

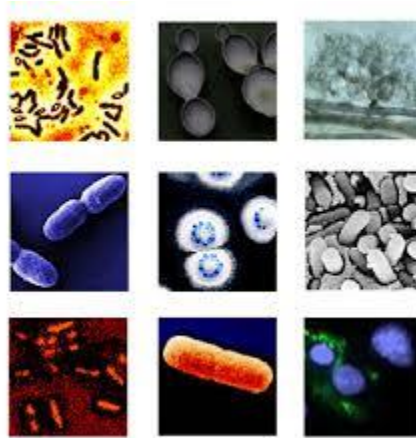
Otago Medical School Alumnus Association

2014 History of Medicine Series

Bill Gillespie will present

“Microbes Matter (1): Contagion – the seeds of an idea”

Thursday 29th May 2014 at 5.15pm.
Room G30, Hunter Centre, Great King Street, Dunedin



What we would today call infections have been recognised and their characteristics described for over 2500 years. Yet 150 years ago, when today's New Zealand cities were young but active, the idea that microscopic organisms might be the cause, either of epidemic diseases such as plague, cholera or typhus, or of non-epidemic disorders, or of infections in open wounds remained highly controversial.

Anticontagionists wrote disparagingly about the “absurd hypotheses” of contagionists. Indeed, their view was respectable, even dominant, in the first half of the 19th century.

This talk will explore the long history of these opposing ideas, and set the scene for acceptance, and the practical application, of the germ theory.

***This is a public lecture.
All interested are
welcome***

Please note that there will be no meeting in June. The next presentation will be on Thursday July 31st