



**Issue 17      April 2008**

## **Research Theme** **Chronic Disease**

### **In this issue**

1. Introduction
2. Harry Rea: Clinician and Research Expert in Chronic Care Management
3. DHBRF Project Profile: Chronic Care research project
4. Alleviating the Burden of Chronic Conditions: Regional Workshops
5. Recent publications by New Zealand researchers
6. Innovation Summit
7. Next DHBRF e-newsletter
8. About DHBRF e-newsletter
9. Subscribe/unsubscribe
10. Contact us

### **1. Introduction:**

Chronic disease is one of the key priority health areas identified by the Governance Group of the DHBRF. Chronic diseases include diabetes, cardiovascular disease and respiratory disorders and other illnesses with long term health effects. Long-term care could be in all areas and with broad patient demographics including paediatrics, mental health, frail elderly or adult medical.



Chronic conditions cause over 80 per cent of all deaths in New Zealand and the prevalence of these problems will rise exponentially over the coming decades. This burden includes the gross financial impact on national health services as well as that on patients, their carers and families. Addressing this issue at a prevention level is considered the best way to target these conditions. Increasing awareness of these diseases, long term consequences for patients and managing current levels of illness are just some of the key issues we face.

In this issue of the DHBRF e-newsletter, Professor Harry Rea comments on research priorities within the field of chronic illness and the necessity of implementing relevant and specific chronic care management programmes through regional and national collaboration. The first research project funded under the DHBRF, led by Professor Martin Connolly and in the area of chronic illness, is also profiled in this issue.

Aligning with this theme, we include references to a number of fantastic papers published in the last year by HRC funded researchers for your interest. It's all happening here!

Next month's DHBRF e-news will be on the health priority theme of mental health. As usual, we would love to hear from you if you have contributions on this topic. This may be highlighting research projects, conferences, publications or anything you think relevant and interesting to newsletter readers. Just email [DHBWorkshop@hrc.govt.nz](mailto:DHBWorkshop@hrc.govt.nz)

## 2. Harry Rea: Clinician and Research Expert in Chronic Care Management:

Professor Harry Rea, another member of the DHBRF Governance Group, has the unusual dual role of clinician and researcher. A practicing clinician based at Middlemore Hospital, with a joint appointment as Professor of Integrated Care and Medicine at the University of Auckland, Harry has a broader perspective than most on ways research could directly impact clinical outcomes. Harry's feedback shares a comprehensive future-thinking interpretation of chronic care management, highlighting the need for collaboration.



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

## 3. DHBRF Project Profile: Chronic Care research project

The first project funded under the DHB Research Fund was in the area of chronic disease. A request for proposals (RFP) was released in 2006 and following standard HRC assessment the Chronic Care Steering Committee selected a project led by Freemasons' Professor of Geriatric Medicine, Martin Connolly at the University of Auckland. Current models of care for these conditions have not been translated widely into practice, and Martin and his team are addressing this problem by gathering together both international and local knowledge in the area of chronic care management and putting it into an easily digestible format. The aim of the Alleviating the Burden of Chronic Conditions (ABC-NZ) Study is to find effective interventions that will improve health outcomes, particularly for Māori and Pacific peoples, who experience higher levels of chronic disease and at a much earlier stage of life.



Download the fact sheet [here](#) to read more.

## 4. Alleviating the Burden of Chronic Conditions: Regional Workshops

As part of the DHBRF funded ABC study, regional workshops are being held around the country to enable consultation with DHBs. Phase two workshops are being held shortly as per the table below:

Region	Area	Date	Time	Venue
Northern Region	<b>Northland</b>	24th April 2008	10.00-3.00pm	Flames International Hotel Waverley Street Onerahi <b>WHANGAREI</b>
Northern Region	<b>Auckland</b>	6th May 2008	10.00-3.00pm	Pohutukawa Room Sorrento in the Park One Tree Hill Domain Royal Oak <b>AUCKLAND</b>

Midland Region	<b>Rotorua</b>	22nd April 2008	10.00-3.00pm	Aintree Room Rydges 272 Fenton Street, <b>ROTORUA</b>
Central Region	<b>Wellington</b>	28th April 2008	10.00-3.00pm	Sunderland Room Wellington Airport Conference Centre Main Terminal <b>WELLINGTON</b>
Southern Region	<b>Christchurch</b>	29th April 2008	10.00-3.00pm	Latimer Hotel and Conference Centre. 30 Latimer Square, <b>CHRISTCHURCH</b>

[Download](#) the fact sheet for more information.

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## 5. Recent publications by New Zealand researchers

New Zealand has an excellent track record in producing research results for presentation in international journals. Chronic conditions research is broad, and encompasses the translational level with interaction at the clinic as well as more fundamental research on the bench.

Download [here](#) a list of selected references published in the last year by HRC funded researchers, relevant to DHB core business.

Download [here](#) a list of research projects funded by the HRC in the area of Chronic Disease.

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## 6. Innovation Summit

A Health Innovation Summit is currently being planned for 15-17 October 2008 - Mark this date in your diaries.

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## 7. Next DHBRF e-newsletter:

The next issue of the DHBRF e-newsletter will focus on the health priority area of mental health. If you have a proposed newsletter item relevant to this theme please email [DHBWorkshop@hrc.govt.nz](mailto:DHBWorkshop@hrc.govt.nz)

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## 8. 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**

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## 9. 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](mailto:jlawson@hrc.govt.nz).

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## 10. Contact Us:

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

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Check out the HRC's website on [www.hrc.govt.nz](http://www.hrc.govt.nz)