



Friday, 21 May 2010

Media Release

Official Opening of Newly Upgraded Otago Clinical Skills Laboratory

Dunedin Hospital and the University Of Otago Dunedin School Of Medicine will proudly unveil their newly upgraded Otago Clinical Skills Laboratory at an official opening ceremony on Monday, 24 May 2010.

The laboratory, which provides clinical skills training and education to undergraduate students of the Dunedin School of Medicine and Southern DHB clinical staff, recently underwent a significant overhaul of its facilities.

Southern DHB Deputy Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer Tina Gilbertson says the upgrade is a major achievement which will have ongoing benefits for clinicians, students and the whole community.

"The purpose of the facility, and its programmes, is to provide an effective learning environment for health professionals to develop, refine and maintain their clinical skills.

"Having this resource available also contributes to the best possible outcomes for our community, as they will be treated by clinicians who continue gaining and maintaining their skills in a safe learning environment rather than by trial and error."

Dunedin School of Medicine Dean Dr John Adams says the facility will meet the new demands of the medical curriculum and provide enhanced learning opportunities for its medical students.

"The upgrade will also ensure that volunteers from the community are able to more easily assist our students in their learning."

The Otago Clinical Skills Laboratory was first established in 2001, with planning commencing in 2007 to establish a facility which better enabled realistic simulation of a health care working environment.

Work commenced on the project four months ago and featured the development of 12 consulting rooms and a waiting room, to allow more comfort and privacy for community volunteer patients who are assisting medical students, as well as more educational resources.

The upgrade also included a new simulated hospital room and tutorial space to provide top quality training opportunities for students and health professionals.

The total cost of the upgrade was over \$600,000. While the majority of funding was supplied by the University of Otago,, the former Otago DHB, through the

Knowledge Centre, also received generous donations from the Otago Community Trust (\$50,000), the HealthCare Otago Charitable Trust (\$30,000) and \$5,000 from the General Medical Staff Trust towards the upgrade and purchase of training and audio visual equipment.

Ms Gilbertson said both organisations were delighted and grateful to receive the funding which has resulted in a "wonderful and invaluable learning environment."

The public will have an opportunity to view the new facility at an **"Open Week" from 5-9 July, which will coincide with International Science Festival Week.**

Photo Opportunity:

Official Opening Details – Media Welcome to Attend.

The official opening of the upgraded Otago Clinical Skills Laboratory will be held on Monday 24 May 2010 from 4pm -6pm.

Opening Proceedings commence at 4.15pm sharp (followed by refreshments).

Media are welcome to attend.

ENDS

Media Queries:

Contact Jo Harvey, Southern DHB Regional Communications Officer on 027 674 1758.