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From: Pacific <volunteerkj@psrh.org.nz>
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To: karoljohnson033@gmail.com
Subject: Catch Up with October 2024 PSRH Newsletter Updates 📧



PSRH Newsletter

October 2024



We're excited about
Dr. Lee's webinar this
month!

Come be a part of it by
registering now!

Click in the picture to register.

PSRH WEBINAR
HEPATITIS B
Join Dr Alice Lee for an
update on Hep B and
Vaccinations

20

5pm AU (AEST)



Profile:

Dr Falahola 'oe Langi Fuka, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, PSRH Board Secretary

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

I am a Tonga-born physician specialising in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. I completed my medical education in Fiji and Samoa earning my Master's degree in Obstetrics and Gynaecology from The Fiji National University, Suva Fiji. Additionally I completed a Masters in Public Health from St Luke's International University, Tokyo, Japan in March this year. With a strong passion for women's health, I have served as a specialist at Vaiola Hospital in Tonga. I have received several awards for my contributions to the field, including Best Candidate MMed (Obstetrics and Gynaecology) Award and the AFOG/RANZCOG Young Gynecologist Award.

What inspired you to join the PSRH Board?

I am passionate about women's health and believe that a multi-level, multi-sector approach is necessary to address women's health issues effectively, especially in resource-limited settings. The PSRH platform provides me with the opportunity to implement such strategies.

What have been your main contributions to PSRH so far?

I believe that the PSRH platform has been instrumental in improving women's and children's health in Tonga and the region. It has mobilised health workers, promoted evidence-based practices, and facilitated collaboration among stakeholders. PSRH has also been effective in advocating for the rights and needs of young Pacific women and girls.

What's one major challenge you've faced in your career and how did you handle it?

I believe that traditional gender roles and stereotypes can hinder women's progress in the Pacific region, particularly in the health sector. I emphasize the importance of advocating for gender equity and women's leadership to ensure safe, inclusive healthcare services.



What initiatives is PSRH involved in?



PSRH presented at the **Global Emergency Care Symposium** on improving emergency and operative care in the Pacific, aligning with the **World Health Organization Resolution 76.2**. This resolution calls for integrating emergency care into universal health coverage, which is crucial for the Pacific given its high maternal and neonatal mortality rates.

PSRH Pacific Emergency Maternal and Neonatal Training (PEMNeT)

PEMNeT empowers Pacific healthcare professionals to provide emergency obstetric and neonatal care, aligning with Resolution 76.2. By building local capacity and fostering collaboration, this initiative ensures timely, coordinated, and effective care for maternal and neonatal emergencies in the Pacific region.

Watch for the upcoming PEMNET in-country training highlights



Hep B and reducing transmission

Hepatitis B is a major public health problem in the Pacific, with high transmission rates. Maternal-to-child transmission is a significant concern. PSRH supports initiatives to screen pregnant women and provide antiviral treatment to reduce transmission and protect mothers and newborns. This contributes to the goal of eliminating Hepatitis B in the Pacific.



Laparoscopic Training Workshop at [unclear] Expanding Minimally Invasive Surge

Gynae Cancer: Awareness raising

Gynaecological cancers, particularly ovarian and cervical cancer, continue to be a major health concern in the Pacific due to limited access to screening and treatment services. HPV vaccination and regular screening are vital for the prevention and early detection of cervical cancer. PSRH remains committed to advocating for increased awareness and access to these life-saving services. In collaboration with national programs and healthcare providers, we are working to strengthen screening, vaccination, and treatment efforts to ensure that women across the Pacific receive the care they need.



Pinktober

October, also known as Pinktober, is dedicated to raising awareness about breast cancer, which is the most common cancer affecting women in the Pacific. Early detection through self-examination and regular mammograms is crucial to improving outcomes. In addition to breast cancer, we must also focus on raising awareness of cervical cancer, the leading cause of cancer deaths among Fijian women. This preventable cancer can be eliminated with effective screening and early intervention.

PSRH is actively working with Pacific Island nations to support cancer elimination programs and enhance access to curative services such as gynaecologic oncology and laparoscopic treatments.

Thank you!



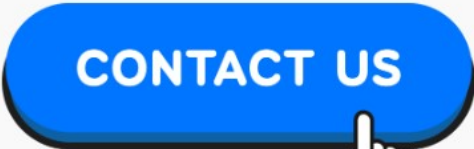
Frances Kalita Penaia from the
National University of Samoa
and

Dr. Nicole Hight from COPE for
presenting at the September Perinatal
Mental Health Webinar. Your
contributions are
gratefully appreciated!



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