Center Construction Begins This Fall
Facility will help improve cancer research and care for entire state

Soon residents of the Kaka’ako neighborhood in Honolulu will see the first signs of construction of the new Cancer Research Center. After years of delay, building will begin this fall on a project that will improve cancer care and treatment for the people of Hawai‘i.

Newly released renderings depict a state-of-the-art building, constructed to the highest standards with many sustainable features. Designers integrated local elements such as wood, panoramic windows and breezeways, so that the facility will complement the area’s surroundings.

The detailed design images are a critical indicator of progress. “The project planning and design team have excelled in their investigative work,” said UH Mānoa Chancellor Dr. Virginia Hinshaw. “They have produced a cutting-edge research and work environment that exceeds project requirements, while complying with constraints.” The facility will span six floors, encompass 150,000 square feet and will open in 2013.

Months of accelerated work has been conducted by project manager, Kobayashi Group, and architect firms Shimokawa Nakamura, ZGF Architects LLP of Los Angeles and Jacobs Consultancy of New York City. In addition to space, cost and height limitations, the designers considered input from the community and center researchers and staff on such features as sustainability, community access, natural lighting and energy efficiency.

Specific features of the new building will include labs equipped with the most advanced technology, open workspaces, public and private meeting rooms, and tropical landscaping to enhance tranquility and a connection with the outdoor environment.

“We are on the brink of a new era for cancer research in Hawai‘i,” said Michele Carbone, M.D., Ph.D, director of the Cancer Research Center. “The construction of a world-class facility here in our state will help us reduce the burden of cancer globally, while serving the people of Hawai‘i for generations to come.”

To learn how you can help support the building of the new center, contact the Cancer Center at 808-564-5829 or visit the website at www.crch.org.

Director’s Message
Research that Spans the Globe

Dear Friends,

In April, I left Honolulu to meet fellow researchers in Turkey, a place where I have conducted cancer research for the past decade. Since my return, I am reminded of how critical our local research is to finding clues to a disease that has existed here and elsewhere for generations.

My childhood was spent in Italy, and I realized early on I had no option but to study medicine. My father was an orthopedic surgeon, on call day and night and I knew surgery would not be my path. Instead, I chose one of the greatest challenges I could imagine — cancer and I developed a special interest in mesothelioma, an almost always fatal cancer that affects the linings of the heart, lungs and abdomen.

I learned of three villages in Cappadocia, Turkey, where the incidence of mesothelioma among the local people was off the charts, accounting for more than 50% of all deaths. Each year I spend one to two months working in these villages, assisted by an international team of experts that collaborates with the Turkish Ministry of Health.

Cappadocia, Turkey
Recently the Cancer Center received a tremendous gift from the Weinman Foundation of $1.7 million. This gift will be used to build collaboration between Center researchers and globally-recognized experts working to convert basic science research into patient therapies. The benefactors, Virginia and Barry Weinman, through their generosity, have sparked a tradition of giving that will help establish the state as an eminent location for cancer research while enhancing related biotech and intellectual industries.

The couple met while Barry was stationed locally as a U.S. Navy officer. During his military career, he was an intelligence briefing officer for the Commander of U.S. Naval Forces in Europe and the U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain. Barry obtained a BS degree from Clarkson College of Technology and an MA from the London School of Economics/USC. Virginia, after attending UH, moved on to become a Sloane Fellow at the Leland Stanford University's Graduate School of Business. Later, she founded Allusions.com, a California-based multimedia development company. She was appointed by President Reagan to the Committee for Trade Negotiations, where she served as U.S. State Department delegate to the United Nations World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva.

The Weinman’s success has been punctuated by their willingness to share their talents. Barry co-founded Allegis Capital, a technology venture capital fund and DragonBridge Capital, which assists Chinese technology companies. Barry is also a cofounder and director of Hawai‘i Business and Entrepreneur Acceleration Mentors and is the Chair of the University of Hawai‘i Foundation Board of Trustees.

Virginia is past director of the Stanford University Professional Women’s Forum, the Honolulu Symphony, and the Children’s Alliance of Hawai‘i. She currently serves on the board of the Hawaiian Humane Society, the Friends of the Cancer Research Center, and is an active member of the HMA Committee for Medical Tort Reform in Hawai‘i.

In 1998, the couple established the Weinman Foundation to support philanthropic and educational causes. The Foundation has made significant philanthropic investments at the University of Hawai‘i, including the endowed Barry & Virginia Weinman Dean’s Chair in Medicine. They also committed $1 million toward student fellowships at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. “The Weinman Foundation is very strategic in their philanthropic investments and through gifts to the Cancer Center and JABSOM, they are helping create a better healthcare future for Hawai‘i,” said Donna Vuchinich, President and CEO, University of Hawai‘i Foundation.

The new Innovation Fund consists of two components. The first will enable innovators in cancer research to come to Hawai‘i to work with Center faculty to establish collaborations. The second component will provide funding for novel projects, with preference given to junior cancer researchers who may not have established track records, to build their capacity to leverage resources from larger funders for promising areas of inquiry. “We wanted to make sure we supported the promising researchers here, so we spoke with Dr. Carbone and others about what they needed to better help the people of Hawai‘i,” said Virginia. Barry added, “We are extremely happy to be able to provide a unique funding resource that will nurture the remarkable talent we have here, and build our intellectual capital, often one of the most overlooked of Hawai‘i’s natural resources.”

Memorial Fund To Benefit Clinical Trials

The Cancer Center is grateful to the Oishi family for their recently established fund in memory of Dr. Robert Oishi. The fund will support clinical trials at the Center. Dr. Oishi was a mentor to many medical students, a well-respected surgeon and breast cancer researcher, and principal investigator for the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project at the Cancer Research Center. He died this past January. Dr. Oishi’s accomplishments as a physician were numerous and far-reaching. His dedicated and successful efforts to promote clinical trials over the years have improved outcomes for many cancer patients in Hawai‘i.
Discoveries with the Potential to Change the Future

The Cancer Research Center of Hawai‘i provides researchers with the technologies, infrastructure and a collaborative environment to support groundbreaking research. Here are two recent tales of success:

**Target: Control of T-Cell Proliferation**

**Impact: Potential New Treatments for Blood Cancers and Auto-immune Diseases**

Dr. Joseph W. Ramos and colleagues have identified that a key protein called PEA-15 stops T-cell proliferation by blocking the cell’s ability to reproduce. The control of T-cell proliferation is essential in preventing certain blood cancers and auto-immune diseases, as well as the orchestration of the immune response to infection. Findings of the study are reported in an online publication of The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB J).

Ramos and team joined with Rutgers University and Washington University in St. Louis to examine the normal function of PEA-15, which acts as a tumor suppressor in some cancers including brain, ovarian and breast cancers. They found that PEA-15 normally controls lymphocyte (white blood cell) proliferation.

“The understanding how T-cell expansion is controlled at the molecular level should lead to new methods to control the immune response during infection as well as perhaps helping the development of novel ways to utilize these cells to attack tumors,” said Dr. Ramos, principal investigator. “Dysregulation of PEA-15 function might also play a role in the development or progression of lymphomas or leukemias,” he added. Funding for the study was provided by the National Institutes of Health.

**Target: Neuroblastoma, a Rare Form of Pediatric Cancer**

**Impact: Evaluating Whether a Repurposed Drug Can Safely Reduce or Eradicate Tumor Cells**

Dr. Andre Bachmann is collaborating with researchers, patients and families to study the potential of a repurposed drug to treat neuroblastoma. Neuroblastoma is a rare form of cancer that occurs when malignant cells form in the sympathetic nervous system, which may arise in the adrenal gland, neck, chest or abdomen.

Dr. Bachmann was one of the first to study DFMO in relation to neuroblastoma. DFMO is an inhibitor that specifically targets a key protein called ornithine decarboxylase (ODC). This protein makes the polyamine molecules. Both ODC and polyamines are often accumulated in cancer and contribute to tumor growth.

“The trial will monitor the safety of DFMO usage among patients and test whether the drug is effective in reducing or eradicating neuroblastoma tumor cells. The control of neuroblastoma is essential in preventing certain blood cancers and auto-immune diseases, as well as the orchestration of the immune response to infection. Findings of the study are reported in an online publication of The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB J).”

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Event to honor Bert and Susan Kobayashi
Mauka Makai Fundraiser
To Capture the Mood of Mexico

Friends of the Cancer Research Center will host the largest fundraising event of the year on Friday, September 17 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at The Waterfront at Aloha Tower Marketplace. The evening will capture the spirit of Mexico with south-of-the-border cuisine, live entertainment and festivities. An extensive silent auction, followed by a live auction will offer an array of quality items for guests to bid on.

The event will honor local philanthropists Bert and Susan Kobayashi. The couple is this year’s recipients of the Mauka Makai Award for their significant contributions to the progress of cancer research, treatment and education in Hawai‘i. Bert is the founder of the Kobayashi Group LLC, and a third generation Japanese-American born in Honolulu. Bert took over the family’s construction business as a young man after his father fell ill, and built it into one of the state’s largest construction companies. He sold the business to a group of employees in 1997, and then founded the Kobayashi Development Group.

The event theme, Viva La Cancer Research, is a perfect reflection of the celebration. Guests will enjoy culinary creations and beverages under the stars, with all proceeds benefitting the Cancer Research Center. Don’t miss this evening of fun and entertainment. For more information or to reserve a table, call 808-564-5829, email maukamakai@crch.hawaii.edu or visit www.crch.org.

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

The amount of my gift is:
___$25  ___$50  ___$100  ___$250  ____$500  Other ___________________

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___ Please keep my gift anonymous for recognition purposes.
___ Yes, I would like receive periodic updates from the Cancer Center.
___ In the future, I prefer to receive Innovations via direct email.

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Cancer Research, 1236 Lauhala Street, Honolulu, HI 96813. Or to make a donation by credit card, please call 808-586-3010. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law and the Federal ID number is 99-0207313. To learn more about our research, visit us online at www.crch.hawaii.edu