

Presidents Message

John S. Spangler MD

The Internet seminar held on April 19 was well attended and had good rating by the people attending. We hope to continue with this training.

The symphony orchestra presented a concert April 20 and April 22 which was supported by doctors in the community. I hope more doctors would support the Honolulu symphony.

The Reorganization Task Force meeting with the House of Delegates will have met on May 3 to finish the agenda. Please become informed about the results of this special meeting so that at the next annual meeting the new bylaws may be decided.

The Doctors Ball held on March 29 was the first annual event to celebrate the National Doctors Day. I hope the Alliance will continue to support this event and we also support them by encouraging our significant others to join.

The annual national meeting of the AMA is the latter part of June. Please let our delegates know what actions we hope this House of Delegates will do.

Commentary

JABSOM Dean Retires

**by Satoru Izutsu, PhD
Associate Dean**



*Dr Christian L.
Gulbrandsen*

Christian L. Gulbrandsen, MD, Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine since 1988, retired on December 29, 1996. His tenure at the School began in 1971 when he was recruited from Harvard Medical School as Professor of Medicine (hematologist/oncologist) to help expand the medical school from a two-year to a four-year degree granting program.

Dean Gulbrandsen considered the people of Hawaii as the School's customers. To serve the community, he led the students, faculty and staff to innovate and achieve goals which many medical schools only dream about. His most notable accomplishment was in leading the faculty to adopt a curriculum, Problem-Based Learning, which empowered student to become critical-thinkers, problem-solvers and life long learners. The curriculum revised the method of teaching and allowed the students to conduct independent study.

It reduced lectures as a principal method of teaching and freed the students from memorizing information. In place of attending lectures in large halls, students met in small groups to identify their agenda for learning. Faculty were retrained to facilitate inquiry and to serve as resources when students formulated questions and sought assistance.

It is significant that students have maintained their standing at the national average in Sept I and Step 2 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination. In addition, graduates have been matched into prestigious residencies across country. Finally, in 1994, the Harvard School of Public Health identified the John A. Burns School of Medicine as one of eight medical schools leading reform of medical education across the country.

Dr Gulbrandsen's goals for the school pointed toward preparing its graduates to meet the challenges of the 21st century. He envisioned a School which would lead the country in tropical medicine, especially with their continued efforts to develop a malaria vaccine; hyper and hypobarism to explore health issues in the depths of the ocean and the height of the atmosphere; rehabilitation principles and techniques to be linked with tourism and sports; and the development of university based programs for the training of health workers in infant and child care, treatment of health problems faced by

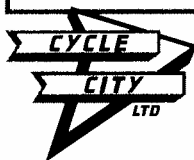
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