



## **Media Release**

19 January 2011

### **Roche sponsors summer student in arthritis research project**

The Wellington Regional Rheumatology Trust has organised a summer studentship through sponsorship by pharmaceutical company Roche.

The project will see a research student review treatment outcomes for patients with arthritis who have been treated with modern biologic medicines.

“By funding this project we hope that Roche can contribute to encouraging today’s young talent into becoming tomorrow’s health researchers”, said Stuart Knight, General Manager of Roche.

The Trust will employ second year medical student Christopher Drury from the University of Otago, Dunedin School of Medicine during the summer semester to carry out the research.

Chief Executive of Arthritis New Zealand Sandra Kirby said, “It is important that we gather and share the information about the impact of arthritis on New Zealanders. These conditions are often minimised but are the leading cause of disability in this country. We’re pleased that Roche is able to contribute, as well as encouraging a young persons interest in the disease area“

As an unrestricted grant the research is carried out independently and will look at many types of arthritis and a range of innovative treatments. Dr Andrew Harrison of the Wellington Regional Rheumatology Trust hopes the research will contribute to a better understanding of how access to modern treatments can impact on the lives of arthritis sufferers.

A report on the study is expected to be available in early in 2011.

ENDS

#### **For further information contact:**

Isabel McFarlane

Communications Specialist

www.roche.co.nz  
DDI 09 635 1543  
Mobile 021 796 004  
Email [isabel.johnston@roche.com](mailto:isabel.johnston@roche.com)

### **About Roche**

Roche Products (New Zealand) Ltd is the pharmaceutical division of Roche in New Zealand, and is the leading provider of oncology medicines in New Zealand. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is a leader in research-focused healthcare with combined strengths in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. Roche is the world's largest biotech company with truly differentiated medicines in oncology, virology, inflammation, metabolism and CNS. Roche is also the world leader in in-vitro diagnostics, tissue-based cancer diagnostics and a pioneer in diabetes management. Roche's personalised healthcare strategy aims at providing medicines and diagnostic tools that enable tangible improvements in the health, quality of life and survival of patients. In 2009, Roche had over 80'000 employees worldwide and invested almost 10 billion Swiss francs in R&D. The Group posted sales of 49.1 billion Swiss francs. Genentech, United States, is a wholly owned member of the Roche Group. Roche has a majority stake in Chugai Pharmaceutical, Japan. For more information: [www.roche.com](http://www.roche.com)