



Dr Shanthi Ameratunga

Senior Medical Researcher and Public Health Physician

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora – Planning Funding & Outcomes
Middlemore and Kidz First Hospitals, South Auckland, New Zealand

Honorary Professor: University of Auckland, New Zealand

Adjunct Professor (Research), Monash University, Australia

Visiting Professor, University College London, UK

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MBChB

MPH | Distinction
PhD

FAFPHM

FFPH

FRACP

FRCPCH

EMCC | European Mentoring & Coaching Council - Accredited Individual and Team Coach

University of Otago, New Zealand

Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, USA

University of Auckland, New Zealand

Fellow of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine

Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health (UK)

Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (Paediatrics)

Fellow of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (UK)

Shanthi is a public health physician and paediatrician with expertise in injury prevention, trauma outcomes, health of minoritised ethnic groups, disability and accessible transport. Before returning to work clinically since the pandemic, Shanthi was a Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Auckland where she held roles as Deputy Head of the School of Population Health, Director of the Injury Prevention Research Centre, Director of the Population Health Intensive in the Medical Programme and Chair of the Adolescent Health Research Group. Working with highly productive multidisciplinary teams and international collaborations, Shanthi's research addresses evidence to practice gaps in achieving equitable health and social outcomes for underserved communities. She works at the intersections of healthcare delivery and community wellbeing with a strong commitment to *Te Tiriti o Waitangi*, social justice and collective action.

Selected research project engagements in the past 10 years

Achieving Healthy Futures for children surviving hospitalized injuries - Principal Investigator, Health Research Council of NZ (HRC) Project investigating discharge plans and approaches to equity-focused models of care for injured children transitioning from hospital to community

Pathways to healing of Pacific children surviving injury – Senior supervising Investigator, HRC. Pacific project grant exploring lived experiences and health outcomes of Pacific, Māori and other NZ children in the 12 months following a hospitalized injury. (PI: Dr Seini Taufa)

RESTORE (NHMRC) - Shanthi leads the paediatric component of this large prospective study investigating outcomes following major trauma in Victoria, Australia (PI: Prof Belinda Gabbe)

YourCall Project (HRC) – PI of this RCT demonstrating the effectiveness of a mobile-health intervention in reducing hazardous drinking among patients discharged from trauma wards

Traffic-related Injury in the Pacific (The Wellcome Trust / HRC) – Project Director and Co-PI of road injury project in Fiji, Samoa, Palau and the Cook Islands, with the Fiji National University

Prospective Outcomes of Injury Study (HRC/ACC) – Auckland-based investigator of this cohort study investigating long-term disability in 2200 ACC claimants (PI: Prof Sarah Derrett)

Injury VIBES (NHMRC) – Co-investigator of this large project collating evidence on non-fatal impacts of injury using pooled data from Australia, UK, US and Canada. (PI: Belinda Gabbe)

BIONIC 10 (HRC) – Co-investigator of this cohort study, co-leading the outcomes strand investigating the impacts of traumatic brain injury in the Waikato region (PI: A/Prof Kelly Jones)

Inclusive Streetscapes (HRC) – PI of Community-based participatory research project examining barriers to active travel among older people and people with disabilities in the Auckland region

Manawataki Fatu Fatu (Heart Foundation & Healthier Lives Science Challenge): Co-investigator of program addressing CVD inequities in Māori & Pacific people (PI: Prof M Harwood, Dr C Grey)

Thriving at Crossroads (HRC) – Lead investigator of quantitative strand in project focusing on the mental wellbeing of ethnic minority youth with intersectional identities (PI: A/Prof R Peiris-John)

R4Aotearoa (HRC) – Co-investigator of project investigating impacts of racism on rangatahi Māori and other youth in Aotearoa NZ (PI: A/P Sarah-Jane Paine)

Advisory roles and commissions in the past 10 years (selected list)

WHO-UNICEF-Lancet Commission on Child Health (Co-chair, Governance group)

WHO Adolescent Health Research Expert Advisory Group

WHO Expert Advisory Group on Violence and Injury Prevention

WHO Technical Advisory Group on Road Traffic Injury Prevention

WHO International Organising Committee – World Conferences in Injury Prevention

Editorial Board – *Journal of Adolescent Health*

National Clinical Network - Trauma | Rehabilitation & Transitions in Care (2024-)

National Institute for Stroke and Neurosciences, AUT University: Research Associate (2018-)

COVID-19 Disability Network Advisor, Ministry of Health (2020)

Clinical and Scientific Advisor, Muscular Dystrophy Association of NZ (2020)

Royal Australasian College of Physicians – Adolescent & Young Adult Medicine Committee

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons – NZ Trauma Committee (2005-13, 2024-)

Honors (selected list)

2025 International Visiting Fellow, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

2024 Clinical Research Development Award, Health Research Council of NZ (HRC)

2021 Rue Wright Memorial Award, Royal Australasian College of Physicians

2013 *Te Manaia* Leadership Award: Injury Prevention Network of Aotearoa

1996 John C Hume Award – Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, USA

1996 Delta Omega Honours – Honorary Society of Public Health, USA

Academic/research:

380+ peer-reviewed journal articles, 9 book chapters and NZ\$50+ million in external grants from the HRC, NHMRC, The Wellcome Trust, Heart Foundation, National Science Challenges and ACC.

Publications (selected list):

Azzopardi P, Clark T, Renfrew L, Habito M, Ameratunga S. (2024) Advancing impactful research for adolescent health and wellbeing: key principles and required technical investments. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 75(4), S47-S61

Ameratunga S, Samaranayaka A, et al (2022). Prevalence and predictors of post-traumatic stress symptoms in 2200 injured New Zealanders. *Australian & NZ J Psychiatry*, 56(10): 1344-1356

Spray J, Witten K,Ameratunga S (2022). Inequitable Mobilities: Intersections of diversity with urban infrastructure influence mobility, health, and wellbeing. *Cities & Health* 6(4): 711-725

Ameratunga S, George A. (2021) Increasing inequities in adolescent and young adult deaths. *Lancet* 398: 1545-1547

Ameratunga S, Woodward A (2020). Rising injuries in a hotter climate. *Nature Medicine*, 26, 22-23
Hogan A, Jain NR, Peiris-John R, Ameratunga S (2020). Disabled people say 'Nothing about us without us'. *The Clinical Teacher*, 17(1):70-75

Ameratunga S, Jonas M, Blank D (2019). Preventing Unintentional Injuries: Ethical Considerations in Public Health. In: *The Oxford Handbook of Public Health Ethics*: Oxford University Press.