

DATE November 2, 2018 RELEASE NUMBER 85 | 18

## United States Doctors Perform Life Changing Surgeries at Sigatoka Hospital

*Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort proudly supports Benevolent Mission International eye specialists  
in the quests to improve the life of Fijian locals*



Dr. Richard Ruckman, Lindsey Palmer and Inga Ruckman | Anne Hoffman checking a patient | Nadroga local, Padma Wati from Nabaka with Dr. Richard Ruckman

**CORAL COAST, FIJI** – More than 20 United States eye specialists with Benevolent Missions International have conducted over 800 consultations and performed 50 eye surgeries at Sigatoka District Hospital.

The medical team, which was hosted by Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort, also handed out 800 pairs of prescription glasses.

It is the 23<sup>rd</sup> year the group has made an annual trip to Fiji and the 7<sup>th</sup> year the group, which donates its time free of charge and pays its own airfares, has been a guest of the resort.

Outrigger Fiji executive assistant manager Lindsey Palmer said the work undertaken by the Benevolent Mission International eye specialists was life changing for some Nadroga residents.

“Some of the people treated may have lost their sight if it had not been for the efforts of the BMI doctors,” he said.

"They are gifted, generous people who have taken time out from their busy schedules back in the United States to come and help the people of Fiji.

"My team at the resort is delighted that it could assist in some small way in facilitating their visit to Fiji," Mr Palmer said.

Coordinator of the group, Ms. Mira Patel said that the BMI Fiji Eye Team was extremely grateful to Outrigger Fiji for providing accommodation and meals.

"This support enables us to spend our time at the Sigatoka Hospital examining patients for eye diseases, performing surgery and prescribing medication and glasses.

"We feel very fortunate to be able to work in association with Outrigger Fiji in improving the lives and wellbeing of the people in its community," she said.

**ABOUT OUTRIGGER FIJI BEACH RESORT**

Located on the Coral Coast of the main island of Viti Levu, Outrigger Fiji delivers culturally authentic guest experiences where guests can connect with each other, their beautiful Fijian hosts and the destination. The accent is on providing five-star, beachfront accommodation while retaining authentic elements of the traditional Fijian village. One of the trademarks of the resort is the Meimei nannies program, an affordable service staffed by trained, professional nannies which allows parents to enjoy time together, safe in the knowledge that their children are in caring, capable hands. It is supported by an extensive daily activities schedule, two kids clubs and a teens' program. The resort features a large, family-oriented pool and an adults-only pool with swim-up bar and bistro. Adults can also relax at the resort's Bebe Spa Sanctuary located high on a hill overlooking the resort with views across the coral fringed lagoon. In addition to a number of family-friendly restaurants, the resort also features its signature, adults-only restaurant Ivi, the ideal choice for parents looking for that special dining occasion. Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort is that place where families find themselves at one with their destination and its people.

**ABOUT OUTRIGGER HOTELS AND RESORTS**

For more than 70 years, Outrigger Hotels and Resorts has charted a journey of discovery – expanding from Hawaii to premier resort destinations in Fiji, Thailand, Guam, Mauritius and the Maldives. The privately held hospitality company currently operates and/or has in development 38 properties and over 7,000 rooms – inviting guests to 'Escape Ordinary' with authentic Signature Experiences and the [Outrigger DISCOVERY loyalty program](#). Outrigger's multi-branded portfolio includes Outrigger® Resorts, OHANA Hotels by Outrigger® and Hawaii Vacation Condos by Outrigger® while also managing select properties from top international hotel brands including Embassy Suites®, Best Western®, Wyndham Destinations and Hilton Grand Vacations™. Find out more at [Outrigger.com](#) or visit @OutriggerResorts on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Donna Parkin

Outrigger Resorts PR – Australia / New Zealand

Email: [donna@parkinpr.com.au](mailto:donna@parkinpr.com.au) | M: +61 419742573

###