

Smiles for the Pacific (SFTP), donates hi-tech machine to Fiji National University's (FNU) School of Dentistry and Oral Health

Fiji National University (FNU) dental students will now be able to use another hi-tech computer machine as part of their study programme, thanks to the timely donation from Smiles for the Pacific (SFTP), Fiji.

SFTP donated a Cerec Cadcam Unit to FNU's College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) School of Dentistry and Oral Health (SDOH) today.

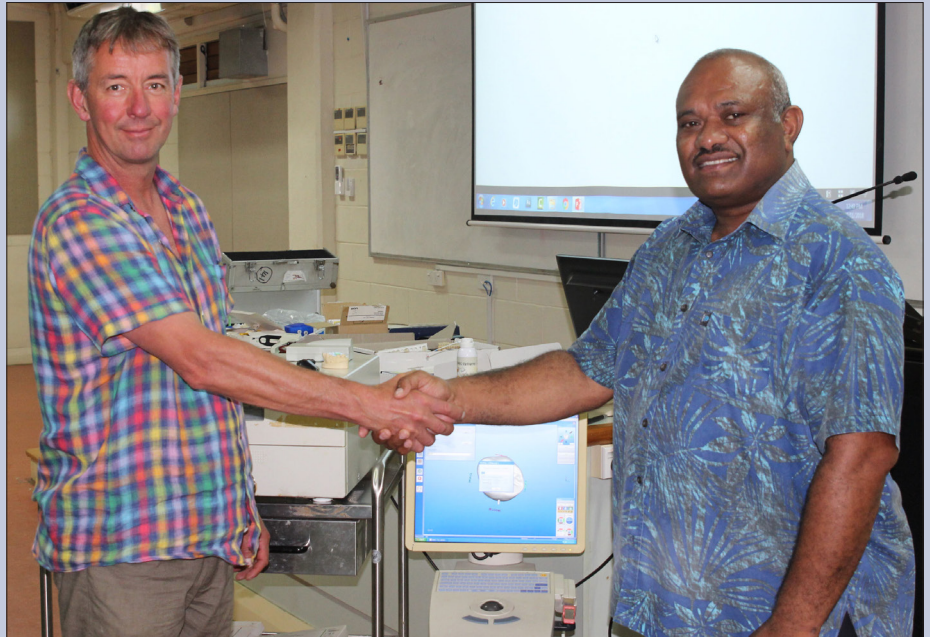
The Unit which is a computer aided machine is used to make ceramic and resin tooth restorations in an efficient way in the presence of the patients.

SFTP Co-Founder, Dr Jonathan Cole said they were pleased to partner with FNU on this project.

"It (the Unit) is very popular globally and it's important that FNU students get a chance to use this type of equipment. We were able to donate it from New Zealand," Dr Cole said.

According to Dr Cole, once the department staff were familiar with handling the equipment and teaching the students, there was a possibility that more units could be donated.

"Staff will be able to develop their skills with this machine and its part of the future of dentistry, so it's right and appropriate that students of FNU get to use it as part of their training," he said.



-Founder of SFTP Fiji, Dr Jonathan Cole (left), congratulates Dr Osea Dukuno, Head of School of Dentistry and Oral Health

Dr Cole said training with this machine would take the students to the new age of digitalised dentistry in 2018 and beyond.

SFTP was formed in late 2012 by Dr Cole and Dr Mahendra Moopna of New Zealand with the aim of training, upskilling and mentoring Fijian health professionals to meet complex dental needs in underserved northwest region of Fiji.

Head of School of Dentistry and Oral Health (SDOH), Dr Osea Dukuno, said this was an important donation from SFTP and a very kind gesture.

"Now the dental programme is becoming more digitalised and this will be a worthwhile addition to the school which will help us train our dental students," Dr Gavid said.

He said students and staff would be very excited to receive the new machine.

Assistant Lecturer, Sheetal Chand, was among a group of staff who underwent training today.

"A lot of quality work will be produced with the help of this Unit and it will be very beneficial to staff and students. The field of dentistry is evolving with the introduction of this type of technology," Chand said.



Dr Jonathan Cole (closer to the camera), Co-Founder of SFTP Fiji, shows the donated Cerec Cadcam Unit to Dr Osea Dukuno, Head of School Dentistry and Oral Health