Aloha! We are excited to bring you a brief summary of accomplishments from the 2011-2012 academic year at the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). Working with our government, community and health care partners, we begin with major news. We have launched a long-sought program to motivate MDs to practice in our most underserved areas—a tuition loan repayment program.

**BUILDING THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE FOR HAWAI‘I**

This year, the Hawai‘i State Legislature funded through 2017 our study and action plan for easing the physician workforce shortage. Lead investigator Dr. Kelley Withy obtained Affordable Care Act funding to match donations by the Hawai‘i Medical Services Association and The Queen’s Medical Center to launch Hawai‘i’s first loan repayment program for healthcare provider education expenses. The repayment program extends a helping hand to MDs, Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners who commit to serve at federally qualified rural areas.

**EXPANDING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

We have expanded our problem-based learning and clinical training opportunities to statewide communities in Kona, Waimea and Hilo (Hawai‘i), Kahului, Wailuku, Kihei, Lahaina, Kula (Maui), Kaunakakai (Moloka‘i), Lāna‘i City (Lāna‘i), and Kapa‘a, Līhue, ‘Ele‘ele, Kilauea, Waima‘e (Kaua‘i). Nearly 90% of our incoming students are residents of Hawai‘i, demonstrating our continued emphasis on supporting the educational aspirations of our local citizens.

We have also launched annual shared learning experiences with the UH Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, bringing first-year medical and nursing students together. We introduced an early acceptance program of high school seniors in conjunction with the UHM admissions office as well.

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

Our current fourth-year medical students made JABSOM history by posting the highest-ever class average on Step 1 of the national licensing examination (United States Medical Licensing Examination). For eight straight years, our students have scored above the national average on this important educational benchmark.

**LEADERSHIP**

Dr. Ivy Nip-Asano (JABSOM ’94) became Director of Admissions in September 2012, succeeding Dr. Satoru Iizutsu, who led student placement for 30 years. "Ivy brings to the position a wealth of experiences that include providing patient care, tutoring in Problem-Based Learning (the medical school’s innovative hands-on curriculum) and interviewing applicants to JABSOM," said Dr. Iizutsu, who heads JABSOM’s international program. Nip-Asano says she has a deep commitment to select “the best, not just the brightest...to seek out those ‘intangible qualities’ in applicants.”

Dr. Kamal Masaki (Geriatric Medicine Fellowship, JABSOM ’91) was named in October 2011 as Chair of the Department of Geriatric Medicine, a John A. Hartford Foundation Center of Excellence in Geriatrics. She succeeds Dr. Patricia Blanchette (JABSOM ’79) who now heads UCERA, our UH faculty physician practice plan. Dr. Masaki has extensive experience with several of the most significant health studies ever conducted in Hawai‘i, including the Honolulu-Asia Aging Study, Honolulu Heart Program, Hawai‘i Lifespan Study, and Women’s Health Initiative.

Dr. Allen "Chip" Hixon became Chair of Family Medicine and Community Health (FMCH) in July 2012. In more than seven years with JABSOM, Dr. Hixon has served as Vice Chair and Director of the FMCH Residency Program. He has been instrumental in efforts to expand training opportunities for MDs in Hilo and other locations.

Dr. Mariana Gerschenson, PhD, JABSOM’s new Director of Graduate Programs, is helping guide and strengthen the JABSOM (Master’s and PhD) Graduate Student Programs by boosting student recruitment and tracking both student and program progress.

John Chen, PhD (Tropical Medicine) and Dr. Timothy Dye (OB-GYN) are heading our efforts in biostatistics. Dr. Dye is leading the Biomedical Informatics Core, while Chen directs the Biostatistics & Data Management Core. The cores provide research design, statistical analysis and data management services and training to researchers in the UH system and community. Strong biostatistics support plays a critical role in the long-term success of clinical research.
GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Our 2012 MD graduates were accepted into some of the best training programs in the country, including our UH JABSOM sponsored residency programs that are delivered through an affiliation with the Hawai‘i Residency Programs (HRP). Annually, we help employ 225 physicians in post-graduate medical training at health care sites throughout the State.

In June 2012, the University leadership, JABSOM and HRP signed an agreement to reorganize and realign HRP. Longtime psychiatry chair Dr. Naleen Andrade, (JABSOM ’82), was named Designated Institutional Official (DIO) and will manage all graduate medical education programs within the medical school. HRP CEO Richard Philpott and Dr. Courtenay Matsu (JABSOM ’87) were named Deputy DIOs.

RESEARCH

JABSOM received renewed multi-year funding for a major infrastructure research grant (BRIDGES G-12 grant) that will support the development of junior basic science investigators and the five-year Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant in Emerging Infectious Diseases was also renewed. To strengthen JABSOM’s contributions to graduate education in the sciences, a Director for Graduate Programs position was recruited and will report to the JABSOM Director of Research.

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT GROWS

Over the past five years, JABSOM has garnered more than $20 million in private philanthropic support from a broad array of endowed and operational gifts to provide resources for faculty chairs and professorships, scholarships, awards, fellowships, program development, basic science research and community outreach programs, among others. During the coming fiscal year, JABSOM will continue to focus on building resources to expand clinical training opportunities in rural and neighbor island communities where the State’s physician shortage is most acute. With the 50th anniversary just around the corner, JABSOM will also be defining and launching its JABSOM 5-0 philanthropic initiatives.

In 2011-2012, donors created several new endowments to benefit JABSOM. Some of them are:

The Jane Takako Fujii Hong Scholarship, started by Carol Hong in memory of her mother, is a new four-year scholarship to benefit medical students who intend to practice in primary care in Hawai‘i.

Dr. Edison K. Miyawaki and Dr. Edison H. Miyawaki launched a new endowment, The Miyawaki Family “Trainee in Neuroscience” Award, to recognize excellence in neuroscience at JABSOM among young investigators. The inaugural award will be presented at the JABSOM Biomedical Research Symposium in April 2013.

The Uohara Family Scholarship is being endowed by Dr. John Uohara, a 1975 alumnus practicing in Hilo, to benefit deserving medical students who hail from Hawai‘i Island.

Dr. Stuart Nagasawa, Class of 1982, created the Herbert T. and Katherine C. Nagasawa Medical School Endowment in honor of his parents to provide flexible resources to the dean of JABSOM.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Hundreds of MD alumni attended “Re-Connect 2012”, JABSOM’s MD Alumni Reunion in July. The turnout included doctors from all of the Hawaiian Islands and 10 states. JABSOM has formed the JABSOM 5-0 Planning Committee, chaired by Dr. Carla Nip-Sakamoto, ‘88, to help us prepare for the 50th anniversary of our school’s founding in 2015. Not only was the committee integral to the success of this year’s reunion, it has also recruited Class Correspondents for every MD and two-year class to help JABSOM alumni stay connected and engaged as momentum builds for the 50th.

Keep in touch!

Read more at http://jabsom.hawaii.edu or follow us on Twitter: @uhmed