

CMNHS receives accreditation certificate

The Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) has reached another milestone after being awarded an accreditation certificate by the Fiji National Human Research Ethics Committee (FNHREC).

The accreditation was awarded to the College Health Research Ethics Committee (CHREC) during a national consultation meeting on Governance of National Human Research Ethics in Fiji, held at the Tanoa International Hotel in Nadi recently.



Research Fellow Etivina Lovo (left), FNU Pro Vice Chancellor Research Dr Mohini Singh and CMNHS Associate Dean Research Dr Donald Wilson pose with the accreditation certificate.

The meeting was opened by the Minister of Health and Medical Services, Honorable Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete.

In his opening address, Dr Waqainabete, said: "as a basic principle according

to the World Health Organisation, research ethics governs the standards of conduct for scientific researchers".

"The intention is to enable researchers to adhere to ethical principles in order to protect the dignity, rights and welfare of research participants, especially in communities around Fiji."

According to Dr Waqainabete, it was only proper that all research involving humans should be reviewed by an independent Research Ethics Committee, to ensure that the appropriate ethical standards were being upheld.

Associate Dean Research at CMNHS, Dr Donald Wilson, while receiving the accreditation certificate, said it highlighted the fact that FNHREC was assured that the CHREC had the capacity to offer protection to human participants in research.

"The accreditation of CHREC means that it has proven institutional effectiveness as assessed by the accrediting process and verification team from FNHREC."

"The assessment recognised that CHREC fulfilled international and national standards of governance of human research ethics (and) FNHREC has granted full authority to CHREC to conduct independent review of research proposals under the Fiji Government regulations that govern human health research," Dr Wilson said.

Research Fellow with CHREC, Etivina Lovo, said: "the committee has been working on aligning committee Standard Operating Procedures and documentation of processes to fulfill Fiji and international criteria for the past three years".