Life in These Parts

Affable Fred Holschuh, past HMA president and a 20-year veteran of Hilo Medical Center’s ER, feels that the drug abuse rate on the Big Island is the State’s worst. “Sometimes ambulances in Hilo are too busy with overdose drug abusers and drunks to pick up sick people and accident victims. A 1995 survey by the State Department of Health shows that the Big Island has a higher percentage of drug and alcohol abusers than elsewhere in the State. The Big Island has an abuse rate of 7.2% compared to Kauai’s 3.47%, Oahu’s 3.55% and Maui’s 2.65%.”

Aetna Medicare which administers Medicare Part A and Part B will close its Hawaii office on September 30, 1997. Nationwide, Aetna Medicare processed $60 million claims last year and the Hawaii office processed $1.6 million claims. Aetna merged with U.S. Health Care (a HMO with operations in 13 states) on July 19 and plans to work with Medicare managed care.

We greeted old friend (retired real estate appraiser) Walter Loo with “How’s Virginia?” (Walter’s wife had retired from her Tripler job). With his typical scowl, he replied gravely, “You know, plastic surgery saved our marriage.” We were surprised that Virginia needed surgery. “Was it something major?” Walter grinned happily, “I cut up her credit cards.”

Proverbs

• Medicine can only cure curable diseases and then not always (Chinese)
• An imaginary ailment is worse than a disease (Yiddish)
• Show him death and he’ll be content with fever (Persian)
• People who take cold baths never have rheumatism, but they have cold baths (American)
• An ailing woman lives forever (Spanish)
• Only a fool will make a doctor his heir (Russian)
• The best surgeon is he that hath been hacked himself (English)
• Every invalid is a physician (Irish)

From Stitches Magazine

Breast Cancer Rates for Asians in the U.S. Rise

Incidence of breast cancer in racial groups per 100,000 population:

- Caucasians 112
- Hawaiians 100
- Afro-Americans 95
- Japanese-Americans 82
- Filipino-Americans 73
- Chinese-Americans 55

Lawrence Kolonel, deputy director of the Cancer Research Center says, “While Asian nations have the world’s lowest incidence of breast cancer, even in the first decade of immigration, the incidence rises dramatically. The rate increase is 25% for the first generation Asian-Americans, 50% for the second generation and 80% for the third. Larry hesitates to say, but he suspects, the increased fat in the American diet may be the cause.

Medicare Quirk

Medicare beneficiaries are ordinarily responsible for 20% of the cost of services under Part B, but they are paying 37% of the total payments for hospital outpatient services. For some services they may pay up to 49% for outpatient surgery, radiology and diagnostic services. This may even rise to 68% by the year 2000. The federal advisory board, the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission has urged Congress to correct the problem, but neither Congress nor the Clinton administration is pushing for a quick solution because of the complexity of the problem and disagreement over who would pay the bill.

Elected, Honored, and Appointed

Alan Taniguchi, 49, was appointed to replace Kim Thoburn (who resigned in protest after 9 years) as state practioner, an orthopedic physician. Alan has a varied career, neurology private practice 1984-86; epidemiologist with the Department of Health for 10 years; and more recently, as a medical resident at the UH Med School.

Family physician Fred Lam, 73, was named the Waikiki Rotary Club’s Employer of the Year. His two employees, office manager Momoye Kurashashi, 70, and nurse Jean Kawafuchi, 69, have been with Fred for five decades. Fred says, “I’m thinking of retiring, but with so many patients, it’s hard.”

Physician Moves

In July, Straub announced that retired endocrinologist Ralph Beddow was returning to join the Joslin Diabetes Center at Straub.

In September, internist Stuart Nakamoto joined the Kailili Medical Center Inc. at 2055 N. King Street; anesthesiologists Mark Robinson and Mark Nishijo joined the Physicians’ Anesthesia Service, Inc. at Kukui Medical Plaza, Suite 306; family practitioner Al Jimenez joined the Family Practice Center; Ewa Beach 91-775 D Papiip Road, Ewa Beach. (“Dr Al” specializes in pediatrics, adult medicine, Gyn & Geriatrics).

Straub Kapolei opened on September 16 in the Campbell Square’s Kapolei Building (next to the post office, across from Bank of Hawaii and next to Kapolei Theaters). Industrial medicine specialist Charles Kelly will work with Ramon Pajavillo to provide service for employees in the Campbell industrial and business parks.

Ophthalmologist Vernon K.W. Wong opened his office at the Kaheka Professional Center, 1481 S. King Street, Suite 42.

Garth Morimoto’s Retirement Bash

(By our favorite neurologist-humorist Mike Okihoro at Mid Pac CC July 18)

It is fortunate that Garth became an orthopedist. With his loud booming voice, he could have been an evangelist, a revivalist or Baptist minister. His voice easily carries two or three fairways.

Actually its all genetic. Garth comes from Kauai where his father was a labor union leader in the days of Jack Hall, Jack Kawano and the I.L.W.U. To be a union leader you needed a strong voice and carry a big stick.
clei. It probably has to be the first of these options because association and reflex fibers pass from the occipital cortex to other cortical centers related to higher function as well as to the superior colliculi and, thus, through the tectobulbar and tectospinal tracts for voluntary and postural reflexes.

So, although we do not yet have an answer, there are a number of possibilities where Garth’s perfect swing goes awry when a golf ball is placed in front of him. From the practical standpoint, my advice is simple: Next time you’re on the golf course, address your club behind the ball, close your eyes and take your Tom Weiskopf swing. Guaranteed, your swing will look nice, even if you miss the Garth-dammit ball.

To place a classified notice:
HMA members.—Please send a signed and typewritten ad to the HMA office. As a benefit of membership, HMA members may place a complimentary one-time classified ad in HMJ as space is available.
Nonmembers.—Please call 536-7702 for a nonmember form. Rates are $1.50 a word with a minimum of 20 words or $30. Not commissionable. Payment must accompany written order.

**Office Space**

Office space.—Kapiolani Women’s and Children’s Medical Center. Office space to share, 1100 sq ft, full or part time. Specialist preferred. Available Jan 1997. Call Charlene 943-8864.

Ala Moana Bldg.—Office space available immediately. Completely furnished, 2 exam rooms and consultation room. Best reasonable offer. Call 955-6666.


Kapolei Medical Park.—Tenants include HMSA, Kapiolani, Straub, & Queens. A limited amount of custom designed space will be available for private practices in this exclusive first-class building. For info call (800)-537-6329.

Office Space for rent in Hilo.— at the Ka Waena Lapaau Medical Center complex, 670 Ponahawai St., 600 sqft. Available Nov. 1, 1996. Please call 961-2881 for more information.

**Locum Tenens**

Family Physician (moving from Canada). Available 1-2 months locums around December/January. Tel: (403) 295-7666 Fax: (403) 295-8960 Cellular: (403) 860-9939.

**For Sale**

ENT O.R. Microscope, 2 ENT RX units w/ suction and compressed air, pneumatic S/MR exam chair & Dr’s stool, X-ray view box, instruments, etc. Call 946-4797, Fax 943-8874.

Mac II Electrocardiograph, very good condition, make offer. Call 597-8043

Until there’s a cure, there’s the American Diabetes Association.

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Johnston Atoll.—Unaccompanied physician with U.S. license required for general practice, 48 hr week. Housing, food, and transportation is provided. JA is a friendly community with recreational opportunities including diving, sailing, and a 9 hole golf course. Please respond to Pam Cooper, Holmes & Narver. PO Box 6240, Orange, CA 92863-6240.

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