Life in These Parts
Physician Moves

February: Internist Diane Sakai opened her office at Chinatown Cultural Plaza, 100 N. Beretania, Ste 201; and GP Raymond Thompson located at Ala Moana Blvd, 1441 Kapiolani Blvd, Ste. 1405.

March: Orthopedic Michael Wengler started his practice at Queen’s POB I, 1380 Lusitana St., Ste. 214.

Internist Chew Mung Lum retired effective Feb 28. and internist Richard Lau Jr. assumed the practice on March 1. Chew Mung thanked his patients, colleagues, hospital staffs and personnel for many years of gratifying practice.

Allergist Jeffrey Kam joined Straub King St. and Straub Pali Momi. Orthopedic Neil Thomas Katz announced that he was moving to 302 California Ave., Ste 108, Wahiawa and to St. Francis West.

Hors de Combat I
Senate Bill 2583 adds new sections to the state insurance code to tighten regulation of mutual benefit societies such as HMSA and some smaller health insurance providers. The Senate bill requires these companies to act in good faith, provide accurate and complete information, take reasonable measures to prevent unfair and deceptive acts and practices and to render all services in a fair and equitable manner.

Mutual benefit societies are exempt from state, county and municipal tax, except unemployment compensation.

A Kailua-Kona couple wanted to know why HMSA paid out $10,000 of the $24,000 bill for an emergency appendectomy in May 1996.

Hilo pediatrician Ruth Matsuura testified that an insurance carrier called the surgical procedure for pectus excavatum in her 14-year-old patient as primarily cosmetic.

Hors de Combat II
The Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that doctors and dentists must make sure that a patient understands the risks of surgery, even if they are not performing the procedure. The justices reinstated a lawsuit by a woman who said her face appeared lopsided after jaw surgery recommended by her orthodontist. The case had been thrown out of Circuit Court.

Arlene Joaason Meyers, Wahiawa pediatrician and 3rd year Law student who founded the nonprofit Hawaii Coalition for Health says, the referring physician may have to make sure in writing that the patient has been informed of treatment risks. Arlene acknowledges that the ruling would lead to greater liability for physicians, but then that the patients will now get the necessary information to make a decision.

Medical Quotes
Melancholy is the pleasure of being sad. Victor Hugo

There are only two sorts of doctors; those who practice with their brains, and those who practice with their tongues. William Osler

We have not lost faith, but we have transferred it from God to the medical profession. George Bernard Shaw

The door that is not opened for a beggar will open for a doctor. Talmud

Specialist: A man who knows more and more about less and less. William Mayo/Nicholas Murray Butler

The greatest discoveries of surgery are anesthesia, sepsis and roentgenology—and none was discovered by a surgeon. Martin Henry Fisher

One of the first duties of a physician is to educate the masses not to take medicine. William Osler

Artificial insemination: copulation without representation. Playboy

A physician who treats himself has a fool for a patient. William Osler

I am dying with the help of too many physicians. Alexander the Great

Doctors pour drugs of which they know little, to cure diseases of which they know less, into human being of whom they know nothing. Voltaire

Making Life Easier

Dr. Hoops
Gleaned from MidWeek, April 1, 1998

Modest Mark Mugiishi has led the Iolani varsity basketball team to 2 state titles and 3 ILH championships in 5 years and was recently named Coach of the Year.

Mark claims he was never a great athlete i.e. he was on the Iolani golf team and on the intermediate basketball team. But then, he was class valedictorian, a Presidential Scholar and a National Merit Scholar. He went to Northwestern where he finished a bachelor’s and MD degree in 6 years. During a semester off between medical school and residency, he found that Iolani needed someone to teach 8th grade science. Iolani also needed a coach for the girls intermediate basketball. He was boys JV coach as well. When he finished residency, and started private practice, both the headmaster and athletic director asked him to be boys varsity coach. Mark says:

"Not bad for a guy who did not play ball for the Red Raiders. But sometimes if you’re junk, you study the game and you understand it. It helps in teaching the game. If you’re not a natural, you can break it down and help the kids understand what they should do."

During a game, Mark is the calm at the center of the storm. “People tell me that I don’t bark as much as most coaches. In the heat of the moment, chewing the kids doesn’t help. I think the time to do that is in practice. Come game time it’s their show. I try to give them guidance and not bark too much.”

Medical Tidbits
“Case Studies in GERD Management: The Era of the PPT”
Anthony Morreale Pharm D, (Sponsored by Astra Merck)

Gerd: PPI’s work the best, but symptoms recur when Rx stopped:
- H2 Blockers: 50% reduction of sy.’s
- PPI’s: 90% reduction of sy.’s
- VA Study: Prilosec 20 preferred over Preveced 30 and more cost effective.
- All H2 blockers are the same.
- Gerd Therapy: PPI’s better than fundal plication.

“Newer Therapeutic Approaches in Cardiovascular Disease” Cardiologist Stanley Kawanishi MD

H2 Blockers:
- Minimally Invasive ByPass: Danger of bleeding 1-2 days postop; Note: heart still pumping during the procedure.
- Laser Technique: Punches fine holes into cardiac muscles; a niche procedure.
- Batista Procedure: a niche procedure; resection of dilated portion; 50% mortality 2 to arrhythmia

Cardiac Surgery:
- NCA 6 (prevailing theme)
- Hypertension with comorbid conditions need more aggressive therapy.

Miscellany
Mac and Todd, two brothers went together to an employment agency for work. Mac was called first for an interview. “It says here you’re a pilot,” said the employment counselor. Mac nodded.

“Well, that’s great. They need experienced pilots. I have a job for you immediately.” With that, Mac left for the airfield.

Todd’s interview didn’t go as well. When asked about his work experience, he replied, “I’m a tree cutter.” The counselor said there were no openings for tree cutters. Incensed, Todd demanded, “How come you have a job for my brother and not for me?”

“Because your brother is a pilot,” explained the counselor. “He has a specialized skill.”

“What do you mean specialized? I cut the wood and he piles it!”

(Gleaned from Readers Digest Feb ’96)