

**22 January, 2018**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FNU partners with Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP)**

**Suva, Fiji Islands.** An agreement between Fiji National University (FNU) and Australia's Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) will further enhance the delivery and quality of post graduate programmes offered by the University's medical college.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed today at Nasinu Campus, will look at staff capacity building and development and exchange of academic and administrative staff among other areas.

FNU Vice Chancellor, Professor Nigel Healey said the University's goal is to ensure that Fiji and the South Pacific have the medical practitioners we need to sustain our growing health care sector.

"This new partnership with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians is designed to support FNU as we expand the range of medical and clinical specialisms. This MoU is an affirmation of our intention to foster genuine and mutually beneficial collaboration in the area of 'Human Resources Development in the Health Sector'," Prof Healey said.

He said FNU was grateful to the Royal Australasian College of Physicians for the initiation of this partnership.

Associate Professor in Internal Medicine at the University's College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS), Dr Jioji Malani said the agreement was ground breaking which will greatly assist postgraduate programme in Internal Medicine.

"Our post graduate programme in Internal medicine was established in 1998 based on the RACP program and was constructed by members of the RACP (through the AUSAID program) with our local counterparts," Dr Malani said.

Dr Malani said there has been no official RACP involvement for the past 20 years although there has been continuing presence in the running and evaluation programmes on an individual basis.

“This agreement will assist our program at many levels including curriculum review, running of the program, assessment, manpower assistance, Continuous Medical Education (CME), post graduate candidate placement abroad for further training and subspecialty training,” Dr Malani said.

He said RACP is expected to strongly influence the delivery and quality of teaching and training based on their resources and experience.

Speaking after the ceremony, RACP President Dr Catherine Yelland said the MOU will see doctors from Australia, New Zealand and Fiji working together to develop specialist medical training expertise and education.

“Internationally, our focus is on health education and research and building capacity among educators, academics, physician specialists and their institutions in our region,” Dr Yelland said.

“This MOU will also enhance many activities undertaken by our own physicians, Australasian medical colleges, individual medical colleagues, and organisations working in the region.

“We look forward to building stronger ties with FNU’s College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences and working together on post graduate education, training and research opportunities.”

The MOU is effective immediately and will remain in place for five years.

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**About the Fiji National University:** The Fiji National University (FNU) was established through the merger of 7 government-owned tertiary institutions in Fiji, and commenced operations from 1 January 2010. The constituent institutions are found at over 40 different locations across Fiji, and collectively offer Certificates, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Degrees, Postgraduate qualifications and Skills Upgrading for those who are already in employment. Approximately 30,000 students pass through the University each year. Over the last six years of its operations, the University has registered major achievements with regard to new programme delivery, quality improvements and contribution to research and publications via its 5 Colleges: The College of Humanities & Education (CHE), the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences (CMNHS), the College of Engineering, Science & Technology (CEST), the College of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (CAFF), the College of Business, Hospitality & Tourism Studies (CBHTS) and the National Training & Productivity Centre (NTPC).