



Conference 9-10 November 2009

Issue 5 September 2009

Call for papers for the 2nd International Health Research Network Conference closes on 10th October and there is an online submission form available on the conference website.

Student Prizes

The conference this year will feature student prizes for the best student presentation and best student poster. (\$200.00 University Bookshop voucher)

Delegates are asked to register as soon as possible (University of Otago staff and students are free) as space is limited.

Go to :

www.events4you.co.nz/OIHRN2009.html

Earthquake and Tsunami Appeal

Our thoughts go out to the families affected by the recent tsunami in Samoa and earthquakes in Sumatra. Typhoon Ketsana has also devastated areas in The Philippines and Vietnam. There are many agencies in New Zealand co-ordinating relief for these areas and NZ International Aid and Development Agency has a comprehensive list of these organisations on their website www.nzaid.govt.nz

Member Profile: Aarti Patel, School of Pharmacy, University of Otago, Dunedin



Aarti is based in Dunedin with a background in pharmacy. Prior to moving to New Zealand she was the coordinator of the Essential Drugs Programme in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. She continues to focus on improving access to essential medicines in the developing world with a particular emphasis on sub-Saharan Africa. Aarti is a board member of Health Action International-Africa (HAI). HAI is an international NGO that works with civil society to improve access to essential medicines. Aarti has undertaken consultancy work with the WHO and HAI on the WHO-HAI medicines pricing project in selected African countries. Through this project an innovative approach to measuring medicines prices in low and middle-income countries has evolved allowing both governments and the non-governmental sectors to monitor and address affordability of medicines. Aarti has been invited to join the DFID-funded Southern African Regional Programme on Access to Medicines and Diagnostics (SARPAM) as a technical consultant. She intends spending some time next year with the pharmaceutical secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) which is based in Botswana as part of the inception phase of this five year programme.

Recently, she submitted her PhD thesis which explored the issue of quality of medicines in South Africa.

Aarti is a lecturer in the School of Pharmacy where she teaches undergraduate students in Clinical and Social Pharmacy.