SUPERVISOR/S: Ryan Paul and Lynne Chepulis

PROJECT TITLE: Adequacy of diabetes education in medical undergraduate training

FIELD: Health

DIVISION/SCHOOL: HECS - School of Health

PROJECT LOCATION: Hamilton

PROJECT ABSTRACT:
Lack of diabetes-specific knowledge continues to be reported as a major factor internationally for the overall suboptimal management of diabetes in both the inpatient and outpatient settings. It is not known whether New Zealand medical graduates identify lack of knowledge as a major barrier in achieving optimal diabetes care.

The student will develop a brief online survey to be sent to all junior doctors who are working in New Zealand hospitals within three years of graduation. The survey will be distributed via the Resident Medical Officer Office in each District Health Board, for which we have the contact details for. The survey will collect basic demographic information and will use Likert scale questions to assess self-efficacy of diabetes management in both the inpatient and outpatient settings. The results will be analysed to determine whether there are any differences in self reported ability between New Zealand and international graduates and between medical schools within New Zealand. The survey will also identify the greatest areas of need for further education.

STUDENT SKILLS:
• Good computer/online skills
• Good communication skills
• Hard working
• Willing to write a publication

PROJECT TASKS:
• Send out questionnaire to each RMO office across the country
• Ensure adequacy of mail out + chase replies
• Brief literature review
• Analysis of results
• Development of poster/help prepare publication

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:
• Student’s Research Poster (as per clause 6 of the Scholarship regulations)
• That diabetes education is inadequate in NZ medical schools
• That there is a difference in self-reported diabetes knowledge between medical schools
• That education on the inpatient management of diabetes is identified as lacking