

College to House Regional Centre of Education



Participants of the first Ultrasound Test Course.

The Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) has been selected by the World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB) as the site for its future Pacific Region Centre of Education (CoE).

The major decision to set up a WFUMB CoE in Oceania and the Pacific was ratified at the WFUMB 2017 congress held in Taipei.

Head of Department of Medical Imaging and Anatomy at the College, Raymond Keshwan, said this was a milestone achievement for the College and the ultrasound practitioners in Fiji, and the region.

"The College and Suva (Fiji) as a whole will become the regional hub for training multidisciplinary users of ultrasound," Keshwan said.

"I think this is a great recognition for the College as it highlights the level of resources we have and the capability of our staff to organise and deliver the workshops and to host internationally recognised WFUMB speakers."

"The establishment of the CoE, by mid-2019, is invaluable as it will assist professionals in diagnosing, monitoring, assessing and treatment of diseases. The new Centre of Education will utilise the excellent facilities in Medical Imaging within the College and will focus on our regional needs in the field of ultrasound," he said.

Recently an Ultrasound Test Course, with WFUMB speakers from Denmark, Norway and Australia, was held at CMNHS. Participants included doctors and medical imaging technologists from the College, hospitals and clinics in Fiji, and Tonga and also practitioners from the private sector.

WFUMB CoE Regional Director for Australasia, Dr Sue Westerway said they were excited to work on the new project.

"As part of the arrangement, WFUMB will financially support the CoE to around FJ \$10,000 annually for at least the next five years," Dr Westerway said.

She said the funding would be used to bring expatriate speakers to run ultrasound training and workshops that would cater for students, sonographers and specialists in ultrasound from Fiji and the Pacific.

"Fiji falls within the federation region of the Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM) and the Centre, once formally established, will become one of 14 around the world," Dr Westerway said.

According to her, CMNHS had the perfect set-up to conduct the WFUMB workshops.

"Professionals and students will have the opportunity to learn the latest in ultrasound from expert tutors at minimum cost. Any learning that improves patient outcomes will advantage not only Fiji but the region as well," Dr Westerway said.

She said one of the WFUMB's missions was to establish WFUMB Centre of Education in countries around the world where there was a need for ultrasound education.



*WFUMB reps, Odd Helga Gilja ,
Dr Sue Westerway and Christian Pallson Nolsoe, in Suva.*