NHCOE Summer 2003 Conference: Prelude to Festschrift

The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM)’s Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence (NHCOE) held its Summer 2003 Conference on July 26-27 at the JW Marriott Ihilani Resort and Spa at Ko Olina. Fifty-eight attendees and their families from Oahu and the neighbor islands at this Tribute to Drs. OA Bushnell and Charles S. Judd, Jr. heard 17 distinguished speakers, two coming from as far as Atlanta and Bethesda, reminisce about Ozzie and Charlie, discuss the impact of infectious (including emerging) diseases on our world and local communities and identify new medical and surgical challenges facing kanaka maoli. A faculty development workshop rounded out the program. Mary, widow of Charlie Judd, was an honored guest at the Conference. Betty Bushnell was unable to attend. The Conference was sponsored by the Hawaii Consortium for Continuing Medical Education, a joint venture between the Hawaii Medical Association (HMA) and JABSOM. The NHCOE is supported by a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Ozzie Bushnell and Charlie Judd, well-known to our HMJ readership, were giants in our midst. Ozzie combined a scientific background, love of history and literary panache to produce some of Hawaii’s finest and most popular books. He died in 2002. Charlie, whose Pacific peregrinations in the Navy during World War II spawned an enduring love for islanders, was the scion of a kamaaina family. He was a surgeon whom the Samoan government honored for his work there with an award previously only given to Robert Louis Stevenson. His contributions to the Oahu community were legion. He was Chairman of the JABSOM Department of Medical History at the time of his death in 1987 and previously had been named Hawaii’s Physician of the Year. Photographs of Drs. Bushnell and Judd at various times in their lives were displayed in the conference room. Pictures from the JABSOM yearbook Kahuna of many attendees also were projected at unexpected times during the presentations.

Edwin C. Cadman, MD, JABSOM Dean, provided opening remarks commending the NHCOE for seeking to identify and correct health disparities between kanaka maoli and other ethnicities. He said that Conference presentations would provide stimuli to achieve these objectives. Benjamin BC Young, MD, NHCOE Executive Director, related anecdotes about Ozzie and Charlie in his introductory remarks, echoed Dean Cadman’s announcement that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) had awarded the University a grant endowing a Chair of Medical History honoring former Bishop Estate Trustee Myron “Pinkie” Thompson and said that after this Conference there would be a call for papers for a festschrift, an HMI commemorative issue, honoring Ozzie and Charlie. Director Young’s objective is to secure funding to endow a Charles S. Judd, MD and OA Bushnell, PhD Endowed Chair of Hawaiian Medical History. Martina Kamaka, MD, NHCOE Faculty and Curriculum Development Coordinator, introduced each of the speakers.

The Saturday morning session was A Tribute to Ozzie Bushnell: Infectious Diseases. D. Peter Drotman, MD, MPH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta GA, and Editor-in-Chief, Emerging Infectious Diseases, elaborated on My Life and Hard Times in Infectious Diseases from the Last Cases of Smallpox and the First Cases of AIDS to Emerging Infectious Diseases. Paul Effler, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist, applied Dr. Drotman’s comments in Emerging Infectious Diseases: Hawaii Status Report/What Physicians Need to Know, in which he discussed epidemiology in Hawaii nei of dengue, murine typhus, antibiotic-resistant gonorrhea, Campylobacter and influenza. He noted that none of the few suspected cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) investigated here were confirmed. An Update on Infectious Diseases in Native Hawaiians rounded off the morning. Wayne Kyono, MD, Assistant Professor, Pediatrics, JABSOM, presented his research and clinical work on Impaired Neurotrophil Function & Invasive Bacterial Infections in Pacific Islander Children. Guliz Erdem, MD, Assistant Professor, Pediatrics, JABSOM, examined reasons in her Acute Rheumatic Fever in Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders why Polynesians are particularly susceptible to this sequela of Streptococcal infection. Anthony Guerrero, MD, Associate Professor, Psychiatry and Pediatrics, JABSOM, hypothesized in Neuropsychiatric Post-Streptococcal Infections (ODD) that the high prevalence of obsessive-compulsive disorder among Hawaiian adolescents may represent instances of PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections).

David Morens, MD, NIH, Bethesda MD recounted during lunch his recollections of his teacher Ozzie Bushnell and discussed Death in the Cannibal Islands, 1875: An Infectious Confrontation between Pacific Civilizations. Introduction of measles that year by return from Australia of the infected Fijian royal family reduced the native