

## CMNHS Staff gain international accolades

Two staff from the Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) recently received significant international accolades and have been also commended by the University fraternity.

Lecturer in Medical Laboratory Sciences at CMNHS, Dr Aruna Devi, graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy from Charles Stuart University in Australia while Head of Department- Public Health and Health Services Management, Dr Ledua Tamani, was recognised as a Fellow of Australasian College of Health Services Management (ACHSM).

"Receiving my doctorate degree is a major accomplishment and I have accomplished a goal I set early in life as an academic," said an excited Dr Devi.

"CMNHS has played a major role in this journey by providing me with facilities and other working arrangements and guidance."

"I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to the Dean of the College, Dr May, Head of School of Health Sciences, Maria Waloki, Acting Head of Department Pathology and Medical Laboratory Science, Taina Naivalu and my Colleagues for supporting me."

Dr Devi added that being the first in Fiji and the region from the field of Medical Laboratory Science with a doctorate degree, she hoped to motivate and inspire fellow scientists to do the same.

"I would also like to take the field of Medical Laboratory Science to a higher level with accreditations and starting off research projects for awareness and education," she said.

Her thesis was on: Molecular Microbiology *Campylobacter* spp. Epidemiology and characterization of antibiotic resistance in *Campylobacter jejuni*.

Meanwhile, Dr Tamani said he felt honoured to be bestowed with "the highest award of recognition given by the ACHSM".

"This award is given to its members, who consolidate previous learning and experience in the health sector, provide forum for debate and updating knowledge on current health issues including health management, ethics, law, and population health, and demonstrate a high level of commitment as a professional health leader and health service manager."

"The award means recognition of the School of Public Health and Primary Care and CMNHS' academic programmes and its relevance and contributions towards health management and health systems."

"This is also a recognition of the continuous professional training, development and support provided by the CMNHS on health leadership and management to its academic staff," Dr Tamani highlighted.



Dr Aruna Devi during her graduation.

Dean CMNHS, Dr William May in congratulating the staff said, one of the core areas of the College strategic plan was ensuring capacity building among our staff to build a qualified local workforce.

"We need to promote appropriate intellectual leadership and academic scholarship and the achievements are a result of our vision to produce cohorts of leaders at the College with specialisms in disciplines to build local authority in various fields," Dr May commented.



Dr Ledua Tamani, with his recognition certificate.