

Finau

PHD Editor

Guam! Health transition! What a match! The Chamorros should have completed the transition by now with all the resources and might at Guam's disposal. However, many of the papers in this PHD issue still expostulate the plight of linear and non-linear transition. When will health transition ever end? May be never, for change is inevitable and the velocity fluctuates with time, fashion and the observer. Herein lies the dilemma for Pacificans in transition, with minimal influence on global trends controlling an erratically moving target (the end of transition).

According to the papers in this issue of PHD, the situations above have lead to fatalism, adverse risk taking, and subjugation to external forces leading to increased mortality and morbidity. Perhaps, life in the Pacific paradise has become just a cemetery of cadavers wondering around waiting for death certification and eventually burial. This cannot, and must not, be so. Therefore the papers have also indicated ways out of this death trap to that paradise lost, without dwelling excessively on the wreathes of the "noble savages". There is need to remove the silken shroud of

imperialism and a self-strengthening of the Pacificans' desire for the day under the Pacific sun.

Leslie Butt, in the special feature, Health Transitions in the Pacific, has led off a series of papers on this topic. These have formed the context in which to absorb and adsorb the papers on Guam and from the other Pacific jurisdiction on: food and nutrition; food production and security; disease events; and cultural survival and responses. We thank the authors for enriching our epidemiology and epistemology on why health transition theory is at odds with Pacific reality. We also thank the Guam University and the Fiji School of Medicine for providing the resources for this issue of PHD.

Looking ahead at the next 2 issues of Volume 10, # 1 and 2, 2003, these will be on "Oral Health In the Pacific" and "Public Health for, and by, the Pacificans", respectively.

Please note that PHD is coming of age with those 2 issues. It has been 10 years since the Inaugural Issue back in 1994. An analysis of the early years, the first 9 issues from 1994 to 1998, concluded that PHD "has contributed much to the support of Pacific-based research and health information generation and dissemination in the Pacific" {PHD, 2000; 7(2): 127-135}. When the next PHD issues come we should sing "*Happy Birthday*" then. In the meantime thank you everyone and let's look to the next decade with PHD!

All these of course make and show that PHD matters!



The only limits are, as always, those of vision.

James Broughton

Subscription, author information, back issues and more at www.resourcebooks.co.nz/phd/phd.htm