

Finau

PHD EDITOR

PHD matters

Telehealth is exciting and upmarket. many are indulging and advocating its use as a panacea for health and ills of individuals and society. It is the perfect tool to disseminate information and centralize power - the ultimate colonial tool. The centres of knowledge, intellect and technology now can get to the masses without having to leave the comforts of their homes. They will also determine the content, context and format of what is being presented just as the moguls who control the modern print, audio and visual media.

In this issue we present papers originating from the first Pacific regional telehealth conference. The excitement, optimism and yearning for technology was certainly there. The prompts for a reality check (e.g. robust, affordable, rust-resistant technology) were also discussed. The conference concluded with do-ables, cautions and a desire to work together. These are still largely rhetorics but more because of our busy lives rather than any lack of goodwill. So where do we go from here?

Because telehealth is more of the future generation, we have a book review from a log of that generation. I hope

that aliens will not eat PHD or the papers you are preparing for publication. Joshua have certainly provided an alibi for not writing but also raises the question "If a twelve-year old can write, how come the older, more educated and better-off intellectuals of the Pacific find it so difficult to produce?" Perhaps the latter aren't so so !

PHD has now joined the other medical and health journals of the world on MEDLINE and Index Medicus databases. This means that the aliens as well as the earthlings with links will be able to access some of the contents. We have bought PHD closer to you. Therefore the onus to use is becoming yours and the invitation for you to contribute to your own immortality is more pressing. The efforts to make all past papers from PHD available through MEDLINE are also in hand.

In another milestone, this PHD issue will also be available in the French language. It is the first completely non-English issue. We thank the SPC staff for making all this possible thus addressing mono-lingualism in a multi-lingual Pacific. An efforts such as this is so pacifically right but expensive and cumbersome. However it is so essential that we hope other languages can be used in the future. *Merci beaucoup!*

If PHD is to remain a community development tool then all of you Pacificans out there must participate, if only to express agreement or disagreement. The monolingual monologue and imperialism must cease. Telehealth and PHD must serve, not be served. For PHD to matter we must make it so.

Sitaleki A. Finau

FROM THE EDITOR

Every great advance in science has issues from
a new audacity in imagination.

John Dewey (1859 - 1952) in *The Quest for Certainty*