Aloha, Everyone!

I hope that you enjoy this “inaugural” newsletter. I’d like to acknowledge Phyllis Robinson and Crystal Tsuda for their hard work in making this newsletter possible. Mahalo, Phyllis and Crystal!

On behalf of your 2011-2012 Board of Officers and Directors, I’d like to thank you for allowing us this privilege and honor to serve you. During our first 90 days together as your new Board, we have met to identify goals for the upcoming year and we are excited about the potential of the year ahead of us.

Mark Twain once wrote, “Really great people make you feel that [even] you, too, can become great.”

We have been so fortunate to have worked with some of these “really great people,” whose passion and dedication have inspired us. I’d like to take this time to recognize some of them who have been serving you over the past year:

Our 2010 board members, especially our outgoing members*:
Selma Yamamoto
Marcella Chock*
Wes Sumida*
Nicole Patton
Brian Fukunaga*
Kent Kikuchi*
Kurt Schanzenbach*
Phyllis Robinson
Marcy Rapp
Jim Rexroat
Patricia Drury

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PHARMACY STUDENTS CONTINUE TO EDUCATE AT THE MONTHLY “FEEDING THE HUNGRY” EVENT IN WAHIAWA

It is estimated that 1 in 10 families in Hawai'i fall below the poverty line. In FY 2010 Approximately 66,885 households utilized the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) to provide for their daily nutritional needs. This number continues to grow as the result of furloughs, cut backs and increased unemployment which has accompanied Hawai'i’s recent economic recession.

To address the needs of the community, Surfing the Nations (STN), a humanitarian organization based out of Wahiawa, has been acting as one of the largest private distributors of food. STN provides for over 3000 people a week at sites around the island in an initiative known as Feeding the Hungry (FTH).

Due to minimal or complete lack of healthcare coverage, this population often has little contact with health care providers. As a result, individuals in this patient population have a lower health literacy rate relative to the general population; many having never been exposed to even the most basic of information surrounding the chronic disease states that plague our community.

Earlier this year the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy teamed up with STN to help increase health literacy. The pharmacy students provide disease state education at the FTH event held every month in Wahiawa. While members of the community wait patiently for the food to be distributed, the pharmacy students counsel patients on making healthy choices. (cont.)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Our Annual Meeting Committee Co-chairs:
Lois Nash
Sue-Ann Yasuoka

Our HPhA ACPE Administrator:
Catherine Takayue

Our Annual Meeting Committee Members:
Alben Tanaka Jessica Toyama
Betsy Fujimoto Kerri Okamura
Brian Fukunaga Marcella Chock
Carol Parker Nicole Patton
Camlyn Masuda Pam Tsuzaki
Forrest Batz Patti Drury
Selma Yamamoto

Our 2010 Committee Chairpersons:
Finance – Marcella Chock
Programs – Betsy Fujimoto
Government Affairs – Keiko Hiraoka
Scholarship & Awards – Camlyn Masuda

We know very well that our association is comprised of many of you “really great people”. Now, more than ever, our association needs YOU all so that we can, together, do “really great things” this year to promote the future of our profession. Collectively, we can do much greater than what we could ever do individually. If you are interested in joining any of our committees, or even have an idea to share, please email us at hawaiipharm@gmail.com.

Thanks so much everyone. We look forward to partnering with each of you this year!

Sincerely,

Jeani

Incoming President
Jeani Jow, Pharm.D., BCPS
“FEEDING THE HUNGRY” (CONTINUED)
By showing this community how to implement daily lifestyle interventions, these students may help to control and slow the progression of chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and hyperlipidemia. Unlike other community health fairs FTH gives students the opportunity to see patients on a consistent basis. This allows them to build relationships of trust and to work with patients to overcome some of the barriers associated with adhering to a regular diet and exercise program.

“I believe this is an opportunity for our (UH Hilo Pharmacy) students to interact with a population that would otherwise not seek medical attention. By taking time to build relationships with members of the community, we are able to demonstrate that we truly care about their wellbeing. As a result, our interventions are very well received and people are starting to take a more noticeable interest in their health, which is reflected in their food choices and activities of daily living,” says Roy Goo, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and HPhA Board Member.

Ultimately FTH is providing future pharmacists of Hawai‘i with an opportunity to interact with a patient population that they might not otherwise be exposed to, while also demonstrating the value of Pharmacist-driven educational programs in increasing the health literacy of an underserved population.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UH HILO COLLEGE OF PHARMACY CLASS OF 2011!

The inaugural class graduated on Saturday, May 14, 2011 at the UH Hilo Commencement Ceremony held at the Edith Kanaka’ole Stadium in Hilo, HI.

NOTES FROM THE UH HILO COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

As the inaugural class, the Class of 2011, had the unique opportunity to create traditions for future classes and undertook this endeavor seriously, with gratitude. They also establish committees, took legislative action, and organizing fundraisers and social events. They especially embraced the importance of giving back to the community. Here are a few of their accomplishments for this past school year: College of Pharmacy Health Fair at Kahala Mall, COPD Education Day at Queen’s Conference Center, held in collaboration with the HPhA through SueAnn Yasuoka and the Hawaii Senior Health Fair at Blaisdell Exhibition Hall.

The start of the 2010-2011 school year meant the beginning of the core curriculum, proving to be an academic challenge for the Class of 2013. However despite the course load, the students remained active outside of the classroom, participating in the Hilo Heart Walk, Relay for Life, and the March of Dimes, raising thousands of dollars for charity. They also participated in a number of health fairs including the 2nd annual CoP Health Fair, APhA’s VA Health Fair, and Phi Delta Chi’s (PDC) Miloli’i Health Fair.

Six members (Marina Mehau-Sanchez, Andrew Reinhart, Ann Txakeeyang, Stephanie Ogle, Mariko Katagiri, and Naoto Oki) of the Class of 2014 were part of group that travelled to Kalaupapa, on Molokai to learn about Hansen’s disease and its effects on the culture of Hawaii. Other activities included selling baked treats at the Hilo Farmer’s Market to raise money for class yearbooks and graduation, attending the 2011 APhA Conference in Seattle and participating in the Hilo Heart Walk, organized by Keith Acab and Romelynn Lamosao, raising over $2800.
HAWAII STUDENT SOCIETY OF HEALTH SYSTEMS PHARMACISTS SPRING 2011 REPORT

Hawaii Student Society of Health Systems Pharmacists (HSSHP) was awarded the ASHP new SSHP student start up grant for 2010-2011. They are currently applying to get official recognition by ASHP.

This year’s HSSHP President, Chris Lai Hipp was awarded the ASHP Student Leadership Award. He was one of 3 students in the Pharmacy Class of 2014, nationwide, to be selected for this honor! Chris was awarded a plaque, an ASHP drug information reference library, and a $2500 cash award provided by the ASHP Research and Education Foundation through the Walter Jones Memorial Pharmacy Student Financial Aid Fund.

Among these, HSSHP had a busy year, including the following events and speakers:

Community Service
August 2010 - Kahala Mall Health Fair, sponsored by HSSHP
November 2010 - HSSHP Diabetes Health Fair at Hilo Medical Center
February 2011 - Hilo Heart Walk
April 2011 - Relay for Life at UH Hilo Campus
April 2011 - Walgreens Hilo Grand Opening

Speaker Series
Dr. Abby Collier - Pediatric Pharmacokinetics
Dr. Ben Chavez - Psychiatric Pharmacy and Residencies
Dr. Eric Gilliam - Emergency Pharmacy and Training
Amy Knehans - Drug Information Workshop

HSSHP is looking forward to becoming more involved with HPhA in the coming year. They also are interested in finding pharmacists who are residency or specialty trained who would like to give a talk on their areas of expertise or any topic of potential interest to the students.

SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Chris Lai Hipp has served as a founding member of the student society at the new pharmacy school in Hawaii. He has been involved in health-system pharmacy practice as a clinical pharmacy intern at a large integrated health system. He is also achieving academic success in pursuing his Pharm.D. and masters degree in Tropical Medicine & Pharmacology.

Congratulations Chris!
PICTURES FROM THE 2011 HPHA ANNUAL MEETING

Thanks to everyone for attending the Annual Meeting! Mahalo to this year’s co-chairpersons, SueAnn Yasuoka and Lois Nash, for all of their hard work. Many of you have commented that this was the best Annual Meeting thus far. Got any ideas for next year’s meeting? Email us at hawaiipharm@gmail.com.

Save the date for next year’s meeting, to be held on April 28-29, 2012, at the Hilton Waikiki Beach (a.k.a. Prince Kuhio).
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2011 AWARD RECIPIENTS!!

Outstanding Medical Service Representative of Hawaii (Sponsor: HPhA) – Alben Tanaka
Pharmacy Technician of the Year (Sponsor: HPhA) - Patricia A. Drury, CPhT
Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award (Sponsor: Physician’s Mutual) – Marcy C. (Matsukawa) Rapp, PharmD
Excellence in Innovation Award (Sponsor: Upsher-Smith Laboratories) – Marcy C. (Matsukawa) Rapp, PharmD
Bowl of Hygeia (Sponsor: NASPA) - Elwin D. H Goo, PharmD
Pharmacy Leadership Award (Sponsor: HPhA) – Selma Yamamoto, Pharm.D. BCPS
Pharmacist of the Year (Sponsor: Pfizer) – Marcella S. Chock, PharmD
Friends of Pharmacy Award (Sponsor: HPhA) – Catherine E. Takauye, MBA

SUN SETS ON HAWAII INDEPENDENT PHARMACIES BUT DAWNS ON NEW ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR UHH COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

The Hawaii Independent Pharmacies, Inc. (HIP) was established in 1987 to unite all independent pharmacies in Hawaii and allow them to engage and participate in group purchasing of merchandise generally sold in drugstores and other related activities. The organization served as a means of communication among independent pharmacies, both professionally and socially.

Some of HIP’s founding members started their own wholesale drug company. Pacific Drug was a forerunner in recognizing the win-win value of generic drugs to both pharmacies and patients. Stocking these legal, but not yet popularly recognized drugs helped the independents to “level the playing field” of the cost of inventory at a time when the major wholesalers were only stocking brand products. Of course at that time, “drug coverage” by health insurers was not yet the sophisticated and complex system that it has become. All the patients knew was that buying these generics saved them money! Pharmacies, on the other hand, were able to offer better prices and still generate a better profit margin.

Some of you may remember the “golden olden days” before third party benefits managers started slashing profits!

At that time, chain drugstores across the nation were rapidly putting the smaller, independently-owned stores out of business with their volume-driven inventory purchasing advantage. The smaller stores could not compete with the advantageous pricing contracts the chains could negotiate with the drug manufacturers and wholesalers. To its credit, McKesson Drug supported HIP with donations on behalf of its independent clients every year. This allowed the organization to amass a substantial treasury before the wholesaler discontinued this generous policy.

Meanwhile, with the successful establishment of national group buying cooperatives, such as IPC and United Drug, the independent pharmacies were able to hang on to their profitability a little longer. Time passed, and many of the founding members of the organization passed on, or closed or sold their stores, frequently due to retirement.

Members found fewer reasons to meet. The founding purpose for the organization had become less compelling and it was decided that the corporation should be dissolved.

Fortuitously, the University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy was created about the same time. It was a perfect opportunity for the Independent pharmacies to leave a legacy; honoring their long and noble history of entrepreneurial spirit linked with personal patient care. Akamai business people to the end, Hawaii Independent Pharmacies, Inc. took advantage of scholarship matching funds available from the “Student Access and Success Fund,” set up by former Chancellor, Rose Tseng, with funds from an anonymous donor doubling their bequest to establish a $145,000 endowed scholarship to support Hawaii residents pursuing pharmacy studies at UHH College of Pharmacy, in perpetuity. It is hoped that these students will be inspired to keep the unique opportunities presented by ownership of an independent pharmacy vibrant and flourishing!