

PACIFIC HEADS OF HEALTH

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**HEALTH WORKFORCE TRAINING – UPDATES FROM THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE,
NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES, FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**
(Paper presented by Dr Donald Wilson, Fiji National University)

AT A GLANCE

- The College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences (CMNHS) at the Fiji National University (FNU) continues to train the health workforce for the region through its 80 undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in various areas of medicine, public/allied health, dentistry and nursing.
- For Semester 1 2024, out of 2,745 enrolled students, 82% are enrolled in undergraduate programmes, and 15% are from Pacific Island Countries outside Fiji.
- Of the 80 registered programmes, the CMNHS portfolio has 6 internationally accredited Programmes:
 - Bachelor of Medical Imaging Sciences (BMIS)
 - Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Sciences (BMLS)
 - Bachelor of Health Service Management (PGDHSM)
 - Postgraduate Diploma in Health Service Management (BHSM)
 - Master's in Health Service Management (MHSM),
 - Postgraduate diploma in Eye Care (PGDEC).
- New programmes that were approved by the FNU Senate in 2023 and are on offer now are:
 - Bachelor of Dental Technology
 - Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Dentistry (General Practice)
 - Postgraduate Diploma in Otolaryngology
 - Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (ICN)
 - Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
- Several PIC's have requested FNU for in-country delivery of several specific clinical postgraduate programmes
 - Midwifery (RMI & Cook)
 - Enrolled Nursing (Nauru & Tuvalu)
 - BN (LE) – Tonga

- Through the Fiji Institute of Pacific Health Research (FIPHR) located within the CMNHS, regional research projects and training initiatives continue to be progressed, which are resulting research capacity building and research dissemination through publications, conference presentations, etc.
- For 2024, we keep progressing discussions on:
 - Master of Medicine in Orthopedics
 - PGD Radiology
 - Short Courses, in addition to planned short courses.

2023 GRADUATION AWARDS

- ✓ Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons Braham Pearlman Award for Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Dentistry - **Tonga**
- ✓ International Association of Dental Research Oceania Section Best Research Student Award – **Tonga**
- ✓ Australian Institute of Medical and Clinical Scientists (AIMS) Special Award in the programme Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science – **2 from Tonga**
- ✓ Award for the highest academic achievement in the Masters Anaesthesia jointly sponsored by the Australia and New Zealand societies of Anaesthesia - **Samoa**
- ✓ Saubhag Balgovind prize for the most outstanding graduate in Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing Leadership & Management – **Tonga**
- CMNHS graduated 947 students in 2023
- Masters – 60
- Postgraduate Diploma – 190
- Postgraduate Certificate – 65
- Bachelor's Programme – 546
- Diploma Level – 3
- Certificate level – 83
- 19% (181) were regional students.

PROGRAMMES FOR INFORMATION AND RESEARCH DISSEMINATION:

Health Professions Education Symposium: Tentatively 3-5 July

Pacific Islands Health Research Symposium: Tentatively Sep 2-4, followed by manuscript writing workshop on Sep 5-8. Venue TBC

RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE HEADS OF HEALTH

Recommendations for governments

- Delays in release of offer letters for regional students (especially for MBBS prog) is usually due to waiting time for confirmation of scholarships from countries. FNU is usually advised that the government has scholarships available for those students, requesting FNU for offer letters. Often, these students have not met the necessary minimum entry requirements, so it is advisable for governments to not offer conditional scholarships without a letter from FNU
- Delays in confirmation of offer letters for applicants are also due to incomplete application forms, and submission of full required application documents, before the close of applications (normally end of November)
- To support calls for programme advisory board membership – to ensure FNU programmes capture regional industry perspectives

Recommendations for development partners

- To support regional marketing of programmes, and consider sponsorship of a number of students to programmes that are currently running on low student intake (MMED Psychiatry; M-SRH; Nurse Practitioner Masters)
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