

Finau

PHD EDITOR

PHD matters!

This is the eighth issue of PHD and its fourth year of circulation at two issues per year. It is relatively young compared to the more than 100 years of the Fiji School of Medicine or the twenty odd years of the Auckland University Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. PHD has outlived the University of Hawaii Pacific Basin Medical Officer Training Program (PBMOTP). It is older than the infant Pacific Health Program in the Department of Maori and Pacific Health, Pacific Basin Medical Association (PBMA) and the Micronesian Human Resources Development Centre (MHRDC).

All the above mentioned institutions are sponsoring and mothering PHD. The idea of a Pacific health journal was conceived somewhere in the Pacific Ocean. It was given birth to by the PBMOTP with the support of the Fiji School of Medicine (FSM). The PBMA formally adopted it as its organ. Now the Auckland Pacific Health Programme (APHP) and the MHRDC want to help raise the PHD, now that PBMOTP have gone back to the future. The MHRDC have yet to formalise the process but these two are certainly the most willing to put their money where their hearts are. I welcome the APHP into the PHD fold.

The APHP is willing to budget to fund one issue a year. The process have been initiated to achieve this. The MHRDC is seeking funds to produce future PHD issues central to its interest e.g. issues on telemedicine, health in Pohnpei, etc. The FSM on the other hand do not subscribe but receive and distribute PHD. The FSM staff also are looking to another direction for PHD and they consider Fiji to be the definitive home of PHD. All this, needless to say, is without money or other resources to commit to the task.

To date, PHD has lived where the editor and editorial committee have wandered. This rather delinquent behaviour has been developmentally enhancing for PHD but it must be time to try a foster home. That is where it is at, who will be willing to provide a home for PHD? Perhaps you may have a suggestion.



In the meantime, back at the editor's desk the PHD continues to grow. This issue includes two new sections. The first is a Reprint Section where important and Pacific relevant articles from inconspicuous sources will be reprinted with permission. The article on ciguatera is reprinted from the Queensland Museum Memoirs, volume 34(3), 1994. There are two more articles from the same source on the same topics for future issues of the same PHD. Have you got any other papers for this section? The editorial committee will decide whether the source is conspicuous or not.

The second new section is Discussion Papers. The paper is sent to commentators/discussants without the authors name for critical comment. The responses are printed together with the article and a reaction from author. The kind of paper useful for this section are those produced as keynote, advisory, briefing or background to important groups or meetings. The paper in this issue was from the 1995 Commonwealth Ministers of Health meeting in South Africa. We have chosen from within the editorial committee for the first time so that potential contributors can have a feel of the critique that may ensue. So now that you can see, please send your paper with clear instructions for inclusion in this section.

The editorial committee thank Dr Colin Tukuitonga for being the issue editor. It is not an easy task but we continue to seek out those who can rise to the PHD challenge. We also thank Emma Mihaere for the diligent collation and facilitation of this issue. For the future the issues in the pipeline include: Health of Native Hawaiians, Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases, Health of Tongans, Health of New Zealand Maori, Telemedicine in the Pacific, and Health in Pohnpei. Discussions on an issue about Health of Pacificans in the USA is underway. Some are in the bag with cheques in the mail but others are still being conceived.

What do you think? Should we increase the number of issues per year? How can we get more subscribers? Have you a suggestion for a thematic issue? Would you like to be an issue editor? Any suggestions for a foster home? And so on. Please talk, email, fax and/or post a letter to the editor. It is only when you chatter that PHD matters.

We hope that the two new sections in this issue will take PHD closer to dialogue and away from the accusations of monologue. The latter, of course, have been said but no letters have emerged. It takes two to dialogue! We expect you to add to the discussion initiated by these sections. With that kind of participation, PHD will definitely matter! So please rise to the challenge. □

EDITORIALS