



Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) Program of Excellence Award Winners

Joyce Jeardeau Memorial Faculty Award

Jill Omori

Dr. Jill Omori wears many hats at JABSOM and in the greater Hawaii community -- Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health, Director of the Office of Medical Education, Director of the Hawaii H.O.M.E. (Houseless Outreach and Medical Education) Project, Director of Rural Health from 2013-2022, Honolulu Infectious Disease Officer, etc. Quite literally, she is the most longitudinal relationship all students have at JABSOM, welcoming us on our very first day of orientation as our first course director, to awarding us with our MDs on stage at the very end. All JABSOM students wonder how she manages to balance all of her roles and responsibilities while still managing to bake 75+ kidney shaped cake pops that await us after our renal final exam. It has become a running joke to guess how many hours Dr. Omori slept the night before when you see her in the hallways around school (which is never more than 4). It is this dedication that Dr. Omori has to JABSOM and her local community, as well as her embodiment of the values of what it means to be a family physician – compassion, service, and selflessness, that makes her worthy of this nomination for the AAFP Joyce Jeardeau Memorial Faculty Award.

What I admire most about Dr. Omori is her drive and ability to create positive community-based change through creative solutions. Once a medical student at JABSOM herself, she recalls wanting to be more exposed to the care of under-privileged patients. When she joined the JABSOM faculty, she felt students were not getting enough training in caring for houseless individuals. With the rapid growth of Hawaii's houseless population, and JABSOM's proximity to houseless encampments across the street, she was inspired to start a student-run free medical clinic for the houseless, and to create a curriculum in underserved care for JABSOM, called H.O.M.E. Project. What started as a single clinic once a week, has transformed into daily clinics at one of seven sites across the island of Oahu with specialty clinics (psychiatry, eye, women's, dermatology) occurring once a month. H.O.M.E. Project is a major component of our curriculum with all JABSOM students rotating through clinics at least once a month across sights. Each clinic has an attending, a second-year medical student manager, and a host of medical students, at least one from each grade level, providing leadership and teaching opportunities for our students.

And she's not done yet. She recently partnered with the city of Honolulu to open up a free wound-care clinic, with dental up next. She is an exemplary human, living up to the true

definition of a family physician at its highest level, providing whole-person care on a public health level.

Her greatest hope is that there will not be a need for H.O.M.E. clinic anymore and it is safe to say that she will not stop until there is not.