



# Otago Spotlight Series Child Health Research

Tuesday 12 September, 2017

9.00am – 3.30pm

Nordmeyer Lecture Theatre

University of Otago, Wellington

# Welcome

Tēnā koutou kātoa. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the Otago Spotlight Series: Child Health Symposium. This is the third spotlight event at which we are showcasing the research strengths in the Division of Health Sciences at the University of Otago.

Our staff are passionate about combating the wide range of health challenges facing our youngest and most vulnerable members of society. We undertake world-class research in the fields of genetics, child development and pregnancy, childhood diabetes and obesity, oral health, mental health, infectious diseases, epidemiology and public health. We also have expertise in inequalities in child health and in Māori and Pacific health, and are dedicated to undertaking research relevant to New Zealand's unique population groups.

Our researchers are at the forefront of child health research in New Zealand. We play key roles in the *A Better Start – E Tipu e Rea* National Science Challenge and two of our staff are Cure Kids professors – Professor Stephen Roberston is the Cure Kids Chair of Paediatric Genetics and Professor Brian Darlow holds the Cure Kids Chair of Paediatric Research. You will hear from both of these researchers today.

Reducing the burden of diseases and conditions that affect our children is a key priority for New Zealand. This can only be achieved by engaging with stakeholders, families and communities, generating world-class research, and translating research findings into innovative health and educational policy, practice and technologies.

Today, stakeholders will have the chance to meet with researchers and to discuss the future of child health research in New Zealand. We would value your input on what you see as key needs and priorities in order to ensure that our children are given the best possible start in life.

I would like to thank today's speakers and attendees and I encourage you to keep in touch.



Professor Peter Crampton

PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR  
DIVISION OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

# Child Health Research at Otago: Setting the Scene

It is a truism that many of the essential elements for a healthy thriving society have their antecedents in the earliest formative years of the lifespan. Increasingly it is being acknowledged that at so many levels, determinants of psychological, emotional and physical health have strong determinative components located from the periconceptional period, all the way through to adolescence and beyond. Encouragingly there is a rising social and political discourse that recognises that optimising health in childhood in its most broadest sense will pay itself forward many times over. The University of Otago has a long and distinguished record of research in child health and this symposium aims to showcase a broad array of activity from across the institution. This research emphasises and recognises the importance of investment and effort in improving the health of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens, who are also the bedrock on which 21st century New Zealand will rest upon.

Otago is prominently represented in several national and international headline efforts in child health research. We have leadership roles in the National Science Challenge – A Better Start, have contributed much to understanding the effects of the rising obesity epidemic on the young, are exploring and defining maternal-infant morbidity and mortality particularly in the premature infant, and contribute strongly to research networks focused in diverse areas such as endocrinology, sleep, educational attainment, mental health, genetics, infectious diseases and nutritional disorders. Strengthening linkages with key funders in this realm, including the Health Research Council, the Ministries of Health, and Business, Innovation and Employment, Cure Kids and multiple others, has meant this activity has continued to strengthen and evolve.

As the environment into which our children are born changes rapidly – environmentally, technologically and sociologically – our research focus needs to be correspondingly lithe and agile. The setting of our research priorities and endeavours must genuinely reflect established and emerging needs of New Zealand's children. In this respect Otago University's community of researchers demonstrate such a commitment but it is only through active sector and community involvement that this responsiveness can be completely comprehensive.

It is hoped that this showcase of research activity from established, as well as emerging researchers, will address this aim. I hope it will not only inform you about the breadth of endeavour in this area across our three campuses but also provoke you into engaging with us to further extend and adapt our domains of expertise and effort to ultimately meaningfully and measurably improve the health outcomes of our nation's children.



Professor Stephen Robertson

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH  
DUNEDIN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

# Programme

9.00-9.15am Mihi

## Session One

- 9.15-9.35 Professor Stephen Robertson (Women's and Children's Health, DSM)  
**Genomic medicine in paediatrics: Will it serve all New Zealand's children equally well?**
- 9.35-9.55 Dr Max Berry (Paediatrics and Child Health, UOW)  
**Big data for small babies**
- 9.55-10.15 Dr Stephanie Hughes (Biochemistry, BMS)  
**Repurposing drugs for rare diseases**
- 10.15-10.35 Professor Barry Taylor (Dean's Office; Women's and Children's Health, DSM)  
***A Better Start* National Science Challenge: An overview**
- 10.35-11.10 **Morning Tea**

## Session Two

- 11.10-11.30 Dr Dorothy Boyd (Faculty of Dentistry)  
**Prevention of caries and targeting care**
- 11.30-11.50 Professor Andrew Day (Paediatrics, UOC)  
**Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Crohn's disease**
- 11.50-12.10 Associate Professor Louise Signal (Public Health, UOW)  
**Kids Camera**
- 12.10-12.30 Student presenters
- 12.30-1.30 **Lunch**

## Session Three

- 1.30-1.50 Professor Gerald Tannock (Microbiology and Immunology, BMS)  
**Sustaining the bowel microbiota of children**
- 1.50-2.10 Associate Professor Barbara Galland (Women's and Children's Health, DSM)  
**The importance of sleep for health**
- 2.10-2.30 Dr Amanda D'Souza (Public Health, UOW)  
**Child-centred public policy? A comparative qualitative case study of New Zealand, Australia and Sweden**
- 2.30-2.50 Bernadette Jones and Dr Tristram Ingham (Medicine, UOW)  
**Asthma Health Literacy for Māori Children: He Māramatanga Huangō**
- 2.50-3.10 Professor Brain Darlow (Paediatrics UOC)  
**Preterm infants – starting better, developing well**
- 3.10-3.30 Discussion involving Cure Kids and wrap up of the day
- 3.30 **Afternoon Tea**
- 4.15 Taxis depart to airport for Dunedin and Christchurch staff and students

# *A Better Start* National Science Challenge

The *A Better Start – E Tipu e Rea* National Science Challenge is a national research collaboration dedicated to reducing obesity and improving learning skills and mental health in New Zealand children.

A Better Start is tackling obesity, learning and mental health as they are some of the biggest hurdles our children face:

- one in three of all New Zealand children is overweight or obese
- one in three children is not meeting the National Standard for reading in their first year at school
- one in three young people will have had a significant mental health problem by the age of 18.

The earlier we tackle these problems, the greater the benefit to the child throughout their life, and to the country. A Better Start is working to find practical, evidence-based solutions that make a measurable difference for our tamariki.

This is being achieved by drawing together experts from multiple institutions and disciplines, by targeting those most in need, and as early as possible, and by engaging with stakeholders, families and communities in order to translate our research findings into innovative health and educational policy and practice.

A Better Start is hosted by the University of Auckland in collaboration with a number of other New Zealand universities, including Co-Directorship from the Division of Health Sciences at the University of Otago.

We welcome your views on the future priorities for child health research in New Zealand.

Email: [contact@abetterstart.nz](mailto:contact@abetterstart.nz)

Further information: [abetterstart.nz](http://abetterstart.nz)



# Entries for the Student Poster Competition

POSTER NUMBER	TITLE, AUTHOR, DEPARTMENT
1	<p><b>SEX-DIFFERENTIAL MICRORNA EXPRESSION IN THE DEVELOPING MOUSE BRAIN</b>  <b>Susie Szakats and Megan Wilson</b>            Developmental Biology and Genomics Lab, Department of Anatomy, School of Biomedical Sciences</p>
2	<p><b>LACK OF EVIDENCE AND CONSEQUENTIAL HARM CAUSED BY MYDRIATIC REGIMENS USED IN RETINOPATHY OR PREMATURITY SCREENING</b>  <b>Lisa Kremer<sup>1</sup>, Roland Broadbent<sup>2</sup>, David Reith<sup>2</sup>, Natalie Medicott<sup>1</sup></b>  <sup>1</sup>School of Pharmacy; <sup>2</sup>Department of Women's and Children's Health, Dunedin School of Medicine</p>
3	<p><b>THERAPEUTIC TARGETING OF CELLULAR CLEARANCE PATHWAYS IN NEURODEGENERATIVE BATTEN DISEASE</b>  <b>Hannah Best<sup>1</sup>, Katherine White<sup>2</sup>, Jill Weimer<sup>2</sup>, Stephanie Hughes<sup>1</sup></b>  <sup>1</sup>Department of Biochemistry, Brain Health Research Centre, University of Otago; <sup>2</sup>Pediatric and Rare Disease Group, Sanford Research, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA</p>
4	<p><b>EXAMINING THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN STEROID HORMONES AND THE LBX1-REGULATORY GENE NETWORK: CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO ADOLESCENT IDIOPATHIC SCOLIOSIS FEMALE SEX BIAS</b>  <b>Jeremy McCallum-Loudeac, Greg Anderson, Megan Wilson</b>            Department of Anatomy, School of Biomedical Sciences</p>
5	<p><b>PARACETAMOL PHARMACOKINETICS, PHARMACODYNAMICS (PKPD), AND METABOLISM IN A POPULATION OF CHILDREN WITH FEVER</b>  <b>Gianna Salis<sup>1</sup>, David Reith<sup>1</sup>, Natalie Medicott<sup>2</sup>, Ben Wheeler<sup>1</sup></b>  <sup>1</sup>Women's and Children's Health, Dunedin School of Medicine; <sup>2</sup>School of Pharmacy, University of Otago</p>
6	<p><b>CAT ALLERGEN (FEL D 1) AND ENDOTOXIN IN ELECTROSTATIC CLOTHS AND BEDROOM DUST</b>  <b>Gisela Kristono, Nevil Pierse, Caroline Shorter, Rob Siebers, Julian Crane</b>            Wellington Asthma Research Group, Department of Medicine, University of Otago, Wellington</p>
7	<p><b>INVESTIGATING POTENTIAL NAFLD PREDISPOSITION IN PRETERM GUINEA PIGS</b>  <b>Heather Barnes<sup>1</sup>, Rebecca Dyson<sup>1</sup>, Clint Gray<sup>1</sup>, Jane Anderson<sup>2</sup>, Max Berry<sup>1</sup></b>  <sup>1</sup>Perinatal and Developmental Physiology group, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Otago, Wellington; <sup>2</sup>Department of Pathology, University of Otago, Wellington</p>
8	<p><b>THE EFFECT OF METHAMPHETAMINE ON DRUG METABOLISM: A PILOT STUDY</b>  <b>Jia Yin Soo<sup>1,2</sup>, Michael Wiese<sup>2</sup>, Rebecca Dyson<sup>3</sup>, Clint Gray<sup>3</sup>, Andrew Clarkson<sup>4</sup>, Janna Morrison<sup>1,2</sup>, Max Berry<sup>3</sup></b>  <sup>1</sup>Early Origins of Adult Health Research Group, <sup>2</sup>Sansom Institute for Health Research, University of South Australia, Australia; <sup>3</sup>Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Otago, Wellington; <sup>4</sup>Department of Anatomy, University of Otago</p>
9	<p><b>INTERMITTENT HYPOXIA IN PRETERM AND TERM INFANTS UP TO 42 WEEKS POSTMENSTRUAL AGE: PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF A 1-YEAR LONGITUDINAL OBSERVATIONAL STUDY</b>  <b>Conway Niu<sup>1</sup>, Angela Campbell<sup>2</sup>, Peter Larsen<sup>3</sup>, Dawn Elder<sup>1</sup></b>  <sup>1</sup>Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Otago, Wellington; <sup>2</sup>WellSleep, Department of Medicine, University of Otago, Wellington; <sup>3</sup>Department of Surgery and Anaesthesia, University of Otago, Wellington</p>

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- 10 **EFFECT OF ELECTIVE BLOOD TRANSFUSION ON CEREBRAL AND SOMATIC TISSUE OXYGENATION AND CARDIO-RESPIRATORY STABILITY IN INFANTS WITH ANAEMIA OF PREMATURITY**  
**Maria Saito-Benz<sup>1</sup>, Max Berry<sup>1</sup>, Shieak Tzeng<sup>2</sup>, Greg Atkinson<sup>3</sup>**  
<sup>1</sup>Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Otago, Wellington; <sup>2</sup>Department of Surgery and Anaesthesia, University of Otago, Wellington; <sup>3</sup>School of Health and Social Care, Teesside University, UK
- 11 **THE KIDS BMI STUDY: EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS WITH HIGH BMI IN THE SOUTH ISLAND**  
**Gloria Dainty<sup>1</sup>, David Reith<sup>1,2</sup>, Barry Taylor<sup>1,2</sup>**  
Department of Women's and Children's Health, Dunedin School of Medicine
- 12 **UTILISING NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO CAPTURE INFANT SLEEP-WAKE BEHAVIOUR: PROTOCOL FOR THE BABYCAM PILOT STUDY**  
**Harriet Harrex<sup>1,2</sup>, Rachael Taylor<sup>2</sup>, Claire Smith<sup>1</sup>, Barbara Galland<sup>1</sup>**  
<sup>1</sup>Department of Women's and Children's Health, Dunedin School of Medicine; <sup>2</sup>Department of Medicine, Dunedin School of Medicine
- 13 **CARDIOVASCULAR AND THERMOREGULATORY CONSEQUENCES OF PRETERM BIRTH**  
**Ryan Sixtus, Rebecca Dyson, Clint Gray, Max Berry**  
Perinatal and Developmental Physiology Group, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Otago, Wellington
- 14 **FASTER GASTRIC EMPTYING IN CHILDREN WITH T1DM THAT MAY WORSEN AS DISEASE PROGRESSES: A PRELIMINARY STUDY**  
**Jody Porter**  
Department of Paediatrics, University of Otago, Christchurch
- 15 **THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF NON-VIRAL GASTROENTERITIS IN NEW ZEALAND CHILDREN**  
**Emma Jeffs<sup>1</sup>, Jonathan Williman<sup>2</sup>, Natalie Martin<sup>1</sup>, Cheryl Brunton<sup>2</sup>, Tony Walls<sup>1</sup>**  
<sup>1</sup>Department of Paediatrics, University of Otago, Christchurch; <sup>2</sup>Department of Population Health, University of Otago, Christchurch
- 16 **A COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF THE USE OF ROUTINE SEROLOGY IN REDUCING THE BURDEN OF RE-IMMUNISATION IN CHILDREN WHO HAVE UNDERGONE CHEMOTHERAPY FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER**  
**Fraser Jeffery<sup>1</sup>, Tony Walls<sup>2</sup>, Department of Paediatrics, University of Otago, Christchurch; Siobhan Cross<sup>3</sup>**  
<sup>1</sup>Medical student, University of Otago, Christchurch; <sup>2</sup>Department of Paediatrics, University of Otago, Christchurch; <sup>3</sup>Children's Haematology Oncology Centre, Canterbury District Health Board
- 17 **POTENTIAL THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS TO PREVENT LATER LIFE PREDISPOSITION TO NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE, FOLLOWING PRETERM BIRTH**  
**Erin Smith, Rebecca Dyson, Clint Gray, Max Berry**  
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# Attendees

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## Notes

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Otago Spotlight Series  
Child Health Research  
[otago.ac.nz/healthsciences](http://otago.ac.nz/healthsciences)