

Summer Studentships 2026/2027

PROJECT TITLE:

Immunotherapy Treatment Toxicity

AIM:

To assess the prevalence of immunotoxicity in patients receiving immunotherapy treatment for cancer.

METHODS:

Review of clinical records to determine:

- Prevalence of immunotoxicity requiring at least one of: inpatient admission, high-dose steroid, long-term medical treatment, meeting criteria for other medical sub-specialty review

RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE:

Immunotherapy is increasingly become part of standard of care treatment for many tumour types and in recent years, Pharmac has funded immunotherapy treatment for many tumour types, making it more accessible in NZ. Significant immunotherapy toxicity was uncommon in clinical trials, and it is important to get real world data to define the prevalence of immunotoxicity in real world patients.

Immunotoxicity can affect any part of the body and appropriate management should involve review and advice from appropriate medical sub-specialists e.g. gastroenterology for colitis. In a resource limited system, it is important to understand the need for sub-specialist input, and whether this is accessible.

STUDENT'S ROLE AND EXPOSURE TO SCIENTIFIC METHOD:

Student will be involved in reviewing clinical records to collect the data, writing a report and/or poster. This could then be submitted for presentation at the annual NZSO conference.

RELEVANT PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS (Education or Research):

Nil.

Main supervisor:	Dr Liyana Satterthwaite	
Email address:	liyana.satterthwaite@midcentraldhb.govt.nz	
Other Supervisor/s:	Dr Joanne Deacon – joanne.deacon@midcentraldhb.govt.nz	
Host Department:	Medical Oncology, MidCentral Regional Cancer Treatment Services	
Location:	Palmerston North Hospital	
	Can students work remotely?	Maybe – will need remote access to systems so might be possible.