

## Guest Editorial

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

This is a momentous occasion for us to be given the opportunity to jointly introduce this issue of *Pacific Health Dialog*. Although this opportunity is a rebound at the eleventh hour we still cherish the chance to contribute again to this labour of love in its time of need.

The guest editor for this issue is unfortunately incapacitated and is unable to produce the desired editorial on time. So belatedly you got us Pacificans as rebound fillers.

The theme of this issue is "Pacific Public Health 2". As in "*Pacific Public Health 1*", *Pacific Health Dialog*, 2003; Volume 10, Number 2, public health is seen as development in practice and a purview of all not just that of the elite professionals. This means that public health practitioners, doctors, dentist, nurses, community development workers have a place to contribute, own, read and use these public health issues. Therefore the authorships and papers of each issue reflect just that broad spectrum of involvement.

The 'Original Papers' examined the place of seafood in health, its production and use in Pacific health and development. The project on the Maewo and

Ambae islands in Vanuatu deals with the realities of community development and their interface with health and collective wellness. Some of the original papers address the plights of oral health care. These articles are significant in that most are student projects, although the authorship is dominated by staff of the School of Oral health, Fiji School of Medicine.

Student research participation and authorship are essential components in the development of research capacity of Pacificans for research on Pacificans as espoused by the Pacific Health Research Council. Many of the relevant issues of this Pacifican approach are addressed by Asuzu et.al, Cuboni, et al. and Oneha et al. in their papers. For the clinician, the secondary and tertiary health prevention workers, the "Case Reports and Short Communications" articles highlight some conditions of interest and relevant to their curative work.

The review paper on "Cannabis in Papua New Guinea" highlights the interface between economic realities and health. It's almost like eating bad food today to stay alive and have an opportunity to fight for healthy food tomorrow, rather than staying hungry and perhaps die today while looking for healthy food. A similar discussion is also introduced on tobacco and alcohol by Linda Hill.

In "Viewpoint and Perspectives" Oneha et, al. elaborated on the issues of research as a tool for justice and empowerment in communities. Pande, et al. examined bureaucracy in the Pacific health systems and the importance of retaining cultural values in the face of the invasion of western administrative style.

Pacific Public Health 2 has tried to be relevant developmentally and provide the basis for constructive dialogue. It is our fervent hope that this issue will get to you, your colleagues, and your work painlessly. We have enjoyed bringing this editorial and the introducing this issue to you. We too would like to invite more Pacificans to this labour of love. We are loving it as only true Pacificans do!

## *On This Rock Stand*

*On this rock I stand  
Refuse to move  
From the ocean's songs  
My heart's full  
Of nature's sound  
Through the wind  
A whisper from you in the distant sky  
Waves whip against  
this rock in rhythm  
Never off beat.*

*Oh how I wish that  
you were here as  
I stand alone to  
obey my need  
even the grey stones  
begin to speak  
cocks crow from  
the nearby trees  
while I stand  
on this rock to  
watch the sun set  
reach up and touch  
the deep blue sky.*

*I'm alone again  
Along the edge  
Of loneliness  
I refuse to move  
From ocean songs.*

(From Peter Tupou: "The Bridge from Tonga to Aotearoa";  
Resource Books, Auckland, New Zealand)