

Sunday 25th February ,2024

Bula, Talofa, Kia Ora, Mauri, G'day, Hello Olgeta

A very Warm Pacific Welcome to Everyone from Apia.

I'd like to welcome you all to this PIOA AGM virtual meeting hosted from Brisbane, Australia. A special welcome to our new trainees and founding members present. We would not be where we are without the enormous support from individual surgeons and other health personals and partner Organisations since we started. Our training program has graduated 9 specialist and we have more than 10 trainees in various stages of the training program including women.

In the past year we held Paediatric, Tumour, Infection, Inflammation & Professional topics from 13th March to 1st April in Apia Samoa. Big Thank you to Tim Gregg, Jason Donovan & Tracey Kain from NZ, and Nikki Townell & Keat Choong from Australia who made this module possible.

It was also the first time we introduce Operating with Respect & Safer Surgical Teams to our trainees and As part of our continue support for our pacific health system and focusing on the non-technical side of hospital management, we were able to hold the first Operating with respect course for Samoa , this was well received by the staff and management of TTM Hospital, and especially for our trainees who found this exercise Life changing.

The highlight of the module was also the graduation of two of our graduates from the National University of Samoa with Masters in Orthopaedics, we congratulate Dr Areta Samuelu (Samoa) & Dr Pita Sovanivalu (Fiji).

Later, last year from 11th to 30th September Knee and Foot/ankle module in Suva Fiji. A special thanks to Nik Fredrich from Switzerland, Kushik Hazratwalla from Australia, and from NZ James Aoina, Soots Leilua, Hamish Leslie & Suren Senti.

We were also able to hold our fourth exit exams and thank you Richard Lander & David Bartle from NZ and John North from Australia for coordinating the exams, and James Tewa'ani and Areta Samuelu were able to sit in as co examiners. We congratulate Clay Siosi and Naseri Aitaoto for passing the exams.

In July 2023 PIOA became a member of the IODA (International Orthpaedic Diversity Alliance), this was a major milestone for our association especially in leading the Pacific Island Countries in dealing with Diversity within our health systems.

This year (2024) we have planned the following modules Introduction & Trauma scheduled from 4th March to 16th March in Suva Fiji. And later 16th to 26th Upper Limb and Research module in Apia Samoa.

Challenges in improving supervision and monitoring response from our trainees remain largely unresolved. We are continuously working with our training committee team to better understand these challenges and explore solutions.

We acknowledge our trainees' attachments in Tauranga and Wellington, NZ. We thank Vaughan Poutawera and Tim Greg and their teams for everything you do for our trainees. We hope this will continue for our trainees to provide the needed exposure and supervision they need. We thank Orthopacifix / AOA outreach for getting Myself over to present at the NZOA & AOA last year, this has built lasting relationship for the future of PIOA.

I would like to acknowledge the many partners who supported our association, surgeons from NZ, Australia and Switzerland providing time for delivery of lectures, Hospitals in NZ/Orthopacifix for hosting our trainees attachment, the Samoa National University for accrediting our program and AO alliance, South Pacific projects, Peace nexus foundation, SPC, and recently WHO & AUSAID, PIC Governments and others for your support and funding.

I would like to acknowledge Des, James, and the training committee for organising and facilitating our training programs and ensuring the association maintains its registration requirements, but moreover, continuing to advocate and seek new partners in our association programs.

I believe today's meet will be fruitful and look forward to our discussions.

Thank you.



Tu'uau Shaun Mauiliu
President PIOA 2024