



February 2020

Dear friends and colleagues,

OGHI News

Welcome to the first OGHI newsletter of 2020!

Things are changing at OGHI, starting with Co-Directorship rotation, as John Crump and David Fielding handed over the baton to Philip Hill and Patrick Vakaoti in August last year. There were also changes to the OGHI Advisory Group, and we produced a "refreshed" Vision and Mission Statement. Then came our 2019 conference, which was the first to be held outside of Dunedin.

There are new initiatives for 2020 as well: we have renewed our commitment to partnership with researchers in Fiji and Timor-Leste, refocused and increased the amount of the OGHI Seed Grants, and are planning a new series of postgraduate *e-talanoa* (Zoom meetings) between Otago and FNU postgraduate students, as well as regular webinars "*Global Health Bytes*". More details in this newsletter...

12th Annual OGHI Conference

The 12th annual OGHI Conference held 6-7 November 2019 in Wellington explored the theme of ***Global Health in the Era of Climate Change***. The conference was attended by about 50 delegates, and 23 papers were presented, which included presentations on solar-powered health care, water resource management and the impact of climate change on health inequalities. Other topics in the programme were as diverse as smallpox in Nepal, religious ceremonies in Mauritius, nutrition in Tonga and mental health in Tanzania.

The conference included a strong focus on global health in the Pacific, with researchers discussing their work on a range of projects in the Pacific region, including from the Solomons, Fiji and Tonga. We were delighted to welcome three guest speakers:

- Dr Colin Tukuitonga, Director General of SPC, who delivered a talk on non-communicable diseases in the Pacific, and also delivered the 2019 McAuley Oration entitled "*Responding to the dual crises threatening health in the Pacific Islands*";
- Professor Di Sarfati, who presented a talk about cancer control in the Pacific; and
- Professor Jo Sharp, a 2019 William Evans Fellow from St Andrews University, who gave a presentation on drivers of change in livestock systems in Tanzania.

This was the first year that the OGHI conference has been held outside of Dunedin, and also the first time that we have included a pre-conference workshop for delegates. The workshop focused on two topics, Contributing to research activities in the Pacific region and Applying for global health research funding. Workshop attendees were

afforded the opportunity to explore key cultural, practical and methodological issues relevant to conducting research in partnership with Pacific researchers in Pacific Island settings; and also to learn about the main potential funding sources for global health research, particularly in a Pacific setting.

OGHI Seed Grants

We have awarded a total of almost \$100,000 in the 2020 Seed Grants round, funding partnerships that focus on research in Fiji and Timor-Leste:

- João Martins (Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL) and Richard Edwards (University of Otago (UoO)
- Sakiusa Cabe ((Fiji National University (FNU) and James Ussher (UoO)
- Gade Waqa (FNU) and Patrick Vakaoti (UoO)
- João Martins (UNTL) and Sue McAllister (UoO)
- Atlesh Sudkahar (FNU) and Miguel Quiñones-Mateu (UoO)

Global Health Bytes

Global Health Bytes will be monthly webinars presented via Zoom, by various global health researchers and practitioners. Attendees will be able to join from their desks or from a central University of Otago location. These digital seminars are aimed at connecting, building and empowering OGHI members and collaborators.

e-Talanoa

The *e-Talanoa* will involve research conversations between postgraduate students at University of Otago and Fiji National University, and will focus on issues related to global health research in the Pacific. ('*Talanoa*', a Polynesian term describing a process of inclusive and transparent dialogue).

Details of both will be available on the OGHI Facebook page, website, and via e-mail. For more information, or if you would like to present one of the webinars, please get in touch with [Jacqui Hadingham](#).

With best wishes,



Philip Hill

Patrick Vakaoti

Co-Directors, Otago Global Health Institute