Upcoming symposium on rheumatic fever
The 20th instalment of the University of Otago’s Public Health Summer School will feature a one-day symposium on RF prevention and control.

Titled *Update on Rheumatic Fever Prevention and Control*, the one-day symposium will be held at the Wellington campus of the University of Otago on **Tuesday 9th February**.

A wide scope of topics will be covered, with the day themed around short presentations that address the following questions:

1. Can better housing prevent RF?
2. Can improved diet & dental health prevent RF?
3. Can improved sore throat and skin infection management prevent RF?
4. Can probiotics & vaccination prevent RF?
5. Can echocardiography significantly reduce the burden of RHD?
6. Can improved RF case management significantly reduce the burden of RHD?
7. How can NZ best use its resources for RF and RHD prevention?

Leading experts from New Zealand and Australia will present, including **Professor Jonathan Carapetis** (Telethon Institute, Australia) and a number of investigators from the **RF RISK Study team**.

More than 100 people are registered so far. It isn’t too late to join them. Full details are on Summer School website: [www.otago.ac.nz/uowsummerschool](http://www.otago.ac.nz/uowsummerschool)

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**Our Progress So Far**
(September 2014 – January 2016):

- **51** RF cases recruited and interviewed
- **102** matched controls identified
- **11** DHBs in which the study is operating
  (Northland, Waitemata, Auckland, Counties, Waikato, BoP, Lakes, Tairawhiti, Hawke’s Bay, Hutt, Capital and Coast)

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**How can you help?**
If a patient presents with **suspected rheumatic fever**, there are **two things** you can do to help this important research:

1. Check that a **throat swab** is obtained on admission from all suspect cases, and label the swab “Query Rheumatic Fever”.
2. If the patient has no chronic RHD and is <20 years old, they are a candidate for the study. Please fill in the ‘**Consent to Contact form**’, and ask the case (or caregiver if aged <16) for consent to be approached about the study.

If consent is given, **call 0800 RH FEVER or email angela.chong@cbg.co.nz** and report the case to the study coordinator.

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**Study Enquiries:** **0800 RH FEVER**  
(0800 743 383)