

Finau

PHD EDITOR

PHD matters

Pacific Health Dialog is becoming more and more challenging as the energy for this labour of love wanes with age and funds remain scarce. In answer to the question "Is this the best way to spend waning health resources?" there is a resounding "Yes!" from many readers in the field and in academia. The delay in publication of this issue has brought out all our secret admirers and quite a few PHD addicts. So here we go again!

The Fiji School of Medicine has funded this issue and has largely organised many of the papers. We thank them. The issue is late because of the complications within the editorial process. We now have put in place procedures which should ensure this does not occur again.

Thanks are due to all our editors including the very busy Jan Pryor in Fiji, Dr. Rex Hunton in New Zealand, Dr. Greg Dever in Palau and Dr. Annette Sachs-Robertson in Bahrain. Thank you all for your prolonged labour with intermittent and sometimes unpredictable results. I also thank all of the authors for their contributions and I look forward to more papers from you all.

Increasingly PHD is attracting qualitative research papers. These papers have baffled and concerned many quantitative researchers, especially biomedical and laboratory thinkers. Similarly, but to a much lesser extent, the qualitative researchers are having some bother with quantitative papers. This dichotomy in the world of research provides a challenge for us all and I plead that the emphasis for every paper is its scientific value and its message. Keep these criteria in mind and look for it when writing and reading so that cross-fertilisation between the quantitative and qualitative arms of science can take place.

While many of the papers in this issue concern health in Fiji the rest of the Pacific has not been neglected. Participatory and empowering research (*insider/outsider*) methodologies feature in many of the papers in this issue. This is an new exciting area of research for Pacificans where their socio-economic status combined with environmental determinants of health, such as housing, are being highlighted and challenged. We also recognise that there are many more other determinants of health including diet, tobacco, traditional medicine, mental health, sexuality, prostitution and non-communicable diseases.

In this issue we have also included our *PHD Submission Format* for potential authors. Make a copy of them and pin them to your wall. You'll need them for your next paper!

We are also seeking to increase our editorial group to cover jurisdictions or ethnic affiliations such as Samoa, Niue, Vanuatu, Solomon Is., Tuvalu, Kiribati, Marshall Is., Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, CNMI and Maoridom. Contact me if you are interested.

Until then, thanks from us all and together let's make PHD matter. □

FROM THE EDITOR

Announcement

The Institut Louis Malarde (Papeete-French Polynesia), a member of the International Network of Pasteur Institutes, has a new web site <http://www.malarde.pf> in both French and English. Here you'll find past and present research activities, including research on the long-term control of Lymphatic Filariasis.

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Foolish the doctor who despises the
knowledge acquired by the ancients.
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