Twenty years ago, The Queen’s Medical Center (Queen’s) entered into a trailblazing business and research endeavor that changed cancer treatment for Hawai’i patients and continues to lead to new ways to diagnose and treat that disease.

The Hamamatsu/Queen’s PET (Positron Emission Tomography) Imaging Center, a research and development joint venture with Hamamatsu Photonics of Japan, was established in 1997 to build and operate a state-of-the-art PET imaging center at Queen’s. With the formation of the PET imaging center, Queen’s became the first hospital in the U.S. with a 32-ring-detector PET scanner. This scanner, the second prototype built by Hamamatsu Photonics, provided higher resolution and faster scan times than established PET scanners of that time, which had 16 rings.

“When we were first approached with the opportunity, we didn’t know how the use of PET technology would grow and transform clinical care,” explained Art Ushijima, president and CEO of The Queen’s Health Systems. “In 1997, of the 5,000 hospitals in the U.S., there were only 60 with PET scanners, located at major academic and research centers. Its use as a diagnostic tool for cancer was beginning to be understood. The decision to develop PET was made by the Board of Trustees because of Queen’s commitment to be at the forefront of medical science in Hawai’i, providing the most advanced care for patients.” PET technology has become significantly more advanced and sophisticated today, and there are now about 2,000 PET scanners operating in the U.S.

“We were introduced to Mr. Teruo Hiruma, President and CEO of Hamamatsu Photonics, by Dr. Marc Coel, The Queen’s Medical Director of Nuclear Medicine, and Dr. Henry Wagner, a world-renowned nuclear medicine physician and researcher at Johns Hopkins University. In 1980, Queen’s had recruited Dr. Coel, who introduced magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to the islands. It was through Dr. Coel’s professional relationship with Dr. Wagner, who was serving as a consultant and advisor to Hamamatsu Photonics, that enabled the introduction of PET imaging to Queen’s and Hawai’i,” Ushijima continued. “Mr. Hiruma was searching for a site in the United States for the 32-ring PET scanner. He wanted it to be placed in a U.S. medical center to demonstrate its clinical and research value. In addition to the reputation of Queen’s, I believe, Hawai’i’s culture was attractive to his company. He felt comfortable doing business here. At Mr. Hiruma’s request, our joint venture agreement was kept very basic,

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Dear Friends of Queen’s,

Over the past year, throughout The Queen’s Health Systems, we continued to focus on initiatives to improve patient safety, quality of care, improvements in operational efficiency, and expansion of programs. Following the launch of our affiliation in 2015 with the world leader in quality and safety, the Armstrong Institute at Johns Hopkins University, we continued to roll out programs to support patient safety and quality. Similarly, we have implemented improvements in our cancer program consistent with our affiliation with the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, the nation’s number one cancer center.

In 2016, as result of the dedication of our physicians and staff, The Queen’s Medical Center was ranked (by the prestigious U.S. News & World Report’s annual Best Hospitals survey) in the top 50 hospitals (out of over 5,000 hospitals) nationwide in five specialties, achieved the highest rating possible in seven clinical procedures and conditions, and was the only hospital in Hawai’i to be nationally ranked in any specialty. Additionally, The Queen’s Medical Center and The Queen’s Medical Center – West O’ahu were two of 844 hospitals to receive an “A” grade from The Leapfrog Group in Fall 2016, ranking among the safest hospitals in the United States. The safety score reflects how well hospitals protect patients from accidents, errors, injuries, and infections.

Every day, the Queen’s ‘ohana is called upon to continue the important work of those who came before us. We remain firmly rooted in the mission, vision, and core values instilled by our Founders, Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, over 157 years ago. Queen’s provides quality health care to patients regardless of their ability to pay. Last year, 64 percent of the homeless treated in Hawai’i’s hospitals representing over 10,000 visits, were cared for by Queen’s at extraordinary costs. There does not seem to be a quick solution for the homeless, and while Queen’s is committed to serve those in need, there are not enough resources to support the significant growth in Hawai’i’s homeless population and their increasing demand for health care services.

Our thanks to each of you for your part in helping Queen’s improve the lives of those we serve. Together, we will enter a new year prepared for continued progress toward ensuring the health and well-being of Hawai’i residents.

May the spirit of the holidays be with you and your ‘ohana throughout the new year.

Aloha and best wishes,

Arthur A. Ushijima
President & CEO
Celebrating 20 Years of Innovation and Discovery

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and in 20 years of business together, we’ve never had a
disagreement. It’s a valued relationship built on trust.”

As part of its contribution to the joint venture,
Queen’s acquired a cyclotron, the machine used to
fabricate the radiopharmaceutical, fluorodeoxyglucose
(FDG), administered to patients that allows the PET
scanner to identify cancer cells. That $5 million
investment proved its value.

“Because FDG has a radiological half-life of only two
hours, it meant that it couldn’t be shipped here from the
mainland,” Ushijima explained. “Without our commitment
to build the infrastructure to house the cyclotron, which
remains the only one in Hawai‘i today, there could be no
PET scanners in our state, and patients would have to travel
to the mainland. There are four other PET scanners at other
medical facilities in our state today, and they all purchase
FDG from the Hamamatsu/Queen’s PET joint venture.”

The joint venture also needed to establish a quality
control program, licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug
Administration. “When we first began the program, PET
had no track record in medical care, so Medicare didn’t
reimburse for its use,” said Coel. “In the first year, we
provided the screenings free to patients. Within that year,
other medical centers across the country saw the potential
value in using PET scanning to diagnose cancer and
added it. A national data collection and assessment was
set up, in which Queen’s participated, to prove PET’s
effectiveness in cancer, and, based on the results,
Medicare began to reimburse for its use in 1998.”

In addition to being a leader in the development
of PET scanning as a diagnostic tool for cancer, Coel
also continues to lead research to identify new uses of
the technology, with a talented team of basic scientists
and physicians.

“The radiopharmaceuticals used in cancer screening
are designed to get into cancer cells,” Coel explained.
“The scanner identifies areas of the body where FDG
(radioactive form of sugar) is being metabolized (cancer
cells consume large amounts of sugar to grow).

“Through our initial research, we wrote the first paper
providing dietary guidance on how to prepare patients prior
to the screening for the most effective PET results. We also
developed new radiopharmaceuticals like a choline
compound that is now used throughout the world to screen
for prostate cancer,” said Coel. “We’re currently working
with Hamamatsu on developing new ways to screen for
inflammatory brain diseases such as Parkinson’s, ALS
(amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, aka Lou Gehrig’s disease),
MS (multiple sclerosis), and Alzheimer’s. If the
inflammation can be identified early, the hope is that
medications might be developed to control it before
damage occurs. We’re among the leaders in that research
focus.” While 80% of PET imaging has been for cancer,
there is increasing use of PET for other medical conditions.
The original PET scanner provided to Queen’s was
eventually retired, and a new PET/CT (computed
tomography) scanner was purchased, which allows
physicians to see overlapping imaging of both the body’s
skeletal and tissue structure and metabolism for more
effective treatment. The cyclotron is also scheduled this
fall for a $900,000 refurbishment.

“The time and money invested by The Queen’s
Health Systems and Hamamatsu in the PET Imaging
Center were critical to the care of Hawai‘i’s cancer
patients,” said Coel. “In addition to making cancer
treatment more available to Hawai‘i’s patients, it’s giving
those patients access to cutting edge care.”

Dr. Marc Coel reviewing patient scans.

(I-r) Teruo Hiruma, Governor Ben Cayetano,
Art Ushijima, and
Marc Coel, MD.
Leading Community Health Care

 Indy Kamikawa, MS, RN, NE, the new President of North Hawai‘i Community Hospital (NHCH), brings more than 30 years of hands-on experience to set the stage and meet the challenges of leading the Hawai‘i Island hospital. Kamikawa began her career with The Queen’s Medical Center (Queen’s) in 1981. She first joined Queen’s as a staff nurse, rising through the ranks as a nurse manager, nurse director, and then vice president of nursing and chief nursing officer for The Queen’s Health Systems.

In addition to a vast array of subject matter expertise, she brings enthusiasm, dedication to always doing what is best for the patient, and a commitment to the role that a small, rural hospital plays in the community. That commitment and connection to the community will be pivotal as she begins to build the hospital’s strategic plan. “[NHCH] has a wonderful opportunity to serve the community. To best do that, I’ve met with physicians, staff, and business and community members to begin the discussion of the health care needs of the community,” said Kamikawa.

Many of those needs are aimed toward improving what the hospital is already doing. “The need is clear, for us to focus on providing quality care to our patients and meeting their health care needs through the development and expansion of needed services,” said Kamikawa.

Getting all of that done, with a continued focus on excellent patient care and safety, takes energy and strong leadership. Her strength as a leader is one of the key reasons Art Ushijima, President and CEO of The Queen’s Health Systems (QHS), selected Kamikawa to take over the reins of NHCH. “Cindy is a proven leader with extensive experience and a demonstrated ability to elevate an organization to the next level,” said Ushijima. “I’m confident that she will strive to serve and honor our Founders’ commitment to deliver the best health care possible for the North Hawai‘i community,” said Ushijima.

Kamikawa’s leadership ability is natural and began to develop at a young age. The second of nine children growing up in Santa Barbara, California, she was often in charge. “I was a bossy little girl,” she said with a smile and a laugh. “My job as a leader is to help create the environment for our physicians, leaders, and employees to succeed,” said Kamikawa. These leadership skills, combined with her expertise and knowledge of QHS, will help NHCH fine-tune its operations as it becomes increasingly integrated into the hospital system.

Excited about the future of health care in North Hawai‘i, she believes in health care being provided as close to home as possible, and feels that being part of the QHS integrated system will support that important goal. She appreciates the warm and welcoming culture found at NHCH, and enjoys the creativity and flexibility needed to deliver excellent health care in a small, community hospital.

“I’m honored for the opportunity to lead [NHCH] into the future. [NHCH] is a large ‘ohana of genuinely kind and caring individuals providing care. This is our family, caring for yours. We are committed to enhancing the quality of life through integrated health care and to making the community healthier, one patient at a time, every time,” stated Kamikawa.

Kamikawa has four children and three grandchildren. When asked about the challenges of raising a family of four while having a demanding career at the same time, Kamikawa quickly credits her husband, Preston, and her family for their unwavering support. And that support continues today. When Kamikawa announced her new position on another island, her family was not surprised. “They know I love my work in health care and were excited for me,” said Kamikawa.
Louise Ing recites from memory a personal list of loved ones who have died from cancer while others survived. “Both of my grandmothers died – one from breast cancer, the other from cervical cancer, my father died of a rare form of lung cancer, my sister had a hysterectomy after she was diagnosed, and my husband has family members who were diagnosed with the disease,” said Ing. She does not stand alone. A diverse group of 11 amazing women from O’ahu volunteered to serve as Queen’s Cancer Center Ambassadors for the Key to the Cure campaign.

The Queen’s Medical Center (Queen’s) was selected as the beneficiary of Key to the Cure - Saks Fifth Avenue’s national annual fund raising campaign and charitable initiative to fight cancer. The fundraising effort was two-fold: During the month of October, Queen’s Cancer Center would receive 100% of the proceeds from sales of an exclusive, limited edition tee shirt created by French designer Christian Louboutin, and two percent of purchases from participating vendors over a four-day charity shopping weekend, which started with a VIP Reception for the Ambassadors’ special guests, hosted by Saks Fifth Avenue held on October 26th.

Before the launch of the campaign, the Ambassadors were invited to attend a kick-off meeting and tour at the Queen’s Cancer Center. The women not only learned more about the technology, treatment, and services provided at the center, they also shared with one another their heartbreaking accounts of how cancer touched their lives and why they were moved to serve as an Ambassador. Notably, their collective stories revealed how either family members or close friends lost their battle to the devastating disease or miraculously survived.

Because each knew all too well how cancer can hit close to home, they selected Key cancer messages to share with their guests the evening of the VIP Reception. “I selected to share with family and friends the fact that more than 6,000 Hawai‘i residents will be diagnosed with cancer this year, because it was a fact that I didn’t know,” said Jean Tsukamoto. “With so many people being diagnosed with cancer, it’s important that we know and share those facts, and make lifestyle changes to lower our risks.”

While on the group tour, Willa Shimomura, nurse manager of the Queen’s Cancer Center and Infusion Treatment Center, mentioned to the Ambassadors that, in the fall of 2015, Queen’s became the first hospital in Hawai‘i to be a certified member of the MD Anderson Cancer Network®, enabling patients to remain in Hawai‘i and receive top-notch, cutting-edge cancer care.

Deanna Yates shared with the group that she was pleased when she first heard about the announcement last fall. “I lived in Houston for 23 years and know of MD Anderson Cancer Center’s fine reputation. While exceptional cancer care has always been provided at Queen’s, this new relationship will further elevate cancer care in Hawai‘i.”

At the conclusion of the tour, they said their farewells and shared sentiments of visiting with one another at the upcoming VIP Reception. Having gained a broader awareness of cancer and its complexities, they exited fashionably in their Christian Louboutin tee shirt, determined to make a positive difference in the lives of their families, friends, and the Hawai‘i community.
The Queen's Neuroscience Institute not only saves lives, it restores them. The Queen's Medical Center's (Queen's) 9th Annual Benefit Dinner, An Everlasting Legacy of Giving, celebrated the Neuroscience Institute’s (NSI) 20th anniversary by committing funds raised to purchase new equipment and technology, as well as to support continuing medical education for its staff. The event was held recently at the Sheraton Waikiki Resort.

The number of companies and people from the community contributing to Queen’s has grown dramatically over the years. Art Ushijima, President and CEO of The Queen’s Health Systems, noted that 270 guests attended the first benefit dinner nine years ago. Last year, there were 640 guests in attendance, and this year, 850. Not only has Queen’s experienced growth in the support it receives from the community, Ushijima touched on how The Queen’s Health Systems has grown to four hospitals, 66 healthcare centers and labs, over 7,000 employees, and more than 1,600 physicians who work together as one team to fulfill the mission of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV.

Over its 157 years, Queen’s has strived to perpetuate the legacy of health care excellence first envisioned by the King and Queen. One of the hospital’s outstanding success stories that embodies health care excellence is the Queen’s Neuroscience Institute.

Event co-chair Jenai S. Wall, Chairperson and CEO of Sullivan Family of Companies, announced at the dinner that over $825,000 net had been raised for the NSI. “[The NSI] is not just a program for patients who suffer from neurological problems,” she said, explaining her involvement, “but also one that restores hope for patients and their loved ones.” Event co-chair Matthew J. Cox, President and CEO of Matson, Inc., stated that the community at-large appreciates Queen’s commitment to health care excellence, and shared that he, too, was personally touched by the compassionate care Queen’s gave to his wife.

Following an exquisite dinner prepared by executive chef Matthew Naula, a video showcasing three grateful patients was shown to the audience, illustrating the hope and restoration provided by the NSI when there appeared to be none. “The greatest testament I can give to the value of [the NSI], is the fact that my wife, Melanie, is still with us today,” said Marc Mizumoto. Melanie Mizumoto was brought to Queen’s after suffering a grade 5 subarachnoid hemorrhage while at home. “She came to us in a very critical state,” said Sung Bae Lee, MD, Medical Director of the Neurointerventional Surgery program. Lee continued, “Fortunately, [the NSI] has specially trained neurological critical care physicians and nurses, and the technology that allows us to place small tubes, wires, and catheters into the blood vessel using x-ray guidance to traverse through blood vessels to get to the acute region and fill it in.” Guests were moved by the grateful patient experiences shared, and for the gratitude they expressed to Queen’s and its donors. “It was a true blessing that I was taken to Queen’s. They are obviously the ones that are equipped, experienced, and educated for me to have made the recovery that I’ve made,” said Melanie Mizumoto.
Following the video presentation, guests were invited to support Illuminate, a special appeal campaign. Cherylee Chang, MD, Medical Director of the NSI, kicked-off Illuminate by sharing how funds raised would impact the NSI program and its patients. “We have patients who have come to us with significant acute neurological issues and, after receiving care, live normal lives because of the technology available, and the skills and talents of the physicians and nurses who function as a team to care for these patients. We’ve come a long way in the last 20 years – and the help that we receive from donors truly impacts the lives of our patients and their families.” The goal for Illuminate was to raise $125,000. All guests who contributed to Illuminate received a glow wand in exchange. To give the special appeal a head start, it was announced that $80,000 in matching gifts were received from Princess Abigail Kawananakoa, Barry and Virginia Weinman, Al and Patricia Kwiecinski, Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Yu, and Art and Ruth Ushijima. As the special appeal concluded, the success of the campaign was evident by the warm glow that illuminated the entire ballroom, showcasing the spirit of support and generosity for NSI.

At The Queen’s Health Systems, we often speak of the “One Team” that provides the best patient care. As the evening concluded, there was a sense that Hawai'i’s community at-large was one team with Queen’s, joining its mission to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

The Queen’s Health Systems, Fund Development Department 7

Congratulations to The Queen’s Health Systems’ caregivers, departments, and leadership listed below on being honored through the Grateful Patient Program. We thank them for their outstanding care for our patients and their families.

In Honor
Janet Crosier
Daniel J. Fischberg, MD

For more information about The Queen’s Medical Center’s Grateful Patient and Celebration of Life programs, please call (808) 691-4976.
Commitment to Excellence

Expanding to Meet Patients’ Needs

The Queen’s Medical Center - West O’ahu (QMC - West O’ahu) is expanding to offer the community access to additional medical expertise, as well as state-of-the-art diagnosis and treatment for patients.

Beginning in November, West O’ahu patients no longer need to drive to The Queen’s Medical Center on Punchbowl Street to receive chemotherapy infusion or treatment for sleep disorders. The Sullivan Care Center will begin offering these and other services, including wound care for conditions such as diabetic ulcers, venous stasis ulcers, pressure ulcers, and other chronic hard-to-heal wounds.

“When The Queen’s Medical Center purchased its West O’ahu facility, our goal was to become part of the community, to listen to the community, and to provide services that meet its health needs,” said Susan R. Murray, Senior Vice President, West O’ahu Region of The Queen’s Health Systems and Chief Operating Officer of QMC - West O’ahu. “We recognized the great inconvenience that patients in West O’ahu endured having to fight the traffic into town to receive ongoing treatments. The expanded services will offer access to the care they need within a shorter distance to their homes.”

Services will be further expanded in early 2017, added Murray. “We currently receive between 700 and 800 pediatric patients each month after hours in our emergency department (ED). Many of those patients don’t require emergency care and could be treated instead by a primary care physician. To alleviate unnecessary ED visits and to reduce waiting times in our ED, we’ll be staffing primary care physicians on weekdays from 5:00 through 10:00 pm, and on weekends from noon through 8:00 pm, in the Physicians’ Office Building to care for those patients who need after hours care.”

The medical center is also expanding women’s services, offering Ob-Gyn ultrasound imaging by perinatologists. To reduce patient wait times, QMC - West O’ahu recently added a second CT scanner and MRI dedicated to outpatient services.

With the expected growth in population due to ongoing residential and commercial development forecasted for West O’ahu, the medical center will also be expanding its emergency department by the end of 2017 to include additional patient beds.

“Our patients have expressed their gratefulness of having access to the high quality of care that The Queen’s Medical Center offers,” remarked Murray. “Recognizing that many of our patients commute to Honolulu daily, we’re working to reduce their need to drive back to town for their health care needs, while expanding services during the hours after they’ve returned home. It’s our commitment to providing convenient and comprehensive health care for the West O’ahu community.”

A Gift that Says More...

Gifts made to the Grateful Patient Program help us care for patients in a compassionate, healing environment. It is possible that you or your family may have benefited from the generosity of past patients during a recent visit.

Donations from grateful patients help support services such as emergency and critical care, cancer care, heart care, geriatric care, orthopedic care, nursing programs and charity care.

If you would like to make a gift to Queen’s, please call us at (808) 691-4976 or visit our website at www.queens.org. Queen’s accepts online donations through the Give to Queen’s link on the bottom of our homepage.

Gifts can be made in honor of individual caregivers, a specific nursing team, physicians, pastoral care staff and others.