



Incisions

The Newsletter of the Philippine College of Surgeons

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Incisions, the PCS newsletter, is a biennial publication of the Philippine College of Surgeons, 992 EDSA, Quezon City 1005, Tel. No. 928-1083. Comments and feedback indicating the writer's full name, address, contact numbers and e-address are welcome. Letters to the editor may be edited for reasons of clarity and space. E-mail to pcs_1936@yahoo.com.ph



Our Cover

"Resting" by Dr. Antonio G. Vasquez Jr., Grand Prize winner and Fellow's Choice award for the 9th Photo Contest 2013 with the theme "Serenity"

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EDITORIAL

KINDLING



Maria Concepcion C. Vesagas, MD, FPCS

It is well known among doctors how long and arduous the road to surgical specialization is. Each journey starts in basic education, into higher learning, then into tertiary education for the medical degree. Training goes further and lasts for a minimum of 5 years. (Some go the distance and pursue a second degree or specialization.) After obtaining that coveted certificate of expertise, one goes into surgery as a livelihood with a sense of fulfillment.

It should not be, though.

One should not view oneself as "full" upon accomplishment of surgical training. If such perspective takes over, then, there will be no room for improvement. Rather, there is a fire in each one that needs to keep burning, a flame that needs to be fed. Learning provides that fuel that keeps the flame alit.

What a pupil learned 10 years ago is at best historical, and in some cases obsolete. Though it is true that human gross anatomy by which a surgical career is hinged upon has not changed over centuries, the concepts by which disease is produced, understood and battled against have. A surgeon's work is largely based on body structures and organs, and comprehending the hows and whys of treatment of maladies "arms" the surgical practitioner, so to speak. Today, disease is fought on the molecular levels, a scrutiny into how the human body works in the infinitesimal front. Pathogens are analyzed by way of their lipopolysaccharide coats, transcription patterns, RNA signatures, etc. Therapies are directed towards genes; medications target receptors on cell membrane surfaces.

A surgeon's education is never complete, even with all the years one has completed. A surgical career is truly a life dedicated not just to service but to learning as well. Keeping abreast with trends, current concepts, fresh technology assists one in becoming better surgeons for our patients, residents and students as well. And fulfillment takes over when one has ignited the flames in others, too. One can hope that the students and residents the surgeon teaches will be better than him. Only then can one really say that he is fulfilled.

So rest not on your laurels, dear surgeons. Science is not static, it is ever changing, it is ever surprising.

You will be amazed at how much research has uncovered.

Socrates said it best. "Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel."

A good part of the first 3 months of the year 2014 has been spent going around inducting the incoming officers of the different chapters of the College. After the induction ceremonies, a dialogue with the chapter officers and fellows is held to discuss various concerns and problems encountered. A few years back the practice of the PCS President in going to the different chapters for the induction of the incoming officers was stopped for several years because it was deemed unnecessary considering that the incoming chapter President should have been inducted during the PCS Annual Convention in December; not to mention the significant expense/cost incurred by the College to defray the transportation cost for the PCS President and/or Vice-President to visit the different chapters. The trip can also be very physically exhausting, sometimes taking as long as 10-12 hours of travel by land in those chapters not accessible by plane. The practice was resumed, however, because of insistent requests from the different chapters and also because of the added benefit of providing the opportunity to dialogue with the fellows of the different chapters to discuss their problems and concerns.

After having gone practically to all the chapters, there seems to be common ground in most of their concerns. First is regarding our MOA with AMOPI. A lot of our Fellows from the different chapters are disgruntled after encountering a lot of difficulties attending to their patients covered by the HMO's under the AMOPI umbrella. In particular, they complain that a lot of times the coordinators get involved as the attending Surgeons of their cases. As an offshoot of this dialogue it was agreed that it would be best if we can coordinate or forge a MOA with the officers/leaders of private hospital associations so that this problem with the HMO coordinators can be addressed. I also advised our Fellows to document this problem and concerns regarding the AMOPI agreement so that we can discuss them in the Grievance Committee. So the consensus is that after all that has been said and done it is still perhaps to the best interest of our Fellows if we continue with our existing MOA with AMOPI.

Another concern frequently brought up in most chapter dialogues are the perennial problems encountered with foreign medical/surgical missions or what we label as itinerant surgeries done in different parts of the country. Although there are existing guidelines, they are not usually followed, especially when these missions are initi-

FROM THE PRESIDENT

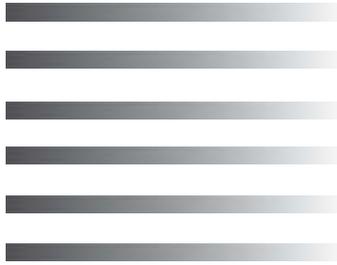


Jesus V. Valencia, MD, MHPEd, FPCS

ated by LGU's like Mayors, Governors etc. To address these concerns, PCS will try to work out a MOA with LGU's so that our Fellows can be involved early on from the screening up to postoperative stage. I am also enjoining our Fellows, in the spirit of our social responsibility mission, to get themselves actively involved in these missions if the opportunity arises rather than wait for postoperative complications to be inherited later on.

The third common concern voiced by our chapters is how to elicit active participation of the Fellows in their chapter activities. Many of the chapters suggest empowering them to issue certificates of good standing to their Fellows so that in effect they will be encouraged to attend and actively participate in their respective chapter meetings/activities. The College will try to come up with a common set of requirements/parameters for the issuance of this certificate of good standing after reviewing all the suggestions/recommendations from the different chapters.

The newly inducted chapter officers were likewise reminded of the four basic values which serve as administrative cornerstones of the current PCS Board of Regents in handling the affairs of the College which should be cascaded to the different chapters as well. These include Professionalism, Patient Safety, Social Responsibility and Sound Fiscal Management: Professionalism, to prove by role modeling that we are Surgeons doing the right thing; optimum Patient Safety to prove that we are Surgeons doing the right thing right; Social Responsibility to render service and link up with those who need us most at the time we are most needed; and Fiscal discipline so that we can be a financially sustainable medical organization capable of achieving what we swore to do - serve God and country by serving the best interest of our brethren.



ACROSS THE BOARD

George G. Lim, MD, FPCS, FPSGS, FPSCRS, FPALES



Greetings to all our Fellows!

As your new Board Secretary, I am now tasked to relay to you what transpired during our regular Board meetings. I will try to make it as brief as possible but not in a way that our Fellows will get the impression that our meetings were as brief. Ordinarily, we stay from 1200 NN to about 600 PM; each issue is taken up and discussed comprehensively, with decisions made collectively.

1st BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

January 25, 2014 (Saturday); 12:00 Noon

2014 Budget

The Board APPROVED using the 2013 Budget and a supplemental budget for 2014. The supplemental budget will be presented for the Fellows' approval during the Midyear Convention Business Meeting in May.

Membership Information System

The Board approved pursuing the project with Mr. Jose Ronelle Bartolome with Dr. George G. Lim as the point person. Dr. Lim shall also oversee the training of the staff and he was given three (3) months to make the program operational.

Real Estate Investment

As suggested during the Business Meeting at the PCS Midyear Convention in Naga City last year, the Committee on Finance has been tasked to re-study the viability of purchasing a lot for investment purposes.

Fund Raising for Typhoon Yolanda Victims

The College was able to raise the following amount:

Donations (from Fellows, Guests, Chapters)	Php 119,057.00
ACS Employees & Staff (deposited through PCSF)	136,000.00
Savings from Fellowship Night	<u>500,000.00</u>
Total:	Php 755,057.00

The Board will disburse this to the affected Chapters depending on their rehabilitation needs at present.

The PCS Southern Tagalog Chapter has donated the amount of Php20,000 to the victims of the recent earthquake and Typhoon Yolanda.

Financial Assistance for 16 Fellows affected by Typhoon Yolanda

Sixteen PCS Fellows severely affected by Typhoon Yolanda requested for some financial assistance. With the approval of the Executive Committee, each of them were given Php20,000 assistance, such amount to be deducted from the total collection.

Academy of Medicine of the Philippines (AMP)

The following PCS Committee Chairs were nominated as members of the Joint Committees representing the College:

Membership - Dr. Alejandro C. Dizon

Certification & Accreditation - Dr. Eduardo R. Gatchalian

Surgical Training - Dr. Orlando O. Ocampo

CSE - Dr. Napoleon B. Alcedo, Jr.

Treasurer's Report

Summary of Cash Transactions for November and December 2013

	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Income/Receipts	3,612,086.67	6,806,959.78	10,419,046.45
Expenses	3,963,837.88	2,700,678.56	6,664,516.44
Add: \$6,708 dollar disbursement (Php value)			<u>292,944.50</u>
Total Expenses per books			6,957,460.94
Disbursements		5,958,726.91	
Outstanding Checks		<u>998,734.03</u>	
Cash Balance (10,419,046.45 - 5,958,726.91)			4,460,319.54
Add/(Less): unrealized gain (loss)			(1,091,239.67)
Increase (Decrease) in Cash Value			<u>3,369,079.87</u>

Investments and Cash in Bank (as of December 31, 2013)

Short-term	Php 5,731,510.10
Long-term	<u>77,673,695.82</u>
TOTAL	Php 83,405,205.92
Cash in Bank	<u>21,545,432.19</u>
GRAND TOTAL	Php 104,950,638.11

Proposed 2014 Committee Membership

The Board approved the Committee memberships for this year.

40th PCS Midyear Convention

The Board approved the proposed scientific program, speakers, and session chairs for the 40th PCS Midyear Convention on May 9-10, 2014 in Davao City with the theme: "Bridging Gaps and Breaking Barriers in Surgical Oncology".

2nd BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

March 1, 2014 (Saturday); 12:00 Noon

PCS Amendments

The Committee will restudy amending our By-laws including the timetable for this.

Philippine Medical Association

A series of meetings have been scheduled to resolve the issue of affiliate societies in contrast to specialty societies in order to prevent members of these affiliate societies from being mistaken or misrepresenting themselves as certified specialists.

Treasurer's Report

Summary of Cash Transactions

Beginning Balance		
Long Term Investment	Php	72,492,049.60 (69%)
Short Term Investment		2,628,167.29 (3%)
Dollar Account		10,079,280.92 (10%)
Cash in Bank		19,801,181.37 (19%)
	Php	<u>105,000,679.18</u>
Receipts		1,963,638.05
TOTAL	Php	106,964,317.23
Disbursements	Php	808,416.35
Outstanding checks		1,208,600.14
TOTAL Cash Outflow		<u>2,017,016.49</u>
TOTAL		104,947,300.74
Add: Unrealized Gain (Loss)		<u>(363,782.38)</u>
Balance-Jan. 31, 2014	Php	<u>104,583,518.36</u>

Employees Retirement Pension Plan

The Board approved getting the services of a financial analyst to study the Retirement Plan and Fellows Assistance Plan.

70th Annual Clinical Congress

The Board reviewed the proposed scientific program and invited speakers for the Congress on November 30-December 3, 2014 at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel with the theme: Technology and the Changing Practice of Surgery.

Trauma: Advocacy on Road Safety

The Board approved launching the Road Safety advocacy as a pre-Midyear Convention activity by distributing car stickers for free to Fellows of the College.

Critical Care and Surgical Nutrition

The Board approved conducting a P.O.I.N.T.S. (Problem-Oriented ICU and Nutrition Training for Surgeons) Workshop with 4-6 modules illustrating cases for discussion on common clinical problems interspersed with slides indicating current recommendations or guidelines for the diagnosis and management of these problems.

Alternative non-FDA approved Cancer Treatments

The Board approved issuing a Position Statement regarding alternative non-FDA approved cancer treatments, the contents of which shall be evidence-based. The Committee on Cancer shall prepare a draft and present this to the Board.

Cancer Awareness Video-Making Contest (Inter-Chapter contest)

The Board approved conducting a Video-Making Contest to highlight the College's role in cancer awareness and prevention.

Cancer Bulletin

The Board approved the inclusion of the Cancer Bulletin in our PCS website.

Surgical Infections

The Board approved to disseminate the Poster on Needlestick Injuries and to disseminate the IDSA Guidelines and 2013 Clinical Practice Guidelines for Antimicrobial Prophylaxis in Surgery.

Surgical Research

The Board approved pursuing the Course on "Critical Appraisal" offered to Fellows, residents, accredited training programs, Chapters, and specialty societies. An initial workshop will be conducted on June 21, 2014.

EBCPG on Acute & Chronic Wound Care

The Board approved in principle the formulation of Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines on Acute & Chronic Wound Care.

Annual PCS Surgical Research Contest (Champion of Champions)

The Board approved the conduct of Annual PCS Surgical Research Contest during the PCS Annual Clinical Congress.

Surgical Manpower Study

The Board approved updating the Surgical Manpower Study and the 2008 Core Curriculum on Professionalism, by the Committee on Surgical Training. In coordination with the Committee on Ethics & Judicial Matters, they shall also conduct a Workshop in preparation for the publication of the Handbook on Good Surgical Practice.

Publications & Documentation

The Board approved the publication of three (3) "INCISIONS" newsletters for the year scheduled for distribution in May, August, and December.

Bids for 2015 Midyear Convention

As of date, the College received bids from the PCS Cebu-EV Chapter and Southern Tagalog Chapter to host the 2015 Midyear Convention. No decision has yet been made.

3rd BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

March 29, 2014(Saturday); 12:00 Noon

Assistance for Typhoon Yolanda Victims

The Board approved giving Php135,000.00 to each of the affected Chapters (Cebu-EV, Negros Occidental, and Panay) as additional financial assistance for the typhoon victims, subject to their liquidation.

PCS Foundation

The Board approved the issuance of Official Receipts by the PCS Foundation for revenues from Hospitality Suites and Exhibit Booths and donations by pharmaceutical companies during the Midyear Convention and Annual Clinical Congress.

Academy of Medicine of the Philippines (AMP)

The Securities and Exchange Commission has approved the By-Laws of the AMP. A letter will be sent to all PCS Fellows encouraging them to become AMP members including a brief description about what the AMP is all about. No application fees will be charged.

Invitations from Foreign Surgical Groups

Drs. Jesus V. Valencia and Arturo E. Mendoza, Jr. will be attending the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons meeting in Singapore on May 5-9,2014 and the College of Surgeons, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia meeting in Sarawak, Malaysia on May 23-25, 2014.

Membership Information System

PCS Fellows can now update their personal profiles online to keep their information up to date. Their usernames are the initial of their first name followed by their surname without any space and all in lower case. The Accounting part of the software is still under construction and will be ready for testing soon.

Inter-Branch Payment of PCS Dues

The Board approved adopting the MetroBank Bills Payment Collection Agreement for inter-branch transactions to avoid deposits from unidentified Fellows who fail to send in a copy of their deposit slips. A similar arrangement is being looked into for Banco de Oro.

PCS Building

The following 2014 Projects with a cost of Php 432,895.00 (Budget for Improvements-Php1.1M) were approved:

- Exterior re-painting (last done in 2011)
- Interior re-painting (last done in 2011)
- Rehabilitation/maintenance of water line
- Re-upholstery of chairs
- Minor renovation of ground floor (near lobby measuring 43 sq.m) with an additional cost of Php85,000.

70th Annual Clinical Congress

Regional/Overseas College Presidents who have confirmed their participation are:

Dr. Andrew L. Warsaw: President, American College of Surgeons

Dr. Peter Wong: President, College of Surgeons, Academy of Medicine, Malaysia

Dr. Michael Hollands: Immediate Past President, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Dr. Kesavan Esuvaranathan: President, College of Surgeons, Singapore

Dr. Graham Layer: Secretary-General, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Legends of the Knife

Starting this year, the Legends of the Knife award, as endorsed by the PCS Metro Manila Chapter, shall have the following basic guidelines:

- Nominee must be 60 years old and above;
- He/She must be inclined in Teaching /Training;
- He/She must have significant achievements;
- He/She must have made significant contributions to Surgery;
- No posthumous recipient; and
- Same award may be given to more than one person in a year.

Trauma Courses

Informative brochure on the courses offered by the College, i.e. ATLS, DSTC, BEST and BETTER is being prepared.

Surgical Infections

The College will execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Operating Room Nurses Association of the Philippines (ORNAP) for the revision of the ORNAP Manual for documentation purposes.

Quality Assurance & Patient Safety

The Committee is intensifying its mandate to monitor compliance with the PCS-WHO Surgical Safety Checklist.

Joint Coordinating Council on Accreditation and Certification (JCCAC)

The Board APPROVED the creation of a Sub-committee on Curriculum whose tasks are to formulate the common core competencies (template)/concept map on curriculum development and to collate and review the existing curriculum of all surgical specialties.



Assuring the Quality of the Filipino Surgeon*

Alberto B. Roxas, MD, FPCS

President, Philippine College of Surgeons 2001

President Alfred Belmonte; Honorable Edgardo Fernando, Chair, Board of Medicine; Dr. Leo Olarte, President, Philippine Medical Association; Officers and Members of the Board of Regents, Chairman and Members of the Board of Governors, Honorary Fellows, Past Presidents of the College, special mention goes to Dr. Antonio C. Oposa, this year's Lifetime Achievement Awardee and who taught me to operate with the scalpel; Presidents of Surgical Colleges in the Asia Pacific Region, invited Speakers, Fellows of the College, our Inductees, guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

It is with deep honor and humility that I accepted the invitation of President Belmonte to be the G. T. Singian Memorial Lecturer this year. It is indeed a pleasure and a great opportunity to take a good look at our College on its 77th year of existence. A past president usually stays on the sidelines unless asked by the incumbent president. And there is no better way to speak out with everybody listening intently than to deliver the G.T. Singian Memorial Lecture in the Opening Ceremonies. Thank you, Mr. President. The G. T. Singian Memorial Lecture is in honor of our College's Founding President, Dr. Gregorio T. Singian. Dr. Singian was born in 1872 in San Fernando, Pampanga, which is about 2 hours ride from Metro Manila. He obtained his medical degree from the Faculty of Medicine & Surgery of the Royal Pontifical University of Santo Tomas. At that time, UST was the only medical school in the Philippines. Dr Singian graduated in 1896 summa cum laude. Coming from an affluent family, he went abroad for

further training. He came back and established his surgical practice. In time, he earned a respectable reputation as a surgeon and become known as "El Mago Del Bisturi" meaning "The Wizard of the Scalpel". In 1913, he became the Director of the Hospital San Juan de Dios, which was then the Teaching Hospital of UST. He established a 3-year surgical residency training program patterned after models abroad. In 1929, aside from being Hospital Director, Dr. Singian was appointed Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery of UST. Dr. Singian was famous for his passion for study and hard work. He was a strict disciplinarian. He exacted perfection from everyone. He demanded excellence in patient care. In 1932, he had a stroke. He could no longer operate but continued his practice. He was very much interested in radiotherapy. In 1936, with a group of surgeons he had invited to his house, they established the Philippine College of Surgeons which will be "the guardian of the highest Filipino surgical ideas and practice". Dr Singian died the following year at the age of 65 years.

* The 44th Dr. Gregorio T. Singian Memorial Lecture delivered by Dr Alberto B. Roxas during the Opening Ceremonies of the 69th Annual Clinical Congress of the Philippine College of Surgeons on December 1, 2013 at the Isla Ballroom of the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel.



Since then and through seventy-seven years of committed efforts of its leaders and members, the Philippine College of Surgeons has steadily grown into what it is today, the umbrella organization of surgical specialties in the Philippines, recognized in the country, the region and the world. Today, the continuing challenge to our Fellows is to keep the flame and passion of Dr. Singian burning and to join the multi sectoral movement to illuminate the right path to universal health care for the Filipino people.

Aligned with this topic, I will talk on "Assuring the Quality of the Filipino Surgeon". As surgeons, we have the mandate and the social responsibility to actively participate in the preparation and training of the next generation of surgeons for the country. These surgeons will take care of us when we need an operation in the near future. Individually, we should reflect and decide how best we can contribute to this collective effort. There are three (3) levels where we can participate, namely,

1. Basic medical education - this refers to the M.D. Program and the Postgraduate Internship Program with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) as the government regulatory body.
2. Postgraduate medical education - this refers to the various specialty and subspecialty training programs. And finally,
3. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) - this refers to the continuing surgical education for practicing surgeons.

Both the postgraduate medical education and continuing professional education involves the practice of profession thus the Professional Regulations Commission through the Professional Regulatory Board of Medicine (PRBoM) is the government regulatory body. And there are three (3) major areas where we can focus our attention in order to achieve excellence, regardless of the level of training and learning. These are the following,

1. Selecting the best students or trainees for the programs.
2. Selecting the best faculty and constantly training the faculty to be the best teachers.
3. Providing the best learning environment where the best students and the best teachers can engage, interact and learn from each other. This includes clarifying the learning outcomes of graduates of the M.D. Program and graduates of surgical residency and fellowship training programs in order to address mismatch between what is taught in school or training programs and what is actually encountered in practice. This also includes the assessment of students and trainees and program monitoring and evaluation.

Please allow me to elaborate further. Medical Education in the Philippines is influenced by the American educational system. Students seeking admission to the MD Program must be a holder of a baccalaureate degree and must have taken the National Medical Admission Test (NMAT). After completing four (4) years of medical school, medical graduates undergo a year of postgraduate internship in an accredited hospital of choice as a requirement before licensure.

At present, there are thirty-eight (38) MD Programs recognized by CHED. For the past five (5) years (2008-2012), these programs produce about 2,169 medical graduates each year and about 1,811 postgraduate interns are matched each year. Only four (4) programs do not participate in the National Internship Matching Program. Medical students of these programs graduate after internship. About 3,688 examinees take the licensure examinations each year, of which about 2,439 passed with an annual national passing average of 60%-70%.

There is a pool of examinees from various programs who have failed at least once in the licensure examinations. Classified as Repeaters, their overall passing rate is only 25%-30%. They bring down the institutional passing rate and they do not usually participate in the review courses offered by their school. Seventeen (17) of the thirty-eight (38) programs have institutional passing average in the licensure examinations below the national passing average. Furthermore, the outcome of the joint monitoring visits of CHED and the Professional Regulatory Board of Medicine (PRBoM) revealed that these poorly-performing programs have major deficiencies in Faculty, Admissions & Selection, Curriculum & Instruction and Facilities for Clinical Teaching.

Thus, CHED has embarked on a grand plan of providing ample opportunities for MD programs to transform themselves into excellent programs with at least 90% institutional passing average in the licensure examinations by the year 2020. Policies to be implemented soon includes,

1. Guidelines for Accreditation of Health Facilities Utilized for Clinical Training of Students in the Basic Medical Education;
2. Rationalizing Medical Education in the Philippines which proposes a comprehensive action plan to improve medical education;
3. Implementation of a National Medical Admission Test (NMAT) Cut-off Score of 40th percentile as an admission criterion beginning AY 2014-2015. The cut-off score shall be gradually increased until 60th percentile in 2020;
4. Determination and Implementation of Admissions Quota of Higher Education Institutions Offering MD Program to ensure that student intake is based on Faculty resources and available teaching facilities;
5. Classification of Medical Schools Based on Performance in the Physicians' Licensure Examinations and Compliance to Minimum Requirements. The List shall be published regularly for the guidance of the general public. It shall be a positive List of schools with satisfactory performance in licensure examinations and satisfies minimum requirements;
6. Policies, Standards and Guidelines on Outcome-Based Education for the MD Program to define, among other things the learning outcomes or program outcomes expected of medical graduates. Seven (7) program outcomes has been identified. These are
 - a) Clinical Competence;
 - b) Communication skills;
 - c) Management of research findings;
 - d) Inter-professionalism;
 - e) Health system management to care;
 - f) Personal and continuing professional development; and
 - h) Adherence to professional and ethical practice.

Competency standards for each program outcome has also been formulated as well as the curricular goals. Individual programs are given ample space to innovate in their curriculum in line with the assessment of how best to achieve the program outcomes in their particular contexts and their respective missions. These policies include Quality Assurance with external accreditation. Programs that do not qualify to undergo external accreditation shall initially undertake a consultancy service in order to conduct a Self-Study. The resulting Self-Study Report shall be part of the developmental plan that a poorly performing program shall submit to CHED. Also incorporated in these policies are the recommendations from the Global Call for Trans-formative Education, Inter-professional Education and Social Accountability of Medical Schools that are deemed appropriate for the local setting.

The net result of these comprehensive efforts will address the current mismatch of what is taught in school and what is expected of medical graduates in the field. Moreover, with only excellent MD programs existing in the country by the year 2020, consequently only quality medical graduates shall be accepted as trainees in the residency and fellowship training programs.

Postgraduate medical education in the Philippines is likewise influenced by the American system. Residency and fellowship training programs are implemented according to guidelines set forth their respective autonomous specialty and subspecialty societies. Certifying board examinations are conducted by their respective specialty and subspecialty boards. Over the years, these boards have maintained their integrity and have earned the respect of the general public as well. These boards are recognized by the Philippine Medical Association, the accredited physicians' organization. At present, there are three hundred twenty-seven (327) accredited training programs of 13 surgical specialty and subspecialty societies and boards. For the past five (5) years, the passing rates in the certifying boards of General Surgery is 45%- 59% for the written part and 30%-74% for the oral part. In Ophthalmology, the passing rates are 41%-59% for the written part and 34%-74% for the oral part. There is a pool of examinees who have failed at least once in the certifying examinations, written or oral and classified as Repeaters. Another drawback with the current situation is that the certificate of training issued by these boards to specialists and subspecialists do not carry government imprimatur. Thus, the certificate may not be recognized in other countries resulting in downgraded qualifications and lower compensation.

With the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF), the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA) in 2015 and the future scenario of mobility of professionals, including surgeons in the region, the PRBoM is mandated to assert its oversight function in order to achieve competitiveness of Filipino doctors in the region. Our College must promote cooperation and collaboration with the PRBoM in this endeavor. The PRBoM may conduct multi-sectoral consultations and develop an overarching framework including quality assurance, wherein which the various specialty and subspecialty societies and boards can function with the least interference. With quality assurance in place including external accreditation, residency and fellowship training programs will be enhanced and would greatly benefit graduates of the programs. Likewise, the PQF mandates a shift to outcome-based education with the use of learning outcomes that will define the products of the training programs. Subsequently, the passing rates in the certifying board examinations will improve. Within the same framework, our College can also engage the Department of Health (DOH) through its HRH Network Philippines and eventually draw projections on the surgical manpower needs of the country. Such important data can motivate the College to increase or reduce the number of training programs. Much still has to be done by the PRBoM to establish a structure that will function as an accreditation and certifying body for postgraduate medical education involving not only Filipinos but foreign nationals. PRBoM also has to formulate a needs assessment in postgraduate medical education in order to develop a comprehensive plan to bring the training programs to excellent status.

Continuing Professional Development shall ensure that the surgeon has the ability to engage in lifelong learning and has an understanding of the need to keep abreast of developments in their respective field of practice in order to improve patient care. Existing practices in continuing surgical education utilizes attendance in conventions and postgraduate courses which does not produce the desired results. Yet, everybody including our College continues this practice in the absence of an effective alternative method. The PRBoM is in the process of instituting changes in Continuing Professional Development with workplace assessment as a tool to evaluate healthcare professionals. Hopefully, these activities will lead to improved patient care. A compelling reason to pursue Continuing Professional Development is the fact that doctors account for 30-40% of cases filed in the PRC Legal Division though doctors constitute only 3.3% of all professionals in the country. The most common ground for filing cases against doctors is gross negligence/incompetence. The next most common ground is dishonorable/unethical/unprofessional conduct.

Despite these challenges facing us today, I could not recall of such a time as now that there are numerous opportunities to achieve improved patient care and universal health care in the Philippines.

First, President PNOY announced that his Administration will achieve universal health care during his term of office. Second, the ASEAN MRA in 2015 is motivating new initiatives from government. Likewise, the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) was approved by President PNOY prompting PRC to shift to outcome-based education. The shift will allow PRC to assert oversight function in postgraduate medical education aside from continuing professional development. Third, CHED also shifted to outcome-based education amid protests from some stakeholders. The shift provided the opportunity to revise the medical curriculum, which is ongoing as we speak. Also, I could not recall of such a time as now that the major stakeholders such as the Commission on Higher Education, the Professional Regulatory Board of Medicine, the Department of Health, the Association of Philippine Medical Colleges Foundation and the Philippine Medical Association are working harmoniously toward common goals. These are good reasons to hope for a bright future ahead.

In closing, the passion for excellence and hard work exemplified by Dr. Singian and sustained by the College in its culture of excellence and social responsibility has brought the College to where it stands high today. This culture will eventually "assure the quality of the Filipino surgeon". The strong foundation of our College lies in its membership. The College has to strengthen further its commitment to education.

This is a Call for all Fellows to actively participate in the three (3) levels of training and learning. Fellows have to engage and collaborate with other stakeholders in order to achieve common goals. This is also a Call for the Professional Regulatory Board of Medicine to proceed full speed ahead with its developmental plans in postgraduate medical education and continuing professional development. Together, we shall keep the flame and the passion of Dr Singian burning towards improved patient care and universal healthcare.

Thank you for your kind attention and a pleasant good morning to all.

**FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
SURGICAL EDUCATION, (FASE) INC.
and the
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
College of Medicine- Philippine General Hospital
University of the Philippines Manila**

**50th Postgraduate Course
Mastery in Surgery 2014**

**INNOVATIONS AND
ADVANCES IN SURGERY**

September 3 - 5, 2014 Diamond Hotel Philippines Roxas Blvd., Manila

BREAST FELLOW

After three years of private surgical practice in Cagayan de Oro City, I realized that I needed specialization to attend to the needs of our community; thus was born my aspiration to train in surgical oncology. I was reluctant at first because I had four kids to support and pursuit of such training could be much of a burden. I lobbied for a training program in Manila and Cebu.

In April of 2010 I decided to further my training in Cebu, under the stewardship of Dr. Stephen Sixto Siguan and Dr. Mark Denver Yray. It was like placing my future on them. I went through ups and downs during my fellowship. There was one point I felt like quitting because of my mentors' toughness and my difficulty in adjusting. It was not easy when you have had a good practice back home and then leave that and go for training again. Nevertheless, I passed my first year of fellowship training and proceeded to the last year. Things went smoothly the second year since I had fully adopted to the system and I brought my family with me as support. My boss recommended me as a PCS scholar which inspired me even more.

Every endeavor in the fellowship was significant to me because I knew I would use it when I got back home. I led the residents for their ward rounds twice a day, studied well for preoperative and post operative

conferences, the way I did during my residency. I assisted and performed grueling tumor operations together with my oncology consultants at Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center and other private institutions. I spearheaded breast cancer chemotherapy at the VSMMC breast center every Wednesday with the general surgery residents under the supervision of Dr. Yray. Since Dr. Siguan is a known research enthusiast, I had to adjust my literary and typing skills because after all research was not my cup of tea. But to my surprise, I published two research papers, one of which was accepted for presentation at the 2012 World Cancer Congress in Montreal Canada.

I also juggled my weekend free time for our breast cancer community outreach program, assisting Velez College of Medicine in their breast cancer module. Cancer pain management was also part of my task with the support of the cancer pain consultant. I went along with my GS consultants and acquired more insights from them. I also had the chance to meet a lot of cancer survivors. Furthermore, I initiated a Rural model in breast cancer control program in Argao, Cebu, a dream come true for my steadfast superior. Despite all of my shortcomings I was able to traverse the demands of training.

My family and I explored the charm and beauty of Cebu from North to South. We were able to witness the world renowned Sinulog Festivities in honor of Sr. Sto. Nino. We took pleasure of the Cebuano culture and the unsurpassed Cebuano food, to mention, the famous spicy lechon, shoot-to-kill in STK, the notorious baby backribs in Casa Verde and the elegant dinner buffet in Marco Hotel. Exceptionally memorable was the coal mine descent and the 200 feet below the ground experience in Argao.

The PCS Foundation helped a lot during the course of my fellowship. It bolstered my financial capacity. It aided my daily allowances during my outside rotation in Perpetual Succour Hospital in Cebu and St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City and Global City. Indeed, it was an outstanding journey with the Foundation. Most especially, I gained the trust and friendship of my mentors. I will certainly cherish it and forever be grateful.

Herbert C. Tagab, MD, FPCS



The author with his wife and four children.

SCHOLARS SPEAK

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Avon Breast Cancer Crusade, the foundation selected 25 scholars worldwide from 22 countries for a 4 week intensive training and preceptorship in breast cancer surgery, pathology, breast imaging, medical oncology, clinical trial design, community and public health. I was privileged to be chosen as one of the first global breast scholars. This paved the way for me to apply for a PCS Foundation scholarship as a Breast Fellow Scholar.

The program started last Sept. 10, 2012. All 25 global Scholars were sponsored to attend the 4 day American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Breast Cancer Symposium in San Francisco, California USA. This was followed by 4 weeks of intensive training and preceptorship in breast cancer surgery. Each scholar was assigned a specific institution, I was stationed at the Olive View UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles.

My four week breast fellowship training included the following: stereotactic guided biopsies/ultrasound guided biopsies, diagnostic and screening mammography, needle localization biopsies, tumor board conferences, and breast cancer surgeries with reconstruction.

I also had the opportunity to do preceptorship training under Dr. Armando Giuliano, principal author of ACOSOG Z011 at the Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. His tumescent technique in doing mastectomy in just 30 minutes was remarkable. This technique is helpful especially in doing

nipple sparing mastectomy. I was also able to redefine my skills in sentinel node biopsy.

Avon Breast Care Center has the unique way of helping their patients thru their patient navigators. These navigators are the ones who follow up the patients from the time of diagnosis, surgery, discharge and progress.

This scholarship enabled me to receive training from some of the world renowned breast cancer surgeons. The advanced skills and new information that I have learned will definitely improve both the treatment and care of women with breast cancer. Thus without hesitation I share these knowledge and information with the surgical residents in our training program and to my fellow surgeons in this PCS Midyear Convention.

Alex L. Tan. MD. FPCS



The author (left) with Ms. Lori Viveros, Program Manager, Avon Cares for Life-Olive view UCLA Medical Center.

SURGEONS ARE HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL

Serafin C. Hilvano, MD, FPCS, FACS, American Surgical Association (Hon)

Professor Emeritus, Department of Surgery, College of Medicine, University of the Philippines Manila

Just like human beings, surgeons do get sick, and at times go under the knife, the main implement of their profession. This situation brings them down to earth from a high and mighty position. Twice I have been on the receiving end of treatment, the first being on the cutting end of the knife. On the second time I was brought to the emergency room in shock, subjected to a battery of tests, including a CT scan for a bleeding tumor in the liver, for which a stat transarterial chemoembolization (TACE) was done.

Years previously, I had treated myself conservatively for which I believed was diverticulitis. I based my diagnosis on what I felt and on my abdominal findings, with no consults with gastroenterology friends or surgeons nor submitted to

contrast studies and colonoscopy. The decision to undergo an operation was solely mine, when the direct tenderness on the left lower quadrant became prominent. In addition there was a narrowed, inflamed sigmoid colon seen on colonoscopy, which verified the intraluminal situation. My choice of surgeon was the one whom I knew did bowel anastomoses with the same technique I have been using, the



classical Gambee technique. The post-operative course was uneventful, devoid of the so-called "extension syndrome".

The second instance when I became a patient, was problematic and life threatening. I was not a party to the decision on what to do for my situation because I was brought to ER in shock. After resuscitation, I was intubated prior to a CT scan and had a stat TACE for a large bleeding tumor in the left lobe of my liver. Because of an overly distended abdomen due to ileus after the chemoembolization and continued oozing from the hepatic mass, I agreed to be opened up. I was writing down my suggestions to the surgeon on what to do during laparotomy with accompanying diagrams, not being able to dissociate myself from being a surgeon during that occasion. My colleagues from the Division of Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery discussed my case with the Gastrointestinal staff and Interventional Radiologists on what was the best approach in dealing with my situation, considering the strong possibility of a fatal consequence of an operation. The night prior to the open procedure a small group came to the ICU to convince me not to submit to an operation. They presented acceptable and convincing reasons that the ileus will reverse itself. They prevailed. Thank God for them and my attending physicians at the National Kidney & Transplant Institute!

Whiling away the long nights while intubated in the ICU consisted of observing tracings on the monitors, listening for footsteps approaching my cubicle, counting the chimes of the clock and looking for signs of dawn. I had no fear of death even though my life was on the brink as I was prepared to meet my Creator. What I feared most were the extractions of blood samples for the ABG's, the pain of which was excruciating.

It was not easy for me to be just a patient and follow doctors orders, as most would tell me, because the Surgeon in me prevails, even as I lay in a hospital bed being treated.

• Central Luzon

The PCS Central Luzon Chapter started the year 2014 with the Induction of New Officers and Turnover Ceremonies. This was held at Partyland Restaurant in San Fernando, Pampanga last February 15, 2014. This was a joint induction with the PSGS Central Luzon Chapter. Several fellows from Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Zambales attended the induction, as well as the residents from the five training hospitals of the chapter. Dr. Jesus V. Valencia, PCS President and Dr. Jose Rhoel C. De Leon, PSGS President were the guests of honor for the occasion.

Dr. Valencia inducted into office the new officers of the chapter: Dr. Bethoven J. Go - President; Dr. Andrew Jay G. Pusung - Vice-President, Dr. Hjordis Marushka B. Celis - Secretary and Dr. Protacio T. Bajao (Bulacan), Dr. Dindo Cajucom (Nueva Ecija), Dr. R-Jay Manzo (Olongapo/Zambales), Dr. Ericson Salas (Pampanga) and Dr. Jericho Calibaran (Tarlac) (Directors). The chapter president, Dr. Bethoven Go, also inducted the new fellows of the chapter.

In his speech, Dr. Valencia once again reiterated his plan of action, which he wishes to accomplish during his term. He also handed a check representing the chapter share from the various activities of the College. After the induction, an open forum was held discussing the many concerns and problems of the fellows and the chapter in general.



PCS President Dr. Jesus V. Valencia administers oath to the chapter officers.

• Cordillera

The Cordillera Chapter held a medical and surgical mission during the Panagbenga festival last February at Binga town, Itogon. They conducted digital rectal examinations for prostate cancer, together with minor surgeries for various ailments.



Other surgical missions for the 2014 are planned at Bontoc General Hospital, Luis Hora General Hospital in Bauko, Mt. Province and Dennis Molintas Memorial Hospital in Bokod, Benguet.

Currently, members of the chapter talk about surgical diseases on local TV via ABS-CBN Baguio. Other plans for the year are blood donation program, digital rectal examination for prostate cancer, tree planting and annual screening for breast cancer at the Baguio City Jail, continuing medical education activities, workshops and lay fora.



• Negros Occidental

Last January 20-24, 2014, the PCS-Negros Occidental Chapter celebrated the National Cancer Consciousness Week. Different lectures about Cancer were held in various venues. Emphasis was given on Cancer awareness and how proper management will have an impact on its outcome. The chapter received excellent feedback from the participants.

A surgical mission was held together with the Bacolod Surgical Residency Training Consortium on February 15 and 16 at Canlaon City and Victorias City, respectively.

Last March 15, the chapter held its induction ceremony with PCS Vice President Dr Arturo Mendoza in attendance.

The chapter has also been very active helping its fellow Negrenses, especially typhoon victims. The identified barangays are now on recovery process and the chapter pledges to support and provide more assistance by helping restore their livelihood and dwelling structures. Some fellows have personally provided some boats to fisher folks for their fishing. The chapter is also planning to provide the same. The chapter's community outreach program, in coordination with other civic organizations will continue this year, with a target to double its beneficiaries.



• Northern Mindanao

The Northern Mindanao Chapter had its induction ceremony for the 2014 Officers last March 15, 2014 at Mallberry Business Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City. Elected were Dr. Michael Edmundo C. Bibera, (President); Dr. Peter S. Quiaoit, (Vice President) Dr. Jose Joaquin E. Hernandez and Dr. Donald S. Co, (Secretaries); Dr. Jasmin M. Batara, (Assistant Secretary); Dr. Efren Domiciano C. Villahermosa (P.R.O.); Drs. Gabriel C. Malbas, Andrew M. Marcella, Alexander N. Nacita and Roger Stephen S. Viajar, (Directors) and Dr. Dinah C. Abella, (Governor).

The inducting officer and guest of honor was PCS President Dr. Jesus V. Valencia. In his remarks, he encouraged the fellows of the Chapter to continue the excellent work which earned them the distinction of being elevated to the hall of fame, as most outstanding chapter for three consecutive years. He cited the fellows from the chapter who served well as members of the Board of Regents and producing a PCS President in the person of Dr. Maximo M. Simbulan Jr.

He encouraged the fellows to use the wisdom and experience of the senior fellows of the chapter in its activities. The drive to become relevant to the community by carrying out its projects for those who have less in life was given emphasis, as well as sound financial situation of the chapter to be able to carry its work in the community. The occasion was attended by Dr. Dures Fe E. Tagayuna, a member of the Board of Regents 2014, who is from Northern Mindanao. Four new fellows were inducted as members of the NM Chapter for 2014. The chapter plans to enhance its Disaster Preparedness Program in light of the two typhoons which directly affected them, and the most recent, Typhoon Yolanda, which devastated Eastern and Western Visayas.

The chapter plans to promote the programs of the College in Northern Mindanao such as Cancer Consciousness Week. It has conducted a lay forum, guested in a radio program, conducted Cancer screening in various commercial establishments of Iligan and Cagayan de Oro Cities last January 2014. Continuing surgical education such as scientific meetings, roundtable discussions is in the works in cooperation with friends from pharmaceutical industry. The Chapter is planning to organize a Biennial Post-Graduate Course in Surgery which will cater to the needs of consultants, residents, and medical students of Northern Mindanao. They are eyeing to host the PCS Midyear Convention in Cagayan de Oro for 2015 or 2016.

• Panay

We envision this year of the Wooden Horse as an exciting year for the PCS-Panay Chapter, even though it is another tumultuous year for its leaders. As leaders, we are called to give ourselves to others, so that, others might follow and do the same, and it goes on and on... which, in the end, will benefit the whole system or the whole organization. As Mr. John C. Maxwell, author of the 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership, has said: "Leadership may mean, Increase in Responsibilities, and Decrease in one's Rights", and we are often asked to give up more than others can. That is why, few have chosen the path we have thread.

The PCS-Panay Chapter Board of Officers for 2014 is composed of Dr. Venerio G. Gasataya, Jr. (President); Dr. Guadalupe V. Matejka, (Vice-President); Dr. Carol Joy T. Quimpo, (Secretary); Dr. Lister P. Leonida, (Treasurer); Dr. Romulo S. Barrameda, Jr. (PIO); Drs. Raoul R. Cañonero, Juan Manuel U. Tirol, Ryan Ed S. Comuelo, Gaudencio S. Franco and Henry P. Tupas, (Directors) and Dr. Luis Serafin D. Dabao, (Ex-officio)

As of the first quarter of the year, the following were the accomplished activities of the chapter:

For January, the chapter celebrated the The National Cancer Consciousness Week with the following activities: Media/Radio Advertisement and announcement of PCS-NCCW activities for the week through Aksyon Radyo AM last January 19-20; posting of NCCW posters and tarpaulins in all major Iloilo City hospitals and The Iloilo Medical Society Building; distribution of NCCW educational flyers and pamphlets at SM City Iloilo entrances and mall strategic areas last January 22; NCCW OPD and Clinic presentations.

In February, the PCS-Panay Chapter Board had a meeting with Subspecialty Society Group Heads. The chapter concerns of the fellows together with that of the subspecialty groups were gathered, submitted and discussed, with the proposed plans and solutions. The minutes of the meeting regarding this, were summarized and presented to the PCS-Vice-President, Dr. Arturo Mendoza, during his visit to the chapter during The PCS-Panay Chapter Board of Officers Induction and Dialogue in March. The Vice-President of the Philippine College of Surgeons, Dr. Mendoza promised to present the chapter concerns to the next Board of Regents Meeting in Manila.

The Chapter, therefore, supports the different programs and proposed projects of our Board of Regents for 2014, through the national office. We further declare our desire to be of help to our least privileged and needy brothers and sisters, especially those who had been hit by typhoon Yolanda, as we continue our efforts to reach out to them and render most needed services.

We encourage all our Fellows to unite and gather our strengths as an organization of prestigious surgical specialists, and move forward for a better PCS.

• North Eastern Luzon

The North Eastern Luzon Chapter, the youngest chapter of the PCS, enters its second year of existence with high hopes and bold aspirations. Despite the birth pains we encountered, we are determined to grow into maturity. We are in a process of solidifying the membership so as to create a cohesive force to implement projects that would benefit the PCS, the community and the members as well.

The North Eastern Luzon Chapter joined in the celebration of the National Cancer Consciousness Week last January 20, 2014. We held a symposium/ dialogue at Santiago City in cooperation with the city health officials. Simultaneously, PCS fellows in Nueva Vizcaya also held a cancer information drive through DWRV, Radio Veritas in Bayombong, NV. Topics regarding cancer awareness, early detection, prevention and cure were discussed according to the specific specialty involved. An open forum followed to clarify and understand questions and myths regarding cancer.

Last February 2014, the North Eastern Luzon Chapter held its first general meeting at Cauayan City. This came after the lecture on Surgical Nutrition sponsored by Abbott. Various projects to be implemented in 2014 were discussed. The projects include a surgical mission at Santiago City, tree planting at Magat Dam and blood donation drive at Cauayan City. Fund raising was seriously considered to augment our finances. Setting up a permanent secretariat of the chapter was proposed to centralize communications between members and with the national office. Regular general meetings and fellowships will definitely be calendared to enhance camaraderie among the members and to get updates about the chapter as well.

Despite the vast geographic consideration of the chapter, we are determined to make every member to be counted and the circle that we form be strengthened. We aspire to be a chapter to be reckoned with.

• Southern Tagalog

The Southern Tagalog Chapter has started the new year running. On January 7, the chapter held a Trauma Lecture with Dr. Warren Roraldo conducting a lecture on "Primary Survey in Trauma" in University of Perpetual Help Dr. Jose G Tamayo Medical Center.

Two days later, the Department of Surgery of University of Perpetual Help-Consortium, in coordination with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the University of Perpetual Help Dr. Jose G Tamayo Medical Center organized a blood letting activity last January 9. This was headed by Dr. Cesar Ubaldo, Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

The chapter also promoted National Cancer Consciousness Week via a TV Interview on Royal Cable where Dr. Roy Alfurong discussed the different projects of PCS-STC and NCCW on January 17. The chapter held a bike ride promoting cancer awareness in Nuvali on January 19. Surgeons and nurses from the various hospitals located in the Southern Tagalog area joined the exercise. Various Lay Fora were handled by Drs. Rachel Agarrado and Emman Baes on January 20 in various locations: Ospital ng Binan, University of Perpetual Help Dr. Jose G Tamayo Medical Center, and Alpha Angelicum. More forums followed on January 25 at the Batangas Medical Center and at the De La Salle University Medical Center.

PCS-STC members Dr. Emmanuel Baes and Dr. Warren Roraldo gave ATLS lectures last March 7-8. The ATLS group of the chapter also welcomed two new members, Dr. Jose Tenorio and Dr. Carlo Jose Fuentabella. They join Doctors Ramoncito Magnaye, Emmanuel A. Baes, Warren Roraldo and Arvin Briones.

To help encourage non-fellows to take the Surgery Diplomate Board Exam, Dr. Emman Baes and Dr. George Alora conducted a talk last March 14 at Racks, Paseo De Sta Rosa.

Junior Surgeon Southern Tagalog

Dr. Emmanuel Baes, the current chapter president, introduced the PCS-ST program "Junior Surgeon- Southern Tagalog Chapter" last March 17. Together with Dr. Kartrina Velasco, he gave a lecture on first aid to high school students of University of Perpetual Help High School and Alpha Angelicum. Similar workshops are scheduled this coming June in Laguna, Batangas, Cavite and Quezon.

Doctors Baes and Velasco at the First Aid Workshop

The Department of Surgery of the University of Perpetual Help Dr. Jose G. Tamayo Medical Center, Jonelta Foundation Perpetual Help, together with the PCS-STC, held a surgical mission for the Jonelta Members of the University of Perpetual Help Dr. Jose G. Tamayo Medical Center was held last March 20-21. Operations done were laparoscopic and open cholecystectomies, thyroidectomies, mastectomies, and hemorrhoidectomies.

Another mission was held Medical Mission on March 23 in Palawan by the PCS-ST. The M.O.B. (Milagros Olivares Borabien) Foundation was a partner in this undertaking.



• Metro Manila

The 2014 Board of Directors of the Philippine College of Surgeons Metro Manila Chapter, headed by its President, Dr. Domingo S. Bongala Jr., has laid out the plans for the many upcoming activities of the chapter.

The officers and new fellows of the chapter were inducted last February 21, 2014 at the Richmond Hotel, Pasig City with Philippine College of Surgeons Vice President Dr. Arturo Mendoza as guest speaker and inducting officer.

The Committee on Surgical Education headed by Dr. Paul Anthony L. Sunga has lined up the following surgical subspecialty symposia at Unilab: on May 2, a Panel Discussion on "Head and Neck: The Mystery behind Unknown Primary Malignancy"; and on September 19, a Lecture on "The Significance of Simulator on Surgical Training." The chapter is also looking forward to the very popular and well attended "Batakan ng Utak" scheduled on August 23, 2014 at the Bayanihan Hall. Since this is becoming a seriously competitive affair, some revisions will be implemented to make this quiz contest more relevant to the participants.

Dr. Alfred Q. Lasala II who chairs the Committee on Surgical Training has prepared a very interesting annual PCSMMC Postgraduate Course with the theme "Managing Surgical Complications and Complex Situations." This will be held on June 24-25, 2014 at the Bayanihan Hall. Topics will include complex cases for the general surgeon, surgical oncology, abdominal infections, gastrointestinal bleeding, trauma, hepatobiliary conditions, among others.

Sometime August, during the PSGS National Convention, the chapter will hold a fund-raising concert featuring the band of PCSMMC director Dr. Ronald A. Yutangco.

The PCS MMC enjoins all members to participate and is looking forward to seeing them during these activities! / *Luisa D. Aquino, MD, FPCS, FPSPS*



• Academy of Filipino Neurosurgeons, Inc.

The Academy of Filipino Neurosurgeons, Inc. has a monthly scientific meeting every last Wednesday of the month. For the first quarter of 2014, the AFN had the following topics and speakers for its monthly scientific meeting:

- 1 Dr. Theodor S. Vesagas, Executive Secretary, Philippine Board of Neurological Surgery : "Philippine Neurosurgical Training: Current Status and Future Directions"
- 2 Dr. Shirley Lourdes B. Domingo, Philhealth Vice-President, NCR and Rizal: "AFN Meets Philhealth: Issues and Concerns"
- 3 Dr. Rodrigo Angelo Ong, Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary: "Disaster Preparedness for the Neurosurgeon"



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2014 Officers of the Academy of Filipino Neurosurgeons, Inc. Oath Taking, December 4, 2013 at EDSA-Shangrila Hotel from left to right: Dr. Alfred Tan (President), Dr. Jose Aguilar (Vice-President) and Dr. Renan Acosta (Secretary-Treasurer)

• PALES: New Directions towards International Excellence

The Philippine Association of Laparoscopic & Endoscopic Surgeons has recently elected its new set of Board of Directors during the 69th Annual Clinical Congress of the Philippine College of Surgeons. The new set of officers is led by its President - Jose Macario V. Faylona, MD, Vice President - Alex A. Erasmo, MD, Secretary - Anthony R. Perez, MD and Treasurer - Ramund Andrew G. Ong, MD. The new members of the board of directors are the following: Drs. Alfred Allen E. Buenafe, Ramon L. De Vera, Jeffrey J.P. Domino, Noel C. Evangelista, Miguel C. Mendoza, Hermogenes J. Monroy III, Alejandro M. Palines Jr., Don Edward S. Rosello, Jose Antonio M. Salud, Ernesto C. Tan and Dr. Vivencio Jose P. Villaflor III.

Having attained the privilege to host the upcoming Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Surgeons of Asia (ELSA) convention by the year 2017, its Board of Directors wasted no time in conducting its strategic plan last February 9, 2014 at the Unilab Bayanihan Center, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City. It crafted its vision to be an internationally renowned society of surgeons, dedicated to the safe, excellent, efficient and accessible practice of laparoscopic and endoscopic procedures in the country.

To achieve this strategy, the board aims to continually standardize and advance the training of laparoscopic and endoscopic surgery as well as ensure the accessibility of its expertise to all regions of the country while promoting a fellowship of competent, safe, ethical and compassionate surgeons. It also aspires to pursue international excellence in this field thru collaborative efforts and encourage relevant research and innovations to its members.

With these new goals set and plans laid out, the new Board of Directors now focuses on a daunting task of implementing its mission to lead PALES towards an achievable new direction. This would truly advance and uplift the practice of laparoscopic and endoscopic surgery in the country.

PALES Goes 3D

The Philippine Association of Laparoscopic & Endoscopic Surgeons (PALES) announced the holding of the first-ever congress that will tackle the multi-disciplinary approaches and concerns in Minimal Invasive Surgery.

Taking the theme "PALES Goes 3D", PALES seeks to further integrate and mobilize its members to chart the organization's Direction in the years to come, to achieve more technologically-enhanced Developments in MIS, and to strengthen its Dynamism for a deeper and renewed commitment of different specialties performing MIS procedures. As preparations for the Congress shift to high gear, CSE chair Dr. Vivencio Jose P. Villaflor and PALES Board Members expressed their utmost excitement and optimism for this forthcoming event. "This early, our invited speakers and other guests have confirmed their attendance. They too are showing a high level of enthusiasm to attend the PALES congress."

Among the highlights of the congress are:

- 3D Presentation of digestive diseases
- Live telesurgery
- Satellite laboratory simulation
- Video and video editing contest for resident physicians
- Collaboration w the PSA, APHS, nurses
- Participation of urology, pediatric surgery, thoracic surgery, colorectal surgery
- Pre and post-convention workshops

The Congress will be held from July 10 to 12, 2014 at the Manila Diamond Hotel on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.



• Philippine Urological Association, Inc.

Samuel Vincent G. Yrastorza MD

The PUA conducted its Strategic Planning Workshop at the Privato Hotel along Shaw Boulevard on March 15 of the present year. This was led by our president, Dr. Ulysses Quanico and the present members of the executive board. Participating urologists came from as far as Western Visayas, Mindanao and Southern Luzon to tackle important issues.

The workshop focused on the goals that the PUA would like to achieve by 2016. With numerous activities on line, the group decided to concentrate on 3 priority activities:

1. HMO and PHIC concerns
2. Skills workshop training for the general membership
3. National DRE

These are the projects that were deemed to be of high impact to the association and its members and greatly support its mission, vision and core values. However, these will not be the only activities of the association. Other existing projects and activities like the surgical missions would still continue and get the support of the association.

The HMO and the PHIC concerns topped the priority list as most of the participants felt that this was one area that the

association really had to focus on. The goal set for this was to attain fair and just RUV values for the surgical procedures as well as pushed for more secondary procedures that will be credited by the PHIC.

The skills workshops training for the general membership came in 2nd on the priority list. The general sentiment was that the existing skills workshops for the general membership, should be pushed more for the general membership. As surgeons we need to continuously hone our skills and keep abreast with the advances in urology worldwide.

The National PaDRE has been a core activity of the association for the past years. It is held every year, on one Saturday in June which is the day before Father's Day. On this day, free prostate screening is conducted for men 40 years and above through DRE Centers nationwide. It was decided during the group discussions to adopt the Dr. Quanico's suggestion to widen the scope of the activity to Men's Health. This was to give the yearly activity a facelift and make it more exciting and appealing to the general public. It was also decided that Free Men's Health examination would be provided in all public and private Urology clinic all over the country. This would be the first service of such kind in the Philippines and our way of giving back for our countrymen.

The strategic planning ended on a high note with everyone being optimistic on meeting the set goals.

• The Association of Women Surgeons of the Philippines (AWSP)

This wasn't an ordinary PCS-related meeting. The first inkling was at the registration: women wearing fascinators manned the registration table, their necks laden with crepe-paper leis of various colors. They urged registrants to choose a lei in the color of their choice. Upon entering the venue, one found a large set of makeup on the table with directors' chairs strewn near it.

It was Women's Month and the Association of Women Surgeons of the Philippines wasn't going to let that pass by without a celebration. With the theme of Beauty & Wellness, the AWSP held an acquaintance party on March 15, 2014 at the Unilab Bayanihan Hall Annex.

Participants included founding members, consultants and residents of various training programs.

The majority milled around the make-up table where some opted for a makeover from Avon. On hand were tools to apply eyeliners, foundations, powders, blush, and lipsticks. Gales of laughter were heard along with oohs and aahs as the women surgeons took advantage of Avon's expert makeup artists. "Before and after" photographs documented the transformation. Giveaways were distributed and the main event began.

The first portion was the Avon talk which centered on beauty and wellness. It was emphasized that a nurturer who was well further strengthened the way she raised her family members, dealt with her hospital colleagues and treated her patients.

After a few minutes of serious lecture and some questions, the next part of the acquaintance party took place. This was ably emceed by Dr. Joan Tagorda and assisted by Drs. Cheryl Cucueco, Rica Lumague, Edna Dacudao, Hilda Sagayaga and Monette Casupang.

The competitive spirit was strong among the yellow, green, pink and purple teams (depending on the color of the lei one chose upon registration.) A "bring me" game warmed up the crowd.

A hilarious karaoke game followed.

(It was a wonder to the residents that the more established members of the PCS were as enthusiastic about the games as the younger ones.) The next game, charades, had movies as the subject.

The cocktail fare and drinks were consumed as the afternoon progressed. The day ended with a group snapshot of the women surgeons of the country.



COMMITTEES 2014

I. CLUSTER A: SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM AND SURGICAL EDUCATION CONCERNS

Head: Arturo E. Mendoza, Jr., M.D.

1. Committee on Conventions

Chair: Arturo E. Mendoza, Jr. MD

Members: George G. Lim, MD

Gabriel L. Martinez, MD

Napoleon B. Alcedo Jr., MD (CSE)

Domingo S. Bongala, MD (MYC 2014)

Jorge M. Concepcion, MD (ACC 2014)

Alfred Q. Lasala, II, MD (MYC 2015 / Socials & Sports)

Mary Geraldine Remucal, MD (ACC 2015)

Alfred Philip O. de Dios, MD (Physical Arrangements)

Ma. Concepcion C. Vesagas, MD (Publications/Documentation)

Function: The Committee shall organize and prepare a program for the Midyear and Annual Conventions in coordination with the respective standing committees.

Tasks:

- 1) To oversee the overall planning and implementation of the PCS Midyear and Annual Conventions
- 2) To market the PCS conventions to surgery societies, surgeons in the ASEAN region and the other international surgery organizations
- 3) To devise strategies to improve the attendance of Fellows and residents in the PCS Convention
- 4) To analyze the evaluation of the midyear and annual conventions and submit recommendations to the BOR

2. Committee on Continuing Surgical Education

Chair: Napoleon B. Alcedo, Jr., MD

Co-Chair: Jorge M. Concepcion, MD (ACC 2014)

Members: Domingo S. Bongala, Jr., MD (MYC 2014)

Alfred Q. Lasala, II, MD (MYC 2015)

Mary Geraldine Remucal, MD (ACC 2015)

Roberto O. Domingo, MD (Primary Care)

Ma. Rical M Lumague, MD (Postgraduate Course)

Jeffrey Geronimo Domino, MD

Regent-in-charge: Jose Macario V. Faylona, MD

Function: The Committee shall prepare, arrange or coordinate all scientific meetings and postgraduate courses of the College. It shall also collaborate with Chapters and affiliate societies in the preparation of their scientific meetings.

Tasks:

- 1) To prepare the scientific program for both the Midyear Convention and Annual Clinical Congress for the next three (3) years
- 2) Conduct primary care sessions in several identified areas

- 3) Coordinate the postgraduate activities of the different institutions that conduct postgraduate courses.
- 4) To determine CSE units for each scientific sessions/postgraduate/workshop conducted
- 5) Create proceedings of selected lectures during the convention for uploading to the PCS website.
- 6) Submit updated speakers' bureau
- 7) Finalize the rules and guidelines regarding conduct of postgraduate courses during conventions
- 8) To include topics during the conventions that will strengthen ethics and values formation education in the training and continuing surgical education activities of the College
- 9) To ensure the proper evaluation of the different sessions and the convention as a whole

a) Sub-committee on Midyear Convention, 2014

Chair: Domingo S. Bongala Jr., MD
Co-Chair: Dakila P. de los Angeles, MD
Members: Elvis C. Llarena, MD
Jose A. Solomon, MD
Catherine Co, MD
Luinio S. Tongson, MD
Eduardo S. Esequé, MD
Dante G. Ang, MD
Representative from PCS DSM Chapter

b) Sub-committee on Annual Clinical Congress, 2014

Chair: Jorge M. Concepcion, MD
Co-Chair: Ma. Concepcion C. Vesagas, MD
Members: Jeffrey Jeronimo P. Domino, MD
Pierette Y. Kaw, MD
Ronald A. Yutangco, MD
Marielou B. Fuentes, MD
Alfred Philip O. De Dios, MD
Samuel Yrastoraza, MD
Marco Paul Lopez, MD
Karen Luna, MD
Bong Tuason, MD

c) Sub-committee on Midyear Convention, 2015

Chair: Alfred Q. Lasala II, MD
Co-Chair: Jose A. Solomon, MD
Members: Joan S. Tagorda, MD
Marilo N. Agno, MD
Andrei Cesar S. Abella, MD
Elvis Llarena, MD
Catherine Co, MD
Alfred Philip de Dios, MD
Allen Anthony D. Sese, MD

COMMITTEES 2014

d) Sub-committee on Annual Clinical Congress, 2015

Chair: Mary Geraldine Remucal, MD
Co-Chair: Alfred Philip O. de Dios, MD
Members: Carlo Angelo Cajucom, MD
Enrique Hilario O. Esguerra, MD
Aldine Astrid B. Ocampo, MD
Vivian P. Enriquez, MD
Dante G. Ang, MD

e) Sub-committee on Primary Care Surgery for Family Physicians

Chair: Roberto O. Domingo, MD
Members: Andrei Cesar S. Abella, MD
Alfred Philip O. de Dios, MD
Stanley U. Kho, MD
Mary Geraldine B. Remucal, MD
Joel P. Merced, MD

f) Sub-committee on Postgraduate Courses & Scientific Meetings

Chair: Ma. Rica M. Lumague, MD
Co-Chair: Marilou N. Agno, MD
Members: Orlino C. Bisquera Jr., MD
Miguel C. Mendoza, MD
Romel T. Menguito, MD

3. Committee on Awards

Chair: Ernesto C. Tan, MD
Co-Chairs: Ramon L. de Vera, M.D.
Domingo S. Bongala Jr, MD (President, PSGS)
Enrico P. Ragaza, MD
Alfred H. Belmonte, MD

Regent-in-charge: Jesus V. Valencia, MD

Tasks:

- 1) In addition to the current awards being given, the Committee shall study giving more awards in recognition to outstanding Fellows of the College.
- 2) To review the guidelines for the search of the Lifetime Achievement Award and set guidelines for the Legends of the Knife.

4. Committee on Socials & Sports

Chair: Alfred Q. Lasala II, MD
Co-Chairs: Marcus Jose B. Brillantes, MD
Noel C. Evangelisa, MD
Vincent Paul Olalia, MD

Regent-in-charge: Ramon S. Inso, MD

Task:

- 1) To schedule other sports activities, other than golf.

5. Committee on Trauma

Chair: Joel U. Macalino, MD
Co-Chairs: Adrien R. Quidlat, MD
Members: Jorge M. Concepcion, MD
Marcelo M. Pacheco, MD
Emmanuel M. Bueno, MD
Adonis C. Gascon, MD
Michael Angelo T. Francisco, MD
Alfonso Nunez, MD
Raymundo R. Resurreccion, MD
Enrico P. Ragaza, MD (for the ATLS)
Joseph T. Juico, MD (for the BETTER Course)

Regent-in-charge: Ramoncito C. Magnaye, MD

Functions: The Committee shall initiate, coordinate and implement all activities of the College related to trauma. It shall establish a National Trauma Program for the teaching, research and practice of the surgery of trauma. It shall encourage the establishment of trauma centers nationwide for the management of all types of injuries including burns.

Tasks:

- 1) To continue the ATLS Course
- 2) To continue the BEST program
- 3) To conduct trainers' workshop for BETTER as needed
- 4) To coordinate with government and NGOs in terms of trauma injury prevention and control to include surveillance, lobbying for appropriate legislation
- 5) To coordinate and support the PCS chapters regarding their trauma programs especially on disaster preparedness
- 6) To establish a network of communication to connect PCS and Chapters to other agencies involved in cases of disaster and mass casualty events
- 7) To create quality assurance programs for trauma patients

Ad-Hoc Committee on ATLS:

Chair: Maximo H. Simbulan Jr., MD
Course Director: Enrico P. Ragaza, MD
Assistant Course Director: Orlando O. Ocampo, MD

6. Committee on Critical Care & Nutrition

Chair: Raymundo R. Resurreccion, MD
Co-Chairs: Luisito O. Llido, M.D.
Jesus Fernando B. Inciong, MD
Leoncio L. Kaw Jr., MD
Orlando O. Ocampo, MD
Marie Dionne Sacdalan, MD
Marc Paul Lopez, MD
Reynaldo Sinamban, MD
Eduardo Ayuste, MD

Regent-in-charge: Dures Fe E. Tagayuna, MD

COMMITTEES 2014

Tasks:

- 1) To ensure compliance to IONS forms and implementation (?)
- 2) To involve multiple disciplines in formulating policies on surgical nutrition
- 3) To promote EBCPG on Critical Care and Nutritional Support for surgical patients.
- 4) To develop relevant educational programs for conventions and dissemination through Chapters.
- 5) To conduct seminars/workshops on Critical Care similar to B.E.S.T.
- 6) To create a curriculum for the seminars/workshops on Critical Care

7. Committee on Cancer

Chair: Mark R. Kho, MD
Co-Chair: Ida Marie T. Lim, MD
Members: Vivian P. Enriquez, MD
Alex S. Sua, MD
Norwin T. Uy, MD
Vitus R. Talla, MD
Gerald T. Alcid, MD
Catherine S. Co, MD
Marwin Matic, MD
Edmundo E. Villaroman, MD

Regent-in-charge: Hermogenes J. Monroy, III, MD

Function: The Committee shall initiate, coordinate and implement all activities of the College related to cancer. It shall establish a National Cancer Program for the teaching, research, and surgery of cancer. A national cancer education shall be institutionalized by the College alone or in cooperation with other National Cancer agencies.

Tasks:

- 1) To continue promoting cancer awareness in the community
- 2) To enrich the teaching and training of residents on cancer
- 3) To conduct cancer lay forum during the Midyear Convention and Annual Clinical Congress
- 4) To pursue until fruition of the research on hormone receptor status of breast cancer specimens (together with committee on research/PSP)
- 5) To establish network data on cancer

8. Committee on Surgical Infections

Chair: Martin Anthony A. Villa, MD
Co-Chair: Esther A. Saguil, MD
Members: Emmanuel S. Asedillo, MD
Allan Troy D. Baquir, MD
Miguel Gary D. Valdez, MD
Catherine Co, MD
Sir Emmanuel S. Astudillo, MD

Regent-in-charge: Jose Antonio M. Salud, MD

Function: The Committee shall initiate, coordinate and implement all activities of the College related to surgical infections. It shall establish a National Infection Control Program for the prevention, surveillance and control of surgical infection.

Tasks:

- 1) To continue dissemination of present Evidence-based Clinical Practice Guidelines on infections
- 2) To produce relevant information materials on surgical infections
- 3) To conduct regional surgical infection forum
- 4) To establish national data on surgical infections

9. Committee on Surgical Research

Chair: Alfred Philip O. De Dios, MD

Co-Chair: Leonardo O. Ona III, MD

Members: Jose Modesto B. Abellera III, MD
Ma. Cheryl L. Cucueco, MD
Bernardita C. Navarro, MD
Ma. Luisa D. Aquino, MD
Aldrin Joseph R. Gamboa, MD
Catherine Co, MD
Arlene T. Fajardo, MD

Representatives from specialty societies: (to be submitted by specialty societies)

Regent-in-charge: Rose Marie R. Liqueste, MD

Function: The committee shall initiate, coordinate and implement all activities of the College related to surgical research in cooperation with other committees.

Tasks:

- 1) To continue conducting activities that will develop the knowledge and capability of Fellows and residents in research
- 2) To oversee the development of evidence-based practice guidelines on common surgical conditions in cooperation with PHIC and DOH.
- 3) To submit adapted/screened evidence based clinical practice guidelines on top 5 surgical diseases on all specialties
- 4) To establish study groups on selected surgical disease
 - Thyroid
 - Breast
 - Peptic ulcer diseases

a) Sub-committee on Inventions & Innovations

Chair: Leonardo A. Ona III, MD

Members: Martin Anthony A. Villa, MD
Samuel Vicente Yrastorza, MD

Regent-in-charge: Hermogenes J. Monroy III, MD

COMMITTEES 2014

10. Committee on Surgical Training

Chair: Orlando O. Ocampo, MD
Co-Chairs: Gerald T. Alcid, MD
Alfred Philip O. de Dios, MD
Eduardo S. Esequie, MD
Gerardo L. Irigayen, MD
Andrew Jay G. Pusung, MD
Allan Troy D. Baquir, MD
Andrei Cesar S. Abella, MD
Alfred Q. Lasala III, MD
Briccio G. Alcantara, MD
Delfin B. Cuajunco, MD
Cenon R. Alfonso, MD
Adrien R. Quidlat, MD

Lesli Reyes, MD – ORTHO
Specialty society representatives:

Regent-in-charge: Edgar A. Baltazar, MD

Function: The educational welfare of surgical residents in PCS accredited training programs shall be the primary concern of the committee. Likewise, it shall propose and supervise remedial courses in surgery in cooperation with the respective PCS chapters whenever necessary. Where Surgical Residency Scholarships are available, the Committee shall evaluate and select the scholars.

Tasks: 1) To disseminate and implement the core curriculum on professionalism
2) To identify issues and concerns that cut across all surgical specialties
3) To draft handbook on good surgical practice, Philippine version, with Com. on Ethics & Judicial Matters

a) Sub-committee on ASEAN Summit
Chair: Josefina R. Almonte, MD
Members: Armando C. Crisostomo, MD
Shirard A. Adiviso, MD
Jose Y. Cueto Jr., MD
Rolando Reyes, MD

Regent-in-charge: Edgar A. Baltazar, MD

Task: 1) To come up with activities for the Asean Summit on Basic Core Competencies for Asean General Surgeons.

11. Committee on Quality Assurance & Patient Safety

Chair: Cenon R. Alfonso, MD
Co-Chairs: Joseph D. Quebral, MD
Jorge M. Concepcion, MD
Manuel Francisco T. Roxas, MD

Regent-in-charge: Jose Antonio M. Salud, MD

Task: 1) To develop measures that will improve patient safety
2) To disseminate the Patient Safety Program

II. CLUSTER B – POLITICAL FUNCTIONS

Head: **George G. Lim, MD**

1. Committee on Membership

Chair: Alejandro C. Dizon, MD

Members: Ervin H. Nucum, MD
Jose Vivencio P. Villaflor III, MD
Hernan P. Ang, MD
Erwin B. Alcazares, MD (Chair, PCS MMC Committee On Membership)
Jose A. Solomon, MD(Chair, PSGS Committee On Membership)

Regent-in-charge: George G. Lim, MD

Function: The committee shall consider and evaluate all applications for membership and make recommendations to the Board of Regents. It shall promote activities for membership development.

Tasks:

- 1) To screen all applicants to the PCS
- 2) To recommend to the BOR applicants who passed the screening process of the committee to be members of the PCS.
- 3) To recommend to the BOR members to be “dropped” from the roster.
- 4) To develop strategies that will improve monitoring of Fellows attendance in the conventions.
- 5) To finish the Fellows Database System
- 6) To formulate a Membership Development Program
- 7) To develop a Handbook/Curriculum on surgeons career path
- 8) To come up with a more comprehensive Initiate orientation activities
- 9) To draft a proposal for additional membership category to the College

2. Committee on Nominations

Chair: Stephen Sixto Siguan, MD

Members: Josefina R. Almonte, MD
Maximo H. Simbulan Jr. MD
Alfred H. Belmonte, MD
Jesus V. Valencia, MD (President, 2014)
Servando Sergio DC Simangan Jr., MD (Chair, BOG)

Function: The committee shall seek and nominate Fellows best qualified to serve as Regents. It shall evaluate and nominate twenty candidates.

3. Commission on Elections (COMELEC)

Chair: Vicente Q. Arguelles, MD

Commissioners: Ponciano M. Bernardo Jr., MD
Leonardo A. Ona Jr., MD
Adriano V. Laudico, MD
Roman L. Belmonte Jr., MD

COMMITTEES 2014

Tasks:

- 1) To come up with a short but comprehensive Candidates curriculum vitae performance of the previous Board of Regents
- 2) To implement and supervise all electoral functions including but not limited to referenda, plebiscite and the like.

4. Committee on By-laws and Amendments

Chair: Hector M. Santos Jr., MD
Members: Teresita R. Sanchez, MD, LIB
Apolonio L. Lasala, MD
Romeo G. Encanto, MD
Cenon R. Alfonso, MD
Leo O. Olarte, MD, LIB
Atty. JJ Disini (By Invitation)

Regent-in-charge: Ramon S. Inso, MD

Function: The committee shall initiate, receive, evaluate and make recommendations on all amendment proposals to the Board of Regents who shall in turn refer the same to the general membership for final disposition.

Task:

- 1) To address issues raised regarding the procedure of getting proxies for the amendment of the By-Law.

5. Committee on Ethics & Judicial Matters

Chair: Josefina R. Almonte, MD
Members: Ramon L. de Vera, MD
Alejandro C. Dizon, MD
Cenon R. Alfonso, MD
Rica D. Mirasol-Lumague, MD
Atty. JJ Disini (by invitation)

Regent-in-charge: Jesus V. Valencia, MD/Rose Marie R. Liquete, MD

Function: The committee shall initiate, receive, investigate, evaluate and recommend to the Board of Regents for action any or all matters pertaining to the ethical and professional conduct of a Fellow and other judicial matters. It shall establish the disciplinary procedures of the College upon approval by the Board.

Tasks:

- 1) To recommend topics for CSE on ethical issues.
- 2) To monitor compliance of Fellows to PMA & PCS Code of Ethics
- 3) To come up with a Handbook on good surgical practice with Committee on Surgical Training

III. CLUSTER C – FINANCIAL MATTERS

Head: **Gabriel L. Martinez, MD**

1. Committee on Finance

Chair: Jaime L. Balingit, MD

Members: Elvis L. Bedia, MD
Domingo O. Amistad, MD
Romeo R. Fernandez, MD (Chair, Committee on FAP)
Jose A. Solomon, MD (Chair, PCS Building Committee)

Regent-in-charge: Gabriel L. Martinez, MD

Function: The committee shall be charged with preparing recommendations for the management of the funds of the College thru long term financial planning and fiscal control and in consultation with the President and the various committees, prepare and recommend the annual budget to the Board of Regents.

Tasks:

- 1) To increase financial stability of the College
- 2) To increase income from the building & other sources of income
- 3) To continue cost efficient measures
- 4) To increase investment portfolios

2. Committee on PCS Building

Chair: Jose A. Solomon, MD

Members: Luis O. Buño Jr., MD
Dexter M. Aison, MD
Romeo R. Fernandez, MD
Rouel Mateo M. Azores, MD
Jose Ravelo T. Bartolome, MD

Regent-in-charge: Antonio S. Say, MD

Tasks:

- 1) To monitor the structural integrity of the PCS building
- 2) Recommends repairs of the physical structure of the PCS Building
- 3) To address the concerns of the tenants

3. Committee on Fellows Assistance Plan

Chair: Romeo R. Fernandez, MD

Members: Roberto M. De Leon, MD
Josefino C. Qua, MD
Emmanuel F. Montana Jr., MD
Erwin Emeterio L. Isla, MD

Regent-in-charge: Antonio S. Say, MD

Function: The committee shall manage the health and welfare concerns of the Fellows. The committee shall supervise and implement the FAP in cooperation with the Board of Regents who shall from time to time, determine the membership obligations and benefits.

COMMITTEES 2014

Tasks:

- 1) To study measures to make Fellows Assistance Plan (FAP) viable.
- 2) To monitor the pension plan for Fellows
- 3) To conduct actuarial studies of FAP
- 4) To devise alternative usage of the FAP for the benefit of our Fellows.
- 5) To formulate strategies on how to augment FAP benefits

4. Committee on Internal Audit

Chair: Ma. Cheryl L. Cucueco, MD
Members: Bilson S. Ong, MD
Josefino G. Sanchez, MD
David Dy, MD

Regent-in-charge: Fernando A. Melendres, MD

Function: The committee shall conduct an annual internal audit of all the funds and properties of the College. It shall prepare auditing rules to be adopted by the Board including those for the annual internal audit. Internal audit must be reported to the Board quarterly.

Tasks:

- 1) To conduct annual internal audit of all funds and properties of PCS
- 2) To oversee that the Committees tasks/functions are accomplished.

5. Committee on Administrative Concerns

Chair: Arturo E. Mendoza Jr., MD
Members: Jesus V. Valencia, MD
Gabriel L. Martinez, MD
George G. Lim, MD
Atty. JJ Disini (By Invitation)

Tasks:

- 1) To define the job descriptions of the PCS employees
- 2) To devise strategies to improve the working relationship of the administrative staff
- 3) To enhance the skills of the administrative staff
- 4) To convert College documents to an electronic form.

IV. CLUSTER D - EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Head: Fernando A. Melendres, MD

1. Committee on External Affairs & Public Relations

Chair: Romeo G. Encanto, MD
Members: Dennis H. Littaua, MD (Foundation Day)
Servando Sergio DC Simangan Jr., MD (Legislative Liaison)
Samuel Vicente Yrastorza, MD (Website)

Regent-in-charge: Fernando A. Melendres, MD

COMMITTEES 2014

Functions: The committee shall conduct information drives, promote wholesome public relations for the College nationally and internationally and address health bills and issues involving physicians in general and surgeons in particular.

The committee shall serve as the liaison organization to promote the interest and welfare of surgeons in the Philippines. It shall serve as the public relations arm of the College.

It shall address health bills and issues involving health care, physicians in general and surgeons in particular.

Tasks:

- 1) To encourage other PCS Chapters to either establish a Klinika ng Bayan or to adopt a district hospital program
- 2) To develop a video regarding the PCS Klinika ng Bayan and other socio-civic activities of the College.
- 3) To ensure that the PCS website is fully operational and regularly updated
- 4) To get a list of all pending medical bills in Congress
- 5) To lobby for the approval of the Medicine Act of 2000 and other bills beneficial to patients and doctor
- 6) To continue the “Ang Galing Mo Dok” program and Health Forum
- 7) To help formulate health bills that will improve patient health and protect the interest of patients and physicians
- 8) To organize a Patient Liaison Group in each Chapter
- 9) To explore the possibility of putting up a telemedicine facility in strategic places in the country
- 10) To pursue the tax relief bill

a) **Sub-committee on Legislative Liaison**

Chair: Servando Sergio DC Simangan, Jr.MD

Members: Dale Avellanosa, MD
Pierrette Kaw, MD
Dionne Sacdalan, MD

b) **Sub-committee on Media Liaison**

Chair: Jose S. Pujalte, Jr., MD

Members: Rhoderick M. Casis, MD
Christopher Cheng, MD
Luis Florencio, MD

c) **Sub-committee on PCS Website and Medical Informatics**

Chair: Samuel Vincente Yrastorza, MD

Members: Narciso F. Atienza, Jr., MD
Robert Y. Chan, MD

COMMITTEES 2014

d) Sub-committee on PCS Foundation Day

Chair: Dennis Littaua, MD
Members: Virgilio Siozon, MD
Elvis C. Llarena, MD
Pauldion V. Cruz, MD
Alfred Q. Lasala II, MD

e) Ad-hoc Committee on International Relations

Chair: Alfred H. Belmonte, MD
Members: Josefina R. Almonte, MD (2012-14)
Maximo H. Simbulan Jr., MD (2012-15)

Tasks:

- 1) To develop and nurture relations with surgical and non-surgical organizations towards achieving the College's Mission and Vision
- 2) To organize activities for the delegates of the ASEAN summit.

2. Committee on HMO & RVS

Chair: Enrico P. Ragaza, MD
Members: Rey Melchor F. Santos, MD
George Co Jr., MD (Ophtha)

Society representatives:

Regent-in-charge: Dures Fe E. Tagayuna, MD

Function: To study and accredit HMO programs in order to safeguard the professional interest of surgeons.

Tasks:

- 1) To review the Memorandum of Agreement with AHMOPI and make recommendations regarding renewal
- 2) To continue to negotiate for better benefits for Fellows/Diplomates of PCS with the AHMOPI and the PHIC
- 3) To disseminate information and guidelines regarding relationship with AHMOPI
- 4) To discuss again with AHMOPI on IRR on charging in relation to the case mix rates

3. Committee on SURE & Outreach Services

Chair: Joseph Melbert O. Gulfan, MD
Members: Edmund R. Mercado, MD
Luis N. Florencio Jr., MD
Randolf Carmelo T. Trinidad, MD

Regent-in-charge: Maximo B. Nadala, MD

Function: The committee shall establish a National Program on Outreach Services to extend charity surgical care to the indigent population of the country.

Tasks:

- 1) To conduct surgical missions for indigent patients in underserved areas (by chapters and affiliate societies) in conjunction with LGUs and other NGOs.
- 2) To monitor and implement guidelines in the conduct of surgical missions/S.U.R.E. activities
- 3) To monitor the activities of the MOA with Coron District Hospital.

4. Committee on Publications & Documentation

Chair: Ma. Concepcion C. Vesagas MD
Members: Marwin Emerson V. Matic, MD
Raymund Noel C. Mallari, MD
Noelito M. Lacsamana, MD
Peter Raymund M. Quilendrino, MD

Regent-in-charge: George G. Lim, MD

Function: The committee shall manage all publications of the College except the PJSS and promulgate rules and regulations pertaining thereto. The Secretary of the College shall serve as ex-officio member of the committee with all the rights of membership.

Tasks:

- 1) To provide a list of educational opportunities, professional enhancement
- 2) To inform public of conventions through broadsheet, supplements and website
- 3) To make a unified and accurate PCS history
- 4) To properly document convention proceedings
- 5) To publish the PCS Desk Calendar for 2015
- 6) To ensure timely publication of the quarterly issues of the PCS Newsletter
- 7) To ensure that all worthwhile articles are sent out in the PCS Website
- 8) To complete the history of the PCS for posting in the website.
- 9) To ensure photo documentation of official PCS functions and activities.

a) PCS Newsletter

Editor-in-Chief: Ma. Concepcion C. Vesagas MD
Editorial Staff: Jeannette Nora I. Silao, MD
Marwin Emerson V. Matic, MD
Joel U. Macalino, MD
Marcus Jose B. Brillantes, MD
Jose S. Pujalte Jr., MD
Regent-in-charge: George G. Lim, MD

Task:

- 1) To discuss and devise strategies to widen the circulation of the PCS Newsletter.

5. Joint Coordinating Committee for Accreditation & Certification (JCCAC)

Chair: Eduardo R. Gatchalian, MD
Co-Chair: Alfred H. Belmonte, MD
Members: Shirard L. Adiviso, MD
Robert C. So, MD

COMMITTEES 2014

Society Representatives:

William L. Olalia, MD	(GS)
Ariel A. Zerudo, MD	(Urology)
Dures Fe E. Tagayuna, MD	(Pediatric Surgery)
Andres D. Borromeo, MD	(Orthopedic Surgery)
Glenn Angelo S. Genuino, MD	(Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery)
Leovigildo Isabela Jr., MD	(Neurosurgery)
Felixberto S. Lukban, MD	(TCVS)
Edgardo C. Rodriguez Jr., MD	(Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery)
Benito V. Purugganan, MD	(Transplant Surgery)
Ricardo Quintos, MD, MD	(Vascular Surgery)
Hermogenes J. Monroy II, MD	(Colorectal Surgery)
Cosme I. Naval, MD	(Ophthalmology)

Regent-in-charge: Edgar A. Baltazar, MD

6. PHILIPPINE JOURNAL OF SURGICAL SPECIALTIES

Editor-in-Chief:	Theodor S. Vesagas, MD
Co-Editor:	Domingo S. Bongala, MD
Associate Editors:	Nilo C. de los Santos, MD
	Antonio L. Anastacio, MD
	Juanito S. Javier, MD
	Adrian E. Manapat, MD
	Jose D. Quebral, MD
	Ma. Luisa D. Aquino, MD
	Ida Marie T. Lim, MD
	Jose Luis J. Danguilan, MD
	Jose Macario V. Faylona, MD
	Eric A. Arcilla, MD
	Charlotte M. Chiong, MD
	Alfred Philip O. De Dios, MD
	Catherine Co, MD
	Arlene Fajardo, MD

Task:

- 1) To ensure timely publication of the PJSS

Join!!!

THE 10TH PCS

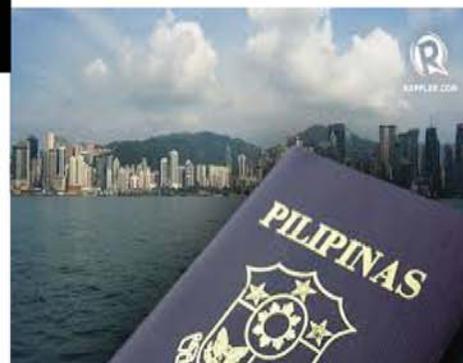


PHOTO CONTEST

THEME: "LOCAL TRAVELS"

Mechanics for the Photo Contest

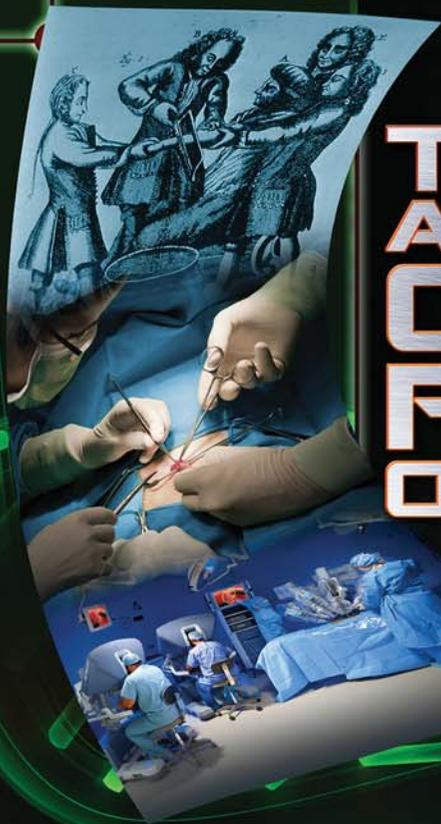
1. The contest is open to all PCS Fellows.
2. A maximum of three (3) entries per Fellow will be accepted
3. Entries can be in black & white or colored, digital or analog, enhanced or non-enhanced. The Fellow is given full leeway to express his/her ideas in any photography medium he/she may choose.
4. The title of the contest is: "Local Travels"
5. Entries must be in 8" x 10" size and printed on photo paper (2 copies per entry) with short description of the photo pasted at the back.
6. Photographs should be submitted either personally or mailed to the PCS Secretariat in a cardboard padded envelope. Please include the EXIF data of the pictures submitted.
7. Deadline for submission of entries will be on or before September 28, 2014.
8. All entries will become the property of the PCS and may be used for any purpose the College may deem fit.
9. Thirty (30) entries will be chosen for display during the 2014 PCS Annual Convention.
10. The decision of the Board of Judges is final.
11. For further details, contact the PCS Secretariat through Ms. Jemme O. Dioquito at tel. nos. 9281083 or 9274974 or email at pcs_1936@yahoo.com.ph.





PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

70th ANNUAL CLINICAL CONGRESS



TECHNOLOGY AND THE CHANGING PRACTICE OF SURGERY

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 3, 2014
EDSA SHANGRI-LA HOTEL
MANDALUYONG CITY

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