

Pasifika Medical Association Conference 2022

ABSTRACT PRESENTER PROFILES



PASIFIKA
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
GROUP





CHAIR

Dr Apisalome Talemaitoga

FRNZCGP

Dr Apisalome Talemaitoga has been a General Practitioner in Christchurch for 25 years and South Auckland for 7 years. He trained at Otago University and has worked in New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji as a Medical Registrar at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva. Dr Talemaitoga was a board member of the Royal New Zealand College of GPs (RNZCGP) from 2014 to 2017. He currently Chairs the Pasifika GP Network and is on the Executive of the Pacific Chapter of the RNZCGP. Dr Talemaitoga is a member of the Pasifika Medical Association and is a board member of Etu Pasifika Christchurch.



CO-CHAIR

Dr Kalo Lalahi

FRNCUC

Dr Kalo Lalahi is a Christchurch based Tongan-New Zealand Urgent Care Physician. Her out of work passions are family, waka-ama and snowboarding. Dr Lalahi's work has primarily been for the New Zealand Defence Force, with deployments within the Pacific and to the Middle East. In 2019, she moved with her family (husband and two kids) to Tonga and worked in Primary Care there for 18 months, a mind opening and great learning opportunity. Currently Dr Lalahi has returned to Christchurch working between the Defence Force and the Pegasus 24-Hour Surgery. She is pleased to have recently joined the Etu Pasifika Christchurch board and looks forward to also working with the PMA PACMAT team.



Ta'avale Ioana Mulipola

Ta'avale Ioana Mulipola is a Samoan Registered Nurse. Her clinical experience includes Pacific Mental Health, Complex MH Care, Clinical Nurse Specialist Primary Care, Nurse Educator and Clinical Quality Improvement Coordinator Mental Health. She holds a Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma in Advanced Nursing and a Masters of Nursing. Ta'avale is currently studying to be a Doctor of Health Science (DHSc) at AUT.



Dr Odille Chang

MBBS, MMED (PSYCHIATRY), GCME

Dr Odille Chang is an Associate Professor of psychiatry and Associate Dean of Learning and Teaching at the Fiji National University's College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences with more than 25 years of clinical experience in mental health policy, planning and services in Fiji. She is the former Head of the School of Medical Sciences and an avid researcher. Dr Chang is an international member of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, a WHO temporary advisor for regional mental health and was a contributor/peer reviewer for the 2022 WHO World Mental Health Report. In 2017, Dr Chang was made a Member of the Order of Fiji, for meritorious service to health and medical services, especially in the field of psychiatry and contributing significantly to addressing mental health issues in Fiji.



Dr Sam Manuela

PHD

Dr Sam Manuela (Cook Island & European) is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychology at The University of Auckland. His research interests include ethno-cultural identity for Pacific peoples in Aotearoa New Zealand, psychological and Pacific conceptualisations of wellbeing, Indigenous and Pacific psychologies, and Cook Islands mental health. Dr Manuela currently leads 'Te 'Ākirāta Mārama' - an HRC funded project investigating the prevalence of common mental health problems in the Cook Islands, and 'Pacific Psychologies' - a Marsden-funded project investigating how Pacific psychologists bring their cultural values and practices into psychological practice and research.



Ms. Metua Daniel-Atutolu

MNURS, PGDIPNURS

Metua Daniel-Atutolu works as a Health Improvement Practitioner for the National Hauora Coalition, a kaupapa Maori primary health organisation. She supports marae-based clinics in Papakura and Manurewa, and Maxcare Medical Centre in Otahuhu, Auckland. Metua supports people through problems of living and offers brief psychological and cultural interventions to reduce stress, improve functioning and, in some cases, supports individuals to transform their lives.



Asiata Malagaoma Lealofi Siō

Asiata Malagaoma Lealofi Siō received family titles in 2019. Asiata is from Satupa'itea in Savaii and Malagaoma is from Satuimalulufi in Upolu. Asiata is the Pasifika Equity Lead for Tu Whakaruruhau (a collaboration of organisations responsible for the roll-out of the Integrated Primary Mental Health and Addiction in Tamaki Makaurau).



Ms. Ann-Jane Magele

Ann-Jane Magele is from Mangaia/Aitutaki (Cook Islands) and Solosolo (Samoa). She is a registered nurse specialising in Primary care for almost 10 years. Ann-Jane has worked as a Health Improvement Practitioner for the past 2 years under the National Hauora Coalition and is based at Three Kings Accident and Medical Centre. In July 2022, Ann-Jane became the first 'HIP in Schools' - a pilot programme at Manurewa High school in South Auckland.



Dr Theresa Fitzpatrick

MBCHB

Dr Theresa Fitzpatrick is a junior doctor at Middlemore Hospital. She is half Cook Island (no Mauke, Aitutaki) and papa'a (Irish). Dr Fitzpatrick recently graduated from the University of Otago and has returned home to South Auckland. She is interested in a career in paediatrics or rural GP and enjoys spending time in the outdoors.



Dr Francis Agnew

MNZM FRANZCP FACHAM

Dr Francis Agnew is the Executive Director of PMA Group and was awarded a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the Pacific community in Mental health in 2010. He was heavily involved in the delivery of mental health services in the Cook Islands and Samoa and is recognised as an expert in this area. Dr Agnew continues to provide leadership in the development of Pacific mental health and addiction services in New Zealand and has served on many government reviews, committees, and task forces. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists and a Fellow of the Chapter of Addiction Medicine, and served as the zonal representative (Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific) for the World Psychiatric Association. Dr Agnew is also a Director for Pasifika Futures, the Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency.

CHAIR



CO-CHAIR

Mary Kata

Mary Kata holds a Masters in Health Practice from the Auckland University of Technology. In 2019 she served as the Chief of Nurses for Te Marae Ora Cook Islands Ministry of Health and has recently completed her tender. She is passionate about growing the Pacific nursing workforce and is a leader not only in her field but in the community as well.



Dr Melbourne Mauiliu-Wallis

MBCHB, MPH, BSC, DPH

Dr Melbourne Mauiliu-Wallis is a surgical research fellow undertaking her PhD in the Department Surgery, at the University of Auckland. Her research project is investigating pathways to increase Pacific female interest in surgery as a career in Aotearoa. Dr Mauiliu-Wallis is from the beautiful islands of Samoa, is a graduate of the Otago Medical School, and hopes to pursue a career as a surgeon. She also holds a MPH with a focus on Pacific Health and Medical Education.



Dr Roannie Ng Shiu

PG DIP (ARTS), MA (HONS), PHD

Dr Roannie Ng Shiu is from the villages of Lefaga and Leone in Samoa, and Manu'a in American Samoa. She is a health geographer and Pacific health researcher who also worked extensively in Pacific development while at the Australian National University. Dr Ng Shiu returned to the University of Auckland in 2021, where she is currently Acting Associate Dean Pacific for the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences and is a Director of the University of Auckland Centre for Pacific and Global Health. Working closely with Associate Professor Sir Collin Tukuitonga, her main role is to lead and deliver Pacific health research and education equity programs in Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific region.



Asetoa Sam Pilisi

Asetoa is a Programme Manager for the Knowledge Hub within the Office of the Associate Dean – Pacific, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland. He is currently a PhD candidate also at the University of Auckland exploring wellbeing amongst New Zealand born Pacific people. Asetoa, while a proud son of Central Auckland, also hails from the villages of Avatele and Alofi Tokelau (Niue) and Sato'alepai and Vailoa Palauli (Samoa).



Michaela Peters

Michaela Gardenia Peters is currently a 4th year medical student at the Otago Medical School, University of Otago. She is a young Samoan female who was born and raised in Samoa and migrated with her family to New Zealand in 2013, for better educational opportunities. In 2021, Michaela was involved in both the Otago University Medical School Students' Association (OUMSA) as the Pacific representative, and the Pacific Island Health Professional Students' Association (PIHPSA) as the medicine representative. Her participation in both student associations helped develop a particular affinity towards research topics around Pacific health leadership and the Pacific health workforce.



Mayor Pokino

MH SC (HONS)

Mayor Pokino is of Cook Island, Tahitian and European descent and is a Researcher and Evaluator at the National Institute of Health Innovation. Her background is in Health Science, Public Health, Pacific Health, Health Policy, and Health Informatics. She is a graduate from the University of Auckland, having completed her Bachelor of Health Sciences in 2013, Postgraduate Diploma of Public Health in 2014, Masters of Public Health in 2015 and Masters of Health Science First Class Honours in 2020. She is passionate about improving Pacific Health and the health of her Cook Island people.



Diana Phone

Diana's work life is currently divided between Waimauku Village Pharmacy, as Clinical Lead for the Safety in Practice Community Pharmacy Programme (Te Whatu Ora-Waitemata) and as a Senior Professional Practice Fellow at Otago School of Pharmacy. She is also the President and founding member of the Pacific Pharmacists Association Inc. Diana is currently studying towards a Masters in Health Science. She has completed a Fellowship at the Institute for Innovation and Improvement (I3). Diana was also the 2017 NZ Pharmacist of the Year.



CHAIR

Dr Fiona Perelini

FRACP FCICM

Dr Fiona Perelini is currently a paediatric cardiology fellow at Starship Hospital and hopes to work in Paediatric Intensive Care, with a special interest in paediatric cardiac intensive care. She is half Samoan, half Kiwi, born and raised in Samoa, before receiving a scholarship to Otago University where she completed her medical degree in 2003. After graduating from Otago University, Dr Perelini worked in Wellington, Samoa, Sydney, Melbourne and has now been working in Auckland for the last 2 and ½ years. Dr Perelini is passionate about the health inequalities facing our Pacific children and is interested in supporting Pasifika medical students and trainees, to realise their dreams and to bring more diversity into the paediatric medical arena.



CO-CHAIR

Dr Ainsleigh Laumatia

MBChB

Dr Ainsleigh is a New Zealand-born, Auckland-raised, Samoan woman from the villages of Sa'anapu and Sapapali'i. She graduated from the University of Auckland in 2017 with her MBChB and completed her clinical years at Middlemore and Starship Hospitals before starting her Public Health Medicine training in 2021. As a part of her training, she is currently finishing her Master of Public Health at the University of Auckland. Ainsleigh is passionate about health workforce representation, and her ultimate aim is to help create a more sustainable, cohesive, and connected Pacific health workforce that is better able to achieve equitable health outcomes for our Pasifika people.



Dr Dion Enari

MIR PHD

Dr Dion Enari is a lecturer at the School of Sport and Recreation, Faculty of Health, and Environmental Sciences at Auckland University of Technology. He holds a PhD from the Faculty of Society and Design, Bond University, Gold Coast with a Masters of International Relations and Lefaoali'i (high talking Chief) title from Lepa, Samoa. His research interests include Sport Management, Sport Leadership, mental health, Pacific language, indigenous studies, and trans-nationalism.



Lisa Viliamu Jameson

Lisa Viliamu Jameson is a Sāmoan Australian community campaigner and creative producer. She is a community organiser for the Brisbane Pacific Climate Warriors and campaigner for 350 Australia, a non-profit organisation moving Australia beyond fossil fuels. Lisa currently campaigns for the landmark Torres Strait Climate Justice case 'Our Islands Our Home'. She is also the creative director of 'Conscious Mic,' a collective of artists, cultural practitioners, and creative producers.



Dr Jemaima Tiatia

PHD, DPH, MA

Dr Jemaima Tiatia is the Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor Pacific at the University of Auckland and Co-Head of School, Te Wānanga o Waipapa, School of Māori Studies and Pacific Studies, University of Auckland. She is of Samoan descent and has a public health background. She was one of six panellists on the New Zealand Government's 2018 Mental Health and Addiction Inquiry. Her research interests include Pacific Studies, mental health, wellbeing, suicide prevention and postvention, youth development, and Pacific health inequities.



Dr Fiona Langridge

PHD, MSC (DISTINCTION)

Dr Fiona Langridge is a child health researcher, clinician, and advocate. She has experience in global health for children, specifically the Pacific. She is currently a research fellow for Cure Kids working on projects related to Pacific child health including Covid-19, Acute Respiratory Infection, Rheumatic Heart Disease in Fiji. She has previously been a research fellow for New Zealand's contemporary longitudinal study Growing Up in New Zealand and has also worked as a paediatric physiotherapist and developmental coordinator with children and communities in Aotearoa, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Her PhD thesis investigated the health of primary school children in Tonga. Out of this work she has been involved in child protection advocacy in Tonga.



Folole Fangupo

MHLTHPRAC

Folole holds a Bachelor of Health Science (Occupational Therapy). She is a Health Science alumna and Mental Health Clinician/Occupational Therapist. One of her highlights was her first-year practicum at Auckland District Health Board Lotofale – Pacific Mental Health Service, where she now works. She was inspired by the service and how it uses clinical and cultural knowledge to support Pacific people, as well as by the sense of family and community within the service.



Stephanie Erick

MPH (HONS), MHSC (HONS)

Stephanie is Principal Advisor Tagata o le Moana, Tiriti and Equity, National Public Health Service, Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand. She is a community leader, a proud Niuean from the villages of Hakupu and Alofi, married with four wonderful children. She holds public health expertise with extensive experience in tobacco control, workforce development, health promotion, advocacy, and research. Former roles include ASH NZ Director and General Manager Tobacco Control for the largest iwi-owned public health organisation – Hāpai Te Hauora Tapui. Last year, she was part of the Ministry of Health team responsible for developing and launching the Smokefree 2025 Action Plan that recently passed its first reading. This year, May 31st she led the development and launch of the Ōlaōla chatbot designed to support Pacific people to quit smoking. August 29th, she led the launch of Siu Ki Moana – Pacific Health Promotion Action Plan and attends PMA 2022 Conference to share that journey and key shifts required to ensure equitable health promotion for Pacific communities.



Dr Apo Aporosa

PHD

Dr Apo Aporosa is maternally related to the village of Naduri in Macuata, Fiji. He has a Doctorate in Development Studies from Massey University, New Zealand. Aporosa has held two New Zealand Health Research Council Pacific post-doctoral awards allowing him to investigate the impacts of traditionally influenced kava use on cognition and driver safety. Based at Te Huataki Waiora School of Health and Te Kura Whatu Oho Mauri School of Psychology at the University of Waikato, Aporosa also teaches, and supports the Pacific staff and student body as a member of the university's Pacific Strategic Group and Research Committee. Aporosa was recently awarded a 2022 Fulbright Scholarship to investigate the potential of traditionally influenced kava spaces to reducing PTSD symptomology among post-combat soldiers and first-responders.



Professor Roger Strasser

MBBS (HONS), MCLSC, FCAHS, FRACGP, FACRRM, LLD (HON), MD (HON), FRCGP (HON) UK, FRCPS (HON)

Roger Strasser is Emeritus Professor of Rural Health, University of Waikato, New Zealand Professor of Rural Health and Founding Dean Emeritus NOSM (Northern Ontario School of Medicine) University, Canada. Between 2002 and 2019, Professor Roger Strasser was NOSM Founding Dean and CEO. He is a leader in the global reform of rural health professional education and research. Recognizing the importance of context and community in medical education and research, Professor Strasser has become one of the world's foremost authorities on rural, socially accountable medical education, and a sought-after speaker and advisor.



CHAIR

Dr Jane Nicholas

MBCHB

Dr Jane Tiare Vai-Etu-Rangi Nicholas is of Cook Island heritage with connections to Rarotonga and Aitutaki. She was born in Tauranga and grew up living in Te Puna with her parents and two siblings. Dr Nicholas graduated with an MBChB from Otago University in 2016, completing her first 3 years in Dunedin before her clinical years in Christchurch Hospital. While based in Christchurch, she was a co-founder and trustee of PASHNZ (Pasifika students in health New Zealand). Since graduating, she has been sharing her time between Tauranga Hospital and her sporting career in Canoe Slalom. In 2020 she was awarded Cook Islands Sports Woman of The Year. She also competed at the 2021 Tokyo Olympic games representing the Cook Islands where she made it through to the semi-finals. Dr Nicholas is currently working as an Orthopaedic Registrar at Tauranga Hospital as a non-SET trainee with the goal of becoming an orthopaedic Surgeon, ideally applying for training next year.



CO-CHAIR

Dr Tule Misa

BDS, PGDIPCLIN DENT, MCOMDENT

Dr Tule Misa is a Board Member of Etu Pasifika. She graduated in 1998 with a Bachelor of Dental Surgery from the University of the South Pacific and worked as a dentist for four years in Tonga. The mother of five also gained a postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Dentistry and a Masters in Community Dentistry at Otago University. Dr Misa has worked in both private practice and as a public health dentist for the Canterbury District Health Board.



Julie Winter-Smith

Julie Winter-Smith (ʻAlaki Fonua/Pelehake, Tongatapu) is a doctoral candidate based in the Section of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Auckland. She is part of the Manawataki Fatu Fatu for Achieving Cardiovascular Care for Equity Studies (ACCESS) research programme, which is focused on achieving equity in cardiovascular disease for Māori and Pacific people. Her doctoral research is using Statistics New Zealand's Integrated Data Infrastructure to investigate patterns of cardiovascular disease and its management among different Pacific ethnic groups, including how this differs for Pacific peoples born outside of New Zealand. Julie's research is generously funded through the Health Research Council of New Zealand.



Nalei Taufa

PGDIP PH, PGDIP APPLIED THEOLOGY, MPH (HONS)

Nalei Taufa is a senior researcher at Moana Connect. Her current projects are exploring Whānau and Stakeholder experiences of engaging Oranga Tamariki. Further, Nalei is involved in Pacific Data Sovereignty Network, whereby Moana Research are the secretariat. She previously worked at the Auckland Regional Public Health Service following her Masters of Public Health, before becoming research lead at Le Vā.



Natalie Solomona

BA/LLB

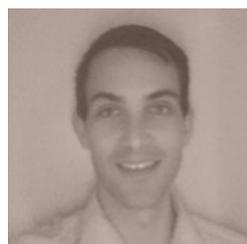
Natalie is Samoan, born, raised, and living in central Tāmaki Makaurau. Her villages in Samoa are Apia, Vaimoso, Lufilufi, and Iva. Natalie graduated with conjoint Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of Auckland in 2006, then completed the Professional Legal Studies Course at IPLS in 2007 before being admitted to the bar. Natalie first joined the Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI) whānau in 2010 as PA to the Director, then did an OE in the UK and Europe with her husband. Upon returning to New Zealand in 2015, Natalie was invited to rejoin ABI to take up the role of Research Operations Manager for the newly established MedTech CoRE. In 2021, MedTech CoRE formally closed and transitioned into a new national strategic initiative, Te Titoki Mataora – the MedTech Research Translator, which is building the virtual component of the Medtech Innovation Quarter (Medtech-iQ). Natalie now oversees the operations of Te Titoki Mataora and has also taken on a strategic role championing Pacific engagement and partnerships.



Dr Kate Yang

BHB MBCHB MPH MHSC

Dr Kate Yang is the current Chair of RMO Council at Waikato District Health Board. Dr Yang is from Auckland and currently completing her Masters of Public Health in Clinical Effectiveness, specialising in statistical and epidemiological methods for translating scientific research into clinical relevance at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts. She believes that the New Zealand healthcare system can benefit greatly from incorporating basic science research into everyday clinical practice.



Dr John Mitchell

MBCHB

Dr John Mitchell is an orthopedic registrar currently working in Northland. He completed his studies while at Middlemore hospital with the help of Mr Patel and the Auckland Spinal Unit.



Faletoese Asafo

Faletoese Asafo is from the villages of Salani, Satalo, Siumu and Moata'a in Samoa. He was born in Melbourne Australia but moved to Glen Eden, West Auckland at the age of 3, where he spent most of his childhood and schooling years. His background is in Physiology and Health Sciences. He is currently a Project Coordinator at Moana Connect and is also completing his Masters in health sciences at the University of Auckland, looking at the Socioeconomic impacts of Child hospitalisations (due to respiratory infection) on Pacific families and children in South Auckland. His areas of interests are in Pacific Health, Child Health, and Men's Health.



Manusiu Latu

MPH

Manusiu Latu, is a Tongan PhD student of the Department of General Practice and Primary Health Care/Pacific Health at the University of Auckland. She hails from the villages of Kolomotu'a, Tongatapu and Leimatu'a Vava'u. She has a Masters degree (First Class Honours) in Public Health and has worked and studied in research areas related to Tongan aged care, Pacific cardiovascular risk reduction, and Pacific adolescent depression and anxiety. Manusiu has taught university courses on academic writing skills, health promotion, Tongan health, and health psychology. Her research interests are in aged care, primary health care access and addressing health inequities experienced by marginalised populations.



Meisha Nicholson

MSC BA(HONS) BSC

Meisha Nicolson is a Senior Researcher in the Research and Evaluation team, in the Promotion Arm of the National Public Health Service at Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand. The Research and Evaluation team supports a range of community based and national health promotion activities in the pursuit of equity in health and wellbeing.



Julia Rout

Julia Rout is the General Manager for Health Promotion and Advocacy at the Stroke Foundation of New Zealand. She is a registered Dietitian and has worked in public health for nearly two decades. Julia and her team work to create environments where it is easier for New Zealanders to reduce their stroke risk, have improved outcomes after stroke and achieve their aspirations. Her team has a priority focus on improving health equity.



Jeremy Logan

Jeremy Auve'a Logan is an afakasi second generation Samoan-Kiwi. His father was born in the beautiful village of Magiagi in Samoa. Jeremy was born and raised in South Auckland and his upbringing has given him a deep love for this city and our people. This has influenced him to become who he is today, striving to ensure that the work we produce helps to create positive socio-economic change, and provide better outcomes for our Pacific people.



Dr Siobhan Tu'akoi

PHD

Dr Siobhan Tu'akoi (Tonga, Holonga Tongatapu, Pākehā) completed a Bachelor of Health Sciences with first class honours and a PhD at The University of Auckland. She has been involved in research across both New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, including projects on maternal wellbeing, adolescent metabolic health, health literacy and COVID-19 vaccination awareness. Her current research involves working alongside Pacific researchers, health professionals, and community members to co-design an intervention targeting rheumatic fever prevention within South Auckland Pasifika communities.



Samuela 'Ofanoa

Samuela Ofanoa (Tonga, Felemea Ha'apai, Vaimalo Vava'u) completed a Certificate in Health Sciences, Bachelor of Health Science, Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (specialising in Pacific Health), Masters of Public Health (First Class Hons), and has successfully defended his doctoral thesis, investigating the risk and protective factors among mid and older community-dwelling adults in New Zealand. Samuela is currently working alongside other Pacific researchers, health professionals, and members of the community to co-design an intervention to improve the uptake of urate-lowering therapy for gout among Pacific people in South Auckland. He is also a senior mixed-methods researcher at Moana Connect, working alongside Pacific researchers to elevate the stories of Pacific families and communities to produce transformative change.



Catherine Tu'akalau

PGDIPNURS, MNURS

Catherine, from Luatuanu'u in Samoa and Ma'ufanga and 'Ofu in Tonga, is also Wellington's first Pasifika nurse practitioner. Not only is Catherine one of only eight Pacific nurse practitioners in Aotearoa, she is also the first Pasifika nurse practitioner to specialise in child health, which she says was always her plan. Catherine completed her Certificate in Health Sciences, Conjoint degree in bachelor's in health sciences and Nursing at the University of Auckland, then went onto complete her postgraduate certificate and diploma in Nursing at Massey University. In 2021 she completed her Nurse Practitioner training in completing a Masters in Nursing with clinical pathway. Catherine was born in Palmerston North, New Zealand and lived her first two years there. Her father's job then took the family to Auckland and Wellington. Catherine is married to carpenter Alfred Tu'akalau and they have a daughter, Juliet, 4. They live in Levin where they bought a house after moving from Lower Hutt. She currently works at Group Medical Chambers, a GP in Palmerston North and part time at the Lower North Youth Justice running a NP clinic for youth.



Atelaite Taupeavai Mapa

MPH

Atelaite Taupeavai Mapa is a Senior Advisor (Pasifika Cultural Advice and Partnerships) at the Health Promotion Agency. She was born in Kahuku, Hawai'i and returned to her mother's tūrangawaewae, Ōtara in 2002. From then, she has and still reps South Auckland. From Tangaroa College, she is a tēina who never forgot her kāinga when she went to the University of Auckland to complete her CertHSc, BHSc and BHSc (Hons, First Class) and the University of Utah to complete her MPH (Global Health, First Class) full-time in Incheon, South Korea. Her father, a retired 1st Calvary U.S. Army serviceman and her mother, a selfless church leader have trained Atelaite and her 3 sisters to be fearless, global Moana citizens to combat systems of oppression.



Associate Professor Hamish Jamieson

MBCHB, PHD, FRACP

Associate Professor Hamish Jamieson is a medical specialist in Older Persons Health and is the clinical leader of the Big Data and Better Ageing Research Group. He is currently lead investigator on a number of projects funded by the Ageing Well National Science Challenge and Health Research Council.



Dr John Szetu

MSC(OPHTH)

Dr. John Szetu is an ophthalmologist and the Medical Director of the Fred Hollows Foundation NZ (FHFNZ) based at the Regional Eye Centre, Honiara. Dr Szetu undertook his ophthalmology training in several countries; In 1988 at the Geta Eye Hospital in Nepal, 1989 at the Flinder's Medical Centre, Adelaide, Australia, and in Papua New Guinea in 1992. During 1992-1993 he studied at the Bristol Eye Hospital in the United Kingdom and spent a few months at the International Centre for Eye Health in London. After establishing the National Eye Care program in the Solomon Islands in his early days (1987-2000), he established the Vanuatu national eye program during 2001 and 2005, funded by the FHFNZ training up a dozen nurses and an eye doctor.



Maliaga Erick

MNZM

Maliaga is well known to the Niue community both here in Aotearoa and in Niue. She is currently working two days a week for Wharaurau ICAMHS and Addiction workforce development as a Pacific Cultural Advisor. She is the Interim project manager for the development of the Niue Wellbeing Strategic plan. She is also the Niue lead facilitator for the Niue conceptual framework – Ko e Fakatupuolamoui he tau Magafaoa Niue, addressing family violence under the Nga Vaka O Kainga Tapu. She is the Niue radio health presenter for the last 25 years on Planet FM 104.6 every Wednesday night and a member of the Pacific Health and Welfare Inc. Maliaga is a strong supporter of the Niue Covid 19 vaccination events.



Professor Keith Camacho

PHD

Prof. Keith Camacho is the Professor and Vice Chair of UCLA Asian American Studies at UCLA. He received his training in the anthropology, literature, and history of the Pacific Islands at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He has also held research appointments in ethnic studies, gender studies, and native studies at the Australian National University, the University of Canterbury, the University of Illinois, and the University of Sydney. From 2014 to 2018, Professor Camacho served as the Senior Editor of Amerasia Journal.



Assistant Professor Kevin Escudero

PHD

Kevin Escudero is an Assistant Professor of American Studies and Ethnic Studies and an affiliated faculty member in the Sociology Department at Brown University. At the Swearer Center, he serves as the Faculty Director for the Royce Fellowship, a fellowship that supports undergraduate students' pursuit of independent research projects across a variety of disciplines and in various locations around the globe.



Pakilau 'o Aotearoa Manase Lua

MA (HONS)

Pakilau 'o Aotearoa Manase is the Diversity Manager Pasifika, Kanorau at Te Pou. He is a Pacific community leader from the Kingdom of Tonga who migrated here in 1975 during the Dawn Raids. He holds the Matāpule or chiefly herald title Pakilau 'o Aotearoa and has worked in Government and NGO sectors for over 25 years, whilst being active in leading his community.



Caitlin Bland

Caitlin is a second generation Cook Islander from the village Titikaveka in Rarotonga. She was born in Wellington and raised just north in Levin. Caitlin is currently a 5th Year Medical Student who is looking forward to graduating and becoming a doctor who actively addresses and removes barriers to healthcare for our Pacific People. Caitlin has spent the summer auditing the Pacific Leprosy Foundation's Single-Dose-Rifampicin Chemoprophylaxis Programme for Leprosy in Kiribati. She is grateful to be able to share the findings and successes of this project.



Machaela Tepai

BHSC, PGDCERTPH

Machaela hails from the islands of Mangaia, Mitiaro and Atiu in the Cook Islands. She is a 4th year medical student completing her clinical placement in Christchurch. Machaela has a Bachelor of Health Sciences and a Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health. She is committed to gaining skills and knowledge to help improve the health outcomes of Pacific peoples.



Dr Deborah Harris

PHD FCNZ

Dr Deborah Harris is a neonatal nurse practitioner and clinically focused researcher. She is New Zealand's first nurse practitioner. Her doctoral work focused on the management and treatment of neonatal hypoglycaemia. Her randomised controlled trial – the Sugar Babies Study showed that oral dextrose gel is an effective and safe treatment for neonatal hypoglycaemia. Dr Harris has since published extensively about care and management of babies at risk of neonatal hypoglycaemia and their later development. More recently her interests have included the normal glucose profiles of healthy babies during the first week after birth. Dr Harris' research has changed the treatment for babies and their families world-wide.



Dr Luke Karalus

MBCHB

Dr Luke Karalus is an orthopaedic registrar at Wellington hospital. He is Samoan/European and grew up on a farm in Hamilton. Dr Karalus has three young boys and a supportive partner. He is keen on improving the care of the Pacific community in regards to orthopaedic conditions like osteoarthritis and injuries resulting from trauma. Dr Karalus wants to speak about arthritis and its resultant disability and the treatment we have available to fix this issue.



Julia Kayes

Julia Kayes is a 5th year Medical Student at the University of Otago, Christchurch. She was born and raised in Papamoa Beach, Tauranga. Julia is Samoan / New Zealand European, with Vaitele being her family village in Samoa. Her passion for medicine stems from her family and our community. Julia looks forward to graduating from Medical School so she can contribute to reducing the inequalities faced by our Pasifika communities, to improve our health and wellbeing. She has spent the summer evaluating the Te Hā Waitaha Smoke Free Pregnancy Incentive Programme and is grateful to be able to share the findings and successes of this project.



Amio Matenga Ikihele

MHSC (HONS), PGDIPHSC

Amio Matenga Ikihele (Niue | Te Whānau-ā-Apanui) is the General Manager – Community & Innovations for Moana Connect, a registered nurse, and PhD candidate with the University of Auckland. She leads the DIGIFALE programme which aims to improve digital health literacy among Pacific communities and is a co-lead of the Te Titoki Mataora Pacific Engagement Module situated in the Consortium for Medical Device Technologies and MedTech Research Network. Her current research and interests aim to explore the use of digital health technology as a means to improve health outcomes among Pacific communities. Amio is an advisory board member for SparkHealth and Health Navigator Trust NZ, advisory member for the New Zealand Telehealth Leadership Group and Chairs the Digital Health Equity Group. She is also an advisory member of the Manaaki Mānawa Heart Centre, Manawafatu Heart Study, and Tau Nosi Niue (Niue Nurses Association). Importantly, she is a wife to Jacob, mother to Azrielle, Cahrys, and Jacob, and attends the Mangere Pacific Islanders Presbyterian Church (PIPC).



Associate Professor El-Shadan Tautolo

PGDIP, MHSC, PHD

El-Shadan was born in NZ and is of Samoan and Cook Islands ancestry. He is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Health at Auckland University of Technology, and the lead investigator with the Pacific Islands Families (PIF) Study, a longitudinal birth cohort study of almost 1400 Pacific children and their families. He is current chair of the Health Research Council – Pacific Committee and is particularly passionate about research that supports Pacific children and families to thrive and succeed in their health and wellbeing.
