



Military Medicine

Military Medicine
Benjamin W. Berg MD

Tripler Graduation

On June 14, 1996 at Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) 103 graduates of 18 programs were presented with certificates and congratulations. The keynote speaker was the Commanding General, Brigadier General Warren A. Todd Jr. attending were Major General Steven Silvasy, Acting Commander, US Army Pacific and by the immediate past Commanding General (TAMC), Brigadier General James Hastings, Chief of Medicine, JABSOM. The graduates were represented by the Intern Class president, CPT Christopher Goring, who presented teaching awards and delivered brisk military commands as required during the formal military ceremony.

Brigadier General Todd delivered an address which focused on the future of academic medicine in the U.S. Army, as Military Medicine evolves to embrace the managed care model. Military Medicine has faced the pressures of a shrinking defense budget, with losses of funding and physician staff as the active duty population shrinks. In order to continue to provide quality care to the active duty, dependent and retired population, managed care has been selected as the operational model for cost containment. Eligible patients who receive care outside of the Military facility because of unavailability of services can already enroll in Tricare Prime, the available managed care program which incurs the least out of pocket expense. Brigadier General Todd emphasized to the graduates the similarity of civilian managed care environments and the new Military Medicine environment. He noted the important roles of research and academic medicine in maintaining the quality of health care delivery. The availability of funding for academic programs and research has decreased nationwide, and alternative sources must be explored. Academic Medical Centers (usually University affiliated) cannot continue to function under the traditional teaching model.

Managed Care paradigms of ready access, continuity of care across the inpatient-outpatient spectrum, and least costly settings for care delivery, are in direct conflict with the traditional operation of teaching institutions. Academic centers must then shift operational characteristics (paradigms) if we are to continue to function as education centers. Brigadier General Todd proposed a model for today's successful academic medical center. Five features were noted to be required for success. 1) Practice must reflect the identified population based needs of the community served; 2) Continuity of care across the continuum with housestaff/faculty "firms" will be the rule; 3) Multidisciplinary care teams should be organized in primary care and specialty practices, with coverage for continuity; 4) Prevention, education, early detection, and "self care" will be cornerstones of the new paradigm; and 5) the concept of value must be built into training programs: *Value equals quality times patient satisfaction divided by cost*. Teaching programs will thus provide what the public wants; Providers who take primary responsibility, easy access to useful information and knowledge, and humane relationships with providers.

The graduating class faces an exciting and challenging future in medicine. Of the 54 resident graduates, 6 will participate in Fellowship training. The internship class (44 graduates) will send 33

graduating interns directly into residency training. Others will be assigned in their medical specialty area to Army Hospitals and Clinics. The overseas assignments ranged from Korea to Germany. Others are off to practice in, Texas, Washington State (and DC), Alabama, Kansas, and other sites across the United States. Forty graduates are lucky enough to be staying in Hawaii for the next tour of duty.

The residency programs at Tripler will remain an integral part of the institution. The only casualty of recent budget realignments is the Pathology residency. This loss will be a palpable absence for the practitioners and training programs at Tripler.

Graduating Resident Roster (number of graduates in each discipline)

Fellows

Psychiatry	2	Otorhinolaryngology	2
Pediatrics	1	Pathology	2
Psychology	1	Health Care Admin	2

Residents

Internal Medicine	8	Urology	1
Obstetrics/Gynecology	7	Maxillofacial Surgery	1
Family Practice	7	Podiatry	1
Radiology	6	Interns	
General Surgery	4	Transitional	18
Psychiatry	4	Internal Medicine	7
Clinical Psychology	4	Surgery	7
Pediatrics	4	Pediatrics	7
Orthopedics	3	Family Practice	7
Clinical Pharmacy	3	Psychiatry	4
		Obstetrics/Gynecology	6

X-CLAIM-!

Billing CENTER/ CLEARING HOUSE!

Providing Hawaii Physicians & Dentists with electronically processed medical insurance claims. Offering a 7 to 21 day turnaround time on all electronically processed insurance claims, with less than 1.5% rejection rate, often resulting in 1/2 the current in-house expense. Also providing additional practice management support in the form of simultaneous patient billing, aged balance reports, practice analysis and profile reports, Superbills...arrears reports, monthly statements & custom report generation. If you would like to talk about reducing costs associated with these services, please phone, fax or write to:

X-CLAIM! Billing Center

Attn: Anthony L. Schweitzer
433 Niu St. #21 Honolulu, HI 96815

Office: (808) 955-2340

Fax: (808) 944-4908