

The Inaugural Lecture

On 21 June my friend Robin drove me into the medial legal unit to attend Professor Jo Manning's Inaugural lecture on "Compensation for research-related injury in the UK, Australia and New Zealand: a legal and ethical audit". Leading bioethicists, national commissions, and leaders of the medical profession around the world have argued that society owes an ethical obligation to compensate for research-related injury, and that no-fault compensation is the best ethical response.

My friend Betsy snapped a picture of me, my ex-husband Bill, and Professor Jo Manning after the event.



UPDATE FROM LUKE:

I received a lovely email update from Robin, Betsy and Dad on how the evening went. There were few details worth mentioning that Mum left out:

From Bill:

Jo Manning is a member of the Cartwright Collective, and made a very nice acknowledgement of Lynda's work at the start of her lecture (which marked her inauguration as a professor at the law school). In fact it was Lynda's observations that triggered Jo's research on compensation for patients adversely affected in clinical trials, which was the subject of her lecture

From Robin:

Jo came to Lynda immediately after her presentation and told Lynda that if/when she/they are successful in getting the law changed in NZ so that "no fault" compensation is, in the future, awarded to all those who suffer the misfortune of injury by reason of medical trials, the new law will be called, "Lynda's Law". Then she added, "and I mean that", and gave Lynda a long hug.

For me that was a moment I feel so lucky to have witnessed. I feel glad and privileged to have been able to play a small part in helping last night go smoothly and I am very proud of being able to call you my friend for 42 years of my life, Lynda.

You are a magnificent woman. You have made a difference in your life – to young families and their successful birthing and nurturing of their babies, to every area of women's health, as National Women's Hospital advocate to assist the communications and successful outcomes for hospitalised patients and now, in what is perhaps your finest moment, an advance that will potentially progress positive and fairer outcomes in the future for all NZers who offer themselves for trial in the process of advancing medical science and consequently producing healthier outcomes for all NZers.

This was a wonderful culmination of your career, Lynda.

Arohanui, my dear friend

Thanks very much for passing these comments on – and giving me permission to put them on the blog. The family was very touched to hear this ☐