The Cultural Competency Curriculum Team receives the LIMElight Award for Sustained Excellence in Indigenous Health Curriculum Implementation

by Martina Kamaka, MD and Malia Lee, MD

NHCOE celebrates the faculty of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH) UH John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) Cultural Competency Curriculum (C3) team as recipients of an international teaching award! The team received the LIMElight “Sustained Excellence in Indigenous Health Curriculum Implementation” award presented at the Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) conference in Christchurch, New Zealand on November 7, 2019. The LIMElight Award recognizes outstanding approaches to the implementation of Indigenous health content in medical curricula, which are sustained and supported by evidenced-based processes.

The LIME conference is a biannual gathering of international medical educators focused on Indigenous health. The LIME conference includes academics and practitioners, as well as other stakeholders’ such as policymakers, Indigenous students and community members. The LIME Conference is an outgrowth of the LIME network and is supported by Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand, Te Otu Rata O Aotearoa (Te ORA) Māori Medical Practitioners Association and the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA). This year, the 8th LIME Connection was hosted by the University of Otago. Conference speakers and attendees included both Indigenous and non-Indigenous experts from such places as Australia, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Canada, Hawai‘i, and the continental U.S.

Drs. Martina Kamaka, Dee-Ann Carpenter and Vanessa Wong, all NHCOE faculty, accepted the award on behalf of the C3 team which recognized their 13 year effort building a curriculum focused on Native Hawaiian health and cultural competency training. The C3 team’s contributions to medical education started in 2006 as a single cultural immersion weekend which has grown to include a curriculum that spans the first three years of medical school in addition to some residency training. The curriculum includes a series of workshops and colloquia, didactic lectures, electives, immersive experiences, and a longitudinal problem-based learning case that incorporates a standardized patient exercise. Dr. Martina Kamaka, project director and lead team member, says that this award is quite an honor as it was “given out by our international peers in the field of Indigenous Health education” and “it acknowledges and validates our hard work on an international level.” The NHCOE is the main supporter of many C3 programs and many of the C3 team are also faculty associated with the NHCOE.

JABSOM DNHH faculty at LIME participated in robust discussions on “leadership, curriculum innovation and collaboration in Indigenous health and health professional education.” C3 team members, Dee-Ann Carpenter, MD and Vanessa Wong, MD, accompanied Dr. Kamaka to the LIME conference where they were also joined by other faculty who have assisted in teaching parts of the C3 curriculum (Malia Lee, MD, Kelli-Ann Voloch, MD from JABSOM and Wesley Sumida, Pharm. D from the UH Hilo Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy). Other University of Hawai‘i C3 team members include: Malina Kaulukukui, MSW, Gregory Maskarinec, PhD, Bill Ahuna, MD, LeShay Keliholokai, MA, Diane Paloma, PhD, Maria Chun, PhD, Kalani Brady, MD, and Tiffnie Kakalia.

“ʻAʻohe pau ka ‘ike i ka hālau hoʻokahi.”
All knowledge is not learned in just one school
About the Author

Kayla Murata is a 4th year medical student at UH JABSOM with her heart set on entering a Family Medicine residency program. She is passionate about serving Hawaii’s people and managing preventive and chronic medical conditions in the context of family, community and culture.
On December 15th, 2019, the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence (NHCOE) published a Hawai‘i Journal of Health and Social Welfare on-line journal supplement to highlight presentations from the Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress (PRIDoC) 2018 conference. The Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians (Ahahui o na Kauka) and NHCOE faculty have been long time sponsors for the Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress since its origin and NHCOE has produced the PRIDoC 2018 special issue as an extension of the conference, to support student and faculty research and curriculum development, as well as to highlight some of the presentations delivered at PRIDoC that related to our overall goals in medical education, cultural competency training, and workforce development.

Original articles were solicited from PRIDoC 2018 presenters whose abstracts or presentations aligned with NHCOE’s specific legislative objectives; to improve the competitive pool of underrepresented and Native Hawaiian medical school applicants; support Native Hawaiian medical student and faculty development; offer faculty/student research development; and enhance medical student rural health curriculum and cultural competency training.

PRIDoC is a stage for leaders in indigenous health and medical education throughout the Pacific to shine a light on successful and innovative programs and curricula that are improving the health of our indigenous populations.

Some of the articles included in this special issue:

1. An overview of PRIDoC 2018 that included the genealogy of PRIDoC
2. Results from the PRIDoC 2018 student track curriculum
3. A review of the Indigenous Faculty Forum, a collaborative effort between Oregon Health Science University’s Native American Center of Excellence and NHCOE at JABSOM
4. The Cross Cultural Health Care initiatives led by UH JABSOM’s department of surgery
5. Post baccalaureate physician workforce development programs at OHSU and JABSOM that help Native Americans and disadvantaged students in Oregon, Hawai‘i and US affiliated Pacific Islands get into medical school
6. A school-based health center program for students in Waianae,
7. Medical student professionalism development and mentoring at Nanakuli High and Intermediate
8. Literature review on end of life care for Native Hawaiians and Pacific islanders (student research project)

PRIDoC conferences offer indigenous physicians and medical students the opportunity to network and support each other as well as immerse ourselves deeply into culture, to renew our spirits and to understand what it really means to be an indigenous medical practitioner. PRIDoC also provides a forum and a safe place for leaders in healthcare and health education to come together to explore solutions to problems contributing to health disparities affecting indigenous peoples. Multiple factors impact the health of indigenous people throughout the world, therefore, a multifaceted approach is needed for indigenous peoples to regain the health and stature that they had prior to colonization. The collective energy created at PRIDoC supports a global stirring and movement to take the lessons of our challenges, successes, innovative ideas and plans and lead our indigenous communities to a brighter future.

JABSOM medical students and ‘Ahahui o na Kauka physicians at the PRIDoC opening Awa Ceremony.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Malia Lee.
LIME Cont’d from pg 1.

The following presentations were given at LIME by JABSOM faculty:
- Professional and cultural development of medical students mentoring adolescents in a predominantly Native Hawaiian community (Voloch & Lee)
- Don’t you want to see your mo’opuna grow up? A Native Hawaiian Cross-Cultural Standardized Patient Exercise for first-year medical students (Wong, Carpenter, Kamaka)
- Intercultural curriculum scaffolding to work in community for pharmacy and medical students (Sumida/Carpenter)
- Indigenous Toolkit (Kamaka, et al.)
- The place of Indigenous health curriculum within medical colleges – 3 case studies (Panel on Cultural Competency Training for Residents/Registrars) (Dr. Kamaka represented Hawai’i on the panel)

A conference highlight was the opening protocol and presentations that took place at Onuku Marae situated on beautiful Akaroa Harbour in the Banks Peninsula. A special mahalo as well to Dr. Malia Lee who led many of the Hawaii team’s musical contributions. Keynote speaker Nadine Caron, MD from British Colombia, Canada, thanked the Hawai’i delegation for leading in “songs that touched her right to the soul” and brought attendees to heartfelt tears. Overall the conference was an amazing and inspiring meeting for all who attended!

For more information on the LIME network and LIME connection, please visit: www.limeconnection.net.au.

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medical training and never forget those on the neighbor islands who need care the most and will wait patiently and later express their deepest gratitude for my time and medical expertise as a physician. It is my wish for future medical students and practicing physicians to take the leap of faith in serving our neighbor island and rural communities, now more than ever, in a much needed effort to improve the overall health and wellness of our beloved local people and the entire state of Hawai’i.

Mahalo to Queen’s Health Systems, Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence, and the Area Health Education Center (AHEC)-Hawai‘i for generously supporting the travel expenses for third year medical students completing a longitudinal rural rotation servicing Hawai‘i Island’s North Hawai‘i communities. Mahalo to Dr. Kehau Kong, former ‘Imi Ho‘ōla and UH JABSOM graduate, whose service as clinical preceptor continues to inspire students to engage in cultural practices as they provide care for their community as well as their patients.

For Our Native Hawaiian Students

NHCOE offering up to $1000 in stipends to Native Hawaiian JABSOM students for USMLE prep materials (Step 1 & 2).

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