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Dear Patients and Parents!

I have an announcement to make. After 40 years, I have decided to retire sometime this summer! It was a big decision as coming to the work that I love was all that I knew. During these years, I have never been on a vacation for more than 10 days. In the old days, I was on call 24 hours. I recall carrying a beeper and stopping at the nearest pay phone with four kids in the car. The years have been and I have been blessed with a wonderful group of healthy and for the most part, intact, families. When patients came to the Emergency Room, we came in to examine almost all of them. In my limited pediatric practice, I feel the quality of health has improved over the 35 years. I don't see as many severely, multiply handicapped children. I see much less child neglect and abuse. I see less drug abuse newborns. I go to family court less to testify as an expert witness. There are more ancillary services for children, both in pediatric subspecialties and in community services. The Department of Health and Department of Education have taken more responsibility for the health of mothers and children till 21.

The number of serious diseases that were common have diminished. When I first started practice, I saw one death a year from H. flu meningitis, many more bacterial ear infections, many cases of chickenpox and whooping cough. I saw more premature babies. Vaccines have been one of the most effective advances in public health and we have so many more today. The close extended family in Hawaii is a reality and fathers and mothers and aunts and uncles and grandparents all pitch in to bring well and sick children for appropriate visits. I also remember the days when I would write a pediatric newsletter every single month! It has been a pleasure to share the office with Dr. Shelley Loui, and now with Dr. Jenny Welham who will take over my practice. I am confident I am leaving all of you in good hands. Jenny is passionate about child health and prevention and she is dedicated, available and accessible. She has 18 years of experience in Virginia and Hawaii and is always positive. Her family lives in Palolo. Her husband is a pilot and her two children attend Kaimuki Christian School. I told Jenny that I would probably be around to cover for her if she needs me. And I may work here one or two mornings a week for a few months.

If you are wondering what I will do, well, I shall keep busy here in Honolulu! I am on the State Board of the Outdoor Circle and president of the Manoa Branch. We strive to keep Hawaii clean, green and beautiful. We plant trees and fight ugly signage. On April 24, 2016, I was in charge of hosting the 1000 Tree Giveaway at Manoa Valley Park. It was a wonderful event for the community. My four children have all grown up and have started families of their own. Erica, who is married with a daughter, teaches in Berkeley. She just delivered her 2nd daughter on April

22. Joshua is married with a son and works at First Hawaiian Bank. His wife, Jana, just delivered a daughter, Aili, on March 4. Jana's work can be seen at Janalam.com. Jesse has two sons and just welcomed a daughter, Lakota, on February 28. He is a pediatrician on Kauai. Misha is married and just moved back to Honolulu. She has a successful jewelry business and a website at MishalamJewelry.com. She, too, had a baby boy named Kai on April 10th. 4 babies within 7 weeks! Yes, I am blessed and thrilled about the population explosion in our family! So I shall soon be babysitting and playing with 8 grand kiddos! Hooray! Finally, I want to thank all of you patients and parents for your intelligence and loyalty and support through all the years. You are the best parents and people. I could not have planned a better occupation in a better place if I tried. I wish good luck and the healthiest years to come!

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