



# Na Leo Ola

Newsletter of the Hawaii Medical Association

Volume 3, Issue 7

July 2023

## Conversations AT HMA



**Conversations at HMA** is excited to host **Mark Mugiishi, M.D., F.A.C.S.**, President and CEO of HMSA, as our special guest, on **Thursday, July 27, 2023** at 5:30 p.m.

As the most experienced health plan in the state, the relationship between HMSA and Hawaii's physicians is integral to maintaining and improving our healthcare environment. As a physician himself, Dr. Mugiishi offers a well-rounded perspective, and he looks forward to engaging with HMA members to spark conversations that will benefit our island home.

To read a short bio for Dr. Mugiishi, view the **Conversations at HMA** article, which is on our website at [hawaiiomedicalassociation.org](http://hawaiiomedicalassociation.org).

## An Open Discussion With Mark Mugiishi, M.D., F.A.C.S President & CEO, HMSA

**This edition of Conversations at HMA is a special presentation for HMA members only.** The conversation will take place via Zoom webinar. There is no charge to HMA members.

### We Want Your Input

Whether you're able to attend the webinar or not, we'd like to know what our HMA members want to ask HMSA. This is our opportunity to ask Dr. Mugiishi questions in a respectful, non-threatening environment, which can foster more productive discussions on complex topics.

Please send your questions to HMA Executive Director Marc Alexander at [m.alexander@hawaiiomedicalassociation.org](mailto:m.alexander@hawaiiomedicalassociation.org). We will compile all questions from our membership and get to as many of them as possible in the time allowed. Send your questions by **Monday, July 24 at 5:00 p.m.**

If the conversation spurs further questions during the webinar, you will be able to ask them in the **Q&A** function on Zoom. We will get to as

many as possible in the time allowed.

**Registration Deadline is Wednesday, July 26 at 5:00 p.m.** You must be pre-registered to participate in this event. Visit [hawaiiomedicalassociation.org](http://hawaiiomedicalassociation.org) and register today!

## President's Message

by *Angela M. Pratt*  
*MD, FACOG, MBA*



Aloha kakou,

"Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country."

These immortal words – spoken by our 35th President, the late John F. Kennedy – were used in JFK's inaugural address as a way to inspire both children and adults to see the importance of civil action and public service. It challenged every American to contribute in some way to the public good.

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## Executive Director's Message *by Marc Alexander*



It may be summer, but HMA continues to be on the move. Our next CME@HMA program will be on July 21-22, featuring a wonderful array of topics and speakers including Dr. William Haning, Dr. Men-Jean Lee, Dr. Rae Seitz, Dr. Samuel Birer, and Dr. Kore Liow. Please don't forget to sign up. The following week, Dr. Mark Mugiishi, the President and CEO of HMSA, is our special guest for Conversations at HMA, on Thursday, July 27th. This is a members-only live webinar event, so please register to have an opportunity for what promises to be an engaging discussion.

The White Coat Ceremony for the JABSOM Class of 2027 is on Friday, July 28th. The Hawaii Medical Foundation is presenting both stethoscopes and white coats to the medical school students, one of the most moving milestones in their journey toward becoming physicians.

We're also pleased to announce the honorees who will be recognized at Ola Pono Ike, on Saturday, October 14, 2023: Dr. S. Kalani Brady as Physician of the Year, Dr. Jerris Hedges as recipient of the President's Award, and a new recognition, the Community Service Award, will go to Representative Mark Nakashima (1st District encompassing Hamakua, portion of Hilo, and Kaumana), for longstanding public service and commitment to community health. He received a kidney transplant earlier this year, and has been an amazing advocate for kidney awareness here in Hawaii.

## Improving Access to Care with IMLC

Learn how joining the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact can improve healthcare access throughout Hawaii. This special presentation features Marschall Smith, executive director of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission, and Dr. Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, interventional radiologist and president-elect of the Hawaii Medical Association. This event is sponsored by the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii.



Marschall Smith  
Executive Director  
IMLCC



Lisa Ann Ignacio, MD  
President-Elect  
HMA

This presentation will occur twice: Thursday, July 27, 2023 on Maui and on Friday, July 28, 2023 on Oahu. For more information and to register, please visit [eventbrite.com](https://eventbrite.com) and search for IMLC Hawaii.

## President's Message

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In a similar fashion, the Hawaiian word *kuleana* can be used to inspire people to act selflessly for the common good. It's with this spirit that I call on our entire local physician community to come together and be counted as part of the HMA family. The strength of our collective voice is greatest when our representation is strong, and our actions take meaning when they are backed by the power of our unity.

There are many ways to be active with the Hawaii Medical Association:

- Utilize the services available to you. CMEs, Conversations at HMA, our podcasts, the website, etc. They all put you in touch with what's happening at HMA.
- Volunteer. Extra manpower is often needed for events, and there are committees that can always use an extra hand. Share your expertise as a CME presenter, or lend an artistic eye and help decorate our tables at Ola Pono Ike!
- Attend events. Meeting new colleagues, rekindling old friendships and getting to know more people in your professional field is a major benefit of HMA membership.
- Expand our membership. A large, active membership is crucial to our success.

In the end, it's all our *kuleana* to help HMA grow and continue to influence and guide the healthcare landscape in Hawaii.



## Daisy Cortes, MD

BS, Sociology & Biological Science,  
UC Irvine 2004

Post baccalaureate 2005

MD, University of Illinois at Chicago 2009

General Pediatric Residency 2009 - 12

Fellowship, Pediatric Hematology /  
Oncology 2012 - 15

Medical Director, Hemostasis and  
Thrombosis Center of Nevada 2018 - 22

Queen's North Hawaii Community  
Hospital 2022 - present

**NLO** Tell us a little bit about your  
medical journey.

**DC** I knew that I wanted to become a doctor since I was six. As I got older, I knew I wanted to be a pediatrician. I double majored at UC Irvine, in sociology and biological science. I enjoyed learning the sociology of medicine and knew this would heighten my awareness to the societal view of medicine. I completed a post baccalaureate year at UC Irvine prior to going to medical school at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Excited to pursue pediatrics, I matched my general pediatric residency at Children's Hospital of Orange County. After completing my oncology rotation and presenting an interesting case at a tumor board, I pursued a fellowship in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. After working per diem as an oncology physician for CHOC oncology, I moved to Las Vegas to work at the Children's Specialty Center of Nevada, where

## Member Spotlight

I was a general pediatric oncologist and hematologist, rotating through the Hemophilia Treatment Center. I returned to Los Angeles to work at Children's Hospital Los Angeles as a Bone Marrow Transplant hospitalist. I moved back to Las Vegas to become the Medical Director of the Hemostasis and Thrombosis Center of Nevada. I then had the opportunity to build the general pediatric program at Queen's North Hawaii on the Big Island. I am excited to see the growth and development of taking care of pediatric patients on the Big Island.

**NLO** What lead you to medicine in the first place?

**DC** Growing up, I would accompany my father to his doctor's appointments. He had diabetes and many co-morbidities. I would appreciate the rapport he had with his family doctor. I knew I wanted to be a doctor to be able to connect to people. As a pre-med at UC Irvine, I spent time at the UCI Medical Center as a Child Life volunteer. There, I embraced the idea of being a pediatrician and working with children and their families.

**NLO** What are you most proud of in your medical career?

**DC** I am most proud of the relationships I have built over the years

with my patients and their families. Even in the toughest moments that these families endured - new diagnosis and the battle of watching their child go through treatments - I felt compassion and honored to be there for them in their hardest moments.

**NLO** Any hobbies, interests, pastimes outside of medicine?

**DC** I enjoy going to the beach, attempting to surf, traveling to different parts of the world, embracing new cultures and cuisine. I enjoy reading authors like Stephen King, and Dean Koontz. I also enjoying dancing.

**NLO** Tell us a little about your family life.

**DC** I grew up in Tracy, California with my twin sister, mom and dad. My sister and I would always jump on our bikes and go explore our small town. Nowadays, my fiancé and I enjoy living on the island with our cat and Guinea pigs.

**NLO** Any wishes for our state and/or the Big Island re: healthcare?

**KCH** I am optimistic that Hawaii will grow and continue to strive for the highest standard of care for all of our pediatric patients.



## Save the Date

### Ola Pono Ike

Saturday, October 14, 2023  
Hilton Hawaiian Village  
Tapa Ballroom • 5:00 p.m.

watch [hawaiimedicalassociation.org](http://hawaiimedicalassociation.org)  
for updates and registration.