



Otago International Health Research Network

Hosted by the Centre for International Health

News in brief and interesting bits...

Forty percent of the participants completed the Conference survey. All say the conference fulfilled their reasons for attending. More than 50% noted that networking was one of the reasons for attending.

For more networking, pencil in the 7th and 8th Nov 2011 for the 4th 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

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

Your input will be greatly appreciated!



Prof. B. Greenwood presents Angela with her Best Student Presentation Award from the OIHRN 3rd Annual Conference.

BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION WINNER, ANGELA CLARK (PhD CANDIDATE)... describes her experience at the recently completed OIHRN Conference.

"My field of bioarchaeology examines population health in prehistoric times. I was fortunate enough to present my research, along with three of my colleagues from the Department of Anatomy and Structural Biology, at the recent OIHRN conference. Although our research is not restricted to the field of health sciences, we were warmly welcomed. The conference provided us with the opportunity to demonstrate how our research of health in the past fits in with current health issues. The diversity of subjects presented in just two days was outstanding and Professor Philip Hill (*University of Otago*) along with the conference organisers did a wonderful job. There were plenty of opportunities for meeting new people within and outside the University of Otago. It was a very special honour to hear Professor Brian Greenwood (*London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*) talk about his research on malaria and meningitis. It was great to see so many researchers from the University of Otago examining health in such diverse areas of the globe. This conference highlighted the important work already being conducted in New Zealand. I hope that we, as a university, can strive to investigate more and encourage a greater number of researchers to join our departments. In the future, I am certain that the OIHRN conference will be even more diverse and engaging! "

Submitted by Angela Clark [angela.clark@anatomy.otago.ac.nz]

Winner of the OIHRN Best Student Podium Presentation Award 2010

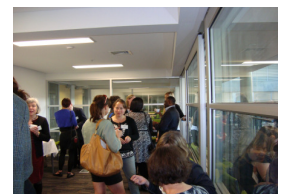
CONFERENCE PHOTOS



These beautiful Kiribati performers welcomed and open the conference with some Kiribati dancing.



Andria McDonald (*London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine*) and Rebecca Prudka (*London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine/ Preventive and Social Medicine*)



Participants during one of the breaks.

Member Profile—Nancy Tayles, Anatomy & Structural Biology

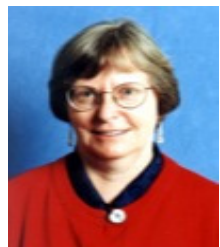
Note from the Editor: Congratulations to Nancy on her recent promotion to Associate Professor. Her new title takes effect from the 1st February 2011

Dr Tayles is currently a Senior Lecturer at the Anatomy and Structural Biology Department, University of Otago. Her research interests are in the field of biological anthropology focussing at the level of the organism, both as individuals and populations. Of particular interest is the way in which the skeleton reflects human genotypic and phenotypic adaptation to the natural and cultural environment. This has combined with her interest in prehistory and enthusiasm for archaeology.

For the last decade Dr Tayles has been researching the health of people from prehistoric sites in Southeast Asia, in the modern state of Thailand. This work has been as a member of a multidisciplinary, international team involved in two large projects on the prehistory of the area. She is addressing questions of the effect on health of important developments in human prehistory, including the transition from a hunting, fishing and gathering lifestyle to sedentary farming, and from egalitarian village communities to the state level of hierarchical social organisation. These changes affect diet, patterns of physical activity, demography, and exposure to infectious disease. These topics have been the focus of much international research for other areas of the world, with increasing understanding of the basis of regional variation in human morphology from both archaeological and biological anthropology research. However, very little work has been done on integrating the evidence from rice-based economies such as existed in prehistoric Southeast Asia.

Some of Nancy's recent publications are:

1. Buckley, H.R., Tayles, N., Halcrow, S.E., Robb, K. and Fyfe, R. (2010) The people of Wairau Bar: a re-examination. *Journal of Pacific Archaeology*, 1, 1, 1-20
2. Halcrow, S.E. and Tayles, N. (2010) The archaeological infant in biological and social context: a response to Mike Lally and Traci Ardren 2008. *Little Artefacts: rethinking the constitution of the archaeological infant. Childhood in the Past* 1, 62-77. *Childhood in the Past* 3, 123-130
3. Tayles, N., Domett, K. and Halcrow, S. (2009) Can dental caries be interpreted as evidence of farming? *The Asian experience. Front Oral Biology*, 13, 162-166



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Peaceful New Year!