IWRC at ISBPA 2025 Conference

The IWRC had a strong presence at ISBNPA 2025 in Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand. Robert Hogg, in collaboration with local Māori leaders led the entire cultural overlay of ISBNPA 2025, which showcased Indigenous ways of doing through the conference opening, activities, presentations, workshops, discussions, and learning spaces. Māori leadership ensured that Indigenous voices, protocols, and ways of being remained at the forefront.

Opening Ceremony

The conference officially opened with a Māori pōwhiri (welcoming ceremony) at the Aotea Centre. This included Circle Co-Speaker Robert Hogg and other tangata whenua (the people of the land, or hosts) bringing everyone together through ceremony, offering greetings to manuhiri (visitors), welcoming them onto whenua Māori (Māori land), by spiritually grounding the gathering.

Circle Co-Speaker Alex McComber was one of the speakers who responded to the welcome by sharing gratitude and appreciation on behalf of the visitors to Aotearoa New Zealand and acknowledged all aspects of creation through the Ohén:ton Karihwatéhkwen ("Words Before All Else"). Kanien'keha:ka women shared an appreciation welcome song from the Haudenosaunee (People of the Longhouse) Brittany Wenniseriiostha Jock, Jonel Beauvais, and Jessica Shenandoah.

This opening created a respectful and relational space for the gathering and set the stage for the conference theme: Manaaki taiao, manaaki tāngata, manaaki meake nei ("Take care of the environment, take care of the people, take care of the future"). The conference theme for ISBNPA 2025 was developed by our Circle Co-Speaker Robert Hogg, in collaboration with the Local organising Committee and the ISBNPA Executive Committee









IWRC Pre-conference and Conference Workshops:

The IWRC held two pre-conference workshops and one workshop during ISBNPA 2025. Together, these sessions created space to share Indigenous approaches to research, relationship building, physical activity, nutrition, and wellbeing in ways that were grounded in community, culture, and place.

Pre-Conference Workshop: Sha'tetionkwatte (we are all the same height): Wise practices for building equitable and respectful partnership research with Indigenous communities

This workshop shared wise practices from the award-winning Kahnawà:ke Schools Diabetes Prevention Program (KSDPP), an Indigenous community-academic research partnership in the Kanien'kehá:ka community of Kahnawà:ke. Participants learned about shared decision making in the research process and engaged with tools to support ethical, trauma-informed, community-driven research and integrated knowledge translation.



Pre-Conference Workshop: Exploring Indigenous Perspectives of Physical Activity and Nutrition: An immersive experience to connect with self, others, and place

This immersive wānanga (workshop) invited participants into culturally grounded experiences of movement, learning, and connection. Activities included Waka Ama (outrigger canoeing), kapa haka (Māori cultural performance), and shared hāngī (food cooked in Mother Earth), with each experience creating opportunities to reflect on Indigenous perspectives of physical activity, behavioural nutrition, relationships, and place.














IWRC Presentations, Poster Sessions, and Symposium

Oral and Poster Presentations

There were 12 presentations and posters in the Indigenizing Wellbeing Research category reflecting a wide range of topics related to Indigenous wellbeing. Details on each session can be found on in the ISBNPA conference website in the conference abstract booklet under “Indigenizing Wellbeing Research” as the primary SIG choice.



2025 Indigenizing Research Award Session Recipients

Three outstanding presentations that reflected Indigenous community-driven wellbeing research carried out with, by, and for Indigenous communities and Peoples were selected by the IWRC. We extend our warm congratulations to the recipients of these awards!

Name	Organization	Paper Number	Paper Title
Kieran Peltier	Nipissing University	893	Understanding Wholistic Health in Anishinaabe and Cree Youth in the Context of Sport and Physical Activity
Lara Andrews	Victoria University of Wellington	895	Developing a culturally competent and effective future workforce: Physical Activity and the Environment / Kori Tinana me te Taiao
Shannon Udy	School of Human Nutrition, Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment, Kahnawà:ke Schools Diabetes Prevention Program	688	Bridging Knowledge Systems: A Community-Based Participatory Food Systems Approach to Indigenous Food Security and Food Sovereignty







IWRC Award Recipients (from left to right): Keiran Peltier, Dr. Lara Andrews, Shannon Udy

Indigenizing Wellbeing Research Symposium

Building on themes from the pre-conference workshops, the IWRC facilitated a symposium titled "Indigenous Health Promotion, Concepts of Health, and Cultural Safety." This session featured three oral presentations exploring Indigenous health and cultural safety from different perspectives and across diverse cultural and geographic contexts:

- Presentation #1: *Kanien'kehà:ka concepts for implementing health promotion activities "In A Good Way"*. – **Dr. Brittany Jock**




- Presentation #2: *How a Family Medicine Indigenous Program centers efforts on Cultural Safety* – **Prof. Alex M. McComber**



- Presentation #3: *Conceptualisation and development of health indicators by and for Quechua indigenous rural communities: results of a collective concept mapping* – **Prof. Dave Bergeron**



Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony centered on Mauri. For Māori, Mauri is the life force or vital essence that exists within all things (living and non-living). Mauri is the energetic quality that binds, animates, and sustains the natural world, people, places, and objects. The 2025 closing ceremony represented an acknowledgement of the Mauri being held in Aotearoa New Zealand as a continuation of the Mauri from ISBNPA 2024 (Omaha, Nebraska). The closing ceremony then transferred the Mauri to the incoming hosts for ISBNPA 2026, Cádiz, Spain.


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