

## 2014/2015 Summer Studentship Project Application Form

Send to: Research Office, University of Otago Christchurch, PO Box 4345, Christchurch, by 5pm on **4 July 2014**

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

Supervisor's Name(s): Richard Geary, Andrew Day

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

**Clinical**

Project Title (20 words MAXIMUM):

**IBD Incidence in Canterbury, New Zealand**

Project Description:

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) comprising Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC) was found to have one of the highest incidence rates in the world in Canterbury New Zealand when studied in 2004. This landmark study showed that the incidence of CD in Canterbury in 2004 was 16.5/100,000. Subsequent studies from Australia have confirmed a similar rate but there are no longitudinal data concerning IBD incidence from any population-based centre in the southern hemisphere. Canterbury is well positioned to perform population-based epidemiological studies due to the geography and nature of healthcare delivery.

We hypothesise that IBD incidence has continued to increase over the last 10 years. We aim to capture all new diagnoses of IBD in the CDHB catchment between 1 January and 31 December 2014. We will identify the age, sex and address of all new diagnoses allowing us to produce descriptive epidemiology to analyse trends in incidence changes over the decade since the initial study was performed.

The timing of this study is opportune given that a national census was performed just last year. This is an essential piece of data due to population changes that may have occurred in Canterbury following the 2010 / 2011 earthquakes. During 2014 Dr Heidi Su, a Gastroenterology Registrar, has been sent the demographic details of patients diagnosed with IBD by their treating gastroenterologist or surgeon. This prospective data collection has allowed these data to be captured accurately. However, Dr Su will be moving to Auckland in December 2014 while the cases are still being prospectively captured. Furthermore, our aim is to retrospectively confirm the new diagnoses using existing endoscopy and laboratory databases to provide a robust capture-recapture methodology (similar to that used in 2004).

The proposed summer student would be involved in this aspect of data collection and would then analyse the data to provide incidence and other demographic data that could be compared with the previous study. He could also start to write the data up into manuscript form under our supervision.

The student would be exposed to aspects of clinical research, epidemiology and statistics. This would take place under the supervision of senior researchers with expertise in these areas.

