



PSRH

AUGUST 2024.

NEWSLETTER

**FREE WEBINARS
DON'T MISS OUT!**

**Join us at the
Gynae Oncology
Services &
Cervical Cancer
Screening
Webinar**

29th August 2024

Host:

Dr Nanise Sikiti
Gynae Oncologist - Fiji

Speakers:

Dr Ulai Tapa Fidow - Samoa
Dr Unaisi Tabua - Fiji
Dr Ioanna Beiatou - Kiribati

Times

5pm AU (AEST), Port
Moresby
6pm Vanuatu
7pm Fiji, NZ
8pm Tonga, Samoa

[Register here](#)

**ALL WEBINARS ARE
60 MINUTES AND
REGISTRATION
IS ESSENTIAL**



Profile

Dr Nanise Sikiti, Gynae Oncologist

Can you briefly describe your career journey and your current role?

I was born and raised in Levuka, Ovalau. After primary and secondary education in Levuka, I attended the University of the South Pacific for Foundation Science. I graduated from the Fiji

School of Medicine with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. My internship was at Labasa Hospital, followed by two years at Tukavesi Health Centre. I then spent eight years at Colonial War Memorial Hospital, earning a postgraduate diploma and master's in OBGYN. In 2015, I received an award from the Asia Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and presented my master's thesis in Malaysia and Vancouver. In 2019, I joined the global training fellowship in gynae oncology through the International Gynaecology and Cancer Society, completing it in 2022. Currently, I work at Lautoka Health Care Fiji as a consultant gynae oncology specialist.

What inspired you to join the PSRH board?

I joined the board to make a difference in the healthcare of Pacific women, particularly in gynae cancers. I aim to address challenges, improve outcomes, and contribute to preventative cervical cancer programs through PSRH. Additionally, I value networking among the Pacific Islands to support healthcare with my gynae oncology expertise.

What have been your main contributions so far?

This is my third year on the board. My contributions include oncology expertise, serving as board secretary, and linking PSRH to the global oncology community. I ensure the IGCS tumor board runs smoothly and am helping to establish the oncology subcommittee, linking it to the board and setting goals to support Pacific Island countries.





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THE RANZCOG 2024 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING (ASM) IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND: 12 TO 16 OCTOBER.

This year the [theme](#) of our [ASM](#) is “Partnerships in Practice” in which we will be exploring the nature of the many partnerships we have as clinicians. Our [program](#) has been formed in part to reflect RANZCOG’s role in the Asia-Pacific. We are extremely proud that the Arthur Wilson Memorial Oration will be presented by Moananu Dr Karaponi Okesene-Gafa, who was selected by the RANZCOG 2024 Organising Committee as her career reflects the theme of the ASM as well as recognition for her years of work in the field of women’s health.

Make sure you [register](#) before 7 August to take advantage of up to a 20% on registration for the ASM!

12-16 OCT



[Find out more](#)



PSRH is Invited to the Pacific Regional Clinical Service Directors Meeting

We are excited to announce that PSRH has been invited to present at the **15th Directors of Clinical Services Meeting, organized by the Pacific Community (SPC)**, from 13th to 15th August 2024 at the Tanoa International Hotel in Nadi, Fiji. Dr. Ulai Tapa Fidow, President of PSRH, will deliver a presentation titled "The Pacific Society for Reproductive Health’s (PSRH) Contribution to Building Sustainable Health Systems." This gathering aims to review, discuss, and make recommendations on critical issues impacting clinical services in the region, including Clinical Governance, Education and Research, Health Emergencies, Health Workforce, Pacific Clinical & Nursing Networks, and Regional Clinical Services Updates.

Our participation will provide a platform to showcase our activities and plans, particularly the initiatives of our newly formed Cancer Subcommittee, with a focus on gynecological cancer in the Pacific. This meeting also offers a unique opportunity to foster more effective working relationships with our membership, as it brings together key leaders from across the region. We are grateful to be included in this Pacific Leaders Forum, ensuring that PSRH continues to play a pivotal role in enhancing reproductive health services in the Pacific.





PSRH NEWSLETTER

Breastfeeding Awareness Week 1-7th August

Don't miss out on the **FREE** webinar that PSRH are offering to celebrate:



To Celebrate World Breastfeeding Week, Join PSRH with Carole Dobrich B. Sc., RN, IBCLC.



Infant feeding after a disaster

Virtual education session:
7th August 2024
6pm Au (AEST)
7pm Vanuatu
8pm NZ, Fiji
9pm Tonga, Samoa



Registration is **FREE**

[REGISTER FOR THE BREASTFEEDING WEBINAR NOW](#)



Thank you!
To Professor Kirsten Black for her informative presentation in July on postpartum contraception



Pacific Island Cervical Cancer Screening Initiative

The Pacific Island Cervical Cancer Screening Initiative (PICCSI) aims to eradicate cervical cancer in the Pacific Islands by screening women for Human Papillomavirus (HPV), the virus that causes cervical cancer. Similar to methods used in Australia and New Zealand, PICCSI employs on-the-spot PCR testing to detect HPV within one hour. Women who test positive are offered immediate treatment to prevent the progression of cervical cancer. This same-day approach reduces the number of women lost to follow-up and lowers long-term cancer rates. Since its inception in Fiji in 2018, PICCSI has planned expansions across the Pacific, contingent on funding. PICCSI, a non-profit organisation, relies on self-funded volunteers from Australia and collaborates closely with local healthcare teams to provide services, health education, and advocacy. The initiative also collects critical data on HPV prevalence, educates local healthcare workers, and ensures cultural, social, and environmental responsibility by leveraging the expertise of the Melbourne-based Australian Centre for the Prevention of Cervical Cancer (ACPCC). To get involved or for more information, visit <https://piccsi.org>





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Ultrasound Needs Assessment



The PSRH Ultrasound Faculty are working to ensure future ultrasound workshops are effectively designed to meet our Pacific members needs. To assist our work, we have developed a needs assessment survey. Please click the link below or copy and paste it into your web browser to participate. We encourage you to share this survey with colleagues involved in obstetric or gynaecologic ultrasounds to help us tailor our teaching to everyone's needs.

LINK:
[Pacific obstetric and gynaecological ultrasound needs assessment](#)

Dr Nanise Sikiti, Gynae Oncologist Profile Continued:

What challenges have you faced in your career, and how did you handle them?

Challenges include patient education, language barriers, HR issues, and facility limitations. As a gynae oncologist, my biggest challenge is treating patients who present at late stages due to low screening coverage. I hope to train more local gynae oncologists and strengthen our network to better address these challenges.

What do you hope to see in the future of reproductive health in the Pacific?

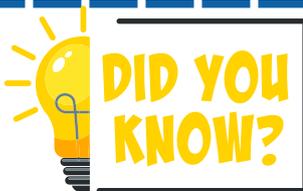
I hope all Pacific Island women have good access to healthcare, with cervical cancer screening coverage exceeding 70% as per WHO targets. I envision increased health education, awareness, empowerment, specialized cancer centres, and trained local professionals to ensure no Pacific woman dies from cervical cancer.

Research Profile

Open access to the latest research article
[Strengthening cancer control in the South Pacific through coalition-building: a co-design framework](#)

Amelia Hyatt Belinda Chan Rob Moodie Megan Varlow Chris Bate Sunia Foliaki et al.

Published: January 13, 2023
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanwpc.2022.100681>



PSRH O&G units with cancer cases can get second opinions through monthly virtual tumor board meetings. Contact PSRH or Dr Nanise Sikiti nanise.sikiti@psrh.org.nz for more details.



Contact the secretariat team at secretariat@psrh.org.nz. Alternatively, you can contact volunteerkj@psrh.org.nz or the Head of Secretariat at amanda.noovao-hill@psrh.org.nz

