

**Norman Goldstein MD****National Diabetes Awareness Month**

Diabetes mellitus has been the subject of several manuscripts in the *Hawaii Medical Journal* in recent years.<sup>1-3</sup> Many physicians and their patients are, however, not aware of the many educational classes and screening programs available throughout the year and throughout the state, but especially this month.

Thanks to the **Hawaii Diabetes Awareness Coalition**, this information is being distributed in physicians' offices, hospital clinics, pharmacies, and even in supermarkets.

Professional conferences, public awareness programs and clinics are being emphasized this month, Diabetes Awareness Month.

A new brochure with dates and locations of these programs and clinics will be soon available. For supply of the Statewide Calendar of Events, contact the Hawaii State Diabetes Control Program at 587-3900, fax 587-3911, or a member of the coalition.

We will publish still another manuscript on diabetes by Richard Arakaki, MD soon. Because of production schedules, we were not able to publish it in this Diabetes Awareness Month, but do look for it in the January 1997 issue.

**References**

1. Cheung, A.H.S., Limm, W.M.L., Wong, L.L. Pancreatic transplantation for diabetic patients in Hawaii. Vol 53, Mar '90-'93, 1994.
2. Arakaki, R. et al: Diabetes mellitus and heart disease risk factors in Hawaiians. Vol 53, December 340-343, 364. 1994.
3. Williamson, B. My Guardian Angel. Vol 54, June; 575-576. 1995.

**Hawaii Diabetes Awareness Coalition — Coalition Members**

- American Diabetes Association, Hawaii Affiliate, Inc.
- Bayer Diagnostic Division
- Bristol Myers
- Castle Medical Center
- City Pharmacy
- Diabetes Treatment Clinic - David Fitz-Patrick, MD, FACP
- Hawaii Association of Diabetes Educators
- Hawaii Pharmaceutical Association
- Hawaii Medical Services Association
- Joslin Center for Diabetes at Straub
- Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Hawaii Chapter
- Kalibi-Palama Health Center
- Ke Ola Mamo
- Kohala Home Health Care
- Kuakini Health System
- National Kidney Foundation
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Papa Ola Lokahi
- The Queen's Medical Center-Health Education & Wellness
- The Queen's Health Systems
- Times Supermarket

On behalf of the Domestic Violence Task Force, we would like to express our great pleasure and appreciation of your recent issue on domestic violence (September 1996, Volume 55, No. 9). The problems of domestic violence continue to plague our communities, and we are always in need of the public's understanding and support to combat this insidious crime against society. The medical community plays a crucial role in helping us to recognize and remedy this situation, where the victim and families may be especially reluctant to acknowledge the abuse.

Your articles on family violence are informative, instructional, and courageous. Acknowledgment of professional responsibility represents a step so many are hesitant to take. That your issue offers both support and resources for those working with the victims of violence is commendable and deserving of widespread community notice. We would especially want to recognize Dr Florence Chinn, who is also a member of this subcommittee, for her hard work on putting together this issue.

Be assured that the impact of this special edition of the *Hawaii Medical Journal* will go beyond informing your medical community about domestic violence: it can result in saving lives of battered victims and start to address a pressing social and criminal issue.

As we strive toward the reduction of domestic violence in our community, it is good to know that we have such strong support from our friends at the *Hawaii Medical Journal*.

*Tony Wong*

Public Education and Awareness Subcommittee  
Domestic Violence Task Force

**Letter from the Editor—to the President**

President Bill Clinton  
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Dear Mr President:

Your Director of Legislative Affairs, John Hillary, was quoted in a letter read at the House Judiciary Subcommittee hearing on Physician-Assisted Suicide as saying that, "The President has clearly expressed his personal opposition to Assisted Suicide, and remains of that view."

Mr President, more than 75% of Americans, overall, believe it should be legal for a doctor to help end a terminal patient's life if the patient and family want it. Most Americans see this issue as one of personal choice, like abortion, a right you have supported.

The purpose of the April 29 hearing was to focus a political attack on the power of the courts to invalidate law inconsistent with the Constitution. That wonderful document provides for change based upon judicial interpretation. Social reality says that medical techniques and drugs, better than ever, can indefinitely sustain life, even when life has become untenable to patients and families.

We request only that you study this matter and refrain from commenting upon Death with Dignity until you have the entire picture, the opinions of religious leaders withstanding. We are a