

Norman Goldstein MD

Very special issues coming up

Our September issue of the *Journal* will be compiled by guest editor Florence Chinn MD. Florence retired from her internal medicine practice and as a medical consultant for the Hawaii Health Care Administration Division—but she is busier than ever! She serves on the Hawaii State Violence Prevention Coordinating Council and is co-chair of the Hawaii Medical Association Domestic Violence Prevention Committee. Look for the special issue on *Domestic Violence*.

Death with Dignity will be our special issue in November, edited by past president of the Hawaii Medical Association, Fred C. Holschuh MD. This issue promises to be one of our most stimulating, thought-provoking issues ever. We already have manuscripts from local and national authorities in the field.

We welcome *Letters to the Editor* on these subjects as well as others, even before the publication of the issues.

Specifically, if you presently care for terminally ill patients or plan to do so. We would like to hear from you. Write or fax me.

1128 Smith Street
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 523-6842

Carl W. Lehman MD

Why should medical doctors or osteopathic physicians belong to the Hawaii Medical Association?

Each year, physicians must reaffirm their commitment to organized medicine: joining the HMA lets us speak with one voice that represents a force in our community striving not only to uphold and protect our profession but also to set the standards, to be the advocate, to carry forth the visions our training and experience have provided. Paying dues to a professional organization must be judged by standards different from those when buying material items. Rather than analyzing how much a member saves or benefits from the amount of dues paid each year, one must look at what made it possible for us to attain our medical education and practice our profession as well as the contributions made to society.

Some of us have little knowledge about the achievements and accomplishments made on behalf of our profession by the medical association. I want to thank Becky Kendro for helping me collate this list of HMA accomplishments.

• This year marks the 20-year anniversary of bold and innovative legislation passed to address tort reform issues. As a key player on a community-wide Malpractice Commission, HMA physicians led the way in seeking legislation to set standards of informed consent, added an *ad damnum* clause to the law, established the Medical Claim Conciliation Panels to review all medical torts prior to entry into the courts, amended the Medical Practice Act to define more clearly grounds for licensure actions, and required reporting of adverse peer review actions to the Board of Medical Examiners. An umbrella insurance fund was created in an effort to reduce professional liability insurance premiums although this was later repealed.

This legislation has been of considerable importance to physicians as well as to those filing tort cases. The MCCP panels have been very successful in settling or dismissing malpractice cases prior to entry into a costly court system. Throughout the years, nearly 75% of all cases have been resolved at the panel level. The fact that the panels have been able to continue operations for the past 20 years speaks well for the dedication of the administrators, physicians and attorneys who serve on the panels.

• **Workers' Compensation.**—Nearly 30 years ago, the HMA introduced legislation guaranteeing injured workers the right to choose their own physician. Legislation requiring an annual adjustment in the schedule based on the Consumer Price Index was achieved by legislation fostered by the association. As changes in the Workers' Comp program occur, the HMA will continue to be involved.

• **Medicaid.**—The HMA has devoted many hours and resources to the Hawaii Medicaid



mel r. hertz
MBA, CFP
Certified Financial Planner

Pacific Tower, Suite 2944
Phone: 522-0100

derand

capital management group

Securities Offered Through IFG Network Securities, Inc.,
(IFG), Member NASD and SIPC. Financial Planning Services
Through Associated Financial Planners, Inc. (AFP).



Registered Investment Advisor. mel r. hertz is a registered
principal of IFG and an associated person of its affiliate AFP,
both of which are otherwise unaffiliated with derand.

Retirement Plans
•
Investment Management
Consulting
•
Life and Disability
Insurance
•
Charitable Remainder
Trusts

program. Freedom to choose a physician, an equitable reimbursement for services rendered, and various experimental programs to encourage early medical encounters have all been fostered by the HMA. When the program shifted to QUEST, HMA continued to express concerns regarding quality of care, access to care, and other issues related to managed care.

• **Continuing Medical Education.**—The HMA became the agency in Hawaii responsible for surveying and accrediting Hawaii hospitals and other institutions to enable them to offer Category 1 CME programs that conform to national standards. HMA has sponsored its own annual CME program for physicians, a tradition which has been upheld since the early 1900s.

• **Malpractice Insurance.**—When professional liability insurance carriers left the state in the early 1980s, HMA was again involved in exploring various options for its members. After first considering the formation of its own physician company, the association attracted the Medical Insurance Exchange of California to enter Hawaii. The relationship with Hawaii physicians has been outstanding.

• **Legislation.**—This column is much too limited to list all of the legislative action that has been achieved since statehood. Laws about peer review committee immunity, living wills, immunity for good samaritans, child protection laws, emergency medical services, the establishment of the school health program, physician-patient privileged communication, and many others have all been fostered by HMA. HMA's legislative staff monitors the nearly 4,000 bills introduced annually.

No space is being devoted to the issues we have prevented from happening: they too form a lengthy list. It is somewhat similar to preventing disease by immunizations—as long as we prevent the disease, we sometimes forget or question the importance.

Many nonmembers benefit from the efforts of the HMA. However, without support from all medical doctors and osteopaths, our power and activities are limited. Our profession needs all of our support. Send in your dues today or request a membership application if you have not already joined.

Medicine in Transition

HPPA — Managed care by physicians for physicians offering will be available soon.
Complete form for information.

Hawaii Pacific Physicians Association (HPPA), a for-profit corporation, represents an alliance of the Hawaii Medical Association and the Pacific Medical Administrative Group. Recognizing the radical changes in the health care delivery system, this organization has formed to provide what it believes is a positive response to changes taking place in the medical market place. HPPA's mission will be to carry out cost-effective, quality health care for Hawaii and the Pacific basin.

As chairman of this organization, I must give credit to the originating members and directors who spent many hours and much more in developing and implementing this concept of a for-profit statewide physicians network.

Bernard Fong MD, Vice Chair, HPPA
Clifford Chang MD, President, PMAG, Director
Carl Lehman MD, President, HMA, Director
John H.S. Kim MD, Director HPPA
Roger Kimura MD, Director HPPA
Allan Kunimoto MD, Director HPPA
James Lumeng MD, Director HPPA
Dudley Seto MD, Director, HPPA
Myron Shirasu MD, Director, HPPA

The physician-directed model will provide an alternative to current managed care plans. The goals are to preserve the excellence of health care in Hawaii, to maintain care for our patients, to maintain an organization controlled and driven by physicians, to develop a statewide provider network, to provide effective quality assurance and utilization review among physicians, to carry out responsible peer review, to effect changes in physician's practice patterns when appropriate, and to reward risk-sharing appropriately.

HPPA will aim to provide cost-effective, quality care while preserving the patient-physician relationship and maintaining access to care. Medicine is in transition and the delivery of

health care is in transition. HPPA believes physicians must direct these changes and physicians must take the lead in identifying solutions for the future, developing strategies for accomplishing them, and finally communicating with physicians the success of their efforts.

*For more information and to be on the mailing list,
please fill out the form below and mail or fax it to HPPA.*

HPPA

Name _____

Degree _____ Type of practice _____

Specialty _____

Location of practice _____

Mailing address _____

Solo _____ Group _____

Employed _____ Self-employed _____

Andrew Don MD, Chairman

1360 S. Beretania Street, Second Floor, Honolulu, HI 96814
(808) 536-7702 • Fax (808) 528-2376

** Please note this article is not an offer to sell securities or to join HPPA,
and the request for the information does not denote any obligation
or commitment from you or from HPPA.*