

HIC UPDATE

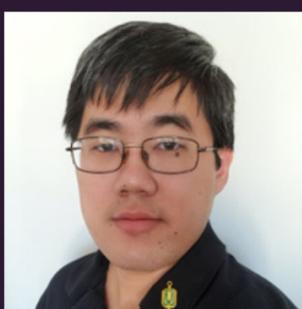
Activities of the Hawaii Immunization Coalition

October 2020

It is with great pleasure that the coalition welcomes the following new officers and board members. The HIC board is an all-volunteer board consisting of persons who are passionate about immunization and have diverse backgrounds in immunization strategies:



Mia Tran, secretary - Alumna of the The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Class of 2020; former Operation Immunization Co-chair for American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) Hawaii chapter; and Pharmacy Intern at Times Pharmacy. During the past two years, Mia has collaborated with pharmacists and student pharmacists to provide educational board presentations about the importance of immunization to the community using appropriate patient friendly terms. Mia has been actively administering vaccinations to patients during flu clinics at Times Pharmacy.



David Cao, board member - Alumnus of the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Class of 2020; former Vice President of Communications for the American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists, Hawaii chapter. As Vice President of Communications, he promoted immunization-related activities and events, including health screening and awareness events, at the College and in the community.

HIC EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

If you were unable to attend the most recent webinar on September 2nd, co-sponsored with the Department of Tropical Medicine at the John A Burns School of Medicine, please feel free to check it out at:

<https://www.hawaiipacifichealth.org/ceform/video/?cmeld=5532>.

It will be available until December 31, 2020.

These were the objectives and speakers: Discuss current development of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines. (Axel Lehrer, Ph.D.)

- 1) Differentiate the advantages and disadvantages of various SARS-CoV-2 viral tests. Wei-Kung Wang, Ph.D., D.S)
- 2) Identify current laboratory capabilities and limitations for SARS-CoV-2 testing in Hawaii. (Vivek R. Nerurkar, Ph.D.)
- 3) Describe the process and current state of COVID-19 contact tracing in Hawaii. (Sandra Chang Ph.D)

Also, for those who missed the earlier webinar (2020 Update: School Immunization Requirements in Hawaii), it is still available for continuing education credits and review at:

<https://www.hawaiipacifichealth.org/ceform/video/?cmeld=5486>

Stay tuned for our next educational event in January 2021!

VACCINATIONS FOR SCHOOL

With distance learning under way, the VAX to School campaign with new vaccine requirements for all Hawaii Department of Education students is still in effect. Details of the updated vaccine requirements can be reviewed at:

<http://www.vaxtoschoolhawaii.com/#info>



The Stop Flu at School campaign is normally a convenient and excellent way for parents to get their children immunized against flu for the season. Due to distance learning, a number of modifications have been made with some islands holding regional clinics instead of individual flu vaccine clinics at each school. For some complex areas, the stop flu at school campaign has been cancelled for this year due to COVID and distance learning.

Further information for your area may be found here:

<https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/about-us/programs/stop-flu-at-school/>

HPV VACCINE

HPV continues to be one of the most prevalent vaccine preventable diseases and is linked to various types of cancers including cervical cancer. The documentary, *Someone You Love* was designed to raise awareness about HPV and cervical cancer and promote HPV vaccination. For more information, go to: <https://www.hpvepidemic.com/>

The FDA has also approved Merck's Gardasil 9 for the prevention of certain HPV-related head and neck cancers. More information can be found here: <https://www.merck.com/news/fda-approves-mercks-gardasil-9-for-the-prevention-of-certain-hpv-related-head-and-neck-cancers/>

The Hawaii Immunization Coalition (HIC) is a statewide, community-based non-profit 501(c)3 coalition of public and private organizations and concerned individuals whose mission is to promote effective strategies to ensure that all of Hawaii's families are appropriately vaccinated against vaccine-preventable diseases

FLU SEASON

The start of flu season is upon us and it is more important than ever to get the flu vaccine. COVID-19 symptoms and flu symptoms may be easily confused and there is the possibility of having both viruses at the same time. It is therefore more important than ever to get your flu vaccine. For more information on the flu vaccine as well as a link to find a providers for the flu vaccine near you, visit the CDC webpage here: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>

Research to develop a universal flu vaccine is under way including experiments described in this article from MIT:

<https://news.mit.edu/2020/universal-flu-vaccine-1007>



EXPANSION OF THE PHARMACIST ROLE

Over the years, the role of the pharmacist has expanded beyond dispensing medications. As drug experts, pharmacists play an important role in evaluating patient therapy and ensuring that patients understand the medications they are taking. Initially a discipline focused on compounding and dispensing medications, the field of pharmacy now focuses on a patient-centered approach to care.



Pharmacists have become an integral part of the healthcare team, working with physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to optimize patient care. Pharmacists provide a wide range of services from medication management to immunizations. Pharmacists are also currently authorized to give childhood immunization to children age 3 and above during the COVID-19 pandemic. With proper training and collaborative agreements, pharmacists are also able to provide point of care testing for conditions such as HIV, hepatitis C, and Group B strep. In an effort to increase access to contraceptives, some states including Hawaii have also authorized pharmacists to prescribe and dispense contraceptives, provided that they have the appropriate education and training.

COVID VACCINE UPDATES

Research and clinical trials for COVID-19 vaccines are continuing. Check out the updated version of the State of the ImmUNION 2020 Special Supplement on COVID-19 Vaccination here: https://64gbq3vj11cj33l2zkxv10k-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/SOTI-COVID19-Report_FINAL-1.pdf

Also be sure to explore the CDC webpage on vaccination guidance during a pandemic:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html>

