



PIHRS 2026 · KEYNOTE, PANEL & WORKSHOP · SIDE EVENT

Towards a Pacific Sovereign Genomics Agenda

Indigenous-led genomics for Pacific peoples and future generations

PART ONE · SYMPOSIUM DAY 2

Keynote Address & Panel Discussion

Tuesday 1 September 2026

Main Plenary, FNU Nasinu Campus, Suva
Open to all registered PIHRS delegates

Keynote by **Professor Alex Brown**, followed by a moderated panel discussion introducing genomic sovereignty and its implications for Pacific health systems.

PART TWO · SIDE WORKSHOP

Pacific Genomics Workshop

Thursday 3 September 2026 · 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Room B1111, FNU Nasinu Campus, Suva
Registration required · places limited

A working session facilitated by **Professor Alex Brown** and **Dr Azure Hermes** to shape practical directions for Pacific-led genomics.

Genomics and precision medicine represent a once-in-a-generation shift in health and medical science. Yet Indigenous and other ancestrally diverse populations remain substantially under-represented in international genomic databases and in the genomics workforce. **Genomics is still new to our region, and the decisions taken now will determine whether Pacific peoples shape this science or are shaped by it.** This side event explores opportunities to develop national and regional genomics programmes led by Pacific nations, drawing on Indigenous-led work in Australia.

AIMS OF THE WORKSHOP

- 1 Historical context** — discuss the historical context of Indigenous peoples' experiences with genomics research.
- 2 Genomic literacy** — build genomic literacy and explore culturally appropriate approaches to genomics, health care, sample management and repatriation.
- 3 Data sovereignty** — explore data sovereignty approaches that strengthen community leadership and control.
- 4 Pacific priorities** — identify Pacific-led priorities for genomics research and health care.
- 5 Capacity building** — discuss the capacity and capability needed to support Pacific leadership in genomics.

INTENDED OUTPUTS

- ▶ A shared understanding of genomic sovereignty and what it means for Pacific health systems
- ▶ An initial set of Pacific-led priorities for genomics research and care
- ▶ Agreed directions for building Pacific genomics capacity and partnerships

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- ▶ Pacific Islander community members and community leaders
- ▶ Health professionals, clinicians and laboratory scientists
- ▶ Researchers, ethics committee members and academics
- ▶ Ministry of Health officials and policy makers
- ▶ Anyone committed to advancing Indigenous-led genomics for the benefit of present and future generations

FACILITATORS

Professor Alex Brown

Australian National University · National Centre for Indigenous Genomics

Dr Azure Hermes

Australian National University · National Centre for Indigenous Genomics

Registration & Enquiries

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Pacific Islands Health Research Symposium 2026

31 August – 4 September 2026 · FNU Nasinu Campus, Suva, Fiji

Accelerating SDG 3 in the Pacific: Research, Accountability and Impact toward Vision 2050

