

UniFiji Hosts Pinktober Breast Cancer Awareness

Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences in collaboration with the UniFiji Alumni Association hosted the Pinktober Breast Cancer Awareness session on Friday, October 12, 2018 at the Saweni Campus.

While delivering the keynote address at the event, the Minister for Health and Medical Services, Honourable Rosy Akbar, asked an important question as to why the colour pink was associated with the breast cancer awareness. She answered saying that the colour pink represented care, love, understanding and compassion.

Honourable Akbar also highlighted that the breast cancer was the most common cancer in Fiji. She mentioned that 282 cases of breast cancer were recorded by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in 2017 and 56 cases so far in 2018. An alarming figure that she stated was that the Ministry had recorded a total of 141 mortalities due to breast cancer last year and a total of 77 mortalities recorded from the period of January to July this year.

She further explained that families had a pivotal role to play in the lives of the patients.

“The impacts of breast cancer are devastating the anguish and pain is not only felt by patients, but also their families and children who are drastically traumatized emotionally. Family support is very important. Sometimes we hear very scary stories when our women reach the health centres on the last day. It makes us question, where the family support was. We need to care for our mothers and sisters, we need to care for those who are suffering,” she urged.

Honourable Minister strongly urged all women and men to get screened for breast cancer regularly. She mentioned that the Ministry of Health advocated for early detection and early care. Finally she applauded the work that UniFiji as well as the Cancer Society of Fiji did in order to raise awareness on this important issue as a multi-sectorial approach was pivotal.

Pinktober Awareness Sessions are an annual event for the University to impart knowledge to the men, women and general public of breast cancer issue as with knowledge came hope and help.