



Na Leo Ola

Newsletter of the Hawaii Medical Association

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Keeping the Residents of Maui in our Hearts, Minds and Prayers

When news of the horrendous fire that swept through historic Lahaina first began to hit our news outlets, it was almost met with a feeling of incredulity. How could this happen to an incredibly important portion of Maui, known not only for its tourist attractions and beauty, but also for its historic significance to our island home. Pictures and video footage soon showed us the true nature of what was lost. Shock turned to sadness as we witnessed the devastation, and a different soberness set in as the human toll began to emerge.

As always, the residents of Hawaii banded together and immediately looked for ways to help. Donations of money, food and supplies pour in daily. Volunteers were mobilized and continue to provide aid in housing and basic relief efforts.

The members of HMA were also ready to assist when called upon. We put out a call for medical volunteers; to date, we have over 100 physicians, nurses and PAs on standby. Thank you for your generosity, and for your willingness to volunteer.

Where to Get the Latest Information

HMA has been in contact with HiEMA, the Governor's Office and the Mayor's Office on Oahu and Maui. Our President-Elect, Dr. Elizabeth Ann Ignacio is based on Maui and has been involved in relief efforts.

We're getting updates on a regular basis, and we've created a Maui Support page on our website. Visit hawaiiomedicalassociation.org and go to our Maui Support page to find the latest news, resources, and ways to help and donate; the page is being updated daily. Also visit the new Department of Health online portal at health.hawaii.gov/mauiwildfires.

Donate and Volunteer With Caution

Disasters can bring out the best and worst in our community. Along with the legitimate organizations, there are always those looking to take advantage of people's suffering. If you feel like donating money or goods, please make sure you only deal with established organizations. You'll find a list of nonprofits and volunteer organizations that have legitimate charities on our Maui Support page.

Volunteer Your Talents

To be added to the volunteer list, send your name, specialty, phone number and email to Mark Conching at m.conching@hawaiiomedicalassociation.org.

Keep Maui Strong

Recovery will take a long time and at great expense, but we'll get through this as a community. Keep Maui in your thoughts and prayers.

President's Message

by Angela M. Pratt, MD, FACOG, MBA



Aloha kakou,

It's difficult to think of anything besides the tragedy that happened just a week ago to our

friends and family on the island of Maui. As an island community, we've all lost something in this fire, but my heart especially goes

out to everyone who suffered the loss of property or a loved one; words are inadequate in describing the pain Maui residents are feeling.

Recovery from a disaster of this magnitude will take years, but we will get through this as one 'ohana. If you're able to donate to one of the causes we've identified on our Maui Support page, I urge you to think about donating on a regular basis; the

need for funding will be ongoing. And please add your name to our volunteer list.

The hawaiian word *ho'omau* means to persevere, or to continue. Maui will recover because of the strength and perseverance of its people, and they won't have to do it alone because of the bond we feel as an island community. As always, HMA stands ready to assist.

Executive Director's Message

by Marc Alexander



It's no secret that many physicians have a distrust of health insurance providers, especially HMSA, by far the largest insurer in the State of Hawaii, with over 700,000 members. HMA decided to reach out to HMSA about the possibility of engaging with our members, to create an opportunity for mutual listening and learning. Dr. Mark Mugiishi, president and CEO of HMSA, said that he would be happy to have such a session with our members, ultimately leading to our special edition of Conversations at HMA with Dr. Mark Mugiishi on July 27, 2023.



We solicited questions from our membership, which were consolidated and edited for clarity and sent to Dr. Mugiishi ahead of time. Our program began with Dr. Mugiishi providing an overview of the megatrends in healthcare, and highlighting

HMSA actions including those addressing administrative burden, shifts in the workforce, and the value-based payment system. This was followed by Q&A based on the questions from our members.

As far as we are aware, this is the first time that such a conversation between the head of HMSA and HMA membership has taken place. It was cordial, transparent, direct, and respectful. Dr. Mugiishi has given permission for the video of the event to be made public, which we are doing first to our members, and then to the general public. I strongly encourage physicians to view the video in its entirety.

We are truly grateful to Dr. Mugiishi for engaging our membership, his colleague physicians. And we look forward to continuing this conversation of collaboration which benefits physicians and our community's health.

New Videos and Podcasts Now Available

The edition of Conversations at HMA, featuring Dr. Mark Mugiishi, President and CEO of HMSA, is now available for HMA members in its entirety. Visit hawaiiimedicalassociation.org, go to the Newsroom tab and click on Member Tidbits. You have to be signed in as an HMA member to view the video; for assistance, please call 808.536.7702.

You can also find prior editions of Conversations at HMA on our Youtube Channel. Go to youtube.com and search for the Hawaii Medical Association. New videos are added as they become available.

Lastly, our latest edition of our HMAConnect podcast, featuring an interview with Dr. Nadine Tenn-Salle is now available. You can find it on our website, under the Newsroom tab.



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

IZ I was so blessed with an incredible professional journey, standing on the shoulders of many internationally renowned OB/GYN giants like Drs. Asim Kurjak, Harold Schulman, Frank Chervenak, and Thomas Kosasa. I am certified by the American Board of OB/GYN in general OB/GYN and MFM. During my academic career, I was honored as an elected fellow of the American College of OB/GYN, American Institute for Ultrasound in Medicine, American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society, and International Academy of Perinatal Medicine. My international portfolio includes being a vice-director of the Ian Donald Inter-University School of Medical Ultrasound, associate editor and review editor of the Journal of Perinatal Medicine, former vice-president of the World Association of Perinatal Medicine and vice-president of "The Fetus as a Patient" International Society. I was

Member Spotlight

honored as Hawai'i Physician of the Year in 2017 by the Hawai'i Medical Association. I have published 261 peer-reviewed papers, book chapters, and abstracts. I also co-edited a textbook on Doppler in OB/GYN. I have received numerous national and international awards and served as an invited speaker or oral presenter of original research at 136 national/international conferences. I am serving patients at the Fetal Diagnostic Center at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women's and Children since 2000. My clinical, educational and research interests include Doppler ultrasound, prenatal diagnosis, and ultrasound in postmenopausal patients.

NLO *What lead you to medicine?*

IZ Medicine was not my first choice - not even close. I always aspired to travel and write and initially wanted to be a journalist. Then, I wanted to be a teacher and maybe a lawyer. I didn't think about medicine as my calling since I could not stand blood or injury; however, I have always liked a challenge. I took very opposing entry exams for medical school and law school at the University of Zagreb. I got accepted to both and opted for medical school as it was a tougher and longer challenge. I was blessed by this decision. Medicine as a profession has been so fulfilling to me, specifically being a specialist for high-risk pregnancies. It is an incredible privilege to be there with my patients, showing prospective parents the first signs of life on the ultrasound and having the opportunity to witness how human life unfolds. Helping to achieve healthier mothers and babies is an enormous satisfaction to me.

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

IZ I am most proud of my medical

students, residents, fellows, and faculty I help to grow professionally. Creating opportunities for others to succeed - and to be much better than me as a physician and leader - is the ultimate satisfaction in academic medicine. In addition, I am proud of my relationships with my patients. As healthcare is an ever-changing environment, we must turn challenges into opportunities to benefit our patients, learners, and the community at large. We cannot surrender to frustrations.

NLO *Any hobbies, interests, pastimes?*

IZ I love to travel, learn about cultures, history, and geography. I have been always fascinated with the final frontier called space. I also enjoy very much being a father and spending time with my wife Ranka and family.

NLO *Tell us about your family life.*

IZ I grew up in a small village called Lekenik, not far from the Croatian capital of Zagreb. I always dreamed of the big, big city and living in a skyscraper, of course, on the highest floor. My grandmother used to say that I am "born to touch the stars." I am a proud father of my son, Ivor and two stepsons, Marko and Aaron. I live out my dreams privately and professionally. I do live my American dream, too, and I am grateful to my adopted country for the opportunities provided to me.

NLO *Any wishes for our state?*

IZ As obstetricians, we deliver a healthier Hawai'i literally and figuratively. We will not change the world by complaining but rather by taking on challenges and turning them into opportunities for better health. We should follow Queen Kapiolani's legacy and live her inspirational saying "E Kūlia i ka nu'u" to the fullest!