



Director, Riddet Institute
Centre of Research Excellence | Food Science
Shape the Future of Food

This is a rare opportunity for a scholar–leader of international standing to shape the direction of Aotearoa New Zealand’s most influential research platform in food science and human nutrition.

The [Riddet Institute](#) is a nationally designated **Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE)**, internationally recognised for pioneering research that connects fundamental science with industry-relevant and globally impactful outcomes. Hosted by Massey University, the Riddet Institute operates through a high-trust, multi-institutional partnership model that brings together leading researchers across New Zealand’s top universities and research organisations, alongside deep partnerships with government agencies and major international food companies.

As **Director**, you will provide both **scientific and executive leadership** for the Institute and its CoRE mandate. You will shape long-term research direction, lead large-scale multi-partner programmes, and steward the successful renewal of the CoRE and the growth of government and industry investment. This role calls for a leader with the academic authority to unify disciplines, the credibility to influence funding and policy environments, and the confidence to represent the Institute on the global stage.

The role is based in [Palmerston North, New Zealand](#)—home to the most concentrated food, agriculture, and bioscience ecosystem in the Southern Hemisphere. The location enables unusually close integration between laboratories, pilot-scale facilities, industry partners, and policymakers, while offering an exceptional quality of life that supports sustained leadership and legacy building.

This apposition is a high-level professorial appointment for an academic with an internationally recognised research profile, a strong record of funding success, and deep industry networks. You will be comfortable in business development- scientifically, strategically, and reputationally - and motivated by the opportunity to shape not only an institute, but a field.

This is more than a directorship. It is an opportunity to define a scientific agenda, influence global food systems, and leave an enduring imprint through leadership, partnership, and impact.