



## Otago's collaboration with Myanmar university moves into tuberculosis research.

This month, Dr Thanda Tun, a PhD student from University of Medicine (1) arrived in Dunedin to work with Professor Cook and Dr Htin Lin Aung. In partnership with Professor John Crump and Professor Philip Hill they will be studying the genes associated with drug resistance in the bacterium that causes tuberculosis. Their work may lead to improvements in diagnostic tests for drug-resistant tuberculosis and a better understanding of how drug-resistant organisms spread in populations. View the full press release at <http://www.otago.ac.nz/news/news/otago067129.html>



Dr Htin Lin Aung, Professor Helen Nicholson, Professor Greg Cook, Professor John Crump, Dr Thanda Tun and Dr Anna Sui Hluan (Anna Thio).

## Epilinfo in Bangladesh - A valuable educational experience.

John Holmes - Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine

In September 2013, I had the opportunity to tutor a five-day workshop in Bangladesh using Epilinfo for the analysis of research data. It was part of a large World Bank / European Union project to help medical and veterinary practitioners in south-east Asia to work together to investigate zoonotic disease in their own countries in order to detect potential outbreaks. There were about 20 participants ranging from university academics, government officials in health and animal welfare to provincial field workers. Some had attended a previous introductory session but this was their opportunity to use their data to practise what they had been taught.



I was working with a veterinary epidemiologist from Spain who had run a similar course in Bhutan. It was a fascinating week but we had to cope with the traffic congestion in Dhaka and learn to deal with the intermittent power supply and different versions of the programme on different computers. By the end of the week most of the participants were more confident to use the programme and could get useful results to assist their local investigations. The main benefit was the establishment of networks of people who were able to work together to investigate and solve their local problems.



The Otago International Health Research Network (OIHRN) is hosting the **OIHRN 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** on 12-13 November at the Hutton Theatre, Otago Museum.

- OIHRN aims to provide opportunities for members and researchers to meet, present, discuss projects, and to foster new collaborative efforts in global health.
- This year's theme is 'One Health in low resource areas: the interface between human, animal, and environmental health'.
- Other session topics will include - 'A focus on Myanmar'
- The keynote speaker - Prof. Dr. Jakob Zinsstag-Klopfenstein is from the Human and Animal Health Unit, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Switzerland and is the current President of the International Association for Ecology and Health (EcoHealth; <http://www.ecohealth.net>).
- Prof Dr Zinsstag-Klopfenstein will also present the McKinlay Oration (Thursday 12 November 4pm) titled – One Health: The added value of closer cooperation of human and veterinary medicine.
- Online registrations open 1 July.
- We invite submissions from interested parties on any international health-related subject. Submissions from students are very welcome. We welcome submissions/abstracts from 1 May 2014 up to and including Friday 19 September.
- Accommodation – if you require accommodation for the conference, we suggest you book early, due to other conferences in Dunedin during this time.
- For further information about the conference, please visit [www.otago.ac.nz/oihrnconference](http://www.otago.ac.nz/oihrnconference).

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**OIHRN 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 12 - 13 November 2014**  
**Dunedin**