



PACIFIC ISLANDS Public Health Training Center

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Early History of Nursing & Health Services in Micronesia

Book 1

By Augusta Rengil



Early History of Nursing & Health Services in Micronesia Book 1 (2018)

by

AUGUSTA RENGIL, RN, MPH

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✓ **WRPHTC**

- ✓ US Health Resources Services Administration funded
- ✓ based at Zuckerman College of Public Health, University of Arizona
- ✓ sites serving Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawai`i, and the USAPI

✓ **PIHOA PIPHTC**

- ✓ tasked with upskilling the current public health workforce
- ✓ special emphasis on NCDs, behavioural health, and supporting other unique initiatives



TRAINING

✓ **WRPHTC**

- ✓ more than 97,000 have taken courses in person or via distance since inception, 2015
- ✓ 20% of all trainings within Public Health Learning Network (10 centres in US)

✓ **PIHOA PIPHTC**

- ✓ March 2019, ~5,500 points of training contact
- ✓ 5% of trainings in WRPHTC
- ✓ primarily the Pacific – Guam, CNMI, Palau, RMI, FSM, American Samoa, Hawai'i, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Australia, New Zealand, Alaska
- ✓ also, mainland US; SE Asia; the Caribbean; Africa; MENA; and Europe
- ✓ recommended for MPH students at several Australian universities, PH workers in Vietnam

✓ **Guam Micronesia AHEC**

- ✓ PIHOA PIPHTC supports delivery of programmes – HA, IMCI, PENS, summer camps, etc.



TRAINING

✓ 20 stand-alone Certificates of Professional Development

- ✓ Mental health and public health integration
- ✓ Medical psychology, including substance abuse and behaviour change
- ✓ Infectious diseases (i.e. Zika) and basic medical microbiology review
- ✓ Epidemiological basics and methods of practice, including data analysis
- ✓ Community obesity prevention and management
- ✓ Childhood obesity prevention and management
- ✓ Type 2 diabetes for public health
- ✓ Emergency management and communications
- ✓ Focus groups techniques
- ✓ Smoking and poverty, gold standards in tobacco use reduction (beyond sin tax)
- ✓ Drought and public health
- ✓ Economics of nutritional shifting



TRAINING

- ✓ **2 Certificates of Professional Practice (CPP)**
- ✓ 10-12 course sequence (one course per month)
- ✓ *CPP in the Epidemiology and Control of Non-communicable Diseases*
- ✓ *CPP in the Community Health and Development*
- ✓ delivered via YouTube /c transcripts for low-resource settings
- ✓ or PDF course reader packet

- ✓ **CPP's have proven popular – future potential delivery (2019+)**
- ✓ infectious diseases – infection control, outbreak management, environmental health
- ✓ public health basics – essential functions for new employees
- ✓ public health law and legislation – developing legislative intervention (i.e. soda tax)



PLACEMENTS

✓ **Medical students**

- ✓ University of Arizona College of Medicine
- ✓ UH JABSOM
- ✓ several Australian medical schools
- ✓ Pohnpei Department of Health
- ✓ Dr Bryan Isaac private practice
- ✓ Pohnpei State Hospital

✓ **MPH students**

- ✓ University of Arizona
- ✓ University of Nevada Reno
- ✓ Pohnpei Department of Health
- ✓ Fiji Centre for Communicable Diseases



PLACEMENTS

✓ **BPH students**

- ✓ Australian Catholic University
- ✓ University of Arizona
- ✓ Pohnpei Department of Health
- ✓ Public Health Training Program at COM-FSM

✓ **PIHOA PIPHTC Internships**

- ✓ WRPHTC funding available for two interns in 2019 in Pohnpei
- ✓ Branded as *International Health Internship – launch a career in international public health!*
- ✓ Additional funding from AHEC to assist with high cost of transport, housing

✓ **100% highly satisfied!**

- ✓ with rotations, knowledge gained, increased desire to practice rural and remote



RESEARCH & UPSKILLING

✓ **COM-FSM PH, RN faculty**

- ✓ In-service faculty development – biostatistics, public health, PBL teaching, research and publication skills
- ✓ 8 publications since 2015 /c local faculty to upskill research abilities

✓ **Continuing educational development of faculty**

- ✓ MPH and MSN enrolment assistance
- ✓ Tutoring and other assistance, exam invigilation, etc.
- ✓ COM-FSM funded as part of faculty development plan
- ✓ PIHOA PIPHTC 2017 pilot to use PBL teaching in COM-FSM non-health classes



PREPARING FUTURE WORKFORCE

- ✓ **COM-FSM Public Health Training Program – *Gateway to Success***
- ✓ 2013 – Present...
- ✓ ASPH x 28 grads
- ✓ Third Year Advanced PH Certificate x 31 grads
- ✓ Directly to PH workforce in FSM x 12
- ✓ Junior faculty in ASPH at COM-FSM x 1
- ✓ BS in Nutrition at UH x 4 – 1 went on to MBBS at FNU, 1 to MPH at UH
- ✓ BSPH at UOG x 9
- ✓ BS Physiotherapy at FNU x 2 – 1 went on to MBBS at FNU, 1 looking for work in Chuuk
- ✓ ***Where they train, they remain!***



PREPARING FUTURE WORKFORCE

- ✓ **Doctors and Dentists for Tomorrow – *Future of Healthcare in Micronesia***
- ✓ Intensive prep for Micronesian high school graduates (earn AS), entry to MBBS, BDS, AH
- ✓ DDFT1, 12 grads May 2018
 - ✓ 100% admission MBBS Uni Fiji
 - ✓ 50% admission MBBS FNU
 - ✓ 6 attended MBBS – all Uni Fiji, support, cohort model, 2 tutors already there
 - ✓ Remaining 6 – 1 deceased, 1 married, 4 to US study BSc pre-health
- ✓ DDFT2, 12 grads May 2019 (Feb 2020 entry)
- ✓ DDFT3, June 2019 (Feb 2022 entry)
- ✓ Former DDFT tutors – FNU MBBS x1, Uni Fiji MBBS x2, credit DDFT with success
- ✓ All dedicated to return – surgery, GP, IM, psychiatry, paediatrics, obs/gyne, pathology
- ✓ ***Where they train, they remain!***

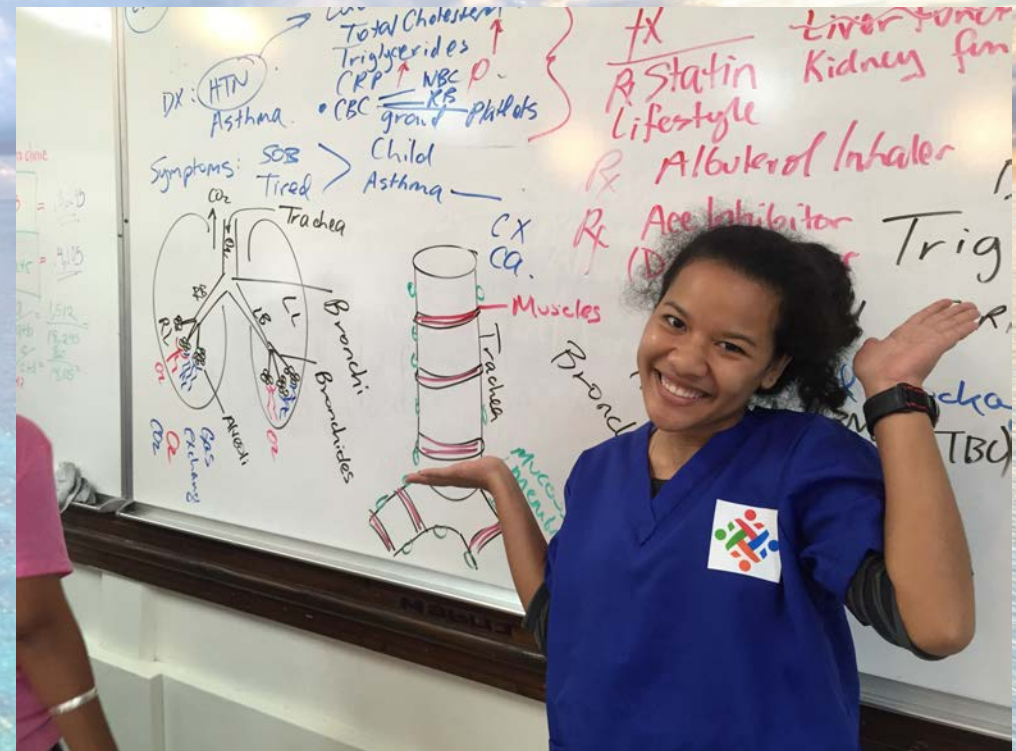


Scarlett Lebehn – DDFT1 #1 Grad

- ✓ Studying MBBS at Uni Fiji
- ✓ Wants to specialise in Adult and Child/Adolescent Psychiatry
- ✓ Topper in Medical Psychology & Ethics
- ✓ *Studious, hard working, serious, wants to help the FSM!*

Caroline Apaisam – DDFT1 #2 Grad

- ✓ Studying MBBS at Uni Fiji
- ✓ Wants to specialise in Internal Medicine & Medical Epidemiology
- ✓ Topper in Medical Epidemiology & Medical Microbiology
- ✓ *Studious, dedicated, a born leader, believes in her people!*





POISED TO DO MORE!

✓ **PIHOA PIPHTC poised to...**

- ✓ Continue to offer quality, stakeholder-identified, continuing professional development courses to existing workforce
- ✓ Develop strategic relationships with regional educational partners (FNU, Uni Fiji, USP, E-Da Hospital / I-Shou University, Uni PNG)

✓ **What would the Board like to see in strategic relationships?**

- ✓ Develop strategic partnerships for accredited, degree-granting programs?
- ✓ Articulation agreements? (AS to MPH)
- ✓ More online learning? (MPH)
- ✓ Micro-campus? (intensive block teaching)
- ✓ A medical school partnership? (didactics in Fiji, clinicals in North)
- ✓ Short-term trainings on-site? (dental hygiene, environmental health)

Many thanks...

Ke Mesulang (Palau)

Fa'afetai (Samoa)

**Vinaka Vaka
Levu (Fiji)**

Kulo Mulalap (Kosrae)

Mahalo (Hawai'i)

Kalahngan (Pohnpei)

Kammagar (Yap)

**Kommol Tata
(Marshalls)**

Kinisou Chapur (Chuuk)

Si Yu'us Ma'ase (Guam and CNMI)

Nga Kuna (Kosrae)

- ✓ College of Micronesia-FSM PHTP
- ✓ Pacific Island Health Officers' Association
- ✓ Western Regional Public Health Training Center
- ✓ University of Arizona Zuckerman College of Public Health
- ✓ US Health Resources Services Administration
- ✓ University of Hawai'i JABSOM AHEC

