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): Dr Manar Khashram, Professor Justin Roake	
Department: Department of Surgery- Vascular Endovascular & Transplant Surgery	Institution: University of Otago, Christchurch
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Research Category (Choose one category only – to be used for judging the students' presentations):		
Clinical X	**Laboratory**	**Community**

Project Title (20 words MAXIMUM):

A Targeted Quality-Of-Life Analysis Following Abdominal Aneurysm Repair- Influence On Treatment Method

Project Description:

Introduction:

Abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) is a common condition that affects 5% of the population greater than 60 years old. Internationally, there is a suggestion that this prevalence is decreasing. However, in New Zealand a high prevalence has been observed particularly in the octogenarian population (1). With an improved life expectancy in men and women in New Zealand, people with small AAA (less than 5cm) will often require medical management and those with larger AAA might require repair (open aortic surgery or minimal invasive stent repair- EVAR) to prevent rupture in patients with acceptable risk profiles and those expected to live and enjoy the freedom of AAA rupture risk. However, repair may be associated with morbidity and mortality of 5-10% and therefore, can greatly impact on the quality of life and functional outcomes. A recent systematic review and a meta-analysis have identified several areas that require further evaluation predominantly on the impact of AAA repair on functional outcomes following AAA repair (2).

Aims:

The aim of this study is to obtain quality of life assessments for patients who have undergone AAA repair (open surgery and EVAR) focusing on level of function pre and post AAA repair and documenting important patient perceived outcomes.

Methods:

The vascular surgery department prospectively collects demographic and clinical risk factors on all patients undergoing AAA repair in an electronic database. Patients who had an AAA repair from 2009-2011 that survived repair will be invited to undergo an interview to provide long-term assessments of functional level and health status and identify factors or themes that AAA repair had an impact or continues to impact their daily life. An analysis to compare the long-term affect of type of repair will also be performed. *The ethics board has approved this study but an amendment to the protocol has been submitted on the 22nd of June 2015.*

Significance:

There is paucity in studies documenting the long-term quality of life data for patients undergoing AAA repair and such data can provide realistic information prior to surgery that might influence the decision for treatment and the choice of repair approach. Patient derived outcomes might be an important factor that would require consideration in the management of AAA.

The student will be involved in conducting structured surveys and assessments under supervision of a vascular surgeon or a vascular nurse specialist. In addition, the student will collect and analyze the data (under supervision and support). There will be an opportunity for the student to present the results obtained at a vascular conference in February 2016.

This project will yield a peer reviewed journal publication in a vascular surgery journal.

References:

1.   Khashram M, Jones GT, Roake JA. *Prevalence of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) in a Population Undergoing CT Colonography in Canterbury, New Zealand. European journal of vascular and endovascular surgery. June 2015*

2. Peach G, Holt P, Loftus I, Thompson MM, Hinchliffe R. *Questions remain about quality of life after abdominal aortic aneurysm repair. Journal of Vascular Surgery. 2012;56(2):520-7.*

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