



THE JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE (JABSOM) NEWSLETTER August 2009

JABSOM Geriatrics among top in U.S.

The Geriatric Medicine Program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine is ranked 16th in the nation, according to the July issue of *US News and World Report*.

The magazine annually ranks "America's Best Graduate Schools". The new rankings place UH's Geriatrics program among those at the nation's most prestigious medical schools, including Johns Hopkins (#1), Duke University (#4), Harvard (#7), Yale (#8), Boston University (#13).



"This ranking points to the national recognition of our Geriatric Medicine program and its innovative contributions to the community," said

JABSOM Dean, Dr. Jerris Hedges. "Situated in the middle of the Pacific, it is especially impressive that the excellence of our program has not been overlooked by the leadership of the other medical schools who participate in this ranking effort."

Team efforts

Dr. Kamal Masaki, acting chair of Geriatrics, said, "We are honored to receive national recognition for our program. This represents the team efforts of all our faculty, fellows, staff and community partners, and the leadership provided to us by Dr. Patricia Blanchette, who founded the program in 1984. We are proud of our diverse education, research, clinical and community service programs."

Kuakini, others stepped up

"Kuakini Medical Center, headed by its CEO, Mr. Masa Tasaka, stepped up to become our first major community partner," said Dr. Blanchette. The program has grown considerably in the past 25 years, and has extended its reach to include other important community partners, including Kaiser, Queen's and several island nursing homes. One of Geriatrics' major goals is promoting a good quality of life. All JABSOM students must be trained in geriatrics and palliative care so that they may be equipped to help their elderly patients explore all options for treatment at the end stages of life.

Giving campaign to honor, build upon Dr. Cadman's vision

Annual internal fundraising drive begins



Co-Chairs: Lozanoff, Melish

Drs. Marian Melish and Scott Lozanoff, co-chairs of this year's Internal Giving Campaign, "Starting from the Inside Out", are encouraging all faculty and staff to participate in the campaign which runs from now until October 2. In a cover letter to the JABSOM 'ohana, they said, "We are again facing challenging times. We have been asked to make difficult choices and to do more with less. That's why we are calling upon you once again to come together and show your support in JABSOM's Second Internal Giving Campaign."



Man of vision: Dr. Cadman retires October 31

The focal point of this year's campaign is to honor former dean, Dr. Ed Cadman, through a gift or pledge to the Dr. Edwin C. Cadman Endowed Fund for the Study of Neurodegenerative Disorders. Dr. Cadman retires from JABSOM on October 31st. On October 29, 2009, a community recognition reception will be held in the lobby of the Medical Education Building from 5-7:30 p.m. All JABSOM faculty, students, and staff are invited.

The Internal Giving campaign will run simultaneously with the UH System Aloha United Way campaign, which starts September 1st. A UW campaign forms will be distributed separately.

Please contact Jeffrie Jones at jeffrie.jones@uhf.hawaii.edu or 692-0873, Kristi Bates at Kristie.Bates@uhf.hawaii.edu or 692-0990 or Joanne Ikehara at joanne.ikehara@uhf.hawaii.edu or 692-0879.

The goals of this year's campaign include 100% leadership participation and 250 gifts or pledges. Participation, with a gift of any amount, is the primary goal, according to Drs. Melish and Lozanoff.



Remember when? In 2004, construction is underway at Kaka'ako, thanks to legislative and community support garnered by former Dean Cadman and then-Governor Ben Cayetano. The first students attended classes in the Medical Education Building in 2005.



Dean Jerris Hedges

Aloha! We have much to be grateful for and to feel good about this month. Our Geriatric Medicine program is nationally ranked, our Pediatrics department is taking an important leadership role in fighting childhood obesity and our faculty are receiving honors from the UH system and the Mayo Clinic. Our Imi Ho'ola program continues to nurture promising physicians. And our second annual Internal Giving Campaign kicks off with an opportunity to recognize a leader who helped bring us together in difficult times—and bring us to our new Kaka'ako campus—Dr. Ed Cadman, former dean, who retires Oct. 31. As you read about these events in this month's newsletter, we hope you share our sense of pride and know how thankful we are for the continuing support of our community and its leaders. Their kokua allows our school to serve Hawai'i and the Pacific as former Governor Burns envisioned.

Mahalo.

Professor Schatz honored as a medical hero

He bravely questioned Tuskegee experiment in a letter to the CDC in 1965

"I've known Irv Schatz for 16 years," said Dr. James Ireland, "And I never knew about this."

That comment was one repeated by dozens of people at the John A. Burns School of Medicine in August, when longtime professor Dr. Irwin Schatz was recognized for standing up against the notorious Tuskegee Study in 1965.

Dr. Schatz, then a 34-year-old cardiologist in Detroit, read a research paper about the study and sent a protest letter to the author at the Centers for Disease Control. In the early 1970's, a *Wall Street Journal* reporter discovered the letter and reported that Dr. Schatz was the *only* physician to have strongly complained about the unethical research.



Dr. Irwin Schatz

"Everyone (in medical school) learns about Tuskegee," said Dr. Ireland, associate clinical professor at JABSOM. "I guess Irv is just so modest, he would never mention it."

The Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male was conducted between 1932 and 1972 in Tuskegee, Alabama. Subjects of the infamous research project were left untreated, even though by the 1940's, penicillin had been validated as an effective treatment.

Dr. Schatz, former chair of medicine at JABSOM, received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Mayo Clinic Board of Trustees on August 14, for a long career that included helping to expose the Tuskegee injustice.

Ultimately, Dr. Schatz' concern led to improved research methods, including the necessity for informed consent of research subjects and the protection of patients in clinical trials.

Dr. Schatz' criticism took bravery, according to Dr. David Robertson, Program Director for Clinical Research at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. In a letter nominating Dr. Schatz for the Mayo honor, he wrote, "(Dr. Schatz) was a young physician at the time, and criticizing an investigation which was overseen by some of the leading figures in the American Public Health Service was an action that was, to say the very least, potentially harmful to his career."

At the UH medical school, Dr. Schatz was a major contributor to the Honolulu Heart Program, a landmark study with 44 years of follow-up in Japanese-American men in Hawai'i. Kuakini Medical Center has been the home of this internationally renowned study since 1965.

"The study has provided a rich data base for investigators interested in human aging and cardiovascular disease in extreme old age," said Dr. Kamal Masaki, Acting Chair of Geriatric Medicine at the UH medical school.

From Dr. Schatz' letter to the CDC:

**"I assume you feel that the information which is extracted from observation of this untreated group is worth their sacrifice. If this is the case, then I suggest that the US Public Health Service and those physicians associated with it in this study need to re-evaluate their moral judgments in this regard."
Irwin Schatz, M.D.**

HYPERBARIC TREATMENT CENTER REACCREDITED

The Hyperbaric Treatment Center (HTC) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine has been reaccruited through April 2012 by the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS).

The HTC, located on the grounds of Kuakini Medical Center in Nu'uuanu, operates around-the-clock to provide treatment of decompression sickness among divers in Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. The medical school has provided the only hyperbaric emergency treatment program for the public in Hawai'i since 1983.

This accreditation reflects the commitment to quality care by the State of Hawai'i as well as the dedication of our staff at the hyperbaric facility," said Frank Farm, Director of the HTC.

"We are ready at all times to take care of the people of Hawai'i or our visitors who might encounter a problem that requires hyperbaric treatment," said Dr. Richard Smerz, HTC Medical Director.

Hawai'i has the third-highest number of certified divers in the United States, behind Florida and California. On average, about 50 divers per year are treated at HTC.

The HTC is the only facility of its kind in Hawai'i accredited by the UHMS, which measures patient care and safety procedures.

"There are more than 2,000 hyperbaric treatment facilities in the nation, but fewer than 100 of them are accredited by Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society," said Dr. Jerris Hedges, JABSOM Dean. "We are pleased our university's facility, which serves the public, continues to be one of the finest in the country."

The Hyperbaric Treatment Center also provides Hyperbaric Oxygen treatment for other medical conditions and conducts research into decompression sickness and its treatments.

Right: the control room at HTC

Call 587-3425 to learn more



JABSOM FIGHTING CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Kaiser Permanente and HMSA foundations support JABSOM project aimed at helping keiki improve their health

The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa has received a \$300,000 grant from Kaiser Permanente Foundation to implement programs over the next three years to fight the alarming growth in obesity among Hawai'i's young people.

The grant will fund efforts of the Hawai'i Initiative for Childhood Obesity Research and Education (HICORE), a project of the medical school's Department of Pediatrics. The mission of HICORE is to provide leadership in education and research to better understand and combat the obesity epidemic and to treat and improve the life of children and adolescents with complications of obesity. The grant will assist physicians at Kaiser Permanente Nanakuli and the Wai'anae Comprehensive Health Center to implement and evaluate the Hawaii Pediatric Weight Management Toolkit, an office-based resource developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics Hawai'i Chapter.



“It is estimated that childhood obesity will trigger disease that will threaten or kill many of Hawai'i's obese children before they reach the age of 40,” said Dr. Okihiro.

Kaiser Permanente's grant builds upon a \$419,000 gift last March by HMSA Foundation to help fund personnel and to develop a Continuing Medical Education series on childhood obesity and a website on childhood obesity research in Hawai'i.

“Every year, it becomes more obvious that Hawai'i is witnessing a childhood obesity epidemic,” said Dr. May Okihiro, JABSOM Pediatrician and Principal Investigator for the study grant. “Even though Hawai'i is thought of as a healthy place to live, we are definitely seeing much more childhood obesity.”

For example, a study of 10,199 children entering kindergarten from 2002-2003 in Hawai'i public schools found that 28.5% of the children were overweight or obese. Unchecked, it is estimated that childhood obesity will trigger disease that will threaten or kill many of Hawai'i's obese children before they reach the age of 40.

“We are grateful to the Kaiser Permanente Foundation for its willingness to partner with us in this important endeavor,” said Dean Jerris Hedges. “The need for a comprehensive and collaborative effort to better understand obesity in our young people is critical.”

For more information contact:

Romelynn Stein, HICORE Operations Manager at 271-6980 or rge@hawaii.edu. See the website at: <http://www.hicore.org>



Seabrook Mow, Natalie Kong and Kit Lee

MEDICINE WON THEM OVER

“Older” students come to medicine after other careers

They introduce themselves as “the old ones,” and you repress a laugh. They're only in their 30's, but, we'll concede, they are a bit older than the average age of students who have completed the Imi Ho'ola (“Those who seek to heal”) Program.

Kit Lee, Natalie Kong and Seabrook Mow took different paths to medical school. Kit completed graduate school and entered the workforce as a microbiologist for the Hawai'i State Department of Health. Natalie earned a Master's Degree in Bioengineering, and landed a job in the botany lab at Windward Community College. Seabrook applied his journalism degree from UH Mānoa to work for KHON-TV and The Honolulu Advertiser.

Each of them found themselves wanting to do more. Intrigued by medicine, they enrolled in Imi Ho'ola, a post-baccalaureate program offered by the John A. Burns School of Medicine to train promising students from historically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Natalie was the first to join. The following year, it was Seabrook. Then Kit. One by one, the three learned the jobs they had held in the professional world were simple compared to the rigors of Imi Ho'ola.

“The program compresses two years of medical school training into one very intensive year, with really high expectations,” said Natalie. “It's painful, but that's how it is.”

The high expectations, from Imi Ho'ola faculty and staff, were felt by Seabrook, too. “No one babies you,” he said. “That's for sure.”

The academic tough love worked for all three of the “old ones.” They are medical students in their second, third and fourth years. They have found the “more” they were seeking in life. They are committed to serving as physicians where they are needed most.

After all, the faculty and staff at Imi Ho'ola expect no less. **(Editor's note: NATALIE KONG was recognized as a Young Leader on August 26 at the Native Hawaiian Conference in Waikiki. Congratulations, Natalie!)**

DIAMOND AWARDED REGENTS' MEDAL



JABSOM Professor Milton Diamond will be honored with the Regents' Medal for Excellence in Research in September during a ceremony at the Kennedy Theatre on September 15.

Dr. Diamond has spent his professional life involved in teaching, clinical work and research – particularly in sexual behavior and reproduction and understanding sexual development.

His research has resulted in 150 publications, nine books and numerous television and radio interviews.

“Within his working life he has changed the accepted standards of clinical practice,” said JABSOM Dean Jerris Hedges. Dr. Hedges noted Diamond’s work with an especially vulnerable population: children born with ambiguous genitalia.

“Addressing such topics from a sound scientific basis has been challenging as the topics themselves have at times been taboo in the lay community and at times laden with political overtones,” Dr. Hedges said.

Announcement:
The HAWAII MEDICAL JOURNAL is now free and on line! Check it out at:
<http://www.hawaiimedicaljournal.org/>

PRAKASH HEADS BRAIN MAPPING SOCIETY



Another job made for a busy August for Dr. Neal Prakash, JABSOM Assistant Clinical Professor and neurologist for Kaiser Permanente and the Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care Service.

As President of the International Brain Mapping and Intraoperative Surgical Planning Society, Prakash opened the society’s national conference at Harvard Medical School with a talk entitled “Cost-effective Translation of Health Care Technology.”

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was the conference keynote speaker and awards were given to ABC news correspondent Bob Woodruff, who survived brain injury covering the war in Iraq, and US Senator John Kerry for health policy leadership.

SAVE THE DATE

Sept. 11-12 Health Equity Summit, Hawai'i Convention Center

Sept. 16 Kanaka Ma'oli Wahine: Native Hawaiian Women Health Assessment in Action Colloquium, Office of Public Health Studies at JABSOM Mānoa

Oct. 29 Dr. Ed Cadman Retirement Reception & Fundraiser JABSOM Kaka'ako

MICHELE CARBONE APPOINTED TO LEAD UH MANOA'S CANCER RESEARCH CENTER OF HAWAI'I



The University of Hawai'i Board of Regents approved the appointment of Michele Carbone, MD, PhD, to serve as the next director of UH Mānoa's Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i (CRCH) at its August 27 meeting. Dr. Carbone has been interim director since last November, while also serving as chair of JABSOM's Department of Pathology.

Carbone was one of four finalists identified during an eight month search process. Dean Jerris Hedges noted that Dr. Carbone made significant progress during his brief stint as interim leader by establishing a cooperative, matrix-managed model that synergizes the efforts of the CRCH, JABSOM, clinical care providers, local hospitals, including The Queen's Medical Center and Hawai'i Pacific Health, and private support groups.

As a result of this new model for a consortium of medical/research organizations, the National Cancer Institute indicates it anticipates a two-year extension of NCI funding for the CRCH.

TAKANISHI HEADING STATE MEDICAL BOARD



JABSOM surgery department chair Dr. Danny Takanishi has been elected chair of the Hawai'i Medical Board, which licenses and regulates physicians in the state. Dr. Takanishi is also active in an upcoming conference. He urges JABSOM medical students and graduate students from Public Health and Psychology to submit proposals by October 1 for the

Cross-Cultural Health Care Conference which will be held February 11-12 in Waikiki. Send abstracts (Word or PDF file) to mariachu@hawaii.edu or mail to Maria Chun at UH Dept of Surgery, 1356 Lusitana Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813. Maria can also tell you about a BOWL-O-WEEN on Halloween to benefit the conference. Tickets for food and fun at Aiea Bowl are \$30.

Coming Soon to a Telephone Near You! JABSOM MD Alumni Phonathon
Our exceptional medical students will be calling for your support September 27-30, 2009

Second Year Medical Students have volunteered to kick off our first-ever JABSOM MD Alumni Phonathon. From September 27-30, students will be calling alumni to request support for five key priorities: an endowment honoring Dr. Cadman; overall medical school support; scholarships; the JABSOM Alumni Association; and a new celebrations & student activities fund. It's a wonderful opportunity for alumni to share their experiences and learn what it's like to be a JABSOM medical student today! Mahalo!

The John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, was established in 1965. It has trained more than 2,000 medical doctors to date. The Hawai'i Residency Program has trained nearly 2,300 physicians. Nearly half of the physicians practicing in Hawai'i are graduates of the John A. Burns School of Medicine MD or residency program.



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