

## Wealth of Pacific research

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In this issue of the Pacific Health Dialog, we have continued to attract a diverse submission of manuscripts as we provide an essential platform for Pacific research dissemination. The manuscripts, spanning from original research to commentary and literature reviews provide a rich tapestry of interwoven themes between health and our cultures and all those other determinants of health that are not limited to social, economic and political impacts.

Kokaua *et al*<sup>1</sup> have continued to utilize the rich data in the New Zealand Integrated Data Infrastructure to analyse and meaningfully comment on issues that affect Pacific Health. In their paper, they explored the value of the parent's education on their children's health. It makes sense that when parents are educated the children do better both academically and health wise. But some hard evidence is needed. They found that there was a modest reduction in severe mental illness with an additional year of the parent's education and other co-variables such as economic deprivation do not fully moderate the effects of parental education. After adjusting for covariates, they found a 6% reduction in MHC for every additional year of both parent's education. These findings confirm the protective effect of parent's education on their children's mental health.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant economic and social distress in the Pacific Islands<sup>2</sup> and the recent surge of cases in Fiji and Papua New Guinea stresses the importance of quarantine, detection and isolation to prevent and halt transmission. A study from Samoa by Olayemi *et al*<sup>3</sup> found that medical and nursing students at the National University of Samoa were well-informed of COVID-19 which is important for the prevention of COVID-19. The constant barrage of information and news about the COVID-19 in the last 16 months may well have many people well-informed, which may lead to better prevention strategies and vaccine utilisation.

Three manuscripts explored various research methods with some uniquely designed for the Pacific setting or Pacific people. For instance, family-tree mapping and interviews conducted using blended narrative-Talanoa explored gender-based violence in Niue and it seemed to have bridged a gap in using genealogy and ancestry in understanding gender and violence issues.<sup>4</sup> The level of violence disclosure was controlled by the participants within the confines of the family setting. The two manuscripts by Thomsen *et al* explored the challenges of service access by the Pacific Rainbow community by using research methods such as relationality, co-community embeddedness and co-design. The methods engaged the participants from conception to completion and captured the genealogical and social relationships to understand the notion of self as one relates to others to illustrate "interconnectedness of Pacific communities, cultures and people."<sup>5</sup> The socially marginalized Rainbow Community groups often suffer violence and are treated unfairly by a host of service providers such as the medical profession.<sup>6</sup> The manuscript by Boon-Nanai *et al*<sup>7</sup> used the Fonofale research model to framework abuse as reported by twelve elderly Samoans. The Fonofale model gives a wide definition of abuse to include cultural and spiritual abuse. For example, failing to take an elderly relative to church is considered spiritual abuse. Hence, Pacific researchers have continued to create new research methods and explore the use of established ones to gather and validate results that are culturally relevant for our research in our diverse Pacific communities, paving the way for more impactful research.

We decided to publish a couple of papers with dated datasets as the findings may remain relevant despite the years. As we continue to attract more and good quality manuscripts, we are on the constant lookout for reviewers to strengthen the peer review process by improving turnaround times. Let us know if you are interested.

## REFERENCES

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