Director

Directs activities and personnel in the Pacific Biomedical Research Center. The primary mission of the research institute is scholarly research in general and specifically bio-medical interdisciplinary research, whether basic or applied and oriented to Hawaii’s or Federal needs. Changes in the latter and getting the right mix for Hawaii provides the challenges and opportunities to develop new programs, expand or contract existing programs without the constraints of their designation as Level VI units. All programs have at least one element in common--they involve more than one specific discipline and, hence, are outside of the prerogative and experience of departmental research efforts but may involve individuals therefrom.

The Director coordinates the research activities of the institute generally by identifying potential cross-linkages, core facilities and unnecessary duplication of research efforts or research support efforts. This is particularly important in PBRC which has a low FTE and number of seemingly unrelated research functions which currently are: The Center for Conservation Research and Training, together with the Kewalo Laboratory; the Sekesy Laboratory for Neurobiology; two minority undergraduate research training programs (MBRS and MARC); a major intra-institutional program, the Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) program; the Retrovirology Research Program; the Hawaii AIDS Research Consortium; the Matrix Pathobiology Program; the Molecular Endocrinology Program; and the Native Hawaiian Health Research Program. Central Biological Electron Microscopy Facility, a Molecular Biology/Biotechnology Equipment and Training Facility, a computer expert, two shop facilities, and a Clinical Research Center serve the needs of PBRC and other faculty in the University.

The major function of PBRC is research, focused onto the areas titled above. Another function of PBRC is secondary and consequent
on locating these research elements firmly in a university setting. This secondary function is teaching, both didactic and at the bench training, of undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students in the academic basis and actuality of problem solving in biomedicine. Active researchers can best instill the disciplines of the scientific method into the intellectually curious student. PBRC meets, in part, the increased national need for interdisciplinary graduate training by initiating the Cell, Molecular and Neurosciences and the Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology Graduate Specializations. The goal of increased integration between research and education in the 1997 Manoa Strategic Plan mandates that PBRC adds to its function the direct responsibility for becoming a locus for appropriate interdisciplinary education and training.

Staff Office

Plans and executes the essential support activities in areas of fiscal, personnel, and budget, for all research undertaken by the Center. Provides fiscal services to faculty engaged in extramurally-funded research.

July 30, 1997