



e-newsletter

The latest in DHBRF news and information

Issue 16

March 2008

Research Theme

Interaction - a two way process

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1. Welcome to 2008: Interaction - a two way process

Welcome to the first issue of the DHBRF e-newsletter for 2008. Following from a refreshing summer break, we hope everyone is looking forward to an amazing year! This is of course the perfect opportunity to initiate an attitude shift and create an innovation culture. Let's do it! In this issue it is highlighted that innovation really is the new black, with the recent publication of three documents addressing this in the health sector, produced by different government organizations. Focusing on different aspects of health, these provide valuable resources for DHBs when considering ideas of collaboration, innovation implementation and building on successful innovations.

We also profile Governance Group member and General Manager of Planning and Funding at Nelson Marlborough DHB, Dr Sharon Kletchko. Sharon shares her ideas on prioritising research.

With this issue also comes the announcement of the future DHBRF forum. Although early in development we hope to facilitate an online tool for communication, posting of ideas and networking.

Upcoming issues of the DHBRF newsletter will return to health priority themes, starting with chronic diseases. We have some exciting items in mind but would also like to invite readers to email us contributions around this topic, especially if you know of a research project, innovative approach, topical conference or relevant new publication that you think other readers may be interested in. Along with the old favourite *innovate*; this month's word is *interact*: please send any ideas or feedback to DHBWorkshop@hrc.govt.nz.



2. Dr Sharon Kletchko: Research Priorities from a Planning and Funding Perspective:

Dr Sharon Kletchko is General Manager, Planning and Funding at Nelson Marlborough DHB, and a member of the DHBRF Governance Group. We asked Sharon about her perspective on research priorities. Sharon believes that research is of vital importance to inform the optimal approach to Planning and Funding for DHBs. To do this effectively requires the establishment of active dialogue between researchers and planners/funders. Research must inform best practice; and, planning and funding must identify gaps in current knowledge for researchers to test and validate. The District Health Board Research Fund provides one vehicle through which DHB Planning and Funding can inform researchers of gaps.



Read Sharon's full comments [here](#).

3. Innovation for Health: DHBRF Workshop Report

While most of us were trying to come up with tricky questions for presenters, and to think of our own ways to innovate, in the background there was much scribbling of notes in order to develop a comprehensive report of the inaugural DHBRF Workshop: Innovation for Health. This report, recording the discussions, themes, highlights and outcomes, is now being finalised and is planned for release on the HRC website in the next month. Hard copies will be sent to all those that registered for the conference. If you have any enquiries about this document please email DHBWorkshop@hrc.govt.nz. We would also love to hear your feedback.

4. What should the theme of the next conference be?

The Governance Group of the research fund enjoyed the DHBRF Workshop so much they are keen to host another one already! While not yet confirmed, we would still love to hear your ideas on potential themes for the next meeting. Just email DHBWorkshop@hrc.govt.nz and we'll see what we can do. Suggestions will be published in future newsletter issues.

5. Formalising Informality: An action plan to spread proven health innovations

In January the Ministry of Health released a position paper prepared by Dr Jonathan Lomas, a Canadian specialist in the spread of research and innovation to health systems decision-making. Defining innovation spread as a "contact sport", this paper is a valuable resource when considering how to apply proven health solutions in different settings. This discussion document should be treated as a conversation starter or think-piece. The Ministry is currently holding a range of meetings with senior DHB staff to discuss the report. Get in touch with your DHB if you would like to give input.

Download [Formalising Informality](#) from the MoH website.

6. MORST Transformational Research, Science and Technology: Innovation in health delivery

The Ministry of Research, Science and Technology (MORST) recently released a document on innovation in health delivery. The paper summarises that for NZ to take advantage of innovative ideas, there needs to be better funding for RS&T in innovation in health delivery, better career support and better access to information. This DHBRF e-newsletter is even identified as a valuable mechanism starting to improve knowledge transfer!

Download [the full report](#) from the MORST website to read more.



7. Your thoughts: a DHBRF Forum

We are very excited about a tool currently under construction, ideal for increasing interaction. The DHBRF forum will shortly be launched so start thinking about items you would like to post and tell others about! This may be exciting research publications, relevant conferences or workshops, recruitment for studies, great websites you've found, closing dates for funding, collaboration opportunities, successful DHB initiatives, innovative concepts you've devised at your organisation. Watch this space!

8. Brain Awareness Week Open Days

Brain Awareness week is held internationally from 10-16 March 2008. This year the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand is partnering with the University of Auckland and the University of Otago to hold Brain Awareness week public open days at both locations to increase public awareness of neuroscience.



These events will highlight all facts of neurology, including the latest research, clinical advances, education, support services and brain health advice. The open days will feature lectures, displays and laboratory demonstrations. This innovative collaboration promotes the value of research to the clinic. Visit the Neurological Foundation [website](#) and click on the left-hand menu hotlinks to find out more about attending an event in your area.

9. 2008 MacDiarmid Young Scientists of the Year Awards:

Entries are open for the 2008 MacDiarmid Young Scientists of the Year Awards – the most prestigious given to New Zealand’s emerging scientists and researchers.

Hosted by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, the awards recognise excellence in New Zealand’s young researchers, with top marks given to entries that combine brilliant, innovative research with the ability to communicate it in a way that attracts the interest of the next generation of potential scientists and researchers. The health category is sponsored by the HRC.



If you know post-graduate or early career researchers that may be interested in entering these awards tell them to visit the MacDiarmid Awards website.

10. Next DHBRF e-newsletter:

The next eNewsletter will be due in April 2008 and based on the theme chronic disease.

11. About the purpose of the DHBRF e-newsletter:

- Provide DHBs with information relevant to DHB core business i.e. funding and planning activities
- Identify research that could inform planning for public health services
- Identify less relevant research which may have more of a biomedical focus
- Monthly communications focus on one of the priority population health goals as outlined in the New Zealand Health Strategy
- Information is taken from an annual HRC report identifying publications produced by New Zealand research teams or funded by the HRC between May 2005 – June 2006

Information included represents highlights of findings of high-quality research, readily available at the time of writing

12. Subscribe/unsubscribe

To subscribe or unsubscribe, send an e-mail containing your title, name, job title, organisation, mailing address, phone and fax number, with the subject line "Subscribe DHB eNewsletter" or "Unsubscribe DHB eNewsletter" to jlawson@hrc.govt.nz.

13. Contact Us:

To contact us telephone Aroha Haggie at the HRC on (09) 303 5207 or email: ahaggie@hrc.govt.nz



Check out the HRC's website on www.hrc.govt.nz