

Pacific HIV Symposium 2026

*Including Sexual & Reproductive Health, Coinfections
and other Related Issues*

17-18 August 2026

Sheraton Fiji, Denarau Island (Nadi)

Fiji



Welcome to the Pacific HIV Symposium 2026

We are delighted to welcome you to the Pacific HIV Symposium 2026, bringing together leading figures and delegates from across the Pacific for cross-country knowledge exchange and actionable change.

The Symposium convenes regional health leaders, clinicians, nurses, policymakers and community organisations from the Pacific, Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand to drive practical, coordinated action across HIV testing, prevention, treatment and care.

The program includes sexual and reproductive health and coinfections as part of an integrated regional response.

The Symposium aims to:

- **Update HIV knowledge**, best practice and effective models of care
- **Strengthen regional networks** facilitating peer learning and collaboration across countries
- **Promote evidence-based approaches** to HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care
- **Contribute to reversing HIV incidence** across the Pacific through community-led responses

The Pacific HIV Symposium 2026 Committee

ASHM thanks the program sub-committee for their input into the program design and delivery. A full list of committee members is available at www.pacifichivsposium.org.au.

A/Prof Donald Wilson	Fiji National University, Fiji
Dr Jason Mitchell	SRH and HIV Unit Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Fiji
Dr Dashika Balak	SRH and HIV Unit Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Fiji
Renata Ram	UNAIDS Pacific
Dr Nano Gideon	National Department of Health, Papua New Guinea
Asaeli Sinuseteki	Rainbow Pride Foundation, Fiji
Joeli Colati	Fiji Network Plus, Fiji
Dr Kinh Cho Win Htin	UNAIDS, Asia Pacific
Dr Michelle O'Connor	ASHM, Australia



Featured session Breakfast Workshop



Roche Technical Breakfast Workshop - Tuesday 18 August

7.30am–8.30am | Room: Rewa/Sigatoka

Breakfast is included at no additional cost; however, advance registration is required for catering purposes.

Topic: Working Together to Expand HIV Testing – The Role of the Laboratory, Health Facilities and Community

Start the second day of the symposium with breakfast and a practical, regionally focused discussion about expanding access to HIV testing. This workshop will explore the complete HIV testing pathway, from community-led testing and health facilities through to laboratory services, linkage to care, quality assurance and long-term sustainability.

Featuring international expertise from Aotearoa/New Zealand, Thailand and Pakistan, the session will share research, practical experience and successful approaches to strengthening HIV testing across the Asia-Pacific region. Moderated by **Renata Ram** (UNAIDS Pacific Adviser) and **Fabian Mueller** (Expert Healthcare Systems Partner, Health Policy and Patient Access Value Stream, Roche)

Molecular epidemiology of the HIV-1 epidemic in Fiji

Presenter: Professor Jemma L. Geoghegan, Virologist and Webster Family Chair in Viral Pathogenesis, University of Otago; Associate Senior Scientist, Institute of Environmental Science and Research, Aotearoa/New Zealand

Professor Geoghegan specialises in the evolution and emergence of infectious diseases, metagenomics and viral host-jumping. She was the senior and corresponding author of a 2024 study examining the molecular epidemiology of HIV-1 in Fiji and the role of genomic analysis in supporting public health interventions.

Community-Led Innovation in HIV Testing

Presenter: Rena Janamnuysook, Program Manager, Implementation Science, Institute of HIV Research and Innovation, Thailand

Rena is an expert in community-led HIV programs and established the Tangerine Community Health Clinic, the first transgender-led health clinic in the region. She provides technical guidance for HIV research and programming focused on transgender people and other key populations across Thailand and Asia.

Scaling Sustainable Testing: The Pakistan Journey

Presenter (by pre-recorded video): Dr Bushra Jamil Ali, Infectious Diseases Specialist and Senior Lecturer, Aga Khan University, Pakistan

Dr Ali has extensive experience in internal medicine, infectious diseases and national HIV and tuberculosis program management. She has previously served as Professor of Medicine at Aga Khan University Hospital and National Coordinator for HIV, tuberculosis and malaria grants for Pakistan's Ministry of Health.

Symposium Program Overview

Please note: Program is subject to change

Online Program

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Monday 17 August

7:30	Registration open
8:30-10:30	Traditional Welcome and Opening Plenary Room: Golden Ballroom Chairs: Dashika Balak, Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services and Asaeli Sinusetaki, Fiji Rainbow Pride Foundation Opening Ceremony and Welcomes (15 mins) Welcome Ceremony (10 mins) Opening Welcome: His Excellency Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, CF, MSD, President of Fiji (5 mins) Opening Remarks: Alexis Apostolellis, CEO, ASHM (10 mins) Committee Welcome: Dr Jason Mitchell, Interim Lead SRH and HIV Unit, Chairperson National HIV Outbreak and Cluster Response Taskforce, Fiji (10 mins) Community Welcome: Loata Tucika, CEO, Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network (PSGDN) (5 mins) Community Welcome: Fiji Network Plus (5 mins) Opening Remarks: Dr Pilly Mapira, Communicable Disease Manager, National Department of Health, Papua New Guinea Keynote Speaker: The Australian Response (15 mins) Professor Michael Kidd, Chief Medical Officer, Australian Government Keynote Speaker: HIV in the Pacific: Harnessing our collective power (15 mins) Eamonn Murphy, Director, Regional Support Teams for Asia Pacific and Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regions Panel discussion - HIV in Fiji and Papua New Guinea: Lessons Learnt? (25 mins) Facilitators: Dashika Balak and Asaeli Sinusetaki Panellists: Jason Mitchell (title as above), Joeli Colati (Executive Director, FJN+, Fiji), Nano Gideon (National Department of Health, Papua New Guinea), Delma Yeki (KPAC, Papua New Guinea)
10:30-11:00	Morning tea – Symposium group photo

11.00-12:30	Symposia 1: Growing the prevention toolkit: Community-Led Innovations and Prevention Scale up Across the Pacific Room: Orchid Chair: Loata Tucika, Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network Redefining the Role of Peer Outreach in Fiji's HIV Response: Development of Peer-Led HIV Outreach Guidelines - Asaeli Sinusetaki Youth Led Community Outreach Sexual Health Promotion, Testing and PrEP Commencement in PNG - Jayke Meki From Rollout to Retention: Lessons from PrEP Implementation under the SKPA-2 Multi-Country HIV Program in Asia (Regional/Asia) - Philips Loh Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Feasibility Assessment in the Pacific Island Countries of Kiribati, Republic of The Marshall Islands, Samoa - Caroline van Gemert Interactive Prevention Discussion: Key Prevention Data in the Pacific Iryna Zablotska-Manos, Esrom Immanuel, Joeli Colati, Jayke Meki, Cathy Ketepa, Dashika Balak Global HIV Prevention Frameworks and the Pacific Context: Gaps and Priorities - Kinh Cho Win Htin Panel Discussion and Audience Engagement: Making Prevention Work: Lessons, Gaps and the Way Forward	Symposia 2: Strategies for the elimination of vertical transmission of HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis B Room: Gardenia/Frangipani Chair: Priya Kaur, Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services Driving Towards Elimination of Vertical Transmission in Fiji: Community-Led Support for Women Across the Pregnancy Cascade -Rebecca Kubunavanua Pre-treatment HIV Drug Resistance in Infants and Children in Papua New Guinea: Implications for Triple Elimination of Vertical Transmission - Janet Gare Embedding institutionalised HIV care as part of antenatal care in Papua New Guinea – Graham Apian Elimination of Vertical Transmission: Vanuatu - Annie Tassiet Workshop: Triple Elimination Collage Activity Facilitators: Eliza Copsey and Priya Kaur Workshop: Triple EMTCT Goals Activity Facilitators: Brooke Dickson and Tiara Nisa	Symposia 3: Building Enabling Environments for Effective HIV Responses in the Pacific Room: Rewa/Sigatoka Chair: Atunaisa Drivatiyawe, National Community-Led Prevention Coordinator, Rainbow Pride Foundation (RPF), Fiji Country experience 1: HIV and Human Rights in Fiji: Advancing Dignity, Protection, and Access Through Community-Led Action - Christopher Lutukivuya Country Experience 2: Strengthening Community-Led Monitoring and Real-Time Client Feedback in Papua New Guinea: Lessons from the KPAC Health Hub Response Centre - Kila Yamo Country Experience 3: Embedding GEDSI in HIV/STI services and advancing inclusive health care for people in Papua New Guinea (PNG) - Rose Suruka Country experience 4: The Role of the Great Council of Chiefs in Breaking the Culture of Silence and Stigma Surrounding HIV cases Among iTaukei in Fiji - Patrick Tamaicakai Interactive Discussion, Introduction – Renata Ram Setting the Scene - Human Rights and Enabling Environment Challenges Affecting HIV Responses in the Pacific - Maria Nailevu Panel Discussion and Audience Engagement Moderator: Renata Ram Panellists: Delma Yeki, Sophy Radrodor, Eroni Dina (Rhonda), Emali Tuirara, Miles Young, Yannick Tarivuhavuha
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12:30-1:30	Lunch – Island 619 Restaurant Poster viewing – Orchid Room	Lunch and Learn – Your Story. Your Voice. Your Choice. Using Your Voice with Confidence (12:45 - 1:30) - Karl Schmid, Plus Life Media Room: Rewa/Sigatoka	
1:30-3:00	Symposia 1 (repeated): Growing the prevention toolkit: Community-Led Innovations and Prevention Scale up Across the Pacific Room: Orchid Chair: Loata Tucika, Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network	Symposia 2 (repeated): Strategies for the elimination of vertical transmission of HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis B Room: Gardenia/Frangipani Chair: Priya Kaur, Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services	Symposia 3 (repeated): Building Enabling Environments for Effective HIV Responses in the Pacific Room: Rewa/Sigatoka Chair: Atunaisa Drivatiyawe, National Community-Led Prevention Coordinator, Rainbow Pride Foundation (RPF)
3:00-3:30	Afternoon Tea		
3:30-5:00	Symposia 4: Models of HIV Testing in expanding epidemics Room: Gardenia Chairs: Tiara Nisa, WHO and Kesa Tuidraki, Medical Services Pacific Provincial variations in antenatal HIV testing coverage in Vanuatu in 2025 - Aleesha Kalulu Establishing the Community Sunset Health Hub in Port Moresby: A Community-Led Model to Improve Access to HIV Services for Key Populations - Lesley Bola Testing Beyond the Laboratory: Expanding Access and Improving Quality - Nur Zyna Neha World Café: The Concept: Reading the Virus - Tiara Nisa, Kesa Tuidraki, Joseph Reddy, Justine Marshall, Navin Karan	Symposia 5: Tiko bulabula -supporting the health and wellbeing of people living with HIV (mental health and chronic disease management) Room: Gardenia/Frangipani Chair: Jess Hill, Health Equity Matters Supporting Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing for Women and Families Living with HIV in Papua New Guinea: Community-Led “Mentor Mother” Approaches from WABHA PNG - Delma Yeki Strengthening Mental Health Support for Women Living with HIV in Fiji: Lessons for Treatment Engagement in the Pacific - Rebecca Kubunavanua Workshop: Identifying barriers & developing interventions for improved mental health integration in HIV Care Facilitators: Joeli Colati, Asaeli Sinusetaki, Rebecca Kubunavanua Group 1: Mental health integration into HIV care Group 2: Retention and re-engagement strategies Group 3: Women, families and PMTCT	Symposia 6: Managing HIV Co-infections Room: Rewa/Sigatoka Chairs: Dashika Balak, Fiji Ministry of Health, and Catherine O'Connor A Sustainable Virtual Education and Case-Based Learning Model to Strengthen HIV and SRH Care in Pacific Island Countries - Antoinette David HIV Case Investigation Analysis from the Solomon Islands - Jackson Rakei Case presentation 1: Simple HIV/TB co-infection - Marou Tikataake Case Presentation 2: Complex HIV/TB co-infection – TB meningitis - Dr Ruonamakin Rui Case Presentation 3: Complex HIV/TB co-infection – immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome (IRIS) - Alusio Vuniivi Case Presentation 5: Complex opportunistic infection – CMV retinitis in a newly diagnosed pregnant woman living with HIV - Lavenia Gaunavinaka
5:00	Delegates to move between rooms		

5:00-6:30	Symposia 4 (repeated): Models of HIV Testing in expanding epidemics Room: Gardenia Chairs: Tiara Nisa, WHO and Kesa Tuidraki, Medical Services Pacific	Symposia 5 (repeated): Tiko bulabula -supporting the health and wellbeing of people living with HIV (mental health and chronic disease management) Room: Gardenia/Frangipani Chair: Jess Hill, Health Equity Matters	Symposia 6 (repeated): Managing HIV Co-infections Room: Rewa/Sigatoka Chairs: Dashika Balak, Fiji Ministry of Health and Catherine O'Connor
6:30	End of Symposium Day 1		

Tuesday 18 August

7:30-8:30	Roche Technical Breakfast Workshop Room: Rewa/Sigatoka Topic: Working Together to Expand HIV Testing – The Role of the Laboratory, Health Facilities and Community <i>Breakfast provided RSVP for this event is required</i> Presentations: Molecular epidemiology of the HIV-1 epidemic in Fiji - Professor Jemma L. Geoghegan Community-Led Innovation in HIV Testing - Rena Janamnuaysook Scaling Sustainable Testing: The Pakistan Journey - Dr. Bushra Jamil Ali
9:00-10:30	Plenary Session Room: Golden Ballroom Chairs: Donald Wilson, Fiji National University and Michelle O'Connor, ASHM Keynote presentation: Learning from the HIV Global Response (30 mins) Dr Khin Cho Win Htin, Regional Adviser – HIV Prevention, UNAIDS Panel discussion: Pacific resilience: The role of culture in HIV responses (60 mins) Facilitator: Professor Donald Wilson The purpose of the discussion is to examine the role culture and region can play in enhancing HIV responses within the region. Identify ways to navigate challenges such stigma and lack of confidentiality which can be embedded in cultural and social practices. Discuss ways of delivering a culturally appropriate HIV response. Panellists: Caroline Chambers, Pacific Council of Churches James Ward, Director of UQ Poche Centre, The University of Queensland, Australia Cruella Agabe Tuinukuafe, Tonga Leitis Association, Tonga Olive Mafi, HIV Lead, Pacific Youth Council Ophnay Rechy, Tongeiito Chuuk Association and Chuuk Women's Council, Federated States of Micronesia
10:30-11:00	Morning tea

Program for Tuesday, 18 August continues on next page

11:00-12:30	Symposia 7: HIV, people who use drugs and harm reduction Room: Orchid Chair: Sailosi Soqo Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services HIV-1 drug resistance and phylogenetic analysis of HIV-1 transmission and the role of unsafe injecting drug use in Fiji: lessons for prevention, treatment and care - Dashika Balak Responding to the Intersection of HIV and Drug Use in Fiji: Peer-Led Approaches to Harm Reduction and Early Support - Rusiate Naulunimagiti Strengthening HIV Prevention Through Public Health Policing: The Fiji Police Force and Harm Reduction Partnership Response to the HIV Outbreak - Kesaia T Robinson Workshop: Harm Reduction and the Role of Peers and Community – From Evidence to Reflection Facilitators: Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Health Equity Matters; Kirby Institute, AIVL	Symposia 8: Improving HIV treatment access, uptake and adherence Room: Gardenia/Frangipani Chairs: Michelle O'Connor and Percy Pokeya, ASHM HIV Program Review – Past 10-years, South Fly District, Western Province (Papua New Guinea) - Tafireyi Marukutira HIV Treatment Initiation and Adherence: Perspectives of People Living with HIV in Fiji - Okyere Eunice Advancing Human Rights and HIV Outcomes for Sex Workers in Papua New Guinea: A Peer-Led, Community-Based Approach - Cathy Ketepa Strengthening Community-Led HIV Response in Fiji: Peer Outreach as a Model for Trust, Linkage to Care, and Cross-Sector Partnerships - Atu Dokonivalu Workshop: Treatment adherence and U=U Facilitator: Dashika Balak Panellists: Karl Schmid, Joeli Colati, Rebecca Kubunavanua	Symposia 9: Strengthening infant, child and adolescent HIV testing, treatment, care and support Room: Rewa/Sigatoka Chair: Antoinette David, Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services 10 year retrospective cohort study on children diagnosed with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) at colonial war memorial hospital (CWMH) - Sakiusa Natasere Strengthening HIV Services for Mothers and Adolescent Girls in the National Capital District, Papua New Guinea: A Community-Led Monitoring Approach – Delma Yeki Programmatic Scale-Up of Clinic-Based Viral Load Testing in Papua New Guinea: Implications for Paediatric HIV Care and Drug Resistance Surveillance – Janet Gare Workshop: Treatment establishing, monitoring and failure in children and adolescents Facilitator: Gamini Vali Boma Workshop: Retention in care and case finding for women, children and adolescents Facilitator: Antoinette David
12:30-1:30	Lunch – Island 619 Restaurant Poster viewing – Orchid Room	Lunch and Learn: Putting People Back at the Center of the Conversation - Karl Schmid, Plus Life Media Room: Rewa/Sigatoka	
1:30-3:00	Symposia 7 (repeated): HIV, people who use drugs and harm reduction Room: Orchid Chair: Sailosi Soqo, Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services	Symposia 8 (repeated): Improving HIV treatment access, uptake and adherence Room: Gardenia/Frangipani Chairs: Michelle O'Connor & Percy Pokeya, ASHM	Symposia 9 (repeated): Strengthening infant, child and adolescent HIV testing, treatment, care and support Room: Rewa/Sigatoka Chair: Antoinette David, Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services
3:00-3:30	Afternoon Tea		

3:30-4:30	Closing Plenary (60 mins) Room: Golden Ballroom (10 mins) Closing remarks– Renata Ram, Pacific HIV advisor for UNAIDS (10 mins) Closing remarks, Dashika Balak, Fiji Ministry of Health and Symposium Committee (10 mins) Closing remarks, Michelle O'Connor, Director of Global Division, ASHM (15 mins) Call to Action – Donald Wilson, Fiji National University and Joeli Colati, FJN+ (15 mins) Official closing – The Honourable Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka, Prime Minister of Fiji (by video address)
4:30	End of Symposium

Delegate feedback

We welcome your feedback in the Symposium. Please look out for the evaluation email that will be sent to you at the end of the event.

Notes

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Notes

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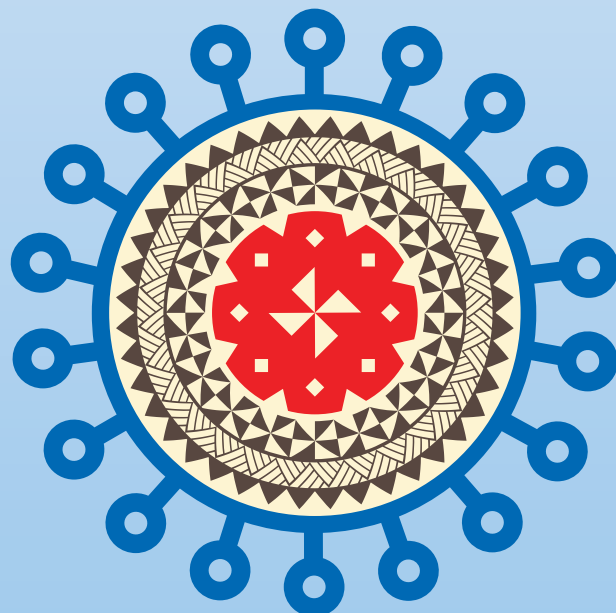
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