

## Director's Message Ensuring a Healthier Future for Hawai'i's People

Dear Friends,

As many of you already may know, the last few months have been full of anticipation as this year's state legislature convened to discuss several critical tobacco-related bills. I have the pleasure of sharing the exciting news that the tobacco tax bill was approved in full by the Legislature and has become law (Act 316). In addition, Senate Bill 3262 (Act 295), or the "tobacco-free work environment" bill, also became law.



*Dr. Carl-Wilhelm Vogel*

Act 316 was an important milestone on the path to preventing, treating and eventually perhaps curing cancer. Those of us who have supported the tobacco tax have done so with careful consideration and believe that both the short- and long-term benefits to the people of Hawai'i will prove to be immeasurable. According to research on the effects of tobacco taxation in other states, increased tobacco taxes did deter its citizens, in particular its youth, from smoking. This in itself would be a justifiable reason to increase the price of a pack of cigarettes. Tobacco-related illness is the number one cause of preventable deaths in the United States; in Hawai'i, too many of our friends and neighbors succumb each year. This tax will indirectly contribute to fewer deaths and illnesses, something I'm sure we all wish to see.

In addition, it will help offset

*(continued on back page)*

## A Landmark Decision Tobacco Tax Increase Becomes a Reality

On May 4, the Hawai'i State Legislature passed Senate Bill 2961 – also known as the tobacco tax – in an effort to discourage cigarette smoking, especially by Hawai'i's youths, and to allocate funds for the prevention and treatment of smoking-related cancers. The bill, which became a law on July 12 (Act 316), mandates an increase in charge per cigarette from its current 7 cents to 8 cents on or after September 30, 2006; 9 cents on or after September 30, 2007; 10 cents on or after September 30, 2008; and so forth at 1 cent per year up to a 13-cent increase in 2011.

This is a landmark decision for the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i as well as for healthcare in our state. A percentage of the new tax collected after September 30, 2006 will be directed to the Center for the continuation of cancer research, clinical trials, patient care, and general operations costs, amounting to 1 cent per cigarette for the first year, 1.5 cents per cigarette in the second year and 2 cents per cigarette for the following year and each year thereafter. At the current rate, the tax would generate approximately \$11.8 million in the first year, \$17.7 million in the second year and an estimated \$23.6 million for each year thereafter. However, if smoking rates decrease (possibly due to the ban on smoking in certain public areas which also passed this session), the projected revenue may be substantially less.

A sum of up to \$11 million will also be provided for the fiscal year 2006 – 2007 for the Center's research and operating expenses.

Act 316 outlines the health repercussions of cigarette smoking and the impact it has on society, as well as the reasoning behind the increase and for funding of the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i. The main verbiage of the law reads as follows:



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## President's Message A Healthier Future for All

Dear Friends,

This year promises to be a memorable one with regard to the fight against smoking-related cancers. From the legislature to the streets, Hawai'i residents joined together to share heart-breaking personal stories of friends, neighbors and family members who have suffered the effects of cigarette smoke and to take preventative action to protect others.

As a result, two tobacco-related bills became law: the "smoke-free workplace" bill and the "tobacco tax" bill. The passage of these laws will not only propel Hawai'i forward to meet and in some cases exceed standards currently held across much of the mainland, but will also once again highlight our state's commitment to the health of our people.

I'd like to also extend our welcome and aloha to **Dr. Michele Carbone**, who has recently joined the Cancer Research Center as director of the newly created Thoracic Oncology Program and associate director of Basic Sciences, as well as to his superior team of researchers, all of whom will soon be settled into their lab and offices at the UH Kaka'ako Complex.

Hawai'i deserves to be at the forefront of the healthcare industry. Implementing preventative healthcare strategies and enabling top-tier research are two key ways to get us there. Mahalo to those who had the dedication and courage to speak out and make a difference, and to all of you for your continued support. Each day brings us closer to a healthier and happier future for the people of our state.

Aloha,



Rick Humphreys  
President



Rick Humphreys

*Hawai'i deserves  
to be at the  
forefront of  
the healthcare  
industry.*

## Relocation News

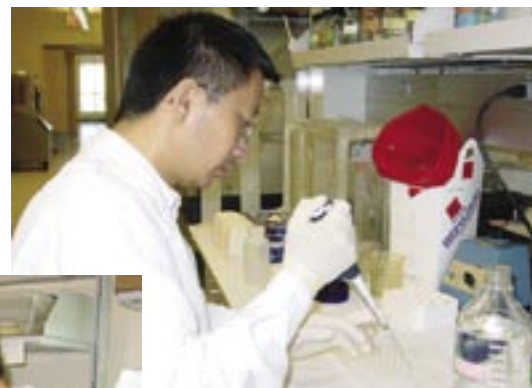
### Researchers Hard at Work at the University of Hawai'i Biomedical Research Building

In March, five of the Cancer Research Center's nine Natural Products and Cancer Biology Program professors/researchers relocated their offices, staff and entire laboratories to the University of Hawaii Biomedical Research Building in Kaka'ako. **Dr. Alan F. Lau, Dr. Patricia Lorenzo, Dr. Joe W. Ramos, Dr. Randal K. Wada, and Dr. Bonnie Warn-Cramer** are now hard at work in their new surroundings. An open house was held on May 16 to celebrate the full-fledged cancer research activities now underway following the complex transitions.

The Natural Products and Cancer Biology Program professors/researchers still currently located at the Center's facilities on Lauhala Street are **Dr. André Bachmann, Dr. John Bertram, Dr. Adrian Franke and Dr. Dave Fritzinger.**

**Dr. Michele Carbone** and his team, who recently arrived from Chicago, have also moved into the research building. Dr. Carbone will serve as the director of the newly created Thoracic Oncology Program and the associate director of Basic Sciences.

Use of the biomedical research building is temporary, pending the construction of the new Cancer Center at an adjacent Kaka'ako site. Once the Center is built, there will be enough space to accommodate all of the Natural Products and Cancer Biology Program personnel as well as their laboratories – a crucial element in promoting the teamwork necessary for exponentially powerful research and discovery.



*Above, postdoctoral trainee Zheng Lan loads microtuge tubes in Dr. Alan Lau's laboratory while, at left, Arne Hernandez of Dr. Bonnie Warn-Cramer's laboratory instructs CURE summer intern Dennis Hidalgo.*



*Above, Meiji-Yasuda summer intern Frank Lau and Sandra Pastorino of Dr. Joe Ramos' laboratory discuss their findings. Left, Makamae Kahawai, CURE high school summer intern and graduate of Kamehameha Schools, works with samples in Dr. Randy Wada's laboratory.*



## New Associate Director Dr. Alan McClelland Joins Center

**A**lan McClelland, Ph.D., has joined the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i as Associate Director for Scientific Administration. In this capacity, he will serve as a member of the Cancer Center's senior leadership team. Dr. McClelland's responsibilities will encompass management of the research and instructional activities of the Cancer Center as well as preparation of the P30 Cancer Center Support Grant, Minority Institution/Cancer Center Partnership Program, training and outreach grants, and grants resulting from federal or state appropriations; supervising administrative support staff; managing Cancer Center faculty recruitment efforts; and administering the Cancer Center's developmental funds process. "I'm very pleased



Dr. Alan McClelland

that the Cancer Center could attract an individual with such outstanding credentials to join the senior leadership team," states **Director Carl-Wilhelm Vogel**.

Dr. McClelland earned his doctoral degree in biochemistry from the University of London and completed postdoctoral training at Yale University. He has over 20 years of research and senior management experience in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry in the United States, where he directed research and development of new drugs and therapies for companies such as Bayer and Novartis. Dr. McClelland has published numerous scientific articles on his research and is an inventor on 17 issued U.S. patents. He has also served as a principal investigator of a grant from the National Cancer Institute as well as several other grants and contracts. Dr. McClelland most recently served as Vice President of Discovery Research for Hawaii Biotech Inc. and as a biotechnology consultant.

## Additional Expertise Dr. Michele Carbone Joins Research Team

**M**ichele Carbone, M.D., Ph.D., joined the Cancer Research Center on June 1 as the director of the newly created Thoracic Oncology Program and associate director for Basic Sciences. His office and laboratory are located at the new University of Hawai'i Biomedical Research Building complex in Kaka'ako.

Dr. Carbone was most recently a professor at Loyola University Medical Center's Cardinal Bernadin Cancer Center in Chicago, as well as a member of the Department of Pathology and director of the Thoracic Oncology Program. Originating from a long lineage of physicians in Italy, Dr. Carbone received his medical degree from the Medical School of Rome "La Sapienza" and his doctoral degree in human pathology through a combined program of the Medical School of Rome "La Sapienza"

and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He is medically licensed in the U.S. in Anatomic Pathology.

Dr. Carbone's area of research focus and expertise is in thoracic cancers, with major concentration on malignant mesothelioma, a uncommon cancer of the cells lining the chest and abdomen. He is the principal investigator of two major National Cancer Institute (NCI) funded grants that are investigating the relationship of asbestos to mesothelioma. The grants are entitled "Role of Cell Mediators in Asbestos-SV40 Carcinogenesis," which was funded for five years at \$1.7 million, and "SV40-like Sequences in Human Tumors: Analysis and Biological Implications,"

(continued on last page)

## Tobacco Tax Increase a Reality

(continued from page 1)

*"The legislature finds that smoking is the largest cause of morbidity and mortality in the nation that can be easily prevented. Beyond harming individual health, use of tobacco in the United States costs about \$7.18 for each pack of cigarettes sold in terms of healthcare expenses and decreased worker productivity. In Hawai'i, this amounts to \$526,000,000 in healthcare expenses and productivity losses.*

*The legislature further finds that increasing the tax on cigarettes is the most effective way to prevent young people from becoming daily smokers. It has been estimated that a 10 percent increase in the price of cigarettes decreases the number of youngsters who start smoking by three to seven percent in the long-term. The estimated decrease for adults is three percent. Hawai'i was once amongst the nation's leaders in cigarette taxes. However, as of January 2005, the State ranks only 10th in the nation in imposing \$1.40 in tax per pack of cigarettes (7 cents per cigarette in a twenty-cigarette pack).*

*The legislature further finds that allocating a significant percentage of tobacco tax revenues to programs that strive to maintain Hawai'i's health, such as the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i, Hawai'i's emergency medical services, critically needed trauma centers, and the community health centers, are the most appropriate and effective use of such revenues to help the greatest number of people in our state."*

We at the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i would like to thank the members of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Legislature and all who supported Act 316 for their dedication to improving the health of Hawai'i's people and commitment to world-class cancer research and care in our state.



Dr. Michele Carbone

## Making a Difference Cancer Researcher Named to National Panel

**D**r. **Patricia Lorenzo**, assistant professor in the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i's Natural Products and Cancer Biology Program, is currently serving as a member of the American Association for Cancer Research-Minorities in Cancer Research (MICR) Council. Her term began in January and will continue until April 2007.

"I'm so pleased to be offered the opportunity to contribute to the advancement of minorities in scientific research," said Dr. Lorenzo. "In particular,



*Dr. Patricia Lorenzo*

I think there is no more rewarding area of focus than cancer research, which touches the lives of so many people worldwide. I look forward to sharing my experience and inspiration and assisting the organization in its many noteworthy efforts, which include addressing the disparities in cancer incidence and mortality faced by minorities and the medically underserved," she added.

Dr. Lorenzo is originally from Argentina and has been the recipient of two minority-related awards for her outstanding work in cancer research, including the Minority Scholar in Cancer Research Award in 2003 and the Minority Scholar Award for Scientific Excellence in 2005.

The AACR-Minorities in Cancer Research Council is a membership body within the American Association for Cancer Research committed to preventing and curing cancer while meeting the professional needs and advancing the careers of minority scientists, and also acts as an advisory body to the AACR leadership on issues of concern to minority investigators.

## Education is Key Cancer Research Information Day a Success

**A** critical number of our island residents are diagnosed with cancer every year, yet many people in Hawai'i are not well informed on what cancer is, the many types of cancer, preventative behaviors and modalities of treatment. In an effort to improve public awareness, the Friends of the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i sponsored the first ever "Cancer Research Information Day," a free event held in Honolulu at The Queen's Conference Center on March 15.

The all-day public event was well attended, with as many as 75 people sitting in at a time on various presentations made by doctors and researchers from the Center and other institutions. Printed cancer information materials were made readily available to attendees. An onsite survey assessing the effectiveness of the event found the response was very positive, and many respondents expressed interest in attending subsequent cancer information events in the future.

Presentations at the Cancer Research Information Day included: "Intriguing Research in Childhood Cancers" by **Dr. Randal Wada**, Cancer Center; "Tracking Cancer Incidence in Hawai'i" by **Dr. Marc Goodman**, Cancer Center; "What

Makes a Good Cell Go Bad: Understanding Cancer Development" by **Dr. Alan Lau**, Cancer Center; "Don't Panic: Your Family Cancer History Doesn't Have to Be Your Destiny" by **Susan Donlon**, Tripler Army Medical Center and The Queen's Medical Center; "Cancer Information at Your Fingertips" by **Paula Higuchi**, Cancer Information Service, Pacific Region, Partnership Program; "Kaka'ako's New Cancer Center: How It Will Benefit You and the Community" by **Dr. Carl-Wilhelm Vogel**, Cancer Center; "Cancer Control Measures to Reduce Smoking and Lung Cancer Incidence" by **Dr. Dileep Bal**, Kaua'i District Health Officer and Cancer Center; "The Benefits of Clinical Trials Participation" by **Dr. Brian Issell**, Cancer Center; "The Link Between Obesity and Cancer" by **Dr. Cheryl Albright**, Cancer Center; "Will Mammograms Improve My Chances of Finding Breast Cancer Early?" by **Dr. Jennifer Fu**, Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children; and "Melanoma: The Deadliest Skin Cancer" by **Dr. Jan Wong**, Cancer Center.

Each year about 5,500 new cases of cancer are diagnosed in men and women of all ages and races in Hawai'i, a number that is expected to double in coming years. In addition, studies reveal wide ethnic variations in cancer occurrence and survival that are relevant to the major ethnic groups in our state. Increasing cancer awareness in Hawai'i will promote improved cancer prevention behavior, individuals seeking earlier detection and treatment, broader participation in cancer studies, and stronger public backing of cancer research and prevention programs.



*Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senate Health Committee and champion of the tobacco tax, addresses the audience after being recognized by Dr. Vogel (below).*

## Our Future

### Science Fair Winner Mentored by Center Researcher

Each year, the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i strives to encourage and assist in the scientific endeavors of younger generations. The 49<sup>th</sup> Hawai'i State Science and Engineering Fair, held April 3 – 5, once again did just that as 469 students submitted 358 science projects in hopes of winning accolades for their accomplishments, college scholarships, trips and other awards.

This year three high school students excelled in their areas of scientific pursuit to win the Cancer Research Center's senior research awards. The students who were recognized for their scientific prowess are: **Cody J. K. Roldan**, a senior at Kamehameha Schools Kapalama, who won first place for his project entitled "Biologically Active Compounds in Various Marine Algae"; **Lucia Mocz**, a freshman at Mililani High School, who received second place for her project "Computer-Aided Identification of Cancer From Photomicrographs by Entropy Analysis"; and **Kanoe Takitani-Smith**, a Kamehameha Schools Kapalama senior, who was awarded third place for her project "Haiwale: Isolation of Anti-Cancer Compound."

For every talented student, it is equally important that there be the guidance of a dedicated mentor to turn on the scientific curiosity of the student and cultivate his or her academic potential. **Dr. André Bachmann**,



*Cancer Research Center assistant professor Dr. André Bachmann and Mililani High School freshman Lucia Mocz worked together to develop Mocz's award-winning project.*

assistant professor in the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i's Natural Products and Cancer Biology Program, served as Lucia Mocz's official mentor as she worked on her science project last summer. "One of the most important roles we as researchers can perform is to assist young students with scientific potential to pursue their interest and development in the field of science," said Dr. Bachmann. "Working with Lucia was rewarding – even at such a young age she was very professional and refreshingly inquisitive in her research. She took her project very seriously and has deservedly been honored for her results," he added.

Lucia's project involved developing a computer program that can differentiate photographs of normal cells from cancer cells. Entropy analysis appeared to be most successful in the identification of lung cancer with an overall accuracy of 71 percent, which is competitive with the widely used molecular-based clinical method. The program Lucia developed may provide a new set of useful tools for future research and diagnostics.

Coincidentally, Lucia's older brother, **Philip Mocz**, a sophomore at Mililani High School, placed first, while she placed second overall in the science fair. Both students attended the International Science and Engineering Fair in Indianapolis in May along with other top science students from Hawai'i.



*Kanoe Takitani-Smith, a Kamehameha Schools senior, was awarded third place for her work (above), while Kamehameha Schools Cody J. K. Roldan won first place for his project.*



## What Will Your Legacy Be?

### Consider Planned Giving

The faculty and friends of the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i have always been endowed with a charitable spirit. This is evidenced by the 4,000-plus gifts the Center receives each year. Our tax laws not only encourage the support of the Center, but also provide benefits that make it possible for the philanthropic spirit to be expressed through many forms of giving.

The most common way to make an immediate gift is by writing a check. Other planned giving options include real estate, stocks or bonds; charitable bequests; life insurance policies; and gift annuities.

If you would like more information on planned giving options, we invite you to contact Lani Starkey, JD, LLM, CPA, UH Foundation Office of Gift Planning, at (808) 956-8034.

## Clearing the Air

### The Smoking Ban in Hawai'i's Public Places

On May 4, the Hawai'i State Legislature passed yet another health-related, anti-smoking bill in addition to the tobacco tax bill. Now Act 295 makes it illegal to smoke cigarettes in enclosed or partially enclosed public places statewide, such as bars, airports, bowling alleys, galleries, coin-operated laundries and enclosed sections of public stadiums. Open-air public areas such as parks and beaches, as well as other areas such as hotel rooms and tobacco stores, would be exempt from this restriction.

The law aims to protect people who live, work in and visit Hawai'i from the significant risks of secondhand smoke exposure. Today's food service workers are 50 percent more likely to die from lung cancer than the general public, and people who work in bars are particularly vulnerable.

According to the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawai'i, approximately 41 percent of Hawai'i residents work in environments where smoking is still allowed under current law.

## Commitment to Quality Center Researcher to Chair National Institutes of Health Center

**M**arc Goodman, Ph.D., researcher at the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i and principal investigator of the Hawai'i Tumor Registry, will chair the National Institutes of Health Center for Scientific Review, Epidemiology of Cancer Study Section from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2008.



Dr. Marc Goodman

In the words of **Toni Scarpa, M.D., Ph.D.**, director of the Center for Scientific Review, "The skill and leadership offered by the chairperson determine to a significant extent the effectiveness and efficiency of the review group." Scarpa also emphasized the importance of Goodman's participation to assuring the quality of the NIH peer review process. **Dr. Carl-Wilhelm Vogel** added, "We're very proud of Dr. Goodman's selection as chair and fully support his participation on this very important committee at the NIH."

Members are selected on the basis of their demonstrated competence and achievement in their scientific discipline.

Under Goodman's leadership, the Hawai'i Tumor Registry has been recognized two consecutive years – 2004 and 2005 – for its submission of excellent cancer data to the Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program. The award recognizes the SEER central cancer registry that is judged to provide the highest quality data, based on timeliness, thoroughness and accuracy, from among the 18 SEER registries in the U.S. and Canada.

## Student and Center Partnerships Summer Internship Programs Cultivate Budding Scientists

**C**ancer Research Center scientists are once again mentoring a core of high school and college undergraduate students this summer as the CURE Research Award program and Meiji-Yasuda Summer Research Fellowship program are well underway. Participants include 22 students – five high school students from Kamehameha Schools, one from Iolani School, and nine college students – from Hawai'i and mainland colleges who are part of the CURE program, while seven college students are part of the Meiji-Yasuda program.

The summer internship programs are directed and coordinated by **Gertraud Maskarinec, M.D., M.P.H.**, associate professor, with assistance from **Karin Koga**, senior projects manager.

"I'm very impressed with the high quality of students who apply for our summer internship programs each year," stated Dr. Maskarinec. "As a National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center, we have an obligation

to cultivate and nurture these students who we hope will become our future cancer researchers."

The students are each participating in a research project related to cancer in fields including natural products, cell and cancer biology, chemistry, epidemiology and nutrition, cancer prevention and control, and clinical trials. In addition to gaining hands-on cancer research experience, the students will culminate their summer experiences writing a research report on the work they accomplished during their brief internship.

The CURE summer internship program, which was initiated at the Cancer Research Center in 2004, recognized the lack of representation of faculty-level cancer researchers of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island heritage. The program is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and provides cancer-related research experiences to high school and undergraduate students from underrepresented minority groups and

students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The CURE program provides research opportunities that create a greater awareness of the opportunities available for a career in cancer research.

The Meiji-Yasuda Undergraduate Research Fellowship program was established in 2002 to award stipends to outstanding undergraduate students to participate in a research project under the direction of a Cancer Research Center scientist.

This summer the CURE and Meiji-Yasuda internship programs are hosting a diverse group of students from schools in Hawai'i and across the mainland U.S. who are conducting research projects in a variety of focus areas.

### CURE High School

Student	School	Center Mentor
Lisa Gao	Iolani School	Dr. Joe Ramos
Lisa Harunaga	Kamehameha High School	Dr. Alan Lau
Kanani Honeychurch	Kamehameha High School	Dr. Carolyn Gotay
Makamae Kahawai	Kamehameha High School	Dr. Randal Wada
Iolana Kaneakua	Kamehameha High School	Dr. Jay Maddock
Jessie Ann Paahana	Kamehameha High School	Dr. Will McClatchey

### CURE Undergraduate

Student	School	Center Mentor
Jennifer Awakuni	Stanford University	Dr. David Fritzinger
Tiffany Baring	University of Hawai'i	Dr. Scott Lozanoff
Jane Chung	Mount Holyoke	Dr. Loic LeMarchand
Priti Gautam	Boston College	Dr. Cheryl Albright
Dennis Hidalgo	St. Marins	Dr. Bonnie Cramer / Dr. Thomas Hemscheidt
Elise Kang	Mount Holyoke	Dr. Scott Lozanoff
Karen Tumaneng	Hanover College	Dr. Marcus Tius
Elsa Villarreal	HPA	Dr. Lisa Sanchez-Johnsen
Sze Ho Wong	Yale University	Dr. Marc Goodman

### Meiji-Yasuda Undergraduate

Student	School	Center Mentor
Cameron Grace	Stanford University	Dr. Brian Issell
Jamie Kagihara	USC	Dr. Gertraud Maskarinec
Frank Lau	MIT	Dr. Joe Ramos
Ashlee Segawa	UC Berkeley	Dr. Marcus Tius
Matsu Thornton	University of Hawai'i	Dr. Patricia Lorenzo
Jana Yakushiji	University of Hawai'i	Dr. Sheri Fong
Lana Young	Claremont McKenna	Dr. Alan Lau

## Thank You Generous Donors

In appreciation of your generous contributions to the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i through the University of Hawai'i Foundation, we take this opportunity to thank you for your gifts to support cancer research in Hawai'i.

### *Gifts received from January to May 2006*

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*The Cancer Research Center of  
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The mission of the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i is to reduce the burden of cancer through research, education, and service with an emphasis on the unique ethnic, cultural, and environmental characteristics of Hawai'i and the Pacific.

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## Dr. Michele Carbone

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also a five-year grant funded at \$1.8 million. Dr. Carbone also has other substantial grants from the American Cancer Society and the NIH.

"I'm excited that a scientist of Dr. Carbone's caliber has joined the Cancer Research Center," stated Center director Dr. Carl-Wilhelm Vogel. "Dr. Carbone will significantly strengthen our research efforts in the understanding of the pathogenesis of lung cancer, particularly mesothelioma."

Dr. Carbone, his family and his staff, including **Antonio Pannuti, Ph.D.**, **Haining Yang, Ph.D.**, and graduate student **Oriana Strianese**, are warmly welcomed to the Cancer Research Center and wished much aloha and success. He and his team will be part of the Center's important effort to increase its research activities and move it closer to its goal of becoming an NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center.

## Director's Message

*(continued from page 1)*

the enormous public health costs incurred by smokers as well as fund cancer care and cancer research to benefit both today's citizens and future generations.

The positive impact of the tax on the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i is substantial: We will receive a significant amount of revenue from the tax in order to help fund world-class cancer research and assist with operating expenses of our facilities. On behalf of the Cancer Research Center, I'd like to express our gratitude for your support. Your letters to newspaper editors as well as letters and phone calls to legislators were critical to the success of the bill. A special thanks to **Adelia Chung**, mother

of the late **Alana Dung**, for her emphatic letter to legislators in support of Senate Bill 2961. Our sincere appreciation also to this year's legislators and to **Governor Lingle** for ensuring cancer research and care in Hawai'i are not only a priority, but also the best they can be.

Mahalo to all our readers for the many ways you make a difference in our community and for your continued support of a healthier Hawai'i.

With aloha,

Carl-Wilhelm Vogel, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director