

2017/2018 Summer Studentship Project Application Form

Send to: Research Office, University of Otago Christchurch, PO Box 4345, Christchurch, by 5pm on 3 July 2017

Supervisor Information (First named supervisor will be the contact):

First Supervisor's Name and Title: Dr Jennifer Dunn

Department - UOC &/or CDHB (if applicable): Orthopaedic Surgery and Musculoskeletal Medicine, UOC & Burwood Spinal Unit, CDHB

First Supervisors Phone: 0211364079

Email: Jennifer.dunn@otago.ac.nz

First Supervisors Mailing Address: PO Box 4345, Chch 8140

Co-Supervisors Name and Title(s): Mr Rowan Schouten, Mrs Tracey Croot

Research Category (Choose one category only – to be used for judging the students' presentations):

Clinical

Laboratory

Community X

Project Title (20 words MAXIMUM):

Data capture of historical spinal cord injury into the NZ Spinal Cord Injury Registry

Project Description:

The New Zealand Spinal Cord Impairment Action Plan¹ has resulted in the New Zealand Spinal Cord Injury Registry (NZSCIR) being established, in conjunction with the Rick Hansen Institute in Canada.² Prospective data entry of all persons with new spinal cord injuries (SCI) admitted to specialist spinal rehabilitation centres in Christchurch and Auckland commenced in August 2016. Following prospective data entry for the acute and rehabilitation episodes of care provided at the acute hospitals and spinal rehabilitation centres, all patients entered into the registry will be sent a battery of patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) to complete at 1, 2, 5 and every subsequent five years following SCI to establish the outcomes and quality of life of people with SCI living in NZ. By using these battery of PROMs, and working in conjunction with the Rick Hansen Institute in Canada, NZ SCI outcomes will be able to be compared to other centres around the world.

There are many people living with SCI in NZ who sustained a SCI prior to 2016, when NZSCIR data entry commenced. While all are routinely followed up by one of the two specialist spinal rehabilitation centre, there is no one central registry that can be used to provide information on these people and thus there is a large SCI population who are largely hidden due to the unco-ordinated, fragmented and inconsistently collected information held within different organisations.³ Therefore the next stage of the NZSCIR is to commence entering information on historical SCI in NZ, which is seen as crucial for the future health and well-being of people with SCI as well as for the planning and delivery of health services.

Aim: To enter minimal dataset information on all new SCI sustained between 1 January 2006 and the 1 August 2016 and were admitted to the Burwood Spinal Unit (BSU).

Possible impact (in lay terms): The establishment of a registry for SCI will provide nationally relevant and internationally comparable data to inform quality improvement and research objectives for people with SCI living in NZ. The inclusion of people with SCI sustained prior to the establishment of the registry will amalgamate information from existing but fragmented sources to improve data quality and assist with planning and delivery of health care for those living with SCI in NZ. It will enable ongoing prospective data collection of this large population in NZ in line with current NZSCIR timelines.

Method: Data entry of all SCI admitted to the BSU between 2006 and 2016 into the RHSCIR.

The Student will:

- 1) Collect minimal dataset information on all SCI admitted to the BSU between the specified dates from multiple historical records and existing databases.
- 2) Enter information onto NZSCIR.
- 3) Create a list of patients that minimal dataset was not able to be fully completed on.

Dissemination: At the end of the summer studentship the student will;

- Provide summary of sources used to populate minimal dataset, and detail best methods of accessing data required for future historic data entry at BSU /ASRU
- Present a general overview of BSU population during this period for the NZSCIR Governance Group. Format of this to be finalized prior to starting placement.

References:

1. Accident Compensation Corporation and the Ministry of Health. *New Zealand Spinal Cord Impairment Action Plan 2014-2019*. 2014.
2. Howard-Brown C, Civil I. New Zealand Spinal Cord Registry: a new milestone. *The New Zealand medical journal*. 2016;129(1438):6-7.

3. Smail R, Schluter PJ, Barnett P, Keeling S. People ageing with spinal cord injury in New Zealand: a hidden population? The need for a spinal cord injury registry. *NZ Med J.* 2016;129:50-59.

Student Prerequisites (eg. Medical Student) if applicable:

Medical/Allied Health