

## 2015/2016 Summer Studentship Project Application Form

Send to: Research Office, University of Otago Christchurch, PO Box 4345, Christchurch, by 5pm on **3 July 2015**

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

Supervisor's Name and Title(s): ASC Prof Peter Sykes, Dr Bryony Simcock

Department: O and G

Institution: UOC or CDHB

Phone: 0274429832

E-mail: peter.sykes@otago.ac.nz

Mailing Address: co univ dept o and g Christchurch womens hospital

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

**Clinical X**

**Laboratory**

**Community**

### Project Title (20 words MAXIMUM):

How do the prognostic factors of Endometrial Cancer vary in New Zealand Women of different ethnicity.

### Project Description:

#### Introduction:

Endometrial cancer is the commonest gynaecological cancer in New Zealand Women. The incidence is increasing. Ethnic differences in incidence and mortality have previously been noted, In New Zealand Maori women have been noted to have an increased incidence and mortality, in the US African American women have been noted to have an increase risk of high grade cancers and a worse outcome than Caucasian Women. In the UK women of Indian Ethnicity have an elevated incidence of endometrial cancer. Age grade and stage are the important prognostic factors for outcome in endometrial cancer. There has been little detailed research into how these factors vary by ethnicity In New Zealand Women. In addition we have identified that the majority of women with endometrial cancer have a greater likelihood of death from cardiovascular disease than cancer. We have also documented cardiovascular risks in women with endometrial cancer and have noted high incidences of obesity and hypertension. These factors are known to be associated with an increased risk of low grade endometrial cancer.

#### Aim:

In order to better understand relationships between ethnicity, endometrial cancer and cardiovascular risk we aim to describe age, cancer stage, grade and the cardiovascular risk factors of smoking, hypertension, diabetes and obesity in New Zealand women of different ethnicity with endometrial cancer.

#### Method:

In a collaborative study between Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington. A case control study will be performed. We will identify a population of approximately 50 Maori women with endometrial cancer, a similar sized population of Pacific Island women, a population of Asian women and a randomly selected control population of New Zealand European women. Using Electronic hospital records a deidentified database will be created of age stage and grade of endometrial cancer and blood pressure, BMI smoking and Diabetes. We will describe differences in these parameters between the 3 populations. We will compare this information with incidence and mortality data by ethnicity as described from cancer registry figures.

Working with lead investigators from the 3 centers the student will be responsible for a literature review, the building of the database and the analysis, with guidance from a biostatistician.

### Student Prerequisites (eg. Medical Student) if applicable:

Medical student preferred but others with appropriate experience considered