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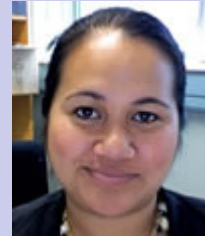
## Conference 9-10th November 2009

Issue 3 June 2009

Network Members are invited to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Otago International Health Research Network conference 9-10 November 2009. Due to the popularity of this meeting in 2008, we have expanded it to two full days, booked a larger room at the Hunter Centre, and there will be an extra focus on networking and student projects. The second McAuley Oration in International Health will be given by Professor Rosalind Gibson.

Abstract submission is available online and we ask that authors send these by 10th September. This conference is being organised by Sally Boulton, Events 4 You and further information is available on the website:

[www.events4you.co.nz/OIHRN2009.html](http://www.events4you.co.nz/OIHRN2009.html)



**Vanessa Leota-Chinula** has recently taken on the role as Office Manager of the International Health Centre

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## Member Profile: Sailau Suaalii-Sauni, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for International Health



Dr Tamasailau Suaalii-Sauni is working closely with the National University of Samoa [NUS] since January 2009 to develop health research capability. Her work involves networking with local university, government and NGO organisations; training and mentoring junior researchers; and building meaningful research partnerships between CIH, NUS and other health researchers in Samoa. Research capacity building in under-resourced countries such as Samoa requires finding innovative ways to build on local expertise and limited resources. Dr Suaalii-Sauni argues that building local internationally competitive research skills in developing countries such as Samoa is a multi-pronged undertaking which ranges from having easy access to information technology to building local researcher confidence to lead and carry out research and public confidence in the integrity of that research and its researchers. Dr Suaalii-Sauni is working together with NUS to help build local skills in academic writing and social and health research. As a qualitative health researcher, Dr Suaalii-Sauni is currently involved in a joint research project on traditional birth attendants with the NUS Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences and Centre for Samoan Studies. This project will carry out life-history interviews with traditional birth attendants [faatosaga] from across Samoa in order to record and analyse the indigenous aspects of their reproductive, birthing, child and maternal healthcare beliefs and practices. Semi-structured interviews with mothers and key professionals will also be carried out. As a Samoan, Dr Suaalii-Sauni is grateful for the opportunity to return to her birth place to help in Samoa's research capacity building work and at the same time to extend her knowledge of indigenous healthcare beliefs and practices.