THE JABSOM LENS
2018-2019
THE JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I MĀNOA
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Unprecedented Community Partnership Awards Four-Year, Full-Tuition Scholarships to Nearly 1/3 of MD Class of 2022

For the first time at the University of Hawai‘i medical school there are nearly two dozen students in a single class who will graduate never having had to worry how to pay for tuition or to secure debt to finance attending the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

The announcement that philanthropists Barry and Virginia Weinman and JABSOM training partners Hawai‘i Pacific Health (HPH) and The Queen’s Health Systems (QHS) were funding the full four-year merit-based scholarships nearly stunned the recipients. They learned of their new opportunity barely a week before they were to begin orientation and receive their “White Coats” in a public ceremony welcoming them into the study of medicine at UH.

A separate celebration was arranged so that the overjoyed students could thank each of these committed community leaders for their strong endorsement of medical education in Hawai‘i. Along with Dean Jerris Hedges, MD, the Weinmans, HPH President and CEO Ray Vara and QHS President & CEO Art Ushijima understand the need for extraordinary measures to offset the shortage of physicians which is soon to reach a crisis level in our State. The Weinmans donated half of the funds for the new scholarships, with QHS and HPH funding the remainder.

“Our mission is to create a healthier Hawai‘i,” said Vara. “That commitment includes not only providing high quality health care, but also forming strong community partnerships that invest in the future of our industry to help accomplish our mission.”

Said Ushijima, “Supporting physician education and retention is investing in Hawai‘i’s future. In order to provide the best care for the people of Hawai‘i, we must be proactive in giving young talent in the medical field the opportunity to succeed and thrive right here at home.”

Virginia Weinman said, “We provided four-year scholarships to 10 students about a decade ago and many of those students have returned to practice here and raise their families in Hawai‘i. With so many of Hawai‘i’s doctors now at retirement age, and the cost of a medical education rising, Hawai‘i’s wellbeing will remain precarious unless more doctors can afford to be educated and then practice here.”

The mean medical school educational debt of a JABSOM student upon graduation is $169,000. Some owe much more from financing both their college undergraduate education and medical school. UH medical students also come from families of lesser financial means that those at most U.S. mainland medical schools (Association of American Medical Colleges, 2018 survey data).

It’s no wonder Dean Jerris Hedges dreams of free tuition for all JABSOM students, and the school’s dedicated partners in the community hope to do what they can, too, to achieve that dream. The Weinmans, HPH and QHS scholarships certainly appear to be a promising start.

More “Giving” on page 23.
GETTING A STUDENT INTO JABSOM:

“It takes a village”

Jay Anderson’s eyes grew wet, and he began to choke up when asked what he was feeling moments before his daughter, Clare-Marie, was presented a short, white coat in a ceremony marking her official entry into the UH medical school.

He grew emotional because he was thinking of all the other people — as he put it, the “village” — who helped support his daughter and his family in getting Clare-Marie to this point.

“It takes a lot. It takes the community and a village to get kids through school these days,” said Anderson, who explained that his family had to move from rural Moloka‘i Island to O‘ahu so that Clare-Marie could attend a well-regarded private school to prepare for medical school.

Clare-Marie remembers the painful day, in fourth grade, when with a quivering voice and damp cheeks, she asked her parents if the family could move to urban O‘ahu. It wasn’t a decision made lightly. She loved Moloka‘i.

“My dream of becoming a doctor is rooted in the red dirt of a Hawaiian island small enough to be mistaken for a speck of dust on a world map,” - Clare-Marie Anderson, Kaunakakai, Moloka‘i

“Physicians are both incredibly compassionate and qualified, (on Moloka‘i) but resources familiar to larger, more modern communities are scarce in the rural community,” she says. “The need for more doctors practicing in rural places has sparked the fusion of my passions, biology and promoting healthcare in underserved populations, into my greatest goal of becoming an OB/GYN or family medicine doctor.”

Clare-Marie’s “village” has encompassed the people, primary school teachers and health providers of Moloka‘i, educators at private school, parents willing to sacrifice anything for a gifted child, professors at UH Mānoa, academic medicine mentors at JABSOM and those who believe that scholarships are an investment in the future that pays an immeasurable dividend.
GETTING A STUDENT INTO JABSOM: “It takes a village”

Jester Galiza was 6,000 miles away from his native Hawai‘i when he realized that as a future physician, the community he needed to serve would be his own.

Born and raised in ‘Ewa Beach, Galiza was valedictorian of his class at Campbell High School. He was attending Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, already a trained Emergency Medical Technician, studying pre-med. He volunteered for an 11-week trip to Peru to work with a health services organization. That is when his transformative moment happened.

“There were two physicians working in that clinic. One was from the community and one wasn’t. And I saw the difference. When I was working with the doctor who was from that community, the barriers (between the doctor and the patient) were completely eliminated. The trust was there. I think it was at that moment, that salient moment, where I recognized there is so much power in going back to your community and serving in partnership with that community. And that definitely was a huge moment for me in recognizing my desire to go back to Hawai‘i and serve my community,” said Galiza.

Jester is MD 2022 Class President. He is a natural leader full of confidence with terrific sense of humor. From very early in grade school he wanted to be a teacher. In sixth grade, however, he encountered a teacher, Mr. Oshiro, who encouraged him to consider additional options, including medicine, law or engineering.

Mr. Oshiro continued to mentor Galiza as he prepared for high school. “He was tough on me and challenged me like no other teacher did. He told me I was destined for great things. He was one of my biggest motivators. He told me, ‘You’re going to be valedictorian, you’re going to participate in athletics, you’re going to be class president, he was just listing all these things, and then he said you are going to go to an Ivy League school when you graduate,’ and I thought to myself, what is an Ivy League school?” Galiza chuckles.

But Galiza took all the science and health occupation courses he could. He sought out the honors and Advanced Placement courses Oshiro recommended. And he ended up checking all the boxes: becoming class president, valedictorian and enrolling in Dartmouth College.

“That was where I really experienced academic failure for the first time and realized I was behind,” he said. He felt unprepared to understand science the way most other pre-med students in his class seemed to have learned it, beyond just memorization.

“Undergrad is when I started feeling doubt,” Galiza said. Still, he remained an above-average student at Dartmouth. When asked what continued to fuel him during those difficult periods, he said it was gratitude.

“I was so grateful that I had gotten that far. I knew it was an anomaly for someone like me to get that far, and I was super grateful for all the success I had. I knew it was no longer about me - it was for my family, the public schools I attended, my community. I refused to give up because I was incredibly convicted to try to change the narrative. This was the best way I could reciprocate the love and the support that was shown to me.”

Before Galiza applied to medical school, he joined Teach for America, obtained a Master’s of Education in Secondary Math from the University of Hawai‘i, and both taught math and spent several years leading other teachers in the organization on Hawai‘i Island. He earned acceptance into JABSOM through the ‘Imi Ho‘ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program, the intensive one-year JABSOM preparatory program which prepares college graduates from underserved backgrounds for medical school.

Galiza, now 2/3 of the way through his first year at JABSOM says, “JABSOM has exceeded my expectations for what a medical school could be, a rigorous and intellectually stimulating school that fosters collaboration, wellness and fun.”
Months before he died in 1975 Governor Burns was asked if he still believed a medical school was necessary for Hawai’i.

“I believe in a medical school and I believe in a law school,” he replied. “I also believe our kids are not going to get a chance to go to either one of them unless we have our own.”


The Dean’s Decade:
Understanding the hardships and the hurdles our MD students overcome and the sheer determination, persistence and excellence they demonstrate, Hawai’i has every reason to be proud of its sons and daughters, and the school that gives them the opportunity to train and serve their community.

By Tina Shelton and Kathleen Connolly, PhD

At the medical school named after John A. Burns, Dean Jerris Hedges leads by listening far more than he speaks. During his decade at the school’s helm, his closest advisors have included the late James S. Burns, the Governor’s son, and a small army of others whose voices are essential to the unique UH medical school coalition — the community hospitals where our students and MD residents and fellows train side-by-side with faculty physicians, our governmental leaders who lend support to our mission and the public whose health needs we seek to meet, whose children we seek to train for a sustainable future, and the university which guides us.

In 10 years, the Dean has expanded the entering MD Class size by ten students without approvals for additional faculty or classrooms. He has overseen a phenomenal growth in philanthropy — including giving from within the school — including the three-part gift that gave nearly 1/3 of the most recent class a tuition-free four years. He wants to repeat and expand that feat, dreaming of free medical school in a state where physicians are so desperately needed. Under his leadership JABSOM academics, performance in primary care training and research has received impressive marks in national rankings from U.S. News & World Report, and in comparisons with our peer institutions. He has successfully lead JABSOM through two primary medical school accreditations, helped build a strong faculty practice plan, and expanded graduate MD education to neighbor islands.

TS: Over the years JABSOM has sometimes encountered those who still question whether Hawai’i can afford a medical school, much less expand it, as you feel is necessary. What is your response?

Dean Hedges: “Forty-three years ago Governor John A. Burns said most Hawai’i kids wouldn’t get the opportunity to go to medical school without a medical school at the University of Hawai’i. In 2018, everything we know about our students continues to show he was right. In 2018, data clearly shows that while JABSOM students do well in their
“In 2018, data clearly shows that while JABSOM students do well in their medical school progression, national board scores and their residency placement (their ability to match into advanced training programs), compared with other US medical school students, they get fewer invitations to interview at medical schools, they come from families of lesser incomes, and they have to wait longer after college to get into medical school – usually because they are waiting to get into JABSOM, where class size is limited.”

- Jerris R. Hedges, MD, JABSOM Dean.

**The Dean’s Decade:**

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KC: How can you continue to grow the medical school to help the University meet the state’s pressing health workforce needs?

Dean Hedges: “We have worked to build partnerships among the health sciences schools at the University of Hawai’i. Ideally, UH would formalize a JABSOM-led health sciences leadership structure that builds synergy across the health sciences and brings additional extramural resources into UH. Such a structure at UH System could help UH achieve its U-Healthy Hawai’i goals as summarized by Dr. Aimee Grace, a 2008 JABSOM MD alumna who is now Director of Health Science Policy for UH System. Those goals are to ensure a robust healthcare workforce for Hawai’i, to discover and innovate to improve and extend lives, to promote healthier families and communities, and to advance health in all policies. The successful implementation of a trans-professional and inter-disciplinary multi-mission approach to the health sciences in Hawai’i will depend upon active engagement and leadership from JABSOM.”

KC: What will it take to achieve that?

Dean Hedges: “Given growing internal health sciences collaboration and external clinical partnerships through the practice plan, there remains a need for UH to develop a complementary cross-unit and cross-campus structural format overseen by the JABSOM Dean which can both guide internal and external collaborations and encourage the implementation of a larger multi-mission health sciences vision for the coming decade. JABSOM is the natural leader for that effort in that JABSOM has
been fortunate to have built relationships with a number of community organizations and leaders, external relationships that have permitted a larger vision and some success beyond the confines of UH. One strength of the medical school is its affiliated practice plan (shared with nursing, pharmacy, and the cancer center). The University Health Partners has helped support faculty members and academic programs through the delivery of clinical service. As the health care environment evolves, this practice plan will need to seek greater alignment and integration with local health systems."

KC: That should keep you busy for the foreseeable future. Taking a step back, do you have any advice for future deans?

Dean Hedges: "JABSOM is in a unique place (center of the Pacific and rich with cultures) at a unique time in the world. The multicultural and multiethnic environment affords an opportunity to experience an international experience with a (relatively) small town level of interconnectivity. If one thinks as those living on the east coast (fast paced and inwardly focused), you will not succeed in Hawai‘i. The dean must play many roles and be a connector. The dean must be truly humble and self-aware. Yet the dean must be content competent in multiple areas (medical knowledge, research grantsmanship and oversight, academic regulations, practice plan operations and leadership, organizational dynamics and leadership, philanthropy skills, etc). The medical school dean must build upon skills previously used to lead her/his academic unit to now lead leaders of multiple academic units. The dean must be community focused and look far beyond her/his own academic unit to be successful. Of course, one must embrace the culture of Hawai‘i and continue to learn. The role of the medical school dean is not growing simpler. As exemplified, deans of medical schools today must have a variety of skills that include financial management, people management, negotiation, conflict resolution, as well as strong leadership abilities. In interviews conducted with medical school deans, the key characteristics and personal qualities identified that make a medical school dean successful include 'fairness, integrity, listening skills, personal warmth, respect for people, lack of arrogance, and the ability to get the best out of people.' As a result of the high demands and complex nature of the job, the average dean tenure is typically around four years."
Student questionnaires conducted at medical schools nationwide on behalf of the Associate of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) in 2018 show the hardships, the hurdles to overcome, and the sheer determination and persistence required of and demonstrated by our JABSOM students. Hawai‘i has every reason to be proud of these sons and daughters, and of the school that allows them the opportunity to serve their community as a physician.

What are these difficulties our students overcome?

**FINANCIAL STRUGGLES:**
More of our Hawai‘i students come from modest means. Forty-three percent of their families earn less than $100,000 per year, versus 34% of the families at all schools.

**DELAYS:**
Fewer than one in four (18%) JABSOM students get to go straight from college into medical school, versus 37% of all medical school students.

**LIMITED OPPORTUNITY:**
Fifty percent of JABSOM students received less than two medical school interviews. That was the case for only 21% of medical students overall.

**THEM WANT TO SERVE IN PLACES LIKE HOME:**
Very few JABSOM students want to work in the big cities of 500,000 people or more (16% of our graduates do, vs. 36% of all schools’ students).

**THEY NEED FINANCIAL AID:**
More of JABSOM students need financial aid (59%), versus 38% of all other medical school students.

**THEY WANT TO BE CLOSE TO HOME:**
Far more of them want to attend school in their home state (63% vs. 30% at all schools).

**THEY REQUIRE VALUE:**
The cost of attending a medical school is very important to 71% of our students, versus 48% of all students.
Each July the UH John A. Burns School of Medicine and its partner training hospitals throughout Hawai‘i welcome physicians who are beginning their careers as MD Residents or entering advanced training called Fellowships. JABSOM sponsors 18 accredited Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs. The residents train in programs ranging in length from three to five years. Our Fellowship programs are one to three years.

Altogether, physician-faculty are guiding some 230 trainees annually, supervising their work in Family Medicine, Sports Medicine, Internal Medicine, Cardiology, Geriatric Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Maternal Fetal Medicine, Family Planning, Orthopaedic Surgery, Pathology, Pediatrics, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, General Psychiatry, Addiction Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Geriatric Psychiatry, General Surgery and Surgical Critical Care.

Dr. Lee-Buenconsejo-Lum (JABSOM MD 1994) leads GME at the University of Hawai‘i, working with the JABSOM physician faculty members embedded within each of our partner training hospitals and the many unpaid clinical faculty who also serve as clinical supervisors. Residency programs, especially, are the most critically important pathway into local medical practice. Some 80% of physicians who graduate from both JABSOM and its Residency programs remain in Hawai‘i to practice.
JABSOM Residents Overwhelmingly Choose Primary Care

63% of the members of the MD 2018 Class are training to become primary care doctors

How do they choose? Watch the video: jabsom.hawaii.edu/findingtheirperfectmatch
JABSOM was delighted in April 2018 when Dr. David Hirsh, Director of the Harvard Medical School-Cambridge Integrated Clerkship, came to speak, and to say “mahalo” to those attending the Hawai‘i Health Professions Conference. The conference coincided with the 25th anniversary of JABSOM adopting what was considered at the time to be a highly innovative way to train future doctors.

In the longitudinal clerkship, JABSOM students are paired with preceptors at medical offices, clinic or hospitals statewide for five months at allowing students to witness the care of a patient over a period of time, often including health management, not just a single acute illness visit.

“We actually built our longitudinal clerkship program after having a phone call with the people here in Hawai‘i,” Dr. Hirsch told JABSOM Communications Director Tina Shelton during his visit to Hawai‘i. “So yeah, we’re sort of one of the children of your program,” he said with a smile.

“Hawai‘i had this very strong sense of social accountability and community engagement,” Hirsch recalled. “We saw those as fundamental to medical education as well. Hawai‘i also thought very deliberately, ‘How do we design the education to get the outcomes we as a university and as a state seek for our patients?’ In other words, there were workforce imperatives.” The UH medical school needed to train its future physicians in the communities where doctors were most needed and to interest them in practicing in those areas after graduation and residency training.

JABSOM also wanted to nurture future physicians from cultural and ethnic groups not adequately represented by the health care workforce. It has worked for both JABSOM and Harvard.


National & Peer Rankings

**U.S. News & World Report 2019 “Best Medical Schools”:**

- Research: #41 (Tied with Florida and Utah, just ahead of Dartmouth and Cincinnati)
- Primary Care: #51 (Tied with Rush, just ahead of Michigan State, Tennessee and Wake Forest)
- Schools Producing Most Primary Care Residents: #38 (47.6%)
- Students Receiving Financial Aid: 83%
- Research Dollars Earned Per Faculty Member: $334,000 (higher than earned per full-time faculty member at Johns Hopkins, UCLA or Duke)

**Association of American Medical Schools (peer rankings):**

- Top 25%: JABSOM Graduates Practicing In-State
- Top 10%: Graduates practicing in Primary Care Medicine
- Top 25% Residents Currently Training to Be Family Medicine Doctors
- Top 10%: Proportion of Women Faculty Members
Zika Vaccine Safe and Effective in Mice and Monkeys

ABSOM’s most visible role in our community is training physicians for Hawai‘i’s future, but in our research labs, our scientists are seeking cures or improved treatments for diseases most prevalent in our islands, while also teaching the next generation of junior scientists who will lead that effort in the future.

In vaccine researcher Dr. Axel Lehrer’s lab, two junior scientists under his wing took the lead in writing important scientific papers reporting the significant progress the team made producing a Zika vaccine that is effective in both mice and monkeys.

Senior graduate student Liana Medina, whose early training at JABSOM was directly supported by an NIH grant intended to increase diversity among scientists, said she found chances to develop new skills at every step along the way.

Fellow graduate student and co-author Albert To, a Roosevelt High School alumnus, said the team’s results “put us on the world-stage and highlight the talent we have here in Hawai‘i.” He said, “Being involved with this project has given me a glimpse of the type of research and results needed to progress an idea to a potential preventative therapy used by thousands of people worldwide.”

Dr. Lehrer dreams of philanthropic or corporate funding that might help advance his proposed vaccine to human clinical trials, for he is quite confident of its prospects for success. “We believe our vaccine candidate shows much promise particularly as we demonstrated it requires only two immunizations given three weeks apart, and it is a potentially safer alternative—especially for pregnant women—to other candidates already in clinical trials,” said Dr. Lehrer.

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Albert To, graduate student.

DID YOU KNOW?

JABSOM scientists brought in $60M in research funding in 2018?
For 45 years, the ʻImi Hoʻōla Post-Baccalaureate program has invested in aspiring doctors who come from historically underprivileged or disadvantaged backgrounds, but display great potential. The rigorous, yearlong program focuses on developing self-directed, lifelong learners through the use of a problem-based learning approach.

The ʻImi graduating class of 2018 made history as the largest so far, with 11 students entering the JABSOM MD Class of 2022.

Team work was a major factor of success for this group of students, according to MD 2020 Candidate Brittany Sato, of Waiʻanae.

“It’s really important to know that you’re not competing against each other, you have to support each other so we all move forward,” Sato said.

The program has grown to allow a maximum of 12 students each year, each of whom receives a stipend provided by The Queen’s Health Systems. To date, the program has produced more than 260 doctors.

ʻImi Hoʻōla’s largest graduating class

ʻImi Hoʻōla Milestone

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Announcing the Dean Terence Rogers Scholarship

Dr. Benjamin Young, who was appointed by then Dean Terence Rogers, Ph.D., to launch what became the ʻImi Hoʻōla Program, donated the first check and raised funds from JABSOM alumni to establish a scholarship honoring JABSOM’s second dean. The Dean Terence Rogers Scholarship will support medical students with the greatest financial need, with a preference for those who have completed the ʻImi Hoʻōla Program. So far, more than $150,000 has been raised towards this scholarship.
The Hawai‘i Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) at JABSOM reaches more than 3,000 middle, high school, and college students each year, not only exposing them to health careers, but directly assisting them to facilitate their path to a career, with advising sessions, career fairs, MCAT prep courses, research opportunities, shadowing, letters of recommendation, and help writing their personal statements.

Five hundred students attended Teen Health Camps AHEC sponsored on O‘ahu, Kaua‘i, Mau‘i, Moloka‘i and for the first time, Lāna‘i.

Moloka‘i, 51 eager teens tried their hand at various Western and Traditional Native Hawaiian medical skills including cast-making. This workshop included both applying and removing a cast made of plaster and one using a stiff layer of bark from the trunk of a coconut tree.

AHEC Receives a Gift

The Hilo Medical Center Foundation supported AHEC this year with a gift intended to help medical students and residents train in rural communities by providing financial support for their transportation and housing. The foundation said, “We hear from students who have trained on the Neighbor Islands how touched they are by the incredibly warm welcome they receive from patients and physicians there. We are happy to help provide opportunities for them to experience first-hand the challenges and rewards of practicing medicine on a neighbor island.”

JABSOM AHEC Prepares Teens Statewide for Health Careers

Kaua‘i Cares, Says Future MD

Elisabeth Young (JABSOM MD 2019) recalls when the stove in her house stopped working.

“We weren’t able to buy another one, so we spent a few weeks cooking outside,” Young recalled. “Then one morning someone had left us a brand-new stove, as an anonymous gift. That is Kaua‘i to me - people really care about each other and I hope I can give back as generously as my community raised me,” said Young.

Young, from Līhu‘e, won the United States Public Health Service Award for 2017-2018, for her work on holding community-based health improvement projects to a scientific standard -- studying and implementing those proven likely to succeed.

Giving Back to the Big Island

Growing up in Kea‘au, Hawai‘i, MD 2020 candidate Carrie Ip witnessed how members of her community were affected by the lack of access to health care and resources—not having a primary care physician or having to fly to and from Honolulu or the mainland US to receive adequate care.

“I believe they deserve better and I would like to give back to a community that I love and call home,” said Ip.

Out of 2,200 applicants, Ip was one of only 205 medical students to earn the prestigious 2018 National Health Service Corps Scholarship.

AHEC has more than 1,500 students in its Pre-Health Career Corps program and 100 students in an expanding Create And Navigate Opportunities for Education (CANOE) program.

In 2018 alone, AHEC also assisted 36 health professions students with travel and offered more than 1,200 hours of Continuing Medical Education.
UH Scientists Collaborate with Okinawa, Determine Mechanism for Longevity Gene

JABSOM scientists studying the causes and cures of aging were published in the Journal of Gerontology: Biological Sciences for their research involving the longevity-associated FOXO3 gene. The study was done in collaboration with Pacific Health Research and Education Institute (PHREI) and the Okinawa Research Center for Longevity Science (ORCLS).

“This is one of the first key discoveries on how this (FOXO3) gene actually works,” said Bradley Willcox, MD, Professor and Director of Research at the Department of Geriatric Medicine, JABSOM, and Investigator at PHREI and ORCLS. The study suggests that “telomeres may not necessarily shorten during aging, or at least shorten at a much slower rate, if you have a copy of the longevity-associated variant of the FOXO3 gene,” said Dr. Richard Allsopp, PhD, Associate Professor, and researcher with the JABSOM Institute of Biogenesis Research.

Telomeres are the caps at the end of each strand of DNA that protect our chromosomes, like the plastic tips at the end of shoelaces. The study involved collecting blood samples from participants ranging in age from 20 to 90+ years in Okinawa, considered to be one of five “blue zones” in the world, or geographical location where there are high concentrations of individuals that live past age 90 and without chronic illnesses.

New Approach to Potentially Stop Alzheimer’s Disease

Dr. Robert Nichols was in a study in January demonstrating that a small string of amino acids derived from a larger peptide called “beta amyloid,” can be used to protect nerve cells in the brain from Alzheimer’s Disease. Interestingly enough, buildup of the larger beta amyloid peptide is known to trigger Alzheimer’s. Moving forward, the Nichols lab is collaborating with scientists at the University of Arizona to develop a potential drug candidate, based on the non-toxic peptide fragment.

Wai’anae-Born Scientist Leads Study in His Hometown Aimed at Reversing the State’s Worst Health Disparities

Native Hawaiian Health Professor and Epigeneticist Dr. Alika Maunakea has launched a study about one of O’ahu’s most health challenged communities—one where he was born and raised. Wai’anae has the largest proportion of health disparities in the state.

With Economics Associate Professor and Researcher Dr. Ruben Juarez, the study aims to understand the molecular interaction between the environment and genes of longtime residents of the community, and how changes in this interaction are involved in diseases which are disproportionately prevalent among Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island populations—changes which are not due to differences in DNA sequence (i.e. genetics).

Components of Marijuana May Help Reverse Heart Failure

A team led by Dr. Alexander Stokes has found that heart failure may be slowed and even reversed by the use of TRPV1, a “cannabinoid receptor” that binds and reacts to components of marijuana. The findings were detailed in the peer-reviewed journal Channels. In addition to Stokes, co-authors include researchers from GB Sciences Inc. (GBLX) and Kyoto University in Japan.

Amphetamine Users Strain Emergency Room Resources

Patients who test positive for amphetamine spend more time per emergency room (ER) visit and are more likely to require medication and physical restraints, according to a study by the JABSOM psychiatry. Over a four-year period in just one emergency department, more than 15 percent of patients tested for drugs, showed signs of amphetamines, probably methamphetamine.
“Dr. Yana” is honored at Symposium, Offers Advice for Long Life

Ryuzo Yanagimachi, PhD, known by colleagues as “Dr. Yana,” is an internationally renowned fertility researcher, whose development of the “Honolulu Technique” to create the world’s first cloned mouse brought international acclaim to the UH Mānoa. He is even more renowned as the intellectual father of in vitro fertilization, having pioneered the techniques now used in humans in his work with animals early in his career.

On August 27, 2018 — Yana’s 90th birthday — JABSOM convened the inaugural Yanagimachi Symposium.

Yana has outlived both his parents’ ages at death. He says he was never an athlete or sportsman, instead he preferred crafts, like pottery. His scientific mind and stick-to-it attitude do come in handy as a senior.

"I don’t mind failure,” Yana said. “I (simply) think about trying again. If you give up,” he adds, “you never achieve.”

He explains that failure is not a waste of time. These are powerful lessons for people of any age. Be patient. Keep trying, even when things may seem harder or take longer.

Yana concedes he is not a good sleeper. But his only pain is his back, which gets stiff; for which he stretches on the floor in the morning for ten minutes or so, and again at night before bed.

"I try not to catch a cold,” Yana said. At the first sign of anything, he takes aspirin or Tylenol and gets some rest. Again, some wise advice, “Don’t underestimate a cold.”

Yana says he is lucky at this age that he still finds his work stimulating. His research still interests him and causes his heart to race. He also credits getting to work with good associates, those who have followed in his footsteps in human reproduction studies at the UH Mānoa Institute for Biogenesis Research, part of the UH John A. Burns School of Medicine.

Right outside of his office hangs a framed piece of art which, at first, looks like a happy face. Actually, the artwork is Yana’s drawing of a sperm and an egg in a petri dish.

“Life begins with the egg and the sperm, which look like a face smiling,” Yanagimachi said, “so we should all be happy, all the time.”

Donations are being accepted for a new endowment on Yana’s honor.

Yanagimachi Endowment

Colleagues are working to establish the Yanagimachi Endowment to honor Dr. Yana’s achievements. If you’d like to contribute, contact Julie.Inouye@uhfoundation.org
Family Medicine’s Dr. Chien-Wen Tseng would be the first to tell you that all of JABSOM’s academic medicine physicians are heroes, and she is not wrong. They treat patients while guiding MD students or supervising MD Residents and Fellows, some while also running departments or divisions within the medical school. We salute them!

We are singling out Dr. Tseng, because she has had an extraordinary year. As the first person from Hawai‘i ever to be appointed to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, Dr. Tseng and her panel help shape health policy in America. This year she was assigned to be a task force spokesperson on two important announcements about new recommendations in women’s health. In February 2018, she spoke to local and national news media about a concerning uptick in the number of infants born with congenital syphilis, which can cause deformities, blindness, deafness or even the baby’s death. The task force’s recommendation, reaffirmed through Dr. Tseng’s statements, was that all pregnant women should be screened for syphilis. In June, 2018, she was tapped to help spread public information about the recommendation that women 65 and older should be screened for osteoporosis. She was interviewed or quoted by media outlets including National Public Radio, the Boston Globe, Science Daily, United Press International and did a podcast with the editor of JAMA, the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Tseng also pitched out in a more down-to-earth fashion during the year. In May 2018, she joined a hardy group of neighborhood volunteers with shovels and mops who helped others clean up after what was the worst flooding to strike in East Honolulu in 30 years. She and other members of ‘Āina Haina Prepared went house to house to help families clean debris, and to bail out the flooded ‘Āina Haina Public Library, too. She said the real heroes were community members and volunteers from all over the state who spent multiple weekends helping families carry mud-laden furniture out of houses to curbs and scrubbing floors and walls. “One thing that struck me about the experience was that in a disaster, you often really have to rely on yourself and your neighbors to be the first line of help.”

Four Healthcare Association of Hawai‘i (HAH) Honorees have JABSOM Ties

Dr. Christie Izutsu (JABSOM MD 2011), UH Assistant Professor, was named 2018 HAH Healthcare Hero of Hawai‘i. She was nominated by the son of her former patient, who felt that Dr. Izutsu showed exemplary care to his late father.

UH Assistant Clinical Professor Dr. Rebecca Sawai was named 2018 HAH Healthcare Hero of Hawai‘i. She was nominated by a patient who had been diagnosed with colorectal cancer and credits Dr. Sawai with helping him continue fighting to live.

The 2018 HAH Physician of the Year Dr. Daniel Cheng (JABSOM MD 2009) established and leads The Queen’s Care Coalition (QCC) at The Queen’s Medical Center. It takes a complex approach to address the needs of the homeless population by combining both medical and outreach services to provide patient care.

Associate Professor and founder of the UH Hawai‘i Homeless Outreach and Medical Education (HOME) Project, Dr. Jill Omori (JABSOM MD 1995), received the 2018 HAH Leadership Award. In addition, she earned the Robert W. Clopton Award for Distinguished Community Service from UH Mānoa.
Advocate for Health Science & Health Policy

Dr. Aimee Grace (JABSOM MD 2009) has returned to Hawai‘i as the Director of Health Science Policy for the UH System. After completing her residency in Pediatrics, Grace earned her Master’s degree in Public Health (focus on Health Policy and Management) from Harvard University and took it upon herself to promote informed, effective health care policy at the nation’s capitol. While in D.C., she also served as lead health policy advisor to Hawai‘i Senator Brian Schatz. Grace credits JABSOM’s emphasis on social determinants of health and global health as igniting her passion for improving health through public policy.

Working to Reduce Maternal Mortality

Dr. Scott Harvey (JABSOM MD 2010) is working with the Hawai‘i lawmakers and the Hawai‘i Department of Health (DOH) to reduce the number of women dying of pregnancy-related complications. The U.S. has the highest fatality rate among the world’s developed countries.

Dr. Harvey, the state’s only obstetric critical care specialist, chairs the committee that has been developing a comprehensive review of child and maternal deaths, mandated by Hawai‘i lawmakers in 2016.

Working to Prevent Suicide

As the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the rates of suicide have risen dramatically in the nation, including in Hawai‘i, UH faculty members are doing their best to educate the public about suicide prevention. JABSOM Assistant Professor and Psychiatry Researcher Dr. Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda leads the Prevent Suicide Hawai‘i Task Force—a team of community partners implementing suicide prevention programs on each island. Additionally, UH Psychiatry Professor Deborah Goebert and UH Office of Public Health Studies Associate Professor Dr. Jane Chung-Do appeared on ʻOlelo to discuss teen suicide prevention.

Voice of Science Amidst Volcanic Eruption

National eyes were on Hawai‘i island during the 2018 eruption of Kīlauea, amid growing concerns about the produced vog pollution and air quality for nearby residents. Dr. Elizabeth Tam, Chair of Medicine at the UH medical school, became the “volcanic air expert” given her leadership in a decades-long study of the effects of volcanic air pollution in some 2,000 Hawai‘i Island school children and their families. The study was part of a state collaboration with researchers from Harvard University and the University of Southern California.

Mini-Med School is a Hot Ticket

The 5th year of the Dr. Rosita Leong Mini-Medical School on Healthy Aging got underway with 178 students in February 2019—and another 160 on the waitlist. The innovative program, led by UH Mānoa Chancellor Emeritus and JABSOM professor Virginia Hinshaw, has schooled more than 1,500 people from 18-94 years young, including Colby Watase, then 18, who joined his grandfather Mark Watase for the Fall 2017 session. Mini-Med is designed to prepare people for the second half of their lives by delivering relevant scientific information on aging, similar to what JABSOM medical students learn, but tailored for public audiences. Mini-Medical School lectures are available on-line and on Spectrum TV.

Mini Med School Participants Fall 2016
The Homeless Outreach and Medical Education (HOME) Project held its first "Med Mele" fundraiser on the lawn of the JABSOM Kaka'ako campus on a warm autumn night at the end of September. Candlelit dining tables spread across the landscape, each one filled with people enjoying one another and the performances of Hoku award-winning artists Ei Nei, Maunalua, Ben and Maila, and Hoʻokena.

HOME, founded in 2005 by Dr. Jill Omori (JABSOM MD 1995), provides free medical care to both sheltered and unsheltered homeless citizens on Oʻahu. “It has been a labor of love for Dr. Omori working with hundreds of people and performing services vital to the community,” said JABSOM Dean Jerris Hedges, MD, “but HOME also is important to our student learning.”

MD student volunteers organize the clinics run three times a week at nine different shelters. Working under the supervision of Dr. Omori and other clinical faculty volunteers, the MD students interview patients, perform vital sign checks, help with medicines, treat minor wounds, and perform a number of other screenings and services. Most importantly, they learn about the health challenges of our most underserved populations.

Glen Bailey, Community Service Chair of the Rotary Club of Honolulu Sunset Chapter, presented a $4,850 check to the HOME Project that evening to purchase a freezer for vaccines that are taken out to the clinic sites in the HOME Project’s mobile clinic, a renovated RV donated several years ago by the Wal-Mart Foundation.

HECO FUNDS ELECTRIC VEHICLE

Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) and the HEI Charitable Foundation have donated $30,000 to the Hawaiʻi HOME Project to purchase an electric vehicle that is being used to transport homeless patients to medical and dental appointments. This will allow the HOME Project to significantly improve the quality of health care received by homeless patients.
Mariana Gerschenson, PhD, has been promoted from Director to Associate Dean for Research at the University of Hawai‘i (UH) John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). Dr. Gerschenson is also a Professor who heads the Diabetes Research Center at JABSOM. She joined UH in 2002 after working as a Program Officer at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

Takashi Matsui, MD is Chair of Anatomy, Biochemistry & Physiology

Dr. Matsui is an expert in the field of cardiovascular research. He joined UH in 2010 after serving as an Assistant Professor at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Thompson, who graduated from Kalani High School before pursuing college and medical school, joined the faculty at UH in 2000 as Associate Professor of Pathology after becoming a Pediatric Pathologist with Pan Pacific Pathologists, LLC, at Kapi‘olani Medical Center, where she continues to work as well.

The UH Hyperbaric Treatment Center (HTC) was reopened in January 2018, under the leadership of Dr. Susan Steinemann as the center’s interim medical director, allowing the HTC to continue to provide 24/7 treatment for civilian divers suffering from decompression sickness as well as non-emergency care for certain types of wounds and tissue damage caused by radiation therapy. Dr. Steinemann is a longtime Hawai‘i trauma surgeon and JABSOM faculty member.

Gregory G. Maskarinec, PhD, has been appointed the Director of Global and International Health at JABSOM. Maskarinec is a cultural anthropologist who has taught for nearly 20 years in the Departments of Native Hawaiian Health and Family Medicine and Community Health at the medical school and has conducted research on traditional medicine, medical education and contemporary medical systems in Central and Southern Asia, the Pacific Islands as well as the continental US (Arkansas).

OnTrack Hawai‘i, the state’s first coordinated specialty care treatment clinic for youth who are within the first two years of experiencing psychosis (extreme emotional impairment) opened a new clinic in the Ala Moana Building in November. The clinic, which is operated by the UH College of Social Sciences, with physicians from the JABSOM Psychiatry Department and the support of DOH mental health professionals, uses a multi-disciplinary team to offer the best treatment for patients, ages 15 to 24.

The Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women’s Health expanded service to Hawai‘i Island in September. Operated by University Health Partners (UHP) of Hawai‘i, Dr. Emilie Stickley leads the clinic in offering services to reduce the need for patients to travel to Honolulu, decrease patient costs and create a sustainable clinical learning environment for medical students and OB/GYN residents in strong partnership with Hilo.

“Project ECHO Hawai‘i” uses web video conferencing to facilitate a “virtual clinic” where the rural care provider and specialists, often located on a different island, can meet and discuss actual patient cases. ECHO, which stands for “Extension for Community Health Outcomes,” is a collaboration involving the Hawai‘i Rural Health Association, the Hawai‘i State Department of Health Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, the Hawai‘i Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center, ‘Ohana Health Plan and JABSOM. It is also supported by a $20,000 community benefit grant from Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i.
Dr. Satoru Izutsu, longtime Admissions Director and now-retired Vice Dean, was presented with distinguished honors for leading efforts by JABSOM to assist Okinawa following World War Two, when the island was in dire need of physicians. The UH and Chubu Hospital began a post-graduate MD training collaboration that has lasted for more than 50 years.

Dr. Izutsu, a native of Kaua‘i, was presented “The Order of the Rising Sun,” by the government of Japan in January 2018. It is the highest award that can be given to a non-citizen of Japan.

In October, the Hawai‘i United Okinawa Association honored Dr. Izutsu with its Legacy Award, which recognizes those who have made significant contributions to the Okinawan community, locally or globally.

“I am grateful for this once in a lifetime opportunity to have been a part of this adventure,” said Dr. Izutsu.

JABSOM Applauded for UH-Chubu Partnership

Native Hawaiian Health, received the Regent’s Medal for Teaching Excellence from UH Mānoa reserved for faculty members who exhibit an extraordinary level of teaching effectiveness, creativity and personal values that benefit students.

AIDS RESEARCHER RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIV PREVENTION

Dr. Cecilia Shikuma, Director of the UH Hawai‘i Center for AIDS, received the State’s highest HIV service honor, the Suzanne Richmond-Crum award, on World AIDS Day. For more than 30 years, Dr. Shikuma (JABSOM MD 1977) has worked diligently to promote HIV research helping to establish the UH Hawai‘i Center for AIDS and leading an effort to make Hawaii the first state to achieve an AIDS-free generation.

NATIONAL MENTORING AWARD FOR UH ALUMNA, OBSTETRICIAN

Dr. Bliss Kaneshiro received the 2018 Robert A. Hatcher Family Planning Mentor Award at the national meeting of the Society of Family Planning in October 2018. The Society Board was particularly impressed by Dr. Kaneshiro’s approach to mentoring and her ability to create a clinical research program with little infrastructure support.

THREE RECEIVE THE HONORABLE JAMES S. BURNS AWARD

The Friends of the Medical School (FOMS), a nonprofit organization, recognized three individuals with the Honorable James S. Burns Award, given annually to faculty, alumni or community members who honor JABSOM: Dr. S. Kalani Brady, physician, associate professor and Director of Continuing Medical Education and Faculty Development Program; Dr. F. Don Parsa, Chief of Plastic Surgery at The Queen’s Medical Center and in the JABSOM Department of Surgery; and James Fleming, who has served on the FOMS Board of Directors for more than a decade and held the title of Treasurer.

EXTRAORDINARY, ELITE HONOR FOR UH FACULTY DOC

While attending Kalani High School, Marjorie Mau couldn’t have known she would grow up to become one of only 25 U.S. doctors designated as “Masters” in their profession and this past year, be inducted as a fellow in London’s half-century old Royal College of Physicians. Dr. Mau is director of research for UH JABSOM’s Department of Native Hawaiian Health, where she was founding chair.
Coming to the Rescue for JABSOM Students Then and Now: Former Governor Ben and First Lady Vicky Cayetano

This coming October 30th, it will have been 15 years since the Mānoa Flood swept away much of the medical school, then housed at the Biomedical Tower. Fortunately then-Governor Ben Cayetano had envisioned the need for a new campus and cleared the way for construction that was well underway for the new John A. Burns School of Medicine at Kakaʻako. The new campus stands as a lasting tribute to Cayetano’s vision, leadership, and his support for medical education. It has allowed Dean Hedges to expand MD classes every year since 2009. It catches the eye of students who had begun looking away, seeking the most modern teaching classrooms and clinical learning labs. Its research facilities have coincided with a leap in the out-of-state funds which pour into JABSOM to cure or improve treatments for the diseases which are most prevalent in Hawai‘i.

Cayetano has continued to take interest in the school, serving on its Friends board and donating hard-won proceeds from a lawsuit to JABSOM’s ʻImi Hoʻōla (“Those Who Seek to Heal”) Program that helps college students overcome barriers to gaining admission to medical school.

As the first Filipino-American Governor in the United States, Cayetano knows something about exceeding the expectations of those who underestimate people from backgrounds different from one’s own.

Vicky Cayetano, too, has come to the rescue for our medical students in recent years. When a vendor failed to deliver the waist-length lab coats central to the “White Coat Ceremony” for the incoming MD Class of 2020, Mrs. Cayetano pledged to provide the coats, laundered, pressed and embroidered with each student’s name and a JABSOM logo, free of charge, for each member of every future class. Hers is an imaginative gift – and one that brings a smile and boost of pride to each student entering JABSOM.

The Cayetanos demonstrate how giving can take so many forms, from leadership and support for JABSOM in the public arena, to philanthropic investment, to funding something the school needs, like the coats essential for not only the White Coat Ceremony but which serve as the clinical uniform for our MD students in patient settings. Mahalo nui loa, Governor and Mrs. Cayetano!

“The Kakaʻako campus stands as a lasting tribute to Cayetano’s vision, leadership, and his support for medical education.”

DID YOU KNOW?
$2.7M in scholarships were awarded to JABSOM medical students in 2018.
QUIET CANCER FIGHTER

During her lifetime, retired ‘Aiea Elementary School kindergarten teacher Betty Mae Ling didn’t seek public recognition or even private thanks for a gift she made to fund cancer research. Instead, after her death in 2014, the University of Hawai‘i Foundation learned that, quietly, she had provided an extraordinarily generous gift to advance the work of JABSOM cancer researchers. Ms. Ling donated nearly $2 Million to support Cancer Research at JABSOM. According to Ms. Ling’s wishes, JABSOM named the Professorships in honor of her mother, Mrs. Alice Chun Beams of Hilo, and her step-father, Blond Hanley Beams, a retired Navy man.

GIVING BACK TO JABSOM

Dr. Francine “Franci” Tryka (JABSOM MD 1976) provides for the $2 Million Francine Tryka Endowed Chair in Pathology at JABSOM. Both Franci and current Department of Pathology Chair Dr. Karen Thompson are pediatric pathologists. After a stint in academic medicine in Arkansas, Francis lived and practiced in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. She retired at the end of May and plans to spend more time now at a second home in Waialua. Franci credits former faculty member Dr. Hideo Namiki with sparking her interest in pathology.

MAKING IT EASIER ON THE NEXT GENERATION

Brothers Kenn Saruwatari (JABSOM MD 1981) and Jonn Saruwatari (JABSOM MD 1986) created an endowment named after their parents, Kenneth and Vivian Saruwatari. They are grateful for the educational and career opportunities JABSOM provided, and to their parents for having made it financially possible. The Saruwatari Endowment will provide scholarship monies to be awarded through the JABSOM Alumni Association Scholarship fund.

THE BERT AND VONNIE TURNER SCHOLARSHIP FOR ‘IMI GRADS

The Bert and Vonnie Turner Scholarship for medical students who have completed the ‘Imi Ho‘ola program was inspired by ‘Imi scholarship supporter Hazel Theodore. Vonnie’s husband, Bert, was thoughtful in his estate planning allowing Vonnie to establish the scholarship and fund it in their names.

DR. DOMINGO & MADELAINE LEONIDA SCHOLARSHIP

Clara Leonida has established a scholarship for medical students who have completed the ‘Imi Ho‘ola Program, in honor of her parents, Domingo and Madelaine. Dr. Domingo Leonida, a Hawai‘i native, practiced all over the mainland, settling in Long Beach, California. Madelaine had a master’s degree in physical education. The Leonida family credits JABSOM alumnus Ryon Nakasone with giving Leonida several extra years of life, by treating him while Dr. Nakasone was an oncology fellow in San Diego.

JABSOM FACULTY AND STAFF PLAY ACTIVE FINANCIAL ROLE IN MEDICAL SCHOOL’S SUCCESS

Each fall, the “Starting from the Inside Out” campaign asks our dedicated faculty and staff at JABSOM to consider giving here, the place they come to work every day. This past year, close to 350 donors participated and we raised $732,765 for over 75 programs benefitting the medical school. Since 2008, a total of $4,429,389 has been raised through the internal giving campaign.
NOGUCHI INSTITUTE DEVELOPS NEW PARTNERSHIP

The Noguchi Medical Research Institute (NMRI) of Tokyo has invested $1M in a collaboration called “The Hedges/Izutsu/Asano Project in Humanity and Empathy in Medicine and Medical Education.” The NMRI partnership involves both JABSOM and University Health Partners of Hawai‘i.

TERRITORIAL SAVINGS BANK CONTRIBUTES $100,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR KAMA‘AINA MEDICAL STUDENTS

Territorial Savings Bank (TSB) is helping to tackle the state’s critical physician shortage through a merit-based scholarship geared towards kama‘aina MD students who plan to practice in Hawai‘i.

ISLANDS HOSPICE CREATES SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MD STUDENTS PURSUING GERIATRIC/PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

Islands Hospice has contributed $50,000 in scholarships to three JABSOM fourth-year students pursuing a fellowship in geriatric or palliative medicine. According to the 2017 Hawai‘i Health Workforce Report, there are only 15 geriatricians available for the elderly population statewide.

Faculty Practice

UHP to the Next Level: JABSOM Faculty Practice Creates More Buzz

Alumni: Do you (or someone you know) want to practice in Hawai‘i and stay connected to our JABSOM ‘ohana? UHP is just the place for you! Contact CEO Larry Shapiro at (808) 469-4900 or e-mail CFO/interim COO Chip Ellis at cellis@ucera.org. For more information about UHP, go to www.uhphawaii.org

University Health Partners of Hawai‘i (UHP), the faculty practice of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, has made instrumental strides this past year. The year kicked off with the re-opening of the Hyperbaric Treatment Center at Kuakini, under the leadership of Surgery doctor and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Susan Steinemann. UHP then celebrated the expansion of its OB/GYN services on Hilo. Dr. John Uohara “handed off” his practice to Dr. Emilie Stickley, the second UHP OB/GYN provider on Hawai‘i Island.

The individuals within UHP’s clinics and offices have been acknowledged for their work as well. Ansley Davis and Ting-Ting Hsu, two students from the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (Speech and Hearing Services) were granted two diversity scholarships. The department also received the Oscar and Rosetta Fish Grant from Hawai‘i Community Foundation. Dr. Dominic Chow and Dr. Cecilia Shikuma of the Hawai‘i Center for AIDS (Internal Medicine) received acclaim for their work in HIV/AIDS prevention.

To further UHP’s marketing efforts, the Central Office has developed a marketing committee that promotes the practice on social media networks and creates a public presence at community events, such as the Hawai‘i Health Workforce Summit and the Men’s March Against Violence. An anonymous donor generously provided JABSOM and the faculty practice a sponsorship with Hawai‘i News Now. Since October 2018, JABSOM and UHP’s various specialties and providers have been highlighted twice a month for HI Now, the news station’s lifestyle program. In addition, HI Vizibility, a Hawai‘i-based public relations firm, has played a key role in the marketing of UHP. The practice also appeared on other local media outlets, including KITV and Pearlridge Magazine.

About University Health Partners of Hawai‘i

UHP is the faculty practice of the John A. Burns School of Medicine. The practice launched in 1993 to support the educational, clinical and research aspects of JABSOM under the name “University Health Care Associates.” In 2002, the practice eventually transitioned to University Clinical, Education and Research Associates (UCERA) to better emphasize its mission. In 2014, UCERA re-branded as University Health Partners of Hawai‘i to highlight its partnerships with community partners and health organizations.
“Go ‘Bows!”

UH JABSOM Alumni Association members cheered together for the Warrior basketball at their last home game. Beforehand, guests enjoyed a buffet dinner in an exclusive backstage room at the Stan Sheriff Center, with visits from the UH Athletics Director and an Assistant Men’s Basketball Coach. Sai Tummala, MD 2020 candidate, gave an inspiring talk about how lessons learned through teamwork apply both to college level basketball and to the study of medicine.

Winning big at Casino Night

JABSOM alumni and students came dressed to impress in their swankiest attire for the Alumni Association’s first Casino Night at the Hyatt Centric Waikīkī Hotel. After filling up on heavy pūpū, players received funny money and hit the blackjack, craps and roulette tables run by the expert dealers of Just Like Vegas. Prizes for the big winners included a one-week stay at a ski lodge in Big White, Canada, several hotel stays and restaurant gift cards, given by generous donors.
Coach Kasuya, MD

JABSOM Alumni Association President and Professor of Medicine Dr. Richard Kasuya (JABSOM MD 1989) also coaches high school basketball and was a national winner of the 2018 Positive Coaching Alliance’s Double-Goal Coaching Award. We asked “Coach Richard” about his love of coaching.

How long have you been coaching basketball?

Dr. Kasuya: “Well, I’ve actually been coaching basketball longer than I’ve been a physician! I’ve been coaching for 30 years now. I even found a way to stay involved while I was in medical school and completing my residency training.”

Why did you get into coaching?

Dr. Kasuya: “I’ve always loved the game of basketball but found out pretty quickly that I wasn’t good enough to play competitively. So, I figured out that if I wanted to stay connected with the game that I would have a better chance on the coaching side of it. Seriously, I think the overlap between teaching and coaching really helped me. I sincerely love both of those roles and appreciate the importance of setting up a positive learning environment and helping both students and athletes grow in skill and confidence.”

Where are you coaching now, and how did your recent season go?

Dr. Kasuya: “I think I have the best coaching job in the world. I’m serving as the head coach for the varsity girls basketball team at Sacred Hearts Academy. We are coming off of a great season where we able to meet most of our team goals.”

Congrats on your recent award. Can you tell us about it?

Dr. Kasuya: “Thank you. I’m honored and humbled to have been selected from more than 800 nominees to be one of the 50 national award winners of the Positive Coaching Alliance’s Double-Goal Coaching Award. This award is to recognize youth and high school sports coaches from throughout the U.S. who balance the goals of striving to win with teaching life lessons through sports. I’m very aware that this is not an individual award as much as it is a reflection of the philosophy, hard work and commitment of everyone associated with our program.”

Any shout-outs?

Dr. Kasuya: “Absolutely! Thanks for the opportunity to do so! Any credit for the PCA award really starts at the top and extends far and wide. I really appreciate the support and guidance that our school administration and athletic director provide. The coaches that served before us deserve a lot of credit for laying the groundwork for the program and culture. Our current assistant coaches and lower level coaches have all done an outstanding job aligning with the program we hope to build and sustain here. And our student athletes and parents have been wonderful - they were kind enough to give our way a chance, and quickly bought in and made this their culture.”

Aloha ‘Oe

Dr. Alex Anderson, who served as Director of the JABSOM Office of Medical Education from 1989 until 1996. He was a pioneer in the innovative problem-based learning used by JABSOM.

Dr. Earl Bakken, inventor of the ambulatory pace maker, created the Lau Hawai‘i Fund at JABSOM to allow select ‘Imi Ho‘ōla students to complete a rural rotation on Hawai‘i Island, his adopted home.

Dr. N.V. “Ram” Bhagavan, Professor of Anatomy, Biochemistry, and Physiology; whose passion included teaching students of the ‘Imi Ho‘ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program.

Dr. Walter F. Char, founding chair of Psychiatry. As a psychiatrist, teacher, academic researcher, and mentor, he helped train hundreds of Hawai‘i’s physicians.

Dr. Taylor J.K. Choy (JABSOM MD 2012), an accomplished musician and young radiologist who bravely fought glioblastoma for 16 months.

Gayle Gilbert, longtime administrative assistant at JABSOM who served several Deans, beginning with the first, Dr. Windsor Cutting, in 1967.

Dr. Brian “PeeWee” S. Yano (JABSOM MD 1969), served in the U.S. army as an x-ray technician before becoming a pharmacist and faculty in JABSOM Psychiatry.
ALUMNI

Reunion: Reconnect 2018

JABSOM ‘Ohana reminisced beside a remarkable golden sunset in Waikīkī at the Outrigger Canoe Club in July. The reunion brought together 80 guests and alumni, including one who traveled all the way from St. Louis, Missouri and a graduate from the MD Class of 1969. We walked down memory lane with couple who met at JABSOM, couples-matched to California for residency and returned to Hawai‘i to practice. Watch the video at: http://jabsom.hawaii.edu/jabsomsweethearts/

Save the dates

Casino Night: April 27, 2019
Reconnect Reunion: July 20, 2019 at the Outrigger Canoe Club
Las Vegas Medical Education Conference: October 11-13, 2019 at Treasure Island Hotel and Casino

With planned giving, you can provide long-lasting support for JABSOM and our future healthcare providers, while enjoying financial benefits.

Our team can help you support your area of passion through wills, trusts and life income gifts

For a free confidential conversation and to learn more:

University of Hawai‘i Foundation
Office of Estate & Gift Planning
808.376.7874
giftplanning@uhfoundation.org
www.UHFLegacyGift.org

YOUR VISION
YOUR PASSION
YOUR LEGACY
OUR FUTURE