

## 2024: a year in review

The Pacific Health Fund partnered with health workers to complete 14 projects taking place in Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and Solomon Islands. The Andrew Dent Scholarships were offered for Australian emerging healthcare leaders to engage with Pacific Colleagues. Funds supported the clinical placements in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Samoa and Fiji for 15 doctors currently studying at universities in Australia

Here's a snapshot of activities we supported. **General Project Grants (\$42,300)**

Freda Timbi is completing research with PNG Health professionals to improve understanding of health needs for people experiencing family violence

Dr. Ulysses Oli and Dr. Rose Hosea are leading a national study of infrastructure, human resources, training, and processes in order to prioritize areas for targeted improvement

Apenisa Taukeinalotu Varani completed the post graduate Diploma in Perioperative Nursing



Alfred Emergency Academic Centre provides much needed training opportunities for the Pacific.

Dr. Arnold Shiva Sami from Lautoka completed the Emergency Medicine Course (Advanced)

Dr. Muhamed Munir, Labasa Hospital completed the Capacity Building in Global Emergency Care Course

Deeptika Sharma and Phalan Olive Catherine Samuela completed the Emergency Medicine Core Course 2024

Fiji's emergency specialists were able to attend the 39th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian College of Medicine in Adelaide. Dr. Adriel Rageci, Dr. Lusiana Raveam Dr. Isaac Vijend Singh, and Dr. Ilikini Naitini are pictured here with St. Vincent's Dr. Georgina



Dr. Salote Behr, Emergency Medicine Consultant at Labassa Hospital and Dr. Josese Rakuita, Emergency Medicine, Colonial War Memorial Hospital Suva attended the Regional, Rural and Remote Emergency Medicine Conference held in Darwin/ Gulumerrdgen in the Northern Territory, Australia from July, 2024

Photos: Dr. Josese with Dr. Apa and Dr. Salote with Dr. Charlotte Durand

Dr. Deepak Sharma lead a regional team of doctors to train Primary Trauma Care at Vila Central Hospital. Facilitation from Fiji, Solomon Islands, and PNG joined with Vanuatu's clinical leaders.



Photos: 1. Dr Deepak Sharma – Emergency Physician, CWM Hospital (Course Director), Dr Trina Sale – Emergency Physician, National Referral Hospital, Solomon Islands, Dr Desmond Aisi – Emergency Physician, Port Moresby General Hospital ,Dr Ilikini Naitini – Emergency Physician, Aspen Ba Hospital, and Dr Roderick Mera - Emergency Doctor & Senior Trainee, Vila Central Hospital (Local Coordinator)  
2. Course participants 3. Dr. Illikini leading participants

## Andrew Dent Student Scholarships (\$28,000)

These reports are available on our website [www.svhm.org.au/support-us/pacific-health-fund](http://www.svhm.org.au/support-us/pacific-health-fund).



Captions: Long Huy Nguyen with Radrick and Rose at SI University. Stephanie Lim with Vanuatu colleagues

- Rosemary Rogers spent 6 weeks in Vanuatu with Emergency medicine, Paediatrics, General medical. She reflected on her learnings managing complex care in a resource poor environment, and the importance of resourcefulness and resilience when faced with challenging healthcare situations
- Long Huy Nguyen undertook a two-week elective placement at the National Referral Hospital (NRH) in Honiara. This included work with the PEARLS Project (Point of Care Ultrasound for Emergency and Acute care in Resource-Limited Settings). This means that the NRH Emergency department were able to access the ultrasound probe, a smart tablet and initial training in point-of-care ultrasound.
- Yonis Abukar spent time in Moto'otua Hospital, Samoa with the paediatric team. He reflected on the scarcity of essential medications and the high cost of healthcare, underscoring the significant global health disparities that persist. He also noted the importance of adaptability, and cultural sensitivity in clinical practice.
- Stephanie Lim visited Vanuatu in October spending 4 weeks in the Emergency Department, Anaesthetics and Surgery at Vila Central Hospital (VCH). As the largest referral hospital, she worked with a wide range of cases ranging from trauma and infectious diseases to chronic conditions like diabetes and asthma.
- Matthew Slater from St. Vincent's Clinical School, spent time with internal medicine ward Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital, Apia, Samoa. This included working with people experiencing chronic diseases including complications of diabetes, heart failure, cerebrovascular disease and chronic kidney disease.
- Dawoud Al Mekhled had a placement at the National Referral Hospital, Solomon Islands. This included Shadowing surgical consultants & registrars, assisting where possible in surgical operations & clinical follow-up as well as ward rounds and outpatient clinical follow-up with patients.
- Marta Cortada-McCorkell, Srishti Chatterji and Bethany Grice visited Vanuatu in January shortly after devastating earthquakes in Port Vila. All spent in the Emergency Department and then in Obstetrics & Gynaecology and general medical wards.



Captions: Bethany, Marta and Shristi at Port Vila, Mathew at Apia, Dawoud sharing images of Solomon Islands

We warmly thank you for your support and encourage your ongoing involvement through donations, spreading the word about our valuable work by 'liking' us on Facebook and encouraging your networks in the Pacific to apply for grants and support us.

**If you would like more information on these or other projects don't hesitate to contact us.**

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