

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: A/P Peter Sykes

Department - UOC &/or CDHB (if applicable): Obstetrics and Gynaecology

First Supervisors Phone: extn 85647

First Supervisors Email: peter.sykes@otago.ac.nz

First Supervisors Mailing Address: Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University of Otago, Christchurch, Christchurch Women's Hospital, Level 3, 2 Riccarton Avenue, Private Bag 4711, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand

Co-Supervisors Name and Title(s): Dr Carrie Innes, Dr Bryony Simcock, Dr Helene NacNab

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

Clinical

Laboratory

Community

Project Title (20 words MAXIMUM):

Trends in the diagnosis of high grade cervical abnormalities in young women in the post vaccination era

Project Description:

Introduction:

High grade cervical abnormalities (HSIL) are well-known potential precursors of cervical cancer and are caused by persistent infection with high risk human papillomavirus (HPV) types. The majority of cervical abnormalities are caused by HPV types 16 and 18. In 2008, a national program commenced in NZ offering an HPV vaccination for young women which included immunisation against these two HPV types. We have two papers in draft form regarding the impact of the HPV vaccination on the National Cervical Screening Programme (NCSP). In this study, we wish to add to this information by documenting the changes in disease pattern for young women **presenting to the Christchurch Women's Hospital** colposcopy clinic and at least one large colposcopy clinic in the North Island. This question is of added importance because, in 2018, the NCSP will cease to screen women under the age of 25 and thus, thereafter, this information will cease to be available.

Aim:

In this retrospective study, we will identify all women under the age of 25 seen at the participating colposcopy clinics between 2010 to 2017. We will document referral cytology, histological diagnosis, and demographics. Where available HPV and vaccination status will also be documented. The data will be correlated against year of presentation and interpreted in light of other information available from published information and our research.

Possible impact (in lay terms):

This study will be of wide interest because it will give us detailed information related to the real-life impact of the HPV vaccination program for which there is little published information at present. The information is also of interest because of the pending change in screening recommendations, documenting the current disease load in women under 25 prior to cessation of screening. The work will dovetail nicely into our extensive studies of HSIL in women under 25 and will be prepared as a peer review publication.

Method: Women under 25 attending colposcopy between 2010 and 2017 will be identified in each participating centre using the individual colposcopy databases. De-identified relevant information will be transferred to a customised database. Data will be cleaned and analysis will be performed in conjunction with experienced researchers and a biostatistician.

Student Prerequisites (eg. Medical Student) if applicable:

Administration Details

1. Is ethical approval required? Yes/~~No~~

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

- a) Applied for (provide application #)
- b) Approved (attach a copy of the letter of approval from the ethics committee or application #)
- c) 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) No

If Yes: Please provide name of the funder _____

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.

Cancer Society

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

3. Medical Records or Decision Support accessed Yes/~~No~~

4. Health Connect South or other DHB records Yes/~~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):

Date:

- 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: