

# Fellow – Pat Silcock

Our first Fellow for 2024 has an impressive record of carrying out R&D leading to the creation of new knowledge for the food industry. He has been part of the commercially funded Product Development Research Centre in the Department of Food Science, University of Otago for 30 years and the Manager for the last 20 years. The longevity of the PDRC, the amount of return business this person has generated over PDRC's more than 30-year tenure and the number of products and patents (7) produced are evidence of the value of his food science expertise to the food industry.

He is an effective science communicator and a well-liked and respected in his teaching roles with 182 scientific conference presentations plus numerous industry presentations.

He has fulfilled roles in support of industry bodies throughout his career and contributed hugely to NZIFST through his local branch, as a committee member for many years and served as a member of the NZIFST Board and is a past recipient of the NZIFST Ron Hooker award for service to a branch of the Institute



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# Fellow – John Lawson

Our next Fellow studied Biotechnology and Bioprocess engineering at Massey University and worked in the dairy, food and beverage industries before joining the recruitment industry and establishing his own agency in 1992. The agency has a reputation for providing quality recruitment services to New Zealand businesses with a particular skill in the food sector. His integrity and professionalism is beyond reproach.

Through this work he has made a valuable contribution to our industry. His company has strong relationships with many of New Zealand's large food companies, ensuring that their staff needs are filled.

He is always approachable, freely sharing his knowledge and expertise with the entire Institute around how to build the best possible career for NZIFST members for the long term. Many of our members will have been helped find a role, or a staff member, by this man and his company.

Regarding the NZIFST, he has been a quiet contributor to our organisation, working actively in the Career Promotion programmes in the 1990s, writing a regular careers column for Food New Zealand since 2005, presenting at five conferences during that time and sponsoring the Young Technologists Careers evenings on several occasions. He is currently working with our Board on the Institute's Strategy Refresh project. Those involved in the Institute may take for granted his advice and support, but it is rare for recruiters to do this.



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# Fellow – Graham Eyres

Our next Fellow is an excellent communicator and a well-liked and respected teacher and supervisor of undergraduate and post-graduate students. He has

an impressive record of carrying out research and development leading to the creation of new knowledge for the food industry as evidenced by his 7 book chapters, 54 scientific papers, and 10 refereed conference proceedings

He also has an extensive track record of governmental research funding, including research on 17 industry funded projects.

He has a strong record in supporting the food industry through media commentary and involvement with activities designed to promote careers including his extensive involvement with Hands- on at Otago (2015-2024) and numerous School visits.

He is actively involved in our Institute, holding the position of Chair of his local branch for 8 years, and staying on the committee since then as Secretary. His contribution to the 2022 conference and Chairing of the 2023 conference was valued by all.

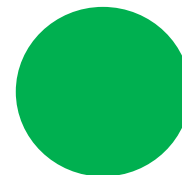
His quiet effectiveness sees his many projects through to a successful conclusion.



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# Fellow – Craig Houston

Our next Fellow has a rich tapestry of experience in research, development, and industry advancement. For a decade, he served as Project Manager/Product Manager at ANZCO Foods, where his visionary leadership and strategic acumen drove the inception and execution of groundbreaking initiatives.

Prior to that, he spent seven-years as Lab Manager for the ESR Food Micro and Food Chemistry lab where he facilitated pivotal research endeavours in collaboration with MPI, delving into critical areas such as food composition, contamination effects, and novel detection methodologies.

His contribution to NZIFST is notable, with service in three conference committees and at branch level he has been an active member of the Canterbury Branch Committee for 10 years, including 3 years as treasurer, culminating in a four-year chairmanship. He also served on the NZIFST Board as a branch representative for 4 years.

Beyond the confines of the NZIFST, His engagement with industry bodies such as BioTechNZ as a board member for 4 years and the Institute of Directors, underscores his commitment to broader industry advancement and professional development.

He embodies the ethos of the NZIFST and continues to contribute towards further advancements in the realms of food science, technology, and industry development. His personal dedication, professional expertise, and collaborative spirit make him an exceptional candidate for fellowship



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# Fellow – Ben Sutherland

Our next, and final Fellow for this year has made an outstanding contribution to the institute and our industry.

He started his working life as a professional chef, before completing his degree in Food Science at the University of Otago.

His early food technology career was engaged in product development in New Zealand and in Australia. His roles spanned a variety of sectors in our industry: probiotics, chocolate, meat, and a variety of FMCG companies.

For the last 10 years he has been Principal Food Technologist at Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ). This senior role involves risk management and the provision of food technology input to applications and proposals that seek to amend the Code, including standards associated with food additives, processing aids, novel foods, irradiation, commodity standards, chemical contaminants, prohibited botanicals and genetically modified foods. He also represents FSANZ externally in national and international forums and keeps abreast of emerging issues related to food technology that may have a regulatory impact.

He is a strategic thinker with extended networks. He is able to work with the multiple disciplines within FSANZ and the trans-Tasman regulatory agencies, including New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS) and the Ministry for Primary Industries and stakeholders.

He is an active member of NZIFST Central Branch having acted as Chairman for several years and longer as committee member. He has hosted numerous meetings and presentations during this time. He is adept at keeping the Branch together and active, committee meetings rolling along.



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