

The NZ Science System: Context, Challenges and Opportunities



Outline

• My background and the context in which I and my colleagues use the outputs and

outcomes of eResearch

- The science advisory system
- The NZ Science System and Funding
- Future and current opportunities for eResearch



Context



The Impact of eResearch on My Career

Medicinal chemistry, process development and drug discovery







Algorithms Facilitating Drug Discovery





The Manhattan Project





Algorithms Facilitating Drug Discovery





What Does this Really Look Like?





Nuclear Magnetic Resonance





8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0. f1 (ppm)



Australian Synchrotron





Structural Insight







Supercomputing









Outcomes From Our Research





Data Security/Utility











eResearch and Biomedical Research





Computer-calculated compounds

Researchers are deploying artificial intelligence to discover drugs.



eResearch and Biomedical Research

Heard at the 14th ECDP in Helsinki

Digital pathology: Sometimes Al can outperform experts

Machine learning is adding a new dimension to pathology and already outperforming experts during some tasks, according to several speakers at the 14th European Congress on Digital Pathology (ECDP) who revealed up-to-date developments.

Report: Mark Nicholls





What's a Science Advisor!?



MBIE Chief Science Advisor & the Science Leadership Team



- Provide thought leadership on the delivery of excellence, impact and an agile science system.
- Ensure that the sector's expertise and intelligence are captured in the development of policy and investments.
- Explain MBIE to science sector and vice versa
- Build internal capability in Vision Mātauranga
- Support access to science for other parts of MBIE
- Part of Science Advisor's Forum chaired by PMCSA



Both Sides





Field Research vs Open Plan Research







Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor (PMCSA)

- 2009: PM John Key establishes role
- Senior, practising academic scientist
- Use of science in policy making
 - Scientific advice to PM
 - Public understanding of science
 - Promote NZ's interests through science diplomacy
 - Chair network of science advisors
- Sir Peter Gluckman appointed
- Prof Juliet Gerrard replaces Sir Peter in 2018









NZ Departmental Science Advisors (DSAs)

- Senior, practising scientists, seconded to departments
- Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE)
- Ministries of Social Development, Health, Justice, Education, Environment, Primary industries, Transport,
- Department of Conservation, NZTA, NZ Defence Force





NZ's (Science) Research System



What science should be funded?

A policy perspective

"Research, science and technology is a set of knowledge creation and application activities that address the needs of our nation."

Scientists' perspective

"Scientific progress on a broad front results from the free play of free intellects, working on subjects of their own choice, in the manner dictated by their curiosity for exploration of the unknown. Freedom of inquiry must be preserved under any plan for Government support of science ..." Vannevar Bush, 1945





Government Strategy



The Government's vision for New Zealand puts the long-term wellbeing of people and the environment at its centre. This includes priorities of reducing child poverty, access to affordable, healthy homes, opportunities for meaningful work, and a just transition to a sustainable, low-emissions economy.

- R&D to 2% of GDP
- New RS&I strategy being developed



A complicated system?



MBIE oversees 2/3 of NZ's research funding



Government R&D Funding





National Statement of Science Investment 2015 - 2025





Research, Science, and Innovation System Performance Report - 2018





Strategic Science Investment Fund





Endeavour Fund





Research, Science, and Innovation Strategy

Consultation workshops

			Notes
10 mins	Welcome, introductions and objectives	Simon	Round table introductions
20 mins	Overview	Simon	- RS&I goals
	presentation		- Rationale
			- Ambition
10 mins	Q&A	Simon	Focused on the overview. Other questions can be
			discussed at the end.
30 mins	Exercise 1	Simon to introduce.	What is the most important key challenge for
		Simon/Ron/Justine?	New Zealand becoming a global innovation hub?
		to facilitate	 Based on the experience of your organisation or
			industry, come up with at least one idea.
			• In the group, discuss similarities and differences
			and distill them into a set of common themes.
10 mins	Report back		Table lead reports back key message to the group.
20 mins	Tea break		
10 mins	Elements of	Simon	
	strategy		
40 mins	Breakout	Simon/Ron/Justine?	Thinking about the challenge you identified, what
	session 2	to facilitate	actions would enable a step-change in New
			Zealand's innovation activity?
			Discuss ideas, decide on one, and develop a plan
			to make it happen.
			 What can the Government do to help with this?
10 mins	Report back		
10 mins	Final Q&A,	Simon	Discuss key messages with the group.
	thanks and		10 (to 10
	next steps		





Health Research Strategy





Research Ecosystem

















Our science system is relatively small...

...but highly productive



Source: Research Science & Innovation System Performance Report (2018)



NZ has high international collaboration rates



Source: Research Science & Innovation System Performance Report (2018)





Source: Research Science & Innovation System Performance Report (2018)



Figure 16 Share of R&D expenditure by Industry





Research Workforce



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI

R&D funding by source and destination 2016





Sector snapshot



Business Government Higher Education Data anonymised or not available



Vision Mātauranga





Tuaropaki punts on hydrogen power





Delivering benefit for NZ?

Mobilisation of knowledge through connections with those who are going to use it

Greater engagement with research in businesses

Research quality bias between basic and applied





eResearch

- Modelling of ecosystems or economies
- Exploration of human genome structures
- Studies of large linguistic corpora
- Integrated social policy analyses
- Principle features of e-Research include
- Use of grid-computing technologies
- Data-intensive activity





The Strategic Science Investment Fund

NAME	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	
		2016/17 ACTUAL	2017/18
Advanced Genomics Research Platform	New research centre for the whole science sector that also grows excellent genomics research capability in New Zealand	2	\$5m
Australian Synchrotron	A particle accelerator that generates high-energy light, used for imaging and experimentation across many research disciplines. Located in Melbourne, Australia.	\$0.9m	\$0.9m + capital development
Enhanced Natural Hazards Monitoring	Geonet's hazard monitoring and warning capability.	\$3m	\$3m
Nationally-Significant Collections and Databases	26 long-term research resources including longitudinal climate data, herbaria, geological samples, land information and biobanks.	\$19.1m	\$19.1m
New Zealand eScience Infrastructure (NESI)	Supercomputing and support services for New Zealand research projects and programmes.	\$7.2m	\$7.2m
New Zealand Genomics Ltd (NZGL)	Genomics, bioinformatics and bioIT services for New Zealand research projects and programmes.	\$2.2m	8
Research and Education Advanced Network for New Zealand (REANNZ)	A high-performance broadband network designed to send large amounts of research data between researchers, without loss and at very high speed (1-100 Gb/s).	\$4m	\$3m
Research Vessel Tangaroa	A deep-water research vessel capable of operating in the EEZ and Antarctic ocean; enables New Zealand's offshore marine research.	\$4.6m	\$11.1m
Square Kilometre Array (SKA)	A proposed radio-telescope array (to be constructed in the Southern Hemisphere over the next decade)	\$1.1m	\$1m



Data Science

- Deliver excellence: Produce excellent, cutting edge, dynamic and paradigm-shifting data science research.
- Grow capability: Grow the scale, depth, excellence and impact of New Zealand's data science research community, with world-class academic leadership driving deep excellence in defined areas of data science. The Platform should build on existing expertise and attract top researchers, both senior and emerging.
- Leverage collaboration: Foster and grow international and national connections between researchers and across institutions.
- Enable New Zealand researchers to access innovative and advanced data science methods to tackle research questions and real world problems. The Platform will develop data science approaches, methods, tools and technologies that can be accessed by New Zealand researchers.
- Deliver additionality: Provide fresh thinking, new people, new and expanded research, new collaborations and impacts that would not have happened without this investment.
- 6. Give effect to the Vision Mātauranga policy.



Contestable Funding – The Endeavour Fund

- Endeavour is open to any topic except health benefit research (which is overseen by the Health Research Council)
- eResearch applications are welcome
- In terms of government signals eResearch could contribute to many of these
- eResearch expertise is already contributing to many areas of existing funding eg;
 - Genetics
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Location based mapping



Contestable Funding – The Endeavour Fund

- The government, in the Endeavour investment plan signals the following areas as important:
 - Creating and growing knowledge intensive industries
 - Supporting the transition to a low emissions economy
 - Take account of broader government policy and strategy documents
 - Give effect to Vision Matauranga
 - Leverage wider investment and knowledge, in NZ and overseas
 - Excellent research, with high potential impact in areas of future

value, growth or critical need for NZ



Thank you

