Office of Global Health and International Medicine

Members of the Office of Global Health and International Medicine
From left to right, Junji Machi, MD, PhD, Emi Saegusa-Beecroft, MD, PhD, Gregory Maskarinec, PhD, Ms. Paula Uchima and Former Director Satoru Izutsu, PhD

JABSOM's Office of Global Health and International Medicine (OGHIM) is directed by Gregory G. Maskarinec, PhD, within the Office of the Dean. OGHIM works to ensure that all international medical education activities of JABSOM faculty, staff and students are aligned with the school's mission, compliant with all accreditation body requirements, and within relevant legal parameters. Our goals are to promote student appreciation of global issues that impact the health of patients and communities in Hawai’i and to encourage students to gain experience in international health care settings. As aspired to in the 1948 United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights (article 25) OGHIM advocates that "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services."

OGHIM agrees with Richard Horton that "Global health is an attitude. It is a way of looking at the world. It is about the universal nature of our human predicament. It is a statement about our commitment to health as a fundamental quality of liberty and equity."
Currently, 37 medical institutions in Pacific Rim countries have international student exchange memoranda of understanding (MOU) with JABSOM.

Major Issues
1. In response to the current coronavirus pandemic, OGHIM seeks to expand the options, logistical support and financial resources available to JABSOM students, residents and faculty to participate in exchange rotations at medical schools and health care facilities throughout the Pacific, in Asian Rim Countries, and the world, with adequate pre-departure orientation and post-elective debriefings.
2. We hope to demonstrate that joining the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) advances national understanding of Hawaiian and Micronesian health issues, and have again prepared a proposal to address these issues for next year's CUGH conference, to be delivered remotely.
3. OGHIM fosters cooperation with other divisions and departments in the UH System, including public health, nursing, social work, pharmacy and social sciences to develop an interdisciplinary community engaged in global health issues. JABSOM participation in the UH Systemwide Committee on Global Health and Social Justice advances this cooperation.

Goals
1. Continue to develop a cross-residency didactic curriculum on global health to support a "global health experience" available to all primary care residents, including pre-departure training and post-rotation debriefings.
2. Support faculty positions with expertise in global health to accompany students and residents on international rotations.
3. Propose and plan a second "Humanism, Empathy, Social Justice and Global Health" symposium for February 2022 during Humanism Week, with support from Dr. Yoshihisa Asano and the Noguchi Medical Research Institute, Japan.
4. Support capacity-building at clinical sites in the Pacific Rim, through bidirectional exchanges, shared education, and research partnerships.
5. Increase research opportunities across the UH System on global health topics, including implementation of protocols in low-resource settings across vast geographic areas with emphasis on tropical diseases.

Significant Achievements of JABSOM OGHIM in 2020
1) Six JABSOM students participated in a one-month reciprocal exchange program: Japan – Osaka Medical College and Tokyo Women’s Medical University; Korea – Pusan National University; Thailand - Thammasat University. Additional planned travel was suspended in March 2020 for the remainder of the year due to the coronavirus epidemic.

2) Twenty-three fifth- and sixth-year undergraduate and graduate medical trainees came from Bali, Japan, Philippines, South Korea, and Thailand to participate in a one-month reciprocal exchange program. Additional visits were cancelled due to the pandemic.

3) Nine short-term physician consultants were sent to Okinawa Chubu Hospital.
4) In January, Dr Maskarinec visited five partner medical schools in Japan: Akita, Wakayama, the Jikei, Keio, and Showa, to discuss our student exchange programs, meet with faculty and students, and lecture on the importance of Social Justice in Medicine.

5) In February, the Noguchi Medical Research Institute and Dr. Yoshihisa Asano, "to spread the awareness of the importance of humanism and empathy in medicine and medical education," generously funded our first "Humanism, Empathy, Social Justice and Global Health Symposium" during 10-14 February 2020. The symposium featured four invited guests, whose lectures were mandatory for all residents of the Family Medicine, Pediatrics, OB-Gyn and Psychiatry programs, as well as for all MS-1s and MS-2s as part of MD-3 and MD-5 courses. Students watched remotely from classrooms as the auditorium was filled.

The invited speakers and their topics were:
Dr. Sheldon Riklon: "Caring for the Marshallese Patient."
Dr. Josh Jacobs: "Medical Education on the World Stage."
Dr. Loui Mar A. Ganguangco: The fastest-growing HIV epidemic in the Western Pacific
Dr. Kevin Cassel: Culture, Communication, and Cancer Risk Behaviors among Pacific Islanders in Hawaii.

Additionally, there were evening talks by two keynote speakers:
Dr. Sheldon Riklon: "My Personal Odyssey."
Ms. Malina Kalaukukui: "The Importance of Empathy in the Practice of Ho'oponopono."

There were also 12 Papers presented and 13 posters displayed on Friday of the symposium.
Panel #1, COFA. Chair, Paul Moroz
Camp to the Future (CTTF): Empowering the youth of Palau through multi-lateral collaboration - Thomas Lee
"Should Teenagers Be Having Sex?" High School Sexual Health Education in American Samoa - Tiana Fonanilla
The Burden of Chronic Osteomyelitis in Children of the Pacific Rim - Emily Stack

Panel #2, Applied 1. Chair, Martina Kamaka
Cultural Humility Training and Health: Creating a curriculum to address racism, implicit bias, power and privilege - David Stuplebeen
Resilience-Informed Care: Practices to empower students working with vulnerable populations - Christa Brown
Know Before You Go...."Who Am I?" - Marina Kamaka

Panel 3 - Native Hawaiian Health. Chair, Mapuana Antonio
An overview of the Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Health (NHIH) Program: A social justice approach to health and the academy - Mapuana Antonio
Environmental Racism in Nanakuli - Kamuela Werner
Modifications of the gut microbiome associated with diabetes risk propagates amongst the social networks of Native Hawaiians - Riley Wells

Panel 4, Applied 2. Chair, Davis Rehuler
Social Determinants of Health among Micronesians in US States and Territories - Davis Rehuler
"TB + Leprosy Free Majuro:" The Role of Medical Trainees - Arcelita Imasa
Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawai'i: Promoting Community Power Through "Advocacy Academy" Education - Dina Shek

Posters
#1 Loneliness Interventions in Older Adults: A Global Systematic Review of Reviews - Uday Patil
#2 Training Program for Cervical Dysplasia Screening in the Federated States of Micronesia: Lessons from a Low Resource Setting - Paris Stowers
#3 Promoting Health Literacy and Active Patient Involvement with Self-Help Comics - Charmaine Mila
#4 Neighborhood social cohesion, safety, and psychological well-being among Asian older adults - Yeonjung Lee
#5 Rethinking Transition from Active Military Service: Facilitating Women Veterans Healthcare Entitlement Access - Teresa Parsons
#6 Bangladesh Fistula Mission Partnership - Alan P Coe
#7 Urine Drug Screening on Labor and Delivery - Jennifer Chin*
#8 Promoting Humanism in Medicine: the JABSOM Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society - Damon Lee
#9 Obstetrics and Gynecology Training in American Samoa - D Orgez
#10 Solomon Islands Vector Control Training Initiative - Ryan Moore
#11 Republic of Marshall Islands Public Health Engagement - Sarah Jenkins
#12 Review of Health and Health Care Research in the Hawaii Homeless Population - Deb Kissinger
#13 Review of Micronesian Migrant Mental and Behavioral Wellness in the United States and Its Territories - Davis Ruhurer

* Best Poster Award ($500) was awarded by Dr Asano to Jennifer Chin.

OGHIM hosted a dinner at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse for Dr. Yoshihisa Asano, his team from the Noguchi Medical Research Foundation and the invited symposium speakers.

The Noguchi Medical Research Institute team at JABSOM

6) A team from Uwajima City Hospital visited JABSOM 3-15 February 2020, and OGHIM participated in the wreath placement ceremony at the Ehime Maru Memorial. Dr. Maskarinec also attended a dinner at The Willows with the visiting team, along with Dr. Jill Omori, representing the OME.

7) Inter-residency Global Health Didactics, for residents of JABSOM Departments of Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Ob/Gyn. Two sessions of global health didactics will be held for residents of these programs annually. This year, one set of sessions were part of the symposium (above), while on 23 September the focus was on Climate Change and Health.

Speakers were:

- Elizabeth Kiefer MD: Climate Change: It's About Health;
- Seiji Yamada, MD: Climate Change and Disaster Capitalism;
- Maxine Burkett, JD: Climate Change, Public Health, and the Law;
8) New JABSOM scholarships were created for student international travel and administered through the OSA for students to attend international meetings, and we were able to sponsor two MS4s, Brittni Kam and Derron Maki, to attend the "Peace Summit of Emerging Leaders" in Bangkok, Thailand in February 2020.

Brittni Kam and Derron Maki with Mr. Boonsong Leelachart of Thammasat Medical School, Bangkok

9) Dr. Machi continues to oversee the Hawaii Medical Education Program (HMEP), in which 13 Japanese Medical Schools participate. More than 800 students are registered in the program. A special class is offered every Saturday in Japan for HMEP Japanese students since April 2020, using Zoom. Online e-learning materials are provided to HMEP students. Dr. Machi visited 10 Japanese medical schools to provide an overview of HMEP. A JABSOM-style HMEP clinical clerkship began April 2020 at the International Hospital in Japan (Shizuoka Medical Center).

HMEP Open Class at Tokai University

10) Dr. Machi continues to oversee the Okinawa Chubu Hospital (OCH) UH Postgraduate educational program, with a contract between UH and the Okinawa government to continue this program for 2 years (2019-2021). The 53rd Graduation
ceremony was held on March 19, 2020: Dr. Machi participated by video. A total of 11 consultants visited Okinawa for teaching from the UH or other US institutes: 10 were short-term (one week) consultants, and one served as a long-term consultant. Beginning fall 2020, this consultant education is performed on Zoom. The OCH Residency Future Advisory Committee meets once or twice a year and the OCH Alumni seminar is held twice a year in Okinawa and in the continental US: March and October.

Interactive case conference at Kurume University

11) Dr. Machi, in collaboration with the fiscal support of the JrSr Corporation hosted Resident/physician visitors (for observation at UH). Five Japanese residents and physicians visited in January and February 2020 for observation training in IM, FM, Surgery and EM. There have been no visitors since March 2020 due to COVID-19.

12) Dr. Machi organized a UH faculty seminar on oncology in Japan by Dr. Ken Sumida for Japanese students and residents in February 2020.

13) Relevant Publications
   o 2020d. ‘What are the practical steps that we in medicine can take against racism?’ Seiji Yamada and Gregory G. Maskarinec. Medicine and Social Justice blog.
14) International Honors
Visiting Professorship for Gregory Maskarinec, Kanazawa Medical University (Japan), extended for 2020 (since 2018).

15) International Conferences
- Dr. Machi organized a Zoom tele-conference for Japanese students and young physicians by JrSr teaching members; more than 100 participants joined Dr. Machi’s first conference in July 2020.
- Dr. Maskarinec attended (virtually) the 14th annual Asian-Pacific Rim Universities' Global Health Conference, 18-20 October, 2020, held in Shanghai, China.

Office of Medical Education (OME)
The Office of Medical Education’s International Programs, formerly the Program for Medical Education in East Asia (PMEEA), works with a broad network of medical educators throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Through workshops, personal consultations, visitations, and other educational opportunities, OME fosters professional development of medical faculty and the enhancement of medical students’ total educational experience.

Significant Achievements/Highlights of the Year
1) The on-going global pandemic has significantly impacted the Office of Medical Education’s international programs. The following scheduled international activities were cancelled in response to the COVID-19 crisis:
   - Learning Clinical Reasoning student workshop, scheduled for one week in March 2020 at JABSOM. 19 students from various Japanese medical schools were registered for this workshop.
   - Introduction to Problem Based Learning (PBL) Hawaii Style, part of the larger 3rd International Medical Education Workshop at Yokohama City University School of Medicine (YCU) in Yokohama, Japan. Dr. Richard Kasuya was invited to present at this workshop along with four MS3 students.
   - 2019-2020 Hawaii-Okinawa Medical Education Fellowship Program Closing Session/Final Project Presentation. Scheduled for two days in May 2020 at JABSOM. Seven Okinawa fellows and five Okinawa faculty and staff members were scheduled to travel to Hawaii for this session.
   - 2020-2021 Hawaii-Okinawa Medical Education Fellowship Program Opening Session, and Introduction to PBL student workshop at the University of the Ryukyus, Japan. Scheduled for 2.5 days in June 2020. Dr. Richard Kasuya, Dr. Jill Omori, and Ms. Kori-Jo Kochi were scheduled to travel to attend this session.
   - MD5 Pacific Basic Experience, Japan elective. Scheduled for two weeks in July at three different sites: Kochi Medical School, Osaka Medical College, Saga University School of Medicine. 11 MS2 students were selected for this elective.
   - Summer Medical Education Institute, student workshop, scheduled for one week in August at JABSOM. We estimate 25-30 students from various Japanese medical schools would have attended this workshop.
• Problem Based Learning (PBL) Hawaii Style faculty workshop, scheduled for 3.5 days in October 2020 at JABSOM. We estimate 12-15 faculty from various Japanese medical schools would have attended this workshop.

• Hawaii International Clinical Teaching Workshop for Ibaraki Prefecture physicians, scheduled for 2 days in October at JABSOM. We estimate 4-5 physicians from various hospitals in Ibaraki, Japan would have attended this workshop.

2) OME was able to continue the Hawaii-Okinawa Medical Education Fellowship program virtually via Zoom. As the 2020-2021 Hawaii-Okinawa Medical Education Fellowship Program Opening Session, and Introduction to PBL student workshop at the University of the Ryukyus, Japan, we were able to hold a modified version via Zoom on July 24, 2020. As the 2019-2020 Hawaii-Okinawa Medical Education Fellowship Program final project presentation and closing session in May was cancelled, it was recently decided to hold this session via ZOOM on December 11, 2020.

3) Other activities
• Just before the “lockdown,” we were in the midst of collaborating with Hirosaki University School of Medicine for a custom PBL faculty and student workshop in Hirosaki, Japan, that was to be scheduled for September 2020.
• We are currently collaborating with Yokohama City University School of Medicine (YCU) for a virtual two-day PBL Hawaii Style activity for YCU students. We are hoping to hold this activity next month.

SimTiki Simulation Center
SimTiki is the healthcare simulation-based healthcare education center at JABSOM. SimTiki is an Educational Support activity conducted under the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Office of the Dean. International programs include a variety of short course for educators and healthcare providers, and an in-residence research scholar fellowship of 1-2-year duration under the J1-Visa program. Short term in-residence programs of one week to several months duration are focused on faculty development in simulation based education methods, and clinical skills training for international learners. Outreach educational programs have been conducted throughout the Asia-Pacific region, including Philippines, Japan, China, Thailand, Korea, and Malaysia.

Significant Achievements/Highlights of the Year
1) The SimTiki international post graduate fellowship was reaccredited in categories of Teaching and Learning and, Research. Initial Accreditation in categories Assessment, and Fellowship was achieved this year. The International Fellowship accreditation recognized the strength of the international fellowship and was the first such program accreditation by the Society of Simulation in Healthcare.
2) International fellows from Korea (4) and Japan (3) were enrolled in the J1 visa fellowship program. Despite significant COVID restrictions the program recruited and enrolled 3 fellows, who enrolled in the program. COVID related delayed matriculation dates for 8 fellows was addressed through development and delivery of a web-based forum for delayed fellows. The web-based SimTiki Pre-Fellowship Program (SPOT) provides a structured 12 week blended learning curriculum focused on core concepts of simulation education based methods.

3) International fellows participate in research and curriculum development projects and have produced 3 manuscripts accepted for publication during CY 2020

Dr. Sayaka Oikawa with her ukulele and Masayuki Miyoshi
Dr. Satoshi Jujo and Simtiki Operations Specialist Kris Hara

4) SIMTIKI on-site international programs

The SimTiki simulation center had a curtailed on-site international program scheduled this year. The following on-site international education programs were conducted:

- Faculty Development Academy Program (2-8 weeks)
  - One program participant matriculated. 7 scheduled academy participants delayed participation due to COVID restrictions
- Honolulu - Uwajima Medical Learning Alliance – “HULA”
- Ehime Prefecture Medical Resident Program (2 weeks) – 5 Medical residents and one faculty member
  - This full time in -residence program was conducted in collaboration with JABSOM’s Offices of Medical Education and Global Health and International Medicine, and the City and County of Honolulu Sister City program.

Uwajima HULA participants visit the JABSOM Hyperbaric Treatment Center
5) SIMTIKI distance learning international programs
   - Monthly international academic Journal Club by SimTiki by videoconference
     included participants from Japan, Korea, China, Vietnam, and Thailand. Over 30
     participants joined on a regular basis.
   - Fundamental Simulation Instructional Methods

6) "FunSIM" is a 2-day faculty development course for healthcare instructors seeking to
   improve simulation-based education skills. FunSim has been conducted 35 time in
   Japan by SimTiki JABSOM faculty and colleagues in Japan including graduated SimTiki
   fellows. Due to COVID restrictions no courses were conducted this year, but the
   program was transitioned to an on-line program. The program attracted more
   participants than we have ever had in a single face-to-face course over the past 13
   years. 45 participants and 9 Japanese faculty joined the blended learning program. This
   program was originally designed as a contingency program born of necessity but proved
   to be a highly successful model which will now be incorporated in our usual International
   program offerings.

Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology and
Pharmacology
Significant Achievements/Highlights of the Year
1) The Northern Pacific Global Health (NPGH) Research Fellows Training Consortium
   (sponsored by the National Institutes of Health [NIH] Fogarty International Center):
   This five-year program, from 2012 to 2017 was renewed for additional five years
   (2017-2022). This program led by Dr. Vivek R. Nerurkar has provided fellowship and
   scholarship funding for international training in Thailand, Cameroon and India to
   JABSOM postdoctoral trainees, JABSOM scholar trainees, international postdoctoral
   trainees, and international scholar trainees since 2012. The NPGH research projects
   have included clinical studies on dengue virus, malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and
   qualitative research on transgender populations in Thailand.

2) The department was awarded a NIH/Fogarty International Center D71 grant entitled,
   "SUSTAINABLE RESEARCH TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR
   EMERGING EPIDEMIC VIRUSES IN LIBERIA" to conduct collaborative research
   training with faculty and researchers at the University of Liberia (UL). The goal is to
   develop sustainable research capacity for early identification and control of emerging
viral diseases with the potential for regional and global pandemics. UH faculty, Dr. Vivek R. Nerurkar (JABSOM), Dr. Axel Lehrer (JABSOM) and Dr. John Berestecky (KCC) traveled to Liberia in early February 2018 to jump start the funded grant related activities.

3) STEP-UP (Dr. George Hui): Short-term research experience for underrepresented (STEP-UP) minority high school students (sponsored by National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases: This NIH funded grant in its 14th year was successfully renewed for the third consecutive 5-year cycle (2017-2022). The goal of the program is to raise awareness of biomedical research and career pathways in underrepresented minority high school students in the Pacific region, specifically US affiliated territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Palau. Seventy-five (75) mentors from Hawaii and the Pacific have tirelessly mentored our high school students to create a pipeline of future researchers.

4) Continuing Projects
  • Hantavirus Discovery (Dr. Richard Yanagihara): Collaborations with museum curators and field mammalogists from Spain, France, Poland, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Taiwan, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Canada, and the United States.
  • Hawai'i Center for AIDS (HICFA; Lishomwa Ndlovu): Active collaborative HIV and infectious disease research is currently on-going in Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, Myanmar and the Philippines.
  • International Neuro-HIV Cure Consortium (INHCC; Dr. Lishomwa Ndlovu): Collaborations with the INHCC seek to provide cutting-edge neurological and immunological expertise in the exploration of HIV cure strategies in the blood and sanctuary sites like the central nervous system.
  • Impact of hepatitis in Egypt (Dr. F. Dewolfe Miller): Ongoing studies in Egypt are defining the prevalence and social impact of Hepatitis C. Recent findings revealed a high prevalence of Hepatitis C in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients and the need to screen RA patients for Hepatitis C. These studies are in collaboration with Ain Shams University and Ahmed Maher Teaching Hospital. Recent publications: Soliman et al. BMC Public Health (2019) 19:1326. BMJ Global Health 2019;0:e001922.
  • Clinical rotation in the Philippine (Dr. Kenton Kramer): The Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii in conjunction with the University of Santo Tomas Medical School annually offers 4 second-year medical students the opportunity to learn about the practice of medicine in the Philippines. The goal of this 4-week elective is to develop, in these future physicians, a better understanding of the social and medical needs of Filipinos living in Hawaii and the Philippines. Three students participated in 2019. Due to Sars-CoV 2 this experience was not offered in 2020.
  • The Department conducts the Minority Health Research Training (MHRT) program (2T37MD008636-07, NIH, National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities). Undergraduate and graduate students apply and after competitive
selection they receive research training and participate in local, national, or international research projects in tropical medicine, infectious diseases, public and community health, and related health sciences. The goal is to increase underrepresented students to conduct biomedical research. The program takes place beginning in the Spring semester, followed by a May pre-research workshop, a 2-month research training experience in June and July where MHRT students conduct research training in labs or in the community, a post-research workshop in August, and a final E Ho`oulu Haumana presentation of students’ research in August. In 2020, nine (9) students in the undergraduate program conducted research locally (on Oahu due to COVID-19 travel restrictions) on COVID-19 related topics addressing community and mental health, and basic science, and four (4) graduate students conducted health disparities research related to their dissertation topics. Nine (9) UHM faculty mentored the MHRT students. The MHIRT program has trained a total of 69 students since 2014. MHIRT students are from various academic disciplines at UH and represent diverse ethnic, geographic, and socio-economic backgrounds. The 2020 research projects included designing culturally and linguistically appropriate COVID-19 prevention messages for Filipino immigrants; mental health impacts of COVID-19 on healthcare workers; food and housing security during COVID-19 in Hawaiian Homesteads; telmisartan as a therapeutic angiotensin receptor blocker for covid-19; development of a microfluidic card for detection of infectious pathogens using loop-mediated isothermal amplification technique; and development of multiplex microsphere immunoassay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies. (Drs. Vivek R. Nerurkar, J. Keawe‘aimoku Kaholokula and Angela Sy).

5) Lethal Cubozoan Envenomation (Box Jellyfish Sting) pathophysiology and translational research (Dr. Angel Yanagihara, DOD and NIH PI, Fulbright Specialist has resulted in fully commercialized federal regulatory compliant therapeutic products. Recent and ongoing international collaborations include fieldwork in the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Australia, Ireland, Micronesia, Puerto Rico, Florida. The objectives of these efforts are to provide lifesaving therapeutics, as well as to improve public health knowledge of sting management, sting prevention and field ecology-based sting danger predication capacities. The ASEAN outreach efforts continues despite COVID travel prohibitions via Zoom presentations and stand alone, public health PowerPoint presentations with embedded movies and prepared lectures for on-site leaders to present in Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Department of Family Medicine and Community Health

Significant Achievements/Highlights of the Year

1) Publications


https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/08/reflecting-on-hiroshima-nagasaki-and-rimpac/
https://www.counterpunch.org/2020/08/05/hiroshima-technique-bioweapons/
https://manesocialjustice.blogspot.com/2020/06/what-are-practical-steps-that-we-in.html
https://www.counterpunch.org/2020/03/17/coronavirus-for-all/
http://kevinmd.com/blog/2020/02/why-we-need-revolutionary-medicine-now.html
16. The long-awaited Special Issue of the Hawaii Journal of Health and Social Welfare, focusing on Health Disparities in the USAPI: A Voyage Forward, was published in June 2020 https://hawaiijournalhealth.org/past_issues/79.06.suppl2.htm. This issue published new knowledge from the Pacific, including work conceptualized and presented by indigenous Pacific Islander leaders through a Pacific-centric lens. Six articles include topics written by local leaders, describing key collaborations, partnerships, and management of chronic disease and cancer programs within their specific contexts. Nine articles led by academic-based authors, including some indigenous Pacific islanders, address a myriad of issues relevant to maternal-child
health, non-communicable disease, e-health and the challenges created by differing international connectivity that makes it difficult to utilize telecommunications technology to promote health as is common in Hawaii and most of the United States. Other key manuscripts published by JABSOM faculty, are noted throughout this 2020 Global Health report. Publications #17-23 below are published by FMCH authors in the June 2020 Special Issue.


2) Ongoing implementation of the USAPI Pacific Regional Central Cancer Registry for 2017-2022, as well as the Pacific Regional Comprehensive Cancer Control program. These activities and programs, funded continuously by the CDC since 2007, includes providing technical assistance and guidance to each USAPI jurisdiction on the implementation of their local comprehensive cancer control plans and cervical cancer screening improvement efforts. Region-wide strategies focus on health system strengthening for cancer control, cancer surveillance, cervical cancer screening, and telehealth.

• The Cancer in the Pacific 2007-2015 monograph was completed and shared on the website and with key USAPI policymakers in January 2020. Significant
technical improvements have occurred with the assistance of CDC. The 2007-2017 Cancer in the Pacific Monograph is targeted for completion by June 2021.

Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands virtual meeting in April 2020

- Travel was limited due to COVID-19, but the first-ever, virtual Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands meeting occurred in April 2020 with participation from all sites. Besides topics related to cancer and NCD prevention and control and telehealth, the CCPI discussed COVID-19 and its impact on cancer services and patients.

Virtual Pacific Palliative Care Curriculum Workshop, June 2020

- A virtual Pacific Palliative Care Curriculum Workshop was conducted in June 2020.
• The December 2020 CCPI meeting will also be held virtually and will include a 2-day workshop on advanced Palliative Care and Goals of Care discussions with USAPI clinicians.

• Plans are being developed for potential on-site Palliative care training to each USAPI in 2021-22, pending allowed travel during the COVID-19 pandemic

• Dr. Buenconsejo-Lum presents CME to the LBJ physicians 3-4 times per year, with emphasis on cancer screening, treatment, palliative care, and goals of care discussions.

• Drs. Neal Palafox, Seiji Yamada and Lee Buenconsejo-Lum continue to participate in ongoing discussions with the University of Hawai‘i System Global Health and Social Justice Work Group.

3) Ongoing implementation of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation grant (2018-2021) to increase local capacity for cancer prevention, screening, and treatment in the USAPI

• ECHO/telehealth sessions kicked off in April 2019 and continued throughout 2020, with a brief hiatus due to COVID-19 preparations in the USAPI. These monthly, didactic case-based sessions focus on educating USAPI healthcare providers about the cancer control continuum – prevention, screening, treatment, palliative care, and survivorship.

• Policy work to increase local capacity for telehealth and telemedicine continued throughout 2020 and was accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Center is a major partner in this endeavor.

4) Other newly awarded CDC Grants

• ASPIRE: Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Grant (2020-2023): Dr. Palafox, PI; To implement local, culturally appropriate programs in Guam, Federated States of Micronesia (Kosrae and Pohnpei), Republic of Palau and Republic of the Marshall Islands.

• Increasing Cervical Cancer Screening Capacity in the USAPI: (2020-2024): Dr. Palafox, PI; Working with Guam and Yap, Federated States of Micronesia to increase high risk HPV screening, provider and self-collection in the target populations.

5) Telemedicine

Drs. Palafox, Buenconsejo-Lum, and Christine Higa facilitated a telehealth / telemedicine discussion at the November 2020 PIHOA meeting and will continue work to help improve telemedicine capacity in the USAPI as appropriate for resource needs. Partners in this effort include Tripler Army Medical Center Pacific Islands Healthcare Program, VA Pacific Islands Health Care System, Association for State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO), US INDOPACOM, CDC, SAMHSA, and HHS.

6) Dr. Palafox was invited as a Chubu Consultant for Residency Training in Okinawa, scheduled week of May 31-June 6 2020, but was canceled due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.
7) Invited Presentation
- Dr. Palafox gave, virtually, an invited presentation at the International Association of Dental Research Symposia. June (10,11,12) 2020, titled "Global Prevalence of Areca Nut Use: Social and Demographic Attributes."

8) Organizational Work
- Dr. Palafox is currently a member, representing Oceania, of the International Cancer Control Partnership (ICCP), of which he is a founding member (2012) and former steering committee member (2013-2018). The ICCP works with NCI-Global Health, the Union of International Cancer Control (UICC), and other international cancer control partners, with monthly meetings to plan, develop and review country specific international cancer prevention and control plans globally.
- Dr. Palafox is also working with the Cancer Council of Australia to Develop and Assess Plans for a new South Pacific Cancer Control Coalition.
- Dr. Palafox assists the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) repatriation planning and evaluation team, which has developed and initiated protocols with a repatriation team for first 27 returning RMI citizens and essential workers in October/November 2020. Ongoing.
- Dr. Palafox works with Republic of the Marshall Island (RMI)'s National Nuclear Commission (NNC) 2020-2022 to strategize, develop, research, and implement a plan towards an appropriate and sustainable health and health care response to the history and consequences of the US nuclear weapons testing in the RMI.
- In January 2020, Dr. Neal Palafox met with Ambassador Carmen G. Cantor, the U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia.

Department of Pediatrics
Significant Achievements/Highlights of the Year
1) The UH Pediatric Residency Program currently offers three Global Health rotations to pediatric residents in their third year of training under the direction of Drs. Maya Maxym and Anna-Lena Lueker. Each rotation aims to provide residents with graded
autonomy in the setting of unique learning opportunities, including exposure
to pathology unlike that seen in the Hawaiian Islands or North America and their
management in resource-limited environments.

- The 2-4-week rotation at LBJ Tropical Medical Center in Pago Pago, American
  Samoa gives residents the opportunity to work as pre-attendings in the inpatient and
  outpatient pediatric setting, provide care for patients in the newborn nursery and
  NICU, consult in the ED, and admit patients to their own service on the general
  pediatric floor or pediatric ICU. They are also asked to present a pediatric topic at
  the hospital-wide Grand Rounds.

- The 4-week rotation at Lao Friends Hospital for Children in Luang Prabang, Laos is
designed for residents who wish to focus on their teaching skills, as it requires them
to act as supervisor and clinical educator in the inpatient and outpatient settings at a
busy children’s hospital. They run rounds with local junior doctors pursuing training
in pediatrics, and their responsibilities include the teaching of procedures and
running of code events. Residents are also asked to participate in active QI projects
during their rotation at Lao Friends.

- The 2-week elective in musculoskeletal medicine in cooperation with Shriner’s
  Hospital for Children will allow pediatric residents to accompany orthopedic
  attendings on their outreach trips to various sites across the Pacific including
  American and Western Samoa, Guam, the Marshall Islands, and Fiji, among others.

2) We have incorporated more GH material into the residents’ curriculum, including pre-
departure preparation seminars and online modules, on-site educational
assignments, and post-return debriefs for rotating residents. We also sponsor
biannual inter-residency Academic Half Days devoted to Global Health topics for
residents from programs including pediatrics, psychiatry, OB-GYN, and family
medicine.

3) Drs. Maxym and Lueker are also co-directors of Hawaii’s only Pediatric ECHO, a
form of tele-education geared towards empowering clinicians to provide better
specialty care to patients while focusing on community pediatricians without
immediate access to subspecialist consultation, including those in rural and
underserved areas, by providing knowledge and support to manage complex
conditions. We have had participants from several sites in the Pacific and are
continuing our outreach to our Pacific colleagues to engage them in this free CME
opportunity.

**Department of Psychiatry**

**Significant Achievements/Highlights of the Year**

1) **Grants/Contracts**
   Dr. Sara Haack is completing a third contract to provide behavioral integrated services
to the Community Health Center, Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia.

2) **Peer-Reviewed Publications**
   1. Chaulagain, A., Pacione, L., Abdulmalik, J., Hughes, P., Oksana, K., Chumak, S.,
      Mendoza, J., Avetisyan, K., Ghazaryan, G., Gasparyan, K., Chkonia, E., Servili, C.,


3) Other Articles/Publications


4) Book Chapters

5) Books

6) International Presentations

2020 Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD)
Due to the COVID-19 crisis which began in Asia early January 2020, physical aspects of our cultural and research collaborations with Korea, Japan, and Taiwan were
curtailed. Fortunately, under the umbrella of the MOU, we were able to continue our research collaboration with colleagues in Taiwan (Taipei Medical University). Dr. YH Lee was a visiting fellow under Dr. Lew's supervision, and together they published the following article.

Publication

**Department of Geriatric Medicine**

**Significant Achievements/Highlights of the Academic Year (July 2019 to present)**

1) Department of Geriatric Medicine faculty were co-authors on abstracts presented at two international conferences, including the European Society of Cardiology Congress in Paris, France in September 2019, and the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands in July 2020.

2) Department of Geriatric Medicine faculty published manuscripts based on work in the Pacific Islands:


4) In partnership with Kuakini Medical Center, the Department of Geriatric Medicine hosted Dr. Sayaka Kadowaki for a 1-year sabbatical in 2019-20. Dr. Kadowaki is a faculty member from Shiga University of Medical Science, doing collaborative research with investigators at Kuakini Medical Center, JABSOM, and Shiga University. She did data analysis using data from the ERA JUMP Study (Electron-Beam Tomography, Risk Factor Assessment Among Japanese and U.S. Men in the Post-World War II Birth Cohort), comparing Japanese-American men from the Kuakini Honolulu Heart Program Study of Atherosclerosis Risk (HHP-STAR) and men in Japan.

5) Faculty in the Department of Geriatric Medicine participated in *Tausi Feagaiga* (Covenant Keeper), a five-year project in American Samoa funded by the Administration for Native Americans from 2015-2020. The goal of this project is to increase the capacity of family and non-family caregivers to properly care for their own loved ones in the home and empower them with additional skills and knowledge.
to obtain employment in the home healthcare field. Monthly webinars were conducted to promote distance learning. The Hope House, an old aged home, operated by the Catholic Diocese, serves as a practicum site for participants to practice their skills. In January 2019, geriatrics faculty provided a 5-day Caregiver Training to 19 participants in American Samoa. The previous cohort served as co-trainers. Training was also conducted January 10th to 16th, 2020, and 30 community caregivers were trained in family caregiving. This included a caregiver creativity workshop, where a video was produced featuring caregiver poems and songs. Technical assistance was provided on developing a certified nursing assistant (CNA) certificate with American Samoa Community College for the participants. Technical assistance and advocacy were provided for sustainability of Hope House to be reimbursed under Medicaid. Multiple meetings in Years 3 - 5 were conducted with the Department of Human Services with the goal of making Hope House a Medicaid provider under Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The American Samoa State Medicaid plan would need to be expanded to include long-term support services. The state plan amendment would add assisted living facilities and personal care services coverage, which would include home care giving in American Samoa. In 2020, Hope House was registered as a Medicaid Assisted Living Facility Provider. Reimbursement and coverage of services would include activities of daily living (ADLs) and instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs) such as assisting with ambulation, bathing, dressing, meal preparation and home making services. Data over 5 years have been analyzed and a manuscript is in process for submission to the journal *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health*.

6) Our Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP, HRSA grant) has been extended for additional years of funding. Through this grant, we provided training in geriatrics in the Pacific Islands:
   - We have created a Dyphagia training video for patients and caregivers. In addition to English, the video has been translated into Ilocano, Samoan, and Chuukese, and all are available on YouTube. Our partners at Mountain Pacific Quality Health (MPQH) are helping to disseminate publicity about these videos to the Pacific Islands area. Video links: [http://geriatrics.jabsom.hawaii.edu/gwep/](http://geriatrics.jabsom.hawaii.edu/gwep/)
   - We have a strong collaboration with MPQH on their Diabetes Curriculum by enhancing the geriatrics and dementia content. MPQH has conducted trainings using this curriculum in Hawaii, Guam, and American Samoa.
   - We have built a partnership and collaboration with the Palau Community College, and they have agreed to offer 2 courses per year of the Family Caregiver Training Certificate in 2020 and 2021. Unfortunately, the 2020 courses were postponed because of COVID-19 and have been moved to 2021. They also plan to produce a video in Palau about hands-on caregiving skills.
   - We have built a partnership and collaboration with the Yap AHEC, and they have agreed to offer 2 courses per year of the Family Caregiver Training Certificate in 2022 and 2023.
   - GWEP faculty have continued to work with the AHEC on educational activities. The Geriatrics ECHO monthly tele-education series has been very successful, with participants from Guam and Palau.
GWEP faculty and staff have been actively working with the Guam GWEP, offering advice and assistance. Guam faculty and staff are also invited to all our ECHO series.

7) One of our faculty was supposed to provide Dementia Friends training to the Guam GWEP in April 2020, but this was postponed because of COVID

Department of Anatomy, Biochemistry and Physiology (ABP)

The 4th International Hawaii Cardiovascular Symposium (IHCVS)
IHCVS at UH Cancer Center Sullivan Center, February 5-6, 2020
This was the 4th symposium since it started in 2016. The invited speakers from Japan, Canada and the U.S. shared their latest research findings on cell death, mitochondrial dynamics, autophagy, with a specific focus on heart failure. We had a total of 30 talks and were able to have productive discussions on transnational research in cardiovascular disease throughout the 2-day symposium.

Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Women’s Health
Significant Achievements/Highlights of the Academic Year
1) Dr. Holly Olson traveled to Okinawa as a visiting professor in November 2019. During her one-week stay she gave lectures and participated in hospital rounds.
2) Dr. Paris Stowers and Dr. Shandhini Raidoo taught visual inspection with acetic acid and cryotherapy workshops for cervical cancer screening to community health workers in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia, in September 2019.
3) Dr. Ivica Zalud presented lectures on maternal-fetal medicine and ultrasound at the following international conferences:
   · 5th World Congress on Ultrasound in OB/GYN, Maternofetal Medicine and Human Reproduction, Ian Donald School, August 2019, Cartagena, Colombia
   · 14th World Congress of Perinatal Medicine, September 2019, Istanbul, Turkey
   · 2nd European Congress of Ian Donald School of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology, October 2019, Gdansk, Poland
5) Dr. Steven Minaglia presented a virtual symposium to residents and fellows at Unidad de Laparoscopia Ginecologica Avanzada y Dolor Pelvico in Pereira, Colombia in May 2020.

6) Dr. Men-Jean Lee presented at Session 4 of the Pacific Islands COVID-19 Clinical Training Course, CDC IMS Coordination Task Force US Pacific Islands

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**Department of Medicine**

**Significant Achievements/Highlights of the Academic Year**

1) Our ‘ohana of 63 UH Internal Medicine residents includes 29 who bring international perspectives and experiences from India, China, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Japan, Canada, Poland, and Jordan. In addition, before COVID-19, our inpatient resident teams at Kuakini Medical Center hosted more than 10 observers from Japan, Thailand, and Korea. Working (and, before COVID-19, playing) with our
international medical graduates fosters cultural exchange, and an awareness of differences in health care delivery systems, the built and natural environment. In 2019-2020, the geopolitical discussions were particularly eye-opening.

2) We featured global health in a number of CME and scholarly activities. Dr. Chisoo Choi on January 28, 2020 spoke to us of "Global Health, Local Implications." What was intended to show his experiences and lessons learned in medical and medical educational missions in Africa and Asia also included behind the headlines insights about the viral spread in China, accelerated by the Chinese New Year travel and gatherings (close friends had visited China just 2 weeks earlier). Dr. Erlaine Bello's Grand Rounds review in February, "The Crown," illuminated the historical and global impact of 3 coronaviruses, the agents of SARS, MERS, and COVID-19. Even in February, it was becoming evident that the behavioral and policy response of different populations were at least as important as the viral genome and structure in determining transmission and death rates. Similar themes were shared in Grand Rounds by Dr.Brown, "Pandemics, What's Past is Prologue," and by Drs. Ganitano and Namahata, "Disaster Medicine and Leadership in Crisis." Dr. Kiefer provided an impressive Grand Rounds on "Climate and Health" in September, and we look forward to Dr. Deshpande zooming in from Tokyo, to compare the approaches --and the outcomes-- in the US and in Japan.

3) Distance learning will give us an opportunity to learn from many more speakers. We hope to schedule some of the speakers from last year's inter-residency conference to address our audience.

**Shriners Hospitals for Children Honolulu**

**Significant Achievements/Highlights of the Academic Year**

Shriners Hospitals for Children Honolulu Outreach Programs were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but have cautiously restarted Pacific clinics in the Northern Marianas.

For about 3 decades, the Shriners Hospital for Children in Honolulu (SHCH) has annually sent teams out for short-term Outreach missions to countries and US territories in the Pacific Basin. Pacific Rim countries and US associated territories visited include: Fiji, Tonga, Micronesia West (Guam, Tinian, Saipan, Palau and Yap), American Samoa, Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia (Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk), the Marshall Islands (Majuro and Ebeye), and Kiribati (Christmas Island). In 2019, for the first time, a Shriners Team went to Tarawa, the capitol of the Republic of Kiribati. For the last 2 years Shriners teams have also gone to the Philippines to perform operations and to teach surgical residents. Typically, surgical residents from either the University of Hawaii orthopedic program or the Tripler Army Medical Center orthopedic program accompany the Shriners surgeons. Shriners orthopaedic surgeons are all JABSOM faculty members.

However, the year 2020 has affected all medical and surgical activity literally around the world due to the worldwide COVID19 pandemic. As with most surgical relief organizations, all travel related surgical Outreach missions with Shriners Honolulu were cancelled and for several months Shriners responded by increasing its
Telehealth capacity in the Pacific. Some new telehealth programs were started as a result, such as a new program developing at the Chuuk Hospital. In late October 2020, because of the very low rates of COVID in the Pacific and relatively low rates in Hawaii, as well as available and reliable testing, Shriners Honolulu felt it was safe to begin Outreach programming in some areas. Saipan had very few cases of COVID19, no community spread of COVID19, and were open to having new and established pediatric orthopaedic patients seen there by a Shriners team with appropriate precautions. With the approval of Shriners Hospitals for Children Headquarters in Tampa, a small team was deployed from Honolulu for a 12-day trip, travelling via Guam to Saipan. Appropriate precautions included a pre-flight COVID 19 test and a second test immediately upon arrival to Saipan. Modified quarantine between hotel and hospital was done until day 5 when a third COVID19 test freed the team from quarantine in Saipan. Mask and distancing and hand washing precautions were always maintained by the team.

The Shriners team to Saipan consisted of Drs Paul Moroz and Jonathan Pellett as well as Sandy Zukeran. 150 patients were seen over 5 full day full clinics at the Commonwealth Hospital Corporation (CHC). Nine patients were identified as qualifying for surgery in Honolulu in the near future. The team also was able to collect 106 subject forms for a study Shriners is carrying out on appropriateness of language translational services for clinics.

After 12 days the team returned to Honolulu via Guam, but not before a fourth COVID19 test was done before being able to get on the United Airlines return flight. All team members were required to quarantine for 14 days after return to Honolulu, but not being able to be free of quarantine as mainland USA tourists are able to from the State of Hawaii because the COVID19 test in Saipan has not been certified by Hawaii. Neither would the state allow team members the option of obtaining a certified test in Hawaii following their return in order to shorten their quarantine. As a result, all team members completed the 14-day COVID19 quarantine and all remained healthy.

Note should be made that because it was our first out-of-state Outreach trip no University of Hawaii or Tripler residents accompanied the team following institutional precautions. Outreach trips in the near future are anticipated in American Samoa and Samoa and possibly in Guam. Guam remains a local Pacific COVID19 “hotspot” as of Oct 21, 2020 and thus plans for Outreach there could be changed.

Hawaii Center for AIDS
As a continuation of a collaboration initiated several years ago, the Hawaii Center for AIDS (HICFA) hosted two junior investigators from the University of the Philippines (UP) this year. Utilizing clinical specimens from a UP /UH JABSOM collaborative HIV neurocognitive study done in Manila, Philippines, Ana Joy Padua, a MD/PhD candidate, spent one year working in the Tropical Medicine laboratory of Dr. Lishomwa Ndhlouvu investigating the role of negative checkpoint receptors and their cognate ligands among patients with HIV-associated neurocognitive disorder as part of her PhD dissertation. Dr. Christian Francisco, a junior faculty member at the Philippine General Hospital, UP, spent 6 months working with HICFA’s clinical research program to understand the long-term metabolic consequences of individuals living with HIV. Both were recipients of training scholarships awarded by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), an executive department of the Philippine government similar to the U.S.
NIH responsible for the coordination of science and technology-related projects in the Philippines. We were just informed by our lead collaborator Dr. Marissa Alexjandria, Chair, Department of Clinical Epidemiology, UP College of Medicine, that the DOST has approved and awarded a 3 year program grant to follow through on these initiatives entitled: Philippine Program for Diagnostic Biomarkers, Disease Modeling and Nutriceutical Product Development (Phil-DIAMOND): Initial Focus on HIV-related Neurocognitive and Metabolic Complications.

Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH) - Nothing to report for the year.
Department of Quantitative Health Sciences - Nothing to report for the year.
Department of Pathology - nothing reported
Hawai‘i/Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) - nothing reported