

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH



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## PRESS STATEMENT

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### STUDENT RESEARCHERS JOIN IMR PROGRAM

Five PNG university students have won the chance of a lifetime, a 12 month traineeship with the PNG Institute of Medical Research (IMR).

The five Honours students from the University of Papua New Guinea will spend 12 months at various IMR sites around the country, working on cutting edge research in the fields of malaria, HIV/ STI, cervical cancer and influenza research.

They are Tamarah Keloala, Marinjho Jonduo, Diana Timbi, Elvin Lufele and Rebecca Vinit.

They are the second batch of Honours students to be co-sponsored by the ExxonMobil IMR Partnership in Health Graduate Development program.

IMR Director, Professor Peter Siba, welcomed the students to the training program and said the Institute looked forward to seeing them flourish in a research environment.

“The students need work experience to bring their studies to life, and we in PNG need new researchers coming forward to ensure we can continue to gain knowledge about the illnesses affecting our people,” Professor Siba said.

While studying for their honours, these budding scientists will also be introduced to various technologies used in research as well as getting on-hands experience on the various research work carried out at the Institute.

Professor Siba said that the Partnership in Health Graduate Development Program enables bio-science post-graduates, medical students and physicians to expand their capacity for contributing to infectious disease research in PNG.

“These students will be able to build their research skills and contribute to improving the health of Papua New Guineans by conducting further research into the diseases affecting PNG health,” he said.

The IMR’s research into health problems in PNG is helping prevent and control diseases and improve the lives of all Papua New Guineans. Our headquarters is in Goroka, with branches in Port Moresby, Madang and Maprik, and research sites throughout the country.

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