

Record number of Year 6 MBBS students to complete studies in 2019



(Standing front from right) Caifeng Kuang and Gift Evangel with their classmates.

Ninety-five students from the Fiji National University's (FNU's) College of Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) are expected to complete their final year (Year 6) of studies in the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) programme in December.

This is the highest number in the history of the MBBS programme from the College to enter the final year of studies.

These Trainee Interns are currently part of a two-day orientation and workshop session underway at Pasifika Campus before departing to undertake hospital and community based components which is part of the MBBS programme.

Assistant Professor, Dr Abhay Choudhari while advising the students, said that they needed to make the most of the year-long trainee internship opportunity.

"The hospital based component is very important as you will be acting as shadow doctors. You will do everything interns do but under supervision," Dr Choudhari said.

"Try and get as much practical experience as possible in the hospital environment (which) is most important for your learning. It is also important for you all to attend to all the duties and responsibilities that have been allocated by your training supervisors," he added.

Dr Choudhari reminded the senior medical students that learning about real medicine practice cannot be attained in the library or using smart gadgets but rather they "have to be present in the ward."

A Trauma Care workshop is also part of the Orientation Session.

Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, Dr Kenton Biribo said the workshop helped the Trainee Interns to work as a team while applying skills to help patients.

"They (final year medical students) might be working in the periphery (and) trauma happens away from the hospital setting, in very inconvenient places

and they will be the first line managers," Dr Biribo said.

The senior academic said the aim was to get everyone trained up in trauma care so patients could get standardised and appropriate treatment at right time.

"This workshop equips them with right skills to handle trauma cases (because) the victims can be very daunting to look at and students can be easily overwhelmed by what they see. What we teach here is to compartmentalise and prioritise treatment rather than getting shocked," Dr Biribo commented.

"The students appreciate this type of training because without this, they would feel under prepared to handle the trauma victims," he added.

Gift Evangel from Solomon Islands, a final year MBBS student said the entire Orientation and workshop program was important and useful.

"I feel that it's still a challenging year for me and I am not finished yet," said a focused Evangel.

"I hope to lift the standard of medical care back home once I graduate because I want to go back and help my community," he said.

Fellow student, Caifeng Kuang said she was excited to undertake her internship.

"In the beginning everything seemed so difficult but with the support of the teachers, we made it this far. I am bit excited and more nervous because we will be learning new things," she said.

Kuang said she always attended her Orientation because important information on how she would go about doing things for the rest of the year was given at the time.

"I have always lived in Suva, so I am looking forward to doing my hospital block in Labasa."