyond current membership classes

8. Loss or withdrawal of title

- If a fellow's financial membership lapses and the fellow does not renew after reasonable attempts to prompt renewal, then the award will be considered to have lapsed.
- A Fellow must notify NZSO where they are found guilty of scientific, professional or criminal misconduct, the Fellow must notify NZSO. Upon notification, the Executive must

vote on whether the Fellow is to maintain their title of Fellow. Proceedings can be initiated upon notification by the Fellow, or where such findings become known to NZSO

- To have Fellowship revoked, a vote in favour of 75% or more of executive members must be made
- Where a fellow has their fellowship revoked by the executive and wishes to appeal, a special committee will be formed to review the detailed particulars. This committee will be made up of 7 people, with at least 3 non-NZSO members including one member considered to be a lay member.
- The special committee will have the option to uphold the Executive’s decision by unanimous agreement. Where unanimity cannot be found, then a vote will be taken at the AGM. A simple majority is required at that meeting for the motion of withdrawal to be upheld. Suspension will remain in place until the vote is taken.
- A suspended Fellow has the right to take their suspension to a vote at the AGM, where a simple majority decision will be conducted on a motion to withdraw.
- Where a Fellow is accused of egregious scientific, professional, or personal misconduct (amounting to the threshold of criminal charges), the executive can vote to temporarily suspend Fellowship pending the outcome of professional or criminal review. A vote of 75% of executive members is required for this to be passed. It is noted that this step must be invoked in only extraordinary circumstances, as the principles of innocent until proven guilty and natural justice must be considered.

9. Amendments

This policy may be reviewed and amended by resolution of the Executive Committee and ratified at the Annual General Meeting, or special general meeting.

Final V1	All Exec voted	April 2026