

2013/2014 Summer Studentship Project Application Form

Send to: Research Office, University of Otago Christchurch, PO Box 4345, Christchurch, by 3pm on **5 July 2013**

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

Supervisor's Name(s): **Dr Sarah Metcalf, Prof Steve Chambers, Dr Pleayo Tovarante**

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Institution: Christchurch Hospital

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

Clinical

Laboratory

Community

Project Title (20 words MAXIMUM):

Investigations into the use of macrolides in Community Acquired Pneumonia

Project Description:

This project is a departmental retrospective audit which can be completed in 10 weeks as part of summer studentship. The selected student will learn and be involved in study design, data collection, analysis of results, and final presentation. The project can be carried forward as part of a wider project if the student chooses to continue being involved.

The student is expected to have basic knowledge of epidemiology, medical research and computer skills including Excel spreadsheet, Powerpoint presentation, and Microsoft Word document.

There is no active human or animal participation. As this is part of a departmental quality audit, ethics approval is not required and patient consent is not necessary. Patients will be de-identified on the spreadsheet by their hospital index numbers for data entry and will not be identified in any way in the final report.

Aim: To investigate the pattern of use of macrolides in patients with community acquired pneumonia (CAP) presented to Christchurch hospital over the last six months.

Methods:

- 1) Patients with community acquired pneumonia (CAP) will be identified from the Decision Support system at Christchurch Hospital and their clinical notes will be requested. (expected total number 500-600 patients)
- 2) Relevant parameters and characteristics from each patient will be recorded on a spreadsheet.
- 3) Indication and duration of macrolide use will be identified from the notes/ drug charts.
- 4) Results will be statistically analysed and presented.

Significance:

The use of macrolide antibiotics are usually limited to suspected atypical pneumonias and pneumonias with high severity score. Recent CDHB guidelines encourage the use of oral azithromycin instead of IV clarithromycin due to its superior advantages and lower cost which is also reflected in the PHARMAC's Hospital Medicines List. The pattern of macrolide use would be helpful to monitor doctors' prescribing behavior in response to the recent change. The audit results would inform and help guide further antimicrobial stewardship interventions with an aim to improve compliance with guidelines for CAP therapy in Christchurch Hospital.

Please email the completed Project Application form to: research.uoc@otago.ac.nz

Also send a signed hard copy via the internal mail to:

Research Office, University of Otago, Christchurch School of Medicine, PO Box 4345, Christchurch 8140