

forum

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ISHRS Meeting Review, Hawaii 2000

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Aloha! O.K., what was the Board of Governors thinking when they decided to place this meeting at the gorgeous Hilton Waikoloa Village Resort? Let's face it—swaying palm trees, lush tropical gardens, waterfalls, swimming pools, dolphins, sun and more sun are significant distractions from a packed scientific program. Outside the lecture rooms, it was even better...

An unofficial poll of spouse/guests decreed that they thought the meeting should be held here every year. Surgeon attendees were equivocal. After all, they weren't allowed outside the lecture halls between sun-up and sunset. This, I was assured by Paul Rose, the Program Chairman, was to prevent photo-damage to the skin of the participants in an (vain) attempt to maintain their youthful appearance.

What a meeting it was! There was some pre-conference nervousness about the likely attendance given the

(distant) destination. Happily the doomsayers were proved incorrect and attendance was robust with over 250 physicians and 150 assistants and spouses attending. Paul Rose, who is slowly recovering from the nervous exhaustion induced by being Program Chairman, ran a superb quality, intensively scheduled, in-depth cornucopia of delights! (Don't mind me, I'm paid by the number of excruciatingly long, convoluted

sentences I produce).

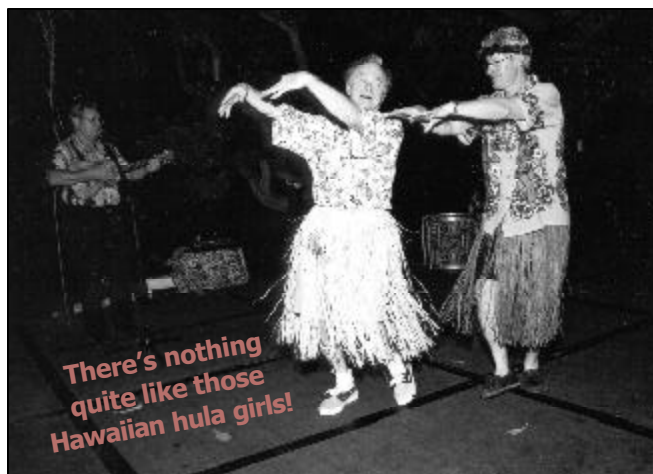
So, what did we learn?

First, mere ownership of a computer doesn't guarantee that you know how to set it up, use it,

or have it "booted" in time for your presentation. Ah, for the good old days when you could blame the projectionist for showing the wrong slides or blame the "old" technology for projector glitches. Second, 7 "speaker minutes" seem to contain a lot more than 420 seconds... Third, the level of science in the great majority of presentations was some-

thing to behold. As surgeons and scientists, we now seem much more prepared to measure and quantify what we do rather than rely on "gut feelings" or anecdotal evidence. The improvement in the quality of presen-

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