Canterbury
District Health Board
Te Poari Hauora ō Waitaha

28th October 2014

Assoc Professor Geoffrey Shaw
Department of Intensive Care medicine
Christchurch Hospital

Re: Clinical Utilisation of Respiratory Elastance: The "CURE" Study – Optimising PEEP in people on mechanical ventilation

Tena koe Geoff,

Ka nui te mihi tenei ki a koe me tou roopu o nga Kairapukorero ki te hapai o te kaupapa whakahirahira mou, moku mo tatou katoa. Ko Rapunga Korero te mea nui. No reira tena koe me te roopu o ka Kairangahau, tena koutou katoa.

Thank you for submitting your research for assessment by Te Komiti Whakarite. We have made several general comments and commendations for you and the applicable Ethics Committee to consider.

- It is important to acknowledge the issues pertaining to ethnicity and to consider how ethnicity data will be collected in your study. Given the issues around ethnicity data collection in hospital databases this information should be collected in demographic information as part of the research. The Census 2006 ethnicity question is the preferred tool in recording ethnicity.

- Inclusion of accurate contact details for Māori health support in the study's Participant Information Sheet has been implemented and is an important addition for those Māori participants enrolled in your study.

- Researchers need to be aware of the importance of explaining to Māori participants whanau how the study/research data will be stored, any security measures, the length of time and the process that takes place up to the destruction of the data.

- As stated in the HRC's *Guidelines for Researchers on Health Research Involving Māori* it is important that research results contribute to Māori development. Some instances where Māori have been powerless to stop the inappropriate dissemination of information have generated unease within Māori communities. Researchers must take care to ensure that Māori participants understand and agree on which information is to be published in what formats and forums.

- It is a requirement of the ethics approval process that a final report be submitted when the research is complete. A copy of the report should be provided to me at that time. Te Komiti Whakarite would be willing to assist in the dissemination of your findings once your project has reached a successful conclusion to the appropriate Māori organisations, Māori health professionals and Māori researchers.

- My suggestions do not necessarily relate to ethical issues with the research, including methodology. Other committees may also provide feedback in these areas. I hope this letter will suffice in terms of the application. Please contact me should you need any other information that may not have been included in the letter relevant to your research.

- We appreciate you sending your findings to us. We are committed to building on-going relationships with researchers in the hope of improving Māori health.

Please refer to the following references in regard to improving Māori health status and referred to *the HRC's Nga Pou Rangahau Hauora Kia Whakapiki Ake Te Hauora Māori 2004-2008 – The Health Research Strategy to Improve Māori Health and Well being 2004-2008.* The other reference that is available is *Hauora Māori Standards of Health IV: A study of the years 2000-2005* by Bridget Robson and Ricci Harris, Māori Health Research Unit, Wellington School of Medicine. All provide Māori specific information on a range of health issues.

The recent publication *Tatau Kahukura: Māori Health Chart Book 2010*, Ministry of Health, 2010 (2nd edition), is an update relating to the socio economic determinants of health, health status and service utilisation of the Māori population. Further references are available from the HRC's *Guidelines for Researchers on Health Research Involving Māori (*page 22*),* www.hrc.govt.nz.

We do not intend to hinder the ethics approval process and therefore we do not require a response as the final decision is with the Ethics Committee. We are confident our concerns will be considered by the applicable Ethics Committee.

Heoi ano

Eru Waiti
Chairperson
Te Komiti Whakarite