

Finau

PHD EDITOR

PHD Matters

Greetings! Thank you to Dr Mike O'Leary for being the Issue Editor and to Emma Mihaere for her valuable editorial assistance. Many thanks also to the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office and the Suva office for funding and supporting this issue of an emerging health journal of the Pacific for Pacific health workers. It has been an exciting learning experience working on this issue with Dr Mike O'Leary and WHO. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

PHD is, of course, an instrument through which Pacific voices on health and related issues can be heard. So far this has been so – but there have been no lack of attempts to colonise it as well. Many thanks to those stalwart supporters and die-hards who have striven to make PHD matter.

The next issue in September will be on the health issues affecting native Hawaiians – so keep the articles and subscriptions coming in. Dr Rex Hunton and his colleagues at the Fiji School of Medicine are working on a Fiji PHD issue. We look forward to this one!

Early this year there was a dialogue in Chuuk about the past and future of PHD. Consequently, the Micronesia Human Resources Development Centre (MHRDC) has formalised its support to PHD – adding to the Editorial Committee Dr Jan Pryor. Other editorial representatives added were Dr Victor Yano, representing the Pacific Basin Medical Association and Dr Wame Baravilala for the Fiji School of Medicine. I am disappointed that we have no women representatives – however I am optimistic that this will change in the future.

These editors will provide institutional news to PHD. I wonder whether regional institutions, such as SPC, would also like to have editorial representatives. Let PHD know!

To the Advisory Board we welcome Marie Lanwi (Marshall Islands), Maureen Fochtman (Guam), Fran Hezel (Pohnpei), Don Pearson (Tripler Medical Center, Hawaii), Joe Flear (MHRDC), Seini Kupu (Tonga) and Joe Iser (US Public Health Services, San Francisco). We also thank and farewell John Connel, Christian Gulbrandsen, Paul Cullen and Professor S. Naraq.

Drs Marie Lanwi and Seini Kupu are the PHD Country Editors as well for their countries. They are busy organising the issues on Marshallese and Tongans, respectively. If there are any country editors out there, please get in touch with the editor at the earliest opportunity. Thank you to all the labourers of love!

There was some PACNET dialogue on PHD and Info Action. That was useful – but more is needed. Things should happen after the rhetoric. It did – and this can be seen in the many SPC based articles in this PHD issue.

Of special note are the efforts to develop health information systems and research in the Pacific. The papers on training in public health in the Pacific are essential reading – first dialogue then action. As a part of this, Info Action has come into being as a regional vehicle. Congratulations to SPC and I hope there is a note in Info Action about PHD!

Any other emerging themes for future PHD issues and / or volunteer issue editors out there? We are especially waiting for Palau, Niue, Tonga and Maori issue editors to step forward!

Again this PHD issue is a big one and the articles are from a variety of viewpoints with varying length and contents – but all converge on the many facets of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases in the Pacific. I thank all the contributors to this issue and hope that you, the readers, will absorb, dialogue and act upon the rhetoric. That is what will make PHD matter! □



Wounds heal and become scars. But scars grow with us.

Stanislaw Lec

Unkempt Thoughts