

8 March 2013

Researchers to share insights on cancer and health

Two researchers from Victoria University and the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research will be visiting Nelson next week to give a free public lecture on the causes and treatments of cancer, and how social and cultural factors influence our health.

Dr Bridget Stocker, who leads the immunoglycomics research team at the Malaghan Institute, and Dr Catherine Trundle, a lecturer in anthropology at Victoria University, will be speaking at the Rutherford Hotel on Wednesday 13 March at 5.30pm.

Dr Bridget Stocker's lecture, "Cancer therapy—an historic perspective" will examine the human experience of cancer throughout history. Dr Stocker will discuss some of the past theories on the causes and treatments of cancer, which date back thousands of years, describe the evolutionary stages cancer treatments have undergone, and provide an insight into the cutting-edge research taking place at the Malaghan Institute to treat the disease.

Dr Catherine Trundle, from Victoria's School of Social and Cultural Studies, will discuss how cultural and social factors shape our health. Her lecture will examine the role of culture and society in treating illnesses effectively, and how factors such as wealth, ethnicity and gender can influence our experiences with healthcare, our access to it and our expectations for treatment and cure.

Dr Trundle will also discuss the role of culture and society in the treatment of cancer, the rise in rates of depression, and the emergence of new genetic technologies, demonstrating the importance of a socio-cultural perspective for understanding illness and health.

Public Lecture

"Cancer therapy—an historic perspective" and "Social and cultural perspectives on health"

Date: Wednesday 13 March 2013, 5.30pm-8.00pm

Venue: Rutherford Hotel, Trafalgar Square, Nelson 7010

People wishing to attend the lecture should email rsvp@vuw.ac.nz with 'Health' in the subject line or phone (04) 472 1000 by Monday 11 March.

For more information, contact Dr Bridget Stocker, phone (04) 499 6914 ext 813 or email bstocker@malaghan.org.nz; and Dr Catherine Trundle, phone (04) 463 5134 or email catherine.trundle@vuw.ac.nz