Why a new journal and why in the Pacific? Are there not already many journals concerning reproductive science and the clinical aspects of human reproduction, its outcomes and a broad women’s health context? The answer to the second question, in part answers the first. Yes there are excellent journals with very high impact factors in reproductive health and the information presented in these journals is informed by research outputs from established researchers.

It is immediately apparent in reviewing published maternity outcomes that there is a paucity of data from the great blue continent that is made up of over many nations, hundreds if not thousands of islands spread out over millions of square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean. Isolation due to distance and lack of connectivity with much of the developed world coupled with major problems in sustaining high quality workforce in the region has led to a situation where robust data collection and research outputs are low. Only 36 relevant publications were found in a recent review of health systems focused on non-communicable diseases in the Asia Pacific region.

The educational institutions that do exist in the Pacific are tasked primarily with workforce training to meet the health needs of the communities they serve. There is little time or resource invested into building a research infrastructure, which can inform health policy clinical practice or investigate topics of interest and relevance to the Pacific and the broader international community.

This brings us to the answers to the questions of why a new journal and one in the Pacific. A journal is a periodical publication dedicated to specific topics with the initial aim of enabling scientists and clinicians to communicate with one another. However, more broadly, journals allow scientists and clinicians to communicate with the world at large. The Pacific Journal of Reproductive Health aims to create a forum for discussion amongst health carers in the Pacific and also to provide a quality but accessible vehicle for local research to be disseminated.

The editorial board has been selected to reflect these aims and to include personnel who have an understanding of the context in which science and health care operates in the vast expanse of the Pacific. The Journal will seek manuscripts from local and international contributors which will present findings from Pacific Research in addition to reporting news from women’s health and neonatal research studies occurring in many centres. The Journal is owned by the Pacific Society of Reproductive Health (PSRH) and the Society has strong links with a number of professional bodies, linkages which include the ability to publish articles originally sourced from those groups. In addition, the Society hosts a biennial scientific meeting at which all submitted abstracts are peer reviewed and a selection of these which show case Pacific research will also published in the Journal.

The Pacific has challenges which are common to many nations such as the increase in non-communicable diseases, family violence, socioeconomic disadvantages for women, and high maternal and perinatal and female cancer mortality as well as economic vulnerability. In addition, the unique challenges of the region include environmental, cultural and linguistic diversity and communication over vast distances. Outcomes in reproductive health frequently suffer disproportionately in such situations. The Journal will be a voice, which can link all the contributors and readers and help focus research and attention to the challenges posed. The open access format with e publication is aimed at
facilitating easy submission and readership. The editorial board of the journal is confident that the resilience and enthusiasm shown by Pacific peoples in their daily lives will also be the attributes that steer the Journal to success. It now remains for researchers and clinicians to submit and members of the PSRH and the wider health care community to read the publications.

References


