

Norman Goldstein MD

A Lean but Strong Journal

The *Journal* is lean, but has a lot of good meat between its covers. Because of budgetary restraints, ie, q.n.s. funding (*Quantum non sufficit*), the number of pages in our *Journal* is low—too low! But when you see the quality of clinical research projects, first case reports, and the variety of subjects we publish, you must agree that we are blessed with many knowledgeable and experienced physicians in Hawaii.

If you just scanned the paper by Easa and associates on their experience with inhaled nitric oxide for pulmonary hypertension in last month's *Journal*, look at it again. They treated 30 infants and children with very serious conditions, including acute respiratory distress syndrome, meconium aspiration syndrome, pneumonia and sepsis, and postoperative patients with congenital heart diseases. Twenty of these patients improved, thanks to the team efforts at Kapiolani and Tripler Medical Centers.

Even a dermatologist should be interested in this paper. Men using Rogaine, topical minoxidil for alopecia, now available without prescription, might want to follow the research on nitric oxide. Cases of rapid onset of male baldness have been linked to an increased risk of coronary disease and have been implicated to a deficiency of scalp nitric oxide.^{1,2} Stay tuned!

This issue contains a serious complication of heparin therapy: spontaneous pulmonary hemorrhage. Kok, Sugihara, and Druger report the first case of this problem associated with a commonly used drug, heparin.

The manuscript by Feinberg and Kelley should be of interest to all physicians, and especially primary care physicians and obstetricians/gynecologists. Employers and personnel department managers also will find a great deal of practical information about pregnant workers.

Thank You Mom

May 12 is Mothers' Day, just in case you forgot.

Mom is one of the most common of all tattoos. There are several reasons for this. Mom is a special, special woman; we all have one or had one; her name is easy to spell; and while a spouse or significant other may change, Mom is always Mom.

Plastic surgeon, Dr Bob Flowers, honors his Mom and ours with his special poetic tribute to all mothers.

1. Herrera, CR et al. Baldness and coronary heart disease rates in men from the Framingham study. *Am J Epic.* 195; 1420: 828-33.
2. Baylis C, Mitruka B, Deng A. Chronic blockade of nitric oxide synthesis in the rat produces systemic hypertension and glomerular damage. *J Clin Invest.* 192 90:278-81.

For Mom—by Robert S. Flowers MD

Dear God,
Help my mom
Throughout the day
She spends her time
To ease my way.

Give her love
And time to rest
And keep her safe
For she's the best...
Mom in the whole world. Amen.



Frederick C. Holschuh MD

I was very pleased with the vog issue of the *HMA Journal*. Jan Estioko and Carol Uyeda did a fantastic job of bringing it all together. I think the vog issue makes a strong statement about the potential health effects of vog and how important it is to control smoking, as there is little we can do about the volcano. I inadvertently omitted recognizing former Councilmember Merle Lai for her contribution to the Vog Authority's organization.

I want to thank one other person for her love, and her support and assistance with the vog data project: my wife, Diane. She helped retrieve some of the data and put up with many days and nights with the dining table covered with tabulations of emergency room asthma visits.



Military Medicine

**Robert V. Hollison, Jr, COL, MC
Commander**

**Tripler Army Reserve Hospital Augmentation
(TUHA)**

Most Hawaii physicians are not aware of the presence of the large military health care system that plays a major role in caring for approximately 250,000 people of Hawaii and 850,000 Pacific Basin populations eligible for care. The most well-known health system that provides military medical care is Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC). TUHA, a little-known army reserve unit, augments Tripler's capability if a major civilian/military disaster or military conflict erupted requiring movement of active duty Tripler physicians to areas of need. More than 70% of our armed forces medical assets are harbored in the reserve components. TUHA is the single-largest organized reserve medical unit in Hawaii and the Pacific. The primary mission of TUHA is to support TAMC in the event of military mobilization. This unit serves a secondary mission of providing medical support to more than 3,500 U.S. Army Pacific Reservists in Hawaii, Guam, Saipan, Samoa, and the Marianas. In addition, TUHA provides medical support to military exercises in Japan, and when needed, elsewhere in the U.S. Army Pacific's (USARPAC) and the Pacific Rim's area of operations. The area covered by USARPAC encompasses more than 51% of the world's surface and extends from Madagascar, India, China, and Korea, across the Pacific to Alaska, and southward to include all the major island populations in the South Pacific, Southeast Asia, and Australia. USARPAC covers more than two-thirds of the world's population and covers 12 time zones. Countries within its area of interest represent more than 50% of the U.S. trade partnerships with the United States.

TUHA's unit crest and motto are: *Haaheo I Ka Lawelawe*, which means *Pride in service*, and is something our people take seriously. TUHA currently has slots for only 165 reservists. We have 25 physicians and ancillary medical professionals, 30 nurses, and 110

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