

Ho‘Ola

WORKING TO FIND THE CURE

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CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:
(808) 371-4499

President’s Message

Sometimes I feel I take several steps toward my personal goals, but end up taking a step back along the way. Thankfully, I feel the progress for the Friends of the University of Hawai‘i Cancer Center is all forward momentum.

I am so grateful for your continued support of the Friends. You play a vital role in the fight against cancer.

This year, through your donations and support:

- You helped neighbor island cancer patients participate in UH Cancer Center-coordinated clinical trials by funding their interisland air travel, with the support of Hawaiian Airlines.
- You financially supported five undergraduate students to join the summer internship program and conduct research with UH Cancer Center faculty.
- You helped increase awareness of the innovative research being done at the UH Cancer Center.

Also, this year the Friends board members participated in the inaugural UH Cancer Center Community Advisory Board. Along with other leaders from the community, the board provides a forum for discussion about ongoing and new initiatives, and demonstrates the commitment of the UH Cancer Center to the people it serves.



Adelia Dung, President

As you may know, the Friends of the UH Cancer Center is a non-profit organization that was established in 1981. Our purpose is to support and promote the efforts of the UH Cancer Center. Our goal is to generate community support for the Center in its efforts to find cures for cancer, educate the people of Hawai‘i on cancer prevention, and improve the quality of life of those diagnosed with cancer.

I wholeheartedly support the UH Cancer Center and its director, Dr. Randall Holcombe, because I want the people of Hawai‘i to have the best cancer research and care.

Will you take another step forward with us? Your donation to the Friends allows us to strongly support the UH Cancer Center and invest in transformative research.

Mahalo,

Adelia C. Dung

Adelia Dung
President
Friends of the UH Cancer Center

2017 Weinman Symposium

Friends’ board member Virginia Weinman and her husband Barry, well known in the Hawai‘i community for their generous philanthropic contributions to research and medicine, sponsored the Ninth Weinman Symposium this year at the UH Cancer Center. Each year Nobel Laureates in the area of cancer research have come to Hawai‘i to present at the Weinman Symposium. “International Conference on Gene, Metabolism and Cancer” was this year’s symposium focus held on November 30th and December 1st at the Cancer Center.

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Barry and Virginia Weinman

Friends' Scholars Grateful for Cancer Center Research Opportunity

The inaugural group of five Friends' Scholars spent an engaging two months this past summer at the UH Cancer Center working as interns. The Cancer Center's program places interns under the guidance of faculty mentors, who help them gain real research experience. Each intern completed an independent project. The Friends' Scholars presented their research to their peers, to Cancer Center faculty, and to the Friends' board of directors through poster sessions showing their findings. The Friends' Scholars received stipends funded by Friends of the UH Cancer Center.

A key objective of the UH Cancer Center is education and outreach to the community. All of the Friends' Scholars remarked how much they enjoyed and valued their summer experience working at the Cancer Center. One of the Friends' Scholars was Dylan Combs, who graduated from Punahou School and is presently attending Harvard University. Dylan said, "I am interested in cancer research because I feel there is so much to be discovered, and even more to gain from these discoveries. It is an incredible opportunity to gain research skills and learn new concepts from not only faculty but also other interns of unique backgrounds."

As their summer at the Cancer Center came to a close, the Friends' Scholars met at a donor-sponsored luncheon with Dr. Satoru Izutsu, a senior faculty member and Vice Dean of the Office of Dean of Medicine at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. From Dr. Izutsu, they learned what JABSOM has to offer and how a medical school education in Hawai'i might enhance their future career goals.

All five interns expressed their deep gratitude and appreciation for the experience afforded them by the Friends of UH Cancer Center.



Top photo (left to right): Friends' Scholars Lauren Muraoka, Nicholas Liu, Dylan Combs, Conor Goo, Dane Sobol.

Bottom photo: (Front row left to right) Laurie Chun, Christopher Yasuma, Virginia Weinman, Lauren Muraoka, Yvette Amshoff, Sheri-Ann Higa, Diane Ono, Dale Kobayashi). (Back row left to right) Jason R. Nagai, Conor Goo, Nicholas Liu, Dane Sobol, Dylan Combs, Adelia Dung, Don Murphy, Randall Holcombe, James Wriston.

2017 Weinman Symposium

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The 2017 Weinman Award Recipient was Dr. Phillip Allen Sharp, who was the 1993 Nobel Prize winner in Physiology or Medicine.

Dr. Sharp is a geneticist and a molecular biologist. The Sharp Lab's research and discoveries with gene structures are groundbreaking and advance our understanding of cell biology for therapeutic intervention.

Virginia Weinman is a graduate of Stanford Graduate School of Business and also holds a master's degree in marriage, family and child counseling. She is the President of the Weinman Foundation as well as the Founder and President of Allusions.com, a multimedia development company.

Dr. Phillip Allen Sharp

