



OTAGO GLOBAL
HEALTH INSTITUTE
A UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO RESEARCH CENTRE

OGHI Newsletter

March 2018

Dear friends and colleagues,

The new year has been very productive so far. We have expanded our network, hosted several researchers, awarded 2018 OGHI Seed Grants to two emerging researchers, and finalised dates for our annual conference. We are also very proud to be part of a group that was successful in obtaining a large research grant.

Leadership Group

We would like to welcome **Dr Patrick Vakaoti** to the OGHI Leadership Group. Patrick is Associate Dean (Pacific), Division of Humanities, and a Senior Lecturer in Sociology. Patrick is interested in issues experienced by Pacific children and young people. He provides advice on Pacific engagement and relationships.



OGHI 11th Annual Conference and Launch

Having worked on establishing ourselves during the past year, OGHI will hold an official launch event during this year's conference. The launch is planned for **5-7pm on Wednesday 28 November**.

The timing of the 11th OGHI conference will coordinate with the Pacific International Health Symposium (PIHS), the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases - New Zealand (ASID NZ) Conference, and the Migration, Health and Humanities Conference. Dates for these four events are as follows:

Migration, Health and Humanities
26-27 November 2018

OGHI
27-28 November 2018

ASID NZ
29 November-1 December 2018

PIHS
29-30 November 2018

\$18m grant to study fever in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia

OGHI Co-Director, Professor John Crump, is an investigator on a new multinational project which will elucidate the main causes of fever in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia and how they should be treated. Prof Crump will work closely with long-standing collaborators at University of Medicine 1 in Myanmar to study how best to combat the burden of illness from infections that cause fever in that country. The four-year FIEBRE (Febrile Illness Evaluation in a Broad Range of Endemicities) project is funded by the UK Department for International Development. It will be conducted by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, the Universities of Oxford, Barcelona, and Otago, as well as partner institutions within five study countries – Laos, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, and Zimbabwe.

See: otago.ac.nz/news/news/otago679435.html



John Crump and the Myanmar study team

2018 Seed Grants

We made two awards in our first seed grants round, which closed on 31 January 2018. Dr Mike Maze received an award for his study 'Is smear negative tuberculosis over diagnosed? Determining the diagnosis in those beginning treatment for smear negative TB.' Dr Andrea Teng received an award for her project 'Impact of sugar-sweetened beverage taxation in the Pacific including the Cook Islands.' Looking forward to seeing how these projects progress!

Student Projects

Two of our Dept of Anatomy students, Jessica Schalburg-Clayton and Nellissa Ling, undertook collaborative work in Phi Mai, Thailand, to work on the Non Ban Jak archaeological excavations and research. Jessica's PhD centres around the relationship between the intensification of wet rice agriculture and the development of social inequality in the Upper Mun River Valley, while Nellissa is studying non-communicable diseases in antiquity by exploring pathological joint conditions on skeletons.

Read more about their work and their experiences on our website: otago.ac.nz/global-health/otago680722.pdf



Jessica and Nellissa exploring the historic temple of Prasat Phi Mai

Recent visitors to OGHl

Two winners of the inaugural ENZ-India Sustainability Challenge - Dhruv Suri and Saisri Akondi - of the Manipal Institute of Technology, visited the University of Otago with their mentor, Dr Arun Shanbhag from 19-23 March. At a seminar hosted by OGHl at the Business School, Dr Shanbhag discussed how he uses a simple, design-thinking framework to help students from all disciplines solve local problems, form interdisciplinary teams and create innovative products and projects to improve the quality of life of society around them.

See: enz.govt.nz/news-and-research/ed-news/new-zealand-students-join-sustainability-challenge/

OGHl was also delighted to host Prof Reinout van Crevel, Chair of Global Health and Infectious Diseases at Radboud University, from 12 - 30 March. Prof van Crevel was visiting the University of Otago as a William Evans Fellow and presented a seminar on the relationship between diabetes and tuberculosis in the Dept of Social and Preventive Medicine, as well as a seminar on research aimed at improving TB patient outcomes, in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.



Prof Reinout
van Crevel

With best wishes,

David Fielding and John Crump
Co-Directors, Otago Global Health Institute