

Guest Editorial

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Issue Editorial

This edition of Pacific Health Dialog (PHD) commemorates 125 years of the Fiji School of Medicine. This year FSMed also completed the task of posting all past editions of PHD on the FSMed web site, making its rich literature available to the world. We have also commenced another journal, Pacific Health Voices (PHV), to complement PHD with a journal that collects all grey literature relevant to Pacific Health, past academic papers from the region and the best current work of staff and students that doesn't make it into peer-reviewed journals. PHD and PHV are now happily married in the web sites of FSMed.

The papers published herein reflect some of the recent research activity across the School, and to some degree, the main areas of interest of our 3 Research Centres: The Centre for Obesity and Non communicable Diseases (C-POND), the Pacific STI&HIV Research Centre (PSHRC) and the Centre for Health Information, Policy and Systems Research (CHIPSR). We are particularly pleased to offer case reports from the young medical writers, most of whom the staff of the Research Unit at FSMed have been assisting, and reflecting our intention with this edition to capture whatever was being written by staff and students and to carry them through to the level of publication.

FSMed has approached this task from a wide angle and by starting at the beginning. We established a position of Publications Officer (Mabel Hazelman), then realised we needed to build the confidence in our staff and senior students in writing for academic publication. So Mabel organised a writer's club which started over coffee and has grown into a

core group of people who meet regularly; progressing through the format of academic papers with Guest Speakers and using some of our own examples of work in progress. We then provided a series of writing workshops and recently went on a weekend writers' retreat. The group of writers has grown along with this support and now includes medical staff of the Ministry of Health and staff from other Colleges within the new Fiji National University (FNU). It is interesting to observe how a small amount of structured support can make such a large difference. We think now that the papers published herein demonstrate the growing capacity of FSMed, FNU and the Fiji MoH staff to contribute to knowledge through the academic literature.

Of the 3 research centres – (C-POND) is in collaboration with Deakin University; PSHRC in collaboration with the University of New South Wales and CHIPSR is supported by work from the Nossal Institute of Global Health at Melbourne University and the Institute for Health Policy in Sri Lanka. We anticipate that collaboration will continue to produce papers for academic publication. Indeed, publications from these Centres are now appearing in other journals and reports are being prepared for national Ministries, WHO, UNFPA, ILO and donors. The Centres are available to support work in their respective areas, so the offer is made to young writers to make contact the Coordinators (Wendy Snowdon, Avelina Rokoduru and Wayne Irava) and find ways to collaborate with us to develop these activities, our own skills and careers in academic writing and to contribute to knowledge.