

THE *Pacific* WAY

Centre based training courses

Training courses are held at the Wellington Centre throughout the academic year. New Zealand based courses are restricted to eight trainees, with both theoretical and practical training covered within the duration of the course. Trainees wishing to be accepted must be currently employed in a medical laboratory and have had at least two years' experience before attending. Courses cover all aspects of medical laboratory science. Funding is provided by NZAID, New Zealand Red Cross, Norman Kirk Trust, WHO, PPTC or through the country's Ministry of Health.

Biochemistry 20th May – 14th June

A biochemistry course was provided by the PPTC in May / June 2019 at its centre in Wellington, and the following seven students attended:

Name	Country	Laboratory
Atevalu Paea Lino	Tonga	Vaiola Hospital
Silvia Da Cruz Babo	Timor-Leste	Stamford Medical, Dili
Eurosia Olijje Cham	Timor-Leste	National Health Laboratory
Dalila Dias Da Conceicao	Timor-Leste	National Health Laboratory
Victor Mapesone	Samoa	TTM Hospital
Patricia Bala	PNG	Port Moresby General Hospital
Richard Tolinao	Solomon's	NRH Hospital



Biochemistry course 2019, staff and students

Remaining for 2019

- Laboratory health & safety; and quality management systems
1 July – 26 July 2019 (4 weeks)
- Haematology and blood cell morphology
5 August – 13 September 2019 (6 weeks)
- Microbiology
23 September – 18 October 2019 (4 weeks)
- Blood transfusion science
4 – 29 November 2019 (4 weeks)

Teaching and training

To maximise the progress made by laboratories participating in the PPTC's Regional External Quality Assessment Programme, the Centre has expanded its commitment to quality by assisting laboratories to establish and progress the implementation of Laboratory Quality Management Systems into their services. The PPTC is committed to working alongside our neighbouring Pacific Island Ministries of Health and laboratories to enable and strengthen their quest in achieving the quality objectives and goals outlined by the World Health Organization.

Implementing quality standards is a major emphasis for PPTC staff when visiting the many under-resourced laboratories of Pacific Island countries. They play a very pro-active role which often involves assistance in the development of documentation, management audit processes and staff competency records. The standard can be used as a baseline against which progress in improving medical laboratory practices and health status can be measured. The PPTC has extensive experience working in laboratory strengthening throughout the Pacific and it is well respected by Pacific Governments for its ability to understand and work within Pacific cultures.

Through the continued support of the New Zealand Overseas Development Programme, the PPTC has been granted a five-year contract (2016 – 2020) in order to deliver its Pacific Laboratory Quality Accreditation Programme. The activity design, on which the five year contract is based, was formulated through a comprehensive analysis of the issues and state of laboratory services in the Pacific. As a result, decisions were made to target investment to four specific countries as being more likely to achieve sustainable transformational development, than spreading services too thinly across the region as was the case in previous years. Four Pacific countries selected for specific investment include Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. This activity aligns itself with the New Zealand Aid strategic goals to improve the health of the people in these Pacific countries as a key achievement focus area and investment priority.

The following visits towards accreditation and service development to date involving the selected countries supported by the PPTC's 5-year grant funding arrangement with the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade can be listed as follows:

Tonga

- **Filipo Faiga**
4th – 8th March: Filipo continued accreditation development towards the International Standard ISO15189 with laboratory staff.
- **Navin Karan**
8th – 12th April: PPTC phlebotomy training in association with BD NZ. Navin was assisted by Suzanne Montocchio, BD's Core Product Specialist, to deliver a phlebotomy workshop to the Vaiola Hospital laboratory for which the PPTC was extremely grateful.
- **Navin Karan**
13th – 17th May: Navin provided microbiology training in both Nuku'alofa and Vava'u to strengthen the diagnostic processes within each laboratory.

Solomons

- **Russell Cole**
5th – 14th March: Russell continued accreditation development towards the International Standard ISO15189 with laboratory staff.
- **Filipo Faiga**
25th – 29th March: Filipo provided biochemistry training to strengthen the diagnostic processes within the Honiara laboratory.

Samoa

- **Filipo Faiga**
8th – 12th April: Filipo provided biochemistry training to strengthen the diagnostic processes in the laboratory at Apia.
- **Russell Cole**
13th – 17th May: Russell visited the laboratory in both Apia and Savaii to provide training in microbiology.

Vanuatu

- **Vichet Khieng and Russell Cole**
8th – 12th April: Vichet and Russell, visited Vanuatu to carry out an audit of the Santo laboratory as well as the installation and operation of the new Haematology staining machine provided by the PPTC to the Port Vila laboratory.

Papua New Guinea

- **Navin Karan**
17th – 20th June: The NZIMLS generously contributed once again to the PPTC's Regional External Quality Assurance programme. As the principal teaching and training institution in the medical laboratory sciences for the Pacific region, it is extremely important that the PPTC maintains and supports Pacific Island laboratories through its continued physical presence. This grant assisted the PPTC in the continued monitoring and evaluation of the Port Moresby laboratory that is currently a registered participant in our REQA programme. Navin made a first visit to Port Moresby in November 2017 sponsored by the NZIMLS and returned in June 2019 to reassess the laboratory's EQA Programme and diagnostic processes. Navin also carried out an audit covering the quality management essentials the foundational platform of the International Standard ISO15189. PNG is continuing to improve in REQA with the PPTC's on-site support and so a special thank you goes to the NZIMLS for creating this opportunity.



Laboratory managerial staff and pathologists, Port Moresby Hospital

Guam

- **Phil Wakem and Navin Karan**
20 - 24th May: Both Phil and Navin attended the 6th Association of USAPI Laboratories (AUL) and PIHOA (Pacific Island Health Officers Association) LabNet Meeting in Guam, the theme "*In pursuit of excellence in quality USAPI laboratory services*" which provided the basis for both Navin and Phil to present "*Updates on medical lab workforce development, EQA and LQMS in the Pacific*".



Fiji

- **Russell Cole and Navin Karan**
3rd – 7th June: Russell and Navin were both invited to the PPHSN's (Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network) regional meeting held in Nadi, Fiji, from 3rd to 7th June the theme of which was "*Linking up the initiatives and scaling up the actions*". The conference gave the delegates present the chance to share views, successes and challenges on laboratory matters likely to hinder disease surveillance. During the conference, Russell as chairperson of the LabNet Technical Working Body, was given the opportunity to update on progress made through LabNet as well as present on the PPTC's laboratory service/accreditation development programme currently under implementation.



Can you help?

If any New Zealand medical laboratories have items of diagnostic instrumentation that have been recently upgraded or continue to be stored in the laboratory but are actually surplus to requirements, the PPTC would be most grateful if such items could be donated through its Centre to Pacific Island laboratories where there is an exceptional need. Pacific laboratories have very restricted budgets and often cannot afford to replace troublesome instrumentation that continues to breakdown and which is often discontinued because it is so outdated.

The PPTC would also welcome teaching resources in terms of wall charts, haematology case studies (stained blood films), projector slides, textbooks and journals (within 10 years of publication) etc , for teaching purposes in the Pacific, if you no longer have a use for them. Any contribution is so valuable to us.

Please contact:
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