

**Student Profile: Class of 2007  
John A. Burns School of Medicine  
(JABSOM)****Satoru Izutsu PhD  
Senior Associate Dean  
Chair, Admissions Committee**

On August 1, 2003, sixty-two newly admitted first year medical students marched to the chant of Dr. Kalani Brady, '82 JABSOM graduate into the auditorium at the Hawaii State Convention Center. The occasion was the "White Coat Ceremony"<sup>1</sup> that welcomed the students into the medical community. Present were family, friends and faculty. Each student was presented a white coat, also called "cloaks of compassion", by members of the Class of '82 on the occasion of their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of graduation from JABSOM. In addition, each student received a Stethoscope from the Hawaii Medical Association and Pacific Cardiology, and books, "On Doctoring" from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and "Bates' Guide to Physical Examination and History Taking" from the Friends of the Medical School. The ceremony concluded with the administration of the Hippocratic Oath.

The sixty-two outstanding candidates selected were from 1,284 applicants. Of this number, 256 qualified to be interviewed, 156 in-state and 100 out-of-state applicants. The final roster is made up of 56 in-state and 6 non-residents. Sixty percent are women, the average age is 25, and 24% are reapplicants.

The entering class is ethnically diverse (self-declared) with Mixed/Other Asian 13, White 11, Filipino 9, Japanese 9, Chinese 7, Native Hawaiian/Other 3, Native Hawaiian/ American Indian/Filipino/Other 1, Native Hawaiian/Samoan/Other 1, Korean 2, Taiwanese 2, Filipino/Japanese 1, Other Pacific Islander/Asian 1, Samoan/White 1., and no response 1.

Twenty-three attended colleges in Hawaii and 39 are from mainland colleges. The colleges include: University of Hawaii at Manoa and Hilo, University of Washington, University of California—Los Angeles and San Diego, University of Southern California, Claremont McKenna College, Cornell University, Occidental College, University of Notre Dame, University of Puget Sound, Brandeis, Brigham Young University—Hawaii and Utah, Chaminade, Christian Brothers, Emory University, Franklin and Marshall College, Gonzaga, Hawaii Pacific University, Loyola Marymount University, Montana State University, Mount Holyoke College, Northwestern University, Pomona College, Rutgers University, Tulane University, University of Massachusetts, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, University of Portland, University of Southern California, Vassar College and Wellesley College.

Over forty-five percent of the class majored in Biology with a combined or minor emphasis in cell and molecular, neuroscience, psychology, chemistry, physiology, public health, and folklore and

folk life. Other majors represented are psychology, economics, microbiology, anthropology and human biology, bacteriology, biomedical engineering, chemistry, computer engineering, dietetics, epidemiology, medical technology, Mandarin, nutrition, physics, psychobiology, public health, Sociology, and speech pathology and audiology. All students completed their pre-med science requirements. One student with no Baccalaureate degree was accepted. Eleven students have their masters' degree and one has a masters and a doctorate.

The median scores for the entering class are: cumulative GPA, 3.63; Science GPA 3.54; MCAT total 28; Verbal Reasoning, 9; Physical Sciences, 9; Writing Sample, O; and, Biological Sciences, 10.

The 11-member Admissions Committee rated all of the 256 interviewed applicants. The Committee was composed of 6 women and 5 men: 8 clinicians, 2 basic scientists and one social scientist who represented the major ethnic groups in Hawaii. This group met 21 times to examine the records of each applicants that consisted of the academic transcript, MCAT scores, essays and the interviewers reports. The applicants were discussed, after which each committee member submitted a secret ballot by rating the applicants from 1-10. The ratings were given to the Registrar who averaged the ratings and set them aside. At the end of April, when all of the applicants had been rated, the applicants were ranked. Fifty-two applicants were offered acceptances. The alternate list was determined by the Dean's Office. Joining the 52 selected candidates were 9 graduates from the Post-Baccalaureate Program, Imi Ho'Ola. These 9 students completed successfully a year of intensive review of material useful in medical school and prepared to matriculate into the first year.

Sixty-two students with their white coats and stethoscope in hand have begun an exciting journey toward becoming physicians. They are sure to recall the Oath of Hippocrates that they repeated during the "White Coat Ceremony", "I will remember that caring for the patient will be my primary concern and while doing so I will honor the autonomy of the sick. I will recognize that such caring requires my being available, giving my time generously, communicating honestly, and comforting as well as treating. Such care also involves offering my support to my patients' loved ones."<sup>2</sup>

**References**

1. The Arnold P. Gold Foundation, Inc. 619 Palisade Ave., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 07632
2. Restatement of the Oath of Hippocrates. John A. Burns School of Medicine. White Coat Ceremony Committee. August 1, 2003 (Rev. August 8, 1998)