

INNOVATIONS

Volume 11, Issue 1

NEWS AND DISCOVERIES FROM THE CANCER RESEARCH CENTER OF HAWAII

Winter 2010

New Cancer Research Facility Will Improve Health Care in Hawai'i

Throughout the islands, 2010 brought great news to cancer patients and their families. After years of planning, the University of Hawai'i's Cancer Research Center announced efforts are underway to build a state-of-the-art research facility in Kakaako to better serve the people of Hawai'i. Construction could begin as early as this summer.

In November, the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i announced the selection of planning and project management teams to coordinate building the new multimillion-dollar facility. Another significant development was announced earlier this month when the architect firms were named publicly at an informational briefing before state legislators.

Kobayashi Group, LLC, a successful real estate developer in Hawai'i is the project management firm and will oversee the design and construction of

the building. Another local firm, Wilson Okamoto and Associates, was selected to manage project planning. Shimokawa Nakamura, Inc. will head a team of specialty design consultants including ZGF Architects, LLP of Los Angeles and Jacobs Consultancy of New York City, who have designed research facilities for nine of the top ten National Cancer Institute-designated cancer centers in the country.

The announcements mark significant progress toward creating a world-class cancer research facility in Hawai'i. "This is important news for the people of our state, because we are one step closer to our vision of a world-class research center," said M.R.C.Greenwood, president of the University of Hawai'i. "Soon we will have better options for cancer treatment and prevention, and residents can remain close to home while they receive the most advanced care."

"This marks significant progress towards creating a world-class cancer research facility in Hawai'i."

The projected size of the new building is approximately 150,000 square feet, and it will be located next to the university's John A. Burns School of Medicine. Already 25 local firms are involved in its design, and it is expected that

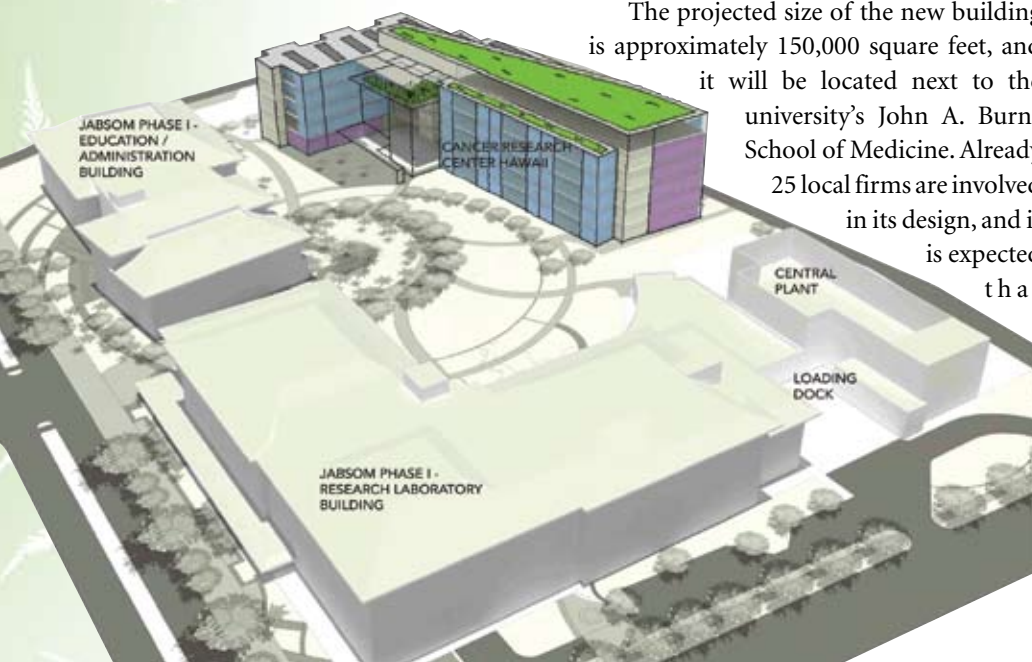


at least 300 new jobs will be generated through construction. "Our university leadership deserves much of the credit for creating the momentum that has driven the construction of our project forward," said Michele Carbone, M.D. Ph.D., director of the Cancer Research Center.

Yet what most excites Carbone is the opportunity to greatly enhance patient care through the creation of a statewide cancer consortium that will add a clinical component to the Center's research programs in accordance with a strong recommendation from the National Cancer Institute.

Joining the consortium will be the University's John A. Burns School of Medicine, The Queen's Medical Center, Hawai'i Pacific Health, Kuakini Medical Center and other local hospitals. The consortium will allow the Center to better conduct translational research (translating laboratory findings to the clinical setting), expand clinical trials and improve care options for cancer patients. "Together, we will give Hawai'i a first-class research center that will work with our community hospitals to advance care and treatment for patients throughout our state," added Carbone.

A preliminary concept of the new Cancer Research Center site.



Director's Message

Dear Friends,

I'd like to express my appreciation for your support of the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i during this past year.

Our researchers and physicians are committed to pursuing the next great discovery in cancer research and treatment, and your ongoing interest is vital to our efforts.

Here in Hawai'i, cancer is the second leading cause of death. It kills about one in four people, and touches the lives of nearly every person. As one of only 65 cancer research facilities in the nation designated by the National Cancer Institute, we remain uniquely positioned to study cancer in relation to the ethnic, environmental and cultural characteristics of the state.

Because of our NCI designation, the most promising cancer research and patient clinical trials are conducted right here in our own community. Residents have access to the latest prevention and treatment options close to home. And while our research occurs locally, it contributes to a global body of knowledge that brings us closer to creating a cancer-free future.

Looking forward, 2010 will be a landmark year for the Center. If you read our cover story, you know of our plans to build a new cancer research facility in Kakaako. An expanded center will allow us to meet the growing demand for care, while increasing our capacity to attract top-notch

Continued on back page



Center Awarded Two \$1 Million ARRA Grants

The Cancer Research Center has received two awards of more than \$1 million each over two years, funded under the federal stimulus package known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. These awards will be allocated through a National Cancer Institute special fund to enhance biomedical research efforts.

"The receipt of these two coveted grants is a testament to the quality of the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i, its researchers and its staff," said UH President M.R.C. Greenwood. "It is an affirmation of our strong belief in the importance and urgency needed in moving forward with the development of a new facility, and illustrates the significant economic stimulus that the University of Hawai'i provides to the state through its research enterprise."

The awards will support the hiring of two physician scientists to conduct translational research and complement the basic science at the Center. Translational research transforms scientific discoveries arising from laboratory, clinical, or population studies into clinical applications to reduce cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality.

"It is significant that the National Cancer Institute has awarded the Cancer Research Center two out of two grant applications



The ARRA grant awards will support the hiring of two physician scientists to conduct research that bridges from the laboratory to the patient bedside.

that we submitted, while there were only a limited number of grants awarded among the 65 NCI-designated cancer centers and

"The receipt of these two coveted grants is a testament to the quality of the Cancer, its researchers and its staff."

other academic institutions across the nation," said Center Director Dr. Michele Carbone. "I believe our selection affirms the NCI's recognition that the Center is long overdue to develop and build

our clinical translational research program and is providing the financial support necessary to move us closer toward achieving that goal."

The ARRA funds are designed to hire two new faculty members appointed to independent tenure-track positions at the assistant professor and associate professor levels; provide start-up packages which include supplies, equipment and support for technical personnel; and develop pilot research projects. The new researchers will be provided 75 percent protected research time with the balance dedicated to clinical and patient-oriented responsibilities at a hospital to which they are appointed for clinical activities. The Center is expected to announce soon the appointment of the ARRA grant-funded researchers.



(L to R): David Ward, Virginia Weinman, Dr. Michele Carbone, Jerris Hedges, Hank Wuh, and Art Ushijima gathered in November at a reception at the Weinman home to honor Cancer Center Director Michele Carbone.

A Warm Mahalo to our Donors in 2009

Your generous support ensures that our work can continue towards creating a cancer-free future in Hawai'i. *Gifts received from January 1 - November 30, 2009.*

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Recruitment of Distinguished Scientist Completes Cancer Center Administrative Team

David Ward, Ph.D., a well-respected research scientist and administrator, has joined the Cancer Center as associate director for scientific research. His responsibilities include administration and development of research activities, development of faculty, communication of research and related initiatives, and the provision of a wide spectrum of administrative and budget support.

A native of New Brunswick, Canada, Dr. Ward was most recently the deputy director of the Nevada Cancer Institute in Las Vegas. There, Dr. Ward worked to coordinate the institution's scientific research efforts in basic translational research, population science and drug development.

Dr. Ward is nationally and internationally recognized for his pioneering research in the fields of molecular cytogenetics, cancer genetics, virology, the development of non-isotopic labeling of nucleic acids, the development of fluorescence hybridization, molecular diagnosis of disease, and optical imaging technology. He has received numerous awards including the prestigious elec-

tion to the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S. in medical genetics and oncology. Dr. Ward has co-authored over 300 scientific publications and served on numerous grant review boards in the U.S., Canada and England. He is a co-founder of five biotechnology companies, three of which are publicly traded on the national stock exchanges. He has also served on a number of scientific advisory boards and boards of directors of biotechnology/bioscience companies.

Dr. Ward's administrative, research and scientific experiences are anticipated to provide leadership support for the Cancer.

Dr. Ward has moved to Hawai'i with his wife Trish, who will be working in genetics research at the University of Hawai'i.



Dr. David Ward, Ph.D. (right) joined the Cancer Center as associate director for scientific research. Dr. Ward moved to Hawai'i with his wife Trish (left), who will be working in genetics research at the University of Hawai'i.

New Friends Leadership

Longtime Board Secretary Jim Wriston, of Ashford & Wriston, has been voted president of the Friends of the Cancer Research Center. New board member Jason Nagai, of Ernst & Young, was voted the new treasurer, replacing Glenn Shizumura, who left the Board in October 2009. Returning board member Diane Ono, of Galiher, DeRobertis Ono, is the new board vice-president/secretary.

We welcome new board member Priscilla Growney to the board. Mahalo to outgoing President Rick Humphreys and Glenn Shizumura for many years of service. Rick will continue to serve as a director.



Jim Wriston



Diane Ono



Jason Nagai

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Your gift to the Cancer Center of Hawai'i will support innovative research in the prevention, detection, and treatment of cancer. Your donation will remain here in Hawai'i, improving the health and benefitting all who live and work in our communities. Thank you for helping us create a cancer-free future.

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Director's Message (continued from page 2)

researchers, grants and programs to the state.

An example is the recent recruitment of David Ward, Ph.D. Dr. Ward brings impressive credentials as the Center's new scientific director. You can read more about Dr. Ward in this issue, and should you have the chance to meet him personally, please extend he and his wife Trish a warm Hawaiian welcome.

You may have met Kellie Tormey who is our new Director of Community Relations and Communications. Kellie comes with impressive credentials and she will be working to support our efforts within UH, the community at large, and on the US mainland as well.

At this moment, we are conducting more than 100 cancer research projects and are involved in more than 200 clinical trials, each with the tremendous lifesaving potential. And we are working with our community hospitals including Queen's Medical Center, Hawaii Pacific Health, Kuakini and others to form a consortium dedicated to bringing the people of Hawai'i the best cancer treatments available.

With so much on the horizon, I'd like to express my deep gratitude to our community and university partners, donors, patients, and faculty and staff who have contributed to our progress thus far. With your continued support, we will usher in a new era for the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i together.

Mahalo,

Michele

UNDER THE SCOPE

A new column featuring the latest news and happenings at the Cancer Center.

Local Philanthropist Funds Breast Cancer Research

Through the support of the American Cancer Society and the generosity of a single donor, Dr. Lawrence K.W. Tseu, Cancer Research Center scientist Wael ElShamy, Ph.D. has secured \$720,000 in funding for his research in metastatic breast cancer. The donation was made in tribute to Dr. Tseu's wife BoHing who recently succumbed to the disease.

Metastatic breast cancer is disease that has spread beyond the breast to other organs such as the lungs, bone marrow, liver or brain. In particular, Dr. ElShamy's research will focus on better understand-

ing the progression of solid tumors to metastases and the changes that take place in highly malignant cells, with the hope that new information will lead to the development of novel approaches to diagnose, treat, and predict the outcome of aggressive breast cancers.

Iona Cheng recognized by V Foundation

Iona Cheng, Ph.D., M.P.H. of Epidemiology Program was recently named one of 17 recipients to receive a Scholar award from the V Foundation for cancer research. Dr. Cheng was selected from a heady company representing prominent medical and cancer centers across the U.S. that conduct cancer research. Her selection was based on the high ranking of her grant proposal titled, "Identifying IGF1 Genetic Susceptibility Variants for Prostate Cancer in African Americans." As a V Foundation Scholar, Dr. Cheng will receive a two-year \$200,000 grant, which will be used to offset the costs of her research.



Dr. Wael ElShamy (left) is presented with a check for \$720,000 by Dr. Lawrence K.W. Tseu, D.D.S. in support of his research in metastatic breast cancer.