



Issue 27

April 2009

## Research Theme Found in Translation

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### 1. Introduction: Found in Translation

The DHBRF began in 2005, with a partnership between the 21 DHBs and the HRC. The primary objective was to commission research that addresses key knowledge gaps for DHBs and supports and promotes the translation of research into clinical practice. Projects are purchased to produce outcomes of value to service provision and evaluation, with broad national applicability.



We are excited that the upcoming issues of the DHBRF eNewsletter will include **contributions from DHBs** around the country, highlighting some of the research undertaken within DHBs. Different DHBs have varying capabilities, capacity, strengths and experience enabling research projects and collaborations designed to directly address their own needs as well as national health priorities. We look forward to these approaching issues!

To introduce this informal overview of DHB-based research, this issue reiterates the DHBRF priority of translational research, with the **DHBRF translational research principles** included below along with the original research priorities identified during DHB consultation.

**Professor Mason Durie**, DHBRF Governance Group member, has contributed an interesting article on one of the DHBRF research priority areas, his field of mental health,

as an example of the potential application of translational research.

An important feature of translation is often the way that it is applied, which can require innovation. NZ Trade and Enterprise recently launched their fantastic new initiative **Focus on Health – A New Zealand Innovation Challenge**, designed to commercialise NZ health solutions into the United States market. This could be a great opportunity for ideas originating at DHBs to be taken to the world. Read below for more details.

Finally, a summary and link is included to the **Health Delivery Research Landscape** document released in March by the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology. This is a valuable overview of New Zealand research capability focused on health delivery.

As mentioned above, the upcoming future issues will include DHB research initiatives. Please email [mdowie@hrc.govt.nz](mailto:mdowie@hrc.govt.nz) if you have any ideas for including in future issues of this newsletter. There is so much potential at just what could be found – in translation!

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## 2. DHBRF Review: Translational Research as a Priority

Translational research has been defined for the DHBRF. The translational research principles are:

- Maximises benefit to the health sector eg. generalisable outcomes
- Maximises opportunities for knowledge transfer eg. publishable findings
- Meets international best practice standards for research (including audit)
- Will result in improved health service delivery and outcomes over the short to medium term
- Will focus on health services and population health

These principles are important considerations for the majority of DHBRF funded research projects.

The research priority areas identified during DHB consultation when the research fund was started are:

- Chronic care
- Cancer
- Access to services
- Diabetes
- Mental health
- Child and youth services
- Maori health
- Population/public health
- Safety/medical error




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## 3. Mason Durie: The Translational Challenge in Mental Health Research

Governance Group member Professor Mason Durie is Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Maori and Pasifika) at Massey University. He is internationally recognized for his expertise in mental health, health promotion and in particular improving the health of Maori and indigenous people. Mason has contributed an article for this enews issue on the challenge of translational research in the DHBRF priority area of mental health.



Mason highlights the fact that the DHBRF “makes the [translational research] focus explicit, requiring researchers to exercise their minds and inventiveness to bridge the sometimes yawning gap between research and the provision of services”. This is attempted by using research design and methodologies of value to practitioners that still satisfies scientific requirements.

Professor Durie rightly points out that the “ultimate test of the value of the DHBRF will be whether quality of care has improved”. Download Mason’s full article [here](#).

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## 4. Focus on Health: Taking Great Kiwi Health Ideas to the United States

New Zealand Trade and Enterprise has launched a commercialisation and business development initiative that aims to help the New Zealand health sector maximise opportunities in the growing United States health market.

Focus on Health – A New Zealand Innovation Challenge

provides an outstanding opportunity for New Zealand organisations, companies, post graduates, researchers,



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A NEW ZEALAND INNOVATION CHALLENGE

health professionals and entrepreneurs to become the next New Zealand success story. It offers the chance to get connected with influential business leaders and health professionals in New Zealand and the United States, receive mentoring and support to help realise commercialisation opportunities, and the chance to win a possible share of over \$500,000 of in-kind and cash prizes.

Comprising two rounds over approximately 12 months, The Challenge features:

- Introductory workshops in June 2009 offering participants expert advice from leading United States and New Zealand health and business professionals
- Business plan workshops to assist with the development of entries
- “Pitch” training workshops for semi-finalists in preparation for presenting their entries to the judging panel
- Professional services, mentoring, and business development support for finalists
- A United States roadshow where up to 10 finalists will be introduced to potential buyers, investors, business partners and customers.
- A prize pool worth more than \$500,000 of in-kind and cash prizes.

The Challenge is delivered by NZTE in collaboration with IDC and Health Industry Insights, and support from Strategic Partner the Ministry of Health and sponsors Health Research Council of New Zealand, Edwards Life Sciences, and Microsoft.

**This is a GREAT opportunity for DHBs, where there are likely to be many eligible ideas that should be considered for entry!** Download an information sheet [here](#).

The Challenge was announced in New Zealand by Minister for Economic Development, Hon Gerry Brownlee on 21 April 2009 and was profiled on the [ASB Business \(TV3\) news](#).

For more information about The Challenge visit the [HRC Challenge Page](#) or the [NZ Focus on Health](#) website, or contact Erika Kuoch, NZTE Sector Director, ph 09 3549163, email: [Erika.kuoch@nzte.govt.nz](mailto:Erika.kuoch@nzte.govt.nz).

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## 5. TRST: Innovation in Health Delivery Landscape Document Launch

The Ministry for Research, Science and Technology (MoRST) have

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identified areas of science where new effort or investment may be warranted, defined as TRST areas (Transformational Research, Science and Technology). It is anticipated that focusing research, science and technology efforts in these areas can help to achieve sustainable economic development, enhance the health of New Zealanders and contribute to our social and environmental wellbeing.

**Innovation in Health Delivery** is one of the six TRST areas. A new MoRST report released in March provides a landscape of New Zealand's Health delivery research, pointing to public investment of around \$38 million for 2007/08, around 27% of total health-related research and development funded by government. This research is mainly applied, focused on improving people's health by applying knowledge, or improving efficiency in health and disability services.

Some themes covered in the Landscape document include research and innovation investment, building skills and collaboration networks and medical technology and commercialisation. Visit the [MoRST Innovation in Health Delivery webpage](#).

Download the **Health Delivery Research Landscape** (March 2009) document [from this website](#).

The [Innovation in Health Delivery document](#) published in July 2007 outlines the reasons why this was chosen as a TRST focus area.

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## 6 . Next DHBRF e-newsletter:

The next DHBRF enews will demonstrate how DHBs are addressing their own research needs to inform health decision making, in line with national priorities.

We are always happy to receive contributions of relevance to our readership. If you have a proposed newsletter item please email [mdowie@hrc.govt.nz](mailto:mdowie@hrc.govt.nz).

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## 7 . 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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## 8 . 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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## 9 . 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)