



25 June 2020

Dear PNGAAA Members,

It has been a very challenging period over the past few months with the COVID-19 pandemic affecting our planned activities for 2020. However, this pandemic has also brought about some innovative approaches and thinking in terms of supporting alumni with ongoing professional development and engagement utilising online platforms such as webinars and online courses. These online activities will continue for the next three to six months as we go into the 'New Normal'.

The Alumni Grants Scheme (AGS) is now open and I encourage members to access the AGS to support you with innovative community impact projects in your organisations or communities. Apart from the online activities, implementation of the AGS activities will continue in the 'new normal'.

Provincial chapters can commence their chapter meetings as initiated by their respective provincial chapter executive. However, strict COVID-19 protocols need to be adhered to such as social distancing and maintaining basic hygiene practices.

At this juncture, I would like to inform all members that the PNGAAA National Executive has deferred the Annual General Meeting to July 2020 due to the pandemic. Members will be informed on the details soon.

I would like to commend our alumni who stood tall during the pandemic providing support and technical advice to the Government of PNG, special mention to our alumni in the health sector and research institutions such as the PNG Institute of Medical Research. Well done and your contributions are very much appreciated.

I also would like to commend our alumni across PNG who took their own initiatives to conduct information and awareness sessions in their respective communities educating the people of COVID-19 protocols and maintaining basic hygiene practices. Keep up the good work.

As we approach the second half of 2020, let us remain vigilant and not be complacent as we go with our everyday activities in the 'New Normal'.

Best wishes,

Dr Janet Rangou

PNGAAA President