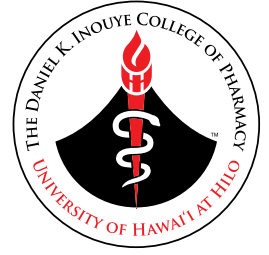


*One who mixes ingredients, drugs or medications: a pharmacist*

# Kāwili Lā'au

The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo  
Spring 2017 • Volume 9, Issue 3



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  

---

HILO



## BOOTCAMP

*Mahalo to our supporter Walter Kam*

# Dean's Message



When Aristotle remarked, “he who cannot be a good follower cannot be a good leader” he could’ve been talking about our College of Pharmacy. There are so many leaders here, I marvel how well they coexist, and I’m convinced it’s because they know when to step back and listen.

One of our early leaders in pharmacy practice in Hawai‘i, Walter Kam, was chief pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente for a time. When I asked him how he came to choose pharmacy as a career, he described how he liked to “make things,” referring to pharmaceutical compounding, certainly the backbone of my profession. Truly an art, our ability to compound an elegantly pharmaceutical product is a skill that sets us apart from all other health professions, and its origins date back centuries. Mr Kam’s generous gift helps our students learn about dosage forms that early chemists and apothecaries would never have imagined. Our college’s mission is to teach our students the most cutting edge and innovative pharmaceutical skills and knowledge, and Mr. Kam’s generous gift that helped to fund the compounding bootcamp is priceless.

Other examples of leadership in our college are the faculty members conducting research in the laboratories. Dr. Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange demonstrates this by leading and mentoring young Hawaiian scientists, and our story about her lab shows her essential contribution to the future of combatting a rare pediatric cancer. In another story, members of pharmaceutical sciences present their valuable and varied research, showing their abilities to identify cutting-edge areas of medicine in the constant effort to improve health care.

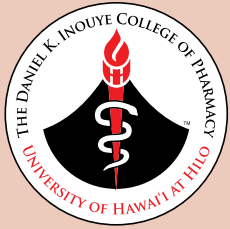
Students exhibit leadership skills daily, but this issue highlights the formal recognition of that skill through stories about their annual initiations and celebrations. Many of those students also found success in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists residency match program, and will go on to work as residents at health care facilities throughout the nation. Many more budding pharmacists who will graduate this year are well on their way to successful careers with prospective job placements. This is an exciting time for them, and we share in their joy.

One might ask how do I, as Dean of this amazing assortment of leaders, do my own job of leading? The answer is simple. I step back and listen.

Mahalo Nui Loa

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Ma". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Carolyn Ma  
Dean



## Kāwili Lā'au

Spring, 2017  
Volume 9, Issue 3

### Administration

**Carolyn Ma**

Dean

**Supakit Wonwiwatthananukit**

Interim Associate Dean  
for Academic Affairs

**Linda Connelly**

Chair, Pharmaceutical  
Sciences

**Roy Goo**

Chair, Pharmacy Practice

**Karen Pellegrin**

Director, Strategic Planning  
and Continuing Education

**Daryl Masanda**

Director, Student Services

**Lara Gomez**

Director, Clinical Education

**Kāwili Lā'au Editor**

Maggie Morris

### Graphic Production

UH Hilo Graphic Services

### Published by the College of Pharmacy

University of Hawai'i at Hilo  
200 W. Kāwili St. Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Phone: 808-933-2909

Fax: 808-933-2974

<http://pharmacy.uhh.hawaii.edu>

[Pharmacy@hawaii.edu](mailto:Pharmacy@hawaii.edu)

Kāwili Lā'au is the magazine for the only  
College of Pharmacy in the Pacific region,  
the University of Hawai'i at Hilo



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®  
**HILO**

## Contents

<b>Compounding Bootcamp shows another side of pharmacists</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>In the lab with Dr. Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Students score coveted residency placements</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Director of Cancer Center learns about DKICP research</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Thai university signs MOU with UH Hilo</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Leadership reigns in initiation ceremonies</b>	
<b>Phi Lambda Sigma</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Rho Chi</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Hawai'i State Rep tours DKICP</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Naplex course helps fourth-year students prepare</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Walgreens continues funding for diversity, scholarships</b>	<b>18</b>
<b><u>Regular Features</u></b>	
<b>Student Organizations</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Faculty Briefs</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Rotation Reports</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Alumni Update</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Champion of Pharmacy</b>	<b>31</b>

On the Cover: Compounding bootcamps give students exposure to another side of pharmacy. Insert: Donations from retired pharmacist Walter Kam made it possible to offset each student's registration fee for this important learning opportunity. (Photo by Kaylee Hoang, Class of 2019)



## Fifth annual Compounding Boot Camp teaches personalization

***A generous donation from DKICP supporter and retired pharmacist Walter Kam of O'ahu made it possible to offset each student's registration fee for this important learning opportunity.***

*By Lam Le (Class of 2018)*

This year marks the fifth annual Professional Compounding Centers of America (PCCA) Remote Compounding Boot Camp at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP). The National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Hawai'i student chapter presented the boot camp January 28 -29.

PCCA is a nationally recognized compounding pharmacy company in the United States that offers this introductory course on contemporary compounding. The NCPA Hawai'i Student Chapter was delighted to have two returning representatives from PCCA as instructors for this course: Dr. Bindhu Batra and Dr. Madison Peach. The two full days consisted of lecture and hands-on laboratory work that provides a basic understanding of the skills, tools and equipment used in contemporary compounding.

This spring semester, 25 student pharmacists embarked

on an intensive journey to learn more about the field of compounding pharmacy through lectures, hands-on laboratory experience, real-life applications, patient cases, patient counseling, and were given insight to a career path in this niche field of pharmacy.

Students completed 11 dosage forms that they were able to take home with them, such as lollipops, lip balms, troches, transdermal delivery systems, and more. In addition, after completing the course, students received a certificate of completion for this introductory compounding course, which makes them eligible for additional future advance compounding courses provided by PCCA.

Student pharmacists learned to personalize their compounds from the dose, flavor, dosage form, and excipients to fit the needs of the specific patient.

"Pharmacy is moving in the direction of individualized patient care," observed Jared Toba (Class of 2020). "This experience is important to a modern pharmacist because it allows pharmacists to learn about designing medications in certain dosages and dosage forms based on a patient's specific needs."

Students were given a chance to network with these compounding pharmacy professionals from the institute of PCCA, who are dedicated to educate and inspire students to a career path in compounding pharmacy, which in turn develops high-quality and well-rounded student pharmacists at DKICP.

NCPA and its participants would like to give a special thank you to Walter Kam for helping student pharmacists with funds and giving us the opportunity to participate in this





year's booth camp. Many students expressed their gratitude for having this opportunity here at DKICP without having to travel far.

"Participation at the PCCA Compounding Boot Camp was beneficial and a positive experience. In just two days we were able to learn about many different dosage forms and achieved a deeper insight to compounding pharmacies and their roles in our communities," said Karen Christian (Class of 2018).

The PCCA Compounding Boot Camp is a great opportunity for student pharmacists to expand their outlook on pharmacy in terms of practice and future career path. NCPA and PCCA continue to build a great working relationship and hope to continue the compounding course for future student pharmacists. (Photos by Kaylee Hoang, Class of 2019)



**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

An article in the Winter Kawili La'au on page 22 about Walter Kam misstated some information about his background. Mr. Kam graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri and received his pharmacy education at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy. After working several years at the Veterans Administration Hospital in St. Louis, he returned to Honolulu to start a career of 30 years with the Kaiser-Permanente organization, which included a term as chief pharmacist. We apologize for the inaccuracy.

# Koomoa-Lange's lab blends culture with science

Dr. Dana-Lynn T. Koomoa-Lange doesn't like to talk about herself. She would rather people know about the students she mentors and how the community benefits from their hard work and commitment. But it is her commitment, to the high school, undergraduate, and graduate Native Hawaiian students in her lab, and to science and discovery, that makes her a force to reckon with.

She was the first faculty member at UH Hilo and the first Native Hawaiian in the entire UH System to receive a career development grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in 2012. The prestigious K-01 award is given to a select group of researchers to promote diversity under the guidance of a mentor, who was former Dean John Pezzuto. Her work elucidating the mechanisms that promote the progression of neuroblastoma, a rare form of pediatric cancer, has garnered

other nationally funded grants and recognition among her peers.

In addition to being an associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at DKICP, Dr. Koomoa-Lange is a full member of the Cancer Biology Program at the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center.

After graduating from McKinley High School on O'ahu, she traveled to San Diego to earn her bachelor's degree in cell and molecular biology from San Diego State University. She received her Ph.D. in molecular pharmacology, physiology and biotechnology from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island and conducted postdoctoral training in biophysics at the The Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu as well as in cancer biology at the Cancer Center.

Here, in her own words, is a brief introduction to her work and what drives her:

## How would you describe yourself as a researcher?

I'm a physiologist. I am intrigued by the complexities of cellular physiology, organ systems and organismal physiology. Understanding human physiology at all levels is key to elucidating the molecular basis and pathology of human diseases.

## What drew you to this line of study?

As a Native Hawaiian woman growing up in Hawai'i, I was always fascinated by nature and how the cultures and traditions of indigenous people allowed them to live in harmony with the rest of the environment. The Native Hawaiian perspective of health and wellbeing embodies the concept of balancing the forces within and around you. We view things holistically.

"Nā honua maui ola" is a native Hawaiian philosophy that encompasses the understanding that health (maui



(From left:) Italo Espinoza-Fueza, Laura Espana-Serrano, Micah Glasgow, Dana Koomoa-Lange, Ingo Koomoa-Lange, Nathan Kanoa Sunada

ola) is connected and central to three core elements of the human experience, the piko:ī (spiritual connection), ʻō (inherited connection), and ʻā (the creative/procreative connection). These piko connections are experienced over an individual's lifespan. The connection between the three piko provide a foundation based on the knowledge of the past, which provides stability for the present, and allows growth and improvement for future generations. These piko connections operate within three honua (environments) that influences our maui ola – family, community and global/universal. Disruption of any one of the piko connections within any of the three honua may lead to imbalances that affect the maui ola.

The native Hawaiian perspective of maui ola is very similar to physiology. Cell physiology is maintained by the function of key biomolecules, organ system physiology is maintained by the physiological function of specialized cells, and organismal or human physiology is maintained by the proper functioning of each organ system working in concert. Alterations at any level will lead to compensatory mechanisms being activated. However, prolonged existence in this altered state puts undue pressure on the physiological function of cells of other organ systems and eventually can lead to the development of a pathological disease state.

I enjoy approaching research with a physiological approach because it is similar to the Hawaiian perspective of maui ola. I also use this approach in my indigenous research courses.

**Briefly describe your current research (include funding).**

Currently, I have four main research projects in my laboratory.

The first project focuses on elucidating MYCN mediated calcium and magnesium signaling that promotes Neuroblastoma progression, and identifying the molecular components that regulate these calcium and magnesium signaling pathways. The transient receptor potential melastatin family member 7 (TRPM7), store-operated calcium



**Visiting Scholar**

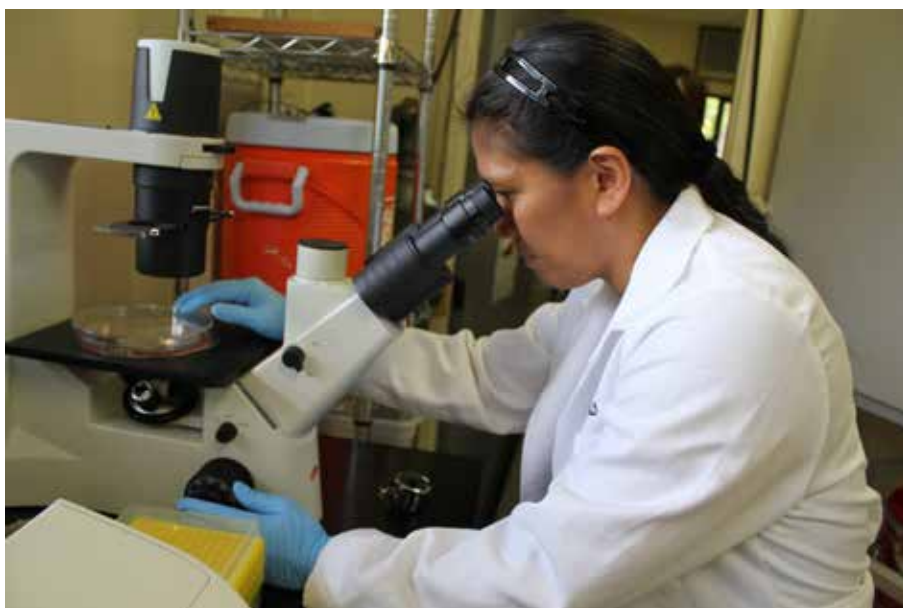
*Dr. Frank Robledo-Avila (right), a postdoctoral researcher from Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, worked in Dr. Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange's lab during spring semester to learn CrispR/Cas, Fura-2 calcium imaging and electrophysiological patch-clamp methodology. His PI, Santiago Partida-Sanchez (left), also is a collaborator with Dr. Koomoa-Lange. Dr. Robledo-Avila received an American Association for Immunologists Travel for Techniques Award to come to work in the Koomoa-Lange lab for three months. The Travel for Techniques program is a travel support program for AAI regular and associate member scientists intended to assist them in learning techniques needed for their research. This program will reimburse expenses for one trip to another laboratory specifically to learn a technique.*

(SOC) channels and its endoplasmic reticulum regulator STIM have been identified as playing a role in neuroblastoma progression. A recent manuscript showed that MYCN regulates TRPM7 expression and channel activity, and subsequently promotes Neuroblastoma cell migration. This project is funded by the National Institute of Cancer.

The second project focuses on elucidating the mechanism whereby MYCN, a prognostic indicator in Neuroblastoma, regulates TRPM7 expression and the function of the TRPM7 channel domain and the TRP7 kinase domain, and how the TRPM7 channel and kinase promotes Neuroblastoma drug resistance and metastasis. A manuscript was recently submitted that showed that in MYCN amplified and drug resistant NB cells, TRPM7 kinase phosphorylates myosin IIA to regulate Neuroblastoma cell migration. In

addition, we showed that TRPM7 kinase may be cleaved and translocated into the nucleus where it phosphorylates histone H3. Finally, we identified an FDA-approved drug that inhibits the TRPM7 channel activity, TRPM7 kinase activity, and TRPM7 kinase cleavage. Currently, we are identifying the molecular mechanism that regulates the cleavage of the TRPM7 kinase and the epigenetic regulation of gene expression. This project is funded by the National Institute of General Medical Science.

The third project focuses on identifying the aberrant calcium signaling that promotes drug resistance in Neuroblastoma, particularly



intracellular organelle signaling. This project utilizes a number of different paired patient-derived Neuroblastoma cells that were isolated from patients at diagnosis (DX) and post-treatment after relapse (PT). The different paired patient-derived samples have different MYCN and p53 status. Two manuscripts were recently published that investigated the role of intracellular calcium signaling in regulating Neuroblastoma cell death. Another publication is in progress that elucidates the specific organelle calcium signaling that promotes Neuroblastoma drug resistance. This project is funded by the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, Hawai'i Community Foundation Medical Research Grant and University of Hawai'i at Hilo Seed Grant.

The fourth project focuses on identifying ion channels that are involved in regulating immune cell activation and function. This project has implications in a plethora of diseases including, but not limited to, *H. pylori* infection, diabetes and cancer. In a recent manuscript, we identified an ion channel that is regulated by *H. pylori* that modulates macrophage differentiation and function *in vivo*, which regulates gastric inflammation. In addition, we have identified a metabolic pathway that promotes (1) proliferation and progression of cancer cells, as well as (2) a tumor microenvironment that promotes tumor growth and progression. We are currently investigating the efficacy of targeting this one pathway to decrease tumor progression and alter the tumor environment to eradicate the tumor simultaneously. These projects are not yet funded. However, applications are in progress.

Finally, I have a project that involves increasing the participation of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) in STEM fields, particularly biomedical research. This project, funded by the National Science Foundation, utilizes culturally inspired approaches to engage NHPI students in biomedical research.

### **What are the long-term goals of these projects?**

The long-term goals of the cancer-related projects are to identify molecular components of the complex mechanisms that regulate cancer growth, metastasis and multi-drug resistance. There are currently no treatments available for refractory and drug resistant cancers such as Neuroblastoma, and these studies may identify potential targets for the development of more effective treatments for advanced stage, refractory and recurrent cancers. In addition, more effective treatments for these cancers may be identified through pharmacological studies and drug screening studies.

Another long-term goal is to identify ion channels that regulate physiological processes that may be dysregulated in different diseases, and to elucidate the mechanism whereby these ion channels are regulated in normal physiology and in pathological states.

### **Who do you have working in your lab at this time?**

DKICP faculty: Ingo Koomoa-Lange is a principal investigator who is a DKICP instructor. He coordinates and teaches courses in calculations, and teaches biochemistry, pharmacokinetics and IT1.

Postdoctoral researchers: Laura Espana-Serrano, Micah Glasgow, Italo Espinoza-Fueza

Ph.D. student: Nathan Kanoa Sunada

Undergraduate students: Dustin Tacdol (junior), Dallas Freitas (sophomore), Kawena Kawelu (sophomore) and Hannah Blue (freshman).

High school students: Sophia Chun (Kamehameha High School, Kea'au) and Moana Pinner (Hilo High School).

Pharm.D. student pharmacists: David Khan and Nicholas Ferreira. In addition to the regular responsibilities and duties of a rotation student, David and Nicholas were interested in pursuing projects related to Hawai'i Papa O Ke 'Ao, a UH System initiative to indigenize the UH campuses.

### **What are your plans for future research?**

Heterogeneity plays a big role in cancer progression, and in Neuroblastoma, heterogeneity has been shown to play a role in the response of Neuroblastoma tumor cells to chemotherapeutic drugs. In our drug resistance project, we identified a subpopulation of cells in the heterogeneous Neuroblastoma cell lines and tumors that have distinct aberrations in calcium signaling that promotes resistance to anticancer chemotherapeutic drugs. We will explore these subpopulations in terms of calcium signaling, ion channel activity, metastasis and response to anticancer chemotherapeutic agents.

Along these lines, the subpopulation that appears to have plasticity and resistance to anticancer drugs are progenitor stem-like cells. Several ion channels have been identified as being upregulated in this subpopulation and may play a role in neural crest cells of the development of the sympathetic nervous system and Neuroblastoma tumorigenesis. Future studies will include investigating the role of these ion channels in development and Neuroblastoma tumorigenesis.







## UH Hilo student pharmacists placed in national residency competition

Student pharmacists from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo were "matched" with residency programs in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Matching Program.

Residencies are highly competitive opportunities for Pharm.D. graduates to build on their education in a clinical setting with an experienced mentor. The ASHP Resident Matching Program (the "Match") places applicants into pharmacy residency training positions in the United States. The Match includes both postgraduate year one (PGY1) and postgraduate year two (PGY2) pharmacy residencies.

About two-thirds of the 5,752 applicants nationwide were successfully placed in round one. Twenty-eight student pharmacists from DKICP participated in round one of the Match, with 13 placed. Round two of the competition, which took place after April 12, resulted in naming two more students from UH Hilo.

The Match, which is administered by National Matching Services Inc., is sponsored and supervised by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP).

Successful applicants include:

### **Class of 2017 - Year One Residencies (PGY1)**

Trenton Aoki, Providence St. Peter Hospital, Olympia WA; Mark Allen Bibera, University of California Davis Health System, Sacramento CA; Megan Calderwood, Indian Health Service, Gnome, Alaska; Mari Louise Cid, University Maryland School of Pharmacy, Baltimore MD; Christopher Diaz, University of Washington Medicine, Seattle WA; Tiajana Gonzales, Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy,



Birmingham AL; David Khan, Indian Health Service, Gallup, New Mexico; Abraham Jose Managed Care, CVS Caremark, Pittsburgh, PA ;Kelsea Mizusawa, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Hilo HI; Lauryn Mow, Providence Centralia Hospital, Centralia WA, Nadine So, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hilo HI; Zi Zhang, The Queen's Medical Center, Honolulu HI; and Nick Nguyen, Genentech, Industry Internship, Palo Alto, Ca.

### **Class of 2016 - Year Two Residencies (PGY2)**

Walter Domingo, Stanford Health Care, Stanford, CA. Specialty: Oncology; Alex Guimaraes, Fellowship Tricore Reference Laboratory Clinical Translational Care Fellow, University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy, New Mexico; Leilani Isozaki, Loma Linda University, Medical Centre. Specialty: Medication Use Safety. Jairus Nathan Mahoe, Palomar Health Escondido, CA. Specialty: Health System Pharmacy Administration; Bert Matsuo, Loma Linda University, Loma, Linda CA, Specialty: Cardiology.

### **Class of 2011**

Matthew Kirkland, Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, Biloxi MS. PGY1 with Mental Health Focus

### **DKICP/QMC – Year Two (PGY2)**

Christine Luong, The Queen's Medical Center, Honolulu, Hawai'i. Specialty: Critical Care

# Research symposium introduces Pharm Sci faculty to new Cancer Center director

Each faculty member from the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences gave an overview of his or her research in a symposium to Dr. Randall Holcome, director of the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center (UHCC) on the DKICP campus Jan. 14. Dr. Holcome took over as director of the Cancer Center at UH Manoa in October last year.

Dean Carolyn Ma introduced Dr. Holcome to the group, thanking them for attending the Saturday event.

"Many members of the Pharmaceutical Sciences department are members of UHCC, including myself and Drs. Shugeng Cao, Leng Chee Chang, Daniela Guendisch, Aaron Jacobs, Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange and Dianqing Sun, so this will help ongoing collaborative work," said Department Chair Linda Connelly. "Other faculty members who are not doing cancer research use core services at JABSOM/UHCC, so it is helpful for Dr. Holcombe to have an understanding of all our areas of research."

In addition to hearing about DKICP research, Dr. Holcome presented a lecture titled "Resveratrol, WNT Signaling and Colon Cancer: From the Bench to the Clinic." He has particular expertise in the role of the naturally occurring compounds resveratrol and genistein in suppression of intracellular signaling pathways involved in colon cancer development. This work has involved research on the basic biology of these compounds as well as interventional clinical trials in cancer patients.

Dr. Holcome's other research activities have been focused on healthcare delivery science, including the development of patient-focused care paradigms for cancer, development of instruments to effectively measure care coordination and other patient-reported outcomes, and research targeted at eliminating health disparities in cancer-related treatment outcomes. He has directed numerous investigator-initiated clinical trials in GI oncology and is involved in correlative translational studies.



*Drs. Ghee Tan (top) and Dianqing Sun presented research at the symposium for Dr. Holcome.*



*Participants at the symposium for Dr. Holcome were (clockwise from bottom left) Dean Carolyn Ma, Linda Connelly, Xiaohua Wu, Shugeng Cao, Daniela Guendisch, Dianqing Sun, Justin Reinicke, Aaron Jacobs, Ingo Koomoa-Lange, Susan Jarvi, Ghee Tan, Tamara Kondratyuk, Randall Holcome, (center from bottom) Leng Chee Chang, Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange.*



*Dr. Randall Holcome, director of the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center*

Dr. Holcome came to Hawai'i from working as chief medical officer for cancer for the Mount Sinai Health System, deputy director of the Tisch Cancer Institute (NCI-designated 2015) and director of the ambulatory oncology services at Mount Sinai Hospital. He has also served as the division chief of hematology/oncology for 13 years at the University of California, Irvine during which time he held many other leadership positions within the School of Medicine and University.

Faculty members had further opportunity to discuss their research with Dr. Holcombe at a luncheon after the seminar.

# UH Hilo adds new Thai university to list of collaborators

The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP) at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) will expand collaborative academic and research projects in Thailand with a new exchange program agreement, made effective February 8.

Khon Kaen University (KKU) in northeastern Thailand has become the fifth Thai University to sign memorandums of agreements (MOUs) with DKICP. Other Thai schools of pharmacy with similar exchange agreements include: Chulalongkorn University (2011), Rangsit University (2013), Silpakorn University (2014), and Siam University (2014).

The formal arrangement between the faculty of KKU's pharmaceutical sciences and DKICP states that the two universities will jointly develop activities based on their academic and educational needs. Collaborations may include the exchange or research materials, support for distance learning courses, organization of joint research programs and the exchange of students, faculty and staff.

"Multiple student and faculty exchanges and visiting lecturers helps us broaden our reputation for global pharmacy education and helps our students gain international, inter-professional perspectives both culturally and educationally," DKICP Dean Carolyn Ma said. "Mutual benefits include research collaboration projects, practice and innovation collaborations, and faculty and preceptor development programs."

Ma met with officials from KKU late last spring when she was a keynote speaker at the 2016 U.S.-Thai Consortium for Pharmacy Education in Thailand. She was able to tour multiple cities there with Professor and Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Supakit Wongwiwatthananut, when they met with faculty, staff, and students from colleges of pharmacy from Thailand and the U.S.

"When DKICP became a member of the US-Thai Consortium in 2014, we committed to active involvement with colleges of pharmacy in order to give and receive the most out of our interactions," Wongwiwatthananut said. "It allows us not only to collaborate with our Thai partners but also to increase association with top U.S. schools, such as the University of Minnesota, University of Texas and Purdue University. The momentum we generate is a good direction for our students and faculty as well as for the visibility of UH Hilo."

DKICP and KKU also are integrated by educational agreements with the Tsuzuki Education Group. In attending the 60th celebration in Fukushima, Japan last fall, Ma met again with KKU administrators to solidify their interest in proceeding with collaborations between the two universities.

"One great aspect about all these international ties is that we can share intellectual and professional ideas in true academic format. It helps us offer a broader global experience for everyone," Ma said.



*Dean Carolyn Ma at the podium as keynote speaker in Thailand.*



# DKICP student pharmacists demonstrate LEADERSHIP. SCHOLARSHIP. CITIZENSHIP. at honor societies' spring ceremonies



## Phi Lambda Sigma

*By Kelli Goo (Class of 2018)*

The Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS) Pharmacy Leadership Society from DKICP held their annual initiation ceremony and dinner at Hilo Bay Café on March 18. In addition to student nominees, the Society also honors faculty and staff who have exhibited leadership in the pharmacy profession. This year, the Delta Lambda Chapter inducted eight students and three faculty members into the nationally recognized honor society.

Pharm.D. student pharmacists who were initiated include: Rene Scott Chavez, Kaylee Hoang, Jessica Lee, Shannon Trinh, Paolo Truong, Nicholas Tsoi, Nancy Wong, and Veronica Wong. The initiated faculty members include Dean Carolyn Ma, Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthananukit, and Dr. Wesley Sumida. The inductees were recognized for their excellence in pharmacy leadership and their many contributions towards our profession and our College.

During the ceremony, members were honored by speeches from Mr. Michael Hoskins and PLS faculty adviser, Dr. Wesley Sumida. Dr. Sumida has been serving as the adviser to PLS since the beginning of the spring semester. Since taking on this role, he has been very active in planning events and providing guidance to the members. Dr. Sumida opened the banquet by extending a warm welcome to the members and guests. During his speech, he shared his observations on the leadership styles of current PLS members. He then went on to describe the differences between “clock builders” and “time tellers,” referencing a book authored by James Collins. Dr. Sumida encouraged students to be “clock builders” and “to help those that you lead to be successful, even after you leave.”

Following Dr. Sumida’s speech, the eleven new members were inducted into the



*Preceptor Mr. Michael Hoskins was keynote speaker.*

Society. The evening included a candle lighting ceremony and pinning ceremony. New members recited their pledge in front of current collegiate members, faculty, and guests. This ceremony signified the start of a lifelong membership and commitment, ultimately representing one's dedication to leadership in the pharmacy profession. Following initiation, the Chapter officers transferred their duties to the newly elected officers, who will serve in office until March 2018.

The keynote speaker, Michael Hoskins, was awarded the DKICP Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiential (IPPE) Preceptor of the Year award in 2013 and was recognized as an Outstanding Pharmacy Manager at the CVS Retail Leadership Conference. This past year, Mr. Hoskins played a vital role serving as a preceptor to students administering vaccines at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual DKICP Health Fair. During the ceremony, Mr. Hoskins offered words of wisdom to the PLS members. He stated that it is important to lead with a team approach, always speak with respect, trust those that you lead, give praise when praise is deserved, and always remember to smile. In addition, he told members that "one must have a high respect for the profession and love the profession in order to succeed." He encouraged members to "strive to achieve high goals and go beyond your comfort zone".

At the event, the society also honored the 2017 Chapter Member of the Year, Ryan Shiroma (Class of 2017). PLS Historian Vivian Tran, stated, "as a fourth-year student pharmacist, Ryan is constantly busy with rotations, projects, and reviewing for the NAPLEX. On top of that, he works as an intern at Safeway Pharmacy. He always finds time to give tremendous amounts of support and advice to PLS members when needed. He has a warm smile and a big heart. Although every PLS member plays an active role in the organization, Ryan consistently takes initiative and is proactive in everything that he does. I hope that present and future student pharmacists emulate his passion to help others succeed and grow as leaders."

The recipient of the 2017 Alumni of the Year Award is Bryan Huynh, Pharm.D. (Class of 2015). At the banquet, Dr. Huynh was recognized for his active involvement in leadership, post-graduation. For the past year, he has been involved in three major leadership roles. After one year of employment with Walgreens in Lancaster, California, Dr. Huynh has been promoted to pharmacy manager. Secondly, he participated in the California Pharmacists Association Leadership Development Institute, a year-long leadership program that allows participants to discover leadership strengths and coaching skills. At the Leadership Summit Conference in November, Dr. Huynh presented a self-made project on improving work relations. This past year, he also served as a co-colony coordinator for the newly initiated Phi Delta Chi Chapter at Chapman University, located in Orange, California, where he played a pivotal role in building a professional pharmacy fraternity from the ground up. Although Dr. Huynh could not attend the banquet in person, he said he was truly grateful to receive the award. A thank you speech was read to those in attendance on his behalf. In his message, Dr. Huynh offered the following advice, "continue following your passions. Continue doing things that give you a purpose. And by doing just that, you can make life forever interesting."



(From left) Student Support Specialist Tracey Niimi, PLS members Christopher Diaz, Deandra Viluan, Kelli Goo, Ryan Shiroma, Vivian Tran, Vicky Nguyen, Matt Chen, Jeffrey Tang, Dr. Lara Gomez, Lam Le, and Christopher Nakagawa.



(From left): Dr. Lara Gomez, Michael Hoskins (keynote speaker), Shannon Trinh (historian), Nicholas Tsoi (vice president), Veronica Wong (president), Nancy Wong (treasurer), Rene Scott Chavez (secretary), Dr. Wesley Sumida (faculty advisor), and Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthananukit.



PLS 2017 inductees (from left): Rene Scott Chavez, Nicholas Tsoi, Shannon Trinh, Nancy Wong, Kaylee Hoang, Veronica Wong, Paolo Truong with faculty Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthananukit and Dr. Wesley Sumida.

# Rho Chi - Delta Iota Chapter

By Paulo Truong (Class of 2018)  
President, Rho Chi – Delta Iota Chapter

Academic honor society Rho Chi - Delta Iota chapter, from the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP), inducted 17 student pharmacists from the class of 2019 and one faculty initiate at a banquet in the Imiloa Astronomy Center March 31. The dinner was sponsored by Walgreens, and was attended by Dr. Eleanor Wong, Walgreens district supervisor, Dr. Erin Samura, Hilo Walgreens pharmacy manager, and Denay Jones, Hilo Walgreens store manager.

Keynote speaker was Dr. Paul W. Bush, who is chief pharmacy officer at Duke University Hospital in Durham, North Carolina and program director for the Health System Pharmacy Administration/MS residency. He is current president-elect of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) after serving on the Board of Directors.

Dr. Bush received his bachelor's degree in pharmacy from the University of Michigan, and Pharm.D. and M.B.A. from Wayne State University in Detroit. He has held the positions of director of pharmacy services for Detroit Osteopathic Hospital, St. John Hospital and Medical Center, and Medical University of South Carolina, and was corporate director for clinical pharmacy services for Horizon Health System.

In his speech, Dr. Bush emphasized on the importance of being a clinical pharmacist. He said health care can always be improved, and told the student pharmacists to always strive to be a clinical pharmacist, always strive to educate the patient, always seek to make pharmacy better and see it as inadequate and in need of improvement in order to always improve the field of pharmacy.



New members and past executive board are (from left): Front Row: Cierra Gauvin, Quan Truong, Paolo Truong, Adviser Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthananut, Dr. Paul Bush, Dr. Erin Samura, Dean Carolyn Ma, Vicky Nguyen, Lam Le. Middle Row: Samantha Gonzalez, Ashley Uehara, Veronica Morales Colon, Kate Malasig, Kara Paulachak, Gam Phan, Jennifer Nguyen, Carrie Yeung, Veronica Wong, Rene Chavez; Last Row: Rachel Randall, Mr. George Karvas, Tyler Millar, Kelsey Noetzelmann, Tyler Hirokawa, Preston Ho

He mentioned a tip to intern pharmacists that when there is downtime, always look to do more. We can ask to do more, and he suggested we volunteer to do things like chart reviews or medication reconciliation in order to help demonstrate the impact that a pharmacist can bring. He emphasized the importance of assuring that the patient receives the best care, and that we collaborate interprofessionally.

The Rho Chi Society has chapters nationwide that seeks to advance pharmacy through intellectual leadership. Their mission is to encourage and recognize intellectual achievement and stimulate critical inquiry to advance the field of pharmacy. Each academic year, the society invites the top 20 percent of each class based on their academic performance during the student's first three academic terms.

Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthananut, professor, interim associate dean for academic affairs, and Rho Chi Delta Iota chapter faculty adviser, presented the initiation of the chapter members, which included the DKICP original candle lighting ceremony, recital of the pledge and presenting the new member Rho Chi pins.

The chapter welcomed pharmacy students, Ashley Uehara, Carrie Yeung, David Pham, Gam Phan, Jennifer Nguyen, Kara Paulachak, Kate Malasig, Kelsey Noetzelmann, Nancy Wong, Preston Ho, Rachel Randall, Rene Scott Chavez, Samantha Gonzalez, Tyler Hirokawa, Tyler Millar, Veronica Morales Colon, and Veronica Wong into the organization. These students demonstrated stellar scholastic achievement by holding the top 20 percent GPAs of their class. The chapter also welcomed faculty member, Mr. George Karvas into the organization. Mr. Karvas, a very dedicated professor to the Daniel K. Inouye College



Dr. Paul Bush

# The Rho Chi Society

## Chapter Charter

### Pharmaceutical Honor Society

Know Ye That we, the undersigned officers, by virtue of the authority granted us under the Bylaws of The Rho Chi Society, have this day created, ordained and established a Chapter of the Society to be known as

## Delta Iota Chapter University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Now, Therefore, we do nominate, appoint and constitute as Charter members those whose names are listed below entrusting unto them and their associates and successors forever the stewardship of Delta Iota Chapter

Witness our hands this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April  
two thousand and 12 written against the Seal of the Society.



*[Signature]*  
President

*[Signature]*  
President

#### Charter Members

##### Class of 2012

Candice Marie Carbaugh  
Laurence Yapui Chan  
Bernie Jen Hoo Cheng  
Megan Maayo Ching  
HoeAnne Georgette Fuller  
Carol Lynn Goh Yan Goo  
Richelle Yoshimi Hirata  
Darulyn Miki Kinomoto  
Paul Soe-Hun Kim  
Taryn Ann Moore  
Alexandra Marie Perez  
Brysonna Paani Misaari Tanaha  
Sally Thi Van  
Wendy Ann Yamauchi-Herring

##### Class of 2013

Christopher Salvador Ayon  
William James Eggen  
Christophe Aho Kamae  
Alison Lehuat Kikuyoshi  
Morris Arthur Koonen  
Dawn Hong Lu  
Victor Wang Lee  
Shih-Chia Lu  
TinaMorris K. McDonald  
Madison George Mullinix  
Maurice A. Muehler  
Chunxi

##### Class of 2011

Lisa Mei Hagiwara  
Eriko Mariko Miyahira  
Casey Kyoko Ogata  
Enoch John Ganir Ronduen  
Jonathan Tam  
Jessica Patti Michiko Toyama

##### Faculty

Patrick Lee Adams  
Katherine J. Anderson  
Forrest Batz  
Benjamin Chavez  
Lara Hanako Gomez  
Luohuo Hong  
Deborah Taira Juarez  
Carolyn Ma  
Ken Morris  
Anthony David Wright

of Pharmacy, has long supported the organization and was inducted as an honorary member.

New chapter officers for the 2017-2018 academic school year were also inducted into office at the ceremony. The new officers inducted were: president: Rene Scott Chavez; vice president: Tyler Millar; secretary: Kara Paulachak; treasurer: David Pham; and historian: Kelsey Noetzelmann.

Dr. Supakit presented student pharmacists who had the highest scholastic achievement for each Pharm.D. course in the spring and fall 2016 calendar year. Dean Carolyn Ma honored and gave the Rho Chi Recognition Award Certificates to the following students: Robyn Rector for Pharmaceutical Calculations, Pharmaceutical Immunology, Drug Action 1; Tyler Peterson for Pharmaceutical Calculations; Stacey Nguyen for Pharmacy Self-Care 1; Imaikalani Chock for Pharmacy Communications and Culture; Ashley Uehara for Pharmacy Self-Care 2, Biochemistry – metabolism, Pathophysiology, Integrated Therapeutics I, and Evidence-based Medicine and Critical Literature evaluation; Rachel Randall for Integrated Therapeutics I and Pharmacokinetics;



Amelia Furlan for Biochemistry – biomolecules; Mary Lui for Pharmaceutics 1; Preston Ho for Pharmaceutics 2, Biostatistics, and Drug Information; Jennifer Fujio for Pharmacy Law and Ethics; Jui-Yu Kao for Health care system; Nancy Wong for Evidence-based Medicine and Critical Literature evaluation; Quan Truong for Wellness and Disease Prevention, Pharmacy Practice Management and Marketing, Integrated Therapeutics II, Integrated Therapeutics III, Complementary Medicine; Lauren Skorheim and Quan Truong for the certificate of appreciation for having the highest tutoring hours spent with our P1 and P2 students; Paolo Truong and Quan Truong for the certificate of leadership in honor of the outstanding contributions made towards the goals of the chapter.

DKICP faculty members who attended included George Karvas, Shugeng Cao, Tamara Kondratyuk, Lara Gomez, Karen Pellegrin, Dianqing Sun, Aaron Jacobs, Linda Connelly, Jarred Prudencio, Patricia Juszczak, Julie Adrian, Carolyn Ma, Supakit Wongwiwatthananut, Susan Jarvi, Dana-lynn Koomoa-Lange, Ingo Koomoa-Lange, Leng Chee Chang and Paula Zeszotarski.



New and past officers are (from left): Front Row: Quan Truong, Paolo Truong, Vicky Nguyen, Cierra Gauvin, Adviser Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthananut, Lam Le. Back Row: Tyler Millar, Kara Paulachak, Rene Scott Chavez, Kelsey Noetzelmann.



Eleanor Wong (left) from Walgreens, sponsor of the event, with Dean Carolyn Ma.





Clinical Education Coordinator Patricia Jusczak (on right with back to camera) takes part in explaining DKICP labs with (from left) Gerald De Mello, Linda Connelly and Supakit Wongwiwatthananutit to Rep. Chris Todd who toured DKICP March 1.

## New Hawai'i State Rep tours DKICP

DKICP administrators greeted Hawai'i State Representative Chris Todd when he visited to DKICP campus on March 1.

Gov. David Ige appointed Todd to the State House of Representatives, District 2 on Jan. 5. Todd filled the seat left vacant by the late Rep. Clift Tsuji, who died last year.

Todd was born and raised in Hilo, where he earned his degree in economics and political science from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. He held several positions at the Suisan Fish Market before becoming distribution manager for Hawai'i Paper Products last year. (Photos by Tracey Niimi)



(From left) Lara Gomez, Linda Connelly, Dean Carolyn Ma, Gerald De Mello, Chris Todd and Supakit Wongwiwatthananutit.



## Dean Ma updates Chamber on DKICP

Dean Carolyn Ma (center) was greeted by (from left) Mike Kaleikini, Shaun Lasky (Class of 2017, who also presented), Gordon Takaki, and Miles Yoshioka when she gave an update on the college and the permanent building to the Hilo Chamber of Commerce in January.

## Winter Commencement 2016

Dr. Micah Glasgow got a chance to take part in commencement exercises at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo in December. The third student to earn his Ph.D. from DKICP's Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dr. Glasgow is working as a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange's lab. (Photo by Nathan Sumida, Ph.D. student).



# Learn, Teach, Lead

*By Jennifer Aguiar, Clinical Education Support Specialist*

If you ever want to know if you really understand something, teach it. This is why I continuously look forward in participating with Kamehameha High School Hawai'i Campus annual career shadow day.

On February 22, it was especially exciting as the day was completely led by a few of our DKICP fourth-year student pharmacists. Heather Allard, Kelia Parrilla, and Ryan Shiroma spent the day sharing their knowledge with Zachary Moniz and Tyler Look, who are currently juniors at Kamehameha.

Watching our pharmacy students come full circle was so ultimately rewarding as Zachary and Tyler walked away with a better understanding of what a pharmacist does. Our fourth-year students took what they have learned over the past four years and implemented an exciting way to teach that information, which in turn will inspire each individual to lead the future of health care.

Overall, I benefit by getting to watch the process of learner to teacher and soon to be leaders. It is my hope that our students will continue to inspire others as they grow in their craft. I Mua.



## Japan pharmacy students visit DKICP

*By Jennifer Aguiar, Clinical Education Support Specialist*

As part of UH Hilo's Hawaiian EDventure Program, DKICP hosted pharmacy students and faculty from Japan's Matsuyama University in February. Participants included Yukiro Kurokawa, Teruyoshi Takahashi, Toshihiko Yoshioka, Eriko Uno and their instructor Takumi Yamaguchi.

As the college continues to build relationships in the international community, we are excited to be able to share our didactic, experiential, and research education with other universities. The group spent time visiting pharmacy practice sites, including Hilo Medical Center, Hawai'i Island Family Clinic, and the UH Hilo Student Health Services on the main campus. They participated in classroom and simulation activities with DKICP students and faculty, and spent time discussing research with faculty from the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

# DKICP presents information, testing at O'ahu health fair

Student pharmacists conducting their fourth-year rotations on O'ahu participated in the Papakolea Ohana Health Fair 2017 March 4 at Lincoln Elementary School in Honolulu. (From left) Internal Medicine Specialist Dr. Dee-Ann Carpenter, second-year medical student, Ashley Morisako, fourth-year student pharmacists Leanne Drusen, Angela Nguyen, Zi Zhang, and DKICP faculty member Wes Sumida from the Department of Pharmacy Practice.



## New course prepares fourth-year pharmacy students for comprehensive exam

By Susan Enright, Public Information Specialist, Office of the Chancellor

A new course that helps prepare student pharmacists for licensure is being offered at DKICP this semester.



Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthananut

The purpose of the course is to introduce and prepare fourth-year pharmacy students at the Daniel K Inouye College of Pharmacy to a major comprehensive exam made up of the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) and the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE) and used by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) to assess a graduate's competence to practice as a pharmacist.

"Successfully passing the (exam) is a challenge and often the final hurdle that our pharmacy graduates face to attain the pharmacist licensure," says Supakit Wongwiwatthananut, professor of pharmacy and interim associate dean for academic affairs. "I strongly believe this course will provide students a necessary review of the knowledge, judgment, and skills expected of career-ready, entry-level pharmacists."

The course (PHPP 598-02: APPE NAPLEX/MPJE Preparation) prepares the students with the background knowledge, skills, and judgment necessary to understand how to utilize the resources and review content before taking the exams.

"Most importantly, with the use of various available on-line preparation tools and assessments from our clinical faculty panel, this review and preparation course can

---

**"Successfully passing the (exam) is a challenge and often the final hurdle that our pharmacy graduates face to attain the pharmacist licensure"**

---

significantly improve our graduates' overall confidence that they will successfully pass the licensure examination," says Wongwiwatthananut.

The course reviews previous content taught in the curriculum and offers students guidance on an outline of a study plan to cover content assessed in the exams.

The course is accessed online and is self-paced, consisting of 14 weekly sections. Students must complete each section by the end of a designated date before moving on to the next section.

# Walgreens helps DKICP with funding for scholarships, diversity

The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at UH Hilo has received a \$7,000 check from retail pharmacy Walgreens to fund a diversity initiative at the university. An additional \$5,000 will go towards scholarships to students in the Pharm.D. professional program.

Eleanor Wong, Walgreens Area Healthcare Supervisor for the San Francisco Peninsula/Hawaii region, presented the check to Dean Carolyn Ma at Walgreens specialty store on O'ahu. DKICP alum Quinn Taira from the Class of 2011 and Amy Song, Class of 2012, who both work at the retail store, were in attendance along with Heidi Ho-Muniz, District Manager for Walgreens Pharmacy and Retail Operations.

Walgreens began the diversity program in 2009 to donate \$1 million annually toward diversity initiatives at all of the more than 100 accredited pharmacy schools across the country.

This is the ninth year DKICP has received funding from Walgreens for diversity. The funds have sponsored such educational programs as a tour of health care facilities at Kalaupapa on Molokai.

"We are grateful for this initiative that has helped our student pharmacists through the years and strengthened our own commitment to promoting and embracing diversity," Dean Ma said.



(From left) Quinn Taira (Class of 2011), Eleanor Wong, Carolyn Ma, Amy Song (Class of 2012) and Heidi Ho-Muniz were on hand when Walgreens presented the check to the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy for a diversity project.

## Faculty Seminar Series



### Dr. David Kingston

Dr. David Kingston, University Distinguished Professor with the Department of Chemistry at Virginia Tech. in Blacksburg, Virginia, presented a seminar on DKICP campus entitled "Discovery, Development, Design, and Delivery of Taxol, a Potent Anticancer Natural Product" February 14.

### Dr. Raymond P. Goodrich

Dr. Raymond P. Goodrich, executive director with the Infectious Disease Research Center at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, presented a seminar titled "The Photochemistry of Pathogen Inactivation Processes and Their Medical Applications" on DKICP campus March 13.



**Julie Adrian,**

associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, was an author in a paper entitled "Pet loss, complicated grief, and post-traumatic stress disorder in Hawai'i," published in the multidisciplinary journal *Anthrozoos*. Co-authors were Ann Luiz and Stitt, Alexander.



**Shugeng Cao,**

professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was the lead author of a paper entitled "Sphaerialactonam, a c-lactam-isochromanone from the Hawaiian endophytic fungus *Paraphaeosphaeria* sp. FT462" published in the journal Elsevier. Co-authors were Peng Huang, Chunshun Li, Ariel M. Sarotti and James Turkson.



**Leng Chee Chang and Dianqing Sun,**



both associate professors in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, along with **Supakit Wongwiwatthananukit,**



professor of pharmacy practice and interim associate dean for academic affairs, are collaborators with **James Turkson** from the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center on a grant from the National Institutes of Health. The five-year funding is for a project entitled "STAT3, G6PD and TrxR as underlying mechanisms for antitumor responses to hirsutinolides." The R01 funding is the original and historically oldest grant mechanism used by NIH, providing support for health-related research and development.

**Linda Connelly,**

associate professor and chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, led work in her labs that was published in *Molecular Cancer* titled



"Osteoprotegerin mediates tumor-promoting effects of Interleukin-1 beta in breast cancer cells." The first author is post-doctoral associate Stephanie Tsang Mui Chung, with co-authors Kim Roseman (Class of 2017), Ashleigh Renaud (recent UH Hilo graduate) and Dirk Geerts, a biomedical scientist from The Netherlands.

**Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange,**

associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was a featured speaker at an event for the "Indigenizing Instruction and Curricula at UH Hilo Workshop" at Kīpuka Native Hawaiian Student Center on March 11. The event was part of the Uluākea program at UH Hilo, which addresses Hawai'i Papa O Ke 'Ao, a UH System Initiative, by focusing on developing the University of Hawai'i at Hilo into more of a Hawaiian place of learning.



**Karen Pellegrin,**

director of continuing/distance education and strategic planning, was a co-author of a case titled "Mango Medical: Growing a Fresh Healthcare Model" published in the peer-reviewed journal *SAGE Business Cases*. Her co-author was Dr. Timothy Duerler, founder and CEO of Mango Medical. This case will also be used in the curriculum for the new Pharm.D. certificate program in Healthcare Leadership.



**Deborah Taira,**

professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, was co-author on two manuscripts: 1) "Prevalence of Single and Multiple Leading Causes of Death Among Older Non-Hispanic Blacks, Non-Hispanic Whites, and Hispanics: Evidence from the National Health Interview Survey." *Preventing Chronic Disease* (in press); 2) "The Cost-Benefit Balance of Statins in Hawai'i: A Moving Target." *Hawaii J Med Public Health* (in press). Dr. Taira also will be giving an oral presentation in April at the Global



Health and Innovation conference at Yale University entitled, "Access to Care and Internet Use Related to Rural Residence and Race/Ethnicity in California."

**Supakit Wongwiwatthananukit,**

professor of pharmacy practice and interim associate dean for academic affairs, was corresponding author and/or coauthor on five publications entitled: (1) "Prevalence and characteristics of symptomatic orthostatic hypotension in patients with Parkinson's disease" published in *J Pharm Prac*, with coauthors Klanbut S, Phattananarudee S, Suthisang C, and Bhidayasiri R; (2) "Cytotoxic antiproliferative and apoptotic activity of secondary metabolites from *Aspergillus Unquis* CRI282-03 on human colon cancer cell line" published in *Bulletin of Health, Sci & Tech*; (3) "Cytotoxic activity of racemosal and demethylracemosal from *Bauhinia malabarica* against human colon cancer" published in *Bulletin of Health, Sci & Tech*, with coauthors Pradubayat N, Jongrungruangchok S, and Songsak T; (5) "What a pharmacist/practitioner should know about evaluating systematic reviews and meta-analyses" published in *Bulletin of Health, Sci & Tech*, with coauthors Blakesley B, Songsak T, Wattanavijitkul T, **Lteif L**, and **Shih A**.



**Additional Publications**

Work conducted at DKICP labs entitled "Development of optimized, inhalable, gemcitabine-loaded gelatin nanocarriers for lung cancer" was published in the *Journal of Aerosol Medicine and Pulmonary Drug Delivery*. Authors were Susanne R. Youngren-Ortiz, David B. Hill, Peter R. Hoffmann, Kenneth R. Morris, Edward G. Barrett, M. Gregory Forest and Mahavir B. Chougule.

## Student Honors

**Dr. Bracken Gott**, PSYD, who is a student in DKICP's Master's in Clinical Psychopharmacology program, received a scholarship of \$5000 from the American Psychological Foundation. Dr. Gott is a board-eligible licensed clinical psychologist on staff at Advanced Psychiatric Therapeutics in Honolulu, where he treats a wide array of conditions, from depression and anxiety, to post traumatic stress disorder, domestic violence, and substance abuse.

**David Khan**, Class of 2017, was chosen to present at the UH President's Emerging Leader's Program in the Hawai'i Papa O Ke 'Ao presentation on January 6. The Emerging Leader's Program is made up of future campus and system leaders who are identified by faculty as a form of creating an institutional culture that honors diversity and inclusion.

**Nathan Sunada**, Ph.D. student in Pharmaceutical Sciences, was the recipient of the 2017 Pediatric Oncology Student Training (POST) award from Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF). His research, which will be conducted under faculty researcher and advisor, Dr. Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange, is titled: "Elucidating the Mechanism Whereby Native Hawaiian Plant Extracts Induce Calcium-dependent Cell Death in Drug-Resistant Neuroblastoma." ALSF is a national childhood cancer foundation dedicated to raising funds for research into new treatments and cures for all children battling cancer.



### CLASS OF 2018 by Niaz Nafisi

It has become tradition at our College of Pharmacy for the third-year student council to host a winter formal event open to all pharmacy students. After months of planning and preparation led by the activities coordinators Katrina Kutter and Karen Christian, the event was held at the beautiful Grand Naniloa Hotel. Not only does the winter formal allow pharmacy students the chance to dress up and let loose on the dance floor with a live DJ, but the event also features the always popular Mr. and Mrs. Pharmacy contest that pits one male and female from each class against each other through a talent and Q&A portion. The third-year student council also puts on a photo booth during the winter formal led by class historians Goody Cacal and Megan Olaguer to help preserve the memories of the night for anyone who wants a picture. The event traditionally has been very successful and this year was no different as many students from all classes of the College of Pharmacy came out to take a break from studying and have a night of fun.

### CLASS OF 2019 by Natalie Chan

This school year has been flying by fast. For the Class of 2019 Delegate Jennifer Nguyen and the rest of student council started the year off by organizing a mentor-mentee potluck. Incoming first-year student pharmacists were matched up with second-year mentors that would help advise in their transition into pharmacy school. It was a great success where we all enjoyed the sunny afternoon by the pool while welcoming the new incoming students.

In between studying for IT, our class still found time to work on a few projects. Treasurer Stacy Huynh led both the DKICP drawstring bag fundraiser and Thanksgiving turkey grams, where the proceeds will go towards our class activities. In addition, a DKICP modular clean-up project was led by activities coordinators Kara Paulachak and Preston Young. Delegate Nguyen and the council ended the



fall semester by aiding in the elections of the new Class of 2020 student council.

During spring semester, the Class of 2019 is creating a parade float for the upcoming Merrie Monarch Festival. Our chair, Krishelle Kamakeeaina-Mendoza, has been working diligently on the design resembling a lo'i, or taro patch. This theme was chosen not only to recognize the medicinal properties of the taro root, but also to represent the relationship between people and the land. The people take care of the land and the land takes care of the people much as how pharmacists take care of their patients. We all look forward to the parade and whatever the rest of this year will bring.

### CLASS OF 2020 by Brandon Frijas

Students of the Class of 2020 had been actively planning and preparing for this year's annual Relay for Life event, which took place on March 10. The purpose of the event is to come together and raise funds for the American Cancer Society and to honor those we have lost, those who are currently fighting cancer, and those who have survived. In addition to pharmacy students, undergraduate students and members of the community formed teams to increase awareness of different forms of cancer. The night was filled with lots of food, entertainment, and friendly competition. Our Class of 2020 team captains Jhoana Gonzales, Mia Tran, and Johnson Tran would like to thank all of those who supported, volunteered, and participated in Relay for Life and strongly encourage their colleagues to come again next year!

# New members, community events and regional conference keeps Kappa members busy

By Shannon Trinh (Class of 2019)

The spring semester is definitely the most anticipated time of the year for our chapter as we welcome our newest brothers, the Zeta class. The addition of new brothers to our chapter also means a growth in the number of strong helping hands to take part in community service as well as planning for our rapidly approaching spring conclave.

In January, the Epsilon Psi chapter was pleased to initiate 16 new brothers and one faculty advisor into the brotherhood of Kappa Psi. The Zeta class successfully accomplished their pledging responsibilities including, learning about the history of our fraternity and bonding with one another to build a strong brotherhood within themselves, all the while maintaining their dedicated and positive attitude. This was all possible because each new brother was indeed passionate and hardworking in their endeavor to become a part of the family that is Kappa Psi. The Zeta class has successfully completed their pledging journey and now we wait for the great contributions that the new brothers will bring to our chapter. This was all possible thanks to the Pledge Leaders and all the active brothers who dedicated their energy into making this journey a successful one.

### Ocean Sanctuary Count and Read Across America

In January and February, Community Service Co-Chairs Gurinder Kaur and Carrie Yeung organized a whale-watching event for the chapter. The Sanctuary Ocean Count event aimed to assist the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary in monitoring endangered North Pacific humpback whales in an effort to protect them and their environment. It was an opportunity for Brothers to spend time together at the beach while being conscious of our natural environment. In March, Brothers participated in Read Across America. In celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday, this event allowed Brothers to volunteer to read books to local elementary school students in hopes to inspire a new generation of readers.



Kimberly Wu (Class of 2018) does her best Dr. Seuss impression as she reads to elementary school students.



Initiation of the Zeta Class and faculty advisor Dr. Connelly to the Epsilon Psi Chapter. (From left) Dr. Connelly, Wilson Datario, Jhoana Gonzales, Tyler Peterson, Vy Tran, Niloo Soltanipour, Jenny Lee, Tony Moua, Jennifer Nguyen, Johnson Tran, Raul Flores, Taylor Hori, Kyle Tsubota, Nick Tsoi, Johnathan Lam, Brandon Frijas, Jared Toba

### Interfraternal Events

Interfraternal Chair Torrence Ching has been busy at work this semester planning events such as Brolympics, a series of friendly competition with Phi Delta Chi. The first was a basketball game that garnered a lot of support on the sidelines from our fellow brothers. We look forward to what Brother Ching has in store for us in the next three Brolympic events. A couple weeks later, Brothers ventured to Pahoehoe for some outdoor paint-balling. Both PDC and KY Brothers joined forces in randomized teams for some sharp shooting. The added element of rain created an intense yet still very fun experience for all who went, leaving many of us wanting to go again. Inter-fraternal events such as these not only enable us to bond between fraternities, but allow us opportunities to strengthen the brotherhood within our own chapter.

### Pacific West Province Meeting Spring 2017

On the weekend of March 3-5, the Kappa Psi Pacific West Province Spring Province Meeting hosted by our Epsilon Psi chapter was held at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu. The Province meeting is held twice a year and executive board elections take place in the spring. For two consecutive years, two brothers from our chapter held executive board positions; Mari Cid as alternate GCC delegate and chaplain and Jeremy Lozano as webmaster and treasurer during the past two years. We are proud to announce that Brother Jeremy Lozano has been newly elected as the satrap of the Pacific West Province. We would also like to thank Brother Mari Cid for all her hard work and dedication to Kappa Psi during these past years. It is no easy feat taking on all the responsibilities of an officer on top of one's academic responsibilities. We truly want to take this time to give many thanks and appreciation for both brothers.



On Friday evening, the Hawai'i Graduate Chapter chartering took place, bringing together various graduate Kappa Psi Brothers who are currently residing in Hawai'i or have graduated from our Epsilon Psi Chapter. The creation of the Hawai'i Grad Chapter allows the opportunity for graduate Brothers to stay involved with the fraternity past the collegiate level. We are excited to see how Brothers will represent the Hawai'i Grad Chapter at future province meetings. The chartering was followed by a social event that featured traditional Hawaiian hula dancers and musicians, who even included a short hula lesson for brave volunteers in the audience.

Province was a great opportunity for everyone to expand their network by meeting brothers from different chapters, not limited to the Pacific West Province but also from other provinces as well, including Beta Sigma (North Dakota), Beta Omicron (Washington), and Delta Lambda (North Carolina). Everyone has the opportunity to learn from each other, especially during the various committee meetings, which allow for sharing and brainstorming of new ideas, from which each chapter can benefit. It was a valuable experience not only for the new Zeta class but also for Brothers who had never previously attended Province, to see what Kappa Psi has to offer at a national level. Brothers also had the opportunity to attend continuing education (CE) sessions on Saturday morning, which were held by Dr. Roy Goo who taught two CEs: An Overview of Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs and Skin and Soft Tissue Infections.

Brother Cid organized a philanthropy project, which encouraged every chapter to donate various personal hygiene products that were compiled into at least 20 care packages which were donated to the Next Step Shelter. The shelter provides these hygiene kits to the homeless population in Oahu. Since Province was held on O'ahu and all other collegiate chapters are located in California, Nevada, and Arizona, it was amazing to see Brothers carry luggage filled with products to donate all the way from the mainland. In an effort to make the philanthropy project more interactive, Brother Cid put together a challenge to see which randomized teams could assemble their hygiene kits in the least amount of time. This acted as a fun break in between the Province assembly session, while giving Brothers an opportunity to play a part in giving back to the underserved community and interact with Brothers from other chapters.

Saturday evening, Brothers joined one another at the banquet dinner and awards ceremony. After dinner Epsilon Iota organized an event that allowed Brothers a chance to win Kappa Psi gear and discounted registration to the Grand Council Convention which will be held on August 1-5th, 2017 in Naples, FL. The proceeds of the event would go towards Epsilon Iota as they will be hosting the Pacific West Province Fall Province Meeting 2017. Following the banquet, Brothers gathered at The District for a social night to celebrate the adjournment of official Kappa Psi business.

Sunday marked the final day of Province and with the unexpected sunny weather, most Brothers took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the day outdoors before returning home. Province was an amazing opportunity to not only meet Brothers visiting from other chapters, but to also reunite with familiar faces of P4 and graduate brothers from our Epsilon Psi Chapter. Congratulations to Province Planning Committee Chair Jeffrey Tang for organizing a successful weekend and a big thank you to all the Brothers who joined us, making the weekend a memorable one.



*Kappa Psi faculty members Drs. Roy Goo and Linda Connelly attended the Province Assembly Meeting.*



**NCPA**

## NCPA leads tour for Hawai'i Science and Technology Museum Camp students

*By Lauren Skorheim and Tiffany Alberg*

The National Community Pharmacists Association Student Chapter (NCPA) had an enjoyable and rewarding experience with Hawai'i Science and Technology Museum Camp students when they visited DKICP on March 21. They participated in multiple educational activities set up by NCPA community service, including, silly putty compounding and the chemistry behind it, rat lungworm education and prevention, as well as a visit to our mock pharmacy, simulation lab with sim man, and our research lab. The rat lungworm presentation was interactive, where students made clay models of the rat lungworm life cycle as well as heard of the importance of washing fruits and veggies properly. NCPA members organized

## Student Organizations

the students in groups and entertained them with exciting activities and learning experiences. The students asked lots of questions and were very intrigued. NCPA enjoys participating in events like this because of the opportunity we have to educate the students in the fields of science and pharmacy, which increases the growing impact that DKICP has on the Hilo community. We look forward to more of these student visits in the future.

### Phi Delta Chi



## Phi Delta Chi reaches new heights to give back to the community

By Cami Kanahele and Kate Malasig (Class of 2019)

From the mountain to the sea, no matter where you be, you'll find us there with no despair, a hard-working fraternity. *Malama ka 'aina* is a commonly used phrase in Hawai'i, which means to take care of the land. Throughout the year our Brothers have exemplified this concept by partaking in a Mauna Kea cleanup and an Adopt-A-Highway community project.

Mauna Kea is a mountain found on the Island of Hawai'i and is the home to the world's largest telescopes. Its elevation and geographic isolation creates an environment of great diversity and it is inhabited by species not found anywhere else in the world. Species such as the Hawaiian honeycreeper, Palila, are found in areas as high as 10,000 feet elevation; as well as the Wekiu bug that evolved to survive in the harsh cold and dry peaks of Mauna Kea. Unfortunately, invasive

species have been introduced over the years as visitors frequently enter the area. These species destroy much of the natural habitat and endanger many of the native species.

For two semesters, the Gamma Theta Brothers of Phi Delta Chi have the unique opportunity of working with the Office of Mauna Kea Management to help remove invasive plants around Mauna Kea. Our Brothers were eager to help preserve the native ecosystem while gaining a culturally unique experience in Hawai'i. The day started with a quick project orientation while we acclimated to the elevation. We then worked for two hours pulling out weeds all around the Halepōhaku astronomy support facilities. Together, our Brothers filled sixty heaping trash bags with invasive plants. Our contributions helped Mauna Kea Management's long-term plan of clearing the area

for the restoration of native plants, as well as improving the opportunities for education about the native ecosystems.

In addition to cleaning up the mountains, our fraternity also makes an impact at sea level. Adopt-A-Highway is a new project for Phi Delta Chi that we hope will continue for many years to come. Four times a year, our Brothers will spend their Sunday mornings picking up litter throughout a two-mile stretch along the coast of Highway 19. The importance of cleaning up a highway includes creating a safer commute for residents, protecting the environment from unnatural waste and preventing it from being swept into the ocean, and to maintain the beauty of the Island of Hawai'i. Together, these projects promote teamwork and instill the importance of taking care of our land and giving back to the community.

# Happy 11<sup>th</sup> birthday to 'Imiloa

By Cathyln Goo (Class of 2019)

Phi Delta Chi (PDC), the professional pharmacy fraternity, was on hand to help the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center celebrate its 11<sup>th</sup> birthday at a celebration event on UH Hilo campus Feb. 26.

'Imiloa was first open to the public on February 20, 2006. The mission of the center was to illustrate the relationship between Hawaiian culture and the astronomical research being conducted at the Mauna Kea Summit.

Since 2013, PDC has actively participated in the annual birthday celebration. The event this year included activities such as scavenger hunts, a tsunami wave-tank, and planetarium shows along with a food station provided by KTA Super Stores where hot dogs and burgers were available for purchase.

PDC prepared and carried out a "Compounding for Kids" booth that allowed children to gain a hands-on experience of making silly putty using Borax, Elmer's glue, water, and food coloring.

At the seven-hour long event, student pharmacists volunteered their time to assist children with mixing and handling their own silly putty and packaging their final products for the kids to take what they made home with them. The event was a success and was an enjoyable way to reach out to more than 600 children!



# Partnerships with community groups keep PIMSC active

PIMSC

By Athena Borhauer (Class of 2019)  
and Kimberly Wu (Class of 2018)

The Pacific Islander Mobile Screening Clinic (PIMSC) continued its fall trend of providing screening opportunities to Big Island community members this spring semester. Our most notable events have been finding a home with Malia Puka O' Kalani Catholic Church in Hilo and providing services to community members attending UH Hilo's International Nights.

PIMSC continues to provide screenings to the members of Malia Puka O' Kalani with monthly screening clinics. From November through March, our student pharmacists have provided 44 church members with 114 combined screenings for BMI, blood pressure, cholesterol and A1c. PIMSC hopes to continue its partnership with Malia Puka O' Kalani well into future years to provide consistent screenings.

During December, PIMSC joined forces with HSSHP to provide screenings during the Hui Malama Wellness event. Along with helping the community, our student pharmacists were able to participate in Hula and poi pounding activities.



## Student Organizations

In the month of February, PIMSC offered screening services to community members attending UH Hilo's International Nights. Our student pharmacists provided information on healthy diet choices, as well as BMI, blood pressure, cholesterol and A1c screenings to adult attendees over the two-night event. A total of 26 community members were provided with 66 screenings.

PIMSC has events scheduled at Malia Puka O'Kalani in March and April. If you have an event that you would like PIMSC to provide screenings for, or if you have any questions about our organization, please contact our Community Liaison Chair Shannon Trinh at [st Trinh3@hawaii.edu](mailto:st Trinh3@hawaii.edu).

### PLS

## PLS holds CV workshop for fellow student pharmacists

*By Kelli Goo (Class of 2018)*

In March, the members of Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS) hosted a curriculum vitae (CV) workshop geared towards first-year student pharmacists. Composing a CV for the first time may seem like a daunting task. Often, questions arise regarding what should and should not be included, appropriate formatting, and word choice. PLS members aimed to answer these questions and more at the



workshop. The event consisted of a presentation portion and an optional personalized CV review for attendees. During the presentation, Co-Chairs Jessica Lee (Class of 2018) and Veronica Wong (Class of 2019) provided recommendations on how to organize and format a CV. They showed multiple examples of CVs, offered words of advice, and pointed out additional resources that are available.

"The workshop was intended to provide guidance to P1 student pharmacists as they embark onto the next step in their careers and head into their summer retail rotations," explained Jessica.

At the workshop, over thirty students were in attendance. Mary Lui (Class of 2020) stated, "The PLS CV workshop was very beneficial because it provided a basic guidance for students who needed to get started on their CVs, as well as for those who wanted further feedback in terms of formatting and consistency."

Another attendee, Taryn Chang (Class of 2020), said, "The workshop was very helpful. PLS members went over what is included in a CV and gave a lot of useful tips. At the end of the workshop, members looked over our CVs and even helped people get started on one." Overall, the event was a huge success.



## DKICP's Phi Lambda Sigma Ranks Top 9 in the Nation

*By Kelli Goo (Class of 2018)*

DKICP's Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS) Delta Lambda Chapter ranked as a Top 9 finalist for the coveted "Chapter of the Year Award" at the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting held in San Francisco March 26.

The PLS National Office holds an awards ceremony and meeting, referred to as the National House of Delegates, each year during the APhA Annual Meeting. During this time, delegates from more than 120 chapters convene to vote on national officers and discuss the current bylaws. In addition, select chapters are recognized for their outstanding work and leadership.

PLS was established in 1965 at Auburn University and is a nationally recognized leadership honor society. The mission of PLS is to support pharmacy leadership commitment by recognizing leaders and fostering leadership development. The Delta Lambda Chapter at DKICP was chartered in September 2013. Since founding, the members of PLS have focused on upholding the mission by recognizing fellow student pharmacists for their outstanding leadership and hosting professional development

workshops throughout the year.

Rene Scott Chavez (Class of 2019) attended for the first time and stated, "it took a lot of courage for PLS members to run for national officer positions in front of all the members from different chapters. The awards ceremony and recipients were very inspirational and motivated me to do a lot more as a leader and to continue taking on leadership roles even after graduating from DKICP."

The Chapter of the year award takes into consideration all PLS Chapters from colleges across the nation. Here at DKICP, PLS is one of the smallest organizations on campus, with less than fifteen members in Hilo at a given time. What the organization lacks in numbers, they make up for in passion and dedication. Members often take on multiple roles when organizing workshops and events. It is impressive to see how much the Delta Lambda Chapter has accomplished within the first four years of being chartered. To be recognized on a national level, our student pharmacists let other colleges know that DKICP is a force to reckon with.



*Rene Scott Chavez, Matt Chen, Kelli Goo, Vicky Nguyen, and Paolo Truong attending the Phi Lambda Sigma House of Delegates Meeting in San Francisco.*

## Rotation Blog

# Follow fourth-year students' blogs on rotation in Thailand

Three students completed an elective rotation for six weeks in Thailand during their seventh block of rotations in their final year. They were required to capture their daily activities through an online blog that would be shared with the college.

Melissa Giachetti, Tia Gonzales and Val Povaliaev completed a rotation at Rangsit University focused on pharmaceutical technology and industrial pharmacy, where they spent the majority of their time at the Sino-Thai Traditional Medicine Research and Development Center and Sun Thai Chinese Manufacturing facility. Rangsit University is located in Pathum Thani Province, slightly north of Bangkok and is part of the Bangkok metropolitan area.

Please visit their blog at: <https://chroniclesofthailand.wixsite.com/home>



*Melissa Giachetti*



*Tia Gonzales*



*Val Povaliaev*



# The tale of two student pharmacists named Chris: Chris Cao and Chris Diaz

Two fourth-year students completed rotations at Providence Saint Peter's Hospital in Olympia, Washington. They would especially like to thank DKICP alumni who they met with while there: Daniel Hu (who provided the Alumni Update in this issue), Dan Kim, Nick Rovang, Lindsey Takara and Eddie Wong.

### In the words of Chris Cao (Class of 2017):

What little I knew about the Medical-Surgical unit was an amalgamation of vague descriptions from alumni and Google search results. Thankfully, I think there is something special about DKICP that lends its APPE students an intrepid mentality to brave the unknowns of fourth year. In Washington State for the first time, I still felt at home with the abundant greenery, reminiscent of Hilo, and familiar faces of alumni. It was inspiring to see our recent graduates making such a positive impact at Providence Saint Peter's Hospital (PSPH) in Olympia, Washington; so much so, that it felt as if we would had big shoes to fill.



On our first day at PSPH, one of the first faces to welcome us was the Assistant Director of Pharmacy in the Southwest Region, Michael Marr, Pharm.D. He made certain to routinely check up on us weekly to see how we were adjusting and even went out of his way to introduce us to students from other schools for a healthy rotation-life balance. This level of hospitality resurfaced months after our rotation, when we were at ASHP Midyear and the director of a Providence program in California said Dr. Marr had mentioned great things about our DKICP students.

"They call it 'Bootcamp,'" Dr. Marr ominously said of Med-Surg on the first day. The reason for the nickname was because it was a rotation known for being an effective review of internal medicine. As you may gather from the name of the unit, the rotation would service mostly surgery patients, as well as patients who required close monitoring of their medications. After the orientation day and being reacquainted with Epic EMR, Chris Diaz and I went to our respective units, his being the Emergency Department.

Med-Surg at PSPH is led by two spectacular pharmacists, Eugenia Stansbury, RPh, BCPS and Megan Pettibone Pharm.D. On the first day up on the sixth floor Med-Surg, we covered the syllabus and Megan laid out some goals for weeks two, four and six of the rotation. It was clear that PSPH was well-organized and structured on its educational front and this was extremely conducive to my learning. This first week was dedicated to observing and practicing writing patient progress notes. The manner with which other healthcare

team members always approached and consulted both Genie and Megan showed how they were revered experts, actively pushing the boundaries of pharmacy. Orthopedic surgeons consulted our Med-Surg pharmacists for the management of vancomycin, aminoglycoside and warfarin therapies. We were also responsible for discharge counseling for the patients leaving with anticoagulant medications. This element of the rotation provided me with more patient interaction than I had ever anticipated from any rotation, let alone an acute medicine rotation.

This rotation was also part of the PGY1 residency, so I was able to reap the benefits of the layered-learning model from the resident, Christine Doran. She was in essence a third preceptor and helped me get my bearings when my understanding of a concept was shaky and was a knowledgeable lifeline when the pimping questions were perplexing me. Moreover, due to our rotation schedule being off by a week from some other pharmacy schools, I was able to impart my learnings to the incoming APPE student who had an overlapping week with me in Med-Surg.

By the third week I was evaluating patient charts and posting progress notes for the rest of the healthcare team to utilize. It was reaffirming to have Genie and Megan's encouraging and supporting teaching style, as they were incredibly helpful with their constructive advice. They made sure to reaffirm the strong points of my work while demonstrating clearer and more concise ways to express findings and assessments. Megan and Genie were talented in gauging my progress and knew when I had reached a level of comfort with the workload. At these checkpoints, they would push the envelope and increase the complexity of my experience. Four weeks in and I was working up patients' TPN orders, a feat that I was impressed with myself because I could hardly manage my own nutrition at home with my limited culinary skills.

Sure, during the rotation I felt as if I was flailing about and struggling arduously, but I had unknowingly amassed a greater understanding of so many things Integrated Therapeutics had once taught me. In retrospect, my experience at Providence St. Peter's was undoubtedly one of my favorite rotations. The souvenirs I brought home from Olympia were not material items, but rather long-lasting memories of learning points, an expanded vision of our profession, and new mentors and friends who would shape the pharmacist I hope to become.

### **In the words of Chris Diaz (Class of 2017):**

As Chris Cao mentioned, my rotation at PSPH was in the Emergency Department (ED). I also felt I had big shoes to fill, with the added pressure of entering an environment I was completely unfamiliar with. We do not receive formal training



of how to participate in advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) or administer medications (this is specific to Washington—their state laws allow pharmacists (and consequently, pharmacist interns) to administer medications to patients). However, I can say with complete confidence that DKICP did prepare me to interact with patients and healthcare professionals in this setting, and

gave me a strong clinical foundation to approach any simple or complex situation. Along the way, there were several stages to my experience in the ED with varying levels of emotion: three-month pre-rotation, one-week pre-rotation, during the rotation, and post-rotation.

Three months prior, I was scared and I wasn't sure what to expect. Some questions that ran through my head include: what information would I be expected to know? How do I anticipate the high-acuity nature of patients that come into the ED and how do I treat them? Am I expected to know everything immediately on the spot? How do I administer medications? What if I make a mistake? What if I blank and do not know what to do? How will I handle seeing the patient population?

One week prior, I was just as scared. I had done my best to prepare beforehand on topics I could typically see: drug overdose, stroke, myocardial infarction, seizures, and physical injuries to name a few. There wasn't much I could do to quell the fear until I started the rotation.

During the rotation, I wasn't scared anymore. The workload was intense and I was challenged to learn more every day. Unlike Chris Cao's layered-learning model with his PGY1 resident, the ED only has enough space to accommodate either a pharmacy student or a resident. All my tasks were completed with an ED pharmacist in the morning shift, which included twice-weekly student-led topic discussions, journal club presentations, active involvement with all Code Blues and Code Strokes in the entire hospital,



*Top row from left: Dr. Edward Wong (Class of 2015), Dr. Nick Rovang (Class of 2016), Chris Cao (Class of 2017), Dr. Dan Hu (Class of 2012), Chris Diaz (Class of 2017) Bottom row from left: Brandie-Lyn Iyo (non-DKICP), Dr. Daniel Kim (Class of 2014), Dr. Lindsey Takara (Class of 2015).*

pediatric dose exposure, and medication reconciliation. The amount of work and hands-on experience I had was immense, and I learned much about myself that prepared me to truly envision myself more as a clinical pharmacist rather than a student.

Post-rotation, I feel more confident and excited for the field of acute medicine. My preceptors at PSPH were dedicated to my education and providing me with excellent mentorship. I constantly received constructive criticism about my clinical approach to disease state management and interaction with healthcare providers. Every topic discussion I led was filled with questions to challenge my train of thought, encourage confidence in my clinical ability, and determine if I really am interpreting and applying the information appropriate for the best patient care I can give. I echo Chris Cao's sentiment that this experience at Providence St. Peter was one of my favorite rotations I have had—so much so that I am interested in pursuing emergency medicine and critical care for my future career, which is not the type of pharmacist I would have wanted to be when I started pharmacy school.

This is an excellent opportunity for any of our students to get exposure to healthcare in completely different environment from Hilo, regardless of which rotation they choose. The plethora of rotations available at PSPH afford our students a vast array of experiences to explore future career opportunities, with the strong support of preceptors that are dedicated to training future pharmacists.

## Alumni Update: Dr. Dan Hu Class of 2012

I recently had the pleasure of visiting the UH Hilo campus for the first time in several years to be inducted as a PDC brother. I am always impressed by the progress that is being made by our faculty and students. A lot has changed since I graduated in 2012! After graduating from the program in 2012, I stayed in Hawai'i to complete a fellowship with the FDA Office of Minority Health and the DKICP under Dr. Taira's mentorship. Following this, I completed a PGY-1 residency at Providence St. Peter Hospital in Olympia, WA, where I remain as pharmacist to this day. Our hospital has eight PGY-1 residents and one combined PGY-1/PGY-1/fellowship position at this time. I serve as a preceptor for our students and residents who rotate through my service lines.



My practice has evolved to a current focus on internal medicine, critical care, and emergency medicine. I love our practice here – each day I work closely with providers, nurses, support staff, and patients. One of the things I love the most about my job is the patient interactions and the closeness of our teams. The camaraderie between our staff is amazing and it gives me a joy to serve those in need and be a part of saving lives and improving quality of life.

Sometimes I joke that my personality is better suited for “playing in a reggae band,” but the truth is that I love pharmacy and I couldn't imagine doing anything else. I am thankful for the faculty at the DKICP, my fellow alumni, and all of the experiences that went into my education to prepare me for this career. Since graduating, I've continued to publish and contribute to student teaching as a guest lecturer for our local Washington universities, and was recently appointed an adjunct faculty position with Washington State University. I've had a lot of wild experiences as a pharmacist working in multiple emergency rooms and critical care units, I've seen a lot of things, and I've learned so much through all of this.

I'm excited to have been able to work with Lara Gomez to help facilitate Providence St. Peter's first rotations for DKICP students – we had Chris Cao and Chris Diaz rotate through our medical-surgical and emergency medicine service lines and our staff enjoyed having UH students very much! I can't wait for the next group of students to join us for their APPE rotations! Precepting students is one of the best parts of my job. I think back to my time as a student and can realize how much patience and effort went into my own preceptors' work when they were teaching me. It makes me happy to be able to pass this one to future generations. Time gives more perspective, and when I look back at my experiences as a DKICP student, I feel a sense of gratitude. I'm excited to see what comes next!



# Champions of Pharmacy



Dr. Elwin Goo has been named a Champion of Pharmacy for Spring 2017.

A constant presence at many health fairs and pharmacy events, Dr. Goo is a member of the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Dean's Advisory Council. He was born in Honolulu, graduated from Iolani School, and earned both a B.A. in Psychology and a Pharm.D. from the University of Southern California.

In 2008, he retired after a 30-year career with the U.S. Department of Defense, Federal Civil Service. He served as Chief, Pharmacy Service, U.S. Army Health Clinic, Schofield Barracks, and Chief, Inpatient Pharmacy, Tripler Army Medical Center.

Dr. Goo has distinguished himself in Hawai'i as a two-term chair of the Hawai'i State Board of Pharmacy, and has written board exams for the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. At DKICP, he has served as a guest lecturer in law and ethics, and has influenced every class of student pharmacists since our inception.

In 2010, the Hawai'i Pharmacists Association awarded him the Bowl of Hygieia Award which recognizes pharmacists who possess outstanding records of civic leadership in their communities and encourages pharmacists to take active roles in their communities.

Just prior to its first class of Pharm.D. candidates' graduation in 2011, Dr. Goo served as inaugural president of the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Alumni Association to reach out to new pharmacy alumni and friends of the college: "Alumni are carriers of the identity of the pharmacy school just as much as students or faculty," Dr. Goo said when he accepted the position heading the alumni group. "Alumni can serve as mentors and identify employment opportunities for fellow alumni as well as students. The chapter is designed to promote pharmacy education and our profession. I invite all alumni to increase your participation by getting involved in the UH Hilo COP Alumni Association. Your input on the board or on one of its committees would be indispensable in helping us to accomplish our mission."

"It is emphasized that one does not have to be a graduate of the University of Hawai'i to be a friend and member of the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Alumni Association. I encourage all friends, family, and supporters of the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy to become members of the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Alumni Association."

"Pharmacy alumni are an integral component of the College of Pharmacy's success. Their philanthropic support is also essential to maintaining the outstanding education and clinical preparation that the College of Pharmacy provides to current students. For those of you who are members, I thank you for

your commitment, support and dedication. For those who have not yet joined us, we look forward to your support."



Dr. Goo and his wife, Valerie, are committed to supporting pharmacy school students. They have sponsored the Elwin and Valerie Goo Endowed Excellence Scholarship in Pharmacy to benefit high-achieving third- or fourth-year students at DKICP. Dr. Goo also established the College of Pharmacy Alumni Association Scholarship in order to assist pharmacy students demonstrating leadership, dedication to community service, and an interest in promoting alumni association activities.

With this award, we recognize his unwavering support and guidance throughout our existence, and are grateful for his continued affiliation.



# MAKE A DIFFERENCE



## **In your community and in the life of a student pharmacist**

Give the best students the financial support they need to excel.

Since 2014, 56 Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy students have benefited from scholarships funded by people like you.

There are many ways to give -- cash gifts, pledges, beneficiary designation gifts, life insurance gifts, in-kind gifts, and bequest intentions.

*The University of Hawai'i Foundation is the non-profit organization that raises private gifts, manages assets, and provides alumni and donor services for all ten campuses of the UH System.*

*As a professional fundraising organization, the UH Foundation team can help you find the best way for you to make a difference.*

**Please contact Malia Peters, [Malia.peters@uhfoundation.org](mailto:Malia.peters@uhfoundation.org), or (808) 956-6311 to learn more.**

**[www.uhfoundation.org/givetopharmacy](http://www.uhfoundation.org/givetopharmacy)**



**UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAI'I®**  
FOUNDATION