

News Release



21 January 2008

\$1.5M awarded to develop Māori health research workforce

The Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) announced today that it has awarded \$1.5M towards the development of the Māori health research workforce through its Career Development Awards programme.

Among the award recipients are two outstanding postdoctoral Māori health researchers who have each been awarded Postdoctoral Fellowships to continue to develop their areas of research.

Dr Sarah-Jane Paine from the Sleep/Wake Research Centre at Massey University in Wellington has been awarded the HRC Eru Pomare Research Fellowship in Māori Health. Dr Paine will embark on an innovative programme of research that will advance the sleep health of all New Zealanders. This includes continuing her research into the circadian body clock and how this clock regulates sleep timing and undertaking a comparison of the prevalence of circadian rhythm sleep disorders in Māori and non-Māori, and examining relationships with age, sex, night work and socioeconomic deprivation.

Dr Paine also plans to develop best-practice guidelines to improve health service delivery for Māori.

Dr Lynne Pere from the Health Services Research Centre at Victoria University of Wellington will use her Postdoctoral Fellowship to investigate indigenous mental health. Dr Pere will research the influence of culture on the meanings that indigenous peoples from New Zealand, Australia and Canada, who have experienced mental illness, impart to their illness and the subsequent implications of this for mental health service delivery and policy.

An important part of the HRC's mission is to foster the Māori health research workforce in New Zealand. Eleven Māori Health Research Career Development

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Awards were made in the 2007 year. These include one Rangahau Hauora award, two Masters awards, five PhD awards and two Postdoctoral Fellowships.

A full list of HRC Māori Career Development Award recipients for 2007 follows:

Name	Award	Title	Host	Amount
Utiku Potaka	Rangahau Hauora	Whanau, Hapu, Iwi research models: Strengthening knowledge and development.	Te Maru o Ruahine Trust	\$12,000
Diana Johnson	Masters	Why are mental health services failing Māori homeless?	University of Waikato	\$16,000
Carl Gray	Masters	Economic evaluation of cardiac rehabilitation in New Zealand at existing and increased attendance rates among Māori and non-Māori.	University of Auckland	\$17,100
Jason Gurney	PhD	Can an exercise and footwear intervention improve the symptoms of diabetic neuropathy?	University of Auckland	102,550
Alayne Hall	PhD	Parenting patterns of Māori women who have experienced domestic violence trauma	Auckland University of Technology	\$113,050
Phoebe Macrae	PhD	Effects of neuromuscular exercise on swallowing neural controls	University of Canterbury	\$69,607
Ronald Ngata	PhD	Understanding matakite: An exploration of health-related effects of matakite experiences	Massey University	\$105,087
Christopher Rodley	PhD	The nuclear architecture of	Massey University	\$104,050

		cancer: Oncogenes in genomic space		
Julia Wilson	PhD	Pathways to panic: Genetics in the pathogenesis and treatment of panic	University of Otago	\$111,558
Sarah-Jane Paine	Eru Pomare Post Doctoral Fellowship	Moe tika, moe pai: Advancing sleep health in Aotearoa/New Zealand	Massey University	\$463,000
Lynne Pere	Post Doctoral Fellowship	The significance of culture in mental health understandings	Victoria University	\$400,000

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Notes:

About the Eru Pomare Research Fellowship In Māori Health

This award honours the legacy of Professor Eru Pomare and his contributions to gastroenterology. It provides a salary for an emerging leader in Māori health research with a PhD or equivalent for clinical or medical research. Applications from medically qualified individuals are especially welcome.

About the Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC)

The HRC is the Crown agency responsible for the management of the Government's investment in public good health research. Ownership of the HRC resides with the Minister of Health, with funding being primarily provided from Vote Research, Science and Technology. A Memorandum of Understanding between the two Ministers sets out this relationship.

Established under the Health Research Council Act 1990, the HRC's statutory functions include:

- advising the Minister and administering funds in relation to national health research policy
- fostering the recruitment, education, training, and retention of those engaged in health research in New Zealand
- initiating and supporting health research
- undertaking consultation to establish priorities in health research
- promoting and disseminating the results of health research to encourage their contribution to health science, policy and delivery
- ensuring the development and application of appropriate assessment standards by committees or subcommittees that assess health research proposals.