Biography: Dr Khoon Lim is currently a Research Associate Professor at the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Musculoskeletal Medicine at the University of Otago, New Zealand. He received his PhD in Biomedical Engineering from the University of New South Wales, Australia in 2014. He then trained as a postdoctoral fellow at the Christchurch Regenerative Medicine and Tissue Engineering Group under the mentorship of Prof Tim Woodfield. Dr Lim currently leads the Light Activated Biomaterials (LAB) group, with a research focus that amalgamates high-resolution biofabrication modalities with smart hydrogel biomaterials for tissue engineering and regenerative medicine applications.

Within the university, Dr Lim was appointed Inaugural Chair - University of Otago Early & Mid-Career Researcher (EMCR) Management Committee, where he provided governance over initiatives to support career development of EMCRs. His advocacies for EMCRs were recognized by the Robin Fraser Research Supporter Award (2022) and Leadership Award (2020) from the University of Otago Christchurch. He is the current President of the Australasian Society for Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering, where he has contributed to the establishment of the Inclusion, Diversity and Gender Equity policy, striving to balance equal and diverse representation in all aspects of the society. He also has a strong passion in medical technology commercialisation, where he is an Executive Board Member of Medical Technology Translator Programme ($NZD 10Million) - a government-led initiative to accelerate commercialisation of health technology. He is also part of the International Society for Biofabrication (ISBF) membership and early career researchers sub-committee. Though this role, he has hosted a series of webinars featuring experts in the field, as well as organized young scientists' events at Biofabrication 2021 – "meet the editors" and "meet the legends".

Dr Lim has published >60 peer-reviewed journal articles in journals including Chemical Reviews, Advanced Materials, Advanced Functional Materials, Advanced Healthcare Materials, Biomaterials and Biofabrication. In addition, he has also authored 6 book chapters. His full list of publication can be viewed here. His research has also attracted >$5Million research funding, including two of the most prestigious fellowships in New Zealand: Rutherford Discovery Fellowship (from Royal Society of New Zealand) and Sir Charles Hercus Health Research Fellowship (from Health Research Council of New Zealand). His innovative research in biofabrication has also won him several national and international awards, including the Jean Leray Award from the European Biomaterials Society (ESB), Young Investigator Award from ISBF and Emerging Researcher Award from ASBTE. His research has also led to a full utility patent family on a novel visible-light photoinitiating system (WO2017095240A1, granted in USA, China and EU). He currently serves on the editorial board of Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Medicine, Macromolecular Bioscience and IOP Biomedical Physics and Engineering Express.

Personal statement: I see myself being extremely fortunate to work in this exciting field of biofabrication. I have witnessed the evolution, the breakthroughs, the successes but also the challenges first hand. I firmly believe that through collaborative efforts, biofabrication technologies can accelerate clinical translation of biomaterials/stem cells therapies. I value the peer-mentoring support that I've gained through ISBF, where the abundance positivity, cultural inclusivity and appreciation, contributed significantly to my overall growth as a scientist. As such, I am committed to give back to the biofabrication community, through being involved in the ISBF board, to continue to foster this positive environment to nurture the next generation of "biofabulous" scientists.