

# Finau

## PHD Matters!

Happy birthday to the cheapest PHD you can get! A cheap PHD with the best quality in the Pacific.

Ten years ago the inaugural issue Volume 1 Number 1 of *Pacific Health Dialog* was published. It was then a publication of the Pacific Basin Medical Officer Training Program in Pohnpei and the Fiji School of Medicine. From a modest beginning of 84 pages, beautiful covers, shaky resource basis and lots of labor of love, PHD has moved on to up to 300 pages for some issues, beautiful covers, needing more labors of love and promises of more stable resource base. There is a need for a birthday party and PHD secretariat is working on it. Any suggestions and contributions will be appreciated.

This is the first issue of the tenth birthday year. It's fitting that oral health is the theme, for the Pacific region is build on orations and an oral tradition. This issue shows that oral health has deteriorated reflecting the deterioration in tradition. We need to strengthen our mouths and be explicit in our oration on the plight of Pacificans. We need to speak out on the oral degradation that is taking place through inappropriate diet, colonization of the mouth, globalization by non-Pacific traditions, hybridization of knowledge and bastardization of the Pacific intellect (Wow! That was a mouthful and I feel so much better!)

For this issue many thanks to Jonacani Tuisuva and Zac Morse for editorship and moral support. It has always been this love of labor that has kept PHD alive and growing. To authors, malo 'aupito and vinaka vakalevu for your contributions. Please note also the subscription rate is

US\$60 starting with this issue or the date of expiry of your current subscription. Last but not least merci beaucoup to Dean Wame Baravilala and the Fiji School of Medicine for funding the tenth birthday issues.

The papers in this issue have covered a variety of topics in many Pacific countries and different age groups. Many of the authors have never published before but seasoned researchers are also represented (e.g. Dr. Terry Cutress) and upwardly mobile Pacificans (e.g. Dr. Temalesi King) also have made significant contributions. This diversity and support for research encouragement and capacity development is the mainstay of PHD. The details of the early development aim and the achievements of PHD can be seen in the published review "Monolingual monologue: regional issues of professional communication from *Pacific Health Dialog*" in PHD Volume 7, Number 2 in 2000. This review showed that PHD and Pacificans have come a long way in publications in the last decade compared to the previous half a century!

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On behalf of the new PHD secretariat from the new home in Fiji, the Pacific Health Research Council and the Fiji School of

Medicine we especially thank Mr. Peter Biggs for the years of producing this journal. Although the intellectual energy has been from Pacificans, Mr. Biggs have provided the physical framework to layout, print and distribute PHD all these years. Although there has been a monetary reward for this work, the tender loving care that Mr. Peter Biggs and Mrs. Glennis Biggs have been exemplary. We hope they will remain as consultants to PHRC, FSM and I in the next PHD decade and as we establish the permanent home in Fiji. To all the people that have made PHD, thanks for the tenth birthday. And last but not least, please people and more people you are humbly requested to be personally involved in the next decade. It is this spirit, love and dedication that will continue to make PHD matter!

Sitaleki A. Finau.

I love being a writer. What I can't stand is the paper work  
(Peter De Vries)