Editorial

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Our manuscripts this month deal with medical problems. Problems include those reviewed by the Medical Claim Conciliation Panel, the issue of Box Jellyfish in Waikiki, and a “pseudo-pseudo” problem.

While attending the risk management seminar sponsored by the Hawaii Association of Physicians for Indemnification (HAPI), I heard the views of two attorneys with a great deal of experience – Edmond Burke, Esq., specializing in medical malpractice, and L. Richard Fried, Jr., Esq., representing “the other side,” i.e. the plaintiffs in medical malpractice. Their full presentations were originally printed in the Hawaii Bar Journal in August 2000, and are here reprinted for our readers, with permission of the Hawaii Bar Journal. If, after reading these manuscripts, you have the inclination and interest to serve on the Panel, I am sure that Ed Burke and Rick Fried would be happy to give you further information. The Medical Claims Conciliation Panel can use more medical assistance.

The second paper concerns the problems of box jellyfish stings in Hawaii. The authors emphasized their study does not pertain to Portuguese Man of War, but to Box Jellyfish. Hot packs appear to help the stings somewhat; cold packs probably do not help much; and the authors actually prefer spraying the Box Jellyfish stings with vinegar. Corollary question is why do the jellyfish appear on the 9th or 10th day after the full moon, and only on the leeward shore of Oahu, especially Waikiki Beach?

Craig Thomas MD and Susan Scott RN should be familiar to our readers. Craig is an Emergency Room physician, and Susan is the Marine Science writer for the Honolulu Star-Bulletin. They are authors of All Stings Considered - First Aid and Medical Treatment of Hawaii’s Marine Injuries, reviewed in the Hawaii Medical Journal in November 1997.1 Craig and Susan also have authored Pests of Paradise and Poisonous Plants of Paradise. This troika should be in every physician’s office, first aid station, school nurse’s office, and hospital emergency room in the state.

Pseudo-pseudo conditions in medicine usually present interesting problems. Robert Jim MD, presents a brief case report of a fictitious platelet clumping due to a delay in preparation of a blood smear. The Journal thanks Dr. Jim for his many contributions to the Journal, and to the publications committee of the Hawaii Medical Association.

Reference