



YEARS OF PMA

The pathway to leadership is service



Mālō e laumalie,

We are privileged to welcome you to our annual Pasifika Medical Association Conference here in Auckland, New Zealand. We are especially excited to gather and celebrate 30 years of service, innovation and excellence – a milestone that honours a legacy of service to Pacific families, to culture, to the collective, and to future generations.

This year's theme, *"The pathway to leadership is service – showcasing 30 years of service, innovation and excellence"*, embraces our past while looking ahead. It is by standing on the shoulders of giants that we acknowledge the many leaders, health professionals, communities, partners and Pacific champions who have paved the way before us. Their vision, courage and service have created the foundation upon which we continue to build and shape the future of Pacific health.

We look forward to exploring this theme in depth as we continue to navigate our respective fields and futures, together.

Mālō 'aupito,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop at the top and a long, flowing line extending to the right.

Mrs Debbie Sorensen ONZM
CEO Pasifika Medical Association Group

THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST 2026

PMA CONFERENCE

07:45AM Registration Desk Open

08:45AM Guests are seated

FORMAL OPENING CEREMONY

Room: **FALE MAAMA**

MC: Dr Api Talemaitoga *ONZM FRNZCGP FNZCPHM (Hon)*

09:00AM Traditional Welcome – Turou

09:10AM **Lotu**
Reverend Hiueni Nuku *QSM*
Manager – Porirua Union Community Health Services

09:15AM Conference Opening Video

09:20AM **Welcome Address from the Patron**
Lord Tangi 'o Vaonukonuka *FRACS*
Patron – Pasifika Medical Association Group

09:30AM **Opening Remarks**
Dr Kiki Maoate *ONZM, FRACS*
President – Pasifika Medical Association Group

09:40AM Cultural Performance

09:45AM **Keynote Address**
Dr Saia Piukala *PGDipSurg, MMed Surgery*
Regional Director for the Western Pacific, World Health Organisation

10:00AM **Keynote Address**
Prof Sir Collin Tukuitonga *KNZM, FNZCPHM, FRNZCGP*
Co-Director – Te Poutoko Ora a Kiwa Centre for Pacific & Global Health,
University of Auckland

10:15AM Conference Group Photo

10:30AM MORNING TEA

SERVING THROUGH KNOWLEDGE:**Pacific-Led Research Driving Better Health**

Celebrating Pacific research, evidence, and data sovereignty as acts of service that strengthen prevention, health promotion, and treatment.

Chair: Dr Paula Vivili *FNZCPHM (Hon), MPH*

11.00AM**Keynote Address**

Faumuina Prof Fa'afetai Sopoaga *CNZM, PhD, FNZCPHM, FRNZCGP, MBChB*
Director – Va'a o Tautai Centre for Pacific Health

PANEL DISCUSSION**11.15AM**

- 01. Malaetogia Dr Jacinta Fa'alii-Fidow** *PhD, MPH*
Co-director, Moana Connect
- 02. Dr Chris Puli'uvea** *PhD, MRSNZ*
Senior Lecturer – Immunology Biomedicine
& Medical Diagnostics, Auckland University of Technology
- 03. Asiata Prof Satupaitea Viali** *FRACP, FCSANZ, FACC, FESC, FPAS, MPH*
Vice Chancellor and President – Oceania University of Medicine

12:00PM**LUNCH**
**SERVICE IN ACTION: Integrated,
People-Centred Care for Pacific Families**

Highlighting evidence-driven, culturally grounded models of care and seamless care pathways across prevention, primary care, specialist services, and community wellbeing.

Chair: Dr Ted Hughes *FANZCA, FFPMANZCA*

01:00PM**Keynote Address**

Fiugalū Tevita Funaki *MNZM, BCom*
CEO – The Fono

PANEL DISCUSSION**01:15PM**

- 01. Dr. Krupali Tappoo** *DCH, FFCGP, FRACGP*
Director – Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Hospital
- 01. Dr Maryann Heather** *FRNZCGP*
Clinical Director – Etu Pasifika
- 02. Natalia Nu'u** *BPharm Hons, BSc*
Community Pharmacist – Hillsborough Pharmacy

THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST 2026

PMA CONFERENCE

2:00PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

	DIABETES AND NUTRITION Chair: Dr Maryann Heather FRNZCGP	EQUITY, RENAL, SURGICAL Chair: Dr Ke'u Maoate MBChB
02:00 – 02:15PM	<u>Screening and Assessment of Type 2 Diabetes Risk Factors among Pacific Youth</u> Dr Fulton Shannon PhD Epidemiologist – Tongan Health Society	<u>Pacific Peoples' Experiences Accessing Hip and Knee Arthroplasty in Aotearoa New Zealand</u> Dr Atua Fuimaono Asafo MBChB Registrar – Health NZ Te Whatu Ora
02:15 – 02:30PM	<u>Food Imports and Dietary Transition in Samoa: Implications for NCDs, 2010–2023</u> Dr Keresoma Leaupepe PhD Academic – National University of Samoa	<u>Indications and Outcomes of Vitreoretinal Surgery in Fiji</u> Dr Nola Pikacha MBBS, MMED Ophthalmology Faculty Teaching Ophthalmologist – Pacific Eye Institute
2.30PM AFTERNOON TEA		
02:45 – 3:00PM	<u>The Burden of Diabetic Foot Disease in the Cook Islands: A Clinical Audit</u> Dr Garrirose Tiamai Koteka MBChB House Officer – Health NZ Te Whatu Ora Capital and Coast	<u>Increasing Underrepresentation of Pacific Peoples in Community-Based Respiratory Surveillance</u> Dr Gerard Sonder MD, PhD Public Health Physician – Pacific Perspectives Ltd
03:00 – 3:15PM	<u>Pacific Diabetes Model of Care Pilot</u> Ms Anna Liki-Faalenuu BHSc (Nurs) Registered Nurse/Accredited Diabetes Nurse Educator – Pasefika Family Health Group	<u>Fragmented Care, Uneven Outcomes: CKD Inequities for Cook Islands Māori</u> Dr Tamasin Taylor PhD Health Psychology Researcher – Pacific Perspectives Ltd
03:15 – 3:30PM	<u>Nofo 'a Kāinga: A Community-Led Co-Design Approach to Pacific Nutrition, Dunedin</u> Finau Taungapeau MDiet Senior Dietitian – Pacific Trust Otago	<u>Renal Transplant Outcomes of Indigenous Recipients: A 10-Year Retrospective Cohort</u> Dr James Crispin BMedSci/MD Junior Doctor – Monash Health, Victoria
03:15 – 3:30PM	<u>Impact of Standardisation on Best Practice in a Pacific Context</u> Mrs Marcelle Orange-Mafi MHsc Nursing Health Programme Coordinator – MFAT (NZ) / Tonga National University	<u>Implementation of the First Emergency Department Triage System in Tuvalu</u> Dr Jack Yushuo Lu CEO – Chung Shan Medical University Hospital, Taiwan

THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST 2026
PMA CONFERENCE

	HEART HEALTH, GENOMICS Chair: Dr Machaela Tepai <i>BHSc, MBChB</i>	WORKFORCE, CHILD HEALTH Chair: Assoc. Prof Sione Vaka <i>PhD</i>
02:00 – 02:15PM	<u>Ghrelin Hormone and Cardiovascular Effects in Samoans and Pacific</u> Asiata Prof Satupaitea Viali <i>FRACP, FCSANZ, FACC, FESC, FPA, MPH</i> Oceania University of Medicine, Samoa	<u>Building a Resilient Pacific Eye Care Workforce</u> Dr Audrey Aumua <i>PhD PGDiplntHealth, GradDipBus, BEd</i> CEO – The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ
02:15 – 02:30PM	<u>Centering Lived Experience in RHD Control Programs in the Pacific</u> Dr Joseph Kado <i>PhD</i> Senior Research Fellow – Pacific RHD Program / The Kids Research Institute	<u>Pacific Paediatric Workforce Development and Support (RACP PPMAG)</u> Dr Josh Agnew <i>RACP, Paediatrician FRACP</i> Deputy Chair – Pacific Peoples Member Advisory Group
2.30PM AFTERNOON TEA		
02:45 – 3:00PM	<u>Responsive Interventions to Prevent ARF and RHD among Pacific Peoples: A Scoping Review</u> Monleigh Ikiua <i>MHlthLd</i> Doctoral Candidate – University of Auckland	<u>Tapasā a Tagata Sa'ilimalo: A Pacific-Led Framework for Supporting Autistic Children and Families</u> Dr Rochelle Natafali <i>DClinPsych</i> Clinical Psychologist – Department of Corrections
03:00 – 3:15PM	<u>The Veituberi Approach: Transforming RHD Through Patient Leadership and Lived Experience</u> Ms Erini Kala <i>PDBM</i> Manager – Heart Heroes Fiji	<u>Addressing Medical Neglect Through Integrated Child Protection Systems in Tonga</u> Dr Flora Lutui <i>MBBS, MMed</i> Paediatrician – Vaiola Hospital, Tonga Dr Fiona Langridge <i>PhD</i> Senior Research Fellow – University of Auckland
03:15 – 3:30PM	<u>A Qualitative Study of Pacific Family Member Experiences of IFNAR1 Deficiency in Aotearoa NZ</u> Dr Simone Watkins <i>MBChB, PhD, PGDipPaeds</i> Paediatrician & Senior Lecturer – University of Auckland / Health NZ Te Whatu Ora	<u>State of Eye Health in the Pacific</u> Dr Iris Wainiqolo <i>MBBS PhD</i> Research Lead – The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ
03:15 – 3:30PM	<u>Norfolk Island and SE Qld Environmental and Genomic Pasifika Studies</u> Prof Lyn BSChons <i>PhD</i> Director – Griffiths Centre for Genomics & Personalised Health, QUT	<u>PechaKucha sessions x5</u> See over page for more details.

THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST 2026

PMA CONFERENCE

03:30 – 04:00PM PECHAKUCHA x5

03:30 – 04:00PM	WORKFORCE, CHILD HEALTH Chair: Assoc. Prof Sione Vaka PhD
	<u>Motivational Interviewing Guide for Pacific Peoples</u> Prof Eileen Britt / Lurita Kurene
	<u>CT-Derived L3 Psoas Muscle Ratio Predicts Survival Following NOF Fracture Surgery</u> Dr Jono Nosa MBChB Registrar – Tauranga/Whakatane Orthopaedics Health NZ Te Whatu Ora
	<u>Integrating Oral Health into National School Health Policies in Tuvalu: A 5-Year Program Evaluation</u> Associate Professor Shao Chuan Wang Chief – Chung Shan Medical University Hospital, Taiwan
	<u>Together We Rise: From Talanoa to Transformation – Shaping a Pasifika-Led Cancer Response</u> Saffron-Moana Mitchell MBA Head of Equity – Cancer Society Waikato/Bay of Plenty
	<u>Beyond the Clinic: A Pacific-Led Locality Model Connecting Prevention, Community Wellbeing and Clinical Care</u> Ana Kivalu Project Lead – South Seas Healthcare
04.00PM END OF DAY 1	
04.00PM NETWORKING DRINKS	

THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST 2026

Dinner

MC: John Pulu

06:30PM	Doors Open
07:00PM	Welcome
07:10pm	Lotu Revered Hiueni Nuku <i>QSM</i> Manager, Porirua Union Community Health Services
07:20PM	Chairs Welcome Dr Kiki Maoate <i>ONZM, FRACS</i> President, Pasifika Medical Association Group
07:30PM	Guest Speaker HRH Crown Princess Sinaitakala Tuku'aho
07:45PM	ProCare Awards
08:00PM	Dinner Served
08:30PM	Life & Service Awards Mrs Debbie Sorensen <i>ONZM</i> CEO, Pasifika Medical Association Group
08:45PM	Dessert Served
9:00PM	President's Medals Presentation Dr Kiki Maoate <i>ONZM, FRACS</i> President, Pasifika Medical Association Group
9:20PM	Closing Remarks

FRIDAY, 7 AUGUST 2026

PMA CONFERENCE

09:00AM Lotu

09:15AM Debate

EXCELLENCE AS SERVICE:

Quality, Clinical Leadership and Advanced Care

Elevating Pacific leadership in clinical practice and the pursuit of high quality, safe, and advanced care – precision medicine, robotics-assisted surgery, and palliative care, across the health system.

Chair: Dr Josephine Aumea Herman *PHD, FAFPHM, FNZCPHM, FRNZCGP*

09:45AM

Keynote Address

Papali'i Dr Suitafa Debbie Ryan *MNZM, FRNZCGP, FNZCPHM (Hon)*
Principal – Pacific Perspectives

10:00AM

PANEL DISCUSSION

01. Dr Paula Vivili *MPH, FNZCPHM (Hon)*
Director General, SPC
02. Dr Zanetta Toomata *PhD*
Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Harvard Medical School,
Massachusetts Gen. Hosp.
03. Seiuliali'i Dr George Tuitama *PGDip Mental Health*
Head of Mental Health – Ministry of Health Samoa

10:50AM MORNING TEA

DIGITAL SERVICE:

AI, Innovation and Technology for Pacific Wellbeing

Positioning digital health, AI, and advanced technologies as tools, systems, and future-facing capabilities that serve Pacific communities with equity, access, and cultural integrity

Chair: Dr Joshua Agnew *FRACP*

11:10AM

Keynote Address

Dr Audrey Aumua *PhD*

CEO – The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ

PANEL DISCUSSION

Panel Discussion

11:25AM

01. **Dr Mataroria Lyndon** *PhD, MPH, MBChB*

Co-founder – Tend Health

02. **Dr Amio Matenga-Ikihele** *PhD, RN*

Co-founder & Strategic Lead – Moana Connect

03. **Dr Basil Leodoro** *PGDipSurg, MMSurg*

Director – HELPR-1 Operations Vanuatu

04. **Dr Vanisi Prescott** *FRNZCUC, FRNZCGP*

General Practitioner and Urgent Care Physician – Local Doctors

12:25PM

LUNCH

PMA CONFERENCE

SERVING THE FUTURE:

Building a Resilient, Skilled and Future-Ready Pacific Health Sector

Focusing on workforce development, climate resilience, emerging health challenges, and long-term system transformation.

Chair: **Dr Audrey Aumua** *PhD*

01:15PM

Keynote Address

Assoc Prof Dame Dr Teuila Percival

DNZM, QSO, FRACP, FNZCPHM (Hon), FPAS

Paediatrician – Middlemore Hospital

PANEL DISCUSSION

Panel 1: Our Workforce

01. **Faumuina Prof Fa'afetai Sopoaga** *CNZM, PhD, FNZCPHM, FRNZCGP, MBChB*
Director – Va'a o Tautai Centre for Pacific Health

02. **Prof Sir Collin Tukuitonga** *KNZM, FNZCPHM, FRNZCGP*
Co-Director – Te Poutoko Ora a Kiwa Centre
for Pacific and Global Health,
Associate Dean – Pacific, University of Auckland

03. **Prof Scott Wilkes** *FRCGP*
Dean – Graduate School of Medicine, University of Waikato

01:30PM

04. **Pauline Fuimaono Sanders** *MPP, BHSc (Nurs)*
National Director Pacific Health – Health NZ Te Whatu Ora

Panel 2: Our Future

01. **Miguel Veilofia**
4th Year dental student – University of Otago

02. **Dr Ke'u Maoate** *MBChB Urology*
Urology Registrar – Health NZ Te Whatu Ora | Te Toka
Tumai Auckland

03. **Dr Michael Burling** *FRANZCOG*
Gynaecological Oncologist – St George Private Hospital, NSW

04. **Dr Alamea 'Aholelei** *PGDipSurg, MMSurg*
General Surgeon – Vaiola Hospital, Tonga

FRIDAY, 7 AUGUST 2026
PMA CONFERENCE

CONCLUDING REMARKS

03:00PM **Dr Kiki Maoate** *ONZM, FRACS*
President, Pasifika Medical Association Group

03:15PM **Lotu**

3:30 – 4PM **END OF CONFERENCE**



PMAG CONFERENCE EVALUATION

*Let us know how you found the conference!
Scan the QR Code to fill in the survey or ask one
of our team for a paper copy.*

@pasifika_medical_association



