



# PRESS STATEMENT

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## IMR Scientists wins US Forgarty Scholarships

Two young scientists from the PNG Institute of Medical Research (IMR) have left the country to pursue their post graduate studies in the United States.

Scientists Monalisa Kas and Valentine Siba left the country last week to take up studies at the Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

The two scientists were the recipients of the Forgarty Award funded through the National Institutes of Health, USA to undertake their Masters program at the university.

Monalisa will be doing her Master's in Public Health while Valentine will be undertaking a Masters in Molecular Microbiology.

Both have completed their Honours program under the Institute's Graduate Program with University of Papua New Guinea in 2011 and 2012 respectively and prior to their scholarships, were working in the Infection and Immunity Unit at IMR.

Monalisa was part of the research team involved in the Cholera research. This includes investigating the appropriate method that can be used to improve diagnosis and detection of *Vibrio cholera* in PNG while Valentine was working on typhoid and other gastrointestinal diseases.

Speaking on behalf of the two, Valentine said they were very excited about the scholarship.

"We hope to learn as much as we can and bring back vital knowledge and experience to help enhance research programs at the Institute," said Valentine.

"We would also like to thank the IMR and Center for Global Health and Diseases, Global Infectious Diseases-Research Training Program and Case Western Reserve University for this scholarship".

Both scientists will return to the IMR after completion of their studies in 2015.