

One who mixes ingredients, drugs or medications: a pharmacist

Kāwili Lā'au

The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Fall 2015 • Volume 8, Issue 1



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HILO

Molokai: The future of health care gains a lesson from the past

Inside: Dr. Carolyn Ma appointed Interim Dean

Message from Interim Dean, Dr. Carolyn Ma



With a few diversions for work and/or school, Hawai`i has been my home my entire life. As the 50th state that happens to be a thriving economic engine for the Pacific region, in the year 2000 there remained no University for training pharmacists in the entire region. Thus, I was thrilled when the College of Pharmacy was created by the late Senator Daniel Inouye to represent the center of excellence for the Big Island of Hawai`i. I had the honor to be a part of the inaugural group of administrators when the College began in 2007, and now we are proud to be named after the senator who gave us our beginning.

It's been an auspicious ride as our College transitioned from "fledgling" to a fully accredited, highly regarded educational experience for more than 300 student pharmacists every year. Through the miracle of technology and a lot of sweat equity, we have been able to expand our faculty and student presence from the Big Island to O`ahu, Kaua`i and Mau`i, and even down to the South Pacific in Guam, American Samoa and Saipan. I have been delighted to take the lead in that growth, and look forward to future developments.

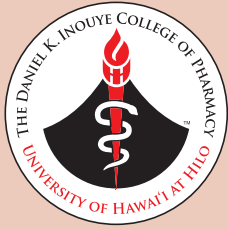
I was appointed Interim Dean as the Class of 2019 began their new journey to becoming professional pharmacists, and I am fully committed to the duties of this interim role. The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy is solidly positioned to move forward as we stay the course on our quest to become a top-25 school of pharmacy. Our students' enthusiasm and dedication are mirrored in the spirit of our faculty, post-docs and pharmacy residents who continue their notable work in busy research labs and at patient care sites. Through their exceptional work, we continue to manifest our mission to provide excellent pharmaceutical healthcare, education and research within the State of Hawai`i and the Pacific Rim.

I pledge to work to my highest capability and look forward to making new professional contacts, new friends and new beginnings for improved health in the State of Hawai`i.

Mahalo for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Ma". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Carolyn Ma
Interim Dean



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On the cover: This summer, three fourth-year student pharmacists and two faculty members from DKICP joined faculty, staff and students from O'ahu on a weekend learning expedition to Kalaupapa, Molokai.

A Journey to Kalaupapa

By Drs. Deborah Taira, ScD and Wesley Sumida, PharmD, Faculty members from the Department of Pharmacy Practice (Photos by Arnold Sano, Class of 2016)

Isolated by some of the highest sea cliffs in the world, Kalaupapa is known historically for its forced quarantine of over 8000 patients with Hansen's Disease but now serves as a destination for learning and contemplation. Starting in 1866, King Kamehameha V enacted a new policy calling for the isolation of anyone diagnosed with leprosy (now known as Hansen's Disease) to prevent the spread of the disease.

From July 17-19, three fourth-year student pharmacists and two faculty members from DKICP joined faculty and staff from the John A. Burns School of Medicine Department of Native Hawaiian Health, premedical students, a student of the Hawai'i hospitality industry, and a historian on a weekend trip to Kalaupapa.

Kalani Brady, MD, MPH, took the group on a tour of Kalaupapa and Kalawao. Dr. Brady is a Native Hawaiian internist in the Department of Native Hawaiian Health and physician to all of the dozen remaining Hansen's Disease patients. During the tour, he recounted

personal stories of the patients who not only had to deal with separation from their families, but with food and water shortages, inadequate shelter and medical care, and lawlessness. Two of the caregivers, Father Damien de Veuster and Mother Marianne Cope, were canonized as saints for their work with the Hansen's Disease patients.

One of the student pharmacists, Bryce Fukunaga, said: "Kalaupapa is a place full of history. It's one of the most beautiful and peaceful places I've ever been to. Learning that so much suffering happened in such a beautiful place was a very humbling experience. The people of Kalaupapa treated us as family and showed us the meaning of 'aloha.' I am very grateful for this opportunity and I appreciate all who made this possible."

Okezie Irondi, another student pharmacist, added: "The Kalaupapa experience taught me a lot about the resilience of the human spirit. Amidst the desolation and despair brought upon the people of Kalaupapa by

Hansen's Disease, they still managed the courage and strength to push on from their predicament to lead joyful and productive lives."

Echoing this sentiment, Arnold Sano, a student pharmacist, said: "Kalaupapa is one of the most beautiful place on the Hawaiian islands that I have ever seen. It is hard to believe that such tragedy took place there. The tenacity of the people of Kalaupapa to make their home a better place and to live a better life is truly inspirational. I am blessed to have been given this opportunity and mahalo to all who have made this possible."

The three student pharmacists have had experiential training with Dr. Wes Sumida, PharmD, at the Lau Ola clinic. The Department of Native Hawaiian Health operates the clinic in partnership with Native Hawaiian communities and the DKICP to improve health among Native Hawaiians. This partnership provides DKICP students with opportunities to learn important lessons in health disparities, cultural



The modern clinic on Molokai helps patients receive care.



Overnight stays in Kalaupapa are limited to those who are sponsored by a resident. Dr. Kalani Brady (yellow t-shirt), who is the personal physician to the remaining Hansen's Disease patients, was kind enough to arrange for one of the residents to sponsor pharmacy students and faculty to stay for the weekend.



The group was surprised by a thank you note from one of the residents that was taped to their bus.



The National Park Service has identified only 1,300 marked graves at Kalawao/Kalaupapa, meaning that nearly 6,700 people who died there have no tombstone. In 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the legislation that will create a Kalaupapa Memorial that will list all the patients who died and are buried there.

competency, and aspects of rural health care.

Dr. Sumida stated, "The trip to Kalaupapa was a special one because it allowed our students to interact both with the community in Kalaupapa and with students from other disciplines. Actually being there and seeing some of the patients provided a greater understanding of the patient experience than they would have gotten from just reading about it. I hope this instills in them an appreciation for context in caring

for patients."

Premedical student Brendan Seto said, "Interacting with the pharmacy students gave me insight into the important role pharmacists play in patient care."

Kalaupapa serves as a reminder of how devastating diseases such as leprosy were to the Hawaiian people who had limited immunities and how fear and incomplete knowledge led to unnecessary human suffering. As the average age of the remaining Hansen's Disease patients is now 75 years old, discussions are currently underway as to how best preserve the memories of this unique and historical place.

The pharmacy faculty and students who went on the trip are grateful to the people of Kalaupapa and Dr. Brady and Mona Cardejon of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health for including us on this journey.



Bryce Fukunaga, Okezie Irondi, Arnold Sano, Dr. Deborah Taira, and Dr. Wes Sumida



In Saint Philomena Catholic Church, Dr. Brady recounted stories of the difficulties Hansen's Disease patients had upon being quarantined to Kalaupapa. "If you were suspected of having Hansen's disease, you were arrested and then you went to trial before a board of physicians," Brady said. "If convicted, you were sentenced to life imprisonment in Kalaupapa."



Father Damien, canonized as a saint in 2009, arrived to help the exiles in 1873. After 16 years caring for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the patients with Hansen's Disease, Father Damien contracted and died of the disease himself.

Carolyn Ma named interim dean of College of Pharmacy

A registered pharmacist who has been influential on the Hawai'i State Board of Pharmacy and was a part of the inaugural administrative team at the



Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP) has been named interim dean, the University of Hawai'i at Hilo has announced. UH Board of Regents approved the appointment at their meeting at the John A. Burns School of Medicine August 20.

Dr. Carolyn Ma, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice at DKICP, will serve as interim dean while the University conducts a nation-wide search to replace Dr. John M. Pezzuto as dean. Dean Pezzuto's departure from UH Hilo was effective in August.

"Carolyn has played a key role in the growth and development of the College," said University of Hawai'i at Hilo Chancellor Donald Straney. "That experience, combined with her extensive background in clinical and pharmaceutical administration, will help ensure continuity as we search for a permanent dean."

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Matthew Platz said Dr. Ma has the full support of the UH administration.

"With the planning for a permanent building and continuation of accreditation, we need to make sure the administrative transition is seamless," VCAA Platz said.

Dr. Ma was recruited at DKICP in 2007 after serving as vice president for clinical program development for AmMed International in Hong Kong, China. Prior, she practiced as a Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist (BCOP) at The Queens Medical Center in Honolulu, and also was a pharmacy management consultant for various

hospitals including Stanford Hospitals and Clinics with expertise in The Joint Commission's Medication Management Chapter, pharmacy and clinic workflow redesign and organizational development.

She joined DKICP in 2007 as the clinical education coordinator and became the chair for pharmacy practice in 2009. Credited for expanding the College's presence to O'ahu, where she designed, constructed and implemented 4200-square feet of space that includes seven cubicles, two offices, kitchen, one conference room, two polycom classroom systems and classroom seating for 40 students with audio-visual and polycom multiple screens. She has mentored faculty throughout the State, and managed operations on Kaua'i and Mau'i as well as on the Big Island of Hawai'i.

Service to the State of Hawai'i includes operating as the Governor-appointed Director for Oahu on Hawai'i State Board of Pharmacy from 2011-2015. She also is past president of the Hawai'i Pharmacists Association (HPhA), where she continues to serve on the board. Work with key partners outside of the college includes the International Interdisciplinary Advisory and Editorial Board (IIAEB), contributing editor for Hawai'i Journal of Medicine and Public Health and reviewer for the American Journal of Pharmacy Education.

Dr. Ma, who was born and raised on O'ahu, earned her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Santa Clara in California, and her doctor in pharmacy degree from the University of California-San Francisco. She was awarded a residency in clinical pharmacy practice at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital's Department of Pharmacy in Philadelphia. She went on to become an advanced oncology resident in the Department of Pharmacy and Drug Information at the Hospital of the University of

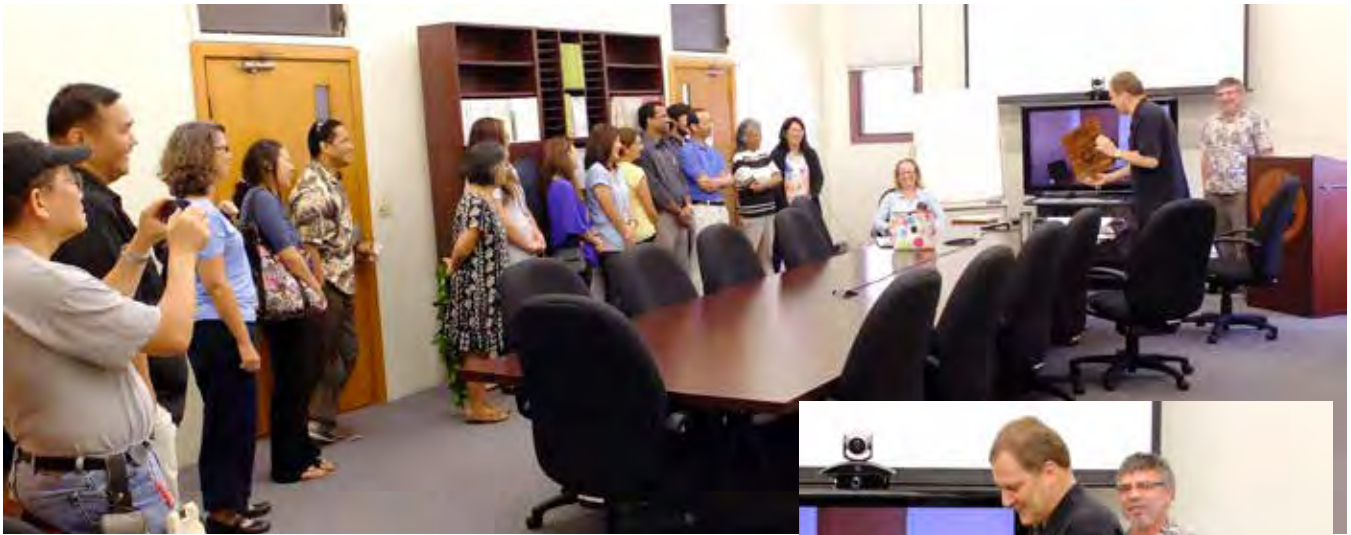
Pennsylvania, also in Philadelphia.

Her most recent awards include the lifetime pharmacy service award Bowl of Hygeia, DKICP Teaching Excellence, National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Leadership Award and Hawai'i Pharmacists Association Leadership Award. Ma also is a certified practitioner and instructor of Healing Touch, an energy-based bioenergy field complementary modality.

In the areas of research, Dr. Ma's work is currently focused in Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination and leading the DKICP in developing interprofessional education curriculum with the UH schools of nursing, medicine, public health and social work and development of pharmacy practice models in geriatric medicine.



Interim Dean Ma shows her lighter side during a trip to Alaska when she visited to set up the College's first clinical sites there a few years ago.



Staff extends mahalo to departing Dean Pezzuto

Founding Dean John Pezzuto was honored prior to his departure with gifts from DKICP administration, faculty and staff. At a surprise presentation at DKICP's Annex conference room, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Edward Fisher presented Dean Pezzuto with an engraved koa plaque and cash as well as a personalized card signed by many people in the College. Future Interim Dean Carolyn Ma attended via polycom from O'ahu. (Photos by Tracey Niimi)





Welcome Class of 2019

Anticipation and excitement filled the air as 84 new Doctor of Pharmacy students gathered in the Longs Pavilion Lecture Hall on Monday, August 17th to begin a weeklong orientation. Students introduced themselves to each other and mingled, while helping themselves to a wide variety of doughnuts and hot coffee, which were graciously donated by Safeway. Director of Student Services Daryl Masanda welcomed the incoming Class of 2019 and introduced the Student Ambassadors as well as the Student Services staff who then helped with registration activities including student handbook and iClicker distribution.

Following registration, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Matthew Platz welcomed the new Doctor of Pharmacy students and the two new PhD students, Tapanee Maibunkaew and Saeed Siraj, to the DKICP 'ohana. Associate Dean Edward Fisher along with the Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Susan Jarvi, and the Chair of Pharmacy Practice, Carolyn Ma, who was announced as Interim Dean later that week,



introduced the DKICP faculty and staff.

At the end of the first day, the students and their families were treated to a warm welcome reception at the Imiloa Astronomy Center, which was sponsored by CVS Health. Dr. Platz introduced the two CVS representatives, Jaime Kon, CVS Health Pharmacy Supervisor for Hawai'i and Jenna Yamashita, CVS Health Pharmacy Manager for Pahoia and DKICP alumni

from the Class of 2012 (formally Jenna Fujimoto). Dr. Yamashita offered sincere words of encouragement and support, noting that she was in their exact shoes seven years ago.

Throughout the week, students participated in sessions about the student handbook, professionalism, student involvement opportunities, math and organic chemistry, functional groups reviews and other



topics that aimed to support a smooth transition from an undergraduate to a professional level while getting to know their classmates, faculty and the UH Hilo community.

The Class of 2019 is the ninth incoming class of pharmacy students at UH Hilo. DKICP is the only College of Pharmacy in Hawai'i and the Pacific region.

(Photos by Tracey Niimi)



Jasmine Wong, Johnson & Johnson Representative for OneTouch Blood Glucose Meters, flew into Hilo during Orientation week to give an informational session on their products and to let the students practice with them. All of our student leaders also were in attendance. Dr. Elizabeth Ackerman, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, helped to organize her visit here. Jasmine also donated 20 OneTouch Blood Glucose Meters and 400 test strips to our student organizations to conduct community outreach activities. (Photo by Tracey Niimi)

New chair of pharmaceutical sciences continues work on deadly disease

Dr. Susan Jarvi's lab in the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo is working to optimize diagnostic tests for a potentially deadly disease prevalent in tropical regions of the world that has no tests currently available in Hawai'i.

Dr. Jarvi, who was recently appointed chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, said rat lungworm disease, or RLWD is considered a global, emerging infectious disease yet there is currently no data to know the true prevalence of infection in Hawai'i.

"Rat lungworm disease is among the most serious threats to human health of all diseases carried by wildlife in our state, as well as in many other tropical and subtropical countries

around the world, and yet, there are no diagnostic tests for RLWD available in Hawai'i," Dr. Jarvi said. "We propose to

optimize an antibody-based assay developed in Thailand to test sera from volunteer participants for the presence of antibodies against *A. cantonensis*. We also propose to test blood samples for the presence of parasite DNA using a molecular technique."

The disease is initially caused by the nematode *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, a worm that reproduces in primarily black rats. Humans can become infected by unknowingly ingesting intermediate hosts to the infective third stage larvae, many times through slugs and snails on fresh produce.

"RLWD can result in transient meningitis, which is inflammation of

the meninges of the brain and the spinal cord, or a more serious disease involving the brain, spinal cord and nerve roots, leading to hyper-skin sensitivity, partial paralysis, coma and/or death," Dr. Jarvi said.

The Jarvi lab is running a study, funded by The Hawai'i Community Foundation-Medical Research, entitled "Prevalence of rat lungworm disease in east Hawai'i" in collaboration with Puna Community Medical Center and Clinical Labs of Hawai'i. They are asking 400 volunteers to complete a questionnaire and provide a blood sample that will be tested for the presence of antibodies against the rat lungworm parasite.

She hopes the results will provide the preliminary data needed to conduct a larger statewide study funded by a competitive national grant.





Researchers share expertise on Rat Lungworm Disease

Members of the Rat Lungworm Disease Working Group at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo have released a video about the disease that has affected many families on the Big Island of Hawai'i.

In the video, Kay Howe, a graduate student in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science who works in the RLWD group and colleague Dr. Mark Kimura interviewed six people in four households on the Big Island of Hawai'i who have been affected by rat lungworm disease, which can cause paralysis, coma and death.



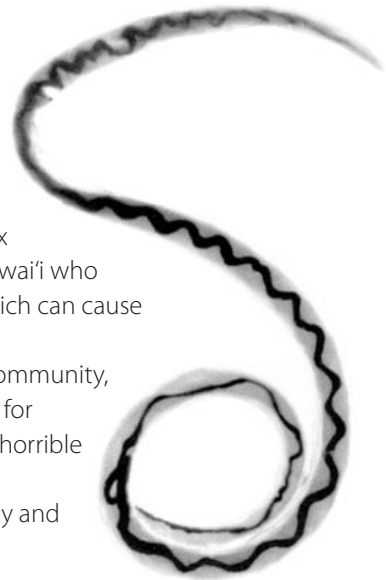
"We wanted to convey their voices to the community, promote awareness and get enough funding for education and research in order to stop this horrible but disease in Hawai'i," said Dr. Kimura, who is affiliate faculty from the Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences.

See the video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r88WNCxAjQ8> or scan the QR code on the left with smartphone to get to the link:



The researchers, headed by Dr. Susan Jarvi, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, also have started a petition to request state and federal funding to promote awareness and education and research on RLWD. See online at:

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/529/190/532/demand-action-to-stop-rat-lungworm-disease-in-hawaii-now/> or scan the QR code on right with a smartphone.



Watch interviews with RLWD survivors

Find information on the petition to request state and federal funding to promote awareness on RLWD.

Student Pharmacists Present Posters at the Department of Native Hawaiian Health Summer Research Symposium

By Deborah Taira, ScD, Department of Pharmacy Practice

To showcase the work of their summer research interns, the Department of Native Hawaiian Health held a summer research symposium on Friday August 7 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). Two fourth-year student pharmacists, Bryce Fukunaga and Okezie Irondi who were on rotation with Dr. Wes Sumida at the Lau Ola Clinic in the Department of Native Hawaiian Health, were invited to participate, sharing a research poster at this event.

During their rotation at the Lau Ola clinic, Bryce and Okezie have been attending a weekly research meeting at The Queen's Medical Center (QMC) organized by DKICP faculty member Dr. Deborah Taira, to facilitate multidisciplinary

collaboration on projects using the recently released Medicare Part D Provider Utilization and Payment Data: Prescriber Data. This dataset has prescriber level data on every drug given to a Medicare beneficiary in 2013, along with the number of patients, number of prescriptions, days' supply, and total cost. The student pharmacists came up with their own topics, identified the relevant drugs, analyzed the data, and put together posters summarizing the results.

Okezie Irondi presented a poster entitled, "Use Of Potentially Inappropriate Antiarrhythmic Prescriptions In the Elderly: Variation Across States And Prescribing Specialties." His collaborators included two QMC cardiologists, Drs. Todd Seto, MD, and David Singh,



MD, as well as James Davis, an analyst from the Office of Biostatistics & Quantitative Health Science at JABSOM and DKICP faculty Drs. Wes Sumida and Deborah Taira.

Okezie's research examined variation in utilization of potentially inappropriate antiarrhythmic agents according to the Beer's Criteria among Medicare Part D beneficiaries by state and prescribing specialty. He found that these potentially inappropriate antiarrhythmics were being prescribed to millions of elderly and there were differences by state and specialty. The cardiologists were particularly surprised that Flecainide was being used so extensively (576,000 prescriptions to Medicare beneficiaries in 2013 for a total cost of \$27.4m) as the Cardiac Arrhythmia

Suppression Trial (CAST) found that Flecainide may increase the chance of a fatal arrhythmia in patients with structural heart disease.

Bryce Fukunaga's poster was entitled, "2013 US MRSA Bacteremia and Medicare Antibiotic Prescription Rates." His collaborators included Drs. Todd Seto, MD, James Davis, PhD, Wes Sumida, PharmD, and Deborah Taira. Bryce examined the extent to which Medicare Part D antibiotic prescribing with *Staph. aureus* coverage was correlated with hospital-onset MRSA bacteremia infection rates by state. He found a strong correlation between the two suggesting that overuse of antibiotics at the state level may lead to more MRSA infections.

Bryce and Okezie plan to write up the results of their studies and submit them to the Hawaii Journal of Medicine and Public Health's student writing contest.



DKICP residency programs achieve accreditation; Class of 2015 sets record in post-graduate training placements

By Interim Dean Carolyn Ma

I'm pleased to report that both residency programs at DKICP received full accreditation this summer after an intense evaluation visit from the American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP).

Post-graduate residency helps an individual to continue in advanced clinical pharmacy skills, build basic clinical research skills, teach and continue service in a variety of settings including acute care, ambulatory care and community retail pharmacy.

The Postgraduate Year One (PGY1 program) "builds upon knowledge, skills, attitudes, and abilities gained from an accredited professional pharmacy degree program." The Postgraduate Year Two (PGY2 program) builds upon competencies gained during the first

year and is focused on a specific area of practice.

This positive accreditation result is thanks to the hard work and dedication from Drs. Roy Goo (PGY1 DKICP/Hawai'i Pacific Health Residency Director) and Sheri Tokumaru (PGY2 DKICP/The Queen's Medical Center), both associate professors in the Department of Pharmacy Practice.

Each of these programs also accepted residents who graduated from other pharmacy colleges for this academic year. Two PGY1 residents have been placed on Kaua'i, working with Dr. Goo, and one PGY2 resident is working at the Queen's Medical Center with Dr. Tokumaru.

For our own students, 2015 was a banner year for our graduates

who applied for placements as PGY1 residents. A record 15 placements occurred across the continental U.S. and Hawai'i. (See table). One student from the class of 2014 also placed in a residency position.

Although the new year has started for the majority of our students in the didactic sense, many of our fourth-year students who are now deep into their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE) will soon start to look at the possibility of interviewing and hopefully finding placement in a post-graduate residency pharmacy practice program upon graduation in 2016. Good luck to you all.

Congratulations to our students and to our own DKICP residents.

2015 Residents graduating from DKICP	
<i>Applicants</i>	<i>Successful Placement</i>
Amoa, Francine	VA Pacific Islands Health Care System, Honolulu
Brauer, Andrea	St. Lukes Boise Medical Center, Idaho
Dimitrov, Pavlin	Fargo VA Health System, North Dakota
Du, Le	Providence St. Peter Hospital, Olympia, Washington
Hu, Huiyuan "Annie"	VA Sierra Nevada Healthcare System, Reno
Ishizuka, Kelly	Loma Linda University Medical Center, California
Karr, Madison	Scottsdale Healthcare, Arizona
Lo, Kristina	University of California-San Diego Health System
Osugi, Alysia	Children's National Medical Center, Washington, D.C.
Prudenico, Jarred	University of California-Davis Medical Center
Sana, Jed (Class of 2014)	Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital, Washington
Savona, Natalie	Maxor Correctional Pharmacy Services, Nashville, TN
Takara, Lindsey	Providence St. Peter Hospital, Olympia, Washington
Wong, Edward	Providence Centralia Hospital, Washington
Young, Nicole	PeaceHealth Medical System, Bellingham, Washington
Villarosa, Jill Anne	Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, California

A celebration of success

DKICP faculty from the residency program on O'ahu helped current residents celebrate completing their year and preparing for the next step at a dinner June 29 in Honolulu. Dr. Barry Nakaoka completed his Postgraduate Year Two (PGY2) with a focus in Critical Care and Dr. Michelle Kim finished her Postgraduate Year One (PGY1) program and later became one of the newest members of DKICP faculty. From left, Drs. Cherie Chu, Sherri Tokumar, Carolyn Ma, Barry Nakaoka, Michelle Kim, Wes Sumida



CE program gains ground, receives re-accreditation from three national groups

The Continuing Pharmacy Education Program in the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP) received full re-accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) Continuing Pharmacy Education Commission and the ACPE Board of Directors.

The group voted to continue accreditation in their June meeting and extends until June 30, 2021, a standard six-year term, said Karen Pellegrin, DKICP director of continuing/distance education and strategic planning.

A Self-Assessment Report will be due February 1, 2021. The Self-Assessment Report is a comprehensive evaluation of the provider's Continuing Education program that is submitted once every six years.

"It's been a great year for us as we also received re-accreditation of our Continuing Medical Education (CME) program as well as re-approval of our Continuing Education program for doctoral-level psychologists," Pellegrin said. "This is further affirmation that we are on the right track and continue to meet national standards of excellence."

Pellegrin, who is the director of the \$14.3 million Pharm2Pharm project at DKICP that connects pharmacists to patients leaving hospitals with community pharmacists, says she hopes to "sustain and spread the essence of the Pharm2Pharm model" through the CPE program. She credits Sean O'Neill, who joined DKICP last year as continuing education coordinator, for "breathing new life" into the office.

O'Neil comes to DKICP with experience in contracts and grants as well as community involvement. Prior to joining the CPE program, he assisted UH Hilo researchers as a contracts and grants specialist and as a project development/administrative services specialist. Graduating from UH Hilo with a bachelor's degree in geology, he used his education to provide natural hazard outreach to Big Island schools and at community events.

Upcoming CE programs:

* February 3-5, 2016

Annual Psychopharmacology Conference, held at the Outrigger Reef on the Beach Hotel, Waikiki, Honolulu: Eligible for ACPE, CME & APA CE credit, pending approval by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. Topics are pharmacotherapy in the treatment of depression, substance use disorders and Alzheimer's disease.

* Ongoing

An on-line CPE module on "Identifying and Resolving Drug Therapy Problems Across the Continuum of Care" is being developed. The program for pharmacists was adapted from live Pharm2Pharm training.

More information will be posted to <http://pharmacy.uhh.hawaii.edu/ce/> as it is made available. To receive updates on any events, please contact copce@hawaii.edu



Karen Pellegrin (left) and Sean O'Neil

Meet the DKICP Student Ambassadors

By Tracey Niimi, Student Support Specialist, Office of Student Services

DKICP Student Ambassadors are a group of student volunteers who support the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP) by taking on a critical role in a variety of recruitment and retention activities. Some of their activities include conducting open forums and leading campus tours with potential students, providing information to prospective students and their families, hosting informational webinars and online chat rooms for potential students, assisting with DKICP events including orientation, updating DKICP social media accounts, calling potential and matriculated students, and participating in student panels. Through these activities we hope that our ambassadors in return develop their own leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills.

Our DKICP Student Ambassadors are selected after a thorough and very competitive application and interview process. Ambassadors must be able to promote DKICP in a positive manner, have a desire to work with prospective students, their families, DKICP faculty and staff, maintain a minimum grade point average requirement, and have completed his or her first year. Ambassadors commit to one academic year of service.

Class of 2017

Mark Allen Bibera was born in Northern California



and was raised in the East Bay Area. Before attending the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP), he received his B.S. in Biology at the University of California, Irvine. Mark serves on Class of 2017 Student Council as the Bulletin Editor. Additionally, he is an active member in the ALOHA project, the

National Community Pharmacy Association, and the Phi Delta Chi professional fraternity. He finds the small class sizes of DKICP to be the best part of the program, as it fosters camaraderie between students and facilitates a strong professor and student network. When not on campus, it's common to find Mark studying at Starbucks or grabbing a poke bowl by the bay.

Rhea Castro was born in Illinois, but grew up in Temecula, California. Before attending the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, Rhea received her B.S. in Biology at the University of California, Irvine. Rhea is currently active in APhA, The A.L.O.H.A. Project, and the Phi Delta Chi Professional Pharmacy Fraternity. Her favorite part about DKICP is the ability of student pharmacists to make an impact in the community through local health fairs and events. Never did she imagine herself living in Hawai'i, but she couldn't be happier to be able to experience Hawaiian culture and island living. She believes her journey at DKICP is truly the experience of lifetime. Besides DKICP, Rhea also loves spending time with family and friends, coffee, and cooking.



Christopher Diaz was born and raised in Ewa Beach



on the island of O'ahu, and graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with a B.A. in Microbiology. He is currently serving as President for the Delta Iota Chapter of The Rho Chi Society – The Academic Honor Society in Pharmacy, Vice President of the A.L.O.H.A. Project, Pledge Master for the Phi

Delta Chi Professional Pharmacy Fraternity, and is an active member of the Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society. Chris has developed a strong interest in clinical pharmacy and plans to apply for a residency. His favorite things about the DKICP are the numerous opportunities available to get involved with the student body, the community, and the profession. Outside of school, he enjoys playing recreational sports with classmates, video gaming, and spending time with family and friends.

Nicholas Ferreira was born and raised in Ewa Beach on the island of O'ahu. He graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo with a B.A. in Chemistry and a Minor in Biology. He serves as President of Phi Delta Chi, a professional pharmacy fraternity, is an active member in the DKICP Tobacco Prevention Project and is involved with various community outreach programs. In his free time he enjoys playing basketball with fellow pharmacy students, watching sports, going to the gym, and hanging out with friends and family. Nick's favorite thing about the DKICP is the dedication its faculty and students have towards helping the community, as well as the cultural diversity the entire campus has to offer.





Shaun Lasky was raised in the oldest city in the country,

St. Augustine, Florida. He moved to the island of Kaua'i with his wife where he spent some time before moving to the Big Island and enrolling in UH Hilo. Upon completion of his prerequisite courses, he was accepted into the DKICP. Shaun is actively involved in many student organizations on campus. He serves as student council president of the Class of 2017, co chair of the American Pharmacists Association Operation Immunization, serves on the Scholastics Committee of the Phi Delta Chi fraternity, and welcomes new students as an ambassador. Outside of school, Shaun enjoys the outdoors, cooking, golf, spending time with his dogs, and coffee.

Kelsea Mizusawa was born and raised in Mililani on the island of O'ahu. She attended the University of Southern California where she earned her B.A. in biological sciences. She chose to attend the UHH Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy because of the faculty, staff, and students' shared passion for serving the community and commitment to improving health care. Kelsea currently serves as the vice president for Rho Chi Academic Honor Society and the historian for Hawai'i Student Society of Health-Systems Pharmacy. She is also actively involved in APhA, the A.L.O.H.A. Project, the DKICP Tobacco Prevention Project, and Phi Delta Chi Professional Pharmacy Fraternity. On O'ahu, Kelsea interns at Straub Clinic and Hospital's inpatient pharmacy. In her spare time, she enjoys stand-up paddle boarding, snorkeling, reading, and spending time with her family and friends.



Class of 2018

Karen Christian was born in Delaware and moved to Idaho in the sixth grade. She graduated from the University of Idaho with a B.S. in microbiology with minors in both business and psychology. She is part of her Class of 2018 student council as an activity coordinator. Karen is also an active member of NCPA, APhA-ASP, and Phi Delta Chi



Professional Pharmacy Fraternity. Her favorite part about attending the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy is the supportive environment of the whole college, including the different pharmacy classes and the faculty and staff. During her free time she enjoys making day trips to Kona and going to Hapuna Beach.

Matthew Eng was born in California, but was raised in Seattle, Washington. He graduated from the University of Washington and received a B.S. in Biology. Mat is part of the Student Council for the Class of 2018 and is a member of the professional fraternity Phi Delta Chi. In his free time he enjoys going on hikes to explore the island and playing basketball with the



other pharmacy students. What he likes about the DKICP are the friendliness of the staff and students as well as the unique diversity that makes up the class and the local people.

Kelli Goo was born and raised in Hawai'i, on the island of O'ahu. Before attending the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, she earned her B.A. in Biology at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Kelli is an active member of the National Community Pharmacists Association and Phi Delta Chi Professional Pharmacy Fraternity. She is currently Co-chair of the Health Screenings Committee for the DKICP Health Fair, and is involved in various outreach programs such as the American Pharmacists Association Generation Rx and the DKICP Tobacco Prevention Project. Outside of school, Kelli enjoys watching movies, trying out new recipes, and soaking in the beautiful scenery that Hawai'i has to offer. Her favorite things about DKICP are the supportive faculty and staff, the diverse student body, and the variety of ways to positively impact the health of the community.



Jessica Lee was born in Southern California and raised in Anaheim, CA. Before joining the Class of 2018 at The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP), she received a B.S. in Biochemistry/ Chemistry at the University of California, San Diego and worked as a laboratory manager for Professor Michael Sailor and consultant for Afraxis Inc. During her first year, Jessica became an active member of Phi Delta Chi (PDC), where she was given various opportunities to serve the community. She also works as a part-time student research assistant for Dr. Mahavir Chougule. During her spare time, Jessica likes to watch movies, paddle board, swim and spend time with her friends. Her favorite things about DKICP are the classes that emphasize the importance of culture in health care, the faculty, PDC brothers, and friends that constantly motivate her to grow.



Vicky Nguyen was born in Southern California and raised in Arcadia, CA. Prior to attending DKICP, she received a B.S. in Human Biology and a B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, San Diego. Currently, she is an active member of Phi Delta Chi Professional Pharmacy fraternity and APhA-ASP. Her favorite things about DKICP include its passionate commitment towards community outreach and its visionary mission towards advancing health care and the field of pharmacy. In her free time, Vicky enjoys cooking, traveling, binge-watching Netflix shows, and spending time with family and friends



Summer workshop focuses on DNA analysis, pharmacogenetics and bioinformatics

Faculty from the University of Minnesota presented a workshop on campus at DKICP July 18-22, with sites from O'ahu and Kaua'i connected via video conferencing. The presenters for this workshop were: Dr. Kenny Beckman, Director, Biomedical Genomics; Dr. Myron Gross, Director, Molecular Epidemiology and Biomarker Laboratory; Dr.

Christine Henzler, Bioinformatics Analyst, Minnesota Supercomputing Institute; Dr. Pamala Jacobson, Professor, Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology, College of Pharmacy; Dr. Nathan Penkratz, Assistant Professor; Dr. Sophia Yohe, MD, Assistant Professor, Clinical and Hemato Pathology. Topics included: Basic DNA Analysis Methodology, Sequencing DNA, Experimental Design and Basic Statistics, Genotyping DNA, DNA Analysis, Clinical Genetics, Bioinformatics and Pharmacogenetics.



Faculty Seminar Series



Dr. Dirk Geerts

Dr. Dirk Geerts presented a seminar entitled "Next-generation sequencing in pediatric T-ALL: multiple mechanisms for chemoresistance" on DKICP campus June 17. Dr. Geerts is senior scientist with the Department of Pediatric Oncology and Hematology at Sophia's Children Hospital located at Erasmus University Medical Center in Rotterdam, in the Netherlands.

Dr. Jian-Ying Wang

Dr. Jian-Ying Wang, M.D., Ph.D., presented a seminar entitled "RNA-binding Proteins and MicroRNAs in Gut Epithelial Homeostasis and Diseases" on DKICP campus on August 4. Dr. Wang is a professor in surgery from the University of Maryland Medical School in Baltimore, and also is an investigator of Medical Research Service, US Department of Veterans Affairs.



Dr. Wang (left) with DKICP Dr. Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange



Dr. Arnold (left) with DKICP Dr. Mahavir Chuogule

Dr. Robert D. Arnold

Dr. Robert D. Arnold presented a seminar entitled "Development of SPLA2-targeted nanomedicines for treatment of cancer" on DKICP campus August 27. Dr. Arnold is associate professor with the Department of Drug Discovery & Development at Harrison School of Pharmacy, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama.



STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

APhA Annual Meeting 2015

By Leilani Isozaki, Class of 2016, Past APhA-ASP Chapter President

The American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting and Exposition is one of the most prominent events in the field of pharmacy that encompasses student pharmacists and pharmacists from across the nation. At the annual event at the San Diego Convention Center from March 27-30, there was comprehensive programming, captivating speakers, professional networking opportunities, and specific events catered to student pharmacists. Students attended such events including workshops on provider status, leadership training series workshops, operation and officer workshops, and residency workshops.

One of the main themes at this year's annual meeting was the push for provider status. At the "Future in Provider Status" workshop, first year student pharmacist Tiffany Alberg stated that, "this workshop was a great way for me to learn about what the bills are, why it is important for them to pass, and what student pharmacists and I could do to help pass this bill." The enthusiasm and knowledge generated from such events went on to help fuel the student run effort back in Hawai'i with three out of the four congressmen and women signed on to the S. 314 and H.R. 592 provider status bills as of September of this year.

Workshops on improving patient care operations are one of the major components of the annual meeting. At the Generation Rx Workshop, Generation Rx Co-Chair, Leanne Drusen, learned what other chapters



around the nation do to get the word out about stopping prescription drug abuse including ideas on creating billboards and attaining funding for events. American Pharmacists Association - Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) member and president-elect, Matt Chen attended the Operation Diabetes Workshop held by National Member-at-Large, Brian Donahue, who "discussed the primary goals of the Operation and allowed chapters to share their unique experiences on how they run their program." Per Matt, "furthermore, Donahue provided several scenarios in which we were able to discuss within our individual tables how the cases would be handled at our chapters." Vice President of Communication, Mari Cid, offered advice to her peers to "participate in workshops having to do with your position so you can pass down knowledge or bring new ideas to the chapter."

One of the most popular events for the students at the annual meeting was the "Chapter Leadership Workshop" in which Lynnett Tran and Generation Rx Co-Chair, Ryan Shiroma, learned that "leadership is an activity, not a

role." Vice President of Finance, Joyce Tapuro, learned that leadership and communication are about "intention, motivation, and impact."

Early on during the conference, the DKICP and APhA-ASP Hawai'i chapter were recognized during the APhA-ASP Opening General Session during the Oath of a Pharmacist and Operation Heart presentations, in which videos and photographs of student pharmacists from the DKICP were featured including of past APhA-ASP Operation Heart Co-Chair and fourth-year student pharmacist, Lindsey Takara. After the session, from an effort coordinated by the students and DKICP alumni and faculty, the student pharmacists from the DKICP were able to present the incoming APhA President, Dr. Lawrence Brown, a lei of appreciation and congratulations on the main stage. In addition, through an effort coordinated with former DKICP professor and director of community relations Dr. Ronald Taniguchi, students had the opportunity to attend a dinner to meet with DKICP alumni and faculty in the area including with Associate Dean Edward Fisher, Professor Supakit Wongwiwatthananut, and recent

graduates Dr. Matt Sasaki (class of 2013), Dr. Linh Lieu (class of 2012), and Dr. Christine Nguyen (class of 2013).

During the House of Delegates sessions, experienced member and Chapter Delegate, Anissa Marzuki, served a vital role in representing the DKICP APhA student chapter and discussing key issues and topics in pharmacy.

In the National Patient Counseling Competition where students participate

in a filmed simulated medication counseling session with a patient, Chapter President Leilani Isozaki competed to represent the DKICP chapter.

The results of participation in these conferences have been observed on campus with advances to advocacy and policy, meeting Hawai'i's state Senators to talk about pharmacy and legislature, the expansion of our chapter with additional Patient Care Operations

such as Operation Immunization, Operation Diabetes, and Generation Rx, as well as APhA programs such as the New Practitioner Mentoring Program and the Student Outreach Visit from nationals. On behalf of the APhA-ASP Hawai'i Chapter, we would like to thank the DKICP for its continual support of student attendance at such meetings that help to develop and enrich our student pharmacists and the community they reach.

Kappa Psi gears up for new year

By Kevin Meno, Class of 2017

For Kappa Psi brothers, the ending of summer may be a bittersweet feeling. It signals the end to all the free time for hiking, beach going, and adventuring. Summer was a period of rejuvenation and enjoying the company of fellow brothers. A few brothers in fact, enjoyed the company of brothers from across the nation when they attended the national conference for Kappa Psi in Colorado this summer. It was a great opportunity to network and really experience the influence the organization has on a national level.

As fall arrives it brings with it new endeavors. For Kappa Psi, planning future community service events, fundraising, and the recruitment of new brothers are just a few of the endeavors to look forward to. Kappa Psi looks onward to maintaining a professional and keen focused organization during

the new 2015-2016 academic year.

Currently Kappa Psi is in the midst of their rush process for selecting new potential members of the fraternity. Events such as date night, where candidates meet and share interests with the current brothers, or a potluck at Coconut Island, all go towards the selection of future professionals of Kappa Psi. Rush is a very exciting time and it's only the first few weeks of the semester.

For the rest of the fall semester Kappa Psi looks forward to carrying out their pledge process and also holding various community service events. In the previous school year,



the fraternity has volunteered at Hope Services Hawaii, which specializes in outreach programs. Kappa Psi has also promoted registration of bone marrow donors, participated in community health education, and even did whale watching and documentation around the island.

The new semester marks a time to rev up those engines and to get back to performing at 100%. Kappa Psi has their eyes on the future and seeks to accomplish all their goals they see in the distance. One for all, and all for one.

Brothers eager to promote the fraternity at the organization fair.

During "date night" potential members exchange thoughts and questions with the current brothers.



DKICP's Phi Delta Chi ranks top 10 nationally again

By Jairus Mahoe, Class of 2016

"Coming in at seventh place, and probably our favorite chapter to visit, Gamma Theta from the University of Hawai'i!"

Amy Valdez, the recent national Grand Past President of Phi Delta Chi, announced the standings for all chapters nationwide in a banquet hall with over 500 attendees. These pharmacists and student pharmacists alike, in crisp suits and long flowing evening dresses, enjoyed a night of fine dining and prestigious awards, capping off the conference known as Grand Council. After several days of character-building workshops, executive board meetings, and protocol-changing caucuses, it was a night of celebration for the completion of another successful year.

For the third consecutive year, the Gamma Theta chapter of Phi Delta Chi (PDC) at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy has placed in the top ten nationwide. Placing seventh overall, Gamma Theta has been continually recognized as a top performer at the national level. The rankings are determined through a compilation of a chapter's performance in several categories: service, leadership, scholarship, publication, and brotherhood. Gamma Theta's strong execution in each of these categories gains national recognition each year, and this year is no exception. Gamma Theta received third place for their performance in "Brotherhood."

"We, the Phi Delta Chi Brothers Gamma Theta, hold the ideals of Brotherhood in a high place," says Madeline Fu, Class of 2017, who has served as the Brotherhood Committee Chair for the 2014-2015 term. "The word 'brother' is more than just a title we are given... [it is] a chance to make lifelong relationships..." It is a bond, a friendship for a lifetime that involves commitment, sacrifice, growth, happiness, and fulfillment. Those who are unfamiliar with the sense of



Dr. Bryan Huynh (Class of 2015), Caleb Malinski (Class of 2017), Dr. Matthew Sasaki (Class of 2013), PDC National Grand Past President Ralph Saroyan, Diana Doan (Class of 2018), Jairus Mahoe (Class of 2016), Dr. Jimmy Stevens (Class of 2014)

comradery shared within Phi Delta Chi (PDC), alum Dr. Janine Masri, 2013-2014 PDC President, said it best when asked what brotherhood meant to her, "it ignites within me an untiring passion to do good for those I serve."

In the past year alone, Gamma Theta has constructed even more creative ways to build friendships and encourage self-improvement. The BroMazing Race, a brainchild of Melissa Iida, Class of 2016, was a huge success, penning teams of PDC brothers in an all-day race of events and games for the prestige of first place. Dubbed "the Beauty and the Beasts," brothers Kasia Quintal, Lance Cabanting, and Micah Kim Han, Class of 2016, created a month-long fitness challenge known as "No Excuse November" where members created fitness goals for themselves and encouraged others through social media. Loc Ngo and Steven Sedenio, Class of 2017, constructed the yearlong Brody, a brother-buddy system that pairs together two random members each month as a way to promote new friendships and memories. From the semester-long Phi-Wizard Tournament to the joint collaboration of PDC-KY Paintball, to the annual Secret Santa celebration, there have been numerous events where PDC has encompassed the essence of brotherhood.

As another scholastic year begins, new experiences will ensue. Veteran members that have served for the previous four years are no longer on campus; yet fresh, eager faces are joining the organization, contributing more to the ever-growing bonds between members. These new members will learn the values of the organization, including its brotherhood. It is Phi Delta Chi's mission to develop leaders to advance the profession of pharmacy, through the promotion of scholastic, professional and social growth. The brotherhood witnessed within the colleagues of Phi Delta Chi at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy is one-of-a-kind and is national ranked because in Hawai'i, brotherhood is family.



From left: Jairus Mahoe (Class of 2016), Caleb Malinski (Class of 2017), Anissa Marzuki (Class of 2016), Jamie Mizusawa (Class of 2016), Diana Doan (Class of 2018), Dr. Matthew Sasaki (Class of 2013), Dr. Bryan Huynh (Class of 2015), Dr. Christopher Ayson (Class of 2013)

Faculty Briefs

Elizabeth

Ackerman, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, published a study entitled "Development of a Virtual Pharmacy Resident Conference"



in the peer-reviewed journal *Federal Practitioner* with co-authors Kuester



ML and Triboletti MD.

Dr. Ackerman also presented a research poster with **Ms.**

Patricia Jusczak, clinical coordinator,

Department of Pharmacy Practice and

Dr. Paula Zeszotarski, assessment coordinator from the Division of Academic Affairs, entitled "Meeting the challenges of building skills and community in a rural College of Pharmacy." The research was presented at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Annual Meeting, July 11-15 in National Harbor, Maryland (Washington D.C. area).



Mahavir Chougule, associate professor,

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has two articles in press: 1)

"Recent developments in active tumor

targeted multifunctional nanoparticles for combination chemotherapy in cancer treatment and imaging" with co-author DKICP PhD candidate Micah Glasgow in the *Journal of Biomedical Nanotechnology*. 2) "Progress in topical siRNA delivery approaches for skin disorders" with co-authors Aldawsari M and Babu JR. in *Current Pharmaceutical Design*. Dr. Chougule also served as a grant reviewer for National Institute for General Medical Sciences IDeA- funded

Wyoming IDeA Networks for Biomedical Research Excellence program.

Tamara Kondratyuk

laboratory manager and assistant specialist, Research Laboratory, was an author on three papers that were published: **1)**



"A resveratrol analogue promotes ERKMAPK-dependent Stat3 serine and tyrosine phosphorylation alterations and antitumor effects *in vitro* against human tumor cells" with co-authors Chelsky, Z.L., Yue, P., Pezzuto, J.M., Cushman, M. and Turkson, J. in the *Journal of Molecular Pharmacology*. 2) "Synthesis, molecular docking and anticancer studies of peptides and iso-peptides" with co-authors Jabeen, F., Panda, S.S., Park, E.J., Pezzuto, J.M., Ihsan-UL-Haq, Hall, C.D., Katritzky, A.R. in *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters*. 3) "Ferrocene incorporated selenoureas as anticancer agents" with co-authors Hussain, R.A., Badshah, A., Pezzuto, J.M., Ahmed, N., Park, E.J. in the *Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology*.

Judi Steinman

MSCP program coordinator and instructor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, gave a presentation called "Hawai'i MSCP Training and Legislative Efforts for Prescriptive Authority - 2015" at the American Psychological Association (APA) annual convention August 6-9 in Toronto. Dr. Steinman also published an article in the APA's Division 55 newsletter, *The Tablet*, entitled "Legislative Update with Aloha 2015" coauthored with Dr Jill Gray, Director of Training, I Ola Lāhui, Inc. She also spoke with the Kaua'i branch of the Hawai'i Psychological Association in August about the Master's in Clinical Psychopharmacology (MSCP) training. Also in August, Dr.



Steinman was the event organizer for the first Laupahoehoe Health and Safety Fair held at Laupahoehoe Community Public Charter School on August 29, sponsored by the charter school and the Hilo Hamakua Community Development Corporation.

Russell Molyneux

affiliate faculty, participated in "ACS on Campus" in Brazil, an American Chemical Society outreach program (acsoncampus.



acs.org/) designed to help students, post-docs and faculty advance their careers. The ACS on Campus team visited three universities in Southern Brazil: Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) – Porto Alegre; Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (UFSC) – Florianopolis; and Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP) – Campinas. Modules were presented on the publishing process, networking and communicating science, and research resources and ethics. Dr. Molyneux gave a presentation at all three locations entitled: "Write It, Speak It: Effective Communications, the Path to Publication and How to Talk About Your Research."

Karen Pellegrin

director of strategic planning/continuing education, had an article entitled "Using ICD codes to track medication-related hospitalizations among older adults" accepted for publication in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society (JAGS)*. Co-authors are Miyamura JB, Taniguchi R, Ciarleglio AE, Barbato A, and Holuby RS. Dr. Pellegrin also was an invited presenter at the "innovations in Frontier Health" meeting in Bozeman Montana on July 10.



FACULTY & STAFF



Recent Faculty Grants

Dr. Mahavir Chougule received funding from UH Hilo's Research Council for his Seed Grant Proposal entitled "Development of an aerosolized inhalable nanocarrier system for asthma management." According to Dr. Chougule: The goal is to formulate the inhalable siRNA loaded nanocarriers and evaluate their efficacy against asthma.

Dr. Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was awarded the Victoria S. and Bradley L. Geist Foundation Grant from the Hawaii Community Foundation, which covers student stipends and about 50 percent salary for a research assistant to work with the students on a research project. This project is associated with the National Science Foundation Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (NSF IUSE) grant, which also provided a stipend for a student in a small research project. Dr. Koomoa-Lange also received a University of Hawai'i Seed Money Grant that will pay for approximately 25 percent salary for a research assistant.



UH Hilo honors DKICP faculty at annual fall welcome

Several DKICP faculty were among those honored at the annual fall welcome, sponsored by Chancellor Donald Straney and held on campus in Ho'oulu Terrace (UCB 127) on September 10.

Attending were (from left): Dr. Ingo Koomoa-Lange, who became an Instructor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Blaine Bautista, who is an information technology specialist in the Division of Academic Affairs; Dr. Linda Connelly, who received tenure and promotion to associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Dr. Mahavir Chougule, who received tenure and promotion to associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Dr. Carolyn Ma, who was appointed interim dean; Dr. Paula Zeszotarski, assessment coordinator in the Division of Academic Affairs; Dr. Lara Gomez, who received tenure and promotion to associate specialist; and Sean O'Neill, who is the continuing education coordinator.

Not pictured but new appointments at DKICP this fall are: George Karvas, instructor, Department of Pharmacy Practice; Michelle Kim, junior specialist, Department of Pharmacy Practice; Steven Nishimoto, junior specialist, Pharm2Pharm; Wesley Sumida, associate specialist, Department of Pharmacy Practice; Camlyn Masuda, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice; Allen Shih, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice; Judith Steinman, instructor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Stefano Quarta, research support (Jarvi lab); M Kathleen Howe, research support (Jarvi lab) and Reid Kubo, IT specialist, Division of Academic Affairs.

Welcome and congratulations to all.

(Photo by Siobhan Cogan, University Relations-Marketing)

Rotation Report

PharMerica team on Mau'i offers unique learning environment

By Lance Cabanting, Class of 2016



Lance Cabanting, DJ Oviedo, Rhoda Gomes, Mary-Jo Keefe, Arlene Kuaana, Mark Brown

Heading into your first fourth-year rotation is an anxious and stressful time; no one knows what to expect... Am I ready? Do I have the tools to succeed in this rotation? Luckily for me, Pharmacy Manager Mark Brown and the PharMerica team made me feel at home from day one.

Located in Central Wailuku, PharMerica is a long-term care pharmacy that provides services to several assisted living facilities on the island of Mau'i. This includes both locations of Hale Makua in Wailuku and Kahului, Roselani Place, Kula Hospital, and several other privately owned facilities.

The workflow is similar to that of retail. You have your data entry, prescription filling, and finally, prescription confirmation by the pharmacist. The unique thing about this rotation is that you don't deal with any customers whatsoever. Instead of a "promised wait time," as in retail, we had

several deadlines throughout the day where a deliveryman would pick up the prescriptions and deliver them to their assigned locations.

As this was my first rotation, Mark and his team slowly eased me into their system so that I could gradually become familiar with how things worked. Unlike retail in which the drugs are placed in vials, these drugs are individually placed in blister packs. You have to assemble each pack and use heat to seal them, pizza style. I was also responsible for inventory on the controls and making sure the books were all evened out.

Another thing I enjoyed was compounding a variety of creams and ointments. Since this type of compounding is not frequently offered in retail pharmacies, this was a great opportunity to brush up on my compounding skills. I was also able to make simple items like Dakin's Solution, which is used for wound care.

While working in a pharmacy that services long-term care residents, I became more familiar with health conditions and disease states that you'd expect to see in this population. I handled a variety of antidepressants, dementia and Parkinson's disease medications, as well as processed a fair amount of pain management drugs. There were also several occasions throughout my rotation when a doctor asked for a treatment recommendation. I was then able to use my drug information skills to assist the team.

Overall, I thought that this was a wonderful experience for my first rotation. Mark Brown and the whole PharMerica team was definitely a pleasure to work with. I'd recommend this rotation to any student thinking of getting into long-term care as you get to see a side of a pharmacy that not a lot of students get to see.

Preceptor Focus:

Mark Brown, Pharmacy Operations Manager, PharMerica/Wailuku

Mark Brown was born on Kaua'i and grew up on the island of Mau'i. He received his bachelor's degree in pharmacy from the University of Toledo in 1996 and later received his MBA from the University of Phoenix in 2003. He also served as a member of the Hawai'i State Board of Pharmacy for eight years, the last three of which he was chairman.

Upon completion of pharmacy school, Mark returned back to Maui to spearhead the opening of the pharmacy in Hale Makua Kahului, a nursing home facility that was expanding at the time. Currently he is the pharmacy operations manager and pharmacy consultant for PharMerica/Wailuku, where he provides pharmacy services for several nursing homes, an assisted living facility and care homes totaling over 500 beds. He enjoys the long-term care setting, where he works with physicians, nurse practitioners and other disciplines assessing the different patient

parameters impacting medication use in the elderly.

Mark has been a member of Hawai'i DMAT (disaster medical assistance team) since 1996. Most recently he was deployed in May with the team to Guam prior to landfall of Typhoon Dolphin. In November of 2012 he was deployed to New York City in support of Hurricane Sandy. In 2011 he was honored as the teams' distinguished member of the year because of his work during APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation-Economic Leaders) on O'ahu.

As a preceptor, Mark enjoys the challenge of engaging the student to think critically. He includes discussion topics primarily related to geriatrics to facilitate their learning experience. In addition, he quizzes them throughout the day on issues that occur during the pharmacy's workflow. He not only precepts UHH DKICP students, but also pharmacy students from Ohio Northern University and Northeast Ohio Medical University.



Writing contest offers students chance to be published

Students, post docs and residents have a chance to win one of three cash prizes in the amount of \$500 in a writing contest for original works, sponsored by the Hawai'i Journal of Medicine and Public Health (HJM&PH).

The contest is open to undergraduates, graduate students (masters- and doctoral-level students), and postdoctoral fellows and residents in public health, medical, nursing, pharmacy, and dental schools or programs.

Winners will have their photographs featured along with their works in a future issue of HJM&PH.

Submission deadline is Dec. 7. For more information, see www.hjmph.org/contest.

Alumni Report:

Newlyweds give Saipan “the best”

By Josh Wise and Jaymie Kanda

Josh and I met during our first year of pharmacy school at the University of Hawai'i Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy in 2010. While we did not immediately realize how much of an impact the other would have in one another's lives, our friends seemed to just know. What started out as tiny smiles as we passed one another, slowly progressed to hanging out together with mutual friends, to becoming committed to a future together. At the beginning of our fourth year, we became engaged and that is when the big questions came to mind: After graduation, are we staying in Hawai'i since it has been our home all our lives? Where are we going to work: Hawai'i, California, or Saipan? How do we see the start of our new life together?

A week after graduation in 2014, we were married with many of our pharmacy family in attendance for the celebration. Our newlywed life began with the packing up our Mililani apartment and taking an eight-hour flight to Saipan, MP. Josh is the pharmacy manager for the two

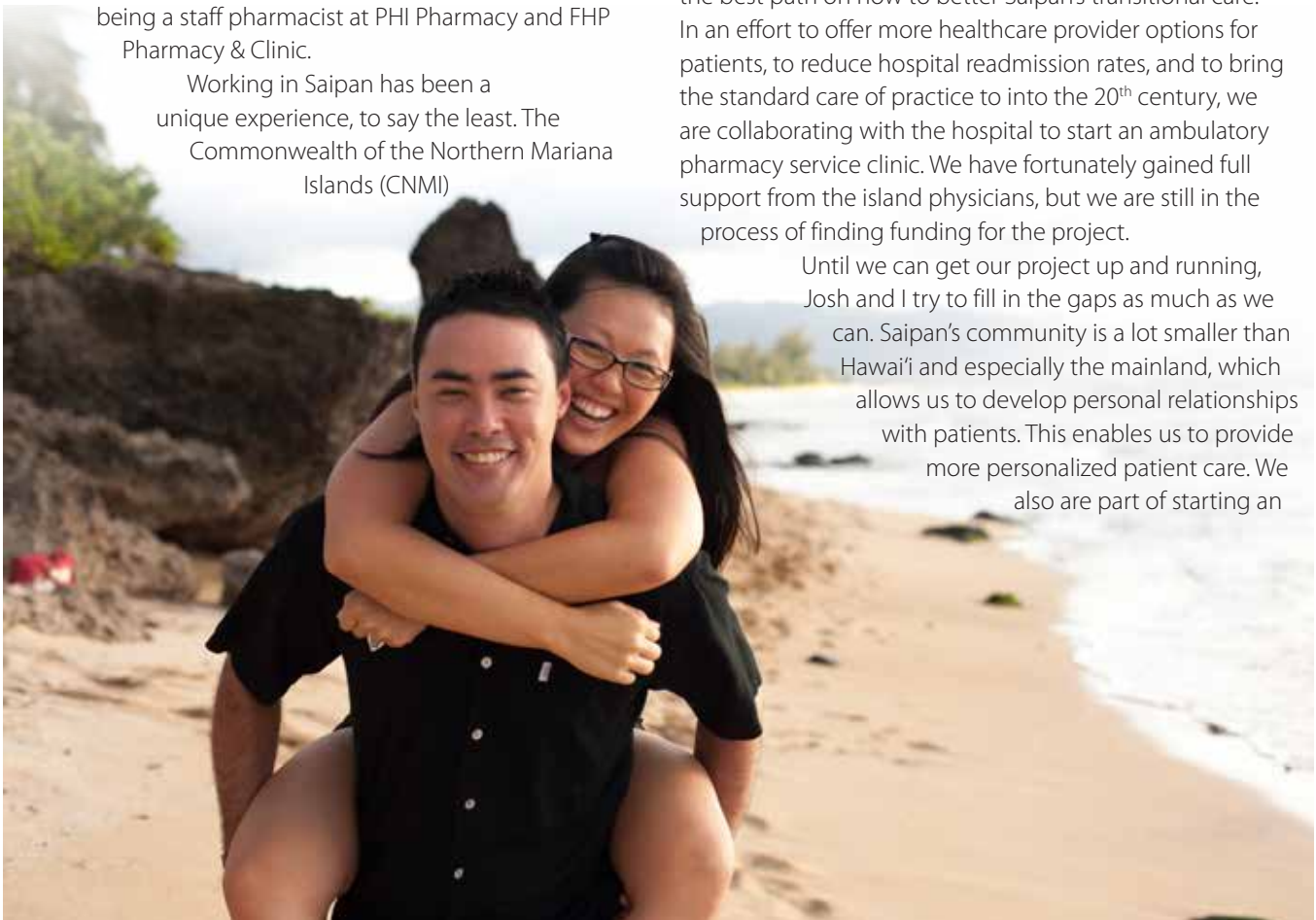
PHI Pharmacy stores, and I split my time between being a staff pharmacist at PHI Pharmacy and FHP Pharmacy & Clinic.

Working in Saipan has been a unique experience, to say the least. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)



healthcare system is struggling to overcome current and future obstacles, such as the challenge of aligning healthcare coverage with access to care, the increasing burden of chronic care needs, and primary care provider shortages. As a pharmacist, one plays a vital role in Saipan's healthcare due to an on-going shortage of healthcare providers and essential resources. Additionally, many patients come to the pharmacy in search of over-the-counter counseling and products because they are unable to afford medical insurance. We meet with the local hospital administrators twice a month to determine the best path on how to better Saipan's transitional care. In an effort to offer more healthcare provider options for patients, to reduce hospital readmission rates, and to bring the standard care of practice to into the 20th century, we are collaborating with the hospital to start an ambulatory pharmacy service clinic. We have fortunately gained full support from the island physicians, but we are still in the process of finding funding for the project.

Until we can get our project up and running, Josh and I try to fill in the gaps as much as we can. Saipan's community is a lot smaller than Hawai'i and especially the mainland, which allows us to develop personal relationships with patients. This enables us to provide more personalized patient care. We also are part of starting an



organization that focuses on improving the health of the CNMI community. The Saipan Diabetes Coalition consists of volunteer healthcare providers that are dedicated to the prevention and reduction of diabetes and its complications in the Saipan community. We contribute by ensuring our patients are on appropriate and optimal doses, and are fully educated on all their medications (not just those for diabetes).

It has been almost a year since our very first day in Saipan. We have gone through the bad, the good, and the quirky here on this little island we now call home. There are those periods where we certainly miss our family & friends, the abundance of grocery stores at our disposal, fast Internet, “cheaper” gas, and minimal power outages. Then, there are those weird moments where we feel like we took a time machine back to Hawai‘i 30 years ago to those years of carbon copies, letters and not email, using geographical markers for directions and not street signs, no smart phones, and dial up Internet.

For some of these reasons, Josh and I jokingly question our decision of choosing Saipan; but we know, that deep down, the move was the right choice for us. Saipan has treated us well and we have made many ever-lasting friendships & memories. Since our first day here, Josh and I have met some of the nicest and most welcoming people. We love our jobs, we love the fact that we are able to go the beach every other day, and we love having the luxury to travel. This past year, we visited Palau and Japan; and have plans in motion to visit Japan (we love Japan!), Taiwan, Bali, Korea, Australia, and New Zealand.

Josh and I would not be where we are now or have even met, if it were not for the College. We are very thankful for our education for we were well prepared as we started our careers, and have already made an impact in the Saipan community in our early months as pharmacists. Josh and I will continue to follow Dean Pezzuto’s wise words: think big, do good, help people, and give Saipan the best we have.

Stay in Touch

Note to all DKICP alumni. Please send updates to pharmacy@hawaii.edu