Moving Forward

It has been a good year for JABSOM, with high marks for our programs teaching future physicians and training MDs in Residency and Fellowship programs. We’ve also grown our faculty practice plan to deliver medical care in community settings. Several large research grants centered on Hawai’i health needs have strengthened the state’s economy and will enhance the health of Hawai’i. We hope these images from the past year illustrate some of the School’s exciting successes.

Jerris R. Hedges, MD, MS, MMM
Professor and Dean
Barry & Virginia Weinman Endowed Chair

RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

National Award for Student Innovation

Dr. Trudy Hong (JABSOM MD 2017) was one of only five overall winners at the National Abstract Research Poster Competition during the annual meeting of the American College of Physicians. Her research about a heart anomaly was enriched by a 3-D image of a heart that literally jumped off the surface of the poster when viewed in an augmented reality app. Dr. Hong is working with JABSOM Anatomy and Radial 3D, a small startup company at JABSOM, to broaden the use of digital technology in medical and educational settings.

Kaua‘i MD Alumni Honored

Alumni Dr. Paul Esaki (JABSOM 1976), Dr. Craig Netzer (JABSOM 1998) and Dr. Lisa Splittstoesser (JABSOM 1999) were named “Best of the Best” in the Physician Category by The Garden Island newspaper in November 2017.
Maximum Accreditation Achieved

JABSOM has received the maximum eight-year accreditation from the U.S. Liaison Committee on Medical Education, demonstrating that the faculty, students, staff and clinical partners who help deliver and support the infrastructure for medical education in Hawai‘i continue to meet or exceed established national standards. Our MD Residency and Fellowship Programs also received accreditation, and were commended for “demonstrating substantial compliance” with Graduate Medical Education requirements.

Queen’s/JABSOM Collaboration Improves Surgical Care

In an innovative partnership, JABSOM has helped improve care in the Cardiac Care Operating Room at The Queen’s Medical Center. Psychologist Andrea Hermosura of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH) was assigned to regularly observe the interdisciplinary surgery team, and then help them to communicate and work together more effectively. Dr. Hermosura is the Queen’s Health Equity Scholar, a position in the DNHH funded by Queen’s. For over a decade, Queen’s has helped improve health care in Hawai‘i by investing in the Department.

JABSOM OB-GYN Expands to Hilo

The UH medical school deployed its first full-time compensated faculty member to Hilo in 2017. Dr. Kareem Khozaim became the first OB-GYN physician in Hilo employed by University Health Partners (UHP), the JABSOM faculty practice plan. In the future, our MD Residents in OB-GYN will have the opportunity to spend a portion of their third year of training on Hawai‘i Island in collaboration with the Hilo Bay Clinic and Hilo Medical Center.

Dr. Junji Machi, Dr. Kaoru Ashimine and Ann Ito.

JABSOM-Okinawa Anniversary

JABSOM’s MD training collaboration with Chubu, a hospital in Japan’s southernmost prefecture, has transformed medicine in Okinawa. We commemorated the 50th anniversary of the agreement, which began after World War II at the request of the American military. After World War II, there were only six Okinawan MDs in the entire prefecture. The JABSOM-Chubu MD graduate medical education program has since graduated over 1,000 physicians. The celebration was held at the UH Center for Korean Studies. Speaking about the program were panelists Dr. Satoru Izutsu, Principal Investigator; Dr. Junji Machi, a graduate; Dr. Kaoru Ashimine, Director and Ann Ito, the daughter of Steven Chinen, who was heavily involved in the program’s launch in 1967.
Graduating Doctors From Underserved Backgrounds

Our ‘Imi Ho’ola Post-Baccalaureate Program is preparing to celebrate its 45th anniversary. ‘Imi is a one-year bridge from college to medical school for aspiring doctors from underserved or disadvantaged backgrounds. Among the more than 200 physicians it has produced is Tui Lauilefue, MD, an internist at the Queen Emma Clinic, which sees up to 32,000 patient visits a year. The Queen’s Health System keeps ‘Imi students afloat with a financial stipend during the intensive MD preparatory course. This farsighted investment by Queen’s is creating a perpetual “next generation” of healers who are also health leaders.

Students Volunteer to Learn Medicine in Rural Areas

We saw record interest during 2017 in the longitudinal clerkship we offer as an option for third-year medical students. Thirty-nine of our aspiring doctors volunteered to be assigned “in the field” for five months at medical offices, clinics or hospitals. Fifteen of them did their 20-week stint on a neighbor island, uniquely exposing them to rural health care. Twenty-four other learners fanned out to areas of need on O‘ahu including Waimanalo, Kailua, ‘Aiea, Mililani, Waipio, Wahiawā, Hale‘iwa, Kalihi and downtown Honolulu.

Assisting Aspiring Health Workers

Tani and Tran Dinh are among the aspiring health care workers who benefit from the JABSOM Area Health Education Center’s “Pre-Health Career Corps.” Tani, a Roosevelt High School senior, took advantage of the “S.A.T. Boot Camp,” learning ways to perform better on the college admissions exam. Tran, a Hawai‘i Pacific University graduate, got a boost in her efforts to get into pharmacy school. She got to do mock interviews and received suggestions about her personal statement. She took part in a peer’s workshop and was even able to get her CPR and mental health aid certifications for free.

Student’s Story Gains National Attention

JABSOM third-year medical student Michael Brigoli became one of only seven future physicians selected in 2017 to appear on the “Anatomy of an Applicant – Demonstrating Core Competencies” website of the Association of American Medical Colleges. Brigoli, is a father of two who served in the military and as a Hawai‘i County Firefighter before the worsening physician shortage inspired him to become a doctor. Brigoli admires JABSOM’s strong commitment to Native Hawaiian Health and to training and graduating Native Hawaiian physicians. “When I was growing up I didn’t think that being a physician was something that I could do. I didn’t know any Native Hawaiian physicians,” said Brigoli. He will graduate as an MD in 2019.

Providing Quality and Value

Of the 14 community-based public medical schools that receive National Institutes of Health awards, JABSOM has been ranked #1. JABSOM’s annual research activity spending (i.e., employing people, purchasing goods and services), research start-up, and research based spin-off company activity equals $53.3 million annually; adding income to O‘ahu’s economy equivalent to 466 new jobs.
SUM OF JABSOM AWARDS IN MILLIONS

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Center for Diabetes funded
In August 2017 we learned JABSOM had been awarded an $11.2 million federal grant to establish a Center for Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) on Diabetes. The grant, which may be renewed for two additional five-year cycles after its initial five-year period, will intensify Hawai‘i-based research about a disease that currently affects 155,000 adults and children—1 in 9 individuals in Hawai‘i.

Training Hawai‘i’s Next-Generation of Scientists

- JABSOM Tropical Medicine graduate student Liana Medina won a minority scientist grant to further her work with Dr. Axel Lehrer, whose promising Ebola vaccine candidate has already been proven effective in animal clinical studies.
- ARCS Hawai‘i named MD/PhD student Erica Warkus its Scholar of the Year. She recently published a paper using a new model for assaying teratogenic compounds, developed by the Department of Anatomy’s Dr. Yusuke Marikawa.
- Glen Chew of the Tropical Medicine department at JABSOM received the 2017 Student Excellence in Research Award/Doctoral Level from UH Mānoa. Chew’s primary research/thesis advisor is Dr. Lishomwa Ndhlouvou of Tropical Medicine and the Hawai‘i Center for AIDS.

Attracting International Medical Science Meetings to Hawai‘i
Dr. Marla Berry and Peter Hoffmann of Cell and Molecular Biology published a landmark article on the unique family of proteins containing selenium, recognized as a Highlight of the Year in the prestigious Journal of Biological Chemistry. To further recognize their expertise, Honolulu has been chosen to host the next International Selenium Meeting in 2021. In 2018, the national meeting of the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry comes to Hawai‘i, led by UH Psychiatry Professor Dr. Ikbal Ahmed, its national president.
REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY

Providing Medical Care for the Homeless

JABSOM student and faculty volunteers continued to offer free “mobile” medical clinics for homeless citizens four times a week in seven different O‘ahu locations. The Hawai‘i Homeless Outreach and Medical Education (H.O.M.E.) Project received generous donor support, including from Kaiser Permanente physician Alean Cook-Palmer (JABSOM MD 1997) who donated her $10,000 Kaiser award for outstanding community service to H.O.M.E. The Rotary Club of Honolulu Sunset Chapter donated $4,500 to H.O.M.E., the fifth year in a row the organization has given H.O.M.E. its support.

U.S. Vets Group, JABSOM Dean Team Up

Dean Hedges joined officials from U.S. Vets in a public service announcement (PSA) about the services that U.S. Vets in Wai‘anae provides to homeless families at the Pali‘oul Kailāulu Shelter. Gladys L. Peraro (Executive Director U.S. Vets – Wai‘anae) and Darryl Vincent (C.O.O. U.S. Vets – Hawai‘i) appear in the PSA with Dr. Hedges.

Joining in the Men’s March

Dean Jerris Hedges and MD students led by Saillesh Tummala (MD 2020) turned out once again for the Men’s March Against Domestic Violence, a cause championed at UH the past several years by Dr. Hedges. The 2017 March organizers honored UH President David Lassner as “Distinguished Citizen of the Year” for his leadership.

JABSOM Physicians’ Voyaging Traditions

Dr. Neal Palafox joined the Polynesian Voyaging Society as kauka (physician) on the final leg (Tahiti to Hawai‘i) of the worldwide voyage of the canoes Hōkūle‘a and Hikianalia. He is one of more than a dozen JABSOM alumni who have served aboard the voyaging canoes.

MD Students March for Patient Care

Our medical students, clad in their white medical lab coats, took part in a national, organized protest demonstration in support of #ProtectOurPatients, which advocated for continuation of the Affordable Care Act. The Hawai‘i medical student demonstration was led by the Partnership for Social Justice, a student interest group at JABSOM.
ATTRACTING PHILANTHROPY TO ENRICH ACADEMICS

Internal Giving Campaign Nets $727,070

Our “Giving from the Inside Out” campaign helps raise funds within JABSOM, to advance our educational and medical missions in the community. The 2017 Campaign, co-chaired by Dr. Larry Burgess and Dr. Tony Guerrero, attracted 282 donors from JABSOM faculty and staff and raised $727,000 (including nearly $40,000 in “matching funds”). The money will support 82 different JABSOM funds.

Kosasa Gynecologic Oncology Professorship

In addition to funding two professorships and an OB-GYN Chair at JABSOM, Dr. Thomas Kosasa continues his philanthropic support through yet another professorship — this time in Gynecologic Oncology, to which, Dr. Michael Carney, has been appointed. With these gifts recognizing JABSOM’s Department of Obstetrics and Women’s Health, Dr. Kosasa has invested in the same department to which he also devoted his own career as an Obstetrician. Dr. Kosasa continues to deliver infants and teach the newest generation of physicians at JABSOM.

Satoru Izutsu PhD Endowed Professorship of Medical Education

Emeritus Professor Dr. Thomas Kosasa established the Satoru Izutsu PhD Endowed Professorship of Medical Education in honor of his friend and colleague Dr. Satoru Izutsu on the occasion of Dr. Izutsu’s retirement from JABSOM at the end of 2017. In deep gratitude for this award, Dr. Izutsu, former Vice Dean, also added $100,000 to the endowment. JABSOM Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Alan Otsuki has been named the first Satoru Izutsu, PhD Endowed Professor of Medical Education. The endowment allows Dr. Otsuki to explore and support new directions in medical education.

Jerris Hedges’ Personal Giving

Dean Jerris Hedges also sets a personal example with his perpetual spirit of giving. He founded and generously supports the School’s Internal Giving Campaign, funding scholarships and JABSOM programs through matching funds. He helps in a million other ways, too, from purchasing gift cards for student prizes to giving to numerous local nonprofits. Whenever the school’s charity marchers need t-shirts imprinted with the JABSOM logo, Dr. Hedges pays for those too, out of his own pocket.

For the Patients and Caregivers

Dr. Sandra J. Young, former Kamehameha Schools Middle School Principal, was so impressed with the work of Department of Geriatric Medicine Chair Dr. Kamal Masaki and with the caring attitude of JABSOM students that she decided to establish a Charitable Remainder Trust to benefit the department. Dr. Young’s gift will eventually help underwrite the cost to support Alzheimer’s Disease patients and their caregivers with highly skilled diagnosis, management referral and counseling in a teaching setting.
**Wahl Scholarship for First-Year MD Students**

Dr. Bryan Wahl, JABSOM MD 1999, following in the philanthropic ways of his parents, Susie and Dr. Wendell Foo, has established an endowed scholarship to express his gratitude for the education he earned at JABSOM. The endowed scholarship is for Hawaii’s first year medical students with financial needs. In addition to being one of the youngest graduates in the medical school’s history, he also earned his high school diploma at age 16. Dr. Wahl credits the values his parents taught him as well as their own altruism. He also thanked Dr. Tokeshi, his mentor at JABSOM, for his “invaluable wisdom and guidance.”

**Scholarship Honors Memory of JABSOM Alum, Supporter, Mentor, Dr. Itagaki**

Dr. Raymond Itagaki

The late Dr. Raymond K. Itagaki left such an impression on his family and friends, that they pooled their gifts to create a scholarship in his memory. Dr. Itagaki was heavily involved in building support to expand JABSOM from a two-year to a four-year medical school. He graduated from JABSOM’s first four-year class in 1975. Throughout his lifetime he was a mentor to many physicians. The Itagaki scholarship supports aspiring fourth-year medical students who exhibit the personal qualities and characteristics for which Dr. Itagaki was known.

**Lecture in Memory of Sandi Portnoy Sheds Light On Rare Uterine Cancer**

Physicians in our State had the opportunity to learn more about uterine leiomyosarcoma from a leader in the field, thanks to the generosity of local attorney and University of Hawai‘i (UH) Regent Jeffrey Portnoy. He lost his wife, Sandi, to the rare disease in 2016. The family chose to honor Sandi through a lecture to assure that the local healthcare community was familiar with the condition, symptoms, treatments, and work ahead.

**LEADING FOR THE FUTURE**

**National Post for Dr. Tseng**

Dr. Chien-Wen Tseng

Dr. Chien-Wen Tseng of Family Medicine and Community Health was appointed to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. She is the first member ever appointed from the State of Hawai‘i and the first Asian-American appointee. Dr. Tseng is the Hawaii’s Medical Service Association Endowed Chair in Health Services and Quality Research.

**New Associate Dean, Alan Otsuki, MD**

Dr. Alan Otsuki joined JABSOM in October 2017 as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Before joining JABSOM, Dr. Otsuki was Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education at the Frank H. Netter, MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut. He was drawn to our state’s multicultural community and the UH medical school’s strong focus on research and clinical care in Hawai‘i and the Pacific.

**New CEO for University Health Partners**

Dr. Larry Shapiro, dean emeritus of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, joined University Health Partners of Hawai‘i (UHP) as its Chief Executive Officer. UHP is the University of Hawai‘i faculty practice plan. Its 160 physicians provide patient care in specialties ranging from family medicine to psychiatry, while also training future MDs. Dr. Shapiro is a renowned administrator, pediatrician and researcher.

**Dr. Burgess Director of Student Affairs**

Dr. Larry Burgess

Dr. Larry Burgess (JABSOM MD 1976) was named Director of Student Affairs in mid-2017, after Dr. Richard Smerz retired. U.S. Army Col. (Ret.) Burgess graduated from Roosevelt High School (via Kamehameha and Punahou) and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Dr. Burgess is an otolaryngology (ear, nose & throat) specialist and a three-time volunteer leader of the JABSOM Internal Giving Campaign.

**Dr. Brady Leads CME**

Dr. S. Kalani Brady

Dr. Brady was previously Physician of the Year. Dr. Brady Leads CME

**OB-GYN Chair “Physician of the Year”**

Dr. Ivica Zalud, the Kosasa Endowed Chair of OB-GYN at JABSOM, was named the 2017 Physician of the Year by the Hawaii Medical Association. He was honored by his medical peers at the HMA’s annual banquet. Zalud’s faculty in OB-GYN at JABSOM deliver 1/3 of all babies born in Hawaii, and are involved in virtually all of the state’s high-risk pregnancy cases.
GETTING ALUMNI INVOLVED

A Picture-Perfect Reconnect 2017

The 2017 John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) Alumni Reconnect brought alumni and faculty, including retired faculty, to the JABSOM campus on July 22. Lectures focused on the history of island health care and of the medical school. The first in a series of paintings commissioned of the “Deans of JABSOM” was unveiled. Artist Linus Chao began with Windsor Cutting, MD, who became the school’s first dean in 1965.

MD Alumni in Hilo Get Together

A number of JABSOM graduates practice in the tightly knit community of Hilo. In May 2017, Dean Hedges hosted an energetic group of them at the Hilo Bay Café. Some shared memories of functioning with no sleep during school. Others recalled playing music with fellow classmates during their downtime or working their way through school while caring for a newborn. JABSOM has joined Hilo’s healthcare community in a long-running effort to build the pipeline for future physicians and more alumni visits are planned on Hawai’i Island.

New Alumni Assistant

JABSOM’s Development Office welcomed Christie Leidholm as Alumni Engagement Assistant. Christie is working with our Alumni Association President and Board of Directors to keep our JABSOM alumni informed and involved in the activities and events of the school.

New Alumni Board Members Welcomed

New JABSOM Alumni Association President Dr. Richard Kasuya (JABSOM MD 1989) welcomed 13 new members to serve on the board. Board members play an essential role in guiding alumni relations efforts, programs and initiatives, serving as proud ambassadors of JABSOM. Join us in welcoming our new board members:

- Kenn Saruwatari, Vice President, JABSOM MD 1981
- Kheng See Ang, Treasurer, JABSOM MD 1982
- Ryon Nakasone, Secretary, JABSOM MD 2006
- Patricia Blanchette, Past President, JABSOM MD 1979
- Libby Char, Director, JABSOM MD 1991
- Bill Haning, Past President, JABSOM MD 1975
- David Horio, Director JABSOM 1969
- Jan Mastsunaga, Director, JABSOM MD 1980
- Ivy Nip-Asano, Director, JABSOM MD 1994
- Carla Nip-Sakamoto, Director, JABSOM MD 1988
- Sada Okumura, Director JABSOM MD 1975
- Kenneth Ortiz, Director, JABSOM MD 2014
- Geri Young, Director, JABSOM MD 1978

20th Anniversary for Career Night

Every year practicing doctors volunteer for to be “on call” for an evening to answer questions from aspiring physicians at JABSOM. This year, a record 33 busy MDs volunteered for a milestone Career Night event. Anesthesiologist Wendell Foo, MD (JABSOM MD 1976) and his wife Susan organize “Career Night” every year, offering our MD students the opportunity to learn the ups and downs of medicine in various specialties. The annual program helps the students decide what specialties they may want to train in after they graduate from JABSOM.

HOST Program Launched

In October, we launched our JABSOM “HOST” (HELP OUR STUDENTS TRAVEL) program. Every fall our fourth year students embark on the exciting and often stressful residency match process. Many JABSOM students must make multiple trips to the mainland for interviews. This program connects our Alumni HOSTs with our students to offer housing in the area of their interview sites, helping to ease the financial burden and stress of the interview process. The HOST program provides a wonderful opportunity to build connections and share aloha between students and alumni that can last a lifetime.