

THE INSIDE STORY

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Researchers join the fight against Covid-19

Three research labs in the Department of Anatomy are contributing to the global fight against Covid-19. Associate Professor Jo Stanton, Professor Neil Gemmell and Dr Tim Hore are involved in research projects which aim to help diagnose or detect traces of the coronavirus in the community.

Associate Professor Jo Stanton has been awarded a grant from the Health Research Council to develop a diagnostic protocol that will provide close-to-person screening and real-time results for Covid-19.

Associate Professor Stanton says the system could be vital for the quick screening and diagnosis of travellers arriving into the country or people reporting to their doctor because they are feeling unwell. Test results would be available within an hour of testing.

She is collaborating with a multidisciplinary team of academic and commercial experts, rural Māori communities and primary health care providers. Jo will be assisted in this project by Research Technician Jackson Treece.

The research builds on previous work undertaken in Associate Professor Stanton's lab on a 'sample-to-result' molecular diagnostics platform to enable quick diagnosis at the point-of-care.

Associate Professor Stanton also leads an initiative to source all of the components for Covid-19 molecular testing from within New Zealand. This project arises from a pan-University/government team, the Covid-19 Diagnostics Development Working Group (C19-DDWG). Associate Professor Stanton's focus group aims to ensure New Zealand could be self-sufficient if required when it comes to Covid-19 testing.

Professor Neil Gemmell is a member of a national research team led by ESR, working on the sample testing of untreated wastewater to monitor and detect traces of coronavirus in the community.

Professor Gemmell says studies overseas have shown traces of the virus can be detected in untreated sewage and this data could be used to identify communities or points-of-entry into New Zealand where traces of Covid-19 are present.

"The aim is to monitor the presence, and potentially the abundance, of the virus in our communities. Depending on what we find we could then make some predictions about which communities would be able to come out of lockdown or go back into lockdown"

because Covid-19 was circulating” Professor Gemmell says.

Dr Gert-Jan Jeunen from the Gemmell lab group is heavily involved in the collection and processing of the samples.

Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Tim Hore’s Covid research focuses on optimising and validating supply-chain resilient methods for diagnostic testing. Diagnostic testing involves several components such as collecting swabs from patients, inactivating the virus and purifying its genetic code, and then detecting the presence of this genetic material (called RNA) using methods like quantitative PCR.

As the SARS-CoV-2 infection spread to more countries, panic-buying of the reagents involved in testing occurred (much like panic-buying of flour and toilet paper in supermarkets). In addition, international air-freight also slowed to a trickle. To ensure they can keep up with testing demands, some diagnostic facilities are looking for non-commercial and ‘do-it-yourself’ protocols. Particularly badly affected are supplies for commercial kits that purify RNA from the virus.

The focus now is on further developing reagents that are resistant to disruptions in supply. *“Chemicals that inactivate the virus prior to purification are already difficult to source - we are looking at additional lysis solutions that can release RNA from cells (and presumably virus), but are easy to find and fit in with the BOMB.bio system”* Dr Tim Hore says. PhD candidate Tim Moser is leading the work in the Hore lab group.

“While it is probably unlikely that these methods will get used widely in a New Zealand context in the immediate future, it is important to support the efforts of others worldwide who are trying to establish efficient testing under these difficult conditions.”

Visit the Department of Anatomy website to learn more about the research undertaken in the [Stanton](#), [Gemmell](#) and [Hore](#) labs.



Associate Professor Jo Stanton



Professor Neil Gemmell



Dr Tim Hore

Researcher appointed Director



Associate Professor Louise Parr-Brownlie has been appointed Director of the Ageing Well National Science Challenge.

Ageing Well is a collaboration of New Zealand’s major research groups involved in the research of ageing. Its vision is to add life to years for all older New Zealanders through science research, health, well-being and support.

Louise joined Ageing Well in July 2018 as the Deputy Director Māori and was quickly promoted to Co-Director Māori in January 2019. She is an internationally recognised expert in neuroscience and Parkinson’s disease. Her research focuses on developing a light-based brain stimulation technology that could be a future treatment for Parkinson’s disease and other neurological disorders. More recently her research has extended to examine anatomical and physiological changes in the brain associated with chronic pain and to investigate Māori community perspectives of neurosurgical approaches to treat neurological disorders and traumatic brain injuries.

Fellow Anatomy researcher Professor Helen Nicholson is also a member of the Ageing Well National Science Challenge Governance Group.

Visit the [Ageing Well website](#) to learn more about the Ageing Well National Science Challenge.



Excellence in education recognised

Professor John Reynolds is the inaugural winner of the Division of Health Sciences Excellence in Education Award. The award recognises John's outstanding achievement in leading the redevelopment of the Health Science First Year (HSFY) programme, and his research highlighting the impact of curriculum changes on students.

John says it was an "absolutely delightful surprise" to learn he had won the award.

He became the inaugural Director of HSFY in December 2016, taking over the leadership of a process begun earlier that year by a number of others. The aim for the redevelopment was to enhance the student experience in HSFY.

"One of the major challenges with HSFY is understanding that it has many masters. It has to not only provide a critical biomedical science foundation for later studies in professional programmes but also provide sufficient background knowledge for advanced study in many other sciences and health sciences programmes" he says.

Students also exit HSFY to enter degree programmes in the Humanities and Commerce so John is quick to note that it is a very important year for many students beginning their studies at Otago.

The new programme, introduced successfully in 2019, now exposes students to the importance of understanding the Humanities in health, and provides a great way for students to dip their toes into subjects and disciplines related to health sciences as well as the physical sciences.

"Redesigning the HSFY course was a massive undertaking and required buy-in and very hard work by an enormous number of my colleagues, all during the time when they still had to deliver the previous course in parallel as usual. This is one award that should be shared by many of our University teaching, admin, and technical support staff" he says.

In collaboration with colleagues in Physiology and the Higher Education Development Centre, John had previously studied the learning styles of students at Otago and found they enter HSFY with a predominantly surface approach to learning but then develop a deeper, more concept-based style throughout the year which develops and deepens with learning in science courses in Physiology and Anatomy.

"This exemplifies why it is important to not teach in a style of predominantly superficial transmission of facts but to continue to focus on helping students see the links between topic areas and understand the key concepts in a field."

"By the end of 3rd Year, assessments are designed around this style of recalling knowledge and applying it to novel situations and problems for application in their working lives."

John does not support the idea that online teaching is the way of the future. He says that remote teaching loses that vital sense of connection with students and makes it more difficult to gauge levels of understanding and to give help to those who need it.

"It is vital that we re-establish as soon as is possible the ability to allow students to develop the practical skills to be lab-based scientists - watching others is one way to learn but does not allow the development of motor skills and understanding the application of techniques they will require in their working lives."

He is very much looking forward to returning to normal teaching methods and the crucial relationships that comes from face to face teaching and learning.

"For now, we will do what we can, but we are all looking forward to establishing the norm, whenever that will be."

The award will officially be acknowledged by the Division when academic gatherings resume.

A scholar and a gentleman

Kenneth John Dennison, OL*, JP
5.1.1948 – 14.4.2020



It was with great sadness the Department of Anatomy learned of the passing of John Dennison. John was a much valued and respected member of the Department for forty years. Although he retired in 2014, he remained a loyal and supportive friend, holding an Affiliate position within the Department until the time of his death.

John first joined the Department as a Lab Assistant. He undertook a MSc in Science, under the supervision of Professor Phil Houghton, which he completed in 1988. His thesis was entitled "Bone dating by ESR: An investigation". When he retired in 2014 he held the position of Research Fellow in the Department. He was very knowledgeable in a number of fields and took scholarship and student learning very seriously, and was an extraordinary linguist.

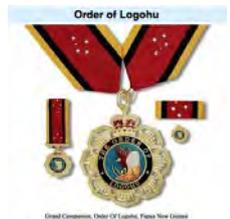
John was an integral member of the gross anatomy lecturing team for many years, teaching musculoskeletal and forensic anatomy to dental, medical and biological anthropology students. He was very enthusiastic in his teaching. Many staff enjoyed teaching with him and the students found his enthusiasm contagious and enjoyed their time in their practical classes with him. His

popularity meant that there were times when he could not be seen in the Dissecting Room or Histology Classroom because of the number of students gathered around him. He was also supportive of postgraduate students in their studies in forensic anthropology.

He was a much respected researcher and publisher in the fields of human skeletal anthropology, and forensic anthropology, and a prolific translator of French, German, Russian and Latin texts into English. He was held in very high esteem by many people around the Pacific for his translations which, once translated into English, enabled the local people the opportunity to read excerpts from their native history for the first time, the original text having been written in the language of the early explorers.

A major study in which he was engaged focused on the physical anthropology and functional anatomy of the early people of the Pacific, and was undertaken in collaboration with the Département Archéologie, Musée de Tahiti et des Iles' and with Dr Eric Conte, Université Française du Pacifique. His attention to detail was exemplary. A few years ago, John was the guest of the University of Papua New Guinea at the presentation of a book he translated from German to English, Admiraltäts-Inseln. The text enables a wider group of people to learn about the way of life of those who lived on Manus Island from 1908-1910.

Before his death, John learnt he had been awarded a Logohu award from Papua New Guinea. A true indication of the high esteem he was held in.



He was also a member of the team which worked on the Wairau Bar tupuna that were housed in the Department prior to repatriation.

For many years John played an important role in identifying skeletal remains. He was often called upon by the New Zealand Police to help identify fragments of bone unexpectedly exposed or washed ashore. He also had the privilege of completing CT studies of the Egyptian mummies in the Auckland, Otago and Canterbury Museums.

John had a passion to help others and served as a Justice of the Peace for many years. He was also heavily involved in the charitable work of the Freemasons. He was on the University of Otago Freemasons Scholarship committee, and towards the end of 2019 was appointed Junior Grand Warden and a member of the Freemasons Charity Management Committee.

Staff and postgraduates in the Department were able to come together recently and share stories of John during a Zoom morning tea. Kind, caring, humble, supportive, a scholar and a gentleman were just some of the words used to describe John.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ann and Sarah at this very sad time. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

*Papua New Guinea equivalent to New Zealand's Order of the British Empire (CBE)

Postdoc researcher has two papers published in Nature!



Dr Lara Urban

Postdoctoral Research Fellow Dr Lara Urban has recently had two papers from her PhD research published in *Nature*. Both articles, entitled "[Genomic Basis for RNA alterations in cancer](#)" and "[Pan-cancer analysis of whole genomes](#)" were published in the 05 February 2020 on-line edition of the prestigious journal. Lara undertook her research in human cancer genomics at the University of Cambridge, and joined the Gemmell research lab in January 2020.

Lara's postdoctoral research is funded by a Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

To learn more about her research, visit Lara's [LinkedIn](#) page.

Doctorate students successfully defend theses

Congratulations to Sam Karelitz and Alex Goikoetxea who both successfully defended their PhDs in recent oral examinations.

Sam's PhD research focused on the role of transgenerational plasticity in acclimation of marine organisms to rapidly changing ocean conditions, with an emphasis on transcriptomic responses and population genetics. He undertook his doctorate in collaboration with Dr Miles Lamare (Department of Marine Sciences) and Professor Maria Byrne (University of Sydney).

Alex's PhD research will contribute to the elucidation of the molecular basis behind sex change reversal in mainly protogynous species of fish.

Both Sam and Alex completed their doctorate research in the Gemmell Lab.



Sam Karelitz



Alex Goikoetxea

Research Fellow runs forensic workshop

Research Fellow Dr Rebecca Kinaston recently ran a two-day Forensic Anthropology workshop at Airlangga University in Surabaya, Indonesia. The workshop, attended by Forensic Pathologists from around Indonesia, focussed on the forensic anthropology methods of bone identification, age and sex estimation, dental anthropology, trauma, field recording, and disaster victim identification.

Rebecca was invited by her research collaborator Professor Toetik Koesbardiati to run the workshop. She has been travelling to Indonesia regularly since 2017 to conduct field research on Indonesian skeletal samples as part of her previous Postdoctoral position at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, and her current Fast-Start Marsden grant here in the Department of Anatomy.



Dr Rebecca Kinaston

Photo: Rizky Sugianto Putri

Rebecca says the workshop was very well received and there are plans to hold another workshop if travel restrictions are lifted and she is able to leave the country before her contract in the Department ends.

More research news ...

Teeth reveal gender inequality in early China

New research is providing a glimpse into the lives of ancient people who lived 2500 years ago in the Central Plains of China during the Eastern Zhou Dynasty (771BC to 221BC).

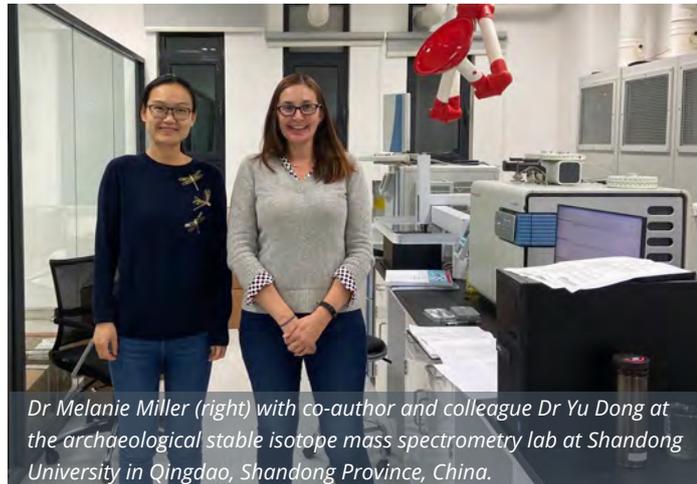
Research led by Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Melanie Miller and Associate Professor Siân Halcrow has revealed how these people lived, the foods they ate, disparities between males and females, and a society in transition.

Using stable isotope analysis to study the dentin in teeth from 23 individuals over two archaeological sites, the research used chemical analysis of the elements of carbon and nitrogen to provide information about their lives and diets.

"We already knew this [Eastern Zhou Dynasty] time period showed increasing inequality between men and women. What we were able to find is that these differences were even evident in what people ate and how they cared for their children, such as gender differences in how long babies were weaned and then the foods they were fed as children" Dr Miller says.

"For the two communities we studied, food was an integral aspect of identity, and it was a medium of differentiation between females and males. We found dietary differences between the sexes began in early childhood and continued over the lifetime."

Children were weaned off of breastmilk between 2.5 and four years old. Females were weaned slightly earlier than males. Male children would then follow a more traditional diet of millet through into adulthood, while females would eat "new" agricultural foods such as wheat and soy.



Dr Melanie Miller (right) with co-author and colleague Dr Yu Dong at the archaeological stable isotope mass spectrometry lab at Shandong University in Qingdao, Shandong Province, China.

The Eastern Zhou Dynasty is considered to be a very important period in Chinese history with significant expansion of agriculture and complex economies, an increase in population leading to larger communities, and struggles between rival states vying for power. This was also the time of Confucius and other Chinese intellectuals

who have had lasting impacts on Chinese ideology and culture.

The research, published recently in the [American Journal of Physical Anthropology](#) was funded by grants from the Royal Society New Zealand Marsden Fund, the National Natural Science Foundation of China, and a University of Otago Research Grant.

Pasifika students in science



Talofa lava, My name is Jonika and I am currently a BBiomedSci honours student in the Gemmell lab, I am also one of the 400-level representatives in the Emerging Researchers Group. I wanted to take this opportunity to promote the Science Students Pacific Island Association (SSPIA) that I am involved in! SSPIA provides a platform for Pasifika students in the sciences to network and support each other during their academic journey at the University of Otago. SSPIA works closely alongside the Pacific team at the Division of Sciences to enable a safe space of interaction, support and guidance for our students.

We run lunch events to facilitate the sharing of research as well as other informative events; previously SSPIA has hosted postgrad info evenings and scholarship info evenings. Although the current COVID situation has thrown a spanner into the works our social media is still going strong!

If you are a Pacific science student interested in getting involved in our association or a staff member interested in supporting our events search for us on Facebook [@sspiauniofotago](#) (like our page) or Instagram [@sspia.otago](#) to keep up to date with our latest info, events and meetings!

Web series promotes conservation work

A recent member of Neil Gemmell's research lab is now playing a key role in a wide variety of conservation projects around the world.

Dr Helen Taylor held a Postdoctoral Fellow position in the department from 2015 to 2019. She left New Zealand to take up the role of Conservation Programme Manager at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS). The Society is responsible for the running of two Zoos in Scotland – the Edinburgh Zoo and the Highland Wildlife Park in the Cairngorms National Park – as well as other conservation centres in Scotland, and projects around the world.

Her responsibilities include managing a reintroduced population of beavers in Argyll, West Scotland, overseeing the conservation breeding programme for the critically endangered pine hoverfly and threatened pond mud snail, and managing the RZSS partnership with giant armadillo and giant anteater conservation projects in Brazil.

Helen has settled in well to her new role. *"I am really enjoying being part of the conservation team at RZSS. We work on a wide variety of projects around the world and are involved in all aspects of conservation management, from planning to modelling, to conservation genetics, animal health and post-release monitoring."*

"It's a fantastic charity to be involved with and a great job with a good mix of field, office and collaborative work."



But with most of the organisation's funding generated from visitors to the two Zoos, the Society is, like many others around the world, experiencing financial difficulty.

To keep interest and funding alive, Helen has created a web series to promote the Society's conservation work and encourage donations from those who can afford it. The series can be accessed via the following links ...

[YouTube](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) .

Each episode is about 3-6 minutes long and aims to inform viewers on the exciting and important work undertaken by the Society's conservation department. You can subscribe or tune in for regular updates.

You can also help support the work of the Society and at the same time save threatened species in the wild by [donating to the Society](#) .

If anyone would like to contact Helen directly, you can email her at htaylor@rzss.org.uk .

Relay for Life postponed



Sadly, the Dunedin Relay for Life scheduled for March 28 and 29 was one of the many public events effected by the Corona Virus. There was no option for the Cancer Society other than to postpone the event until some time later this year. However, the Department has been able to continue its fundraising. At last count we have raised over \$2,800.00.

Our fundraising is taking a break now, but we will be back later in the year when a new date for Relay has been confirmed. In the meantime, anyone wishing to donate to the Cancer Society can do so via our fundraising page ...

[Department of Anatomy team page](#) .

Thank you so very much!

Planning for a shut-down

At 11:59pm on Wednesday 25 March 2020, the country went into lockdown in a bid to stamp out Covid-19. For some, this simply meant packing up and taking home their work computer, maybe a few files, some post-it notes and maybe a highlighter. But what do you do when you're responsible for a large academic and research department and you have to shut everything down in just two days? Turns out, planning for such an event had begun several years ago.

Following the Christchurch earthquakes, all Schools and Departments in the University were required to create Business Continuity Plans (BCPs) to safeguard information and data in case of future disasters.

In the week prior to the lockdown, the University requested all Departments update their BCPs. While working on the update, the Department also took the opportunity to create five "Emergency" USB sticks with basic information which would enable the Department to remain functioning. Four key members of the Department's Executive Committee each have a USB, with the fifth held in the Head of Department's office.

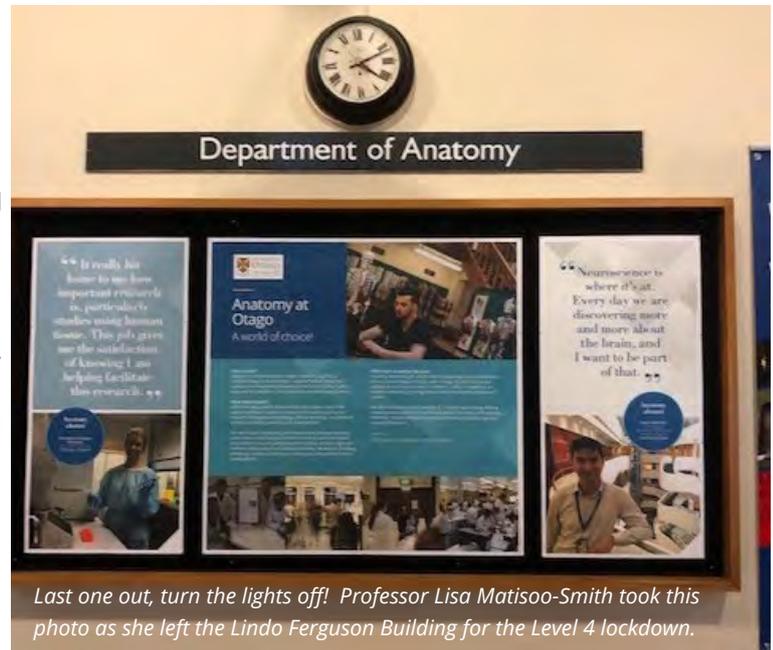
When it became clear the country would go into some form of isolation, staff sprang into action to ensure critical areas, such as teaching, would continue.

A lot of information needed to be communicated to staff and postgrads, PC2 labs would need to be shut down, research projects put on hold, teaching redeveloped for online, and contingency plans put in place for the body donor programme.

One of the larger challenges was to transfer all lecture and lab material for the Department's undergraduate semester one papers – ANAT101, ANAT 241, ANAT331, ANAT 333, ANAT336, BIOA 201, CELS 191, DENT201, HUBS 191, MELS241, MICN201, MICN301, and PHTY250 – to online learning. This was a very quick and steep learning curve for some staff not already familiar with online apps and recording/videoing techniques, but it was a challenge which was readily accepted. Zoom has now become the app of choice for face-to-face contact with students.

Head of Department Professor Lisa Matisoo-Smith says that pre-planning meant the Department was as prepared as it could be for the transition. *"Ross and Carol, with their teams, the Teaching Fellows, and Professional Practice Fellows and all of the teaching staff that had prepared or were quickly preparing labs and lectures did an amazing job."*

Teaching Laboratory Manager Ms Fieke Neuman was one person involved in preparing new teaching aids. *"In the week prior to the shut-down, I and my team of science teaching technicians were very busy making small videos to help fill the potential educational void where labs normally are in the timetable. We were able to use some of the Department's*



unique resources such as wet dissections, models and human bones and they were demonstrated by the academics who would normally run the labs. The videos were necessarily pretty simple without any complex editing or fancy titles etc. Of course at that time we didn't know when the shut-down would happen so this all went on while the normal scheduled labs were running. The highlight from a technical point of view was the crime scene lab for FORS201 which was staged in the 3rd Year Science lab with technicians Nabila Tahsin as the victim, Liane Sim as the murderer and Siti Hajar Ab Halim as the forensic investigator laying out the numbers next to the clues."

The Department is blessed to have well stocked archives ... from which academics can create new teaching aids.

Since moving to their Level 4 bubbles, the technical team has not been able to produce any new videos, however the Department is blessed to have well stocked digital archives of models, specimens and videos from which academics can create new teaching aids.

Of course the smooth transition to online teaching was only possible with the expert knowledge of IT-savvy staff in the Department who put in many hours of work behind the scenes, and answered what probably seemed like an endless stream of questions from staff as they set up their new work stations at home.

By mid-Tuesday afternoon before lockdown, most staff had relocated to their homes, and research labs were in the process of shutting down. Chemical, biological and regular waste was disposed of, and -80 freezers checked for airflow and their filters cleaned. Sadly, many experiments will have been (and were) lost as a result of the closure, and postgraduate projects put on hold for the time-being.

The only labs remaining operational within the University were those assisting with Covid-19 research – including Dr Tim Hore, Professor Neil Gemmell and Associate Professor Jo Stanton's labs.

By Wednesday lunchtime only a handful of key staff remained on site, a quiet and very surreal atmosphere in corridors which normally would be humming with students. With final checks made the Department was closed-down at 4:11pm.

Most staff are able to work in some capacity from home, with email and Zoom meetings now the normal mode of communication. Staff regularly meet every Thursday morning for Zoom morning teas and the sharing of good news announcements.

Technical Manager Ms Carol Dunstone hopes the fact that the Department was well organised will help when staff are finally allowed to return to work. *"There will be challenges associated with that and I think we still have quite a bit of 'working from home' ahead of us but I'm confident that we will be able to relaunch the Department quickly."*

Professor Matisoo-Smith says she is incredibly proud of the Department and the way everyone responded to the crisis – responsibly, in good humour and showing incredible ingenuity and flexibility.

"Well done everyone. We really will have a big party when this is over and we all can be in the same room together. But I expect most of us will be very glad if we never have another Zoom meeting for quite some time!"

Events support mental health



The Department got in behind the youth and community support group I Am Hope's Gumboot Friday challenge. Gumboot Friday is held on the last Friday before clocks go back for winter. This year it happened to fall on Friday 3 April, the second Friday of the Covid-19 lock-down. Undeterred by this, Body Team Manager Rachel Kinnaird organised two fundraising initiatives which staff and postgrads could get involved in from their lock-down bubbles.

Silent baking auction

The silent baking auction saw staff pledge to bake an item which they will present for real to the winning bidder at a post lock-down party to be held in the Anatomy tearoom - the date of which is yet to be known! Photos of the delicious creations were posted to an auction website so bidders could salivate over their chosen prize while placing their bids. After a flurry of bidding before the close-off time, the Department had raised \$245 for mental health. We are now awaiting with anticipation the post lock-down party and of course those real baked goodies.



Gumboot challenge

Staff, students and their bubbles, were urged to decorate a gumboot and display it in their front window on Gumboot Friday. There is 'nothing more kiwi' than the humble gumboot. For the I Am Hope charity, it symbolises the struggles of mental health ... "For people struggling with depression, it can feel like walking through mud every day. Put your gumboots on ... and take a walk in their shoes for just one day."

The winner of the gumboot challenge with the most votes, was Sophie Flack (pictured left with her winning design), budding interior decorator and daughter of Lecturer Dr Natasha Flack. Sophie's brightly painted rainbow gumboot also featured pink dahlias.

Did you know that rainbows symbolise peace and serenity, and are thought to activate inner awakening? The dahlia flower symbolises inner strength, creativity, change and dignity? It is also thought to represent one who stands strong in his or her sacred values. A great choice of decoration to symbolise hope, strength and peace. Congratulations Sophie!



Donating your body to science

Did you see the story about donating your body to science on TV3's The Project in December last year? If you missed it, you can view it on [The Project NZ's Facebook page](#).

The story looks at the reasons why people choose to donate their body, the family members who support their loved ones decision to donate, and how medical students cope with the reality of dissecting a human body.

The University and Department worked closely with The Project team to ensure the story was told with sensitivity and respect.

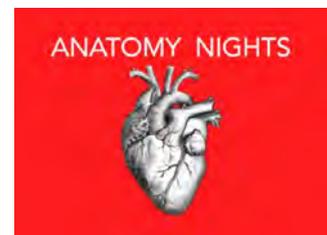
If you would like to learn more about the Department's body bequest programme, please contact the Department's [Body Bequest Liaison Officer](#).

What a night for a public dissection!

Valentine's Day was the perfect occasion for the Department to host [Anatomy Nights](#), an international event aimed at exploring human anatomy in a fun, interesting and easy to understand way. For Valentine's Day, the focus of course was on the heart.

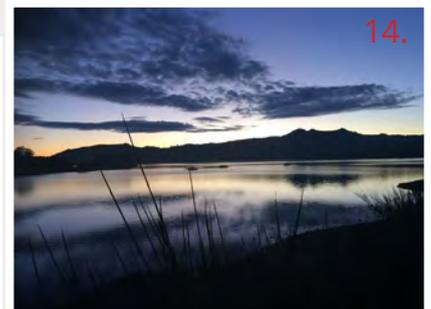
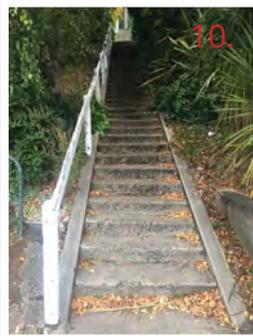
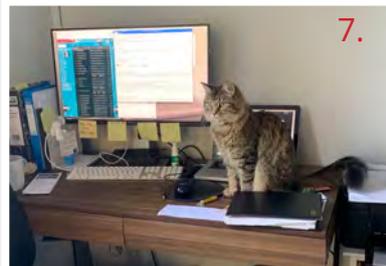
The event gave the public an opportunity to learn about the anatomy of the heart and how it works, and to see a live dissection of the heart. A particular highlight was the opportunity for those present to hold a real (animal) heart.

The event was organised and hosted by Dr Rebecca Bird, Dr Natasha Flack, Dr Brad Hurren, Fieke Neuman, and PhD candidate Jo Tomlinson, and raised over \$200 for The Heart Foundation (Otago Branch).



Level 4 lockdown in pictures ...

While “working from home” became the new normal under the level 4 lockdown, our staff and postgraduate students managed to keep themselves occupied in various ways. Here are just a few examples ...



1. Gina Forster had a leopard/hula girl running a lemonade, donut and salad stand in her backyard. “Yip, that is pretty much where we were at by week two!”
2. Sindy Luu’s new work station had an emphasis on her new hobby - watching Taronga Zoo’s live tiger cam!
3. The Easter Bunny definitely visited Vivek Perumal’s house!
4. Tim McLennan got up one day and decided to run a marathon - 211 laps from his house to the letterbox and back again!
5. Rachel Jackson’s cousin had to cancel her 21st birthday party, so Rachel and her Mum decided to surprise her with a cake. Mum made the cake and Rachel made the dragon. I think you’re going to get a few requests for celebration cakes now Rachel!
6. Jade De La Paz and friends went for a run in the rain.
7. Djuna Elkan’s new workmate, Pickle, always got to work before her each day.
8. Rebecca Bird says her pet rabbit Buddy was incredibly happy to have her home all day. He joins her in the office and keeps her feet warm in the mornings.
9. Steph Woodley and family spent their Easter holiday ‘camping’ in their backyard. With an amazing view!
10. Sue Hammond was missing walking up and down the Lindo Ferguson Building stairs so much that she managed to incorporate these steps - 218 in total - into her daily walking routine.
11. The warm autumn weather enabled Sharon White to paint her house. Her English-language student painted this lovely feature on one wall which has been greatly admired by passers-by.
12. Kathryn McClea enjoyed getting out for daily walks around her neighbourhood, which just happens to include Ross Creek Reserve.
13. After a meal of burgers cooked on the outside camp fire, Chris Smith and family camped out all night under the stars on a warm(ish) Dunedin night.
14. Rachel Kinnaird found a new happy place - sitting on a huge flat tree stump overlooking the harbour at sunset.

News in brief ...

Outreach at Tent City

The Department had a site at the University's Tent City for O-Week events in February. As you can see from the photo below, an enthusiastic team of staff and postgrad students were at the Otago Museum Reserve to greet new students to their first year of study, and of course to welcome our returning students back to Dunedin. The team spent the three days answering questions about studying Anatomy, showing exactly why we are such a fabulous department, and why Anatomy is such a fascinating subject to study!



Donors Remembered

A floral tribute was placed on a rose garden at Anderson Bay Cemetery in Dunedin at the end of 2019, to remember donor's who have so generously donated their body to the Department.

The rose garden is a specially dedicated place where the ashes of our donor's are scattered at the completion of the study.

Anyone may visit the garden, which is marked by a plaque dedicated to the memory of all bequest donors.



Congratulations

Many of our past and present staff and students will remember Professor Mark Stringer who was a senior academic in the Department from 2009 - 2013. Mark was recently awarded the Farquharson Award from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (pictured below), in recognition of his contributions to surgical teaching and anatomy at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.



Mark is currently Honorary Professor in Paediatric Surgery at Wellington Hospital and the University of Otago.

Coming soon ...

New Anatomy clothing!

The Department is thrilled to announce we have a new style of t-shirts and hoodies which will be available for staff and students to purchase in the coming weeks/months.

We are unable to release the clothing range until we come out of lockdown restrictions, but in the meantime, here's a sneak peak of what will be available ...



www.otago.ac.nz/anatomy