

who said that ‘doing research makes you a better doctor and a better midwife’ and by Professor Shanthi Ameratunga who stated, ‘you are an expert in your space and you have to share your stories with us’.

Within the monitoring and evaluation framework of the project is a research-mentoring scheme for the 28 clinicians. This was developed in collaboration with identified and willing researchers in the FMHS, FNU, Auckland University of Technology, University of Technology Sydney and the University of New South Wales. Research performance indicators developed by the clinicians, in consultation with stakeholders, will be used to monitor progress, with participants assessing the quality of mentoring through a participatory action-learning journey. Besides assigning each clinician a research mentor, ‘shared mentoring’ has also been created, using social media websites Research Gate, LinkedIn, and Facebook.

The PSRH research biennial workshops provide a platform for Pacific clinicians to critique their research proposals, disseminate their research findings and to share their stories. The most recent PSRH workshop was held in Samoa, 9–12 July 2013. Clinicians who attended are aware that their sponsors, ministries and mentors are counting on them to make a difference in closing the evidence gap in reproductive health in their countries.

#### References

1. Ekeroma AJ, Pollock T, Kenealy T, Shulruf B, Sopoaga F, Montorzi G, et al. Pacific Island publications in the reproductive health literature 2000–2011: with New Zealand as a reference. *Aust N Z J Obstet Gynaecol.* 2013;53(2):197–202.
2. World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific Region. Meeting Report: Consultation on strengthening health research capacity in the Pacific. Manila, Philippines: Regional Office for the Western Pacific, WHO. February 2008.
3. Cole D, Kakuma R, Fonn S, Izugbara C, Thorogood M, Bates I. Evaluations of health research capacity strengthening: a review of the evidence. 2012. *Am J Trop Med Hyg.* 2013;87(5 Sup):242.
4. Birden HH. The researcher development program: how to extend the involvement of Australian general practitioners in research? *Rural Remote Health.* 2007;7(3):776.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Opportunity for GP couples to help save the planet—and College \$\$

**W**e have discovered that there is a way to avoid College member couples/flatmates receiving duplicate copies of the Journal. You just need to ask someone at the College to undo the tickbox relating to *Journal of Primary Health Care* from one of your names in the database. Bingo! Saving College expenses and earth resources in one go. You now just have to negotiate not to fight over the reading material!

*Sally Widdowson & Paul Corwin, general practitioners, Greymouth Medical Centre, Greymouth, West Coast, New Zealand. Email: paulcorwinandsallyw@gmail.com*

#### College Response

If you would like to receive only one copy of the JPHC per household or mailing address, please contact the College on 04 496 5999, or email [jphcnz@rnzcgp.org.nz](mailto:jphcnz@rnzcgp.org.nz)

Letters may respond to published papers, briefly report original research or case reports, or raise matters of interest relevant to primary health care. The best letters are succinct and stimulating. Letters of no more than 400 words may be emailed to: [editor@rnzcgp.org.nz](mailto:editor@rnzcgp.org.nz). All letters are subject to editing and may be shortened.