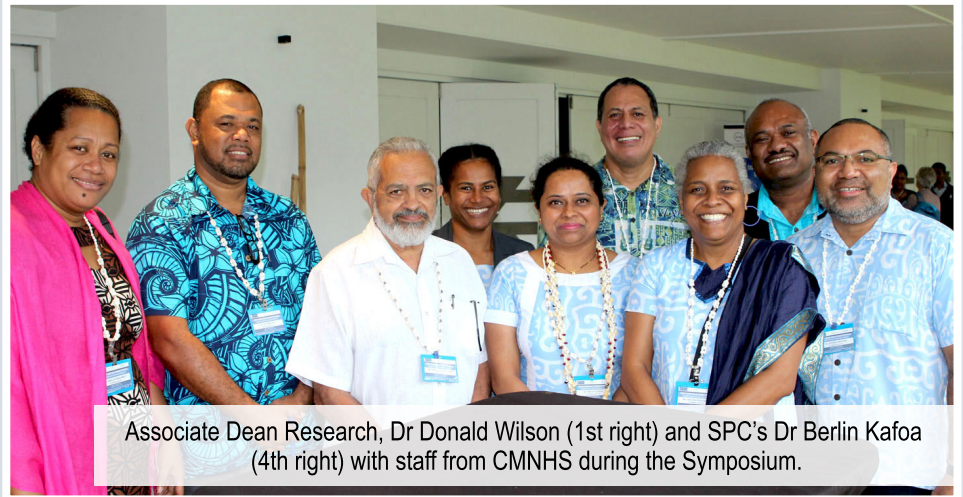


## SPC impressed by PIHRs' success



Associate Dean Research, Dr Donald Wilson (1st right) and SPC's Dr Berlin Kafoa (4th right) with staff from CMNHS during the Symposium.

The Pacific Community (SPC) is keen on further strengthening collaborations with Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) after the success of the 7th Pacific Islands Health Research Symposium (PIHRs).

"We are already in talks with Dean (of CMNHS) to plan on how we can start work for next year's Symposium. When we look at this Symposium which is based on research in the Pacific, we take that outcomes are current and it provides better scientific evidence," Dr Belin Kafoa, Team Leader-Clinical Services Program at SPC's Public Health Division said.

According to Dr Kafoa, the quality of PIHRs had improved over the years, and it had become diverse by attracting international speakers.

"I was one of the founders of PIHRs, and I think the University has made sure that this is a research-based Symposium rather than opinion-based."

"I know that several partners are interested in some of the presenters and offering (to provide) them with opportunities if they want to move on to Post Graduate education."

He said, as an academic organisation, CMNHS played an important role as the guardian and focal point for gathering knowledge.

"The College is asking quality questions and now with this Symposium—some presenters have opportunities to publish in respectable journals."

Dr Kafoa, a former academic said he was quite impressed with the research work and presentations by the student.

"I have had a chance to witness student presentations, and with the College hosting this Symposium, it encourages students to present amongst their peers."

"This is a huge learning experience for them (students) and for us too, to learn from them," Dr Kafoa added.

Associate Dean Research-CMNHS, Dr Donald Wilson, echoed similar sentiments acknowledging the hard work of students.

"I think we have had very interesting findings from all the studies that were presented and I am particularly impressed with all of our student research."

"I think our supervisors have done a sterling job of ensuring that these students are prepared well, that they respond well and it is evident that they are prepared to go further with their research," Dr Wilson highlighted.

While acknowledging the diversity offered by keynote speakers, he said: "we addressed several local and regional issues as far as research is concerned".

Dr Wilson emphasised that CMNHS was committed to working with the region.

"We have participation from the region, and having the regional picture is important to us. CMNHS has always been involved with regional work contributing to the education of the region."

Dr Wilson also recognised the support of BSP Life and SPC for their support towards this symposium, which concluded on August 30 at the Pearl Resort in Pacific Harbour.



Student presenters from Bachelor of Laboratory Sciences programme.