

Ho‘ōla

WORKING TO FIND THE CURE

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President's Message

Aloha, friends and supporters of the UH Cancer Center!

As 2021 rolls along, hopes to return to a new normal brighten with the COVID vaccines, the result of science and research at their best. With the 50th Anniversary of the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center, the Friends celebrate our own milestone—40 years of service to support the UH Cancer Center, also science at its best!

The Friends' journey started in 1981 when the Pacific Foundation for Cancer Research was incorporated by three dedicated women. In August of 1984 the board raised \$100,000 to fund a "Tumor Colony Counter" at the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i, renamed the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center. That success was followed by years of sponsoring events that raised substantial funds to support cancer research.

In 1991 the corporate name was changed to Friends of Cancer Research in Hawaii, and strong efforts to reduce cancer-related death and suffering by promoting cancer research and education continued. In 2010, the organization's name was changed to Friends of University of Hawai'i Cancer Center to reflect that primary focus, and from then until now, the Friends have not wavered in our original goals.

We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and are so grateful for their foresight and persistence. Through the past 40 years the Friends have seen the UH Cancer Center weather many challenges, but have always recognized its inherent value and potential, and are so incredibly proud to see what it is presently accomplishing as well as its eminent position as one of only 71 National Cancer Institute-designated cancer centers.

Our work continues, as this recent legislative session presented bills which threaten the UH Cancer Center's established funding and autonomy, so our efforts to protect and support this precious resource is needed as much as ever. Thank you to all of you who have supported the Friends and Cancer Center over the past 40 years. We look forward to many more years of partnership with you to support UH Cancer Center in its mission to eradicate cancer.

Mahalo,

Monica McLaren

MONICA MCLAREN

President, Friends of the UH Cancer Center

If you'd like to learn more about the Friends and support us with a donation, please visit <https://friendsofuhcc.org>.





SPENCER DUNG

Spencer Dung Joins the Friends

The Friends are excited to welcome Spencer Dung to the board. Spencer is the Managing Director at Westpac Wealth Partners, which provides financial guidance to community members, business owners, and non-profit entities. Spencer already has a wealth of community service experience, a passion born from the personal tragedy of losing his sister to leukemia. As an informed and dynamic young professional, the Friends are eager to leverage Spencer's perspectives and skills to energize and to help us move in impactful and innovative directions. His ability to connect to, motivate and communicate with diverse people will serve us well, as will his knowledge of fundraising and financial planning. Welcome to the Friends, Spencer!

The Friends' Graduate Fellowship



Besides supporting community education about the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center's invaluable work, the Friends' mission is also to support the UH Cancer Center's internal educational needs. In the past we have financially supported the Cancer Center's summer interns, who are high school and college students that work with UH Cancer Center researchers on research projects, providing those students invaluable experience and inspiration. The success of that program has resulted in the recent award of a \$1.3M grant to support the summer internship program. Now the Friends are very excited to support a different educational program.

We are proud to announce in partnership with Clinical Labs of Hawaii the creation of the "Friends of the UH Cancer Center and Clinical Labs Fellowship." This position at the UH Cancer Center will support a graduate student through three years of cancer-focused research work.

Currently funding for graduate students can be difficult to come by and usually derives from grants to the faculty mentor. This can create some instability for the student and limits the number of students that the outstanding faculty at the UH Cancer Center can support. By creating a three-year graduate fellowship that supports a single student, we will enable the Cancer Center to train the next generation of scientists. The goal is to provide the graduate student fellow with hands-on research experience in cancer biology and population sciences along with innovative training and mentorship experiences as he or she works to obtain a doctoral degree. The fellow will be chosen through a competitive selection process and the program will start in July 2021.

Educational programs such as these are vital to grow the next generation of medical professionals, who will advance research and the treatment of cancer. The Friends are proud to provide this multi-year award to support a graduate student's stipend throughout his or her program. We know it is a great investment in a better future for us all!