



NEWS from

JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Message from the Dean

Every dollar spent on our UH Medical School helps improve health in Hawai'i, by training future physicians and furthering scientific research. This newsletter recaps some of JABSOM's contributions to our community. In reviewing these efforts, I think you'll understand why we at JABSOM are so proud to be a part of such an outstanding organization.

Gary K. Ostrander
Interim Dean

JABSOM's Geriatric Medicine program ranks 12th among the top U.S. medical schools in the 2008 rankings of graduate schools by the *U.S. News and World Report*. The rankings are based on two types of data: expert opinion about program quality and statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school's faculty, research and students.



Dr. Patti Laurel with patient Edward Chang, 93.
ADVERTISER PHOTO

Among the outstanding programs offered by JABSOM's Department of Geriatric Medicine is the HINOA Housecalls program, in which physicians make home visits to elderly patients.

The clinical education program featured in the March 27 *Honolulu Advertiser* brings JABSOM's medical trainees into the home as part of their geriatrics learning experiences. Highlighted in the *Advertiser* photograph (at left) is JABSOM faculty member **Dr. Patti Laurel**, who is based in the department's UCERA Leahi Geriatrics Outpatient Clinic.

"This is really an excellent JABSOM-community organization collaborative project," says **Dr. Patricia Blanchette**, chair of the Department of Geriatric Medicine. The program is operated in collaboration with Palolo Chinese Home's neighborhood outreach program and the study of health outcomes is funded by the HMSA Foundation.

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Free medical care for the homeless takes to the road

JABSOM has expanded its free medical care to the homeless with our new mobile clinic, a refurbished City



Cindy Ta, MS3, checks a patient.
STAR-BULLETIN PHOTO

HandiVan. Volunteers with the Homeless Outreach and Medical Education project – headed by **Dr. Jill Omori**, Predoctoral Director, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health – operate a free clinic at the Waianae shelter every Tuesday afternoon and at the Kaka'ako shelter every Thursday evening.



JABSOM'S mobile homeless clinic

JABSOM clinic cares for pregnant substance abusers

A clinic to assist expectant mothers with addictions opened in April on the grounds of the Salvation Army Family Treatment Center in Kaimuki. The program coordinated by **Dr. Tricia Wright** integrates perinatal health care with substance abuse treatment and other services, and is the first in Hawai'i to provide all these services in the same location. Patients receive prenatal classes, counseling in nutrition and child care, and group therapy. The clinic is adding pediatric and psychiatric services in August.



Dr. Tricia Wright with patient.
STAR-BULLETIN PHOTO



Palermo

Stellar students

Christine Palermo, a third-year JABSOM student, received the top national honor of the Association of Women Psychiatrists, the Leah J. Dickstein, M.D. Award. Christine attended the annual American Psychiatric Association convention in San Diego to receive a plaque, a \$1,000 award, and to present her work in geriatric mental health research.

Kyle Chun, a third-year JABSOM student, and **Cara Empey-Campora**, a PhD student in Cell & Molecular Biology, were selected as top medical researchers by the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists–Honolulu (ARCS). Each was awarded a \$10,000 scholarship.

Third-year student **Katy Linskey**, has been awarded a Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship for a year of research at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, starting July 1.

Two second-year JABSOM students are recipients of prestigious one-year research fellowships. **Stephen Chun** received a Doris Duke Fellowship at the University of Iowa for the upcoming academic year of July 2007-2008. Chun will conduct clinical research in the field of Hematology/Oncology. **Victor Harrison** has received a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Medical Student Research Fellowship. Harrison is among 42 students selected to participate in the HHMI-NIH Research Scholars Program, who will conduct research for a year at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland.



Harrison

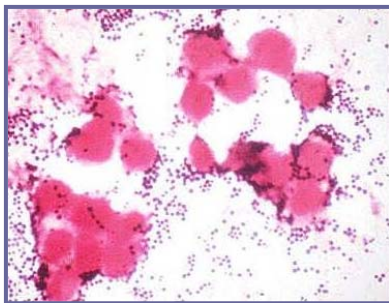


New family medicine residency program set for launch in Hilo

Funds from the state, a \$535,000 grant from the HMSA Foundation, and \$990,000 from a federal grant through Sen. Daniel Inouye's office will enable JABSOM to develop its first Neighbor Island residency in family medicine. The effort led by **Dr. Neal Palafox** and **Dr. Allen Hixon** is an important step towards meeting the acute shortage of physicians on the Neighbor Islands.

JABSOM research finds Hawai'i youngsters at high risk for diabetes

A national study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* by **Dr. Beatriz Rodriguez** finds that Type 2 diabetes is four times more common among Asian-Pacific Islanders (aged 15-19) than Caucasian youth, because of increasing obesity and lack of exercise. "Type 2 is traditionally considered an adult disease, but with increasing rates of obesity, we're starting to see this at a younger and younger age," says Dr. Rodriguez.



Researchers study *Staphylococcus aureus* and its role in infectious disease

For the second year, the Summer Staphylococcus Research Program is studying staph - especially crucial with the evolution of strains which are increasingly virulent and resistant to antibiotics. The Honolulu Medical Foundation (a spin-off of the Honolulu Medical Group) has provided a grant of \$15,000 for the program, headed by **Dr. Alan Tice** from the Department of Medicine and **Dr. Steve Seifried** of the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology. This project reflects the growth of an emerging center for excellence in research

with staphylococci which has involved many aspects of the UH as well as JABSOM.

Journalist Tina Shelton joins JABSOM as Public Relations Director

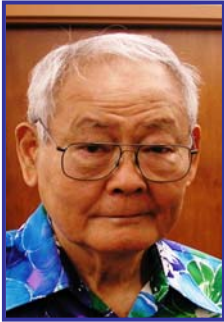
Award-winning newswoman **Tina Shelton** is the new Director of Public Relations for JABSOM, effective July 9.

"The UH Medical School is a place of tremendous growth in medical research and education, so I'm honored and thrilled at this opportunity to be a part of its service to our community," said Shelton. She will be in charge of internal and external communications, community outreach, and government relations for JABSOM.

Shelton has been a news reporter and anchor in Hawai'i for 25 years, and is currently at KHON2. She is a graduate of the UH journalism program and was recognized as an "Outstanding Young Alumna" in the UH Distinguished Alumni Awards in 1989.



This newsletter is produced by the Office of Public Relations, John A. Burns School of Medicine. Comments or questions may be sent to Tina at 692-0897 or shelton@hawaii.edu



National honors for Professor Hokama

JABSOM Pathology Professor **Yoshitsugi Hokama**, Ph.D., has received a national award for his research linking ciguatera poisoning to chronic fatigue and immune dysfunction syndrome (CFIDS).

The National CFIDS Foundation awarded Dr. Hokama its "2007 Outstanding Researcher Award" for his research, which was the first to discover ciguatoxin, a potent neurotoxin, in the blood of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome patients.

Dr. Tseng solves drug prescription confusion

While some elderly in Hawaii – and millions more throughout the U.S. - are skipping medications because they can't afford them, a new study by **Dr. Chien-Wen Tseng** in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* offers a solution: Tell physicians upfront which drugs are most widely covered by Medicare so that patients can get their medications faster and more cheaply.

Dr. Tseng is Associate Director of Research at JABSOM's Department of Family Medicine and Community Health and a Physician Investigator at the Pacific Health Research Institute.



National licensing exams show JABSOM students stack up well compared to other U.S. medical students

For the past five years, JABSOM students have succeeded in medical licensing exams at rates equal to - and often above - the national rate. Charts show the passage rates of the Step 1 U.S. Medical Licensing Exam (on the left), which is taken after the second year of medical school, and the Step 2 exam (right), administered in the fourth year of medical school.

