

## Health Professions Education Symposium 2026

Post-Symposium Bulletin — College Learning & Teaching Office (CLTO)  
25–26 June 2026 | The Pearl Resort, Pacific Harbour

*Practice into Teaching, Simulation into Learning:  
Understanding How We Teach to Shape How Students Learn*

The College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences (CMNHS), through the College Learning & Teaching Office (CLTO), successfully hosted the Health Professionals Education Symposium 2026 at The Pearl Resort, Pacific Harbour, from 25–26 June 2026.

## Advancing Excellence in Health Professions Education

The two-day symposium brought together educators, clinicians, researchers, health professionals, students, and regional partners from across the Pacific to explore innovative approaches to health professions education. Guided by the theme “Practice into Teaching, Simulation into Learning: Understanding How We Teach to Shape How Students Learn,” the symposium reinforced the importance of transforming authentic clinical experiences into meaningful learning opportunities while embracing simulation, educational innovation, and evidence-based teaching.

The event also highlighted CMNHS' commitment to strengthening teaching excellence, promoting collaboration across the Pacific region, and preparing competent, compassionate, and future-ready healthcare professionals.



### Opening Ceremony

The symposium was officially opened by the Honourable Penioni Koliniwai Ravunawa, Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services.

In his keynote address, the Assistant Minister emphasized that excellence in healthcare begins with excellence in education. He highlighted the growing importance of simulation-based learning, competency-based education, technology-enhanced teaching, and regional collaboration in preparing graduates capable

of meeting the evolving healthcare needs of Fiji and the Pacific.

### Messages

Messages from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Unaisi Nabobo Baba, and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning & Teaching, Professor Jimaima V. Lako, reaffirmed Fiji National University's commitment to educational innovation, continuous improvement, and student-centred learning.

# Day One Highlights

## Bridging Clinical Practice and Educational Excellence

The first day focused on translating authentic clinical experiences into effective teaching practices.

International experts from the Republic of Korea shared their extensive experience in simulation-based medical education, faculty development, curriculum design, and continuing professional development. Participants explored how simulation can strengthen clinical competence while improving patient safety and learner confidence.

A multidisciplinary panel discussion examined simulation as a safe and effective educational strategy, bringing together representatives from KOICA, the Project Management Consultant team, Ministry of Health, Programme Advisory Committee, regional partners, faculty members, and students.



The afternoon breakout sessions encouraged participants to reflect on current teaching practices and discuss practical solutions for:

- Clinical teaching in busy healthcare environments
- Student engagement and active learning
- Assessment for learning and meaningful feedback

Interactive discussions generated valuable recommendations for strengthening teaching practice across CMNHS.

# Day Two Highlights

## Simulation, Innovation and the Future of Health Professions Learning

The second day focused on preparing educators and institutions for the future of health professions education. Regional keynote speakers from Vanuatu, Tonga, and Samoa shared experiences of developing health professions education within Pacific Island contexts. Presentations highlighted:

- Transforming clinicians into educators
- Competency-based education
- Building sustainable health workforce capacity
- Regional collaboration
- Technology-enhanced learning
- Simulation-based education
- Leadership development

### Launch of the CMNHS Artificial Intelligence Committee and the Health Education Innovation and Technology Unit (HEITU)

The initiative represents an important step towards supporting responsible adoption of artificial intelligence, educational technologies, faculty development, digital learning, and innovation across the College.

## Key Themes Emerging from the Symposium

**Simulation strengthens learning.** Simulation creates safe environments where students can develop clinical reasoning, communication, teamwork, technical skills, and professional confidence before entering real clinical practice.

**Teaching matters.** Participants agreed that effective teaching requires intentional lesson design, active learning strategies, meaningful feedback, and authentic assessment that align with clearly defined learning outcomes.

**Innovation must support learning.** Technology should enhance — not replace — the educational experience. Digital tools, artificial intelligence, and simulation offer significant opportunities when implemented responsibly and aligned with sound educational principles.

**Regional collaboration creates stronger health systems.** The symposium demonstrated the value of sharing expertise across Pacific Island countries. Collaborative partnerships continue to strengthen educational quality, workforce development, and healthcare outcomes throughout the region.





## Breakout Sessions: From Discussion to Action

The breakout sessions provided an opportunity for participants to share practical experiences, challenges, and innovative ideas from their own teaching environments. Common recommendations included:

- Expanding simulation-based learning across all programmes
- Increasing faculty development in contemporary teaching methods
- Strengthening workplace-based teaching and assessment
- Promoting active learning and student engagement
- Embedding structured feedback into routine teaching practice
- Developing shared educational resources across Schools
- Encouraging educational research and scholarship
- Supporting the ethical use of artificial intelligence in education

### A Regional Symposium

The symposium attracted participation from educators, clinicians, researchers and students representing Fiji and several Pacific Island countries, reflecting CMNHS' growing regional leadership in health professions education.

International partnerships with KOICA, Soonchunhyang University, Soonchunhyang University Medical Centre, Regional Universities, Ministries of Health, and Pacific professional networks continue to strengthen educational capacity across the region.

### Looking Ahead

The Health Professionals Education Symposium 2026 demonstrated that improving healthcare begins with improving education. The symposium concluded with a collective commitment to:

- Foster a culture of educational excellence
- Strengthen simulation and technology-enhanced learning
- Promote scholarship in teaching and learning
- Support faculty development
- Expand regional collaboration
- Prepare future-ready health professionals capable of serving Fiji and the Pacific

# Acknowledgements

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- Department of Client Services — FNU
- All presenters, facilitators, participants and volunteers

Together, we continue to strengthen health professions education across Fiji and the Pacific.

CMNHS thanks all keynote speakers, presenters, facilitators, moderators, participants, students, sponsors, and organizing committee members whose contributions made the Health Professionals Education Symposium 2026 a resounding success.A





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