Māori health and equity – frameworks, challenges and opportunities **Joanne Baxter**

Abstract: Contemporary New Zealand health and wider social policy has strengthened its focus and emphasis on the importance of equity across a wide range of societal outcomes, including health. Inequalities in the health of Māori when compared with non-Māori are substantial, pervasive and persistent. Although there have been some changes in the nature and extent of these inequalities over time, substantial gaps remain. Indeed, for some health issues, outcome gaps have been widening and Māori continue to experience relatively more poor outcomes across diverse health issues that span gender, and age-groups.

This talk will discuss the concept of health equity, outlining frameworks and contemporary contexts and approaches for thinking about equity with a particular focus on Māori health. A vision for health equity will be outlined, and challenges and opportunities for achieving equitable Māori health outcomes will be explored.