Annual Report for the John A. Burns School of Medicine – Fiscal Year 2020

Major Activities During FY 2020

This report summarizes major activities across the JABSOM missions, and performance against pre-defined outcome measures.

Some key personnel changes occurred in FY 2020. Lee Buenconsejo-Lum was recruited as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs following a national search. John Chen accepted the position of department chair for Quantitative Health Sciences. Olivier LeSaux accepted the position of interim department chair of Cell & Molecular Biology.

Medical student education (the M.D. degree program) had its largest entering class size (77 entering students in July 2019) - up from 62 entering students in 2008 upon my arrival as dean. Over 80% of incoming students are residents of Hawai‘i. Thus, the school has demonstrated a continued emphasis on supporting the educational aspirations of Hawaii’s citizens and enhancing retention of graduates in Hawai‘i (where a significant statewide physician shortage exists -paralleling the rest of the nation). Plans to further expand the class size are subject to additional institutional and extramural funding.

The 2021 rankings for the Best Medical Schools in America were released recently by *U.S. News & World Report*. The magazine ranks UH-JABSOM #56 in Primary Care, tied with Case Western Reserve University out of 122 ranked schools and a total of some 180 medical schools. These educational rankings come on the heels of impressive data compiled and reported this year by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), which found that JABSOM outperforms 84% of all accredited medical schools in the percentage of its graduates performing primary care.

The AAMC data show that among all accredited medical schools in the U.S. and Canada, the UH medical school is:

- The leader in producing Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander physicians
- In the top 1% of schools for student ranked medical education
- In the top 10% of schools for the proportion of women faculty members
- In the top 10% of schools for basic science instruction with clinical relevance, student satisfaction and metrics related to diversity, cultural awareness, and health disparities

JABSOM faculty members continued to teach and provide research opportunities for undergraduate students from UH Manoa and other campuses. JABSOM supports UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program), the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Council (Dr. Michelle Talquist from JABSOM is on the committee), and the Honors Program. JABSOM has numerous internships via the NIH-funded INBRE program that Dr. Robert Nichols leads and via the Department of Native Hawaiian Health Summer Internship (https://www2.jabsom.hawaii.edu/native/news_sri.htm). JABSOM also teaches undergraduate courses in Anatomy, Biochemistry, & Physiology; Cell & Molecular Biology, and Virology & Microbiological Physiology at UH Manoa. Jason Higa was awarded a Frances Davis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching for his undergraduate teaching excellence.

Recently the U.S. News & World Reports magazine ranked JABSOM #62 in Medical Research, tied with much larger schools: University of Arizona-Tucson, University of Kansas Medical Center, and
the University of Nebraska Medical Center. JABSOM continues to rank #2 of all the UH Manoa units in extramural expenditures; this is a major achievement considering the relatively small size of the medical school faculty.

**FY 2020 Benchmarks and Performance**

1) **Continue to strive to acquire restoration of tuition dollars to base budget tuition/general fund allocation to cover educational mission infrastructure needed for class size expansion.**

Although JABSOM has increased its tuition revenue by 37% over the last decade, the JABSOM base budget allocation has remained fairly steady. There is need for further class size growth to meet state workforce demands – which require classroom expansion, additional student support services and more clinical training sites. The recent shutdown of the state’s economy through the Governor’s efforts to minimize the short-term health impact of COVID-19 has further threatened the fiscal stability of UH Manoa and JABSOM. To sustain recent growth in the medical school class size, the school has been seeking greater philanthropic investment in medical education and greater health system physician employee assignment of time for teaching. These efforts at best will help sustain the recent growth in class size, but will not permit further growth.

2) **Grow clinical & translational research aligned with the needs of the people of Hawai’i.**

JABSOM continues to seek support for clinical & translational research. An application for an NGMIS U54 Clinical & Translational Research Infrastructure grant addressing health disparities in Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders received a solid study section review score. This grant will be resubmitted to increase its probability of success, given the timeliness of the subject matter with health disparities increasingly recognized in relation to COVID-19 outcomes in Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. JABSOM also has been actively seeking research collaborations with the local health systems and has been identified as a site for the City & County of Honolulu to invest in a Research Testing Laboratory for COVID-19 using CARES Act monies. Additional investigators across UH Manoa have used the NIMHD-sponsored Ola HAWAII grant to launch their translational research – some research has been related to COVID-19.
3) Continue to create greater alignment of JABSOM with teaching hospitals through the clinical practice plan to strengthen academic programs and health services delivery in a stable clinical learning environment.

JABSOM and practice plan leaders are in active discussion related to creation of an Academic Health System that will streamline medical staff and health system operations, strengthen educational programs and foster translational research based within the health systems by partnering JABSOM with the health systems. The Provost and President have been kept informed regarding these ongoing discussions. The impact of COVID-19 on the financial status of the health systems and JABSOM has made such alignment and melded practice and clinical education/research efforts more imperative.

4) Complete the process of the creation of a quantitative health sciences department via conversion of the department of integrative medicine.

The department has been fully developed and the final name change and departmental structure is a component of the JABSOM re-organization this year. The department has been highly successful in terms of supporting biomedical grant applications and scholarly research development.

Proposed FY 2021 Goals

1) Launch and champion a Diversity Task Force which will set the vision and priorities for increasing MD student diversity within JABSOM.

2) Assess the overall fiscal impact of a reduction in JABSOM MD student class size as a means to fiscally stabilize JABSOM and maintain accreditation standing.

3) Continue to grow clinical & translational research aligned with the needs of the people of Hawai’i.

4) Continue to create greater alignment of JABSOM with teaching hospitals through a restructuring of the clinical practice plan with the goals of strengthening academic programs and health services delivery in a more stable clinical learning environment.

5) Implement a succession plan for JABSOM leadership.