

Office of the Pro Vice Chancellor Research

# RESEARCH newsletter

Issue No. 1 | March, 2020

## ▶ Message by Pro Vice Chancellor Research, Professor Mohini Singh



A very warm welcome to all academics and higher degree by research students to the new year by Professor Mohini Singh, Pro Vice Chancellor Research. Research is now an integral part of FNU academia, to guide career development, performance appraisal, promotion and probation expectations,

recruitment decisions and contract renewals. Accordingly, FNU has put in place a lot of support in terms of seed funding to help researchers develop a track record for further funding and new collaborations. International Research Fellowship scheme is to enable colleges and research groups to bring in international experts to develop FNU academics with research publications and externally funded projects.

FNU prides itself with international standard PhD and Masters by Research programs that meet all the requirements of Quality Assurance Agency, UK; Australian Qualification Framework 9 and 10, Fiji Higher Education Commission Framework 9 and 10.

The FNU doctoral programmes are designed to support research candidates with preparatory research courses, and monitoring of research project progression with three milestones - a candidature confirmation within ten months of enrolment; a mid-candidature review within 20 months and a completion seminar at the end of 30 months. Duration of the programme is 3 years full time and 6 years part-time.

All enrolled HDR candidates will soon be sent details of an induction program, meet and greet and a networking opportunity.

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# Fiji National University signs MOU with University of Hertfordshire, UK to strengthen research collaboration

The Fiji National University (FNU) has formalised and strengthened its partnership with the University of Hertfordshire following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Tuesday 11th February 2020. Professor John Senior, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research at the University of Hertfordshire, visited FNU and delivered a talk on research priority areas at the University of Hertfordshire. After which the signing of MOU between the two universities followed.

FNU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nigel Healey said the University was excited to be partnering with a fellow institution to advance and strengthen the University's work in the field of research. Professor Healey emphasised on the importance

of strengthening international relations with established institutions that can support FNU. He also mentioned that while benchmarking, it's not about looking at who is the best in the world and trying to copy what they do. It's about who is on the same journey as we are, but further advanced.

This partnership was facilitated by FNU's Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research, Professor Mohini Singh who visited University of Hertfordshire early last year. She initiated this MOU for a closer working relationship with the University of Hertfordshire for collaborative research, staff and student exchange and a joint PhD sometime in the future.



## Revitalising Informal Settlements and their Environment (RISE) programme

The Fiji National University is a proud partner of the RISE Project through research and data collection and analysis. The project will see improved access to essential water and sanitation for 12 rural communities in Fiji. FNU is thankful to Professor Rebekah Brown, Senior Provost Research at Monash University to include us in the project.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern visited Tamavua I Wai settlement in Suva which is a demonstration site for

Revitalising Informal Settlements and their Environment (RISE) programme. RISE is a research-based consortium of institutions, led by Monash University, working to introduce low-tech sanitation technology into informal settlements in Fiji. The NZ Aid Programme has committed NZ\$3m over 2019-2021 towards the cost of upgrades for the first six RISE sites. This will benefit 365 households and 2,010 people.



## Research Management for Integrity and Compliance with Policies for Research

The Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research (OPVCR) has been working hard to ensure that research at FNU is carried out with integrity and ethically by developing policies to guide the researchers.

**In 2019 the following policies, procedures and standardised forms were developed and approved by the University Senate:**

### 1. Higher Degree by Research Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

- FNU Higher Degrees by Research Policy & Procedure
- FNU Higher Degrees by Research Supervision Policy
- Nomination of Examiners Guidelines
- External Examiner Guidelines for Research Degrees
- FNU Thesis Structure Guidelines

### 2. Higher Degree by Research Forms

- Current HDR Candidate Transfer to New HDR Program Form
- Application for Admission to HDR Programme Form
- Change of Supervisor Form

- Nomination of Examiners Form
- External Examiner Declaration Form
- Notification of Intention to Submit Form
- Thesis Consent Form
- Release of Thesis Form
- Doctoral Oral Examination Report Form
- Masters Oral Examination Report Form
- Examiners Report for Doctoral Thesis Form
- Examiners Report for Masters Thesis Form
- HDR Supervisor & Candidate Meeting Log Form
- FNU HDR Candidate Supervisor Support Form

### 3. Higher Degree by Research Examination Policy & Guidelines

- FNU Higher Degrees by Research Examination Policy
- FNU Examination Guidelines for Research Degrees

### 4. Research Policy

- FNU Research Policy
- Authorship policy
- Research Integrity Policy

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## 5. Data Management Policy & Procedures

- FNU Research Data Management Policy
- FNU Research Data Management Procedure for HDR Candidates
- FNU Research Data Management Procedure for Staff, Adjuncts and Visitors
- FNU Research Outputs (Publications, Patents, Others) Data Collection Policy & Procedures

## 6. Academic Conference Policy & Forms

- FNU Academic Conference Policy
- Application for Academic Conference Funding Form

## 7. Human Research Ethics Policy & Forms

- FNU Human Research Ethics Policy
- Human Research Ethics Application Form
- Participation Information Sheet

- Consent Form
- Confidentiality Agreement Form
- FNU Human Research Ethics Committee – Terms of Reference
- FNU Human Research Ethics Committee Members

## 8. Animal Research Ethics Policy and Forms

- Code of Conduct for Animal Research
- Animal Research Ethics Application Form
- Animal research Ethics Consent Form
- Animal Research Ethics Feedback Form
- Postmortem Template
- Unexpected Adverse Event Report
- Information Sheet for Animal Owners
- FNU Constitution of the Animal Research Ethics Committee

## Enabling FNU Academics to attend International Conferences

It was decided by the Senior Management Group in February 2020 that from July 2020, the incentive awards earned by academics via publications, patents and creative works be accumulated as a record with OPVCR to be used by the individual to pay for international academic conferences, and research related fieldwork.

**Presenting papers at national and international conferences is important for the following reasons:**

1. Research and publications should be disseminated widely, i.e. internationally for feedback and further collaboration

with international experts and peers.

2. It is an opportunity to find out what is new in ones field of study. Academic conferences will keep you updated on new findings that have taken place.
3. It will allow you to make it known to others what your research is all about.
4. For FNU, which is a fairly new university, it is important for FNU academics to be part of the international network to put FNU on the map.
5. The above is normal practice at many universities around the world.

## Call for Cases and Book Chapters for the 2nd Edition of the Springer Book 'Digitalisation Cases' (2nd Edition)

<http://www.digitalization-cases.net/>

## Upcoming Seminars

**Title:** Completing a PhD alongside a full-time job  
**Presenter:** Professor Nigel Healey - Vice-Chancellor  
**Date:** 16th March 2020  
**Time:** 2.00pm - 4.00pm  
**Venue:** Main Board Room, FNU Nasinu Campus

### Abstract:

A PhD is an original contribution to knowledge, normally via a thesis of at least 80,000 words. As a working academic with a family and a mortgage, nothing is more daunting than writing 80,000 closely argued, well-researched words, while teaching class, paying bills and raising children. I failed three times, once as a 21-year-old student with no cares in the world, and twice as a working father drowning in family, teaching and administrative duties. I finally succeeded, not because I was smart or inspired, but because I supported by my family, disciplined and – at last – focused on a research topic I was passionate about. We can all do this.

### Biodata - Professor Nigel Healey

Professor Nigel Healey graduated top of his class with a BA (1st Class Hons.) in Economics from the University

of Nottingham in 1980. At that time, few UK academics in the social sciences had PhD degrees, and several UK universities offered him doctoral scholarships. He enrolled at an East Midlands university, where a combination of weak supervision and poor prior academic preparation meant that he left without submitting his thesis.

He returned to doctoral study after completing an MA (Distinction) Economics from the University of Leeds and an MBA (Distinction) from the University of Warwick, but once again failed to make any significant progress in (this time) a part-time PhD, first at the University of Leicester and later at Lancaster University.

Having managed to muddle through an academic career in the UK and NZ with level 9 qualifications, in 2012, he finally enrolled in a DBA in Higher Education Management at the University of Bath. This entailed an 18-month coursework foundation, followed by a 60- 80,000-word thesis. He submitted in May 2015 and graduated in July 2015. In April 2016, he enrolled in a PhD by Publication at Nottingham Trent University. He defended his thesis, based on 11 published papers (90,000 words), in May 2018 and finally graduated after making the required corrections in July 2019.