



## Guest Editor

### Bo Eklof MD, PhD, Medical Director, Straub Foundation



The collaboration between Hawaii Medical Journal and the Straub Foundation continues in this issue. The Editor, Norman Goldstein, shares our view on the importance of public education and the distribution of knowledge to a wider population. Dr. Goldstein published the Third Pacific Vascular Symposium on Venous Disease that the Straub Foundation organized, in

three issues of HMJ April through June 2000. The session on air travel related venous thromboembolism was republished in the prestigious Cardiovascular Surgery journal last April.

An independent 501(c)(3) public charity, the Straub Foundation is dedicated to improving the health of Hawaii's people through research and education. Building today for our health tomorrow, the Straub Foundation establishes programs that most benefit the Hawaii community it serves.

Focusing on clinical research and pharmaceutical trials, the majority of projects involve patients in studies and experiments intended to result in better and more effective ways of managing health care needs.

The Foundation's education activities focus on delivering information to promote community awareness and healthier living. Since 1994, the Foundation has organized free meetings for the public on important health issues such as diabetes, aging, stroke, asthma, sun and skin, prevention and screening of various diseases, and varicose veins.

In concert with the Hawaii State Consortium for Integrative Health Care, the Straub Foundation organized the first "Healing in Paradise: Integrating Alternatives in Health", a free public meeting held on Saturday, November 4, 2000 at the Hawaii Convention Center which attracted more than 1,000 participants. Kahuna Kawaikapuokalani K. Hewett, Paul Ka'ikena Pearsall and the Kuhai Halau o Kawaikapuokalani Pa'Olapa Kahiko opened the meeting with a poignant Hawaiian ceremony.

Nine local experts presented an interesting complement of topics, such as "Integrative Health and Healing: 'Looking In' to 'Left Out' Medicine", "Overview of Chinese Medicine", "Overview of Hawaiian Medicine", the "Practice of Integrative Medicine in Hawaii"; "Complementary/Alternative Medicine and its Role in Common Diseases: Heart Disease, Obesity with Diabetes Mellitus, Complementary Approaches to the Treatment and Prevention of Strokes, and Arthritis", and "Is There Any Scientific Evidence?"

Participants spent nearly two hours experiencing some of the 15 hands-on workshops offered, including acupuncture and oriental medicine; chiropractic; energy healing, healing touch, Ho'oponopono, Lomilomi and La'au Lapa'au; magnetic therapy; massage; Qi Gong/Tai Chi; yoga; and more.

The Hawaii State Consortium for Integrative Health Care and the Straub Foundation are not endorsing any of the alternative medicine therapies presented in this issue and advise participants to consult with their personal physician regarding the therapies.

I have seen and felt the enthusiasm and the never ending questions at these meetings, and I realize the need and the demand from the public for more health information. It is satisfying to see 1,000 participants at the meetings, but this up-to-date health information should be delivered to many other Hawaii residents.

This is the reason Straub Foundation, in collaboration with Olelo, has commenced a health series, "Health in Paradise", with Dr. S. Kalani Brady (the popular TV doctor from Straub) as the Moderator every Saturday evening from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. on Olelo, Channel 52.

Next month, the Foundation's major symposium, "Eve in Paradise: Controversies in Women's Health" will be held at the Renaissance Ilikai Waikiki Hotel. Six mainland guest lecturers will join the local experts for a two-day professional meeting on November 15 and 16, 2001 and one-day free public meeting on Saturday, November 17, 2001.

We are also working with the Hawaii State Consortium for Integrative Health Care to plan the second "Healing in Paradise" public symposium on Saturday, April 13, 2002.

To share this health information to a wider audience, we will plan to videotape the "Eve in Paradise" and "Healing in Paradise" public meetings so that both programs can be televised on Olelo at a later date.

