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### UPCOMING EVENTS & NOTICES

**Public Lecture: Quality Assessment of Teachers in Fiji Schools: A Multi-Case Study**

5th August, 2015  
Time: 1:00pm-2:00pm  
Natabua Campus – Lautoka.

**Research Presentation: "Lyapunov Functions for a Planar Swarm Model with Application to Nonholonomic Planar Vehicles"**

6th August, 2015  
Time: 4:00 – 5:00pm  
Derrick Campus

**Inaugural Alumni Event**

29 August, 2015  
Grand Pacific Hotel

**International Food Festival**

THEME: Home Gardening and Backyard Farming - Food For All  
10 - 17 October, 2015  
Nadi Campus

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FNU Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Ian Rouse with participants of the ISCEP seminar at Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Nadi.

## FNU hosts 47<sup>th</sup> ISCEP Seminar

The Fiji National University is committed to providing quality education and research that will help improve the health of all Pacific island people.

University Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Ian Rouse said non communicable diseases were endemic and killing far too many of the population at a young age.

Professor Rouse said unfortunately like many parts of the world, in the last few decades, have seen a significant epidemiologic transition in the Pacific Islands to an increasing burden of non-communicable diseases like heart disease, cancer, diabetes and poor mental health.

He said the people of the Pacific Islands were facing one of the greatest health challenges.

He said in Fiji there was a lot of soul searching about where we are going with the three plagues of typhoid, dengue and leptospirosis.

Pro Rouse made the comments as he welcomed seven faculty and 35 Fellows for the 47th International Society for Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention, a 10 day teaching seminar at the Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa.

He said the ten day teaching seminar was very important as it was running into its 47th year of specialist teaching programme with a focus on epidemiology and prevention of cardiovascular diseases.

The teaching seminar had attracted experts from all over the world including Australia, China,

*(Continued on pg 2)*

For the faculty and fellows from the International Society of Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention conference travelling half way across the globe was to be an experience they would take back with them.

They jetted in from 19 countries from six regions across the globe, not a clue as to what this little island nation was about and what it had to offer.

Steering this ship of eager

## ISCEP Participants to Cherish Fijian Experience



leaners along with their teachers was Doctor Darwin Labarthe (*pictured*).

For Doctor Labarthe, having had the unique experience of being in Fiji with the other faculty and fellows it was something he admitted that they would

cherish and take back with them.

He added that there were many things that the ISCEP participants did not know about Fiji but once having experience memory of it would be taken back to their homes.

"We can look back to things we didn't know before we arrived. For one there's Fiji water in Fiji; it may be exported from here

*(Continued on pg 2)*

The Fiji National University Newsletter tracks media coverage of FNU events on a weekly basis. The following news can be found on the website which shows how FNU was featured in the media in the past week.

### FNU IN THE MEDIA THIS WEEK

- Women join hands to plant mangrove
- Excitement builds for Fiji Film Festival
- FNU Looks Into Eco Park
- Campaign To Beautify Saweni Beach

- Volunteers help restore beach pride
- 200 movies for Fiji Film Festival
- Endless choices
- Lack of civil engineers: WAF

### JOB VACANCIES

FOR CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE VISIT PAGE 4

# FNU hosts 47<sup>th</sup> ISCEP Seminar

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Dr. Carol Sinnot with participants.



Denmark, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, India, Ireland, Jordan, Malawi, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Portugal, South Africa, Tonga, UK and USA.

"This event was held in collaboration with the University of Cambridge, School of Clinical Medicine, United Kingdom and the Fiji National University. This is the first time such a high level meeting related to Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention is being organised in Fiji and the Pacific," said Professor Rouse.

"But in the Pacific, we are still challenged with a triple burden of trying to understand new foes (including NCD's, SARS, HIV and MERS) while we struggle to conquer some of the old foes. We continue understandably to be very concerned about HIV/AIDS in a population with very high rates of sexually transmitted diseases, we have held national workshops on dealing with TB and preventing MDR-TB, we have national campaigns to eradicate filarisis and we worry about the rapid spread of influenza in a very mobile world.

"As some of you may also have noticed in the news this year, we are also suffering from third burden of the health impact of climate change. Natural disasters such as cyclones and tsunami have a devastating impact in parts of the pacific," he said.

The annual International Ten Day Teaching Seminars on Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention, under the auspices of the International Society of Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention, has an established track record of 45 years of capacity building through training of over 1600 Fellows from over 100 countries. Many of these fellows have subsequently become leaders in the field, encompassing research, service development and health policy.

While the focus was on cardiovascular disease, the emphases on basic epidemiologic skills and generic public health concepts were relevant to all chronic diseases.

The seminar provided to be an immensely productive partnership between the host Fiji National University and the ISCEP in the training of physicians and scientists in the epidemiology and prevention of cardiovascular disease, and the establishment of international scientific collaborations and friendship.

# ISCEP Participants to Cherish Fijian Experience

(Continued from pg 1)

or perhaps it's imported from elsewhere in the world but bottled and commercially exported from here.

"We have been told about the importance of the ocean and the sea and the surrounding which this great country and its neighbouring islands and territories. The is sea all important. The sea is the other world which we see below the surface an experience many of us did not have not until we arrived in to Fiji.

"The sea is the other world which we see below the surface. An experience many of us have not had until coming to these islands for these experience. We didn't know

quite like this," she said.

Dr Labarthe expressed his admiration for the team work and support provided by the Fiji National University Secretariat team and the expertise provided.

He added that this was a marvelous experience of bringing together people of different backgrounds with different experiences, different nationalities, cultures and languages.

He applauded the hospitality the faculty and fellows experienced in Fiji with the team from the FNU and the hospitality by the Sofitel Resort and Spa as the host on Denarau and this was something they



Participants for the ISCEP seminar enjoying thier tea break.

much about the water before we arrived until we have now an appreciation.

Dr Labarthe said the participants at the two week seminar also received a crash course in the local language picking up words which were now familiar to the faculty and fellows - "Bula, Vinaka, Vinaka vakalevu, Bula Vinaka.

"Seminars have been successful in the past and seminars differ from year to year each being unique none has ever been

would take back with them.

"Hope that this seminar will have a future impact on the people of Fiji and the pacific region. Fiji is where the islands are full of fascination," he said.

"A feeling we can understand and share. What's next -----The work that has begun here will move us in that direction. We hope the legacy of this seminar and experience we shared here, that progress will be made in this area



# Mid June in the Pacific



Mid June in the Pacific,  
Just to set the scene,  
Forty tired and groggy fellows,  
Arrive into Nadi.

On a quest for learning  
About Epi and Disease,  
Surrounded by the beach  
And warming deep blue seas.

At the beginning of this voyage  
Who better at the helm,  
Than our trusted captain,  
Our very own Darwin.

The teaching kicked off early-  
We had to learn of many trends.  
Which was the most important?  
The answer: It depends!

Who knew that being normal  
Was such a complex feat?  
It all became much clearer  
When helped along with sweets!

Two days in, we were still one down-  
Where was that Ghana guy?

Hong Kong has tried to keep him,  
But onward he did fly.

Kay-Tee told us about study types,  
And errors we should be fearing.  
But she really revealed her talents,  
When it came to volleyball cheering!

On that first sports half day,  
Each team came out as fighters.  
But there can only be one winner:  
Inevitably, Kant's Significant Spikers!

Then back into the classroom,  
George tried to make us see  
That biostats are not difficult-  
The opposite - this stuff is easy!

The cuisine was just fantastic,  
An abundance of fine food,  
But as Prabhakaran set us straight on  
diet,  
This slightly changed the mood.

Steve took a different tack:  
Mystic tunes and funky beats,  
We'd have enjoyed it all the more

If we could have kept our seats!  
What a multi-talented faculty!  
With their finely crafted talks,  
Then organising mass snorkelling,  
And David's sunrise walks.

As the week comes to a close,  
Many changes can be seen:  
New facts, new skills, new friends  
With whom to continue this journey.

So now, a huge Vinaka  
To all at Fiji National University.  
And I.S.C.E.P faculty  
For everything they did.

This course is not just data,  
Nor statistical modelling,  
But lends new friends and colleagues  
Whom, into our futures, we will bring.



Dr Carol Sinnott  
Research Fellow, Univer-  
sity College Cork, Ireland.  
Fellow at the 47th ISCEP  
Seminar hosted by Fiji  
National University.

# ISCEP: Participants Feedbacks



The Fiji National University welcomed seven faculty and 36 fellows to its shores for a 10 intense training seminar for the 47th International Society of Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention.

For many of these delegates this was their first trip into the pacific to Fiji and stay at the Sofitel Resort and Spa.

This was surely an experience they would take back with them.

The specialist teaching programme with a focus on epidemiology and prevention of cardiovascular diseases.

This seminar training had attracted experts from all over the world including Australia, China, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, India, Ireland, Jordan, Malawi, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Portugal, South Africa, Tonga, UK and USA.

After completing the 10 day seminar participants who attended the conference at the Sofitel Resort and Spa shared their experiences.

The impeccable arrangements and personal Fijian touch to everything is indeed laudable. Thank you to the delightful Acting Vice Chancellor, Ranbeer, Ana and Team FNU for making our stay in Fiji so memorable. You were outstanding!

We would be failing in our duties without a special word of appreciation for our Fijian colleagues-Drs. Isimeli Tukana, Devina Nand and Shyamajanaka Mahakalanda who with their gracious warmth and hospitality went out of

their way to be the perfect hosts for all of us. I hope this will be the beginning of not just collaborations, but life-long friendships for all of us, that knows no boundaries!

**Doctor Poornima Prabhakaran India**



Thank you FNU team.



The organization was great and it was indeed an amazing opportunity for Fiji. Thank you FNU for the opportunity for international collaborations. A big Vinaka Vakalevu from me.

**Dr Devina Nand  
Director Epidemiology  
Ministry of Health –Fiji**

Many thanks for your excellent hosting over the past ten days. You made a very special experience for us all. Kind regards  
**Dr Steve Allender  
Australia**



Dear all  
I would like to echo the words of Poornima and place my appreciation to all those who put in great efforts in organizing this meeting successfully.

A big Vinaka to everyone  
Best wishes  
**Dr Prabhakar Dorairaj  
India**



I have never been so well cared-for ... I do appreciate your time and efforts. We ABSOLUTELY will (and do!) have the fondest memories already. What a wonderful country that is filled with warm and welcoming people. Thanks for opening your islands to us.

PS: ... and thank you for rescuing my computer!

**Dr George Howard  
United States**

## Vacancies

For job vacancies and career opportunities at Fiji National University, go to [www.career.fnu.ac.fj](http://www.career.fnu.ac.fj) New posts are logged each week for academic and non-academic vacancies, so check regularly for the opportunity that could lead you to a new life. Some of the positions currently available online:

- Assistant Lecturer in Horticulture
- Training Officer in Quality Management
- Laboratory Demonstrator in Electrical Machine Laboratory
- Training Assistant in Recreation, Activities & Tourism
- Management Trainer
- Finance Assistant
- Office Administrator
- Training Officer in Construction
- Coordinator Disability
- Compliance Officer
- Finance Assistant /Officer
- Kitchen Staff
- ICT Lab Technician
- Chief Librarian
- Liaison Officer - Office of the Registrar