

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH



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## PRESS STATEMENT

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### IMR ANNOUNCES NEW MANAGEMENT

The Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research (IMR) has a new all-national senior management, a history making moment for PNG's premier medical research institute. The announcement was made by IMR's Director Professor Peter Siba in front of staff at the Institute's headquarters in Goroka.

The announcement also saw the appointments of Deputy Directors for both Science and Research and Corporate Affairs and Support Services (CASS)

Dr William Pomat is the new head of Science and Research while Samson Akunaii has been reappointed as head of the Corporate Affairs and Support Services for a second term.

"This is a historical moment, a milestone for IMR, as we now have an all-national senior management taking on the reins to drive quality medical research forward for Papua New Guinea," said Professor Peter Siba.

While congratulating the two deputy directors, Professor Siba said, both men have wealth of experiences in their individual fields with both serving over 20 years each at IMR is happy looking forward to working with them.

He also expressed gratitude to the Dr Andrew Valley, former head of Science and Research for his exceptional contribution to research at IMR.

Dr Valley was instrumental in many areas of research at IMR including in the restructure of IMR which saw three new research units set up at IMR and the foundation and growth of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Unit.

He will be relocated to the recently opened IMR branch in Alotau to be the senior staff on the ground to guide research projects there.

Both new Deputy Directors express the challenges that lay ahead in terms of managing their respective areas and the task of ensuring the smooth operations of IMR.

For Dr Pomat, he described the new role as "a big shoe to fill, after both his predecessors Dr Ivo Mueller and Dr Valley, who have set the precedence."

"Although it will be challenging, I would like all of us, both management and staff to work together to ensure that at the end of the day, IMR continues to produce quality health research, ultimately leading to interventions that either prevent and or control diseases and improve overall health,"

Both Deputy Directors appointment was recently endorsed by the IMR Council.

**Media contact:** Geraldine Vilakiva – phone: (+675) 532 2800 or (+675) 7266 6569

Email: [geraldine.vilakiva@pngimr.org.pg](mailto:geraldine.vilakiva@pngimr.org.pg)