

The **16th**  
**Public Health**  
**SUMMERSCHOOL**  
7 – 24 February 2012



WELLINGTON

**SPECIAL GUEST LECTURE – OPEN TO PUBLIC**

**Emerging influenza viruses in the animal world:  
Should humans be worried?**

**Presenter: Richard Webby, PhD**

Pandemic influenza occurs when influenza viruses emerge from animal reservoirs into humans. For an animal virus to achieve this it must have two related but independent traits: the ability to infect humans, and the ability to transmit from one human to another. Luckily for human health the number of viruses that have both traits is small compared with the total number of viruses circulating in wild and domestic animals. The real public health question is how many animal viruses have the potential to evolve into human pathogens. The answer to this important question is elusive. In this lecture we will examine the current epidemiology of influenza viruses in animals, review the latest knowledge of virus transmission, and discuss the most likely sources of the next pandemic virus.

**Richard Webby** gained his Bachelor and PhD degrees from the University of Otago.



From Dunedin he joined the laboratory of another Kiwi, Rob Webster, one of the pioneers in the area of the origins of pandemic influenza at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, USA. He was intimately involved in the generation of the first H5N1 bird flu vaccine. Richard is now Director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Studies on the Ecology of Influenza and the St Jude Center of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance. His current research focuses on understanding the mechanisms by which animal viruses become human viruses and understanding the nature of influenza viruses circulating in different regions of the globe.

**Tuesday 14 February, 5.00- 6.00pm**

**Small Lecture Theatre, Level D**

**Light refreshments to follow**