



The role of a professional society Perspectives from the Pacific

Oceania Society for Sexual Health & HIV Medicine



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Origins of OSSHHM



- ▶ 11 Oct 2006 ASHM Conference in Melbourne
- ▶ 10 HCWs from smaller PICTs, (Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Chuuk & Fiji) who worked in STI/HIV medicine met and shared their experiences, achievements and constraints in caring for people living with HIV.
- ▶ Despite the vast **differences** and distances between the 22 PICTs there were many **similarities**.
- ▶ HCWs were isolated from each other and working on their own without scientific mentorship.
- ▶ The notion of having an entirely new organization for those who work in HIV medicine in the PICTs was conceived.

The Pioneers of OSSHHM



PIONEERS OF OSSHHM



FIRST OSSHHM EXECUTIVE BOARD

OSSHHM's birth

- ▶ OSSHHM was officially launched in March, 2007 at the Pacific Ministers of Health meeting in Port Vila, Vanuatu.



OSSHHMs recognition in Vanuatu 2007

What is OSSHHM?

- ▶ OSSHHM is a **not-for-profit** organisation.
- ▶ Recognised as the peak professional body advancing the science and practice of STI/HIV and sexual health care in the Pacific.
- ▶ OSSHHM is dedicated to ensuring that all Pacific Islanders receive optimal clinical management of STI/HIV and other sexual health related matters, through the development and dissemination of evidence-based policies, standards of care, and guidelines.
- ▶ OSSHHM's services are sought by Pacific governments, regional and national organisations and members.
- ▶ OSSHHM works collaboratively with affected communities, members, regional and national partners and governments.

OSSHHM's Working Framework

- ▶ OSSHHM is a professional society incorporated in the Republic of the Fiji Islands as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee.
- ▶ OSSHHM has its own Articles of Association (currently under review to align it with Fiji's latest constitution)
- ▶ OSSHHM also has a comprehensive Strategic Plan which expires this month, under review.
- ▶ New strategic plan to follow.





OSSHMM's key objectives

1. To reduce the impact of HIV and other STIs and improve the quality of sexual health care in Pacific Island Countries and Territories by the use of established public health and scientific methods.
2. To provide a forum for the development and the expression of a multidisciplinary approach to all aspects of HIV and STI management and improvement of clinical care on matters related to sexual health needs of the people in our care.
3. To foster education for health professionals and the general public in relation to HIV, other STIs and sexual health.



Meeting OSSHMM's objectives

1. HCW skills building

- ▶ Development of seasoned trainers, recently with OSSHMM's premier training of trainer programme, OSSHMM Pacifica Training of Trainer Programme on HIV and Sexual Health (OPTPHS).
- ▶ In country training based on OSSHMM recommendations..
- ▶ Development of clinical care resources treatment flow charts 6-countries..
- ▶ Development of treatment and care resources OSSHMM Recommendations for HIV, STI and sexual health care 4th Edition



Meeting OSSHMM's objectives

2. Policy enhancement

- ▶ Development of policies, principles for improved treatment, care and support that are country specific.
- ▶ Contribute to legislation relevant to HIV, STI and SRH.
- ▶ Contribute to the research agenda in the Pacific, so as to advise policy development.

3. Organizational strengthening

- ▶ Support organizations, and Ministries of Health to better respond to the HIV, STI and SRH situations in their countries.



OSSHMM's Funding

- ▶ **2007:** NZAID through the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.
- ▶ **2008:** A small grant from the Pacific Regional HIV Project (PRHP) a small grant for the ASHM conference in 2008.
- ▶ **2009:** Our largest grant was from the Response Fund that funded us from 2009 to the beginning 2013.
- ▶ **Current:** We received two rounds of funding from DFAT through ASHM. The first under the HIV Consortium and the second through the HIV Capacity Building grant. Ending this year.



OSSHMM's Membership

- ▶ OSSHMM is a membership based organisation and current membership stands at 217 members in 16 Pacific Island countries and territories.
- ▶ Off the 217 who have paid their membership, only around 91 are active



OSSHMM's Membership Background

The professional background of the membership is varied and includes:

- ▶ Doctors
- ▶ Counsellors
- ▶ Laboratory technicians
- ▶ Nurses
- ▶ Pharmacists
- ▶ PLHIV



OSSHMM's Achievements & Development

- ▶ OSSHMM has developed a number of treatment and care resources.
- ▶ The resources are intended to be used in the smaller Pacific Island countries and territories.
- ▶ OSSHMM also guides its members regarding clinical services related to STI and HIV.
- ▶ It also assists by providing scholarships its members in attending other international conferences and symposiums for maximum exposure and learning experience.



OSSHMM's resources

- ▶ OSSHMM Recommendation on Management of HIV, STIs and sexual health in the Pacific. 4th Edition.
- ▶ HIV Pre-Test Counselling Session Flipchart
- ▶ Six country STI treatment flow charts
- ▶ HIV counselling and Testing Policy.
- ▶ OSSHMM contact tracing manual.
- ▶ Support to Fiji in development of their STI and HIV treatment guidelines.



OSSHMM Symposium – 3-7 July 2015

- ▶ Organised in Collaboration with ASHM.
- ▶ Two day short course.
- ▶ Two day conference.
- ▶ **Target:**
 - ▶ OSSHMM member countries primary care providers with primary.
 - ▶ Participation from members of other health disciplines including general practitioners was also encouraged.
- ▶ **Objective:**
 - ▶ enlightening the health workers on the local disease patterns, diagnosis, management, including challenges and ways to improve their services.
 - ▶ It also aimed to coordinate and facilitate networking and provide a local "Pacific" platform for these providers to interact, listen and learn.



OSSHMM Symposium – 3-7 July 2015

- OSSHMM conference and short course focused on the theme:
"Evolving Models in the sexual Health, STI and HIV medicine in the primary care settings in the Pacific."
- The symposium focused mainly on:
- ▶ HIV and the law
 - ▶ Gender based violence
 - ▶ Best practises in sexual health, STI and HIV medicine
 - ▶ Challenges and barriers faced by the primary care providers
 - ▶ Experiences of individual and/or groups in respective countries
 - ▶ Key Affected Populations role in combating STI/HIV
 - ▶ Medical School curriculum - integrating SRH
 - ▶ Antiretroviral treatment in PICT's
 - ▶ Men's, women's and transgender health



OSSHMM SYMPOSIUM




OSSHMM SYMPOSIUM



Current OSSHHM Executives

 Dr Anita Choudhury PRESIDENT	 Ali Fijians VICE PRESIDENT	 Dr Griffin Harrison SECRETARY	 Dr Pablo Renedin TREASURER
 Dr Sothegornie Ty PAST PRESIDENT	 Dr Jason Mitchell BOARD MEMBER	 Dr Tarnath Dalibanda BOARD MEMBER	 Dr Kwana Chaudri BOARD MEMBER


Secretariat & Communication



- ▶ OSSHHM has a project manager: Mrs Nadia Samuels
- ▶ Secretariat office based in the SPC Nadua Suva
- ▶ OSSHHM has its own webpage (www.ossshm.org)
- ▶ Online news networking (OSSHHMNet), both are easily assessable for the OSSHHM, Regional and International guidelines and publication and keeps its members updated on CPD & CMEs.
- ▶ OSSHHM also has facebook account: "Oceania Society for Sexual Health and HIV Medicine – OSSHHM"
- ▶ OSSHHM's IT technical support is being provided by Mr Joel Metcalfe as pro-bono at the moment.


Constraints and Limitations

- ▶ Vastness of the Pacific
- ▶ Travel and communication
- ▶ Culture and Language
- ▶ Funding of OSSHHM
- ▶ Retention of trained personnel



Future

- ▶ Continuing partnership with ASHM
- ▶ More into Pacific based research esp. HBV HCV
- ▶ Increased inclusion of LGB issues and transgender medicine
- ▶ Train more Pacific bases HCW to be trainers (duplicate the Mendi training)
- ▶ Seeking funds from other international agencies



Thank You - Vinaka