CONVINCED THAT AN EVER-WORSENING SHORTAGE of doctors threatens our state’s welfare, the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents has agreed to ask the 2020 Hawai‘i State Legislature to begin an expansion of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) to Maui. Governor David Ige also backs the proposal to create a Maui-based teaching hub that would educate MD students and serve as a base for residency program expansion where some MDs receiving additional specialty training after graduation from medical school could do part of their specialty training in Maui under supervision. Together, those steps are the most effective action that can be taken to increase the ranks of MDs in Hawai‘i.

“We know that our students who graduate from the University of Hawai‘i medical school and also train in a UH residency program are 70% likely to remain in Hawai‘i to practice,” said Dr. Jerris Hedges, JABSOM Dean. “Important life changes happen during medical school and residency. If these events happen during training in Hawai‘i, it is more likely that the students will stay in Hawai‘i.”

JABSOM already accepts students statewide, but there is a tendency for young people to be drawn into professions where training is visible in their own community, according to second-year medical student Amandalin Rock of Ha‘iku.

“Having medical education on your own island makes it seem attainable,” said Rock, who first attended nursing school at Maui College. “Maui is a perfect place (for JABSOM to train MD students and residents). There is a simulation lab – I remember using it. There is a hospital with many areas of the hospital that people can rotate through, as we did as nurses.”

Synergy with UH Maui College and a healthcare community that already partners in some ways with JABSOM is one advantage to starting the pilot expansion project on the Valley Isle.

The first step is legislative approval for funding to hire faculty.

“The request is $1.4 million dollars annually, which would fund faculty positions in several different specialties, including PhD-level educators and some key administrative staff, said Dr. Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, JABSOM Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. “Because of our national accreditation requirements, the educational experiences, including student evaluations, must be at the same high level across the islands and consistent with national standards. Therefore, we must have compensated, highly trained academic educator faculty on Maui island to fulfill that critical role.”

Dillon Tacdol of Wailuku said going to medical school away from home has been a great growing experience, but also comes with some sacrifices. “The most important sacrifice has been not being not able to spend as much time as I would like with my loved ones,” said Tacdol, a member of the Class of 2022. “This [new satellite campus] will help the students from Maui by giving them the opportunity to stay at home and be

Expanding to Maui
with their family, decrease expenditures of having to fly back and forth between the islands and renting a place to stay and increase the (opportunity to) network with Maui physicians.”

Associate Dean Buenconsejo-Lum (JABSOM MD 1994), who grew up in rural Wahiawa on O’ahu, says training in rural settings makes for more well-rounded physicians. “Our students who go to the neighbor islands form a better connection with the community and get experiences that are different from what you would see on O’ahu. This is an important step to create the physicians comfortable practicing in rural settings that we need for the state,” said Buenconsejo-Lum.

If funding is approved, JABSOM says the initial phase of recruitment could begin in the next academic year, with potentially the first Maui class opening in July 2021.

There were positive takeaways for JABSOM in both the annual round of “Best Medical School” news rankings and the more comprehensive standards measured by the Association of American Medical College (AAMC) in 2019. In the 2020 U.S. News & World Report released in March, we rose from last year’s rank of #59 in Primary Care to #55. At #55, we tied with Philadelphia’s Thomas Jefferson University Kimmel School of Medicine, which has 4.5 times our enrollment; Virginia Commonwealth, with more than twice our enrollment; and Ohio’s Case Western Reserve, with more than three times our enrollment.

In Research, JABSOM scored #56 (from a previous #41), tied with Stony Brook University of New York with nearly twice our enrollment; the aforementioned Thomas Jefferson University Kimmel School of Medicine; and Boston’s Tufts University, with almost three times our enrollment.

In other words, we are in good company, especially considering our relatively small faculty size.

RANKINGS: JABSOM OUTPERFORMS MANY LARGER INSTITUTIONS

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The medical school also is a national leader according to the AAMC 2019 data which shows:

- JABSOM led the nation the past five years in producing Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander physicians
- JABSOM had a greater proportion of faculty who are women than 95% of other medical schools during the last five years
- More JABSOM graduates are practicing primary care 10 years following graduation (the time it takes for full training and obtaining a license to practice) than 89% of other medical schools
- More JABSOM graduates are practicing in-state 10 years following graduation than at 71% of medical schools
- JABSOM prepared medical graduates better in caring for people of different backgrounds than 96% of medical schools
- JABSOM better prepares its graduates to care for the underserved than 85% of other medical schools
JABSOM SCIENTISTS ARE WORKING WITH THEIR LIBERIAN COUNTERPARTS to establish a disease surveillance system and a database for the West African nation, hoping to learn how survivors fought the deadly Ebola virus outbreak. The project may even shed light on what other viruses may be circulating in this region of Africa.

UH-Liberia Collaboration

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention entered into a five-year, $2.5 million cooperative agreement grant with the University of Hawai'i and University of Liberia so both countries may work together with the Liberian government to collect blood samples from all the country’s health districts.

“One thing that became obvious after the 2014-15 outbreak was that the public health infrastructure in wide swaths of Africa, particularly in West Africa, is very weak, with very few doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals (having survived),” said Axel Lehrer, virologist at the JABSOM and principal investigator of the grant. “This health emergency showed the danger emerging infectious diseases pose to the people there and to the global community, and how important it is to strengthen the local medical systems in order to prevent something like that from happening in the future.”

In early 2019, the UH research team and its collaborators delivered several state-of-the-art mobile medical labs to Liberia. Baylor College of Medicine designed and built these $1.5 million laboratories with funding from the Paul Allen Family Foundation and donated them to officials of Liberia and its university.
Laughter that needed a cure

MEDICAL RESIDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI’I HELPED to find relief for a man who suffered from nearly a lifelong affliction that caused him to laugh with no control over when or why he did so. “This was a very medically intriguing case. Prior to this case, I didn’t know seizures could manifest in such a way as uncontrollable laughter,” said Dr. Nina Leialoha Beckwith (JABSOM MD 2018), a Family Medicine Resident who worked on the case with fellow residents under the supervision of JABSOM Clinical Professor, Dr. Kore Kai Liow, a neurologist and Chief of Staff Elect at Adventist Health Castle.

The patient, 40 years old, had suffered from uncontrolled laughter since the age of eight. He had a history of a brain tumor, diabetes, mellitus and schizophrenia, in addition to the laughter fits, which struck two to three times a week.

He had been considered by some to have long standing behavioral issues.

But the UH doctors looked further and found he was suffering from a gelastic seizure. The cause was a tumor-like formation on his hypothalamus, which they treated with medication.

“I can only imagine what it is like for this patient to suffer from these bizarre seizures for so many years,” said Dr. Beckwith. “I’m grateful to have been a part of his care and I believe his story can help us as clinicians to identify and provide better care for patients suffering from similar conditions.”

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTINA TSE, MD 2022 CANDIDATE

Rural Kauai Student Poised to Earn PhD

CHANTELL BALAAN GREW UP ON A FARM in Koloa, Kaua‘i and is the first in her family to go to college. She has earned two bachelor’s degrees, a master’s and soon receives her doctorate in Developmental and Reproductive Biology from JABSOM. The Ellen M. Keonig Award winning scientist plans to perform clinical research on therapies for Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Reproductive Science Lab

THE INSTITUTE FOR BIOGENESIS RESEARCH (IBR) HAS received a $5.3M grant to continue its noted research into developmental and reproductive biology. With the grant, IBR will produce transgenic mice for other researchers seeking medical cures at UH.

MICHELE KERKLO AND DR. STEFAN MOISYADI, JOHANN URSCHITZ AND STEVEN WARD OF THE IBR
Hilo Native Awarded Highly Competitive Research Funding

JESSE OWENS, PHD AND IBR ASSISTANT RESEARCHER CONDUCTS CUTTING-EDGE STUDIES TO IMPROVE tools that can deliver genetic material such as therapeutic genes to specific locations or sequences in the human genome. He recently received an R21 grant, which supports the early stages of exploratory research projects considered innovative and likely to have a major impact on the biomedical field.

Seeking Better Detection for Breast Cancer

YOUPING DENG, PHD AND DIRECTOR OF THE BIOINFORMATICS CORE FACILITY at JABSOM will use a $2.8M grant from the NIH to advance his promising work using computational biology to improve the accuracy of breast cancer tests. He is working with a class of small noncoding molecules which are involved in the regulation of gene expression to develop a faster and non-invasive way to detect early cancer in humans.

Improving Gene Therapy

POST-DOCTORAL SCIENTIST CYNTHIA ANDERSON wants to improve how ultrasound and microbubbles are used to deliver therapies to areas of the heart, liver and kidney. Her research is funded by an American Heart Association fellowship awarded for 2018-20.

Data to Boost Research Workforce

THE JABSOM BIOSTATISTICS CORE HAS TRANSFORMED into a fully functioning quantitative health sciences department, hosting two critical quantitative facility cores, the Bioinformatics Core and Biostatistics Core and a revamped Master of Science graduate program in Clinical and Translational Research. Biomedical science is increasingly data intensive and John Chen, PhD, Director of the Biostatistics Core Facility was appointed Chair of the Department of Quantitative Health Sciences in 2019 to direct JABSOM efforts to meet UH’s research data needs.
Big Drop in Hypertension Gets Hula Intervention National Attention

The department’s five-year study found that a program to reduce blood pressure which incorporated hula along with health education produced a dramatic, lasting reduction in hypertension among Native Hawaiians compared to those in a similar program without hula.

The researchers were asked to share their findings at an American Heart Association meeting – an acknowledgment of their work and a sign that health officials are realizing that to improve health in minority populations, it is important to address those populations where they live and in ways that are culturally relevant to them.

“HULA IS GREAT FOR YOUR HEALTH, MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT,”
~ MELE LOOK, THE STUDY’S CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Curriculum Excellence


Chair Honored

THE COUNCIL FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN ADVANCEMENT presented its Native Hawaiian Health Award to JABSOM Department of Native Hawaiian Health Chair Keaweʻaimoku Kaholokula, PhD in 2019. He was honored for his long standing work including at UH·JABSOM to improve Native Hawaiian health.

WORK BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH reduced mortality risk for Native Hawaiians here at home while helping to send a powerful message nationwide that culturally relevant health interventions can be astonishingly effective.
New Crop of ‘Imi Hoʻōla Students

For 46 years, ‘Imi Hoʻōla (Hawaiian for “those who seek to heal”) has produced 278 doctors. 80% of the 278 still practicing provide primary care services. These docs are primarily Native Hawaiian at 35%, Filipinos 23% and Pacific Islanders coming from American Samoa, Guam, Palau and the Marshall Islands 18%.

Before the incoming MD class at the UH medical school begins orientation every year, there is a tight group of other students already on campus, waiting for them to arrive. The first acceptance letters go to those who have just completed the grueling ‘Imi Hoʻōla Post-Baccalaureate Program.

The rigorous “boot camp” for aspiring physicians from underserved communities enrolls up to a dozen college graduates each year leading them through challenging medical courses, exams and techniques needed to succeed in a problem-based learning curriculum. Since 2002, The Queen’s Health Systems (QHS) has provided a monthly stipend for students while in the program. In 2018-19, QHS provided full-tuition medical school scholarships to three of the newest ‘Imi graduates and plans to continue this scholarship in 2019-20.

“Finally getting to be in the hospitals and doing what we set out to do was really exciting. I got to do 6-L on the Big Island in Hilo, for me I went to UH Hilo for undergrad, so it was nice to return to that community but as a medical student and be able to give medical care. It kind of gave me a taste of what I hope my future looks like. I’m really thankful that here at JABSOM we have the opportunity to give back to our community that we grew up in.”

~ Dr. Megan Araujo (JABSOM MD 2019) on her JABSOM experience
ACHIEVEMENTS IN NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH

Merrie Monarch Before MD

A MONTH BEFORE GRADUATION, MEDICAL STUDENT ANDREW KINIMAKA (JABSOM MD 2019) DANCED ACROSS THE STAGE at the 2019 Merrie Monarch Festival with Halau Hiiakainamakalehua. Dr. Kinimaka, now an Internal Medicine Resident at Kaiser Permanente, believes hula has helped him to become a better doctor.

“In hula there’s an emphasis on learning through watching and listening, which I’ve needed to adapt to from the large amount of reading I’ve done in medical school. This newer style highlights being fully present in my learning and committing to the process. I am aware that while I am training to deliver healthcare in the medical setting, health really begins in families and communities. I am more than ever looking for ways to connect my practice to the practices of those in the community in order to bridge this gap,” said Kinimaka.

He added, “and because of all these changes, I’m more excited to be staying in Hawai’i for my training in internal medicine. I have a better idea of how to be a Hawaiian physician for the communities of our pae ‘aina.”

Native Hawaiian Scientist’s Heart Research Rewarded

ANDREW KEKŪPA‘A KNUTSON, a Post-doctoral fellow in the JABSOM Center for Cardiovascular Research has been recognized with the prestigious 2019 Burroughs Wellcome Fund Postdoctoral Enrichment Program award. The program will provide a total of $60,000 over three years to Knutson, whose work focuses on understanding how cardiomyocytes (the beating cells of the heart) respond to hypoxia, or low oxygen levels.

“ I think I’ll always remember the people that helped me get through tough times. Medical school is challenging—emotionally and intellectually. The people that I was around and the memories I made I’ll carry for the rest of my life.”

~ Jonathan Woo, (JABSOM MD 2019) on his JABSOM experience

ACHIEVEMENTS IN NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH
THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH IS THE ONLY CLINICAL DEPARTMENT WITHIN AN ACCREDITED U.S. MEDICAL SCHOOL SPECIFICALLY DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.
DR. ALSON INABA HAS NO SHORTAGE OF TRICKS up his sleeve. He’s the doctor who figured out that the Bee Gees tune “Stayin’ Alive” has the same beat you need to do CPR correctly, making the disco classic a powerful tool to keep hearts pumping. For his next act, Inaba hopes to set lifesaving to a more modern tune – Bruno Mars’ “Uptown Funk.”

Such thinking shows why the UH clinical professor and Kapi’olani Medical Center for Women and Children Pediatric Emergency Specialist has been presented the first Innovation at Heart award by the American Heart Association (AHA) at the organization’s national Gold Heart Event in Dallas.

Dr. Inaba ties his innovative ideas to a skill he started practicing as a child: magic. Soon after his mom, Gladys, bought him his first magic kit in the sixth grade, the whole family took part in his act. Inaba’s dad, Alan, took breaks from his work in the tire business to handle the show’s music and lighting while his mom balanced the backstage business and props. As his assistant, Inaba’s sister was willing to “float” or be cut in half. The family took their show to different islands in Hawai‘i and as far away as Japan.

In the late 1970s, when he was 16, Inaba won the chance to perform as the opening act for a local junior magician. His name? David Copperfield. Inaba always thought he’d be a professional magician until a high school biology class piqued his interest in medicine.

It was in 2005 that he started teaching medical students and pediatric residents to do chest compressions to the beat of “Stayin’ Alive.” But Inaba wants folks to know that CPR – which can double or triple the chance of surviving a cardiac event – isn’t magic at all.

“If we can get the rest of the country and the world to recognize the vital importance of immediate bystander CPR, we could increase survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest,” Inaba said. But he deflects credit for his own life saving musical ideas. “The real heroes are the ones who have the courage and the compassion to do CPR, to make a difference and save a life.”

“DON’T REACH FOR THE MOON, DON’T SHOOT FOR THE STARS, WHEN IT’S CPR TIME, THINK BRUNO MARS! DON’T BELIEVE ME? JUST WATCH!”

VIDEO: HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/LBQK2T6KH4
WAVES OF PRAISE FLOWED at the private event held in honor of Art Ushijima, who retired in January 2020 as President and CEO of The Queen’s Health Systems (QHS). Ushijima has supported several JABSOM departments throughout his nearly 30 years of service, including supporting, through QHS funds, the creation of the JABSOM Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH), which remains the only clinical department within an accredited medical school in the U.S. dedicated to the health of an indigenous people. During his term leading Queen’s, its Board of Trustees has contributed more than $10 million to support medical education at UH JABSOM through stipends for students in the ‘Imi Ho’ola Post-Baccalaureate Program, funding 2-year fellowships for health disparities researchers and sending medical students on clinical clerkships to Hawai’i and Moloka’i islands.

DNHH Chair Dr. Keawe‘aimoku Kaholokula wrote a Mele Ku‘o (chant of praise) “He Mele No Arthur A. Ushijima”, in honor of the retiring CEO, performed by leaders of the department. The UH medical school presented Ushijima with a doctor’s white coat, embroidered with the JABSOM logo and his name.

VIDEO: HTTPS://YOUTUBE/RSP4ECQF0

Exclusive Honor for North Shore MD Resident

DR. NASH WITTEN, a Family Medicine trainee in the UH Family Medicine Residency Program, received The American Academy of Family Physicians Excellence in Graduate Medical Education (GME) Award in 2019. The honor is reserved for only 12 of the 3,500 family medicine trainees in the U.S. Dr. Witten (JABSOM MD 2017), who grew up in Hale‘iwa and graduated from the UH ‘Imi Ho’ola Program, was also selected co-chief resident of his Hawai’i residency program.

“The goal to return home as a Family Physician to provide primary care to my underserved community has always been at the forefront of my calling to be a physician.”

Helping Those with Disabilities

JABSOM’S PACIFIC DISABILITIES CENTER (PDC) conducts research and performs evaluation, education, training and community development around disabilities. Its director, Dr. Violet Horvath, was recognized in 2019 by the Hawai’i State Department of Health and the Hawai’i Fall Prevention Consortium with the Annual Fall Prevention Award for Outstanding Community Service.
FOR THE FIRST TIME, EIGHT HAWAI‘I RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program for multidisciplinary health care providers who team up to tackle complex health problems affecting their communities. Dr. Dee-Ann Carpenter, JABSOM Assistant Professor in the Department of Native Hawaiian Health, leads the team “Empowering Hawai‘i’s Homeless: Diabetes and Pre-Diabetes Education and Resilience Initiative.” Dr. Pia Lorenzo, JABSOM Assistant Professor in Geriatric Medicine leads the team, “The KOKUA Project: Kūpuna Outreach and Knowledge in Underserved Areas.” Seven out of the eight fellows are UH faculty.

Dr. Kalani Brady Receives “President’s Award”

DR. KALANI BRADY, Director of Faculty Affairs, Director of Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Associate Professor of Native Hawaiian Health at the University of Hawai‘i received the Hawai‘i Medical Association (HMA) President’s Award at the annual Ola Pono Ike gala.
JABSOM Graduates Record Number of Minority Physicians

DESPITE THE UNDERREPRESENTATION OF BOTH NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND FILIPINOS in higher education, JABSOM graduated 12 Native Hawaiian MDs and 11 Filipino MDs in 2019—a new record. Holding their heritage close to their hearts, the new physicians participated in cultural recognition commencement ceremonies.

The kauka ‘ōpio (young doctors) of Native Hawaiian ancestry were each presented with a kihei (ceremonial cloak), which they designed themselves using traditional Native Hawaiian techniques. The individual kiehi were united by a common theme, adorned with a rusty red color made from the leaves and fruit of the ‘a‘ali‘i bush. Known as a hardy plant, the ‘a‘ali‘i bush can withstand extreme wind, rain and drought, representing this group of new doctors who will be resilient to the challenges of MD residency upon them.

Over at UH Mānoa, graduates of Filipino ancestry marched into the University’s 3rd Annual Filgrad wearing stoles designed to imitate the Philippines flag. As one of the student speakers at the event, the new Dr. Celina Hayashi (JABSOM MD 2019) spoke about the importance of remembering one’s roots and reflected on the memory of her late grandparents who emigrated from Ilocos Norte, Philippines to Maui, where Hayashi was born and raised.

Med Students Launch “Walk With a Future Doc”

INSPIRED BY “WALK WITH A DOC,” the worldwide walking program that encourages physical activity, UH medical students launched the first “Walk with a Future Doc” event at Kaka‘ako Waterfront Park in April. The initiative was led by Ken Stridiron, MD 2022 candidate, and Eric Gresham, JABSOM MD 2019. The public walking program meets monthly.
MD 2019 Class Specialty Roundup

- **INTERNAL MEDICINE**: 18
- **FAMILY MEDICINE**: 12
- **PEDIATRICS**: 8
- **PSYCHIATRY**: 8
- **GENERAL SURGERY**: 7
- **OBSTetrics & GYNECOLOGY**: 5
- **OPHTHALMOLOGY**: 4
- **EMERGENCY MEDICINE**: 3
- **NEUROLOGY**: 2
- **ANESTHESIOLOGY**: 1
- **DERMATOLOGY**: 1
- **ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY**: 1
- **RADIATION ONCOLOGY**: 1
- **INTERNAL MEDICINE**: 1

60% of the JABSOM MD 2019 class are training to become primary care doctors.

Videos:
- JABSOM MATCH DAY COVERAGE: https://youtu.be/9LZ4XOXQHRK
- WHAT IS “MATCH DAY”: https://youtu.be/1iIwbD2EjLC
- HOW DO THEY CHOOSE THEIR SPECIALTIES?: https://youtu.be/R1K_P00w0iQ

Did you know the UH medical school graduated 73 new doctors in 2019? Thirteen came from Kaua‘i, Maui and Hawai‘i Island.
A Campus for All Ages

STUDENTS OF ALL AGES WALK THROUGH JABSOM’S CAMPUS

Many of them are public high school students seeking hands-on exposure to what it’s like to bandage an arm, stitch up a cut or operate a robotic surgical device.

“I strongly believe that a field trip like this is a powerful and motivational experience that will help students see connections with the content and skills learned in their classroom,” said Dwayne Karlo Manzanillo of the Academy of Health Sciences at Campbell High School.

And it’s not just day trips going on. The Hawai’i Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) at JABSOM has students 9th through undergraduate years taking a twice monthly career and college success course called the CANOE Academy.

It’s a free course with solid benefits for students who may face academic or economic challenges. It builds upon these students’ motivation and interest in a health care related career.

“It gives me an idea of what the medical field is like. The phlebotomy class we just finished, gave me more confidence to consider nursing or something else,” said Aaryn Novack, a senior at Radford High School.

Students get support in building a resume, seeking out scholarships, locating financial aid and preparing for college applications and admissions tests.

They earn American Heart Association CPR, AED, First Aid, HIPAA and OSHA certifications.

They’re connected to community service, shadowing and research opportunities in their communities and become inspired by field trips to colleges, community health centers and hospitals.

“Teaming with other health education partners, AHEC also organizes very popular “Teen Health Camps” on all islands.”

CHARRMAINE KUEHNE

Training Hawaiʻi’s Science Teachers

SINCE 2012, JABSOM has offered a summer crash course in the latest scientific research methods to Hawai’i high school educators. Over 100 educators from 45 schools—36 public, have come through JABSOM’s Health Science Professional Development Program.

New learning track builds Hawaiʻi’s medical technologist workforce

JABSOM’S MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM has been granting Bachelor of Science degrees since 1946. In 2019, its graduating class included a new type of graduate-Med Tech students admitted under a new, two-year second-degree program.

The second-degree track was created to help fulfill the growing need for licensed medical technologists. Two-year students joined the traditional track students for the final two years of their training. Two-year track graduate Charmaine Kuehne said it can be a steep learning curve to keep up, but “I have gained a deep respect and appreciation for the dedicated people who choose to work behind the scenes in the laboratory,” said Kuehne. “As a future Medical Laboratory Scientist, I am proud to be in their company.”

Also making Med Tech proud this year is Instructor Sheri Gon, who is serving as the 2019-2020 President of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS), Hawai’i Chapter.
JABSOM’S LONG STANDING COMMITMENT TO GLOBAL HEALTH was apparent when leaders of the U.S. military’s largest command met at Kaka’ako to organize a combined network of healthcare and environmental expertise for the Indo-Pacific Region in August 2019.

Every branch of the U.S. military is active in the region, and the UH and its medical school have more than a half-century of experience building health care programs there.

“What I’m trying to do with our partnership at the University of Hawaii’s is to unite those efforts into one great strategic idea that will help us move forward with regard to improving health, healthcare, and healthcare support in the Pacific Islands and territories,” said Rear Admiral Louis Tripoli, the Command Surgeon for INDO-PACOM, who galvanized the initiative.

The following month, Dr. Takeshi Kasai, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for the Western Pacific, met at the medical school with Dean Hedges and several other UH leaders and faculty who provide health support through federal grants to the region. The WHO Western Pacific Region is home to nearly 1.9 billion people, diverse but with some common and urgent concerns, including climate changes requiring environmental resiliency, aging populations and chronic disease.

In October, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services Eric Hargan spent several hours listening to input from those who partner with the school to prevent cancer, reduce communicable disease, improve health care access and develop health workforces throughout Hawai’i and the Pacific.

“It is a rare occurrence and a significant honor to work one-on-one with the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Health,” said Dr. Neal Palafox, JABSOM Professor of Family Medicine and UH Cancer Center Professor of Cancer Prevention in the Pacific, who was asked to organize the briefing. The team assembled provided input on topics expected to be on the G-20 International Forum agenda, including the global economy, global health, environmental changes, and economic development.

Telemedicine for Expecting Moms

A LARGE TURNOUT AT THE HAWAI’I MATERNAL TELEHEALTH SUMMIT in Oct. at the UH Kaka’ako Health Sciences Campus evidenced the interest in mapping out plans to improve rural care through incorporating telemedicine in ways that give patients the most care possible closest to home.

“We want to use telehealth as a way to triage our patients to keep women closer to their families and then those that need the highest levels of care, bring them over to Honolulu for their care,” said Dr. Men-Jean Lee of University Health Partners of Hawai’i and the JABSOM Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women’s Health.

VIDEO: HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/BT_1000D1NU
Parents Help Their Toddlers Talk

UH COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS (CSD) HAS HELPED CHILDREN AND ADULTS HEAR, understand, and speak better for over 50 years. Always innovating, this year the department broke new ground by introducing a program that helps parents of very young children assume a large role in helping lead their keiki to verbal success. Parents excitedly reported their children expressed themselves more, used appropriate language, and their vocabularies grew “exponentially.”

Funded through a gift by former UH faculty Rosetta Fish to the Hawai’i Community Foundation, the “It Takes Two to Talk” Hanen program taught parents of children aged three to five to do many things, like how to identify what motivated their child to interact and initiate conversations and how to incorporate language teaching when playing and reading books with their child. The program is funded for two more years and the future couldn’t be brighter.

In 2019, the UH Speech and Hearing Clinic assisted 147 speech-language pathology and audiology patients—68 of them under the age of 18. The doctoral and masters-level faculty also serve patients with cognitive-communication and related disorders.

Private Ceremony Honors Selfless “Silent Teachers”

MORE THAN 800 PEOPLE ATTENDED A MEMORIAL SERVICE HONORING 180 body donors of the JABSOM Willed Body Program. Annually, UH medical students play instruments, perform hula dances and share heartfelt messages about working with the individuals they are privileged to know. Following the memorial, students paddle out from Magic Island and scatter the ashes of the dead, along with flower lei, into the sparkling waters, while mourners watch from shore as the Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawai’i play the bagpipes. Watch videos highlighting the 2019 ceremony and the personal story of giving from Hawai’i Newsman Kirk Matthews.

DID YOU KNOW? You can make appointments for CSD services through University Health Partners at (808) 692-1580.

Private Ceremony Honors Selfless “Silent Teachers”
Stunning Outcomes in Science Diversity Program

MORE THAN 350 YOUNG PEOPLE have been exposed to research opportunities they might never have had because of a JABSOM program called Pacific STEP-UP – and boy, did those youngsters take the opportunity and run with it. Nearly 80% of them have gone to college with almost 75% earning science degrees. Top federal officials for the Short-Term Research Experience for Underrepresented Persons (STEP-UP) presented JABSOM’s Dr. George Hui with a certificate in 2019 recognizing Pacific STEP-UP. Dr. Hui, who has led our program for nearly 18 years, is a malaria vaccine researcher in the Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology and Pharmacology.

VIDEO: HTTPS://YOUTUBE.COM/ SBM3CABV8BU

Quick Facts:

PACIFIC STEP-UP HAS HAD 352 PARTICIPANTS BETWEEN 2002-18. NEARLY 80% HAVE GONE ON TO COLLEGE. 74% OF THOSE STUDENTS HAVE GONE ON TO EARN 4-YEAR DEGREES IN SCIENCE. ALMOST 30% HAVE OR ARE PURSUING POST-BACCALAUREATE DEGREES IN SCIENCE AND HEALTH DISCIPLINES. 99% OF THE SCIENCE GRADUATES ARE WOMEN.

Pediatric Paramedic Training Program Developed

THE UH MEDICAL SCHOOL AND KAPI‘OLONI COMMUNITY COLLEGE (KapCC) are working together to help future paramedics gain confidence and skills in handling emergencies involving infants and children. JABSOM and KapCC faculty conducted its first Pre-Hospital Pediatric Paramedic Training Program to integrate with the KapCC’s established Emergency Medical Technician Program. The course was made possible through a grant provided by the Hawai‘i Pediatric Association Research and Education Foundation.

VIDEO: HTTPS://YOUTUBE.COM/ FSJSYQBOHTZG
Service Commitment Scholarships

RECOGNIZING THE DIRE NEED FOR PHYSICIANS IN HAWAI’I – where we are short an estimated 820 doctors needed to provide direct patient care – members of the community are stepping up. They’ve chosen to combat the problem by providing new scholarships for the University of Hawai’i’s future doctors who intend to practice in Hawai’i.

HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH MEDICAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH), one of the state’s largest health care systems, launched a nearly $750,000 commitment to fund the tuition for five incoming students in the JABSOM MD Class of 2023. In total, HPH has contributed $1.5M to fund the tuition for 10 future Hawaii physicians in the past two years. Preference is given to students who have participated in the HPH Summer Student Research Program, an intensive eight-week program that provides college undergraduates with hands-on experience in a medical setting and mentored work on a clinical research project.

JABSOM-PAUAHI SCHOLARSHIPS
Hoping to increase the amount of Native Hawaiian physicians, Kamehameha Schools (KS), Na Pua Foundation and the Brian and Janie Doyle Family Foundation are providing full-tuition scholarships for four incoming, first-year Native Hawaiian JABSOM MD students for the next two years. The donors pledged a total of $1.28M in the form of eight scholarships, which were given to four students in the MD Class of 2023. The next four recipients will come from the MD Class of 2024.

“NEARLY 80% OF THE STUDENTS IN EVERY MEDICAL SCHOOL CLASS AT JABSOM ARE FROM HAWAI’I AND THEY REPRESENT THE BEST MEANS OF ADDRESSING OUR PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE SHORTAGE. ALLOWING THESE STUDENTS TO GRADUATE WITH MINIMAL DEBT ENHANCES THEIR ABILITY TO STAY AND PRACTICE HERE, INCLUDING ON THE NEIGHBOR ISLANDS.”

- Jerris R. Hedges, MD, JABSOM Dean
THE QUEEN’S ‘IMI HOʻOLA SCHOLARSHIPS
This year, The Queen’s Health Systems has provided full-tuition scholarships to three recent graduates of the ‘Imi Hoʻola Post-Baccalaureate Program, a yearlong medical education “bootcamp” designed to provide students from underserved communities with the opportunity to matriculate into JABSOM after successful completion of the program. Since 2012 QHS has supported the ‘Imi program through generous stipends which allow for up to 12 ‘Imi students, each year to focus completely on their academics. QHS plans to continue support of these scholarship next year.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii Expands MD Student Clinical Training and Learning at its Facilities, Funds Five Four-Year Incoming Scholarships

ALREADY A LONG-TIME SUPPORTER OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL Kaiser Permanente recently pledged $800,000 to create the Kaiser Permanente Hawaiʻi Medical Student Scholarships to cover the full tuition of five incoming Hawaiʻi resident medical students. The goal is to support students who intend to practice medicine in Hawaiʻi’s rural or underserved communities and help address health disparities within the state. In addition, Kaiser Permanente will now provide pre-clinical and clinical training opportunities at its facilities, making it a full teaching partner. This partnership allowed JABSOM to increase enrollment by five medical students for the 2019-23 cohort.

Alumni Brothers Give Back

WHEN KENN (JABSOM MD 1981) AND JONN SARUWATARI (JABSOM MD 1986) graduated from the UH medical school, the annual tuition was about $1,250 – far less than what today’s students must bear; the 2019 annual cost was approximately $37,000. They created the Kenneth and Vivian Saruwatari Endowment Fund in gratitude and to show their desire to “pay it forward” to ease the financial burden of future medical students.

Starting from the Inside Out

TOGETHER, FACULTY AND STAFF AT JABSOM demonstrate their commitment to the school and its missions by participating in an annual internal giving campaign. This past year, a new record of 410 donors raised $695,834 benefitting over 95 funds at the medical school.
Scholarship for Graduate Biology

Approximately 100 graduate students pursuing their Master’s or PhD at JABSOM rely heavily on grant funding. For the first time, a donor has established a fund to support a graduate student. Professor Emeritus Dr. Thomas Kosasa, OBGYN, established the Kosasa Graduate Student Assistantship (free tuition and a modest living stipend) for a student in the Developmental and Reproductive Biology Graduate Program.

MD Students on Food Stamps Inspires Giving

When a medical student has clinical rotations beginning at 4:00 a.m. at multiple hospital sites but their car suddenly breaks down or when overwhelming debt has them turning to food stamps for groceries— it can be harder than usual to focus on their already challenging academics. Dr. Robert and Heidi Hong established a fund to support medical students in need of emergency funds. Dr. Hong was inspired to create the fund after serving on the admissions committee and reading applications, learning just how difficult life is for some of today’s most selfless young people. When Dr. Ross Tanoue (JABSOM MD 1978) heard about Hong’s fund, he also established one for MD student emergencies in honor of his late wife, Joyce Nakamura-Tanoue (JABSOM MD 1978).

Helping Military Surgeons Visualize Complex Surgeries

UH’s program to accelerate business start-ups, XLR8UH, and JABSOM’s successful spin-off, the next-generation medical imaging company, Radial3D, will be working to advance military medicine with Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC).

They will implement a system that will allow surgeons to plot out complicated operations of the head and neck in advance and even practice their planned procedure in advance.

The teams will integrate next-generation visualization hardware and software, allowing surgeons to better understand the spatial structure in an individual patient’s anatomy.

Dr. Scott Lozanoff, Anatomy Professor and Radial3D founder, says JABSOM Development Director Julie Inouye used her broad networking connections to facilitate critical interactions between JABSOM and TAMC personnel, contributing to the successful award of a 2020 Advanced Medical Technology Initiative (AAMTI) Extended Innovation Funding (EIF) grant.

Navy Vet, JABSOM Grad Thankful for Second Chance

After leaving medical school in Philadelphia and joining the Navy during the Vietnam War, Dr. Robert McGuffin feared his dreams of becoming a physician had ended. Serendipitously, Dr. McGuffin ended up working at the Hawai‘i Navy Commissary and through mutual friends, met Gayle Gilbert, administrative assistant to Dr. Windsor Cutting, then-dean of the UH medical school. She offered to introduce him to Dean Cutting and two years later, Dr. McGuffin graduated with the JABSOM Class of 1971, then completed his medical education at the University of Washington. He became a hematologist-oncologist and later a psychiatrist. He never forgot the good fortune of receiving a second chance to pursue his dream. He and his wife have decided to leave their entire estate to the UH medical school in hopes of “paying it forward.”
DID YOU KNOW?

Every medical school graduate is required to complete additional training in graduate medical education before they can independently treat patients.

Development Team

JULIE INOUYE HAS BEEN PROMOTED to Director of Development from Associate Director of Development and Alumni Engagement. When she first joined JABSOM in 2016, she took charge of the Internal Giving Campaign, in which faculty and staff raised $697,427 in support of 73 funds at the school in 2016. Julie succeeds Elaine Evans, who retired after raising more than $14M for student scholarships and research efforts at the UH medical school during her nearly eight years at the helm.

JULIE INOUYE

ELAINE EVANS

AARON MANDICH

Leilehua, Stanford, JABSOM Alum Lee Buenconsejo-Lum promoted to Associate Dean

DR. LEE BUENCONSEJO-LUM (JABSOM MD 1994) has been named Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, after leading the school’s Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs since 2016. Buenconsejo-Lum formerly led JABSOM’s Family Medicine Residency Program and is Principal Investigator of the Pacific Regional Central Cancer Registry. Dr. Holly Olson and Dr. Susan Steinemann will assist in the oversight of GME as Dr. Buenconsejo-Lum assumes her substantial additional duties as the school’s number two administrator. Former Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Alan Otsuki elected not to renew his contract and returned to the U.S. mainland to be near family.

DR. BENJAMIN YOUNG AND DEDE YOUNG WITH ELAINE EVANS AT AN EVENT HONORING HER IN 2018

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DR. LEE BUENCONSEJO-LUM

DR. ALAN OTSUKI

MARLA BERRY, PHD has been selected to submit the University of Hawai‘i’s next Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) application, which focuses on “Precision Nutrition.” She was recently recognized for her 15 years of service as Cell and Molecular Biology (CMB) Chair at JABSOM. Dr. Berry, the 2006 “Scientist of the Year” by the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (Foundation) Honolulu Chapter, joined JABSOM after fifteen years as a postdoc and associate professor at Harvard Medical School.
WHEN DR. SEANG SENG GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI’I MEDICAL SCHOOL IN 1988, few could know how momentous was his achievement. His was a conquest over evil. Seng survived the brutal rule of the Khmer Rouge and all the pain and suffering that went with it, including the starvation and deaths, one by one, of his entire family. Seng and the woman who would become his wife were liberated by the invading Vietnamese army, relocated to a refugee camp in Thailand and eventually found passage to Honolulu, where their first son was born as an American citizen.

Once on U.S. soil, challenges remained. Seng could not speak English well but he was ambitious to continue his medical education, which had been interrupted by the Khmer Rouge. After receiving his high school graduation equivalent certificate from Kaimuki High School, he studied at Kapi‘olani Community College and UH Mānoa. Through the ‘Imi Ho‘o‘la Post-Baccalaureate Program, Seng clinched one of the coveted slots in the entering MD class (back then the ‘Imi program allowed only five of its graduates to be admitted to JABSOM).

Dr. Seng worked as a family medicine doctor in California. He and his wife had three children who followed his path in medicine, including Kosal Seng (JABSOM MD 2013). Dr. Seng wrote an acclaimed book, “The Starving Season,” about his life and returned to JABSOM in 2019 to speak to ‘Imi Ho‘o‘la students and attendees at the Dean’s Circle event.

Reconnect Reunion: JABSOM 50th Anniversary Class Marvels at the School’s Growth

OVER 80 COMMUNITY AND ALUMNI MEMBERS OF THE UH MEDICAL SCHOOL MET FOR DINNER and drinks on a balmy summer’s evening next to the glittering waters of the Outrigger Canoe Club. The guests of honor were the members of the Class of 1969—JABSOM’s first graduating class. JABSOM was originally founded as a two-year program of basic medical sciences, requiring its students to earn their medical degrees from schools on the US mainland. The ’69 alumni reminisced about learning in small lab spaces and having class at Lē‘ahi Hospital— a stark contrast to this age of modern facilities at the UH Kaka‘ako campus and various learning sites at teaching hospitals across the state. Watch our video to hear from JABSOM’s 50th Anniversary Class.

“I owe my whole professional life to this school because after the University of Hawai‘i, we were really well-prepared for the mainland. We all went on to very successful careers, the very top-notch schools.”

~ Dr. John Zander

CATCHING UP WITH THE CLASS OF ‘69 HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/RRIpRUBQFC
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2019 RECONNECT REUNION HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/XD90E_IEAI
PRACTICE MEDICINE IN AN ACADEMIC SETTING

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Tomorrow’s Healthcare Today!
uhphawaii.org
as a family doctor on Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia when he confronted a mysterious malady that was suddenly sickening dozens of patients at the clinic that day.

That's when Dr. Hancock began to piece together what would become the world's first reported outbreak of Zika virus infections.

Schooled in the “Problem-Based Learning” (PBL) curriculum at the UH medical school, Hancock was accustomed to thinking broadly. When confronting a medical mystery, PBL students are taught not to rule out anything too early, but to list all possibilities, then plug away at eliminating possible causes one by one.

“The PBL process that encourages curiosity and a determination to find out what it is,” that served me very well in Yap,” said Dr. Hancock, who grew up on Hawai’i Island. “The curriculum at JABSOM emphasizes life-long learning,” said Hancock, and that is how he approaches every case. The experience of investigating and responding to the outbreak expanded his interests into being a disease detective and helped him get into the highly selective Epidemic Intelligence Service with the CDC, based in Guam and overseeing response in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands.

Dr. Thane Hancock, Zika Detective: JABSOM alumnus helped diagnose the world’s first Zika outbreak

DR. THANE HANCOCK (JABSOM MD 2003) WAS ONLY NINE MONTHS INTO HIS JOB

Alumni Association Hosts Vegas CME

FOR THE FIRST TIME, A JABSOM CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) PROGRAM was offered outside of Hawai’i and drew in nearly a hundred participants to the Treasure Island Hotel for a weekend of work and play in Las Vegas in October. Up to nine credits were offered including sessions about artificial intelligence in medical education, infectious diseases, critical care, oncology, medical aid in dying, physician wellness, social justice, human trafficking as well as what’s new at the UH medical school. The JABSOM Alumni Association, who planned the conference, is committed to returning to Las Vegas for another CME program, October 9-11, 2020.

DID YOU KNOW? Former governor John A. Burns, for whom JABSOM is named, felt the school’s need was vital so that Hawai’i and Pacific Island residents could have the opportunity to become doctors and serve their communities.
Linus Chao

LINUS CHAO, KNOWN AS THE “FATHER OF ANIMATION” in Taiwan and China for pioneering animated educational films, moved his family to Hawai’i Island in 1969. Chao, who worked as a professor of fine arts at Hawai’i Community College, received the 1997 Count of Hawai’i Living Legend Award for promoting culture and the arts. In 1970, he was selected to paint a large bust of former Hawai’i Governor John A. Burns, after whom the UH medical school was named. In nearly 50 years later, he was selected to paint a series of oil paintings of the JABSOM deans. This completed artwork was unveiled during the Dean’s Circle event in March 2019. Chao’s works will remain a permanent fixture displayed in JABSOM halls for generations to come.

VIDEOS:
MEET THE PAINTER OF DEANS HTTPS://YOUTUBE/6SKFXUZ34FI
DEANS’ PAINTINGS UNVEILED HTTPS://YOUTUBE/6SKFXUZ34FI

Dr. Christian Gulbrandsen

THE UH MEDICAL SCHOOL MOURNS its retired dean and Professor Emeritus of Medicine Dr. Christian Lyder Gulbrandsen. He was a driving force in obtaining funding to establish the JABSOM Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence (NHCOE), to improve the health of Native Hawaiians through research, education, service and training in medicine. In addition to being a researcher and practicing internist specializing in hematology and oncology, Dr. Gulbrandsen has been called “the father of PBL” for championing the active, hands-on problem-based (PBL) learning method to JABSOM in 1989. In fact, Dr. Gulbrandsen continued to volunteer as a PBL preceptor well after his retirement.

VIDEOS:
MEET THE PAINTER OF DEANS HTTPS://YOUTUBE/6SKFXUZ34FI
DEANS’ PAINTINGS UNVEILED HTTPS://YOUTUBE/6SKFXUZ34FI

Dr. Randolph Shiraishi (JABSOM MD 1979), emergency medicine specialist in Henderson, Nevada.

Dr. Robert DeMello (JABSOM MD 2000), nephrologist in Wailuku, Hawai’i.

Dr. Gary Nishida (JABSOM MD 1979), obstetrician-gynecologist in Ventura, California.

Dr. Franklin Yamamoto (JABSOM 1969), allergist-immunologist; Founder and Medical Director of the Hawaii Asthma Camp; Medical Director of the Allergy Clinic at the Kapi’olani Medical Center for Women and Children; JABSOM Associate Professor.
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