

THE SOUTHERN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH NETWORK (SPCRN) NEWSLETTER

Vol1 Issue 3/ Nov 2024

CELEBRATIONS

Website Launch: The SPCRN now has a dedicated website hosted by WellSouth where you can find information about the structure of the network, our vision and mission as well as updated publication lists [Southern Primary Care Research network » WellSouth](#)

News

It's been another busy year at the SPCRN, as we come towards the end of our third year since we started on this journey. We have successfully established the infrastructure to undertake primary care centred research in Otago and Southland, through a partnership between the University of Otago and WellSouth Primary Health Network. We now have the infrastructure to support research in the Southern district using primary care data sets, that is relevant to clinicians, relevant to the health sector, serves the

community and prioritises equity. So that's a great place to be, and is only the beginning of this mahi!

We've had some changes in our Operational Team, as Dr Jing-ru Li who was covering Dr. Abby Pigden's parental leave secured a new job in Auckland, we thank her for all her hard work and wish her all the best for the future. Throughout the year we've been working on research projects both old and new - see a summary of these projects below. We have been continuing to publicise the network throughout the University of Otago research departments and to external stakeholders such as Te Whatu Ora/Health NZ.

We have also been seeking avenues to secure ongoing infrastructure funding to support the network to continue to grow into 2025 and beyond. Both WellSouth and the University of Otago have agreed to provide some time in kind for core members of our Operational Team to support the network continuing when our main grant funding is reduced early next year and we continue to pursue further avenues for infrastructure funding.

Research Project Update

Research Prioritisation

A Delphi study scoping the priority areas of research for clinicians and health research academics in our region has been conducted and the results have been published. The

second phase of this project involved creating a People's Panel to investigate the views of our priority groups within our community. Seven focus groups with a total of 50 participants have been conducted across the region. Priority communities such as Māori, disabled, women, rural, Pacific and ethnic minorities have been consulted with. The results have been thematically analysed and a journal article is currently being written. The final results of this multistage piece of research will be included on the website upon completion.

Paediatric Primary Care Service Utilisation

Drs Amanda Clifford and Abby Pigden are now both returned from maternity leave and have been working hard to finalise the protocol for this project with the research team. It is now in the process of going through ethics committee approval, Ngāi Tahu Research Committee Consultation and the SPCRN data request process.

Ethical Framework for PHC data

To support the governance group of the Southern Primary Care Research Network with ethical considerations of researcher access to and use of the PHC data, Tania Moerenhout (Bioethics Centre, PI) and Wenna Yeo (Research Fellow) are conducting a study supported by the Healthcare Otago Charitable Trust. This study comprises two phases. The first is a scoping review of existing literature and governance protocols to develop a preliminary framework based on the main ethical values arising from the literature. From these values and principles, questions or statements will be derived that should help with the practical application of the framework. The second phase of the project will present the framework to expert stakeholders in a Delphi study to test its viability and to identify any missing values or themes. These stakeholders will include both primary care researchers and practitioners in Aotearoa, with Māori and non-Māori general practitioners, nurses, community pharmacists, physiotherapists, etc.

We are currently in the process of analysing data from the scoping review to produce a framework for testing. Amanda Clifford has kindly agreed to support the project as Māori adviser, and Carol Atmore, Tim Stokes, Sharon Leitch, and Angela Ballantyne will provide support for the Delphi study. We aim to present the results of the scoping review in the summer and to complete the Delphi study in the first trimester of 2025. If anyone is interested in this project or wants to know more, please contact either Tania or Wenna!

Diabetic Retinopathy and Diabetic Foot Ulcers

A retrospective review is currently being undertaken by Mr Fraser Harold (Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon) and colleagues into whether there is an association between diabetic retinopathy and the development of diabetic foot ulcers. This work is currently underway.

Research Dissemination Updates

Leitch S, Li J-R, Stokes T. Establishing the research priorities of a national primary care research network in New Zealand: a Delphi exercise. Journal of Primary Health Care. 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1071/HC24046>

Are you interested in undertaking research using primary care datasets?



We now have a clear and easy process for you to follow to plan how to undertake your research using primary care datasets, as shown in this graphic. We are keen to hear from you, and please contact us at spcrn.info@otago.ac.nz if you have a proposal you would like to discuss with us!