

## CMNHS strengthens partnership with Marist Rugby Club

A strong team comprising of more than forty students and lectures from Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) physiotherapy programme will provide assistance to teams during next weekend's 43rd Marist 7s tournament which will be held at ANZ Stadium in Suva.

The announcement of the partnership was made yesterday in a press conference between the College and organisers of the country's largest sevens tournament.

While delivering his address the Dean CMNHS, Dr William May, said: "as the region's premier medical tertiary educator—we see these competitions (Marist 7s) as something that not only provides opportunity for on field training of students but also a tool to advocate for a physically active lifestyle and as a way to combat the Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) epidemic that plague our local communities".

"NCD is a national issue and anything that help fight this issue—we as a medical institute, are ready to support it," Dr May said.



(left to right) Head of Health Sciences- Ms. Maria Waloki, Head of Physiology and Physiotherapy- Venasio Ramabuke, Dean CMNHS-Dr William May with Marist Rugby Club President-Lawrence Tikaram and physiotherapy students Sakiusa Naika and Amelia Matavou.

According to Dr May, it was through these partnerships that the College could help make the communities even more aware, healthy conscious, and at the same time it assisted in the development of local sporting talents.

"We provide our graduates with new skills, practical experience and real opportunities (and) our programmes are the ideal blend of theoretical learning and practical experience and are developed through industry consultations."

"We provide opportunities in the classroom, on the field, during internships and research that is unparalleled to any other University in the country," the Dean said.

A total of 29 final-year and 13 third year physiotherapy students will be available for the two-day tournament to provide sports medicine pre-game,

on field, and rehab support, raising the safety compliance profile of this premier sevens event.

"These students have undergone intensive First Aid In Rugby (FAIR) course certified by World Rugby, making them competent to serve in such competitions," Dr May highlighted.

Amelia Matavou will be among the participating students and said this was a great initiative by the College.

"I am very excited and really looking forward to taking part in the tournament to apply my clinical knowledge in real time," she said ecstatically.

"Such trainings are very important because in our line of studies not everything can be learnt in the classroom. I am happy that I will gain a lot of practical skills which is at the forefront of the College's ambitions for its students," Matavou added.

The President of Marist Rugby Club, Lawrence Tikaram commended the work done by the College.

"We care for all our player's welfare and through the wonderful work of Fiji National University's CMNHS, we are able to deliver our objectives," Tikaram said.

He said the physiotherapy students would be able to apply their classroom knowledge on players from 64 confirmed teams which was great for their development.

"From the organisers point of view, we are extremely delighted to have these students come on board and assist the teams with their medical needs," he said.



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