



## Editorial

**Norman Goldstein MD**  
**Editor, Hawaii Medical Journal**

### Peer Reviewers

Every manuscript submitted to the Journal is first read by the editor. To properly evaluate papers for publication, the Journal relies on peer reviewers. Not all peer reviewers are members of the Hawaii Medical Association; some are in allied fields.

With suggestions from officers of the Hawaii Medical Association, presidents of the County Medical Societies, and the current panel of Peer Reviewers, the Journal has expanded its roster significantly. Our Peer Reviewers can now cover almost every aspect of medical care.

Soon our new, expanded roster of Peer Reviewers will be published in the Journal. If you wish to suggest a name for our Peer Review Panel, please contact Drake Chinen, editorial assistant, by phone at 536-7702 or fax at 845-5185, or by e-mail at [drakec@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:drakec@hawaii.rr.com).

Many thanks for the continued dedicated support of the Hawaii Medical Journal Peer Review Panel.

### News and Notes - Wikiwiki Rounds

Dr. Henry Yokoyama's name first appears as the byline for "News and Notes" in volume 28, number 2 (November - December 1968) of the Hawaii Medical Journal, but his service as News Editor began in 1964.

Over 38 years, Dr. Yokoyama has attended and briefed Hawaii physicians with highlights of meetings around the state. Though it is impossible to adequately thank Henry for continuing to provide this dedicated service to his colleagues, it is possible to ask for your help.

The Journal is looking for "reporters" to cover meetings at each of the many medical facilities – hospitals, medical school, research centers – in Hawaii. It need not take much time. That's why it's called Wikiwiki Rounds. Just a paragraph synopsis of the meeting including speaker(s), topic, date, and location forwarded to HMJ Editorial Assistant Drake Chinen by fax to 845-5185 or e-mail to [drakec@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:drakec@hawaii.rr.com).

Please share your information with Dr. Henry Yokoyama in News and Notes Wikiwiki Rounds.

**Until there's a cure  
there's the  
American Diabetes  
Association.**



## Commentary

**A message from your Executive Director**  
**Paula Arcena**

### Seeing the Bigger Picture



Many years ago my father went on a letter writing campaign offering his views through letters to the editor. His most striking letter was about a band of monkeys who decided that the seashore was very important to them. It provided food and recreation and needed to be preserved. Therefore, they decided they must study it. Everyday the monkeys endured the hot sun counting grains of sand. For days and days the monkeys engaged

in this tedious labor. Then one day, a large wave rose from the sea and washed all the monkeys away.

While I don't tell the story as poetically as my father did, the moral of the story is still clear. Details are important, but don't lose your focus on the big picture.

It has now been nine months since I became the Executive Director of the HMA. More now than ever, I appreciate the moral of this story. I hope that as members, you will appreciate HMA's valuable for addressing the "big picture".

The front page news story "Doctors Sue HMSA Over Reimbursement Practices", is a case in point. While the headline appeared overnight, the groundwork required to file these claims took years of dedicated focus meaningful action against a serious problem. Being a very serious matter the HMA took every precaution along the way.

During HMA's recent "Open Doors Forum", physicians expressed to Thomas Barker, Esq., Special Assistant to Tom Scully, head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, formerly HCFA, their frustration about reimbursement rates that do not cover the cost of care and the deep bureaucracy of the system. To the surprise to some physicians in our audience, it is Congress, not CMS, who determines reimbursement rates to physicians, and regardless of the number of claims, the available budget for reimbursements remains fixed. Again, good cause for political activism by your association in order to act collectively to address a singular problem.

The mainstay services HMA offers to its members is all about the big picture:

- We lobby the legislature to optimize quality patient care;
- We provide CME accreditation to hospitals and others
- Facilitate peer review services that protect your practice

Rather than leave each physician to do the best they can to cope individually, we prefer to act collectively to address profession wide issues.

I invite you to call, email or fax to me your comments.

We welcome and value your input.

You can contact me at:

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