

# Pacific's Health Drum

Newsletter of the Pasifika Medical Association  
*Working together to strengthen the Pacific health workforce in the region.*



*Malō e lelei and a thousand greetings from all other Pacific languages.*

*Disaster Preparedness for deployment in New Zealand and the Pacific is an interesting concept, suggesting New Zealanders have to adapt to Pacific conditions of living, working and dying.*

*However cultural appropriateness is often forgotten in emergency situations. A disaster can destabilise societies, making them vulnerable to unplanned changes and allowing hegemonic processes to haphazardly change societies forever. These have been most apparent in dietary changes in the Pacific Islands due to food assistance programmes during a disaster, which in turn creates a new disaster. Therefore it is hoped that disaster coping mechanisms are built around appropriate cultural frameworks.*

*Similarly, education as an agent for social change, should take into account Pacific pedagogy, epistemology and ontology to avoid inadvertent disastrous social changes. The question is whether New Zealand is ready to deliver Pacific appropriate education and assistance without changing Pacific values and ways of working that prevents hegemonic changes.*

*The upcoming conference in Tonga targets the obvious, youth health. But will it deliver the appropriate 'youth for the future, for the new Pacific' as Pasifikans aspire to? Or will it lead to the Blue Continent becoming a Sea of Colonies. It is hoped that Pacific futures will be a Pacific for Pasifikans.*

*The reported efforts of the Otahuhu College Health Science Academy demonstrates an effort of Pasifikans to grow their own and be creators of Pacific leaders of excellence.*

*The list of events are more examples of Pacific efforts to grow Pacific agents that will build a Pacific future!*

*Long Live Pasifikans!*

*Have a safe and happy Easter.*

*Faka'apa'apa atu,*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Pg 2 Disaster Preparedness Opportunities
- Pg 2 Students are our Future Update
- Pg 4 16th Annual Conference Register Now!
- Pg 5 Developments for Otahuhu College, Health Science Academy
- Pg 6 Upcoming Events



**DON'T MISS OUT  
Register Now!**

**Youth of Today, Our Future Tomorrow  
Conference 2013**

**Where:** Fa'onelua Convention Centre, Nuku'alofa,  
Kingdom of Tonga

**When:** September 24th - 27th

**For more information head to page 4 and our website:  
[www.pacifichealth.org.nz/conference/](http://www.pacifichealth.org.nz/conference/)**





## Disaster Preparedness Opportunities

For some time, Ministry of Health (MOH) have been responsible for not just the national health response to disasters in New Zealand, but to the organising of a response to disasters in the south Pacific, led by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

MOH has since developed a New Zealand Medical Assistance Team (NZMAT) in order to provide the assistance required on request, especially to areas where health services are overwhelmed by a disaster within New Zealand or other countries in the south Pacific.

In line with this, the Ministry of Health and the World Association for Disasters and Emergency Medicine have set up a two day workshop and seminar. It will focus on 'Managing Clinical Responses to Complex Emergencies' on the 18th and 19th of April.

There are spaces available on the 19th for the seminar based on 'applying lessons learned from recent responses in New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific'. To secure your chance to participate and develop your knowledge in disaster responses, click here to register.

The Pasifika Medical Association (PMA) maintains close contacts with Pasifika health professional's members in New Zealand and with health authorities across the Pacific. Because of this, PMA are in a good position to provide advice, training and deployment of appropriate New Zealand-based Pasifika health professionals into a disaster region in the Pacific region or anywhere in New Zealand. If you wish to volunteer for NZMAT, please register online: [www.moh.govt.nz/nzmat](http://www.moh.govt.nz/nzmat)

*NZMAT is a civilian-based disaster medical assistance team, comprising of clinical and allied staff that include doctors, nurses, paramedics, allied health and non-medical members such as logisticians. Such a team will only deploy on request of authorities of the affected area.*

For more information, contact Melissa Fidow via phone or email (09) 250 5761 / [melissa@healthspecialists.co.nz](mailto:melissa@healthspecialists.co.nz)

## STUDENTS are our FUTURE

### Pacific Mentoring Programme

The 2013 journey for PMA's tertiary programme, Students are our Future, has indicated expectations of success for its current 400 mentees, nationwide.

Enthusiastic mentees were willing to get involved with the programme by volunteering at the ASB secondary school's PolyFest, to encourage other students from all over Auckland, to get thinking about a health career pathway at tertiary level.

The highschool mentoring programme, Healthcare Heroes, was also promoted at the PolyFest, to expose students to the many career choices available in the health sector.

Career pathway posters were available for individuals to see what they needed to achieve this year, to gain entry into a health science discipline and were able to take copies of their chosen career pathway home, to keep as a guide. Parents at the event also took interest and were hopeful that their children would choose science as their optional subjects.

*Continue on to next page for images from PolyFest*





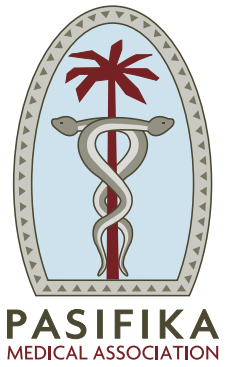






# Youth of Today - Our Future Tomorrow

Pasifika Medical Association (PMA) Conference 2013



Hosted by the Tonga Medical Association, the PMA announces it's 16th annual conference will be held at the Fa'onelua Convention Centre in the **Kingdom of Tonga** from the 24th to the 27th of September.

Call for abstracts are now open for the following conference themes:

- **Youth Health (Clinical)**
- **Youth Careers and Education (Workforce)**
- **Youth Focus (Research)**

To register or for information on registration costs, accomodation and how to submit an abstract, head to our website: <http://www.pacifichealth.org.nz/conference/>

or click on the following links:

*[Register Now](#)*

*[Registration Costs](#)*

*[Accomodation Options](#)*

*[Submit an Abstract](#)*

*[Become a PMA member](#)*

The following are the conference dates and brief outline for the event.

Tuesday 24th September:  
6.30pm Official Opening

Wednesday 25th September (Day 1):  
8.30am - 4.30pm Welcome and Sessions  
Cocktail Reception at Oholei Beach

Thursday 26th September (Day 2):  
8.30am - 4.30pm Sessions  
Conference Dinner at Vakaloa Beach Resort

Friday 27th September (Day 3):  
8.30am - 10.00am Session and Closing

All attendees from outside of Tonga must be registered and prepaid.  
No registrations will be accepted at the conference.



# Developments for Otahuhu College Health Science Academy

The Otahuhu College Health Science Academy held a successful meeting of the new Year 11 cohort, on Wednesday 20th February 2013. 100 per cent of parents attended the meeting, along with staff from the Pasifika Medical Association, Academy teachers, and students from the original Academy cohort (2011), who are now in their final year of secondary school. At the meeting, the Director of the Academy, Ms Fiona Toloa, outlined Academy teachers expectations of students – which included completing a minimum of 2 hours homework a night, a minimum of 95% attendance at school and tutorials and students asking for help from their subject teachers when they need it.

The high expectations demanded of students in the Academy are getting results. Principal Gil Laurenson shared the successful results of students in 2012, with Academy students achieving outstanding results, particularly at Level 1 and Level 2 Chemistry and Biology. Seini Jensen, Evaluation Manager, PMA, also presented evaluation findings which demonstrated significant increases in science participation and science achievement at Otahuhu College. One of the key success factors identified in the evaluation was the strong partnership between parents, dedicated teachers, peers in the Academy and the Pasifika Medical Association.

One of the great things about the Academy, according to David Bareadeau, a member of the original Academy cohort and now in his final year, are the friendships formed amongst Academy students. David told students 'they were about to embark on something really special' and that despite his initial trepidation about joining, the Academy has been one of the best experiences of his life, so far. Budding oncologist and Otahuhu College Head girl, Phyllein Taetafe also spoke of the rewards of being in the Academy and encouraged the Year 11 students to take full advantage of everything the Academy has to offer, including early morning tutorials and holiday workshops.

Students went home with stationary sets and workbooks presented by Healthcare Heroes Director, Dr Fionna Bell and Academy science teacher, Neomai Mark, both from the Pasifika Medical Association. The PMA will also be providing students with a netbook each to support them in their learning throughout the year.



*Top left: Health Science Academy Director, Ms Toloa, talks to parents and students of the school's academy.*

*Top right, bottom left: Parents and students listen as Ms Toloa and Principal Gil Laurenson address the academic agenda for the year.*





## Upcoming Events...

- **TAHA Well Pacific Mother and Infant Service** will be facilitating the first New Zealand Pacific maternal and infant conference on the 20th of June at **Ko Awatea Middlemore Hospital**. Head to their website for more information: [www.taha.org.nz](http://www.taha.org.nz)
- **CIMS Training** (Coordinated Incident Management Systems), please contact Julie Ah Ken for more information on (09) 250 5761 or email [julie@pacifichhealth.org.nz](mailto:julie@pacifichhealth.org.nz)
- **NZMAT team members' training course, Taupo, 29th of April to 2nd of May**

### Healthcare Heroes Dates

- Health Science Academy 'Art of Learning' Workshop with Lance King, 1st to 3rd to April from 9am to 5pm
- First Aid and CPR Training at Pacific Business Trust building, 22nd of April from 9am to 4pm
- Healthcare Heroes Conference, 41 Lunn Ave, Mount Wellington, 23rd and 24th of April from 8am to 5pm
- NCEA evening at Tangaroa College, 23rd of May
- Report evenings at Tangaroa College, 4th and 5th of July
- Careers expo evening at Marcellin College, 11th of September

### Students are our Future Dates

- Auckland Workshops, 15th to 19th of April (to be confirmed)
- Mentoring Workshop in Dunedin, 22nd to 24th of April
- Mentoring Workshop in Hamilton, 2nd of May
- Pasifika Connect evenings at Auckland University of Technology (AUT), 13th to 17th of May
- Workshop for Mentors in Christchurch, 21st to 22nd of May
- Auckland Mentor Training, 12th to 14th of June
- Turangi trip with AUT, 12th to 14th of July

### Pasifika Medical Association

- Medibank Nurses Scholarship Awards and Members Cocktail, 30th of May (*more information soon*)
- Youth of Today - Our Future Tomorrow Conference, Kingdom of Tonga, 24th to 27th of September (*head to our website to register and for more information*)

For more information on any of the listed events, please call our office (09) 250 5761

## Pasifika Medical Association

Join the Pasifika Medical Association (PMA) today and be a part of a vibrant group of Pacific health professionals

*Pacific health professionals working together to strengthen the Pacific health workforce in the region*



Get recognised for your achievements in the health sector and be a part of an organisation that provides ongoing professional development opportunities through annual conferences and networking events.

Join the PMA today





## Students Are Our Future

Give back to the Pacific by helping to develop Pacific health professionals of excellence.

Become a Mentor today.  
[www.pacifichealth.org.nz](http://www.pacifichealth.org.nz)



### List of Staff

Chief Executive  
Debbie Sorensen  
[debbie@pacifichealth.org.nz](mailto:debbie@pacifichealth.org.nz)

Accounts Manager  
Tina Bayly  
[tina@pacifichealth.org.nz](mailto:tina@pacifichealth.org.nz)

Community Liaison Manager  
'Eseta Finau  
[eseta@pacifichealth.org.nz](mailto:eseta@pacifichealth.org.nz)

Communications & Events Manager  
Natasha Greer  
[natasha@pacifichealth.org.nz](mailto:natasha@pacifichealth.org.nz)

Evaluations Manager  
Seini Jensen  
[seini@pacifichealth.org.nz](mailto:seini@pacifichealth.org.nz)

Evaluator  
Melitta Rigamoto  
[melitta@pacifichealth.org.nz](mailto:melitta@pacifichealth.org.nz)

PHPO Director Relationships Services  
Kim Wright  
[kim@pacifichealth.org.nz](mailto:kim@pacifichealth.org.nz)

PHPO Administrator Officer  
Julie Ah-Ken  
[julie@pacifichealth.org.nz](mailto:julie@pacifichealth.org.nz)

Healthcare Heroes Director  
Dr Fionna Bell  
[fionna@pacifichealth.org.nz](mailto:fionna@pacifichealth.org.nz)

Healthcare Heroes Navigator  
Clint Vilitau  
[clint@pacifichealth.org.nz](mailto:clint@pacifichealth.org.nz)

Healthcare Heroes Navigator  
Shahlima Fitisemanu  
[shahlima@pacifichealth.org.nz](mailto:shahlima@pacifichealth.org.nz)

Healthcare Heroes Tutor  
Ramend Kumar  
[ramend@pacifichealth.org.nz](mailto:ramend@pacifichealth.org.nz)

Workforce Programme Director  
Luke Fleming  
[luke@pacifichealth.org.nz](mailto:luke@pacifichealth.org.nz)

Workforce Programme Administrator  
Mata Nanai  
[mata@pacifichealth.org.nz](mailto:mata@pacifichealth.org.nz)

Workforce Programme Administrator  
Esmeralda Lo Tam  
[esmeralda@pacifichealth.org.nz](mailto:esmeralda@pacifichealth.org.nz)

P O Box 23061, Hunters Cnr, Manukau 2155, Level 1, 733 Great South Road, Otahuhu 1062, Auckland

[www.pacifichealth.org.nz](http://www.pacifichealth.org.nz)

PH +64 9 250 5761 | F +64 9 250 5768