

## 2016/2017 Summer Studentship Project Application Form

Send to: Research Office, University of Otago Christchurch, PO Box 4345, Christchurch, by 5pm on **4 July 2016**

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

First Supervisor's Name and Title: Dr Melissa James

Department - UOC &/or CDHB (if applicable): Oncology

First Supervisors Phone: 0273160687

First Supervisors Email: melissa.james@cdhb.health.nz

First Supervisors Mailing Address: Canterbury Regional Cancer and Haematology Service Private Bag 4710, Christchurch NZ

Co-Supervisors Name and Title(s): Dr Ben Hindson (Oncologist)

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

**Clinical X**

**Laboratory**

**Community**

### Project Title (20 words MAXIMUM):

**Patterns of care for glioma patients in Canterbury - a decade of care**

### Project Description:

#### Introduction:

Glioma tumours originate in the brain or spinal cord, arising from glial cells. Gliomas make up about 30% of adult brain tumours. The World Health Organisation grading of gliomas characterises these tumours from grade II (well differentiated) to Grade IV (undifferentiated). Gliomas are rarely curable. The prognosis for patients with high-grade gliomas is generally poor, and is especially so for older patients. In the last decade approaches to the treatment of gliomas has become more aggressive with subsequent increase in survival times.

#### Aim:

Our aim is to identify patients diagnosed with a glioma in Christchurch hospital between 2005-2015 and to investigate the method of diagnosis, the initial treatment, the follow-up schedule, the treatments on relapse, multidisciplinary discussions, supportive care provision and overall survival. We will analyse by year of diagnosis to mark trends in these parameters. We would then compare with published trials/ series to investigate how our outcomes compare with international outcomes and to make recommendations for the care of glioma patients in the Canterbury region for the future.

#### Possible impact (in lay terms):

To ensure patients diagnosed with a glioma brain tumour in Christchurch are receiving world class treatment and to map trends in the care of these patients over the last decade.

#### Method:

Decision support has provided a database for us for all patients diagnosed with a glioma in the Christchurch hospital between 2005 and 2015. For each patient identified we will investigate the method of diagnosis, the initial treatment, the follow-up schedule, the treatments on relapse, place of death and the overall survival. We will also collect data on the wait times for initial treatments and whether the patient was discussed in a multidisciplinary meeting. Analysis by year of diagnosis will be performed to mark trends in these parameters. Comparisons with published trials and series will be made to investigate how our outcomes compare with international outcomes and to make recommendations for the care of glioma patients in the Canterbury region for the future. A sub study of supportive care will be performed. This would include collecting data on whether the patient is referred for social work, other allied health, supportive services and community palliative care review and to map these trends over the decade.