



Promoting student collaboration to build an interconnected medical workforce across the Pacific: the Pacific Medical Students' Association (PMSA)

Kishan Chand¹, Madeleine Marsland², Shoma Dutt¹, Nathaneal Caleb¹, Nashwa Saad³, Jason Ratcliffe⁴, Shradha Singh¹, Abdul Shaheed⁵, Aidan Kashyap²

¹ University of Fiji; ² Monash University; ³ University of Melbourne ⁴ University of Queensland ⁵ Fiji National University



INTRODUCTION

- The Pacific Region encompasses a diverse group of nations, ranging from the tiny island nation of Nauru to the highly developed country of Australia.
- Whilst some Pacific nations have access to a high level of healthcare facilities, others have health outcomes amongst the poorest in the world.
- Established in 2016, the Pacific Medical Students' Association (PMSA) aims to bring together medical students from the Pacific Islands, Australia and New Zealand to facilitate global partnerships and demonstrate that the practice of medicine transcends borders.



METHODS

Southern Hemisphere Medical Camp

- Annual conference, held for the first time in December 2017
- Week-long program that aims to provide ~150 students with specialized training and knowledge that enables them to actively contribute their medical skills in resource-limited environments.
- Emphasis on fostering connections between delegates (and expert speakers!) from vastly diverse backgrounds as they spent a week camping and socialising with each other.



Pacific Medical Students' Journal

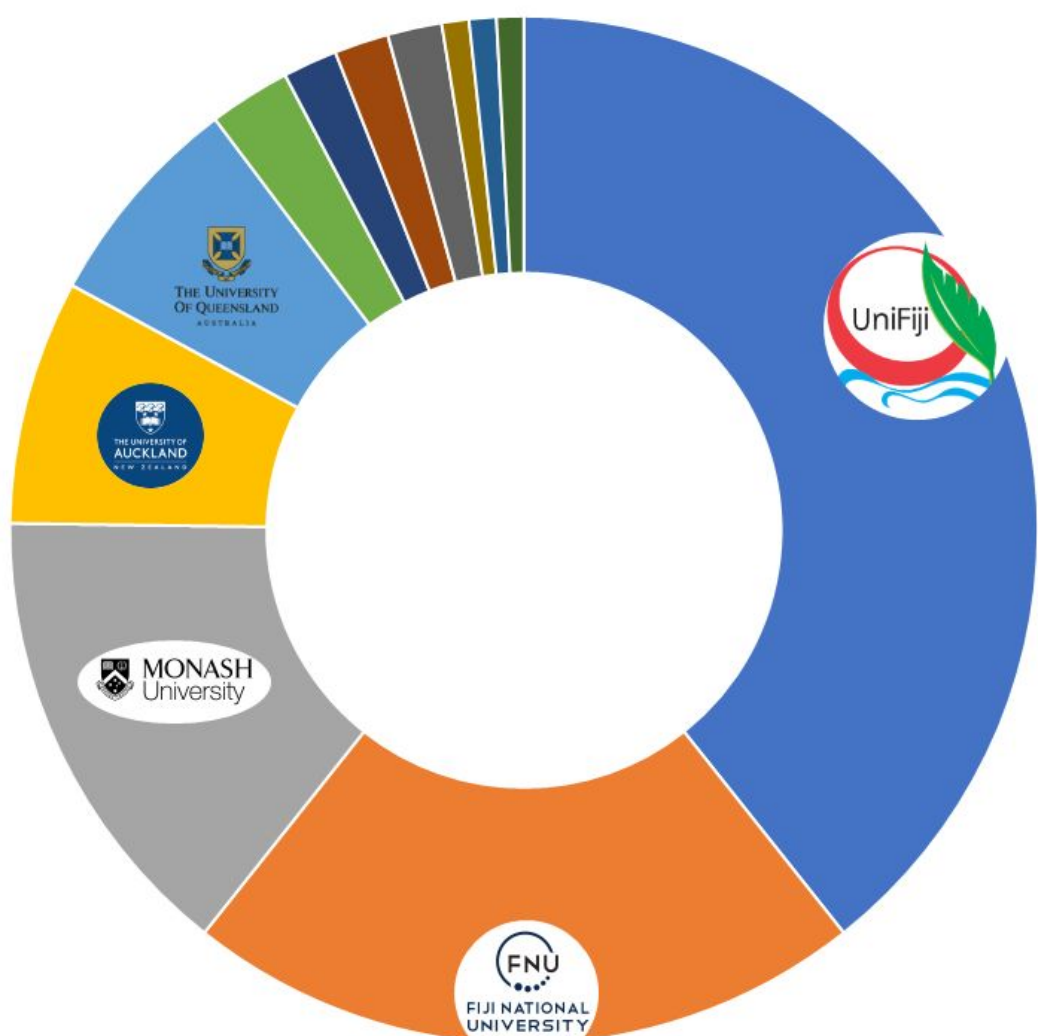
- Features Pacific medical student research
- Spreads awareness of the unique challenges in the Pacific context

Advocacy

- Give Pacific medical students a voice at RACP stakeholder meetings
- Free access to eTherapeutic Guidelines for all Pacific students

KEY STATISTICS

- 119 delegates from 14 medical schools attended SHMC in its inaugural year, where they heard from 22 experts in Pacific Health.



Delegates by University

University of Fiji	39%
Fiji National University	21%
Monash University	15%
University of Auckland	8%
University of Queensland	7%
University of Sydney	3%
Monash University Malaysia	2%
University of Adelaide	2%
University of Melbourne	2%
Australian National University	1%
University of Otago	1%
University of Papua New Guinea	1%



Actively engaging Pacific medical students via Facebook, average daily organic reach: 490

CHALLENGES AND FEEDBACK

- SHMC offered a unique conference experience, with delegates and speakers camping alongside each other in an open field next to the beach on a remote Fijian island. In future iterations, it is essential that proper frameworks for hygiene, waste management & transportation are well-established during the planning stages.

86% of delegates felt SHMC provided a platform for connections with future colleagues from throughout the Pacific region

79% of delegates felt SHMC highlighted unique health challenges faced by the Pacific Islands

57% felt more prepared to provide humanitarian relief, after being immersed in the Pacific Island context for only one week

"A uniquely inspirational experience. No large-scale conference held in a flashy building could ever build the intimacy, foster the interactions nor build the networks that were developed at SHMC."

CONCLUSION

Fostering intimate connections between a diverse group of students will ensure that in future times of great need, medical graduates from across the Pacific will stand together to uphold health equity in our region



Stay up to date, collaborate with us or just say 'hello' on any of our social media pages



@PacifcMSA



@pacificmsa

