



# Meet our new CFO

Heidar Thordarson, MBA, assumed the role of vice president for finance and chief financial officer at Adventist Health Castle (AHCS) in August of this year. Prior to coming to AHCS, Thordarson was director of finance, assistant CFO, then interim CFO at Vista Health System in Waukegan, Illinois.



Thordarson earned his bachelor of business administration in finance and master of business administration degrees at Loma Linda University, and he is a certified public accountant. He and his wife, Nora, reside in Kailua.

# Keeping an eye out for cancer

MOST PEOPLE DON'T want to think about cancer. But sometimes it pays off in a big way to think about cancer screenings.

That's because screening tests can catch some cancers early—when they're small, haven't spread and are often easier to treat.

Screenings are used to find cancers before a person has any symptoms. Some screening tests—like a colonoscopy can even find precancerous growths and remove them before they have a chance to turn into cancer.



Claudine Tomasa

#### A routine screening detects cancer—early

Windward O'ahu retired nurse and Kailua Neighborhood Board member Claudine Tomasa knows the importance of regular cancer screenings after her annual mammogram at Castle last year detected a small but suspicious nodule. It hadn't shown up on her previous screening. A diagnostic ultrasound examination further confirmed the radiologist's suspicion, and a subsequent needle biopsy found the nodule to be an aggressive form of breast cancer.

"That was the darkest time of my life," Tomasa recalls. "But when my doctor's office and the radiology department called with the news, they were so supportive."

Fortunately for her, Tomasa's cancer was detected early, at stage 1, and was removed with a lumpectomy.

"If I had waited until I found the lump myself, it would have been too late, probably a stage 3 cancer," Tomasa says.

Millions of women like Tomasa are surviving breast cancer today due to early detection, together with significant advances in cancer research and treatment.

#### When should you start screening?

31 Your individual cancer risk factors may make you more susceptible to some types of cancer. Talk with your physician about screening guidelines. He or she may suggest screening more frequently or recommend additional tests.

Call OUR PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS are experts on cancer screenings, and many of them are taking new patients. Call 263-5400 for a physician referral.





# Awarded for excellence

#### ADVENTIST HEALTH CASTLE

has received awards and achievements that distinguish our organization as a leading provider of health care services. Some of our most recent distinctions include:

- Castle received the Get With The Guidelines®—Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award, recognizing our commitment and success in implementing a high standard of stroke care that meets nationally accepted, evidencebased standards and recommendations.
- Kathy Raethel, FACHE, MHA,



MPH, RN, Castle Chief Executive Officer, is one of six health care leaders inducted into the Studer Group Fire Starter Hall of Fame for 2017. The Fire

Starter Hall of Fame Award is the highest award for excellence given by Studer Group. It recognizes leaders who, through their dedication and passion, guide and support an organization's commitment to excellence while keeping the true spirit of their organization alive and flourishing.

 Castle received Studer Group's<sup>®</sup> Excellence in Patient Care Award for excellence in physician engagement.

The recipients of the award were selected for achieving high physician engagement scores or significant rates of improvement in recent years.

- We were recognized with a Citation of Merit for the 2017 QUEST® Award for High-Value Healthcare from Premier Inc. for providing outstanding patient care. Only 63 hospitals received a Citation of Merit for achieving top performance in any four of the six areas measured in Premier's QUEST collaborative, including cost and efficiency, evidence-based care, mortality, safety, patient and family engagement, and appropriate hospital use.
- Castle received two prestigious Aster Awards in the following categories: A Bronze Award for Newsletter/Internal-Single, for Ulupono Magazine; and a Gold Award for Newsletter/Internal-Series, for Ulupono Magazine. The Aster Awards recognizes outstanding health care professionals for excellence in their advertising/marketing efforts.
- We made the Honolulu Star-Advertiser's annual "Hawai'i's Best" awards for our surgical weightloss program. The list is voted on by loyal readers.



Tami Swart (in red), senior director, Healthcare Quality Improvement, for the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association. presented Adventist Health Castle With the Get with The Guidelines®— Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award.



# SURGICAL STILL CONTROLL SERVICES ACROSS SPECIALTIES

#### BY MELE POCHEREVA

EACH YEAR, more than 4,000 inpatient and outpatient surgeries are performed at Adventist Health Castle. Many Windward O'ahu residents appreciate the convenience of state-of-the-art medical services close to home and family. And nearby surgical services can be a lifesaver when medical emergencies arise.

"Castle has steadfastly transformed itself from a small community hospital into a full-service, state-of-the-art medical center serving our growing Windward community," notes Alan Cheung, MD, Castle's Vice President of Medical Affairs.

#### State-of-the-art services

Cardiovascular services have been enhanced significantly within the last five years, with the completion of three specialized facilities—the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, Hybrid Cardiovascular Room and Cardiovascular Operating Room—that let Castle's team of cardiologists and surgeons perform a broad range of procedures, from cardiac interventions to thoracic and open-heart surgery. The remodeled Cardiac Cath Lab is equipped with the latest diagnostic and treatment technology to support various catheterbased procedures, including angiograms of the heart and arteries. It also supports minimally invasive procedures that use tiny stents, balloons and other specialized tools to treat blocked or damaged blood vessels. The Hybrid Cardiovascular Room serves a dual purpose as a cardiac cath lab and a full-service operating room should a patient require immediate open-heart surgery. Castle is one of just a few hospitals nationwide to have a versatile facility like this one, whose combination of technologies supports diagnostic and interventional procedures as well as complex surgeries in one room.

#### Compassionate care

"Whether we serve patients in the OR or the ER, they can expect not only excellent medical care but also compassionate care," says Dr. Cheung, noting that physicians and staff alike go out of their way to meet Castle's mission: Living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope.

"People enjoy working here largely because of our mission to serve and the idea that 'love matters,'" Dr. Cheung explains. "We have a remarkably high satisfaction rate among our associates and physicians, who are highly engaged in their work. And that translates into excellent patient care."

## Spine surgery now available

Castle is proud to offer the most comprehensive, minimally invasive spine surgery program in the state, thanks to the addition of William Beringer, DO, to the medical staff earlier this year. Less-invasive procedures can achieve the same outcomes as open-spine surgeries, but offer the benefits of shorter surgery time, lower infection rates, less collateral tissue damage, and faster healing and rehabilitation, among others.

With an office located in the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Medical Plaza on the Adventist Health Castle campus, Dr. Beringer also serves patients needing complex spine surgery as well as neurosurgical procedures.

Castle's weekly "Spine Academy" sessions provide patients with information about what to expect before and after their surgery and answer any questions they may have about their procedure.

During the same visit, patients will see a nurse practitioner for a health assessment and pre-op work-up, saving multiple trips to the hospital.

# Centers of surgical excellence

Castle offers two other well-established multi-specialty surgical programs.

The Joint Care Center was the first center in the state dedicated to hip and knee replacements when it opened more than 20 years ago. Today the center's expanded services include sports medicine repairs and hand and microsurgery. With four highly trained orthopaedic surgeons supported by a team of professionals with specialized training in caring for joint replacement patients, the Joint Care Center has earned the national Blue Distinction Center+ designation of excellence from Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Also the first of its kind in the state when it opened in 2006, the
Hawai'i Center for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery offers an array of
surgical options and a multidisciplinary program for weight loss and
metabolic disease. The center was the first in the state to achieve
certification as a designated Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
Accreditation Quality Improvement Program, and services have
grown to meet patient needs and adopt new technologies.

For more information about our comprehensive range of general surgical services as well as a variety of laparoscopic/minimally invasive surgical procedures, please call the Call Center at **263-5400**.

# Bill Creps

When Bill Creps' mother had a bad fall in 2016 and fractured her vertebrae, he and his wife, Janey, moved from Minnesota back to his hometown of Kailua to help during his mother's recovery.

Later that year, Creps experienced health issues of his own. "It became obvious that I had breathing difficulties," he says, recalling having to stop several times to catch his breath during his trip to Volcanoes National Park.

He scheduled a checkup with his primary care doctor, and she referred him to specialists with Adventist Health Castle: Takkin Lo, MD, a pulmonologist, and Albert Ing, MD, a cardiologist. After a series of tests and medical evaluations, it was discovered that Creps had experienced a mild heart attack that he never knew about.

An echocardiogram provided a clear picture of the problem. "It showed my heart was functioning at only 50 percent of capacity and not pumping enough blood to my lungs," Creps explains.

To pinpoint the exact cause and location of the vessel blockage, an angiogram was performed.

During this minimally invasive procedure, a physician often will implant a tiny stent to restore blood flow in the vessel, but in Creps' case, the blockage was too extensive. Following a consultation with cardiac surgeon Henry Louie, MD, a triple coronary bypass surgery was recommended.

"Dr. Louie explained everything to my wife and me about the procedure and what to expect," says Creps. Despite the suggestion of another family member, he didn't feel the need for a second opinion. He was impressed with Dr. Louie, and he liked the convenience of Castle, including the ease of making appointments without long waits.

After his surgery and five days of recovery in the intensive care unit, Creps' breathing problems were diminished and he was able to go home. A brief relapse of his breathing difficulties was resolved with an adjustment to his medications, and he has been symptom-free ever since.

#### Rehab and recovery

Post-surgery, Creps attended cardiac rehab twice weekly to work out on the stationary bike, rowing



machine and other equipment to strengthen his heart under the supervision of the rehab staff. He now knows how far to push himself and when to ease off. He also knows his heart will be ready to take on new challenges, like cycling and stand-up paddle boarding.

As often is the case, there is a silver lining to the medical issues that faced Bill Creps and his mother. Moving back to Hawai'i has been a wonderful opportunity for him to get reacquainted with his family, including his sister and brother. And his mother's yard has benefited from the new landscaping that has kept Creps busy over the past year.

# Marion Imaoka



For more than 12 years, Marion Imaoka lived with chronic back pain that originated from an injury while working as a certified nurse's aide. It was exacerbated by a fall while working on her farm in Waianae. Multiple surgeries failed to ease the pain, which had become intolerable by 2016.

"I couldn't stand, sit or walk without shooting pain," Imaoka explains.

An X-ray showed a pinched nerve in one of her lumbar vertebrae, but 10 days after surgery, the pain was still so intense that she had an MRI scan of the area. It showed damage to two other vertebrae. "I was told nothing more could be

done for me and to just continue with physical therapy and painkillers," Imaoka recalls. "But in my heart, I knew more could be done."

#### **Searching for relief**

Imaoka couldn't find a physician willing to take her case until her workers' compensation case manager attended an informational seminar by William Beringer, DO, a new neurosurgeon at Adventist Health Castle with a sub-specialty in minimally invasive spine surgery. Within two weeks Imaoka had a consultation and asked Dr. Beringer if he would take her case.

After reviewing her MRI, Dr. Beringer welcomed Imaoka as a good candidate for a lumbar laminectomy. "I like a challenge. It's what I do," he told her. He also cautioned that the surgery wasn't 100 percent guaranteed to eliminate the pain.

"Dr. Beringer was so honest, and he told me 'with your attitude and spunk, it's worth trying.' I told him, I have nothing to lose," Imaoka says.

A lumbar laminectomy removes pressure on spinal nerves caused by degenerative changes in the disks of the lower spine—or lumbar spine—and the joints between each vertebra. In simple terms, the procedure involves removing the lamina (the back side of the spinal canal), to make the spinal canal larger and removing any bone spurs that are pressing on the nerves.

The surgery turned out to be complex, involving three procedures, but the result has been lifechanging for Imaoka.

"The first time I walked into Dr. Beringer's office I was a crooked old lady with constant pain at the 7 or 8 level," Imaoka says. "Now the pain is down to level 2 or 3 and I'm walking as straight as a board—better than Dr. Beringer expected. It was a remarkable surgery, and that doctor is my hero! He and his nursing staff really cheered me on."

Describing herself as a very spiritual person, Imaoka credits prayers, positive thinking and faith in a new doctor for giving her a new life. She looks forward to returning to her job as a supervisor at the Family Tree Nursery. In the meantime, she has enjoyed getting her hands dirty in her own garden where she grows Hawai'ian medicinal herbs and tends an impressive collection of succulents.



# >> MEET

# our boardcertified surgeons

# William Beringer, DO,

specializes in neurological surgery, orthopedic spine



surgery and spinal cord injury medicine. He can be reached at 261-4476.

# Wiley Brunel, MD,

specializes in general surgery and hand surgery.



He can be reached at 678-2211.

# Alan Cheung, MD,

specializes in general surgery, vascular surgery-



general and transplant surgery. He can be reached at 261-9931.

# Linda Chiu, MD,

specializes in otolaryngology, pediatric



otolaryngology and facial plastic surgery. She can be reached at 262-6673.

## **Thomas Gordon** Crabtree, MD,

specializes in plastic



surgery. He can be reached at 226-9220.

#### Raymond Fodor, MD, specializes in otolaryngology. He can



be reached at 254-3011.

#### Steven Fowler, MD,

specializes in bariatric surgery and general



surgery. He can be reached at 521-1300.

## Thomas Keller, MD,

specializes in orthopedic sports medicine,



orthopedic surgery and orthopedics. He can be reached at 261-4658.

## David Kuchenbecker,

MD, specializes in urology. He can be reached at 261-4884.



Henry Louie, MD,

specializes in cardiothoracic surgery, thoracic



surgery and cardiac surgery. He can be reached at 531-3311.

# Robert Medoff, MD.

specializes in orthopedics and orthopedic surgery.



He can be reached at 261-4658.

# George Nardin,

MD, specializes in ophthalmology. He can



be reached at 262-2990.

## Makoto Ogihara,

MD, specializes in general surgery, colorectal surgery,



vascular surgery-general and transplant surgery. He can be reached at 261-9931.

at 735-7681.

# Linda Rasmussen.

MD, specializes in orthopedic surgery and



orthopedics. She can be reached at 261-4658.

# Peter Roney, MD,

specializes in ophthalmology. He can



be reached at 247-5456.

#### Sara Sakamoto, MD,

specializes in orthopedic surgery, orthopedics and



hand surgery. She can be reached at 261-4658.

#### Allen Strasberger, MD, specializes in plastic surgery. He can be reached



# Jon Yamaguchi, MD,

specializes in general surgery and transplant



surgery. He can be reached at 523-5033.

# Welcome, Dr. Jacqueline Lee

Adventist Health Castle is pleased to welcome Jacqueline Lee, MD, to its medical staff. She is Castle's first female general surgeon and the only female general surgeon with offices in Windward O'ahu.

Dr. Lee is skilled in all aspects of general surgery and kidney and liver transplants, with clinical interest in breast. GI, endocrine, and trauma surgeries. She is seeing patients in Kailua at the Weinberg Medical Plaza offices of Surgical Associates, Inc. on the Castle campus, where she joins Alan Cheung, MD; Makoto Ogihara, MD; and Jon "Kai" Yamaguchi, MD.

After graduating from Stony Brook University School of Medicine, Dr. Lee completed a general surgery residency at the University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. She also completed a clinical research fellowship in GI/endocrine surgery in, Dallas and, most recently, completed a transplant surgery fellowship at Stanford University Medical Center. She can be reached

at **261-9931**.





# TAKETIME FOR YOUR HEALTH

events calendar



Take time for yourself with Castle Medical Center's health programs. We invite you to register for a health-promoting class or seminar or call for a physician referral. Call 263-5400, or visit our website at castlemed.org and click on "Classes and Events."



## IN SICKNESS AND IN **HEALTH SEMINARS**

Second Thursday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Castle Wellness & Lifestyle Medicine Center Auditorium

These free monthly seminars provide expert health and wellness education from leading health care professionals. Healthy refreshments will be served.



#### Oct. 12: A Stroke of Insight: **Prevention Strategies** Presenter: Jason Viereck, MD

Come hear the latest in stroke

lifestyle prevention, including why managing your blood pressure is so critical.



#### Nov. 9: **Fatty Liver Disease: A Growing Public Health Problem** Presenter: Naoky Tsai, MD

Fatty liver disease is increasingly common around the world, especially in Western nations. In the United States, it is the most common form of chronic liver disease, affecting an estimated 80 to 100 million people. Come hear how to recognize, identify and treat this disease. Objectives:

- 1. Recognize the people at risk of having fatty liver disease.
- 2. Identify the diagnostic tests for fatty liver disease.
- 3. Discuss treatment options for fatty liver disease.
- **4.** Decide when to refer patients for specialist care.



Dec. 14: Seven Insights on **Breast Cancer** Presenter: Jacqueline I. Lee,

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women worldwide. Come hear Dr. Lee share her greatest insights on breast cancer and what you can do to prevent it.

#### **FAMILY**

Take a tour of the birth center, or sign up for classes: • Giving Birth at Castle. • Lamaze.

- The Bradley Method. Infant Safety.
- Newborn Care. Breastfeeding. Car Seat Safety. • Healthy Pregnancy.

Visit adventisthealthcastle.org or call 263-5050 for dates and registration.

#### **FITNESS**

Call 263-5050 or visit castlemed.org for information on all fitness classes.

#### **Exercise Classes**

Registration and fitness assessment are required (may include medical clearance). • Better Bones.

- Core Conditioning. Functional Fitness.
- Longer Life. Lunch Crunch. Stretch & Roll.
- Build Your Balance. Pilates.

#### **JOINT CARE SEMINARS**

Thursdays, 6 to 7 p.m.

- Oct. 5: Knee and Hip Replacements With Advancements in Robotic Surgery
- Nov. 2: Hip Impingement

Learn from orthopaedic surgeons Linda Rasmussen, MD, and Thomas Keller, MD, about treatments to manage knee and hip pain.

#### **NUTRITION**

#### **Preventing Diabetes**

Wednesday, Oct. 25, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Presenter: Amanda O'Neill, RDN, CDE, CSSD Wellness Center Auditorium

One in three people in Hawai'i has pre-diabetes. This class will discuss strategies for healthy eating. increasing physical activity, and meal planning for preventing diabetes. The class is open to the public, especially those with pre-diabetes, impaired fasting glucose, impaired glucose tolerance, insulin resistance, PCOS, or a family history of diabetes. Fee: \$7/person. To register, call 263-5050.

#### NAMI

#### 4th Tuesday Monthly, 5:30 to 7 p.m.. Wellness Center Auditorium

A free, safe and welcoming support group for family members and friends who care for loved ones with mental illness. Facilitated by trained and experienced volunteers with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). For more information about NAMI, please visit www.nami.org.

#### SUPPORT GROUPS

Free and open to the public. Call **263-5400** or visit **castlemed.org** for details. • Alzheimer's Caregivers. • Hospice Hawai'i. • Mama Hui. • NAMI. • Parkinson's Disease.

#### **WEIGHT LOSS**

#### **Weight-Loss Surgery Seminars** Wednesdays, Oct. 11, Nov. 15, or Dec. 20, 2017; 6:30 to 8 p.m.; or Saturday, Nov. 4, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

#### Wellness Center Auditorium

Learn about Castle's comprehensive Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Program from bariatric surgeon Steven Fowler, MD, and other bariatric team members. Registration required. Call 263-5400.

#### **EAT WELL FOR LIFE**

#### Thursdays, 6 to 7:15 p.m. Instructor: Eileen Towata, Ph.D.

Travel the world of plant-based cuisine as we learn about ingredients and sample dishes from different regions and countries. All classes are vegan and are demonstrationstyle. Generous samples and written recipes are provided. Class fee: \$12/person. Registration and prepayment are required. Deadline to register is two days prior to class. No refunds. Call 263-5050.

#### Oct. 26 Oktoberfest—Vegan Style

Hearty German fare will be featured in tonight's class.



Nov. 16 **Explore America: Thanksgiving Traditions** 

Get ideas for plant-based dishes to help celebrate the holiday with family and friends.

#### LIVE WELL TOBACCO FREE PROGRAM CELEBRATES PARTICIPANTS' SUCCESSES

Castle President and CEO Kathy Raethel presented certificates to participants in the Live Well Tobacco Free Program's support group, praising them for their efforts to live smoke-free. Three participants (pictured left to right), Ohai Hansen, Christine Rabe and Donita Garcia.

received special recognition for completing more than one year of smoke-free living.

Many who attended shared their journeys to quit smoking and offered advice, support and inspiration. Attendees enjoyed a delicious, healthy brunch and received a goody bag of

"freebies," including tools and resources for quitting that they could use or share.

Funded by the Hawai'i Community Foundation, the Live Well Tobacco Free Program is free and open to all. For more information, call Castle's Wellness Center at 263-5050.



AHCS Rehabilitation Services

# Moving ahead with excellence

Adventist Health Castle's (AHCS) Rehabilitation Services is dedicated to returning the Windward community to work, play and life with one-on-one comprehensive care.

#### How we help

Our team provides evidence-based physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy services in both our Kailua and Kaneohe facilities. We examine each client and collaborate with their physicians as we develop an individualized plan using treatment techniques to promote the ability to move, reduce pain, restore function and prevent disability. In addition, we work to prevent the loss of mobility before it occurs by developing fitness- and wellness-oriented programs for healthier and more active lifestyles.

Adventist Health Castle's physical and occupational



therapists have been nationally recognized for providing excellence in outcomes by Focus on Therapeutic Outcomes, Inc., a national vendor measuring how well our therapists are performing.

What does this mean for our patients? They reach their goals at a higher level—and with fewer visits.

Call FOR A PHYSICIAN
REFERRAL, call 263-5400, or
if you would like to know more
about our Rehabilitation Services,
call 263-5303 (Kailua) or call
263-5040 (Kaneohe).

#### Castle Medical Center

640 Ulukahiki St. Kailua, HI 96734



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# Community Christmas Tree Lighting scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 6

Adventist Health Castle's (AHCS) 33rd annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will include the usual colorful decorations, bright lights and trolley rides, and a visit from Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus.

In addition to the 60-foot Norfolk Pine, lighting up the evening this year will be Na Hōkū Hanohano awardwinning musical guest Henry Kapono.

#### **Event highlights**

- Pre-ceremony Christmas concert at 6:15 p.m. by the Marine Forces Pacific Band.
- Formal ceremony at 7 p.m. that includes special music, the lighting of the tree and the arrival of Santa.
- Holiday lights and decorations on our campus and trolley rides into



Kailua to see the Christmas lights.

- Photo opportunities with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus.
- Activities for the children.
- A special holiday concert by Josh Tatofi at 7:30 p.m.
- Free popcorn, Christmas cookies and beverages (while they last).

#### On stage: Celebrity emcees Sam Kapu III and Tisha Falcon Lehfeldt

Sam and Tisha host Hawai'i's only live and local Christian morning show on 95.5 the FISH.



In concert:
Henry Kapono
Henry Kapono
has many
talents—he's a
vocalist, guitarist,
songwriter,

composer,

thrilling performer and audience favorite—as well as the recipient of multiple honors and awards, including a Grammy nomination. He has also taken home 14 Na Hōkū Hanohano Awards

Kapono's original songs with a rock vibe celebrate his love for his family, express his pride in his Hawai'ian culture, and share his joy in his home in the Islands!

#### Parking and shuttle advisory

- Event parking will only be available at the Kailua Long's parking structure.
- Trolleys will run between the hospital and the Kailua Town Center (front of Old Macy's) beginning
- No parking will be available on Manu Aloha Street (adjacent to Castle's Emergency Room).

This event is made possible free of charge by Adventist Health Castle and generous community partners.

**Info** FOR UPDATES, visit adventisthealthcastle.org or call **263-5400**.



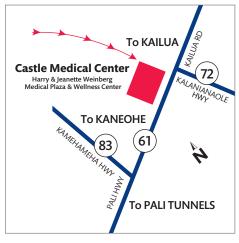
# How to find us Call us: 808-263-5500

Visit us at castlemed.org.

**Email us:** Visit our website at **castlemed.org**, and click on "Contact Us." We'd be happy to hear from you!

- Send us a comment.
- Request a Castle brochure.
- Request a physician directory.

**Write or visit us:** Castle Medical Center, 640 Ulukahiki St., Kailua, HI 96734-4498



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