Personal Statement – Roslyn Kemp
IUIS Council 2023-25

For the past 6 years, I have had the privilege to serve on the IUIS Executive Committee as Secretary-General. During this time, I have updated the Society’s constitution and bylaws, led development of a new website, created more inclusive membership categories and policies, led our external relationships with the World Health Organisation and the International Science Council, as well as performing the administration involved in keeping the Society running.

I have loved being able to contribute to IUIS and I believe the Society is in a strong position to influence and lead the international immunology community. I would like to continue my contribution to IUIS as part of the Council. This will give me the opportunity to support the administrative transition to a new ExCo, and to remain involved in several of the existing IUIS initiatives.

In 2017, I founded the Publications Committee and have been a member of this committee under the leadership of Rita Carsetti. I intend to remain involved in this committee and our relationship with Frontiers in Immunology.

As a new member of Council, I would like to develop a sustainability plan for IUIS, ideally via creation of a new committee, and guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals. IUIS has an opportunity to be a leader in this area. Our existing processes, many of which I have developed in my role as Secretary-General, are well designed to support meaningful change in the Society in terms of protecting people, our planet and our research.

I lead a research group in New Zealand, focussed on studying immune cell heterogeneity and clinical outcomes in patients with cancer and inflammatory bowel diseases, with national awards for teaching and postgraduate supervision. I am the Associate Dean, Research, for the Division of Health Sciences at the University of Otago, with oversight of research activities of >700 researchers across seven schools, including biomedical sciences, medicine and pharmacy. This role has given me formal leadership skills and the ability to interact across all hierarchical levels of the university as well as nationally. For 20 years, I have led equity initiatives at the university and through national and international professional societies, particularly for women and Maori (NZ’s founding and indigenous people).

I have worked in four countries as an immunologist and remain a current member of the Australia & New Zealand Society for Immunology, the British Society of Immunology and the American Association of Immunologists. I am standing for Council, not to represent a specific society or geographic region, but rather to bring an international perspective and to support IUIS’s vision of “immunology without borders”.