



OGHI Newsletter - March 2021

Kia ora friends and colleagues,

After a long break, here is a round-up of some of our news and activities over the past 6 months:

OGHI CONFERENCE: Shared Humanity and Global Health: 11–12 November 2020 | University of Otago, Dunedin

The 13th annual OGHI Conference explored the theme of *Shared Humanity and Global Health*. The conference was one of the few “face to face” gatherings of the year, and over 60 people attended the conference activities. The 22 papers which were delivered included presentations on antimicrobial resistance, mental health and wellbeing, resource management and medical technologies. Other topics in the programme were as diverse as historical global health thinking, the importance of social capital in COVID-19 responses, tuberculosis in Indonesia, and food security and development in Sierra Leone.

[Student prizes:](#) Eight students delivered oral presentations, and the annual prize for the best student presentation was awarded, for the second time, to Lupe Isaiah. Elizabeth Webb won the best student poster prize.

Although the conference was an in-person meeting, the effects of COVID-19 travel restrictions resulted in there being several recorded presentations. In addition, the 2020 McKinlay Oration was expertly delivered by [Associate Professor Bob Huish](#), Department of International Development Studies, Dalhousie University, via Zoom from Canada. The Oration, entitled *'The consequences of using ancient methods for modern-day pandemics: Understanding the consequences of stigma from COVID-19'* was attended by an audience of about 60 people, in Te Wao Nui at the Otago Business School.

We welcomed two guest speakers this year:

- [Professor Tony Ballantyne](#), PVC Humanities at the University of Otago, who delivered a fascinating address entitled *'Bodies, empires, difference: Some ways of thinking historically about global health'*; and
- [Professor Tony Binns](#), Ron Lister Chair in Geography at the University of Otago, who shared insights gained during 40-years of working with communities in Sierra Leone in a talk about *'Food security, livelihoods and development: Examining evidence from urban and rural Sierra Leone, West Africa'*.

The 2020 pre-conference workshop, facilitated by [Professor Joanne Baxter](#) (Associate Dean Māori), focused on *'Making connections meaningful: how can Māori values and tikanga inform best practice for global health engagement?'* The workshop, attended by 40 participants - of which seven were OGHI Leadership Group members - also included a review of international best practice in global health engagement. The pre-conference workshop was well received by participants. Many suggested building on this workshop in future conferences.



L-R: Patrick Vakaoti, Sakiusa Baleivanualala, presentation prize winner Lupe Isaiah, Philip Hill

We have already started planning our 2021 conference, and will keep you updated in the coming months.

Global Health Bytes

Lupe also delivered the Global Health Byte on 17 March - watch it here:

[An Undetected Outbreak of Carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* within the Tupua Tamasese Mea'ole Hospital linked to Middlemore Hospital](#)

Global Health Bytes are usually held the third Wednesday of every month. The next one is planned for Wednesday 21 April - keep an eye on our [OGHI website](#) for more details.

OGHI 2021 Seed grants

We recently awarded two seed grants to researchers in the Division of Sciences: Dr Dominic Agyei and Prof Sheila Skeaff. Wishing them well with their projects! We are also preparing to award an additional \$25,000 of grants, submissions for which have recently closed.

OGHI Alumni LinkedIn Group

We have created a LinkedIn Group specifically for OGHI Alumni! If your postgraduate degree was in a

global-health related field, and at least one of your supervisors was an OGHl member, you are one of the OGHl Alumni. You are invited to join the group - supervisors, OGHl colleagues and collaborators also welcome! The [OGHl Alumni LinkedIn Group](#) is a great way to keep in touch with fellow global health graduates.

Ngā mihi,



Philip Hill

Patrick Vakaoti

Co-Directors, Otago Global Health Institute