

LETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND THE MINISTER OF OUM

Leituala Dr Ben Matalavea
Editor-in-Chief
Samoa Medical Journal

Dear Dr Matalavea:

Please accept my congratulations on the launch of the Samoa Medical Journal (SMJ) during the opening ceremony of the Medical Conference entitled "Heart Disease in Samoa." This is a proud day for Samoa to mark the production of such an important journal which has come about through a close collaboration between Oceania University of Medicine, the Ministry of Health, Samoa Medical Association, National Health Services and doctors at the TTM Hospital.

I have always believed that a Medical School can and should be a catalyst for positive change by not only training quality doctors but by ensuring that their knowledge is kept updated and our Samoan citizens can receive quality health care that reflects worlds best practice. I also believe that this long overdue journal will promote a strong culture of clinical research and critical analysis of patient management among the medical profession in Samoa. This journal will provide a creative outlet for our local medical and allied health community to publish their findings and to ex-



press and exchange ideas to encourage lifelong learning and critical thinking habits. I hope that this journal will encourage collaborative research projects with international doctors and scientists because such collaboration is vital if this journal is to set high international standards.

I wish you, your Editorial Board, and members of the medical and allied health community in Samoa continued success in this very important initiative for our country. It pleases me greatly to see that Oceania University of Medicine is being embraced by the medical and wider community and I am confident that through your continued collaborative efforts great things will be achieved and translated into improved health care for our citizens. This is a milestone that will be celebrated by all Samoans.

With Best Wishes,

Minister of Health & Minister of OUM
Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana-Gidlow