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## The “Ocean-Blue Journal” is born

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It has been exciting journey getting the Journal thus far and I am optimistic that researchers and clinicians in the Pacific Islands and Pacific-rim countries will share in the excitement and the journey that lies ahead. The Journal was conceived whilst writing the first paper of my PhD thesis. We found that New Zealand had less than half the population of the Pacific Forum Island Countries (PFIC), and yet published nearly four times more papers in reproductive health.<sup>1</sup> We also found that 25% of the 174 papers from the Pacific over a 12-year period were published in two Pacific-based medical journals. We supported the argument that the capacity of local publishers to publish local research is an important component of research capacity building.

In 2007, the Pacific Society for Reproductive Health (PSRH), representing the largest grouping of reproductive health workers in the region, urged members to perform clinical audit and research as part of their daily duties. Since 2009, PSRH has run research workshops with the aim of increasing research awareness in clinicians and then cultivating a network of reproductive health researchers, by building research teams within countries. Starting small with clinical audits and clinical or operational research has been emphasised. The development of the Pacific Journal of Reproductive Health (PJRH) was considered an important part of PSRH’s overall strategy in building research capacity in the region.

We have researched and knew there is a demand for an outlet of Pacific narratives and research evidence to be shared regionally and disseminated globally, with the ultimate aim of improving reproductive health outcomes. A high-caliber editorial team has been appointed and the appointment of a further team of associate editors from top institutions in the Pacific-rim countries will be one of the strategies in making sure the Journal becomes a

high quality publication attracting the best manuscripts in reproductive health from the region and beyond.

We aim to assist novice researchers from the Pacific and low resource countries in improving their work to a standard that is fit for publication in the Pacific Journal of Reproductive Health (PJRH). The name of the Journal reflects ownership – the PJRH is owned by PSRH, although private funding was obtained for its development. We also have a “catchy-name” in the “Ocean-Blue Journal” – named after that vast ocean continent known as the “Blue Continent” that borders and sustains no less than 50 nations. The “Ocean-Blue Journal” is for the Pacific Ocean continent, her institutions, her researchers and her clinicians - with the aim in sharing our stories, disseminating the best research evidence and promoting best practice, that may result in better reproductive health outcomes for our populations.

### Reference

1. Ekeroma AJ, Pollock T, Kenealy T, 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. DOI: 10.1111/ajo.12039