

# Evidence from a Pacific longitudinal research study:



**Dr El-Shadan Tautolo**

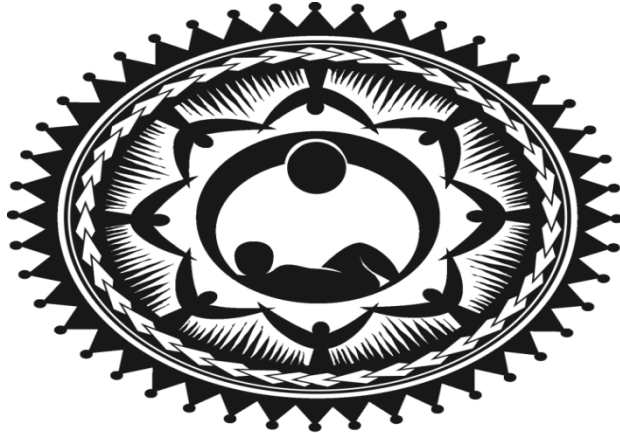
Centre for Pacific Health & Development,  
Auckland University of Technology

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# The PIF Study

- **Largest Pacific study** in the world – around **3,500** participants
- Excellent **retention** (6% drop-out)
- Internationally known for **multiple informants** – Mother, Father, Child, Teacher
- **Longitudinal** nature of the data collection and analysis
- Solid platform for building **Pacific research capacity**
- **Publications** - more than **140** academic articles
- **Profiles** and assists in raising awareness of Pacific issues
- Provides **evidence base** for **decision-making & policy change**.



PACIFIC ISLANDS  
FAMILIES STUDY

**AUT**  
UNIVERSITY

## 2017 HRC-funded research projects

- Respiratory function
- Hearing & Education
- Culture & Mental health

# Respiratory Function & Early Life

- Early-life events
  - Breastfeeding, smoking, housing conditions etc.
- Current respiratory function
  - Spirometry, Allergies, Blood samples, Chest X-rays
- Longitudinal trajectories
  - Lifecourse approach
  - Focus on high-risk population
  - Research collaboration



# Hearing disorder & Education

- Hearing screen

- Auditory processing, tympanometry, overall health
- Previous assessment at 2 and 11-yrs – 1/3 APD problems



- Educational outcomes

- NCEA results, Linkage MoEducation data

- Longitudinal associations

- Linking previous waves
- Focus on high-risk population
- Develop potential strategies



# Cultural resiliency & Mental Health

- Cultural resiliency/vulnerability
  - Cultural practices, beliefs, identity
  - Protective or not
- Mental health
  - Pacific adults – 1,000 mothers and fathers
  - WHO-CIDI Assessment tool
  - Qualitative interviews
- Benefits
  - Comparison with Te Rau Hinengaro Survey (2006)
  - Focus on high-risk population
  - Qualitative understanding of key issues



# Summary

- The PIF Study has demonstrated commitment to development of Pacific research capacity
- Ability to examine Pacific priority issues
- Provide evidence inform decisions and policies

# Acknowledgements

Further information via website:

[www.aut-pif.ac.nz](http://www.aut-pif.ac.nz)

Dr El-Shadan (Dan) Tautolo – Director,  
Centre for Pacific Health Research **and**  
the Pacific Islands Families (PIF) Study,  
Auckland University of Technology

Contact details:

dtautolo@aut.ac.nz

(09) 9219999 x7527

0211207523



Ministry of Business,  
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# Recruitment of participants

- Language is essential – simple and ethnic-specific (Pacific translations of documents)
- Be flexible – allow them time to decide to participate
- Honesty – answer all questions in straightforward manner – important to maintain professionalism



# Interviews – data collection

- Gender-matching of interviewers – cultural sensitivity
- Ethnic-matching of interviewers – cultural appropriateness
- Use same fieldstaff over multiple waves – create relationships with participants