

# RANZCOG's Global Health Committee: Recent developments and how to engage



The Royal Australian  
and New Zealand  
College of Obstetricians  
and Gynaecologists  
*Excellence in Women's Health*

## INTRODUCTION

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) is committed to improving the health of women and their families, particularly in the Pacific region. The Global Health Committee (GHC) pursues this vision by providing education, training and practical support to reproductive health workers across the Pacific by partnering with the Pacific Society for Reproductive Health (PSRH) and national O & G Societies.

The College funds Associate Membership for Pacific O&G specialists to facilitate improved skills and more training and has developed a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program for these specialists. Key GHC members also provide research support to build capacity within academic departments.

The GHC meets twice yearly in a face-to-face meeting in Melbourne and is currently chaired by Dr Roy Watson. Members include:

- Associate Professor Kirsten Black
- Dr Sharron Bolitho
- Dr Arthur Elijah
- Dr Nicola Fitzgerald
- Dr Rufina Latu
- Dr Rebecca Mitchell
- Dr Amanda Noovao Hill
- Dr Karaponi Okesene-Gafa
- Professor Stephen Robson
- Dr Martin Sowter
- Dr John Tait
- Alana Killen
- RANZCOG employees: Michele Quinlan, Maggie Van Tonder, Angie Spry, Carolyn Poljski

## RECENT GHC ACTIVITIES

Along with the annual commitments, the GHC recently:

- Published the document "Improving Women's Health in the Pacific", which details women's health priorities and the key actions required to improve health outcomes
- As part of the Pacific Midwifery Leadership Fellowship Program, improved leadership skills, research capacity and practice improvement strategies in 8 midwives from four Pacific Island countries. Approximately 120 midwives have participated in the program during its lifetime
- Participated in the Inter-College Collaboration on Global Health, a network of Specialist Colleges and Societies involved in global health
- Supported the O & G component of the Pacific Islands Program



## FUTURE PLANS

Along with the annual commitments, the GHC plans include:

- Working collaboratively with PSRH on a plan for a Cervical Cancer Prevention in the Pacific, to be progressed with relevant stakeholders and funding bodies, including New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Developing further insight into the work that Fellows undertake overseas via questions about global health interests and experience to be presented to RANZCOG members
- Leading a Gender-Based Violence/Domestic Violence Working Group, a cross-collaboration between the Colleges, with a view to developing joint activities focused on GBV, DV and gender equity

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

- Update the GHC of your volunteer or work experiences in low to middle-income countries, or your interest in global health, so the GHC can engage and acknowledge the involvement of College members in global women's health efforts
- Join the RANZCOG Asia Pacific International Development (RAPID) Network on the College's e-Learning site CLIMATE. RAPID is a forum for sharing news, resources or updates, and seeking assistance or information between College members who work in or are interested in working in low to middle-income countries
- Contribute articles about global women's health issues to the RANZCOG O & G Magazine
- Volunteer or work overseas. The GHC promotes volunteer and work opportunities overseas via RAPID, Collegiate and the global health pages on the RANZCOG website
- For more information, contact the Global Health Unit at [globalhealth@ranzco.edu.au](mailto:globalhealth@ranzco.edu.au) or +61 3 9412 2926