

Office of the Pro Vice Chancellor Research

RESEARCH newsletter

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FNU Research News November 2018

Fiji National University has embraced research alongside education in gaining recognition as Fiji's national University. In the last two years we had 22 highly ranked (Q1 journal) publications; well

over a million dollars from external sources for research projects, 25 PhD and 47 Masters by Research enrolled candidates.

Vice Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards

To recognize research achievements, we launched the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Excellence. This year our winners are Dr Rajeev Bhat, for the Vice Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence, and Dr Patrick Mark Singh for the Vice Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence for ECR (Early Career Researcher).



Dr Rajeev Bhat is recognized for his outstanding achievements in research, with his publications being cited 6,300 times, carrying a h-index of 39. In all of Fiji, at the present time there are only two other academics with a h-index higher than 39, and they are at the University of the

South Pacific. Dr Bhat's contribution to knowledge is in the discipline of Food Science and Technology.



Dr Patrick Mark Singh is an early career researcher, who completed his PhD from Mokpo National University in South Korea in February, 2018.

He is recognized for achieving excellence in research as an Early Career Researcher with seven highly ranked journal papers; six best paper awards for conference papers and for achieving a h-Index of 6. His contribution to knowledge is in the discipline of Mechanical Engineering.

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External Funding 2018

College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

School of Public Health and Primary Care

1. **Project:** Healthy Child Promising Future-Promoting Health

Duration: 1 Year 8 Months

Amount: \$132,890

Principal Investigator: Dr Pragya Singh

2. **Project:** Tropical Diseases Research (TDR) Project

Duration: 4 Years 11 Months

Amount: \$122,842.18

Principal Investigator: Dr Donald Wilson

3. **Project:** Revitalising Informal Settlements & Environment

Duration: 5 Years

Amount: \$922,000

Principal Investigator: Dr Amelia Turagabeci

School of Medical Sciences

4. **Project:** MHealth Tools for Depression and Suicide

Duration: 1 Year 9 Months

Amount: \$220,304.88

Principal Investigator: Dr Odille Chang

5. **Project:** Tropical Diseases Research (TDR) Project

Duration: 1 Year

Amount: \$15,522.77

Principal Investigator: Dr Amanda Hill

School of Health Sciences

6. **Project:** Early Prediction of Biomarkers for Preeclampsia

Duration: 1 Year 6Months

Amount: \$155,301.15

Principal Investigator: Dr Gausal Khan

College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

School of Agricultural Sciences And Forestry

7. **Project:** Enhanced Fruit Production and Postharvest handling.

Duration: 3 Years

Amount: \$71,000

Principal Investigator: Dr Salesh Kumar

Publications 2018 (Q1 Journals)

1. Tripathi, P., Shah, S., Kashyap, S. D., & Tripathi, A. fruit yield and quality characteristics of high density prunus persica (L.) Batsch plantation intercropped with medicinal and aromatic plants in the Indian Western Himalayas, *Agroforestry Systems*, 1-12 DOI:10.1007/s10457-018-0276-9.

2. Prasad, R. D., & Raturi, A. (2018). Low-carbon measures for Fiji's land transport energy system, *Utilities Policy*, 54, 132-147.

3. Sharma, R., Sharma, A., Raicar, G., Tsunoda, T., & Patil, A. (2018). OPAL+: Length-Specific MoRF Prediction in Intrinsically Disordered Protein Sequences, *Proteomics* doi: 10.1002/pmic.201800058.

4. Schultz, H., Hohnhold, R. J., Taylor, G. A., Bury, S. J., Bliss, T., Ismar, S. M., & Dennis, T. E. (2018). Non-breeding distribution and activity patterns in a temperate population of brown skua, *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, 603, 215-226.

5. Ganesan, A. R., Munisamy, S., & Bhat, R. (2018). Effect of potassium hydroxide on rheological and thermo-mechanical properties of semi-refined

carrageenan (SRC) films. *Food Bioscience*, 26, 104-112

6. Tibor P., & Melinda K. (2018): Biosensors for Non-Invasive Detection of Celiac Disease Biomarkers in Body Fluids. *Biosensors 2018*, 8, 55; doi:10.3390/bios8020055 – is this a journal paper of a book chapter

7. Ganesan, A. R., Munisamy, S., & Bhat, R. (2018). Effect of potassium hydroxide on rheological and thermo-mechanical properties of semi-refined carrageenan (SRC) films. *Food Bioscience*, 26, 104-112.

8. Chetty, A. A., Prasad, S., Pinho, O. C., & de Moraes, C. M. (2018). Estimated dietary intake of nitrate and nitrite from meat consumed in Fiji. *Food Chemistry*.

9. Sharma, R., Sharma, A., Raicar, G., Tsunoda, T., & Patil, A. (2018). OPAL+: Length-Specific MoRF Prediction in Intrinsically Disordered Protein Sequences. *Proteomics*, 1800058.

10. Sharma, R., Raicar, G., Tsunoda, T., Patil, A., &

Sharma, A. (2018). OPAL: prediction of MoRF regions in intrinsically disordered protein sequences. *Bioinformatics*, 34(11), 1850-1858.

11. Tagicakiverata, I. W., & Nilan, P. (2018). Veivosaki-yaga: a culturally appropriate Indigenous research method in Fiji. *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, 31(6), 545-556.

Invited talks

Dr Jimaima Lako, invited to present 'Major Policy Programme Gaps and Improving Agri-Nutrition Outcomes in Fiji', at the International Symposium on Understanding the Double Burden of Malnutrition for Effective Interventions, 10 – 13 December, 2018, Vienna, Austria.

Dr Rajendra Prasad, invited to present 'Structure of Azo-Food Dye Metabolites and Pathways of Their Attention Deficit, Hyper Activity Disorder (Adhd) Effects' at the Indian Science Congress Association Conference, 3 – 7 January, 2019 Kolkata, India.

PhD Submission

Mr Ronesh Sharma from the College of Engineering Science and Technology submitted his PhD thesis titled 'Protein Fold Recognition, Structure Class Prediction and MoRF Detection using Computational Intelligent Methodologies' for examination in November 2018 at the University of South Pacific, with five Q1 journal publications arising from his PhD studies.

Research seminar series 2019

In 2019 we will be hosting a seminar series which will be accessible (satellite link) at all campuses. All academics are encouraged to attend and join in the discussion following the presentations.

Date	Seminar/Panel Presentation	Presenter	Venue	Time
22/2/19	The Importance of research for your career and for FNU	Professor Nigel Healey Vice Chancellor, FNU	Nasinu Campus	2:30-4:00 pm
22/3/19	Publishing your research	Professor Paul Iji Dean CAFF	Nasinu Campus	2:30-4:00 pm
19/4/19	Research Support at FNU	Professor Mohini Singh PVC Research	Nasinu Campus	2:30-4:00 pm
24/5/19	Publishing in Q1 Journals	Panel: Dr Rajeev Bhat; Dr Patrick Singh; Dr Ronesh Sharma; Dr Mumtaz Alam	Samabula Campus	2:30-4:00 pm
21/6/19	Writing winning proposals for external funds	Panel: Dr Donald Wilson; Dr Odille Chang; Dr Amelia Turagabeci; Dr Pragya Singh; Dr Gade D. Waqa; Dr Amelia Turagabeci	Nasinu Campus	2:30-4:00 pm
26/7/19	Supervising PhD candidates	Panel: Professor Eileen Honan; Professor Unaisi Nabobo Baba; Professor Mohini Singh; Professor John Chelliah	Lautoka Campus	2:30-4:00 pm
23/8/19	Research Directions for Climate change, adaptation, resilience and disaster management	Panel: Professor Nii K Plange; Dr Todd E Dennis; Professor Paul Jagals	Pasifika Campus	2:30-4:00 pm
20/9/19	Research Issues for Learning and Teaching	Professor James Pounder	Nasinu Campus	2:30-4:00 pm
25/10/19	Research Design for Social Science Research	Panel: Professor Ram Karan; Dr Rohit Kishore, Dr Eci Nabalarua, Dr Zakia Chand	Nasinu Campus	2:30-4:00 pm
15/11/19	Agriculture, land, food and biosecurity	Dr Kaliova Ravuiwasa; Dr Jimaima Lako	Samabula Campus	2:30-4:00 pm

Call for Papers 2019

Information on call for papers will be updated regularly during 2019 on FNU Research Website.

Funding Opportunities

Information on funding opportunities will be posted on the FNU Research website and disseminated via email.