



# NEWS FROM

Fall Issue, 2007

## JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



### MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

The John A. Burns School of Medicine leads the country in the percentage of women department chairs. But that's only part of the story. Even more exciting is women play significant roles throughout the medical school in faculty, research and support capacities. The leadership shown by all the women of JABSOM contributes to our pride in an institution committed to excellence and diversity.

Gary K. Ostrander, Interim Dean

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## Women in Medical Education: JABSOM SHINES

The University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine is ranked *first* in the nation for the percentage of department chairs who are women. They include the chairs of Cell and Molecular Biology, Psychiatry, Medicine, Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, Native Hawaiian Health, and acting chair of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health. Sixty percent of JABSOM'S 2007 first-year students are women.



Dr. Marla Berry  
Cell & Molecular Biology



Dr. Naleen Andrade  
Psychiatry



Dr. Elizabeth Tam  
Medicine



Dr. Lynnae Sauvage  
OB-GYN & Women's Health



Dr. Patricia Blanchette  
Geriatric Medicine



Dr. Marjorie Mau  
Native Hawaiian Health



Dr. Rosanne Harrigan  
Complementary & Alternative Medicine

## *Chancellor Supports Medical School*

University of Hawaii at Manoa Chancellor *Virginia Hinshaw* visited the Kaka'ako Campus to meet with staff at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. Hinshaw expressed deep support for the school, and emphasized the University of Hawaii cannot be a *great* university without a great school of medicine.



## *REGENTS' MEDAL TO OMORI, CITATION FOR HAYMER*



Omori with student Carrie Marshall

**Dr. Jill Omori**, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health, is a 2007 recipient of the Regents' Medal for Excellence in Teaching. Omori is establishing herself as an expert in healthcare for homeless patients through the Hawai'i Homeless Outreach and Medical Education Project.

**Dr. David Haymer**, Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology, is a 2007 recipient of the UH Chancellor's Citation for Meritorious Teaching.



Haymer

## *Surgery Board Appointment*

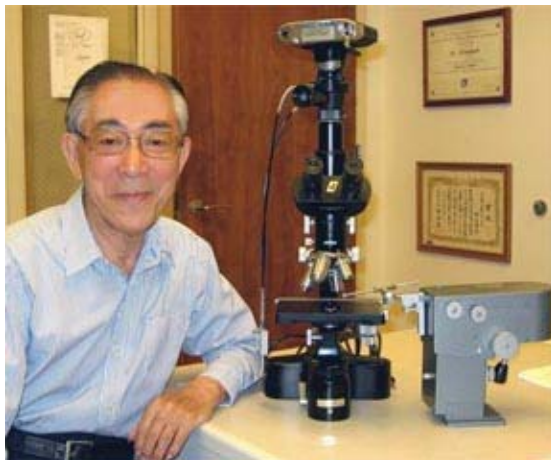


**Dr. Danny Takanishi, Jr.**, Associate Professor and Chairman of the John A. Burns School of Medicine Department of Surgery, has been named to the National Board of Medical Examiners. He will serve on the Surgery Test Committee, which is responsible for developing the surgery subject test provided by the NBME to medical schools. It is required for graduation, and is a first step for licensure in any state.

Takanishi

## Telehealth Wows Visitors

**Kris Hara**, Chief Simulation Specialist at the John A. Burns School of Medicine's Simtiki Simulation Center, demonstrates the capabilities of Baby Sim. The lifelike child is one of a family of human body simulators used to train medical personnel at the **Telehealth Research Institute** on the medical school's Kaka'ako Campus. The students shown, from Japan and Korea, are taking part in the University of Hawaii's ten-week intensive English language course. When Telehealth is able to be featured on public tours of the medical school (frequently!), its staff and "sims" are always praised by visitors.



## Dr. Yanagimachi Makes News

**Dr. Rzyuzo Yanagimachi**, a pioneer in assisted human reproduction, made national news again, when he announced that lighting may affect the health of embryos in fertilization clinics. In August 13's *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, that changing laboratory light to a warm white fluorescent light improved the viability of embryos and may reduce defects.

## NEWS FROM SPORTS MEDICINE

**Dr. Andrew Nichols** has new data about athletic performance and **probiotics**, and it was reported by *Reuters*. Probiotics are live micro-organisms, usually bacteria, which are beneficial to the body. They are sold in supplement form, but are also found naturally in many fermented foods, including yogurt, certain juices and soy products, like miso and tempeh.

*Dr. Nichols heads Sports Medicine and is also the UH team physician.*

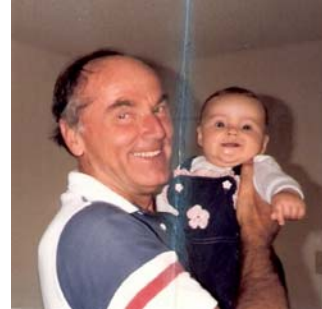
It is thought that consuming probiotics helps to maintain a healthy balance of good bacteria in the digestive tract. And the benefits may be real. However, Dr. Nichols' study found no direct boost in athletic performance from probiotics.



## Stellar students

### **Kate's Commitment**

On December 9th, **KATE PETTIGREW** should probably be sleeping peacefully after an evening of celebrating exams. Instead, she will be getting up at 3:45am, preparing to run 26.2 miles. Kate is a member of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's *Team In Training*. They are raising money to help stop leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin lymphoma and myeloma from taking more lives. Kate is running to honor her grandfather, Tom Ohliger, who died in his early 60's from multiple myeloma.



Kate as an infant with her late grandfather

*Seven JABSOM students are winners of national research scholarships through the Medical Student Training in Aging Research program by the National Institutes on Aging and the American Federation for Aging Research. They are: Gina Fujikami, Christine Palermo, Priscilla Yee, Lana Gimber, Tracee Suetsugu, Melanie Payanal, and Alana Sasaki.*



### **DISPATCH FROM PALAU** **Student Jason Barnes Interns Summer '07**

Palau was as far away as I could get and still be in my home area of the world, the Pacific. The John A. Burns School of Medicine has a longstanding and integral role in the health of all Pacific islanders and this summer I saw first hand exactly what that means. The health care in Palau was rural, and the most valuable thing I learned was how to make due with the tools at hand, as supplies like medicines and hospital equipment were in most cases a long way away.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Everyone's favorite smiling face at JABSOM is also an award-winning security officer. **Lt. Deborah Austin** was named 2007 Pacific region Security Officer of the Year by Wackenhut. Lt. Austin is site supervisor for the John A. Burns School of Medicine.



**NEWS TIPS OR IDEAS? Contact [uhmed@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhmed@hawaii.edu)**