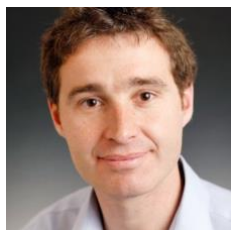




WEBSTER CENTRE FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES

A UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO RESEARCH CENTRE



Dr James Ussher
Webster Centre Director

Welcome to the latest Webster Centre newsletter and my first as Director. On behalf of the Centre, I would like to thank Prof Andrew Mercer, the outgoing Director, for his excellent leadership and wish him well in his upcoming retirement.

Since the previous newsletter the Webster Centre has been active and there is much to report. In September we held our biennial meeting as part of the Queenstown Research Week. The meeting was co-convened by Prof Greg Cook, University of Otago, and Dr Niki Moreland, University of Auckland, who organised an excellent programme. Leading international speakers attended, including: [Prof Eng Eong Ooi](#),

Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore; [Prof John Blanchard](#), Albert Einstein College of Medicine; [Assoc Prof Michael Kelso](#), University of Wollongong; and [Prof Elizabeth Hartland](#), University of Melbourne.

In November this year the NZ Microbiological Society and the NZ Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology will hold a joint conference in Dunedin. The Webster Centre is sponsoring [Assoc Prof Kathryn Holt](#), University of Melbourne, as a plenary speaker.

The Webster Centre is now part of the One Health Aotearoa (OHA) alliance, a joint venture between the University of Otago, Massey University, and ESR. We are leading development of an antimicrobial research theme within OHA and will host a scoping meeting on May 18th via Zoom. If you are interested in antimicrobial resistance, I would encourage you to join this discussion. Further details will follow in a separate email and can be found in the [OHA Autumn Newsletter](#). We will also be contributing to the One Health Aotearoa (OHA) symposium in Wellington in December.

Finally, congratulations to members of the Webster Centre who have been successful in recent funding rounds.

Steering Committee for 2018

Professor Richard Cannon

Professor Greg Cook

Associate Professor Merilyn Hibma

Dr Matloob Husain

Dr Jo Kirman

Professor Kurt Krause

Professor Iain Lamont

Professor Andrew Mercer

Associate Professor Russell Poulter

Dr James Ussher

Funding Awarded to WC Members

[Developing a Faster Way to Detect Antibiotic Resistance](#) (HRC Explorer to Prof Sarah Hook, Dr James Ussher, & Dr Jo Kirman)

[Unmasking genes for antibiotic resistance in a superbug](#) (\$1,151,504 HRC to Prof Iain Lamont)

[Membrane proteins in mycobacteria to cure tuberculosis](#) (\$74,510 RSNZ Catalyst funding to Prof Kurt Krause)

[Target unique virus proteins with small molecule inhibitors](#) (\$927,440 Smart Idea MBIE to Profs Vernon Ward & Kurt Krause)

[Smallpox protein](#) (HRC Explorer to Prof Kurt Krause)

Premier Poster prizes at QMB ID meeting were awarded to:

- Tom Li, University of Auckland
- Bhamini Rangnekar, University of Otago

Poster prizes at QMB ID meeting were awarded to:

- Dr Ian Monk, University of Melbourne
- Dr Peter Choi, University of Auckland
- Mel Knottenbelt, University of Otago

➤ [Photos from QMB ID Meeting 7 – 8 Sept 2017](#)

➤ [Webster Centre news and events](#)

➤ [One Health Aotearoa Research Centre](#)

Upcoming Dates:

[Annual Genetics Society of AustralAsia](#), 1 – 4 July & [6th Asia-Pacific Chromosome Colloquium](#), 4 – 5 July 2018 at Canberra, Australia

[NZ Microbiological Society & NZ Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology 2018 Conference](#), 26 – 30 November 2018 at Dunedin, NZ

[2018 One Health Aotearoa Symposium](#), 12-13 December, Wellington, NZ

[Australasian Tuberculosis Conference](#), 30 – 31 August 2018, Wellington, NZ