

Hot Picks: eConnect issue 17

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Every semester Otago academics and visiting lecturers share a wealth of information through their public lectures – we warmly invite you to access these via Youtube. Just click the links below to enjoy these stimulating topics from experts working in a range of disciplines.

The global effort to tackle obesity and diabetes

Edgar Diabetes and Obesity Research (EDOR) and the Healthier Lives National Science Challenge co-hosted a public lecture by two international obesity and diabetes researchers on Friday 23 February, 2018, at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. Listen to the opening address by the Minister of Health, Hon Dr David Clark, and hear about the interesting links between Canada and New Zealand from Professor Jeff Reading, a First Nations expert on indigenous health. UK Professor Nick Wareham, based at Cambridge University, warns that rising diabetes and obesity rates in New Zealand could have serious economic impacts on our healthcare system, but points to potential solutions in his presentation Balancing individual and societal approaches to diabetes prevention.

[Access all presentations](#)

The 'cost' of sugar

The 'cost' of sugar forum, held at Auckland City Hospital on Thursday 16 March, 2017, was co-organised by the University of Otago's Edgar Diabetes and Obesity Research Centre

(EDOR), and two National Science Challenges: A Better Start and Healthier Lives. The forum was recorded by Radio New Zealand and aired on Friday 14 April, 2017. Hear how renowned broadcaster Kim Hill brings a real sense of energy and humour to this complex and controversial topic, as she interviews University of Otago Professors' Jim Mann and Tony Blakely, along with environmental scientist Professor Jacqueline Rowarth, about what we know, and don't know, about the cost of sugar in our society.

[Access radio broadcast and more information](#)

The Diabetes Crisis: how can we make a difference?

Twenty national and international experts on diabetes and obesity research were brought together at Auckland City Hospital on Friday 17 March, 2017, to discuss how preventive actions and treatments can make a difference to the rising tide of diabetes and obesity in New Zealand. Co-hosted by the University of Otago's Edgar Diabetes and Obesity Research Centre (EDOR), A Better Start and the Healthier Lives National Science Challenges, this event focused on a wide spectrum of approaches including public health measures, tackling social inequalities, better understanding of genetic predisposition, lifestyle changes and surgical options. View some of these presentations on the EDOR website.

[Access full list of presentations](#)

Politics Spring Lecture Series 2018

The Labour-led Government: One year on

Join us for a lively panel discussion about the first year of the Labour-led government with a particular focus on leadership, reducing inequality, climate change policy, and outcomes for Māori.

[Watch the recording](#)

Resurgent Nationalism in Europe

A panel of experts discuss the apparent resurgence of nationalism in Europe in its various forms (e.g. anti-EU, anti-immigrant, sub-state nationalism) and evaluates the extent of the revival of nationalism, the causes, and the implications for the future of the EU.

[Watch the recording](#)

Exclusion and Inclusion in the Public Sphere

Exclusion from the public sphere raises serious questions of legitimacy for any democratic society. Yet all over the world, indigenous peoples still struggle to be included on their own terms in political debate and decision-making. The experts on this panel offer their reflections on some recent cases transnationally and in New Zealand and Australia.

[Watch the recording](#)