

## Editorial

This issue of the FMJ addresses two issues which have been at the forefront of passionate discussions in Fiji, and in the Pacific. One of course, is Kava, and the other is HIV. Leong's article covers the subject of behavioral change communication for HIV prevention. If anything is to be learnt from failure of the efforts to prevent diabetes in the country, it is that the current language needs to be in sync with the masses. Margaret's paper offers an approach that can be helpful in reducing the scourge of HIV AIDS in Fiji and the region.

There is a growing support for the mass screening of the population for voluntary counseling and testing for HIV. Fiji Government has attempted in the past to put legislation for mandatory HIV screening. While compulsory testing does encroach on human rights and individual rights issues, voluntary mass screening has been proven to be cost effective in the long run for effective control of HIV epidemic. Similarly, aggressive treatment programs have proven a much beneficial strategy in the long term cost effectiveness in this direction.

A reprint of the article originally published in 2003 issue of Malamalama is published here for the benefit of readers, which aptly addresses toxicity related to Kava consumed in capsule form, containing crude extracts.

Another burgeoning problem of the global scale is the resistance to currently available antimicrobials, which is gradually threatening to affect the pacific region. While resistance to many of the currently used antimicrobials has been slow, it is acquiring a proportion that is difficult to ignore. For instance, resistance to Penicillin among strains of *Neisseria*

*gonorrhoeae* remains at about five percent for the past almost a decade. On the other hand, Penicillin resistant strains of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* have been identified in Fiji for the first time last year. Both of these organisms have acquired resistance to penicillin in most of the western health care settings a long time ago. WHO has identified this issue as an urgency, that needs to be addressed the regional level.

The article on study of incidence of G6PD deficiency in the country sheds some light on its low occurrence among the indigenous population. Further studies in this field would help answer genetic basis of some of the diseases among our people.

A rare disorder, Peutz-Jeghers syndrome has been reported some time back and interesting case report with review of literature has been highlighted in the article by Afolabi et. al. Cancers can present in many forms, sometimes in quite deceptive presentations, and this has been emphasised in the paper on Burkitt's lymphoma by Afolabi in his paper.

Finally, preparations for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Fiji Medical Association are fully underway. We hope to have a great scientific and social program and a record participation in this event.

Dr. Kamal Kishore  
Editor-in-Chief