

26th February 2023

Training Directors Report.

Talofa, Kiora, Bula, Mauri, Gday welcome to all the PIOA faculty and students to our virtual AGM.

Good evening to everyone who can join in our AGM, on behalf of the Training Committee, I would like to thank you everyone for your time and energy in keeping our goals and mission going in providing quality orthopedic care in the pacific region.

The pandemic did affect us in many ways, and for us in the pacific region it really made us rethink of strategic way of providing learning. After more than 2 years of zoom sessions it was a breath of fresh air to connect face to face, with colleagues, mentors, and great friends. Resilience is a natural character of any pacific islander, and it was quite evident of the last 3 years for both PIOA faculty and students.

In the last 6-8 months we were able to gain the assistance from SPC (Pacific Community) who have been a big help in funding some of our expenses in running our modules, this also provided another avenue for local governments to advocate for quality orthopaedic training with assistance from PIOA. So in August 2022, myself and Des presented about PIOA at the heads of clinical directors meeting in Nadi Fiji. And there was a lot of positives from this meeting.

Our Spine and Hip module was held in Suva Fiji, CWM hospital from the 12th of September-24th September. We also had two of our final year students sit there final year exams from the 19th of September – 23rd September.

We had 14 participants for the spine and hip modules. They are Dr Clay Siosi & Dr Agnes Auto from Solomon Islands, Dr Deacon Teapa from Cook Islands, Dr Paul Lomavatu, Dr Reshwin Rajan & Dr Penijamini Rokoqialevu from Fiji, Dr Anthony Nasai, Dr Raymond Saulep, Dr Jimmy Yakea & Dr Kevin Lapu from PNG, Dr Kabiri Tuneti from Kiribati, Dr Julio Piedade & Dr Juvencio Diaz from East Timor.

In Addition, our 3rd Exit exams was held in CWM Hospital for Dr Areta Samuelu (Samoa) & Dr Pita Sovanivalu (Fiji). Both Areta and Pita successfully completed their exams and will have their graduation in March 2023 in Apia Samoa from NUS (National University of Samoa)

Dr Richard Lander from Palmerston North New Zealand was the chief Examiner, and Dr John North from Brisbane Australia was his assistance. Two of our graduates Dr Stephen Kodovaru from Solomon Islands & Dr Tu'uau Shaun Mauiliu from Samoa, were invited as shadow examiners during the weeklong examination process as part of succession planning for PIOA.

We are currently in collaboration with Harvard Global Orthopedics looking at the impact and barriers that prevent barriers in small developing pacific island countries.

In other developments for PIOA, we had a long-awaited meeting with FNU (September 2022) and major stakeholders in the Surgical & Orthopaedic department to address the urgent need to develop orthopaedic care in Fiji. This meeting also helped address a lot of issues regarding training and it was a milestone for both PIOA and FNU.

Overall, we have 24 trainees in the program all at different levels of the program, there are 12 students from PNG, 3 from Solomon Islands, 2 from East Timor, 1 from FSM, 1 from Cook Island, 3 from Fiji and 1 from American Samoa.

I would like to introduce our two new trainees who have joined the program this year, from Fiji Dr Pauliasi Bauleka & and from PNG Dr Tommy Walters.

Our next module will in Samoa from March 2023, which will from March 13- 31st March. It will cover Peadiatric orthopaedic, Tumour and infection, inflammation and professional topics.

We have 6 trainees waiting to sit their final exit exams, and they have started their exam prep class from December last year.

I would like to congratulate Dr Naseri Aitaoto & Dr Reswhin Rajan who are currently doing their attachment in New Zealand, thank you for continuing to be good ambassadors for the PIOA program. What you will learn will help your community and benefit your country immensely.

Dr James Tewani also did an attachment in Australia for a couple of weeks on Arthroscopy and found this to be very helpful and resourceful. Dr Stephen Kodovaru will also do pediatric attachment in Brisbane later this year.

I would encourage the trainees to make use of these opportunity from our different faculty members for you to further enriched your orthopedic knowledge and skills.

On behalf of the training committee I look forward to the new year and the challenges ahead and I thank you all for your continuing support

Kind regards



Shaun Mauiliu
PIOA Training Director