

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: Dr Jo Nunnerley

Department - UOC &/or CDHB (if applicable): Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Musculoskeletal Medicine/BAIL

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First Supervisors Mailing Address: Burwood Academy Trust, Private Bag 4708, Christchurch 8140

Co-Supervisors Name and Title(s): Dr Jennifer Dunn, Associate Professor Sarah Derrett, Mr Johnny Bourke & Dr Amy Richardson

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

Clinical

Laboratory

Community

Project Title (20 words MAXIMUM):

The feasibility of the Community questionnaires for identifying secondary complications in SCI

Project Description:

Introduction:

Secondary health complications following a spinal cord injury (SCI) are costly. Firstly, due to the psychosocial impact for the person who is injured, but more broadly to their families and to the community in terms of the cost to society. Based on Canadian data, direct healthcare costs of NZ's SCI-related Secondary health complications in NZ is estimated at \$34.7million/year. Currently patients with a SCI in NZ are followed up with regular assessments. A self-report questionnaires, developed by the Burwood and Auckland spinal unit staff, are used to identify potential secondary complications and triage patients to be seen by the clinical team. These questionnaire have not been validated. Recent research has indicated there are deficiencies in the follow up system with patients getting lost from follow up.¹

In 2016 New Zealand established a Spinal Cord Injuries Register (NZSCIR) in partnership with the Canadian Rick Hansen Spinal Cord Injury Register. Data is collected during a person's initial rehabilitation with follow up questionnaires at 1,2 and 5 years post injury then continuing at 5-year intervals.

As part of a collaboration of NZ and Canadian researchers we plan to use information collected in the NZ and Canadian registers to investigate secondary complications of SCI in NZ and Canada.

Aim:

- (1) To test the feasibility of the questionnaires developed for the secondary complications in Spinal Cord Injury Study based on the NZSCIR Community questionnaire.
- (2) Testing the appropriateness of the questionnaire, engage with consumers to ensure all important secondary complications are being monitored, and test the possible participant burden for the larger study.

Possible impact (in lay terms):

We currently have a poor understanding of secondary complications following SCI in NZ. This pilot study will inform a larger project to quantify the incidence of symptoms and secondary complications following SCI and determine which individuals are at greater risk and why.

In addition, this study will provide the opportunity for further study to compare the data collected by existing CDHB self-report questionnaire and the secondary health questionnaires to look at possible clinical applications of the NZSCIR questionnaire.

Method:

A mapping exercise across the questionnaires used in the NZSCIR community questionnaire, the ASRU and BSU remote questionnaires will be completed.

Testing of the questionnaires proposed for the secondary complications study to test the content timing and appropriateness of the questions/measures used. The proposed secondary complications questionnaire consisting of the standard questionnaires from the NZSCIR, supplemented with health-related quality of life (EQ-5D)², disability (WHODAS II 12-item)³, Life Satisfaction⁴, an SCI-needs measure, and Participation in Daily Activities Questionnaire⁵ (PDAQ) will be tested online, in written form and in-person to assess the feasibility and -experience of different administration methods. The content and pragmatics of completion and will be assessed.

In addition, a convenience sample of all patients followed up by the existing remote self-report questionnaire from the Burwood Spinal Unit in 2016 and 2017 (n=208) will have their Burwood spinal Unit questionnaire results audited to identify the secondary complications described by patients

Data will be recorded on an Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, and analysed descriptively.

Student Prerequisites (eg. Medical Student) if applicable:

Medical student preferred