



John A. Burns School of Medicine Class of 2008, Profile

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Sixty-two men and women began their first day of medical school on July 26, 2004. Thirty-nine women and 23 men were selected from a total of 1,373 applicants from throughout the United States and Canada. Two-hundred-seventy-four, 158 Hawaii residents and 116 non-residents, were screened academically to be interviewed. Finally selected were 58 residents and four non-residents. As a State-supported school, preference is given to residents of Hawaii. Residency is determined by examining five criteria: legal residency, parent's residence, birthplace, high school attended, and college or professional school attended. An applicant must have at least three of the five to be considered a "resident" for application purposes.

The median age of the Class of 2008 is 23, ranging from 21 to 45. Twenty-one are re-applicants. Forty-five are graduates of mainland colleges, 16 are from Hawaii institutions, and one from Canada. JABSOM is proud of its ethnic diversity of the class, represented by: Caucasian, Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Chinese/Japanese, Filipino/Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese/Filipino, Chinese/Japanese/Native Hawaiian, Chinese/Japanese/Native Hawaiian/White, Chinese/Vietnamese, Filipino/Cherokee/White, Filipino/Japanese/Native Hawaiian, Filipino/White, Japanese/Korean, Japanese/Korean/White/Japanese/Native Hawaiian White, Japanese/White, Korean/White, Maori/White, Okinawan/Chinese, and Persian/Filipino.

Forty-five are graduates of mainland colleges, 16 from colleges in Hawaii and one is an alumnus of a foreign institution. All have their Baccalaureate degrees. In addition, four have their Masters and one has a Doctorate in Pharmacy. The colleges and universities represented are UH Manoa, University of Southern California, UC-Los Angeles, U of Washington, U of Puget Sound, Lewis and Clark, UC-Berkeley, UC-Irvine, BYU Hawaii, College of William and Mary, Colorado College, Gettysburg College, Long Island U-Southampton College, McGill U, Northern Illinois U, Occidental College, Pacific U, Portland State U, Princeton U, Rice U, Saint Louis U-Main Campus, Scripps College, Southern California College, Stanford U, UC-San Diego, UH-Hilo, U of Oregon, U of Pennsylvania, U of San Francisco, Washington State U, Westmont College, Willamette U, and Yale U.

Twenty-two listed Biology or Biochemistry as their undergraduate majors. Others listed Biomedical Engineering, Molecular and Cell Biology, Psychobiology, Psychology, American Literature and Culture, Anatomy and Cell Biology, Animal Physiology, Neuroscience, Biochemistry-Pre-Medical, Biochemistry-Health Policy and Management-Computer Science, Biological Science-Biomedical Science, Biological Sciences, Biology-Emphasis in Molecular and Cellular Biology-Chemistry, Business Administration-Finance,

Business Marketing, Chemistry, Communications, Comparative Sociology Social Services, Natural Science Biology, Computer Science, East Asian Studies, Economics, English, English-Biology, Exercise Sciences-Physiology, Family and Consumer Sciences, Human Biology, Interdisciplinary Studies, Kinesiology, Mathematics, Molecular Biology, Molecular-Cell and Development Biology, Neurobiology/Zoology, Pharmacy, Physiology, Pre-Med Biology and Spanish, Sociology, and Theology.

Seventy regular and clinical faculty volunteered to interview applicants. All interviewers were oriented to the admissions process early in the school year. Each interviewer is assigned 8-10 applicants who are held responsible to locate and schedule their appointments that are conducted throughout the State. For neighbor island applicants, at least one interview is conducted on their respective island. Interviewers are provided the essay portions of the application that contains a brief biographical sketch and written compositions to the questions, "Why medicine as a career?" and "Why the John A. Burns School of Medicine?" Academic scores, transcripts and results of the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) are not given to interviewers.

The majority of the students stated that they selected JABSOM for the Problem Based Learning curriculum, the location of the school, and for those from Hawaii, the desire to be close to home, and to serve the people of Hawaii and the Pacific.

At the completion of the interviews, the applicants' dossiers are submitted to the Admissions Committee composed of ten members, 5 women and 5 men. Seven were clinicians, 2 basic scientists and one social scientist. They represented the major ethnic groups in Hawaii as well as the various age levels. Each member is committed to serve three years. The Committee met twenty-one times between September and mid-May.

The Committee processed two hundred seventy-four dossiers. Each folder contained the application to the American College Admissions Services (AMCAS) that included a biographical sketch and essays, transcripts, the Medical College Admissions Test scores, interview evaluations, and letters of recommendations. The dossier is examined as a composite of an applicant who may have the potentials of becoming a physician. Critical in this process are the Committee members' assessments as to whether the individual displays leadership and interpersonal skills, a compassion to help others, the ability to stand ambiguities, and the stamina and motivation to go through at least seven to eight years of medical education and training. Finally, after a brief discussion, each applicant is given a score that ranges from 1-10. This is a secret ballot. The scores are not discussed and submitted to the registrar who averages all the ratings and keeps them aside. When all 274 candidates have been processed, the ratings are

ranked. The first fifty-five candidates were offered positions in the class. Seven students in the Post Baccalaureate Imi Ho'ola Program completed their one-year studies and joined the incoming class.

The academic credentials of the class are: median cumulative grade point average (GPA), 3.65; median science GPA, 3.51; MCAT scores, Verbal Reasoning, 9; Physical Sciences, 9; Writing Sample, Q; and, Biological Sciences, 10.

The Class of 1983, celebrating their 25th anniversary since graduation, honored the incoming Class of 2008 at the White Coat Ceremony on July 30, 2004, conceived by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. Each student received a white coat, a stethoscope, two books, "On Doctoring" and "Bates' Guide to Physical Examination and History Taking, and a pin depicting the Gold Foundation logo with a stethoscope on the shape of a heart, surrounded with the words, "Humanism in Medicine." The ceremony was highlighted by the restatement of the Oath of Hippocrates by the entire class as well as the physicians in the audience.

Dr. Edwin C. Cadman, Dean of the School of Medicine, welcomed the students to the John A. Burns School of Medicine. His remarks included the following, "...Becoming a physician is perhaps the most rewarding experience you will ever have. I am delighted that you have chosen the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii to begin your career. I am committed to excellence in your education. The faculty deeply cares about you and your education. We are here to serve you as your instructors, guide you through the medical maze of knowledge, and provide you the skills required to be an outstanding physician."

Sixty-two bright, enthusiastic young men and women have embarked on becoming physicians who will contribute towards creating a healthy society in which we live.



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