

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

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## CELEBRATIONS

Dr Sharon Leitch's project on People's Panel Research Priorities has been awarded an HRC activation grant.

This project will ask patients to identify what they think are the most important questions in primary health care that need addressing to improve health equity. The results will be used to inform the final research priorities for the SPCRN.

Dr Abigail Pigden and Dr Amanda Clifford's project on paediatric primary care access has also been awarded an HRC activation grant.

The study will first investigate whether it is possible to link primary care data with nationally held paediatric data collections, and second, using the linked dataset, map how paediatric primary care services are being used, and how rurality and ethnicity relate to service utilisation.

## RESEARCH PROJECT UPDATES

**COVID19 in the Southern Region Study** has been a useful learning exercise but will not be completed due to data access issues. Dr Sharon Leitch and Alex Ryde have written a discussion article currently under review, so that other researchers can learn from this also.

**Routinely Collected Data and Primary Care Research Scoping Review:** Identification of relevant literature is completed, and analysis of the included literature is well underway.

**Research Prioritisation Setting for the Primary Care Research Network:** Data collection for the primary care academic and clinician consultation has finished, and analysis has commenced.

**An ethical framework for PHC data research:** This scoping review project seeks to explore how PHC data research is governed and regulated around the world. Implications will be sought from the literature for applicability and implementation in the NZ context.

A new research project exploring **diabetes data** is under consideration at present. The project aims to describe the prevalence of diabetes, its complications, and care quality markers Otago Southland, comprising 330,000 people and approximately 15,000 people with diabetes. This project will test the data linkages between WellSouth and national and local Te Whatu Ora data sets.



- The feasibility of a **diabetic foot research project** is also being explored. This project would test the full process of an external investigator wanting to undertake research using data available through the Southern Primary Health Care Research Network.

## RESEARCH DISSEMINATION UPDATES

- **Pigden A, Leitch S, Atmore C, Stokes T.** Starting from scratch: establishing an equity-focused Primary Care Research Network. (2023) Abstracts of the Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care (AAAPC) Annual Research Conference, 17–18 August 2023. Australian Journal of Primary Health 29, iv-lxxxii. <https://doi.org/10.1071/PYv29n4abs> Melbourne, 2023.
- **Dr Sharon Leitch** presented on “The use of routinely collected primary care data in research - Scoping Review” at the New Zealand Primary Health Care, General Practice and Rural Health Research Symposium in Wellington, 1-3 September 2023.
- **Dr Jing-Ru Li** presented the project “Research Prioritisation Setting for the Primary Care Research Network” at the New Zealand Primary Health Care, General Practice and Rural Health Research Symposium in Wellington and CHeST conference at Otago Business School, Sep 2023.

### 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 researchers. We are currently funded for 3 years from February 2021 to establish the network and consolidate local links and generate research activity.

### 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.

### Got an idea?

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

Ngā mihi nui,

SPCRN Operational Team

*(Carol Atmore/Tim Stokes/Sharon Leitch/Jing-Ru Li)*