

## THE SOUTHERN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH NETWORK (SPCRN) NEWSLETTER



Kia ora koutou, welcome to the first edition of the Southern Primary Health Care Research Network (SPCRN) Newsletter! We will publish a newsletter three to four times a year to keep our wider community abreast of the research activities and other important mahi happening in the SPCRN. This edition has important information about the vision, mission, structure and organisation of the network, as well as a research update.

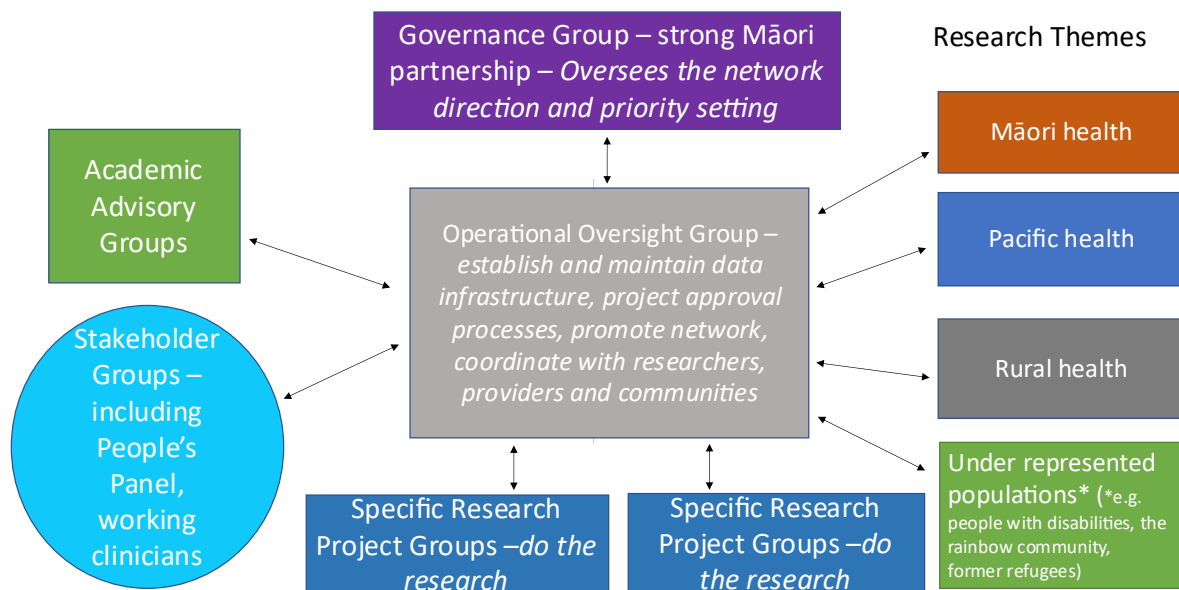
**Our Vision:** Equitable health outcomes for all, through relevant primary health care centred research that leads to policy change, guided by the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

**Our Mission:** To create the infrastructure - first regionally, then nationally - to enable excellent population-level primary health care research to flourish, that monitors the impacts of health reforms and seeks to improve equitable health outcomes, through influencing health policy and service design, with Māori partnership at every level.

### What is the SPCRN?

We are a collective of Primary Care Researchers working in partnership with our local Primary Health Organisation (WellSouth) to facilitate useful, impactful, Primary Care Research using routinely collected data. As a te Tiriti-led organisation we are overseen by a Governance Group that is led 50/50 by tāngata whenua and tāngata tiriti, and is comprised of health care providers, community members and and researchers. We are currently funded for 3 years from February 2021 to establish the network and consolidate local links and generate research activity.

### Southern PHCRN Structure



## **Year One (2022) Summary**

- Established inter-professional academic (Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Dentistry, General Practice, Business School) researcher group with a regular meeting schedule with WellSouth representation.
- Established external academic advisory group (comprising researchers from the University of Otago Wellington, University of Otago Christchurch, University of Auckland, McMaster University (Canada)).
- Established an operational team to handle the network's day-to-day running and coordinate various groups within the network structure and engaged with the data analyst at WellSouth to understand the scope of the routinely collected data and how it can be used for research
- Consulted on how the network should be governed to reflect a commitment to te Tiriti o Waitangi, and invited expressions of interest from health professionals, community and university members for a governance group that is 50% Māori led
- Reviewed data-sharing agreements between WellSouth and the DHB/Te Whatu ora Southern. Developed a new Memorandum of Understanding between WellSouth and the PCRN
- Identified researchers within the network to help guide research on Māori, rural and Pacific health “themes” with further work ongoing to connect with Pacific researchers
- Presented about the emerging research network at domestic and international conferences
- Finalised and published a paper developed from work initially completed as part of an HRC activation grant regarding national recommendations for a PCRN in the Journal of Primary Health Care
- Commenced work on two research projects with a third started in 2023

## **Our Governance Group**

Our freshly established Governance Group oversees the network operations, and will ensure that research conducted with the SPCRN meets the equity expectations, and priorities for our local community. Research is underway to identify our community priorities, in the interim the priorities identified in Te Pae Tata the interim NZ Health Strategy will be used to guide the SPCRN’s research directions. Our members come from a range of different health care provider, community member, and academic backgrounds. Introducing:

### **Chair Person: Claire Turner**

Clare is our Chairperson and community representative, with lived experience as a health service user.

“I identify as tangata whai ora; lived and living with experience of mental distress, I have worked in telehealth, crisis line, group and individual settings as a peer support worker; which is a way of relating in which we acknowledge both our lived experiences; and co-create together ways of moving forward; in the presence or absence of barriers and/or challenges. I served a term as the student member for the Australia New Zealand Association for Contextual Behavioural Science Board (ANZ ACBS), have attended numerous trainings in ACT and contextual behavioural science, and presented in Seville, Spain at the ACBS World Con 2017 on combining peer support work and ACT in acute and group settings. I am currently the Youth Consumer Advisor at ADL, a not-for-profit youth mental health and substance harm provider; in brief intervention and extended pathways that utilize nature as a therapeutic tool. I am studying towards a Bachelor of Science majoring in psychology at Uni of Otago, and aspire to do post-graduate quals in NGO management and policy. I have a

passion for innovative and collaborative approaches to improving the wellbeing of our peoples from an equitable and intersectional approach. I acknowledge my role as tauwiwi and as a partner to Te Tiriti and am committed to growth and learning in this space.”

**Mani (Adam) Molloy-Sharplin:**

“Ahakoa taku whakapapa i waenganui i te Waipounamu, ko taku whakapapa matua ki Ngāi Tuahuriri. Heoi anō, Ko Waitaha, Kāti Māmoe, Kāi Tahu ōku iwi. Naia aku mihi ki a koutou. It’s my privilege to be the Toihau – Executive Officer of Te Hā o Maru Health and Social Services. Subsidiary Service to Te Rūnanga o Moeraki. I’m a registered Social Worker approaching 2 decades of experience working in the social services sector. My experience spans from (formerly) Child Youth and Family, Alternative Education, Ministry of Education, Kaupapa Māori Mental Health, and the design, development, and implementation of Youth Justice and High Needs residential homes in partnership with Oranga Tamariki in the NGO space.

My passion is in ensuring our Māori methods of practice are standing equally with our western methods of practice and supporting the return of health, wealth, and sovereignty to iwi Māori.”

**Brendon McIntosh**

Brendon is a Māori pharmacist living and working in Tāhuna Queenstown. He currently works for WellSouth Primary Health Organisation as a population health pharmacist focusing on improving Māori Health outcomes in the Southern region of New Zealand. This involves using prescribing data to highlight the issue of inequity within the health system and works with all healthcare providers across the region, educating them how to best engage with Māori whānau (indigenous families). He is also undertaking his Masters studies through the University of Auckland.

**Amanda Clifford**

Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha

Amanda is a Clinical Psychologist, and a Lecturer in the Psychology Department at the University of Otago. Amanda grew up in rural Southland, and has a strong interest in Māori health and wellbeing. She is interested in investigating what service provision looks like, how to best support young people and their whānau, as well as women’s health issues and health equity. She has both quantitative and qualitative experience as a researcher as well as maintaining a small clinical caseload.

**Leigh Hale**

Professor Leigh Hale is the Dean of the School of Physiotherapy / Centre for Health, Activity, and Rehabilitation Research at the University of Otago, New Zealand. She graduated as a physiotherapist from the University of Cape Town (South Africa) and went on to attain her MSc (Neurorehabilitation) and PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa). Leigh primarily researches in the area of community-based physiotherapeutic rehabilitation, falls prevention and supported self-management for people living with disability and with neurological conditions, such as multiple sclerosis, stroke, dementia, and learning disabilities; and in aged care. Her research uses both quantitative and qualitative methodologies and focusses on how physiotherapists can enable and support people to optimally live healthy and engaging lives. She has over 168 peer reviewed publications and six book chapters.

## **Letava Tafuna'i**

Letava is Associate Dean Pacific of the Dunedin School of Medicine, University of Otago as well as a well-respected General Practitioner. She also holds a position with WellSouth as a Senior Clinical Advisor Pasifika working with Pacific health providers in Dunedin, Invercargill, and Oamaru, as well as general practices across the region to improve care and the long-term health for Pacific aiga. She is interested in equity focused research relating to Pacific peoples and has experience working in a clinical setting both here in Aotearoa and in Australia. Among Letava's aims is to advocate for Pacific communities, reduce barriers to care, encourage engagement with health providers and to help health providers better understand the needs of their Pacific patients.

## **Our Operational Team**

The operational team manages the day to day running of the network, including co-ordinating meetings between the groups, conducting and monitoring progress on SPCRn research projects, and disseminating information about the network via this newsletter, conference presentations and reports. This team includes the SPCRn co-leads Professor Tim Stokes (Department of General Practice and Rural Health), and Dr Carol Atmore, Clinical Director of WellSouth, along with Dr Sharon Leitch and Dr Abby Pigden, (Department of General Practice and Rural Health), and Alex Ryde (Data Analyst from Well South)

## **Current research projects**

**COVID19 in the Southern Region Study.** A project investigating health outcomes for patients in the Southern Region over a three month period during 2022. This project aims to both examine outcomes and to test the data linkage capability for the SPCRn network. This project has gone through peer review, ethics approval and approval from the WellSouth Clinical Governance group and is in the final stages of data collation, ready for analyses followed by the write up and dissemination.

**Routinely Collected Data and Primary Care Research Scoping Review.** A review of published literature on how routinely collected primary care data has been used for research. The aim of this project is to provide clarity on how other countries have successfully used routinely collected data for Primary Care focussed research. This project is currently in the final write up stage, in preparation for publication.

**Research Prioritisation.** A project that surveys what areas of primary care research should be targeted towards, and identifies potential future research questions that are relevant for people in the Southern region. The aim is to identify the research priorities for stakeholders in our local community. This is a three part project, we have current funding for the first part, which is investigating the research priorities from academics and health providers. This part of the project is currently in the data collection stage, see below for how you could be involved!

The second part of this project seeks to capture the community voice, and we have an application in with the Health Research Council to fund this part of the project.

The third part is being led by Dr Liza Edmonds a Neonatal Paediatrician and is funded by a separate research grant and is investigating the priorities for research for the Māori community.

Towards the end of this year the intention is to combine the perspectives from across the three parts of the project to generate the SPCRn research priorities.

## **Ways to get involved**

### **Got an idea?**

If you have an exciting research idea that you would like to collaborate with the SPCRn on, then please get in touch with us at [spcrn.info@otago.ac.nz](mailto:spcrn.info@otago.ac.nz)

### **Participate in our Research Prioritisation Project**

Primary health care providers/academics are invited to participate in a research prioritisation study

Primary health care (PHC) is the heart of Aotearoa's health system. Using routinely collected PHC data for research can deliver important insights for patients, clinicians, and health funders in an efficient and cost-effective manner. A Primary Care Research Network (PCRn) is under development in Southern Aotearoa to facilitate the use of routinely collected PHC data for research. Health equity is a fundamental principle of the PCRn.

To ensure the PCRn research undertaken is fit-for-purpose, we are inviting PHC providers and academics to help set the research agenda. Separate projects will focus on Māori community interests, and a patient panel is planned. This project aims to generate specific research questions that are feasible, highly relevant to PCRn stakeholders and prioritised by their potential to impact health equity in terms of resource allocation and health outcomes. The project has been awarded funding from Health Research South.

Participants will be asked to complete two online surveys. Each round will take around 10 minutes. You will be asked to identify the most important research questions in PHC that need addressing to improve health equity. The first survey will generate the research questions, and the second survey will rank the curated research questions. Participants will then be invited to participate in an optional meeting (face-to-face or online) which may take 1-2 hours.

For more information about the study, please see the information sheet attached at the end of the newsletter.

Participants we want for this study:

(1) Primary health care providers working in Southern Aotearoa, including Māori and non-Māori general practitioners, nurses, nurse practitioners, community pharmacists, community physiotherapists, community dentists, midwives, etc.

(2) Primary health care academics working in Aotearoa, including Māori and non-Māori academic staff based in primary health care/general practice departments, the Schools of Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Dentistry, Nursing, etc.

If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact Dr Jing-Ru Li ([Jingru.li@otago.ac.nz](mailto:Jingru.li@otago.ac.nz)) or Dr Sharon Leitch (project PI) ([sharon.leitch@otago.ac.nz](mailto:sharon.leitch@otago.ac.nz)).

Please take this link to the online survey:

[https://otago.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_dp5Z0jD0jVu1WAu](https://otago.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dp5Z0jD0jVu1WAu)

Ngā mihi nui

SPCRN Operational Team

**Carol Atmore**



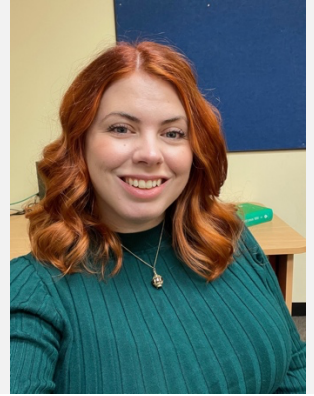
**Tim Stokes**



**Sharon Leitch**



**Abigail Pigden**



[Reference Number: D23/027]

[5 Jan 2023]

## ***Research Prioritisation Setting for the Primary Care Research Network***

### **INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS**

Thank you for showing an interest in this project. Please read this information sheet carefully before deciding whether or not to participate. If you decide to participate we thank you. If you decide not to take part there will be no disadvantage to you and we thank you for considering our request.

#### **What is the Aim of the Project?**

We are developing a Primary Care Research Network (PCRN) to facilitate the use of routinely collected primary health care data for research promoting health equity. We are seeking stakeholder direction for the PCRN research agenda ensures research undertaken is fit-for-purpose. This current project focuses on primary health care clinician and academic stakeholders; separate work will seek Māori community and patient input.

This project aims to identify the most important research questions in primary care that need addressing to improve health equity.

Research questions will be iteratively reviewed and ranked, then weighted for project feasibility, relevance and for likelihood of improving health equity. This project will generate specific research questions that are feasible, highly relevant to stakeholders, and prioritised by their potential to impact health equity in terms of resource allocation and health outcomes.

#### **What Types of Participants are being sought?**

- 1. Primary health care clinicians** working in Otago and Southland, including Māori and non-Māori general practitioners, nurses, nurse practitioners, community pharmacists, community physiotherapists, community dentists.
- 2. Primary health care academics**, including Māori and non-Māori academic staff working in primary health care/general practice departments in Aotearoa, the Schools of Pharmacy Physiotherapy, and Dentistry, and Nursing, plus the PCRN international collaborators.

Participants will be recruited by email and social media. Contact details will be obtained from regional and academic contact lists. We seek to enrol at least 10 participants from each group. This research is funded by a small Health Research South Joint Clinical Start-Up Award. Results arising from this research will be used for non-commercial research using routinely collected health data in Otago and Southland. Participants will not receive any reimbursement for participating beyond travel expenses (if required)

#### **What will Participants be asked to do?**

Part one of the project is a Delphi process to elicit the most important questions in primary health care that need addressing to improve health equity. Serial Delphi rounds will take place via email with links to Qualtrics software until consensus is achieved. In Round 1, participants will be asked to contribute research ideas. In Round 2 and subsequent rounds, participants will vote on the research questions to identify the most important research areas. Each round may take 10-20 minutes to complete and can be undertaken at a time that suits the participant.

Part two of the project will be a meeting (either face-to-face or online depending on participant preference) to undertake a final prioritisation exercise that will objectively apply weightings and feasibility parameters to the questions identified in the Delphi exercise and rank prioritisation. This process may take 1-2 hours. Travel expenses will be reimbursed if required.

It is not anticipated that this research will generate any health and safety concerns, nor present any adverse physical or psychological risks. However, if you have any concerns of this nature, please speak to the principal investigator Dr Sharon Leitch.

Please be aware that you may decide not to take part in the project at any stage without any disadvantage to yourself.

### **What Data or Information will be collected and what use will be made of it?**

The information submitted for the Delphi process via the Qualtrics forms will be retained and analysed. Research questions and voting responses will be anonymised and researchers will not be able to identify individual participant responses.

The meeting will have one of the research team present as a note-keeper to record salient points of the discussion, but these points will not be allocated to any one individual. The notes will serve as an aide-memoire to recall how the weightings were derived and prioritised by the group. Final voting responses at the end of the meeting will occur via Qualtrics and will be anonymous. The immediate research team is the only group who will have access to the raw data, including participant contact details. There will be no commercial use of any data collected as part of this project.

The data collected will be securely stored in such a way that only those mentioned below will be able to gain access to it. Data obtained as a result of the research will be retained for **at least 5 years** in secure storage. Any personal information held on the participants such as contact details will be destroyed at the completion of the research even though the data derived from the research will, in most cases, be kept for much longer or possibly indefinitely.

Results of this research will be published. The data from this project will be publicly archived so that it may be used by other researchers. No material that could personally identify you will be used in any reports on this study. Every attempt will be made to preserve your anonymity.

Participants will be provided with the results of the study on request.

### **Can Participants change their mind and withdraw from the project?**

You may withdraw from the project, before its completion and without any disadvantage to yourself. Any research questions you submit will remain part of the project whether or not you withdraw from the project.

### **What if Participants have any Questions?**

If you have any questions about our project, either now or in the future, please feel free to contact:

#### **Dr Sharon Leitch**

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This study has been approved by the Department stated above. However, if you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the research you may contact the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee through the Human Ethics Committee Administrator (ph +643 479 8256 or email [gary.witte@otago.ac.nz](mailto:gary.witte@otago.ac.nz)). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated and you will be informed of the outcome.