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# Otago National Security School

## New Zealand National Security in the Era of COVID-19

### PROGRAMME

10 February 2021

## Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has confirmed the near breakdown of an international rules-based order that New Zealand had almost taken for granted. With the UN Security Council largely marginalized, COVID-19 has highlighted the absence of an effective international crisis-management system and had significant medical and economic effects around the world. To date, COVID-19 has been responsible for more than 1.8 million deaths and over 87 million confirmed infections worldwide. At the same time, it is estimated the global economy contracted by a staggering 4.3 per cent in 2020 and an additional 130 million people were pushed towards extreme poverty.

The focus of this conference is how New Zealand responds to the myriad challenges pandemics like COVID-19 places on national security planning and policy. It will review such issues as the relationship between science and decision-making; rethinking the requirements of our national security organs to deal with deadly pandemics; vaccine nationalism versus international teamwork; the impact of the pandemic on the geopolitical environment; and finally, a wide-ranging round table session on the security and well-being of New Zealand and the Pacific in the information domain following the recent events of the Christchurch terror attack and COVID-19.

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**Mr Peter Grace**  
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## Programme

10:05-11:05am	Reception with drinks and nibbles	12:20pm	Lunch	2:35pm	Afternoon tea
11:05am	Opening of the School  Professor Harlene Hayne, Vice-Chancellor, University of Otago  Professor Robert Patman Director, National Security School	12:50pm	Session 3: COVID-19 and the relationship between science and security, part two  Professor Michael Baker Department of Public Health, Wellington, University of Otago  "The NZ response to Covid-19: Implications for managing future biosecurity threats"  Chair: Professor Ben Schonthal Religion Programme, University of Otago	2:45pm	Session 6: COVID-19 and the geopolitical environment  Ms Rebecca Kitteridge Director General of Security, New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS)  "Navigating domestic security threats in a world of uncertainty"  Chair: Honorary Associate Professor Jennifer Bryant-Tokalau School of Geography, University of Otago
11:10am	Session 1: Keynote Professor Juliet Gerrard Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor University of Auckland  "A front row seat – science in Aotearoa New Zealand's COVID-19 response"  Chair: Professor Robert Patman Politics Programme, University of Otago	1:25pm	Session 4: Rethinking national security in the COVID-19 era, part one  Mr Andrew Hampton Director General, New Zealand Government Communications Security Bureau  "Rethinking cyber security in the COVID-19 era"  Chair: Professor Paola Voci Languages and Cultures Programme, University of Otago	3:20pm	Roundtable: Security and well-being of New Zealand and the Pacific in the new information age  Mr Tony Lynch Deputy Chief Executive, National Security Group, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  Professor Peter Crampton Kōhatu - Centre for Hauora Māori, University of Otago  Ms Megan Main Deputy Chief Executive, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment  Chair: Dr Dennis Wesselbaum Department of Economics, University of Otago
11:45am	Session 2: COVID-19 and the relationship between science and security, part one (Via video conference)  Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman King's College, London  "SAGE and the UK experience"  Chair: Mr Peter Grace Politics Programme, University of Otago	2:00pm	Session 5: Rethinking national security in the COVID-19 era, part two (Via video conference)  Professor Ana Santos Rutschman Center for Health Law Studies, Saint Louis University, United States  "COVID-19 and the dangers of vaccine nationalism"  Chair: Professor Lloyd Davis Centre for Science Communication, University of Otago	4:05pm	Closing of the School  Mr Peter Grace Director, National Security School