



PSRH Newsletter April 2026



PSRH Conference Reminders!



Time is Ticking!

Preparations for the 16th PSRH Biennial Scientific Conference in Tonga are progressing well, with strong engagement across the region.

Abstract Submissions: Are now closed. We thank all members and colleagues who have submitted abstracts and acknowledge the Scientific Committee for their significant work in reviewing submissions.

Early Bird Registration - Closing end of April
Register early to secure reduced rates.

Travel & Accommodation - We recommend booking flights and accommodation early to avoid rising costs and limited availability.

<https://psrh.org.nz/2026-psrh-conference-1419/>



You will need to open an Oxford Abstract account to register for workshops & Conference it is free to open!





PSRH PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS SEPTEMBER 2026, NUKU'ALOFA, TONGA



Pre Conference Workshops

PSRH are offering 6 workshops pre-conference. Most have limited capacity, so book early so you are not disappointed.

One-Day Sessions (14th September 2026 ONLY)

- Pre-invasive diseases of the lower genital tract: Improving capacity
- Perineal repair & obstetric anal sphincter injuries (OASIS)

Two-Day Sessions (14th & 15th September 2026)

- PEMNeT-FSEP joint workshop: Teamwork, communications & fetal monitoring
- Comprehensive contraception in the Pacific health systems
- Pacific research & audit

Two-Day Sessions (12th & 14th September 2026)

- Ultrasound scanning

For everything you need to know about the conference, workshops and registration



To register for the conference & workshops just go to the PSRH website

All registrations are being processed through the Oxford Abstracts platform. Please create a free account to select your preferred workshops and additional activities.



PEMNeT Subcommittee Volunteers (2 Roles)

Pacific Emergency Maternal and Neonatal Training (PEMNeT)

Safer Care • Stronger Teams • Healthier Families

PEMNeT is seeking **two volunteers** to support emergency obstetric and neonatal training across the Pacific

ROLE 1: Research & Evaluation Lead

- Interest in emergency obstetric education research
- Support evaluation, data, and publications

ROLE 2: Project Management & Planning Lead

- Interest in project coordination and budget planning
- Support logistics, timelines, and grants

✓ **COMMITMENT**

- 2-4 hours per week
- Fully remote

✓ **IMPORTANT**

- Voluntary (unpaid)
- No funding available

✓ **APPLY**

Submit an email with Expression of Interest outlining:

- Background
- Preferred role
- Interest in PEMNeT



Email contact:

rebecca.mitchell@psrh.org.nz

Warm Pacific greetings – we welcome your involvement.

Regards
Sharron and Rebecca





Education & Professional Development Opportunities

SOMANZ–PSRH Obstetric Medicine Webinar Series

SOMANZ

SOCIETY OF OBSTETRIC MEDICINE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

The inaugural session of the PSRH–SOMANZ webinar series was successfully held on March 25th, marking the beginning of a new collaborative platform connecting Pacific clinicians with specialist expertise in obstetric medicine.

The session was well attended, with participation from across the region, reflecting strong interest in case-based, clinically relevant learning. The format enabled practical discussion and shared insights, reinforcing the value of multidisciplinary engagement and regional connection.

We acknowledge the leadership and coordination of the SOMANZ team, particularly Dr Renuka Shanmugalingam, alongside PSRH co-chairing support. Special recognition is extended to the presenters, Dr Karalaini Bulouniwasa and Dr William Pau'u whose contributions set a high standard for the series.

Early feedback from organisers highlights the strength of the collaborative effort and the quality of the session delivery, with plans already underway for the next webinar on Anaemia in Pregnancy.

This series represents an important step in strengthening ongoing access to subspecialty knowledge and fostering sustained professional connections between Pacific clinicians and regional networks.

PACIFIC VOICES IN ACTION:

Dr Nanise Sikiti – ANZGOG Annual Scientific Meeting



“PSRH Board Member Dr Nanise Sikiti (Fiji) recently presented at the ANZGOG Annual Scientific Meeting, highlighting the realities of delivering gynaecological oncology care in low-resource Pacific settings.

Dr Sikiti’s presentation focused on the management of cervical and vulval cancers across the region—where geography, limited infrastructure, and delayed presentation significantly influence outcomes. Drawing on real clinical experience, she outlined how Pacific clinicians adapt care pathways, prioritise available resources, and strengthen referral systems to provide the best possible care for women.

A key message was the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration and regional partnerships. Initiatives such as Pacific-based MDT tumour boards and global training programmes continue to support the development of a sustainable oncology workforce within the region.

This work reflects PSRH’s ongoing commitment to strengthening specialist capacity and ensuring that Pacific-led solutions continue to shape care delivery across our island nations.





Meet Dr Ebony Pulu, PSRH Coordinator from Niue

Dr Ebony Pulu is part of a small but dedicated clinical team at Niue Fook Hospital, where reproductive health is an integral part of everyday care. With limited workforce capacity, including midwifery services, over the past decade, she works across a wide range of clinical needs in a culturally sensitive setting.

Working in Niue has highlighted the importance of accessible and culturally appropriate reproductive health care. Returning home to serve her community has strengthened her commitment to this work and shaped her clinical practice.

In this setting, leadership is shared across the team, with clinicians managing diverse reproductive health needs including family planning, early pregnancy care, and labour support. Further training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology has strengthened Dr Pulu's confidence in supporting patients locally and making critical decisions around care and referral.

One contribution she is most proud of is supporting a young woman through an unplanned pregnancy and later seeing her and her family thriving with a healthy child. Dr Pulu notes that increasing access to training opportunities remains important, particularly enabling participation in more than one pre-conference workshop to maximise learning for clinicians from smaller island settings.





Programme Update

Veilomani 2026

Strengthening Pacific Women's Access to Health and Safety (SPACE)

The 2026 Veilomani training continues with strong participation across the region, with recent sessions focusing on strengthening survivor-centred approaches to gender-based violence care.

This week's session highlighted the importance of self-care for health workers, recognising the impact of repeated exposure to trauma in clinical and community settings. Participants reflected on the risks of secondary traumatic stress, vicarious trauma, and burnout, and explored practical strategies to support personal wellbeing and sustain their ability to provide care.

The session reinforced that workforce wellbeing is not separate from service delivery, but an essential component of safe, effective, and compassionate care. Practical tools discussed included simple daily practices, peer support, and workplace approaches that enable staff to manage ongoing exposure to trauma-related work.

Participation is free and open to both PSRH members and non-members. **The series will conclude on 28 May.**

Pacific Emergency Maternal and Neonatal Training (PEMNeT) Cook Islands

Planning is well underway for the upcoming PEMNeT workshop in Rarotonga, continuing PSRH's focus on strengthening emergency maternal and neonatal care through practical, team-based training.

This marks an important step in extending PEMNeT to the Cook Islands for the first time, with strong leadership and coordination from the local clinical team. The programme will bring together participants from across the country, including outer island representatives, ensuring that learning is shared more broadly and supports workforce strengthening across settings.

The workshop is designed around real-world clinical scenarios, supported by local guidelines and existing emergency systems, with a strong emphasis on teamwork, communication, and context-appropriate care. Pre-reading materials and locally adapted content are being incorporated to support immediate application in clinical practice.

We are grateful to our Pacific and international faculty who continue to contribute their time and expertise in support of colleagues across the region, and to our development partners, including UNFPA, for enabling participation from outer island clinicians.

Post-course reflection and follow-up discussions are planned with the local team to support sustainability and ongoing integration into routine clinical practice.



PSRH Membership

**Membership ended
31 March 2026.**

**Renewals open 1 April
2026. Renew today!**

STRENGTHENING THE PACIFIC REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH WORKFORCE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

As we move into the second quarter of 2026, PSRH's focus continues to shift from programme delivery to sustained engagement across the region. Our work remains centred on strengthening clinical capability, supporting professional networks, and ensuring that Pacific clinicians are connected to opportunities for learning, collaboration, and leadership.

In April, we also recognise World Health Day and the global commitment to health equity. Across the Pacific, strengthening the reproductive health workforce remains central to achieving equitable access to care, particularly in small and resource-constrained settings. PSRH's ongoing work continues to contribute to this shared regional and global priority.



PSRH's work continues to build on regional collaboration, shared learning, and strengthening the reproductive health workforce across the Pacific. We encourage members to remain engaged with upcoming activities and opportunities throughout the year.



Contact PSRH:



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www.psrh.org.nz

[Conference registration via PSRH website](#)



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