FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES

LTO Pulse

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"Learning is the journey of discovering new possibilities, while teaching is the gift of inspiring others to grow. When we teach, we share knowledge; when we learn, we open our minds to a world of endless opportunities."

Inspiring Faith & STEM: CMNHS Launches Science Week at Ratu Kadavulevu School



On **Monday, 6 July 2026**, the **College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS)** officially launched the **Ratu Kadavulevu School (RKS) Science Week.** Centered on the theme, "*Exploring the Power of God's Creation through Biology and Chemistry*," the outreach seamlessly blended faith, scientific inquiry, and STEM mentorship.

On behalf of the College, the CLTO team; Mrs Mere Ravunibola with Mr. Rajneel Narayan together with the RKS alumni at CMNHS managed to share key highlights from the high-impact deployment:

- **The Power of Alumni Mentorship:** Current CMNHS student ambassadors and RKS old scholars returned to their alma mater to deliver direct, peer-to-peer guidance on balancing university pathways and coursework struggles.
- **Expanding Healthcare Horizons:** The team broadened student perspectives beyond traditional medical tracks, sparking massive enthusiasm for high-tech, behind-the-scenes fields like **Medical Laboratory Science (BMLS)** and **Clinical Laboratory Technology, Bachelor of Physiotherapy and Public Health.**
- **Bridging Sports and Science:** In an all-boys school deeply rooted in rugby, the introduction of **Physiotherapy (BPT)** lit an immediate fire, showing students how to directly combine sports passion with clinical excellence.
- **Immediate Academic Impact:** As seen below, Science Department HoD, Mrs. Sainimili Samani, reported an immediate surge in motivation, with senior students voluntarily remaining in the labs after-hours to advance their practical science work.

Thank you very much for taking the time…and for sharing such valuable and inspiring information with our Lodoni students. The presentation … was informative, engaging, and highly motivating. It inspired many of our students, especially those in Years 9 and 10, to consider studying science in the future. .. a positive impact on our senior students. We have also received many positive comments from teachers in other departments. They shared that … message was powerful and encouraging. Likewise, the experiences, advice, and motivational messages shared by our … alumni … greatly inspired both our students and staff. Once again, thank you for your time, support, and commitment to inspiring the next generation of scientists and healthcare professionals. We sincerely appreciate your partnership and look forward to working with you again in the future. May God continue to bless you and the entire College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences team.

Inspiring the North: CMNHS Champions Healthcare Pathways in FNU School Tour



From **13–24 July**, Fiji National University (FNU) completed its intensive annual **Northern School Outreach Tour**, connecting with secondary school students across Vanua Levu. The outreach served as a vital platform for career awareness, helping Year 12 and 13 students map out their transitions into tertiary education. Lower levels/years were also helped on mapping fitting subjects to intended career aspirations. A major highlight of this year's tour was the active, high-impact participation of the CLTO for **CMNHS** The college was dynamically represented on the ground by specialized academic envoy from School of Dentistry and Oral Health as well, who championed critical healthcare pipelines. By taking these specialized health tracks directly to the doors of northern communities, CMNHS did not just showcase academic programs—it actively inspired the next generation of northern health champions to stay, study, and eventually serve the medical needs of their home communities.

CMNHS Explores 5S-KAIZEN for Quality Improvement



On **10 July**, *ADLT, Professor Jayantha Weerasinghe* hosted a visit by **Prof. Yujiro Handa**, International Development Consultant (Health), and **Ms. Emi Onosaka**, Expert on the *Project on Patient Safety Establishment through 5S-KAIZEN (CQI)-TQM*. The visit focused on reviewing the functions of the **clinics and laboratories at CMNHS** and discussing opportunities and recommendations for the future introduction of **5S-KAIZEN (CQI)-TQM** practices.

16th Directors of Clinical Services Meeting Strengthens Regional Health Collaboration



From 22–24 July, ADLT joined the CMNHS delegate or team for the 16th Directors of Clinical Services (DCS) Meeting, organized by the Pacific Community (SPC), which brought together Directors of Clinical Services from across the Pacific to discuss key priorities, challenges and opportunities in strengthening clinical services and health systems in the region. The meeting provided an important platform for sharing experiences, strengthening regional collaboration, and advancing collective approaches to improving the delivery and quality of health services across Pacific Island countries. CMNHS continues to strengthen health workforce development across the Pacific. Key achievements include expanding postgraduate and specialist training, introducing innovative reskilling and micro credential courses, and strengthening regional training opportunities. Looking ahead, CMNHS is planning new postgraduate programmes and short courses for 2027, while advancing initiatives such as a University Hospital, the Health Education Innovation and Technology Unit, and the KOICA-supported Clinical Skills Simulation Centre. These developments reinforce FNU-CMNHS's commitment to responsive, future-focused health education and sustainable health workforce capacity across the Pacific. ***16th Director of Clinical Services Meeting | SPC Public Health Division***

Safety & Resilience: CMNHS Thanksgiving Service for Rescued Maritime Health Team





Following a harrowing 36-hour ordeal adrift in Lau Waters, as part of the Social & Wellness committee, CMNHS hosted a moving thanksgiving service on Friday 31 July at the Pasifika Auditorium under the theme "*Together in Faith, United in Prayer*". Initially planned as an anxious prayer vigil, the gathering transformed into a celebration of the miraculous rescue of six frontline health professionals—including doctors, nurses, and dental staff. Beyond celebrating their survival, the platform, attended by Assistant Health Minister Hon. Penioni Ravunawa, served as a critical advocacy forum. The medical and nursing fraternity strongly emphasized the urgent need for **enhanced safety measures, robust protection protocols, and better communication tools** to safeguard health workers serving remote maritime and island communities.

Strengthening Partnerships: FNU Leadership Visits the Korean Embassy Ahead of Historic Health Facility Groundbreaking



The Fiji National University (FNU) Chancellor, Adi Dr. Alisi Vudiniabola (*third from right*), led a senior academic delegation on an official visit to the residence of the **Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Fiji, His Excellency Kwon Young-Seup** (*third from left*).

The strategic high-level meeting focused on accelerating the **KOICA-FNU medical capacity building project** and strengthening institutional ties. The collaborative session took place directly ahead of the August 14th official groundbreaking for the **US $9.8 million KOICA-FNU Simulation Centre** at the FNU Pasifika Campus, signalling a transformative leap forward for modern healthcare training, medical research, and workforce development across Fiji and the wider Pacific region.

United in Faith: CMNHS Hosts Combined Church Service for Facility Dedication

As members of the CMNHS Social & Wellness Committee, CLTO also took part in the coordination of the service. **The committee** hosted a powerful **Combined Church Service** on **Sunday, 9 August**, at the **SON Auditorium** to dedicate and bless the historic **Groundbreaking/Vakasobuduru** of the new medical simulation facility.





Key elements of this fellowship event included:

- **A Foundation of Unity:** Guided by *Psalm* 133:1, the service united staff, students, and family members in fellowship, emphasizing a collective vision for regional health advancement.
- **Institutional Dedication:** Following *Proverbs* 16:3, the service spiritually dedicated the upcoming **US $9.8 million KOICA-FNU Simulation Centre** project plans to ensure its long-term success.
- **Cultural Hosting:** The service was proudly hosted by **The Tovata Confederacy**, concluding with light refreshments and community fellowship.

The Next Era of Clinical Excellence





CLTO significantly assisted with the coordination and participated, in the FNU-KOICA Simulation Training Center groundbreaking ceremony that took place on August 14, 2026. The **US $9.8 million KOICA-FNU Simulation Centre** groundbreaking ceremony was held at the **CMNHS-Pasifika Campus.**

Key Details of the Simulation Training Center:

- **The Facility:** A state-of-the-art medical simulation hub designed to provide a safe, controlled environment for students to develop and practice clinical skills before entering real-world regional healthcare environments.
- **The Project:** This facility is a core component of KOICA's broader **Health Professions Education and Research Capacity Building Project** at FNU.
- **Institutional Impact:** Prime Minister Hon. Mr. Sitiveni Rabuka officiated as the Chief Guest and highlighted the center as a significant investment in the future of healthcare education and workforce development" for Fiji and the wider Pacific region.
- **Prior to the Groundbreaking event,** this activity also paved the way for the traditional vakamamaca and matanigasau accorded to the newly appointed Chancellor of the University, Dr. Adi Alisi Vudiniabola and the Tui Suva respectively.





The CMNHS Kalavata: Blending Professional Identity with Cultural Heritage



CLTO, once again, like the FSMed 140th Celebration facilitated the coordination of the second CMNHS kalavata. In collaboration with premier local apparel brand ThreeSixteen (3XVI), the new customized CMNHS Kalavata beautifully balances institutional identity with rich Pacific heritage by seamlessly integrating traditional masi geometric motifs alongside the official Fiji National University branding. The striking fusion of purple and deep crimson tones, complete with a modern lower-hem gradient fade, visually symbolizes academic excellence, clinical precision, and the vibrancy of our healthcare pioneers. Designed to instill a profound sense of institutional pride, this unified uniform pattern will serve as our collective visual signature, fostering team synergy and regional solidarity across all five specialized health schools during formal university functions, symposiums, and public outreach campaigns.

Pacific HIV Symposium



ADLT, Professor Jayantha Weerasinghe also attended the Symposium that took place on Monday 17 - Tuesday 18 August 2026 at the Sheraton Fiji, Denarau Island (Nadi). The Core Objectives: Outlined the collaboration between regional health leaders, clinicians, and policymakers from the Pacific, Australia, and New Zealand to strengthen prevention, treatment, and integrated sexual health strategies. **The meeting highlighted** the national HIV outbreaks declared in **Fiji** and **Papua New Guinea**, framing the symposium as a critical turning point to prevent reversing decades of public health progress. **Fiji's Epidemic, reported by the media:** Fiji is currently facing the **fastest-growing HIV epidemic in the world.** In 2025 alone, Fiji recorded **2,016 new HIV diagnoses**—a staggering **27% increase** from 2024. **The Vulnerable Demographic:** Out of those 2025 diagnoses, **646 cases were young people aged 25 to 29.** Additionally, **one baby is born with HIV every week** in Fiji, and one child under five dies from an AIDS-related illness every month.

Digital Hub: Elevating Academic Quality on the CMNHS Learning & Teaching Portal



The pioneer CMNHS Learning & Teaching Portal serves as a vital digital anchor supporting academic excellence, continuous educational innovation, and quality assurance across the College. Engineered as a centralized network for both students and staff, the platform provides immediate access to essential academic programme information, learning and teaching resources, accreditation milestones, and critical academic schedules. By bridging the college's five specialized schools, the portal actively cultivates a culture of collaborative, student-centered learning through hallmark initiatives including the annual Health Professionals Education Symposium, the College Almanac, and the Laptop Assistance Scheme. Furthermore, it serves as the official home of this CLT Pulse Newsletter, a publication dedicated to highlighting milestones and achievements.

Educational Tour 2026: Inspiring Next-Generation Health Professionals



As part of our commitment to active community engagement and experiential learning, with the support of the School of Dentistry and School of Nursing, CLTO proudly hosted a vibrant group of students and teachers of Niusawa Methodist, High School, for an Educational Tour 2026 on the 20th of August.

The visiting students engaged in immersive, firsthand sessions to bridge classroom theory with real-world professional environments. These foundational outreach visits play an essential role in broadening perspective horizons, encouraging scientific curiosity, and inspiring senior students to fearlessly step out of their comfort zones to become the next generation of public health, medical, and community health workers, across our region.

Balata College Students Visit Pasifika Campus: On Friday, 2 October, students and staff from Balata College visited the Pasifika Campus. The visit provided an opportunity for the students to ask questions and learn more about the programmes offered by the College, as well as the admission guidelines and pathways available to prospective students. As part of the visit, the science students also had the opportunity to visit and see the Dental Laboratory, giving them a closer look at the facilities and practical learning environment available to students at CMNHS.

CMNHS Opens Applications for 2027



CMNHS continues to provide quality education and training for future health professionals in Fiji and the Pacific, offering programmes across Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Public Health and Health Science disciplines. For 2027, CMNHS has finalised its programme offerings, with 21 undergraduate programmes for Semester 1, 2027, and 56 postgraduate programmes. The programmes include Certificate, Diploma, Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral levels and are offered across CMNHS campuses and approved clinical training facilities through blended, online and face-to-face modes of delivery.

The 2027 postgraduate offering also featured the new Postgraduate Diploma in Orthodontics, which will be offered on a part-time basis, expanding opportunities for professionals seeking to advance their skills and qualifications in specialised areas of health care.

CMNHS aspires to strengthen the quality and recognition of its academic programmes through accreditation and professional recognition. Current accredited programmes include the Bachelor of Dental Surgery and Bachelor of Oral Health, accredited by the Australian Dental Council (ADC); Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science, accredited by the Australian Institute of Medical Scientists (AIMS); Bachelor of Medical Imaging Science, which holds full programme accreditation from the New Zealand Medical Radiation Technologists Board (NZMRTB); and the Bachelor of Health Services Management, Postgraduate Diploma in Health Services Management and Master of Health Services Management, accredited by the Australian College of Health Service Management (ACHSM). The Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Eye Care) also holds initial accreditation from the International Council of Accreditation (ICA).

Prospective students can view the full **CMNHS 2027 Programme Listing** for programme details, campuses and modes of delivery. **Postgraduate applications closed 30th September 2026 while undergraduate applications will remain open until 30 November 2026.** Students are required to submit their applications through the **FNU Apply page**. Prospective students are encouraged to apply early and within the respective application periods to avoid missing out on the opportunity to study at CMNHS in 2027.

Strengthening Micro-Qualification Pathways



CLTO continues to strengthen its engagement with the University's schools and the Office of the PVC – Learning and Teaching. A recent example was the meeting held on **4 September**, bringing together ADLT, Professor Jayantha Weerasinghe, Ms Radhika Prasad, and colleagues to advance shared priorities in learning and teaching.

To better align higher education with the rapid changes taking place across local industries, CLTO is working closely with the schools and the CMNHS Research Office to expand **micro-qualification frameworks**

This strategic collaboration focuses on developing targeted, short-term academic pathways that enable learners to rapidly acquire specific professional skills and competencies. For our learning and teaching community, this initiative will create more flexible and specialised opportunities for upskilling and professional development—helping address emerging public health, environmental, and socio-economic challenges across regional island nations. Through these partnerships, CLTO is supporting a more

agile and responsive approach to higher education, ensuring that learning opportunities remain relevant to the evolving needs of communities, industries, and the wider region.

29th September Radio Talkback show @ HopeFM 107



CMNHS recently took to the airwaves, with our very own Mrs. Mere Ravunibola & Mr. Rajneel Narayan featuring in a special awareness segment on AshaFM & HopeFM 107.

The team highlighted the robust academic pipelines available across our five specialized schools. The broadcast successfully educated the public on CMNHS's diverse qualifications, spanning from undergraduate certificates to PhDs, emphasizing our commitment to flexible upskilling and training the next generation of Pacific health leaders. CLTO was also accompanied by Mrs. Abha Gupta and Mrs. Ranjani Lata, staff from the Certificate in Health Professionals Foundation Studies program.

Student Voices Driving Quality Improvement at CMNHS

The Semester 1, 2026 Course and Teacher Evaluation (CTE) Survey reflected strong student engagement and satisfaction across CMNHS. With 1,502 student responses covering 147 course codes, the College achieved an overall 95.9% student satisfaction rate and a College Performance Indicator of 4.36/5.00. Student feedback highlighted strengths in teaching quality, course organisation, and practical learning experiences, while also providing valuable recommendations for further enhancement. The results reaffirm CMNHS's commitment to student-centred learning and continuous quality improvement.

Quick Snapshot

Student Responses	Course Codes Evaluated	Student Satisfaction	Performance Indicator
1,502	147	95.9%	4.36 / 5.00



Pacific Climate & Environment Week (PCEW) Celebration on Thursday, 1 October at SPHPC.

Mrs. Mere Ravunibola, had the pleasant delight to be the Mistress of Ceremony. Guided by the theme, **"Climate, Environment & Your Health: Healthy People, Healthy Planet,"** the event beautifully demonstrated how deeply our surrounding environment impacts community well-being.

Key highlights from the day included:

- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** Student and staff teams from Public Health, Environmental Health, Health Promotion, Health Services Management, and Dietetics and Nutrition united to showcase diverse health perspectives.
- **Expert Insights:** Inspiring addresses were delivered by Acting Dean Dr. Amelia Turagabeci (focusing on El Niño preparedness) and Mr. Timoci Naivalulevu from WISH Fiji (discussing watershed interventions and community health).

- **Interactive Learning:** The SPHPC Dining Hall came alive with student-led interactive booths and practical challenges focused on water conservation, heat precautions, and vector-borne illness prevention.

The ultimate takeaway from the event was clear: climate change is a health issue, and by bringing multiple health disciplines together, we can empower our communities to turn awareness into practical, everyday action.

Faculty Spotlight: Under CLTO



***A Seamless Transition to University Teaching*...Meet Mrs. Ranjani Lata:** Joining CMNHS as an Assistant Lecturer has been an incredibly fulfilling milestone. The journey highlights the supportive, collaborative, and professional culture that defines the FNU family:

- Seamless Onboarding: The Human Resources team provided exceptional guidance, ensuring a smooth and comfortable entry into academia.
- Welcoming Environment: Faculty colleagues immediately fostered a warm, friendly, and approachable office culture.
- Invaluable Mentorship: Special recognition goes to Madam Abha, whose dedicated guidance and knowledge-sharing were instrumental in navigating the transition from high school teaching to university lecturing.
- Commitment to Excellence: Immersing in this dynamic environment has built strong teaching confidence and inspired a long-term dedication to contributing to the college's academic growth.

***Strengthening Academic Quality Through Collaboration*...Meet Ms. Radhika Prasad:** Being part of the CLTO has been a valuable and rewarding experience, providing opportunities to broaden my knowledge and deepen my understanding of programme and course development, review, quality assurance, and approval processes within CMNHS and FNU. In this role, I work closely with academics to review documentation, provide constructive feedback, and support submissions to ensure they meet the required academic and quality standards.



This collaborative process has strengthened my appreciation of consistency, attention to detail, and the importance of aligning learning outcomes, learning content, assessment strategies, and graduate attributes.

The experience has also given me greater insight into the various stages of the academic approval process and complemented my broader responsibilities in programme review and development at CMNHS.

Overall, my involvement with CLTO continues to be a meaningful learning journey, allowing me to contribute my knowledge and experience while learning from colleagues and gaining a deeper appreciation of the wider quality assurance processes that support academic excellence.

CMNHS Fiji Day Health Walk 2026 – A Celebration of Health, Unity & Community!

With the Social and Weness comiitee, CLTO profoundly played a role in the first ever CMNHS Health Walk held on 10 October 2026 along Queen Elizabeth Drive, Suva, bringing together staff, students, families, and community members in celebration of Fiji Day and Pinktober. Notable is the comendable pro-active participation of the Samoan Students Association. The walk promoted physical activity, healthy lifestyles, breast cancer awareness, early detection, and the importance of community wellbeing. It was a wonderful opportunity to strengthen relationships, encourage preventive health practices, and unite in the shared commitment to healthier communities.

Our sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to the Fiji Roads Authority, Suva City Council, and Fiji Police – Central Division for granting the necessary approvals and permits and supporting the safe conduct of this event.

Thank you to everyone who participated, supported, and contributed to making this initiative a success!
Walk together. Live well. Celebrate Fiji! Together for a healthier tomorrow.



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