

## 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: Prof. Lutz Beckert		
Department - UOC &/or CDHB (if applicable): Department of Medicine, University of Otago, Christchurch		
First Supervisors Phone: Fax:	First Supervisors Email: lutz.beckert@cdhb.health.nz	
First Supervisors Mailing Address: 2 Riccarton Ave, Christchurch 8011		
Co-Supervisors Name and Title(s): Dr Yassar Alamri; Dr Ibrahim Al-Busaidi; Prof. Tim Wilkinson.		
Research Category (Choose one category only – to be used for judging the students' presentations):		
Clinical		
Project Title (20 words MAXIMUM):		
Publication rates, predictors and characteristics of summer research projects at the University of Otago: a 10-year analysis		
Project Description:		

### Introduction:

The University of Otago has a reputation of excellence in tertiary teaching and research. The summer research projects (also known as summer studentships) attract student applicants from different backgrounds with the purpose of introducing them to the scientific enquiry. Whilst there is a financial incentive for students (all of whom receive a stipend), there could also be an academic incentive—via publishing findings in scientific journals—which can help progress their future careers (especially in academia).

We have previously shown that 33% Otago BMedSc(Hons) students between 1995 and 2014 published their findings in peer-reviewed journals<sup>1</sup>. Similarly, a recent study from the University of Auckland has shown that 32% of summer studentship projects between 2001 and 2013 published their findings<sup>2</sup>. No study to date has evaluated the rate of and underlying factors underpinning successful publication of summer projects offered at the University of Otago.

### Aim:

- i. Identify the rate at which findings of summer research projects are published in scientific journals.
- ii. Characterise identified publication (e.g., type of publication, duration since summer project completion, number of subsequent citations).
- iii. Identify student-related attitudes towards and factors associated with successful publication.
- iv. Identify supervisor-related attitudes towards and factors associated with successful publication.

### Possible impact (in lay terms):

This project will be the first of its kind to evaluate the academic outcomes of the summer studentships at the University of Otago. Successful publication is not only vital for career progression (for both students and supervisors), but is also used as a criterion for success in quality (for the University) and publicity (for sponsors).

### Method:

For Aims 1 and 2, a list of summer research projects at the three campuses (UOC, UOW and DSM) conducted by students between 2005 and 2014 will be obtained. The successful applicant for the current project will be required to conduct a literature search (PubMed, EMBASE and Scopus) to identify publications from previous projects. A search of **the New Zealand Medical Student Journal (NZMSJ; not indexed) will also be conducted via the NZMSJ's electronic archives**. Once identified, data including article title, journal name and impact factor, date of publication, the number of authors, student position in authorship, and type of article will be recorded after full-text review. The number of citations indexed in Google Scholar will also be recorded for each article.

For Aims 3 and 4, the successful applicant will contact previous students and supervisors, and invite them to complete an online questionnaire. A sample is attached with the application.

Most of the analysis is envisaged to be descriptive. However, linear regression analysis may be required for correlations. The co-supervisors will help the successful applicant in conducting all statistical analyses.

#### References:

1. Al-Busaidi IS, Alamri Y. Publication rates and characteristics of undergraduate medical theses in New Zealand. *N Z Med J.* 2016 Sep 23;129(1442):46-51.
2. Wells C, Wallace H, McLaughlin S, Alexander H, Shelling A. Rate and predictors of publication by medical and health science summer research students: a 14-year analysis from Auckland, New Zealand. *MedEdPublish.* DOI: [dx.doi.org/10.15694/mep.2016.000129](https://doi.org/10.15694/mep.2016.000129).

Student Prerequisites (eg. Medical Student) if applicable:

Any student, preferably with access to E-journals

## Administration Details

1. Is ethical approval required? Yes

If Yes: please circle or tick one of the following:

a) To be done

2. Are you able to provide the funding for this project (ie. \$5,000 for the student, incidental expenses should be met from departmental or research funds) Yes

If Yes: Please provide name of the funder Department of Medicine, UOC (HOD allowance)

If No: Please provide ideas of possible funding sources, including past funding agents and topics often associated with this research area, for the Research Office to contact.

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If Yes: You will be sent a request for more information.

3. Medical Records or Decision Support accessed No

4. Health Connect South or other DHB records No

5. Signatures:

- I have read the 2017/2018 Summer Studentship programme handbook.
- I am prepared to supervise the project and will be available to the student during the studentship (including Christmas/New Year break if the student is working during this time).
- I agree to assume responsibility for the submission **of the student's reports to the Research Office** by the due date 29 January 2018.
- I agree that the project lay report may be available to local media for publicity purposes.

Signature of Project Supervisor(s):

Prof. Lutz Beckert

Date:

27/07/2017

- I understand that I am responsible for hosting the Summer Student chosen for this project and will meet any costs incurred. I agree that incidental expenses will be met from departmental or research funds.

Signature of Head of Department:  
(Print Name)

Date:

Signature of Clinical Director: (if applicable)  
(Print Name)

Date: