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## Wellington Early- and Mid-Career Researchers: A group for emerging researchers in the southern North Island

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Te Papa

The group ‘Wellington Early- and Mid-Career Researchers’ (WEMCR) was recently launched. WEMCR was initiated after the New Zealand Association of Scientists conference ‘Do Emerging Scientists have a Future in New Zealand?’ that was held in April 2012. Many of the goals of WEMCR mirror those of Auckland University’s Stratus network (Hay *et al.* 2012): the provision of a support network for early- and mid-career researchers, and to identify and address the issues that may affect them. WEMCR includes members from all research disciplines including the humanities and social sciences, in contrast to Stratus, whose focus is on science and engineering (Hay *et al.* 2012).

WEMCR currently represents over 70 researchers from southern North Island institutions including Victoria University of Wellington, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), Industrial Research Ltd (IRL), Te Papa Tongarewa, Otago Medical School, Massey University, GNS Science, Environmental Science and Research (ESR), and private companies. The diversity of institutions is one of our strengths and facilitates cross-institutional networking opportunities, including the potential for developing collaborations, the identification of common issues and obstacles facing early- and mid-career researchers, as well as a unified voice on such issues. Following the Australian Academy of Science, our definition of early- to mid-career researchers is those under 15 years post-PhD (or other research higher degree), although the majority of members completed their PhDs less than seven years ago. Over half of our members are in permanent fulltime employment.

The launch was supported financially by NIWA and IRL, with future support for the group provided by Massey University and Victoria University of Wellington. The next WEMCR event, to be held in early February 2013, will address grant writing and science funding. Future events are likely to include invited speakers and workshops on topics such as science communication and forming research partnerships with industry,

as well as networking opportunities. The group has Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/427892793944151/>) and Twitter (@wtn\_emcr) accounts. Researchers interested in being part of the group are invited to make contact via Facebook or Twitter, or to contact the group’s secretary, Lara Shepherd, at [lara.shepherd@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:lara.shepherd@tepapa.govt.nz)

### Reference

Hay, D.L.; Cater, J.; McGillivray, D.J. 2012. Stratus as a voice, guide and ambassador for emerging scientists at the University of Auckland. *New Zealand Science Review* 69(3): 56–60.

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