

## Editorial

### New horizons

The surveillance and response section of this issue contains excellent articles from Micronesia, Polynesia and Melanesia: one on the recent measles cases in Guam, another on dengue in Solomon Islands and a third on an outbreak of diarrhoea with mucus and blood due to *Shigella flexneri* on the island of Futuna. We are very grateful to our colleagues Ronald G. Balajadia from Guam, Dennie Iniakwala, Andrew Darcy and Hugo Bugoro in the Solomons and Jean-François Yvon in Wallis and Futuna for these contributions.

In this 12<sup>th</sup> issue of Inform'ACTION, you will find a report on the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PPHSN Coordinating Body (CB), addressing new projects, and a report on the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Technical Working Body (TWB) of LabNet, also offering lots of new information. You will also find a logo specially designed for PPHSN and the network's new website address.

The members of the CB were enthusiastic about a very interesting paper on the role of the PPHSN in the implementation of reform in the health services in Samoa, prepared by Dr M. Nuualofa Tuuai Potoi and Dr Elize Gershater for the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CB. The paper is printed in this issue. We are grateful to Dr Potoi for this excellent contribution, which stresses the impact that PPHSN can make at the national level.

The first renewal of the core membership of the PPHSN Coordinating Body is an important milestone in the history of the network. This procedure commenced in early July with an initial call for nominations to all the Pacific Island countries and territories, many of which have now sent in their proposals. These nominations will be circulated for the final choice of people to occupy the four subregional seats for the countries and territories to be made (one for each sub-region: Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia and francophone). The three other members will be selected by the sitting CB from the list of nominees put forward by the Pacific countries and territories. In making its choice, the CB will take various factors into account, such as the need for balanced representation of the level of development of the surveillance system, geographical representation and continuity of activities.

Lastly, we would conclude on a more nostalgic note in announcing the departure of Dr Yvan Souares of SPC and Dr Michael O'Leary of WHO, who were both founder members of the PPHSN. We wish to warmly thank them for their valuable contribution to the development of the network. We wish them good luck and fair wind in their new endeavours to reach new horizons, knowing that Dr O'Leary is still in the region as regional medical epidemiologist with PIHOA/CDC, based in Guam.

Enjoy this issue and we'll meet again in the next one.

The editors