

Kia ora koutou,

Whilst everyone still faces ongoing challenges in the healthcare setting we are motivated to reestablish in-person connections with clinical partners. Senior leadership hope to have visited all departments over the next six months and our Clinical Liaison is back out connecting with students and staff on clinical placement.

The First Year Health Science Information evening, Tertiary Open Day, and promotional opportunities with Pacifica, Māori, and other sub category groups are also back on the calendar. Thanks to the Dunedin department, and students on placement there, for their continued support and presence on these occasions. The Online Open Evening run by our department was attended by 100 participants with 70% present for the entire session. It was also good to have representatives from MiRO (Māori in Radiation Oncology) on campus recently to discuss the current curriculum and development strategies. We look forward to future collaborations, alongside initiatives already in motion, and implementing recommendations from our own five yearly department review that has recently taken place.

Academic staff have intrinsically weaved concepts across all papers, and continue to strengthen the alignment of planning teaching with clinical practice. Some University staff have also moved into lecturer roles with an increased research focus.

Welcome back Hazel Naser

After making a twenty year contribution to the radiation therapy programme, Hazel had a three year break from the University of Otago. We are delighted she is now back, once again, as an integral member of the RT team convening the year 1 Health and Human Behaviour paper and year 1 & 2 Healthcare Communication papers.

Hazel continues to work for Mary Potter Hospice delivering workshops and programmes on Palliative Care and Loss and Grief to health professionals, social services, and community organisations. Hazel also provides community based grief support as she has done for the past 25 years.

Welcome also to Educators facilitating the UoO BRT clinical papers including **Abbey Fox**, **Ellyott Rouse**, and **Karishma Singh** in ADHB trainer secondment roles, **Mel Higson** in Palmerston North, **Janeane Summerfield** at Bowen Icon Cancer Centre, and **Shannon D'Souza** at Auckland Radiation Oncology.

DATES OF INTEREST

2023 students

Applications closed 15 Sept

INTERVIEWS:

5–7 Oct, Dunedin

11–12 Oct, Wellington

13–14 Oct, Auckland

Annual Prizegiving

18 Nov, Wellington

Updated Premises



Otago Med School (OMS) Staff Professional Development—2022 online

See your staff educator or clinical tutor to access professional development opportunities in clinical education. Zoom sessions occur on the third Wednesday of each month, 12-1pm.

- 10 October The Cultural Competent Teacher
- 16 November Turning teaching innovation into research

Alternatively, visit www.otago.ac.nz/oms/education/mbchb/staff/resources/#online-professional-development to access the recordings and pdfs of previous powerpoint slides.

The sessions for each year are available for the entire year and then the links are moved to an archive page where they are accessible for another year www.otago.ac.nz/oms/education/mbchb/staff/resources/otago837765.html

The offer of an after hours zoom PD session is an option if people would find that helpful? Email Mel.

Graduation — May 2022



Research Update

Paul Kane (Senior Lecturer) who recently returned from a six month sabbatical, is working part time on a PhD. The title for his project is **“To investigate the historical, present, and future drivers behind the curriculum for Radiation Therapy education in New Zealand, from the perspective of various stakeholders”**. Paul has completed data collection for the project and has been working on writing up his findings both for his thesis and a number of journal articles which focus on particular parts of the project. He presented some of those findings at the recent NZIMRT conference in Palmerston.

Gay Dungey (Senior Lecturer) currently has a project open which aims to access the new graduates perceptions of participating in **peer group supervision (PGS)** when they were students and what other strategies they used to cope in the COVID pandemic. This study follows on from the previous pilot study published in the JMRS <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jmrs.527>



Radiation therapy students' perceptions of peer group supervision: a pilot study - Dungey - 2021 - Journal of Medical Radiation Sciences - Wiley Online Library

Introduction. Research indicates radiation therapy students are at risk of burnout. Peer Group Supervision (PGS) is a tool used to help reduce stress, increase reflective practice and help manage professional issues.

onlinelibrary.wiley.com

The pilot study found students felt safe talking about clinical issues in their groups, and they perceived PGS positively affected their stress management, resulting in new clinical insights and increased self-awareness.



Congratulations to Isha Singh (pictured), a current Year 3 on placement in Palmerston North, and recipient of the 'Best student presentation' at the 2022 NZIMRT conference.

Also a special mention to Kate Mackay (year 2) who was part of the winning case race team.

And lastly, well done to Aidan Leong, an integral member of the University of Otago Radiation Therapy department and Bowen Icon Cancer care team, for scooping the 'Best RT presentation' and 'People's choice' awards. Aidan talked about Global RT education (see write-up on next page) and does a significant amount of this work in a voluntary capacity.

Supporting Global RT Education

Over the last 6-months, staff lecturer Aidan Leong has been involved in co-chairing the RTT subgroup of the Asia-Pacific Radiation Oncology Network (ASPRONET). This is an initiative of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to provide online education and support to staff working in cancer centres across low- and middle-income countries with limited access to professional development opportunities. Earlier work within the group led by Dr Iain Ward from Canterbury District Health Board has seen the establishment of online virtual tumour boards to support Radiation Oncologists across the network. Fellow lecturer Alannah Flockton contributed to the June ASPRONET RTT education session, providing participants with an overview of treatment planning considerations when using 3DCRT, IMRT and VMAT modalities. This was hugely valued by the group, acknowledging the diverse levels of access to treatment technology across Asia-Pacific, as well as the variable scopes of practice that RTTs operate within.

