

Professor Lois J Surgenor PHD DIPCLINPSYCH FNZCCPSYCH Associate Dean, Health Sciences & Professor in Psychological Medicine, University of Otago, CHRISTCHURCH

Professor Lois J Surgenor is the Associate Dean (Academic) in the Health Sciences Division at the University of Otago, Christchurch. She is also Associate Editor of the Journal of Eating Disorders, and sits on the Editorial Board of *Eating Disorders: The Journal of Treatment and Prevention*.

Prof Surgenor graduated from the University of Canterbury with a Master of Arts (First Class Honours) in 1983. She then continued her studies at the University, graduating with a Diploma in Clinical Psychology in 1986, after which she completed her PhD at the University of Otago in 2002.

Prof Surgenor has served as a registered clinical psychologist for more than 30 years, working in a variety of mental health settings and private practice. She commenced her career as a clinical psychologist in 1987 at Sunnyside Hospital, Christchurch, and at the University of Canterbury Medical Centre.

Prof Surgenor is a Fellow of the New Zealand College of Clinical Psychologists (NZCCP), and a member of Suicide Research Network (SRN), The Association of Eating Disorders (AED) and Academy of Eating Disorders (AED).

Her research focuses on eating disorders, health workforce wellbeing, health practitioner regulation and psychological aspects of long-term and life-shortening medical conditions, on which she has collectively published more than 65 research papers. Armed with extensive knowledge and experience in mental health, Prof Surgenor also supervises various research projects at the University of Otago.

Prof Surgenor is supporting the Eating Disorders Genetics Initiative (EDGI) to help identify the genes associated with eating disorders in order to revolutionise research in the field, and make a genuine difference to the lives of many New Zealanders.

"All avenues of enquiry, including the role of genetics, are essential in order to make meaningful advance to our understanding about eating disorders."

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