

Note date change - not the last Thursday of the month

**Otago Medical School Alumnus Association  
2013 History of Medicine Series  
Room G30, Hunter Centre, Great King Street, Dunedin  
Thursday 21st February 2013 at 5.15pm**

**Professor Margaret Tennant will present**

**'The Greatest Mother in the World': the Early Red Cross in  
New Zealand**



The Red Cross and the first Geneva Convention date back to the early 1860s, but a Red Cross presence in New Zealand dates back to the First World War, and an independent national society was not officially recognised at government level until 1932.

The Red Cross grew out of war, particularly the 1859 Battle of Solferino, its horrors graphically recorded by Red Cross co-founder, Swiss businessman Henri Dunant. The First World War established its credentials as a leading force to assist the sick and wounded on the battlefield. But after that war, the Red Cross internationally moved into a wider 'peacetime' role, prioritising the struggle against disease.

Professor Tennant's presentation will look at the emergence of the Red Cross in New Zealand, and its struggle to find a place within the constellation of voluntary organisations under this 'peacetime' mandate. Her discussion will include the relationship of the Red Cross with the medical and nursing professions, with St John, and with the New Zealand government during the first 30 years of Red Cross in New Zealand.

***This is a public lecture. All interested are  
welcome***