



# Otago International Health Research Network

Hosted by the Centre for International Health

## News in brief...

**Welcome to our network:**

**Stephen Withington**—  
Physician, Infectious Diseases

**Karen Brouneus**— Post-doc, National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies

**Pencil in the 15-16 Nov 2010 for the 3rd OIHRN conference.** It's never too early to start planning your presentations/posters!

## Some useful info:

The Research and Enterprise Office has various research related awards up for grabs. For more information go to:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/research/awards/index.html>

To subscribe to the Research and Enterprise weekly Research news and funding opportunities go to: <http://lists.otago.ac.nz/listinfo/researchinfo>

**NIH Funding Opportunities, Peer Review and Grant Writing.** For more information go to: [http://ora.stanford.edu/ora/ratd/nih\\_04.asp](http://ora.stanford.edu/ora/ratd/nih_04.asp)

To help us improve the content of our newsletter, please send your suggestions, feedback and comments to email [vanessa.chinula@otago.ac.nz](mailto:vanessa.chinula@otago.ac.nz)

Your input will be greatly appreciated!



**Network conference has inspired** our budding researchers to further develop their interests and enthusiasm in the subject of international health. This 2 day event brought together seasoned researchers of international and national standards together; allowing inspiring young minds of Otago University students to blend in and get the most of the opportunity at hand.

Presentations were abound from a range of topics across our international health researchers.

As part of the conference, the McAuley Oration was presented on the first day later in the evening. The network was fortunate to have Professor Rosalind Gibson (pictured above) present this year's lecture. She presented on the topic of "Zinc Deficiency: Etiology, health consequences, and future solutions" More information on Prof. Gibson's research interest can be found on <http://nutrition.otago.ac.nz/staff/gibson>

Thanks to the great organisational skills of Sally Boulton that contributed to making this conference a great success!

We have penciled in the 15-16th November 2010 for our next OIHRN conference—so diary this in now to ensure you can attend this event next year.

## Second OIHRN Conference Prize Recipients

Congratulations to our prize recipients this year at the OIHRN conference. Dr **Susan Jack** who received the prize for the **best presentation** at the conference this year. Susan spoke on the topic of "Combating anaemia and micronutrient deficiencies among young children in rural Cambodia through point of use fortification and nutrition education."



Postgraduate student **Rebecca Lander** received the prize for **best poster**. Her poster was on the topic of "Poor dietary quality is associated with multi-micronutrient deficiencies during early childhood in Mongolia."

## Member Profile—Dr Sheila Skeaff, Human Nutrition

Sheila Skeaff's research involves monitoring the iodine status and assessing the consequences of low iodine intakes of at-risk groups such as children, pregnant and lactating women to determine if dietary intakes are meeting requirements. Other interests include childhood eating patterns and nutritional issues affecting women's health.

She (7th from right) recently presented in the 2nd annual network conference on the topic of "By women, for women, with women": challenges of nutrition research in central India. The paper, given together with PhD student Kavitha Menon (8th from right), described two research projects they have undertaken assessing the micronutrient status of rural Indian women. Kavitha and MSc student Catherine Lander (5th from right) also presented some of this research as posters. The picture below is taken in front of a village health centre in central India with local midwives, rural doctor, research team (on right), and collaborator Dr Elaine Ferguson (6th from left).



Some of Sheila Skeaff's recent publications include:

Gordon RC, Rose MC, Skeaff SA, Gray AR, Morgan KMD, and Ruffman T. Iodine supplementation improves cognition in mildly iodine deficient children. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 90:1264-71 (2009)

Heydon EE, Thomson CD, Mann J, Williams SM, Skeaff SA, Sherpa KT, and Heydon JL. Iodine status in a Sherpa community in the Khumbu region of Nepal. *Public Health Nutrition* 9:1431-36 (2009)



**WISHING YOU ALL A SAFE AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR**

