



# SEMINAR

## Department of Public Health



University of Otago, Wellington | 23A Mein Street | Newtown | Wellington

## Rheumatic fever in NZ: Can we consign this disease to history?

**Prof Michael Baker, Prof Julian Crane, Dr Debbie Williamson, Dr Sarah Jefferies, Jane Oliver**

Rheumatic fever and associated rheumatic heart disease is a major cause of premature death and disability in NZ, accounting for about 150 deaths a year. It is also a major cause of ethnic inequalities with 95% of cases occurring in Maori and Pacific children. Lowering this disease burden is now a major Government priority. This presentation will provide an update on research at the University of Otago that is aiming to help consign this disease to history.

**Prof Michael Baker, Prof Julian Crane, Dr Debbie Williamson, Dr Sarah Jefferies, and Jane Oliver** are all members of the Health Environment and Infection Research Unit (HEIRU) at the University of Otago, Wellington. Their research on rheumatic fever is supported by project grants from the Health Research Council, plus funding from the Ministry of Health and Lottery Grants Board.

**Friday 5 December 2014**

**12.30 to 1.30**

**Small Lecture Theatre**

**ALL WELCOME!**