

## 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): Greg FRAZER

Department: Respiratory

Institution: CDHB

Phone: 027 2127457

E-mail: greg.frazer@cdhb.health.nz

Mailing Address: Respiratory Services, Christchurch Hospital, PO Box 4710, CHRISTCHURCH 8140

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

**CLINICAL**

**Laboratory**

**Community**

Project Title (20 words MAXIMUM):

**Outcome of Patients Diagnosed with Lung Cancer in Upper South Island Region**

Project Description:

## Background

Lung Cancer is the major cause of cancer death, both in New Zealand and Worldwide. Rates of death attributable to lung cancer equal those from breast, bowel and prostate cancer combined. Whilst the majority of patients have advanced disease at the time of presentation, lung cancer is potentially curable. New Zealand has lower intervention rates than international averages, with previous audits showing that patients from the Upper South Island region who were referred for curative intent treatment did not receive treatment within recommended time frames (now incorporated into Faster Cancer Treatment Indicators).

## Aims of Proposed Summer Studentship Research Project

The aim of the proposed summer studentship project is to audit outcome data from patients from Upper South Island DHBs with a diagnosis of lung cancer discussed at the Christchurch Hospital Lung Cancer Multidisciplinary Meeting (MDM). Data to be recorded will include

- stage and pathological subtype of cancer at diagnosis
- rates and type of intervention by stage (including curative intent treatment where applicable)
- survival data by stage
- performance against current National Service Standards and Faster Cancer Treatment Indicators (building on an audit from 2012 presented in poster form at the World Conference on Lung Cancer 2013)

Subgroup analysis will be performed in Maori patients, as national data suggests that this is a group of patients with later presentation and lower intervention rates compared to non Maori New Zealanders, with corresponding poorer outcomes.

The intended outcome of this project will be to develop a more accurate picture of current practice and outcomes for this patient group in our region, and identify barriers in the patient journey that can be targeted to improve implementation of National Service Standards, leading to improved patient outcomes in the future.

