

College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) hosts first-ever Academic Excellence Awards



The recipients of CMNHS first ever Academic Excellence Awards

Thirty-four awards were presented during the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) inaugural Academic Excellence Awards held at the Central Cuisine Restaurants & Events Center last Friday.

Chief guest, Fiji National University (FNU) Pro Vice Chancellor Research, Professor Mohini Singh commended all the winners on their achievements. Professor Singh also thanked the input from supervisors of the nominees, mentors and sponsors.

"FNU is very proud to have this College [CMNHS] advance research and now to the recognition of research in form of an awards night," said Professor Singh.

"Tonight we celebrate the very best of research discovery carried out at the CMNHS for our future well-being and prosperity. These awards seek to recognise and celebrate exceptional research led outcomes and innovations that have significant impact on our society and economy," added the senior academic.

Professor Singh emphasized to guests present at the awards event that Universities were a vital source of new knowledge, innovative ideas and providers of skilled personnel, credible qualifications, and contributors of innovation.

She said while Universities attracted international talent and supported business investment it was the research component alongside education that shaped the unique contribution that Universities make.

Dean for the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Dr William May in his address acknowledged the strong continued support received from the Office of the Vice Chancellor.

"The awards night is not only an event to recognize the staff but also an event to wind-down after all your hard work throughout the academic year," Dr May said.

Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor James Pounder, said such award functions was an important way of recognizing staff achievements as well as praising them for their hard work through-out the year.

"I would like to say, you have a great Dean here and if I had an award for leadership—he would get it." Prof Pounder said.

The Head of School Medical Sciences, Dr Odille Chang, and the Head of School Public Health and Primary Care, Dr Donald Wilson, were recipients of Dean's Excellence Award.

Dr Donald Wilson said he was humbled and extremely grateful to receive the Dean's Excellence Award.

"In my close to 3 years since joining FNU, this year and particularly this semester has been the most trying and almost painful period, with my unavoidable teaching load, research responsibilities and competing administrative priorities. With all of that busyness this semester and barely being able to 'keep my head above water', being named recipient of that excellence award was truly a blessing," said Dr Wilson.

Dr Wilson said acknowledging the contribution of staff towards the successful running of an institution was the best feedback that motivated staff and birthed challenges to greater heights.



Dr Donald Wilson (left) Head of School of Public Health and Primary Care