Incisions

The Newsletter of the Philippine College of Surgeons

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Incisions

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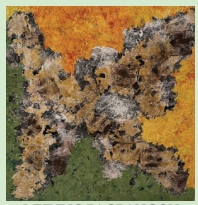
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ON THE COVER



MULING PAGBANGON
By DR. RICKY RIEGO DE DIOS

Dr. Ricky Riego de Dios or R2D2 as he is called by friends, is a General and Laparoscopic Surgeon from Mariveles, Bataan and currently practicing at La Consolacion University Hospital, ACE Medical Center Baliuag, Castro Maternity Hospital and Medical Center and Our Lady of Mercy General Hospital in Bulacan.

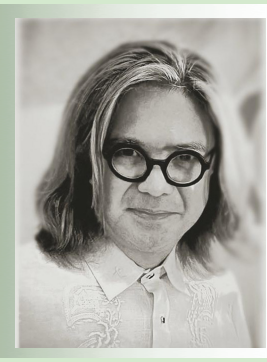
He is a visiting consultant at Bulacan Medical Center, a Diplomate of Philippine Board of Surgery, a Fellow of Philippine Society of General Surgeons, Philippine College of Surgeons as well as the American College of Surgeons.

He was a past President of PCS-Central Luzon Chapter. He is a member Board of Governors of PCS and is also in the Board of Directors of PSGS.

He is into abstract acrylic, watercolor and oil paintings which, according to him, he started as a hobby during the COVID pandemic lockdown. Title of his painting in this issue: "*Muling Pagbangon*".

FROM
THE
EDITOR'S DESK

Marcus Jose B. Brillantes, MD, FPCS



DR. GREGORIO T. SINGIAN
PCS Founder & First President

Dr. Gregorio Torres Singian was born on May 9, 1872 in San Fernando, Pampanga to Cristino Singian de Miranda and Angela Torres. His parents were descendants of prominent families in the province.

Dr. Singian obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1889 at the San Juan de Letran College in Manila. He finished his medical degree at the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery in 1895 graduating with highest honors as summa cum laude.

He already was a full-fledged physician by the time the Philippine Revolution suddenly broke out on August 1896. Three years later, following the outbreak of the Filipino-American War on February 4, 1899, Dr. Singian volunteered to serve as a battlefield doctor to the Filipino troops in Pampanga; initially in San Fernando, under the command of General Maximino Hizon and later, in Bacolor, headed by General Tomas Mascardo.

One of the revolutionary leaders who Dr. Singian personally treated was Major Manuel L. Quezon. While serving as an ayuda-de-campo to Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo in the revolutionary army, Maj. Quezon contracted malaria. Singian transferred the young officer to his own home province of Pampanga and provided him with medical treatment free of charge until his full recovery. The future Philippine President and Dr. Singian developed an enduring friendship.

After the revolutionary war, Dr. Singian joined the UST College of Medicine in 1900 as a faculty member of the Surgery Department while he was still a resident physician at the San Juan de Dios Hospital. In 1903, he founded a hospital and training school (probably for nurses) at the San Miguel district, Quiapo. (The Singian Clinic Building, still existing, was later transformed into the National Center for Geriatric Health during President G.M. Arroyo's term. It remained operational under the financial control of the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center until 2011 when it became an independent entity under the Department of Health. In 2012, it was reverted to the JRRMMC).



Dr. Gregorio C. Singian as a young surgeon.



Major Manuel L. Quezon during the Philippine-American War

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Brillantes... from page 3



The original Hospital de San Juan de Dios left with the clock tower. c. 1899



Dr. Gregorio Singian as Director of the San Juan de Dios Hospital, 1920

In 1907, Dr. Singian was designated the first Filipino associate professor of surgery in the Philippine Medical School (now known as the University of the Philippines College of Medicine). In 1911, he was appointed professor of Surgical Anatomy at the University of Santo Tomas.

He was also an Editor of the publication "Revisita Filipina de Medicina y Farmacia" (Philippine Review of Medicine and Pharmacy), a professional journal for medical practitioners written in Spanish serving as the official newsletter of the UST College of Medicine and Pharmacy that came out with its first publication on July 1910. The medical journal was issued on a monthly basis.

Dr. Singian was of an era when physicians were mostly general practitioners and delved into the different specialties. He travelled extensively across the European continent, visiting various clinics in order to acquire expertise in surgery and shared these updates back in his home country. He was dubbed as "El Mago del Bisturie" (The Magician of the Scalpel).

Together with Dr. Basilio Valdez, he introduced numerous improvements in the operating rooms of the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery such as establishing separate operating rooms for clean and septic cases, sterilization room for instrument and bandages, overhead observation galleries with thick glass panels for medical students in operating theaters that were equipped with microphones for the surgeon to describe the surgical procedure. He instituted a central medical records section for the hospital. It is also noted that Dr. Singian donated Php 200,000 worth of radium to the hospital for cancer treatment. He likewise implemented sanitary improvements in the hospital's dietary service.

Dr. Singian was named to the Board of Directors of the San Juan de Dios Hospital in 1919 and soon became the Director of the hospital the following year. His administration was marked by the introduction of improvements and innovations in the methods of medical treatment employed in the hospital. Dr. Singian also became Head of the Department of Surgery and General Supervisor of Internship at the UST. During this period, San Juan de Dios Hospital was then affiliated with UST and functioned as the College's clinical arm (as decreed by King Alfonso of Spain on October 29, 1875). The hospital formed part of the UST Department of Surgery in 1929 where Dr. Singian started the surgical residency program that shaped Philippine surgery to what it is today.

Referred to at times as the "Father of Philippine Surgery", Dr. Singian founded the Philippine College of Surgeons on September 1936 and was later elected as its first President.

Dr. Singian passed away in Hong Kong on January 29, 1937 at the age of 64.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

MARIA CONCEPCION C. VESAGAS, MD, FPCS, FACS



Change and Continuity

In the course of history, civilizations have been known to persist due to continuity – continuity of trade, continuity of beliefs, continuity of shared experiences. They flourished due to common culture, communication, and population. But through the course of their existence, it was inevitable that changes would be introduced to effect continuity. Change was in a way an adaptation to existing forces, to strengthen prevailing conditions and to adjust to the changing landscape, be it economy, religion, or trade.

In the same way, the Philippine College of Surgeons has existed due to continuity. For the past 87 years, the College has been true to the purpose it was established: "to maintain an organization of surgeons for the advancement of the science and art of surgery, with the welfare of patients in mind, and to promote the ethical and competent practice of the specialty" (PCS Amended Articles of Incorporation, 1995). The College has been unwavering in its implementation of its flagship programs, "National Programs shall be established whenever necessary and within the capability of the College. These shall include but shall not be limited to the following: Trauma, Cancer, Outreach Services, and Infection Control" (PCS By-Laws 2011). To date, the College has 53 committees and subcommittees, each with its own mandate, contributing to the functions and implementation of the PCS' programs.

In 2019, three Commissions were formed, the Cancer Commission, the Trauma, Burn and Injury Care and the S.U.R.E Commission. This was a result of extensive discussion among members of Board of Regents – that there was a need to espouse health and health advocacies of the PCS and bring them beyond the College. "The BOR is empowered to create other commissions of the PCS which shall act as external arms of the College primarily concerned with PCS flagship programs directed to specific areas of national concern" (PCS Administrative Manual, 2019).

As our name respectfully announces, we are the PHILIPPINE College of Surgeons. It is sometimes taken for granted and overlooked that the College is part of the Philippines, a sovereign country, in the Southeast Asian region. Thus, it is expected, and rightly so, that we take part in nation-building.

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VESAGAS... from page 5

The ASEAN Professional Qualifications Framework was first introduced in 2014 and its form finally approved in 2017 (ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework, ASEAN Economic Ministers, 2014). This is a regional reference framework that will allow member nations to compare education qualifications. In response to this, the Philippines' Professional Regulation Commission issued guidelines for the formulation of Guidelines on the Creation and Implementation of a Career Progression and Specialization Program for the Regulated Professions (PRC Resolution No. 1117, Series of 2018).

Under the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF), there are 8 Levels of Qualification, with Level 8 as the highest one can attain. This level is specific for those who have doctoral and post-doctoral degrees. A Level 7 is a post baccalaureate degree, equivalent to a master's program. A Doctor of Medicine is not considered a doctoral degree even if "doctor" is in the title. Thus, a student who has finished a medical degree and passed the licensure exam is in Level 7 (https://pqf.gov.ph/).

Physicians are under the PRC Board of Medicine with regards to Career Progression and Specialization Program-Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CPSP-CATS). The PRC wishes to recognize the additional years of training and certification that each medical specialist undertakes and incorporate this in the PQF. Thus, those who have undertaken residency training in accredited training programs and have passed their certifying examinations as provided by the respective boards of the accredited training programs will be classified under Level 8, the highest in the PQF. Residents remain under Level 7, together with those who have trained but have not yet been certified.

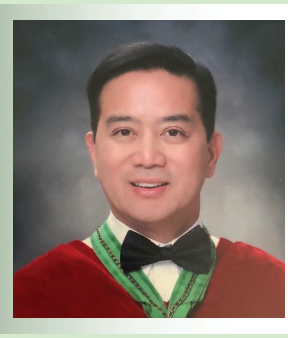
Considering the enhancement of the PQF of the country, the Board of Regents recognizes the need to include among our members those who have trained in training programs under the different specialties recognized by the PCS. Those certified by the different specialties under the different specialty boards are also to be included in the membership of the PCS. This is the chance of the College to assist and support them in their ascendancy in the PQF levels.

This change in membership classifications in the college is not a step backwards, nor should it be misconstrued as a recognition of the unqualified. As there are different levels of membership, so too, will there be different levels of privileges for the resident, the associate, the diplomate, and the fellow.

Change and continuity will always be a part of history, whether that of civilization or an institution. And I ask that we embrace change as a step forward in the Philippine College of Surgeons' history and maturity.

ACROSS THE BOARD

Joselito M. Mendoza, MD, FPCS



4th BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
April 21, 2023 (Friday); 10:00 am-5:00 pm
Lewis Function Room, Quest Hotel, Clark, Pampanga

The meeting was called to order at 8:22 am with Dr. MCC Vesagas presiding followed by the Invocation led by Dr. Rex A. Madrigal. The agenda and minutes of the last meeting were approved.

President's Update

1. 1Q Meeting with Surgical Sub-specialty Societies was held last March 21, 2023

   Only the President from the Philippine Hip and Knee Society was absent. The College's programs/activities were presented.

2. Adhoc Com. on Medical Act
   - ❖ Public Hearing – March 22, 2023; Nograles Hall
     Re: Proposed Physicians Act

   The creation of a Technical Working Group (TWG), hopefully, the College will be included in the group. The College has the support of PRBOM Chair, Dr. Godofreda Dalmacion regarding the working draft of the Physicians Act.

3. PCS Execom and PSGS Execom Meeting – March 15, 2023
   Re: PSBS Application for PCS Affiliation

4. BOR Meeting with the PSBS Officers – Re: Application for Affiliation – March 28, 2023

   The creation of the Philippine Society of Breast Surgeons emanated from the Breast Study Group created by the PSGS.

   The meeting was also attended by Dr. Ray B. Malilay, first president of the PSGS.

   The PSBS application for affiliation was deferred until such time a dialogue with the PSGS is conducted.

5. Adhoc Committee on ASEAN Summit & International Relations – April 13, 2023

   The Board approved the request to conduct a summit with the members of the AFSC (Asean Federation of Surgical Colleges) during the 79th ACC this December.

   In addition, the Board reiterated that the conduct of the Non-technical Skills for Surgeons (NOTSS) should be spearheaded/ organized by the Adhoc Committee on ASEAN Summit & International Relations and not by individual/s.

6. Chapter Inductions attended:
   a) Tripartite Conference – Hosted by the Panay Chapter – March 25, 2023; Smallville 21 Hotel, Iloilo City
   b) Northeastern Luzon Chapter – April 1, 2023; Palazzo Marcelino, Balintocatoc, Santiago, Isabela
   c) Cebu-EV Chapter – April 14, 2023; Radisson Blu Hotel, Cebu City
      It was noted that the induction had a poor attendance
   d) Central Luzon Chapter – April 16, 2023; Marriott Hotel, Clark

7. Events Attended
   a) 75th Anniversary – Philippine Red Cross; Shangri-la Hotel, BGC

      Dr. Teodoro J. Herbosa was elected as one of the governors of the Philippine Red Cross.

      Dr. Mark Abrigo of the Head, Medical Affairs, reviving the S.T.O.P. the Bleed and BETTER program.

Treasurer's Report

7.1. Dr. JR De Leon reported on the following:

Restricted Funds as of December 31, 2021 (AUDITED)	
Fellows Assistance Plan	Php 29,530,845.
Retirement Fund	7,345,217.
Surgical Infections	575,175.
Fellows Scholarship	120,897.
TOTAL	Php 37,572,134.

7.2. The following observations were observed made on the report presented:

1	**AXA PHILIPPINES**			
	Chinese Tycoon Fund	1,650,000.00	1,258,748.96	(391,251.04)
		1,650,000.00	1,258,748.96	(391,251.04)
		1,700,000.00	1,297,135.97	(391,251.04)
		5,000,000.00	3,814,633.88	- 1,173,753.13
2	**SUNLIFE GREPA FINANCIAL**			
	SLG Growth PLUS Fund - Equity	2,000,000.00	1,898,539.49	(101,460.51)
	SLG Growth PLUS Fund - Equity	2,500,000.00	2,177,100.10	(322,899.90)
		4,500,000.00	4,075,639.59	(424,360.41)
3	**LONG TERM INVESTMENT (DOLLAR)**			
	B.1 PRU LIFE UK			(128,684.64)
	Dollar Bond Fund	$98,000.00	$95,629.07	($2,370.93)
	Php54.2760			
	TOTAL PAPER LOSS AS OF Mar-23			- 1,726,798.18

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The Board APPROVED investing the AXA and Sunlife Grepa proceeds in the top five (5) banks or its subsidiaries, as of writing, who can offer the best interest rates for the PCS.

7.2. DOST-PCHRD Grant for Research Study on Cost-Estimation of Professional Fees

Based on a letter received from the office of PCHRD Executive Director, Dr. Jaime Montoya, the grant earlier given to the PCS in the amount of Php3,499,508.04, will be returned back to their office since the study was put on hold. It was mentioned that 10% had been spent for research assistants. Dr. Lam will prepare the financial report for these expenses for submission to PCHRD-DOST.

8. Committee Reports

8.1. Cluster E – Socio-economic Matters

a) Finance

a.1. To require all NEW inductees to enroll in the e-FAP program in the amount of Php 5,000 or Php10,000.

Board Action: DEFERRED. To study further the e-FAP program to make this more sustainable and palatable to the Fellows.

a.2. Interest earned from the FAP Funds currently invested in City Savings Bank will be used as seed money for the e-FAP Program.

Board Action: DISAPPROVED

a.3. LMS Subscription

To charge Php100.00 platform rate per video material downloaded.

Board Action: APPROVED

b) Hospital Standardization & Accreditation

b.1. Participation - 79th Annual Clinical Congress on December 3-6, 2023, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Theme: "Collaborations and Innovations in the Era of Global Surgery".
Proposed Topic/Titles:
1. Ambulatory Surgery Guidelines
2. Continuing Certification
3. Credentialing and Privileging

Board Action: The Committee was requested to submit two (2) choices from their proposed themes.

8.2. Cluster A – National Programs

a) HMO/RVS

a.1. To schedule a meeting with both AHMOPI & PAHMOC to negotiate for a possible increase in the current multiplier based on the 2009 RVS tentatively set on April 28 or 29, 2023.

To present to the two organizations the list of procedures not included in the 2009 RVS, but present in the 2020 RVS for the purpose of including those procedures in the payment scheme of HMO patients.

Board Action: APPROVED. To update the Board of Regents on the outcome of said meeting.

a.2. Should negotiations fail, a boycott by the entire PCS as a last resort will be enforced.

Board Action: APPROVED

b) Trauma

The following recommendations were APPROVED:

b.1. To appropriate the amount of Php150K for ATLS Global Symposium and other international trauma congresses [Singapore Trauma and Acute Care Conference (STACC) on Oct 5-6, 2023 at Suntec City Convention Centre, Singapore].

b.2. Participation - 79th Annual Clinical Congress; December 3-6, 2023; Theme: "Collaborations and Innovations in the Era of Global Surgery"

To request the Com on CSE allot four (4) hours for the sessions of the following:
- Committee on Trauma
- TIBCC
- PSST with BURNS

b.3. S.T.O.P. the Bleed Program – "Training the Trainor" session during 49th Midyear Convention; May 4, 2023 (Thursday) 5-6:30pm at Session 3 (Meeting Rooms 4&5)
- 50 pcs. Free Shirt and Tourniquet for the participants
- Confirmed Chapter Representatives will attend during 49th MYC
- COT Confirmed Special meeting on Disaster Simulation Drill in preparation for the June 17, 2023 BOR meeting

b.4. Sub- Com on BURNS
The creation of (2) groups under sub-committee on Burns.
b.4.1. Scientific Committee:
- Gerald Marion M. Abesamis, MD – Head
- Leo Angelo D. Doble, MD
- Rishalyn Mae M. Correa, MD

b.4.2. Prevention Committee:
- Maria Redencion B. Abella, MD–Head
- Ma. Adela Nable-Aguilera, MD
- Katrina Victoria B. Angeles, MD
- Mae Aguirre, MD

In addition, the Board proposed the inclusion a war simulation incorporated in the Disaster Preparedness scenario.

b.5. TIBCC

The following recommendations were APPROVED:

b.5.1. Quarterly Webinars suggested topics:
- Trauma Among Powered Two-Wheeler Road Users
- Trauma Critical Care Sepsis
- Trauma Critical Care Volume Resuscitation
- Interesting Trauma Cases Highlighting Gaps in our Trauma System
- Facing the Challenges in Road Safety and Injury Prevention: The Power of Collaboration

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b.5.2. To purchase of 50 tourniquets from Lazada and Shopee and ensuring the quality. These will be given away during the STOP THE BLEED – Training of Trainers and Demonstration during 49th Midyear Convention.

Board Action: To purchase better quality of tourniquets.

c) Cancer

c.1. 79th Annual Clinical Congress December 3-6, 2023; EDSA Shangri-la Hotel Manila; Theme: "Collaborations and Innovations in the Era of Global Surgery"

- Format is panel discussion and will be focused on end-of-life issue/ stage 4 cancer patient.
- Proposed topic:
  - Approach to end stage Cancer Patient
  - Rational Approach to stage 4 Cancer Patients

The Board suggested including amongst the panelists, an ethicist since the topic focuses on end-of-life of cancer patients.

c.2. Advocacies on Cancer

To provide the Philippine Medical Association the link to the College's advocacies.

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Provinces of Bukidnon and Sorsogon will be held on May 4, 2023 after the UHC Summit. Said MOU and these provinces will collectively constitute the "Community-based health programs (e.g. Cancer) and PCS initiatives.

d) Cancer Commission
The following recommendations will be submitted to the PCS Foundation Board of Trustees for consideration/ approval:

d.1. List of 2023-2024 Board of Directors

d.2. All relevant surgical specialty societies of the PCS will be represented as members in the Cancer Commission.

d.3. Cancer Commission to subscribe as a member to the ASCO with an annual membership fee of 3K Swiss Francs (PHp190K)

The Board recommends applying with the PCHRD for additional funds.

e) SURE & Community Services

e.1. National Surgical Outreach 2023:
e.1.1. AdHoc Committee on National Surgical Outreach
Composition:
Chair: Dr. Ramon S. Inso
Members: Dr. Jorge M. Concepcion (BOG Chair)
Dr. Rhoderick M. Casis (Chair, Com. on External Affairs and PR)
Dr. Andrea Joanne A. Torre (PSGS)
Dr. Rouel Mateo M. Azores, MD (SURE Local Affairs-Ways and Means Committee Chair)
Dr. Henrique Samuel S. da Roza, MD (PSA)
Ms. Rosario G. Dumangon, RN (ORNAP President)
Adviser: Vivencio Jose P. Villaflor III, MD
Regent-in-Charge: Dures Fe E. Tagayuna, MD

e.1.2. Proposed Theme:
a. "Sambayanang Operasyon para sa Pilipino"
b. "Sabayang Operasyon para sa Sambayanang Pilipino"
BOR proposal: "OPERASYON PARA SA SAMBAYANANG PILIPINO"

Duration: September 6-8, 2023; Simultaneous Cutting Time: 9:00 AM on September 6, 2023

BOR Recommendation: To create an AVP for presentation during the Foundation Day Dinner scheduled on September 12, 2023.

Furthermore, the Board requests that the Committee explores the "paper towel" arrangement to indicate "Time Out" during the surgical procedures.

The Board was also informed of the Maharlika Charity Foundation celebration on May 3, 2023 at 11am.

8.3. Cluster B – Surgical Education

a) Conventions

The Board noted the update on the preparations for the 49th Midyear Conventions.

Other update also included preparations for the:

a.1. 79th Annual Clinical Congress; December 3-6, 2023; Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City; Theme: "COLLABORATIONS AND INNOVATIONS IN THE ERA OF GLOBAL SURGERY"
• Scientific Program
• ASA Biennial Congress
• Publications -Please refer to Com. on Publications Report

a.2. 50thMidyear Convention – May 2 & 3, 2024; Baguio Country Club
a.3. 80th Annual Clinical Congress – December 8-11, 2024
a.4. 51stMidyear Convention – 2025

As of this meeting, the Bicol Chapter has submitted its bid with Avenue Hotel, Naga City as the proposed venue.

b) CSE

b.1. 49th Midyear Convention on May 4-5, 2023; SMX Convention Center Davao; Theme: "SURGERY AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE"
Additional session on May 5, 2023, at 7:00 – 8:00 AM (Meeting Rooms 4 & 5)
Kapihan on: Update on the PCS SURE-SPSA Volunteer Program and Task Shifting Initiatives
By: Surgery in the Underserved Regions and for Education Commission
Chair: Beda R. Espineda, MD, FPCS

b.2. 79th Annual Clinical Congress on December 3-6, 2023, at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel Manila; Theme: "COLLABORATIONS AND INNOVATIONS IN THE ERA OF GLOBAL SURGERY"
General Objective: To demonstrate how multidisciplinary partnership can build networks that lead to innovations and better patient outcomes.

Board Action: To further improve the General Objective.

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b.3. 50th Midyear Convention on May 2-3, 2024, at Baguio Country Club, Camp John Hay, Baguio City; Host Chapter: Cordillera Chapter

Proposed Themes:
- o Surgical Pathways to the Future
- o New Norms in Surgery
- o Golden Era in Surgery
- o Golden Age of Surgery
- o The Next Golden Years of Surgery
- o PCS Semi-centennial Midyear Convention: Milestones in the Past Half Century of Philippine Surgery
- o Gold Standard in Surgery

Board Action: To request the Sub-com. on MYC to trim down the list of proposed themes for the BOR to choose from.

c) LMS

c.1. Participation - 79th Annual Clinical Congress on December 3-6, 2023, with the theme "Collaborations and Innovations in the Era of Global Surgery"

c.2. The Board emphasized that in the renewal of the MOA with Nephila (expiring May 20, 2023), the landing page will be exclusive for Unilab; other companies who want to utilize the platform for their video and may include their company logo.

d) Surgical Research

The Board APPROVED the following regarding the ERB:

d.1. Timelines
d.1.1. Submission of research protocols from accredited training programs which had undergone ethics review in the past two (2) years

d.2. SOP manual completed and distributed to members
d.3. Trainings for ERB team
d.4. Submission of PHREB application- this month
d.5. Sub-Committee on Translational Research/Surgical Innovation Chairs (according to priority)
1. Ricardo Jose D. Quintos III, MD
2. Catherine S. Co, MD
3. Deogracias Alberto G. Reyes, MD

e) Surgical Training

The Board APPROVED the following:

e.1. Academic Incentive: to set a deadline for the submission of the awardees based on the last in-service exam that is given for the year.
e.2. Letters to be sent to the PCS chapters and Subspecialties informing them that there will be 2 sessions for the Interesting Case Presentation during the 2023 ACC.
e.3. PCS initiative on developing a Postgraduate Surgical Curriculum

The Committee will function as a whole to be spearheaded by Dr. Joy Jerusalem, Chair. Advisors: To invite Dr. Warren Roraldo, Dr. Rannie Rabe-Baquiran and Dr. Alfonso Cenon as advisers.

A plan of conducting a workshop on this subject.

8.4. Cluster C – Membership Development

a) Adhoc Com. on Professional Integration

a.1. The Board appreciated the power point materials presented and discussed.

a.2. With the proposal to amend the PCS By-laws particularly on the inclusion of an "Associate" membership category, the Board has identified the following Committees which will be involved in the process of amending:
- o Membership – Obligations, Rights & Privileges
- o Finance – Dues and other Fees
- o By-Laws and Amendments – for amending the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws

This matter will be presented and discuss with the Fellows during the Midyear Convention Business Meeting on May 4, 2023.

The Board expressed the following:
- ➢ That amending the additional membership category of "Associate" will be a big challenge
- ➢ That the government recognizes the College when it comes to matters regarding Surgery
- ➢ That ALL surgical residents should be considered as members of some PCS Committees

b) Membership

b.1. To disallow delinquent Fellows who were dropped from the roster of members (delinquent for 3 years and more) from re-applying using the PCS Simplified Application for Surgical Specialty Society Members vs. allowing them to re-apply using the Simplified that route after the number of years, they were delinquent.

Board Action: DEFERRED

b.2. Set up an Associate Member Category for Resident graduates who have not yet taken or passed the PBS exam or applied for PCS Fellowship.
b.3. Include practicing surgeons who have no plans of taking the PBS exams, into the Associate member category.
b.4. To allow Residents to actively participate in the sessions during the MYC and ACC

Items b.2, b.3 and b.4 – will be handled by the Adhoc Com. on Professional Integration

b.5. To consider membership to the PCS Resident Member compulsory.

Board Action: The need for more information, i.e., schemes offered by other specialty resident member organizations; also check the issue on double payment

b.6. Extended deadline for submission of Fellowship application: JUNE 15, 2023.

8.5. Cluster D – External Affairs
a) External Affairs & PR

a.1. 87th Foundation Day Celebration
The Board would like to request your Committee to submit the estimated budget for each activity to be conducted during the week-long 87th Foundation Celebration.

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a.2. The Board noted that the scheduled Golf Tournament on September 10, 2023 is not a fund-raising event and more of a "friendly" game.

a.3. ASEAN Summit & International Relations

a.3.1. The Board APPROVED during the conduct of the 12th ASEAN Federation of Surgical Colleges Summit which will be held in conjunction with the College's 79th Annual Clinical Congress scheduled December 3-6, 2023 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

a.3.2. The Board further APPROVED that the conduct of the NOTSS should be through the Committee.

b) Publications

b.1. To email copies of PCS Newsletter (Incisions) to individual PCS Fellows to increase readership using the PCS Secretariat Google account that has this email capability.
b.2. To post the PCS Newsletter (Incisions) in the PCS Viber Community Group also to increase readership.
b.3. To include a copy of the 1st issue of Incisions for 2023 in the PCS 2023 Mid-Year Convention App
b.4. PCS Hymn 2023 AVP
b.5. 2023 Midyear Convention prospectus design layout
NOTE: Currently waiting message from DOH which will be submitted to the PCS by April 24, 2023.
b.6. PCS National Anthem 2023 AVP – with minor corrections.
b.7. Printing of only 500 copies of the 2023 Mid-Year Convention Brochure for distribution during the convention. Individual hard copy will no longer be placed in the convention kit.
b.8. To include the Convention Brochure/Manual in the 2023 Mid-Year Convention App
b.9. Animated digital poster design for 2023 ACC

Board Action: To improve the color for the background. Other suggestions include: refining the movement of the sprockets, including the AFSC Summit.
Further suggestions will be submitted by the Officers.

c) PJSS

The Board APPROVED the inclusion of Dr. Alfred Phillip O. De Dios as Association Editor of the PJSS as recommended.

d) SICT

d.1. Payment of the annual dues using the PCS App will have a 5% discount (as promo)

Board Action: APPROVED.

d.2. Generate the QR code to message blast.

Board Action: DISAPPROVED.

d.3. To continuously promote the App using the Viber Group/ Chat groups.

Board Action: APPROVED.

d.4. Solicit Advertisements for the PCSApp for income purposes.

Board Action: To coordinate with the PCS Committee on Finance

e) Patient Safety & Quality Assurance

The Board APPROVED the list of members for the Specialty Project on Quality Surgical Improvement Program.

11. Other Matters

11.1. BOR Reminders – 49th Midyear Convention; May 4-5, 2023; SMX Convention Center, Davao

The Regents were informed of the activities where their presence is required.

11.2. Agenda – PCS Business Meeting – May 4, 2023; 10:30 am; FR 2, SMX Convention Center, Davao – APPROVED, to include presentation on the additional membership category of Associate.

11.3. Program for the UHC Summit – May 4, 2023; FR 2

The program was presented and APPROVED.

11.4. Recipient of the PMA Outstanding Physician Award

As nominated by the College, Dr. Rey Melchor F. Santos is this year's recipient.

12. Schedule of BOR Meetings
The following is the revised schedule of Board meetings.
- 5th BOR Meeting – May 5, 2023 (Friday); 12 Noon; Park Inn by Radisson Hotel, Davao
- 6th BOR Meeting – June 10, 2023 (Saturday); 8am; GT Singian Board Room
- 7th BOR Meeting – July 15,2023 (Saturday); 8am; GT Singian Board Room

13. Adjournment

There being no matters to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 pm.

14. Next Meeting – June 10, 2023 (Saturday); 8am; GT Singian Board Room

5th BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
May 5, 2023 (Friday); 12:00 noon-5:00 pm
Mangosteen & Durian Rooms, Park Inn by Radisson Hotel, Davao City

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm with Dr. MCC Vesagas presiding.

1. Strategic Planning Workshop Action Items:
a) 2023-2027 Action Plans

a.1. The following were identified as "Champion" for various Action Plans for 2023-2027:
- Financial – c/o Treasurer & Committee on Finance
- Customer – c/o Com. on Membership & Com. on Ext. Affairs & PR
- Process – c/o VP & Execom
- Organization – c/o VP

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b) Succession Plan
- To identify the potential employees among the staff – for training – c/o ADT & CPR
- future training for the entire secretariat staff
- automatic retirement by 65 y/o
- Plan B: To hire - minimum requirement – for newly hired

c) Operations Manual
- A general operations manual – general function for each Committee → tasks, job description, processes
- Com. secretaries – to write down tasks/Action Items
- Secretariat functions & processes
- Com. Chairs – to write down tasks
- Deadline – end of June
- Submit to RIC – for integration of tasks
- Deadline – end of July
- Final output – Operations Manual
- For presentation – September

Committee on Membership

1. Extension of deadline for Fellowship Application – June 15, 2023

2. Fellows – who were dropped as a result of the following:
   - Non-attendance to conventions
   - Arrears – more than 3 years. The Regents enumerated the following:
     - If dropped – need to settle arrears in order to be reinstated
     - To propose for next BOR meeting giving amnesty for delinquent Fellows, partial or total
     - CSE – to study scheduling the subspecs conventions before/within the PCS?
       - Consider just one (1) convention fee?
     - PCS → to co-host the MYC Chapter Host with a Subspec/s
     - Reasons for non-payment of annual dues:
       - Fellows from the Sub-specs – delinquent for several years, too big amount of arrears, appealing for amnesty.
       - Fellows pay fees to PCS & their Sub-specs (too expensive)

Committee on FAP

The Regents agreed to put on hold the e-FAP program until the Committees on FAP, Finance, Membership has further studied the details of the program.

Committee on LMS

Update on the LMS program:

a) The Committee on LMS met recently to discuss the surgical societies who have yet to submit their videos/lectures
b) A meeting will be scheduled, together with the newly recruited residents who will be providing assistance in the recording & dubbing of videos
c) MOA with Nephila will expire by May 20 2023 (schedule to have the MOA signed before the deadline)

Action Items:
- To meet with the possible sponsors and present to them the LMS program
- Unilab will have the exclusive use of landing page
- Schedule signing of MOA
- Hiring of an IT

Adhoc Com. on Professional Integration

a) Amendment: Associate membership category – for submission to the Com. on By-Laws and Amendments

The Board APPROVED the following:

a.1. New membership category: Associate
a.2. To forward amendment to the Com. on By-laws & Amendments
a.3. Deadline to finalize content of amendment → during the PSGS Surgical Forum – July 2023 – c/o COMELEC to oversee the amendments
a.4. The amendment will also be forwarded to the Com. on Membership Requirements/Benefits. Etc. for Associate – discussed last 2022
a.5. e-FAP – to also consider covering the Associates
a.6. Resident Member – be more active in recruiting; active participation in the PCS Committees – c/o Com. on Awards & Com. on Membership
To consider what the College can do for these Resident Members.
a.7. To discuss the mandatory Resident Member with the sub-specialty societies first

Committee on External Affairs

The following were reported:

1. PCS MMC – Sports Fest – Venue: Unilab

2. To acquire the services of an Events Organizer & consider also for future PCS activities e.g. fashion show, exhibits, outreach missions, including marketing, etc.
   - EO to submit details → project proposal to present during the June 10 BOR meeting
     Committees to submit their detailed budget – Deadline: MAY 15
   - Tents – for the vintage cars on display

3. Socials & Sports
   a) Camaraderie Golf Tournament (Pre-ACC)
   Proposed venue: Wack-wack, Canlubang & Orchard
   To submit rental for each of the venue first.

   b) PCS MMC Golf Tournament – June 5 – PCS to have a team

   c) ACC Fellowship Night –sponsored by Unilab – coordinate with Com. on Socials & Sports

Other Matters

1. PMA General Assembly – May 17, 2023 (Wednesday); 8am-5pm, Centennial Hall B, Manila Hotel
   - Dr. CCV – to attend
   - Opening Ceremonies – May 15

2. Espesiyalista ng Bayan Meeting – May 12 – via Webex; 1pm-5pm

3. PRC Resolution 1591-s2022
   - Re- specialty & subspecs – should be SEC registered & with a certifying Board
   - Dr. George Lim– attended & will report on feedback

4. PMA Award – Dr. RMF Santos – recipient of the Outstanding Physician – PCS nominee

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5. Physicians Act
   - ➢ PCS invited to be part of the TWG – meeting on May 9
   - ➢ Dr. CCV and Dr. GGL – attending the TWG
   - ➢ Dr. CCV – informed Sen. Bong Go of MDs version of Physicians Act – to submit a copy to SBG

6. Taiwanese Concerns

   1. Invited Dr. Wayne Huang to ACC – talked with Taiwan Surgical Society

      The Taiwan Surgical Society expressed interest to come up with a MOA w/ PCS – Re: future activities → CSE, which FPCS will benefit from

      If ever, this will be coursed through the Com. on ASEAN Summit & International Relations

   2. Dr. Wayne Huang, President of SMIT – Society for Medical Innovation & Technology – PCS to participate – October 19-21, 2023
      - ➢ to include PCS logo in their poster
      - ➢ submit abstracts/research papers - (c/o PCS Subcom. on Innovations)

Board Action: APPROVED

7. Resolution of Thanks – to DSMC – for the successful conduct of the 49th MYC

   Board Action: APPROVED

8. Past Presidents – Appreciation Lunch – June 17, 2023; Venue: The Westin Manila (old The Medical City, near Lourdes School Mandaluyong)

   Dr. MCC Vesagas proposed to conduct a get-together with the PCS Past Presidents on June 17, 2023 (Saturday); 10am-2pm; The Westin Manila.

   Board Action: APPROVED.

6th BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
June 10, 2023 (Saturday); 8am-5pm
GT Singian Board Room, PCS Building, 992 EDSA, QC

Part I – PCS-Nephila Memorandum of Agreement Signing (renewal)

Part II – Meeting Proper

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 am with Dr. MCC Vesagas presiding. The agenda and minutes of previous meetings –April 21, 2023 & May 5, 2023 were approved.

President's Update

1. The Board will schedule a courtesy call to the NEW DOH Sec. Teodoro Herbosa on a weekday at his DOH office. He was chosen by Dr Vesagas as this year's 2023 Gregorio T. Singian Memorial Lecturer; which he has willingly accepted .

2. On the matter of Public Orientation of PRC Resolution No 1591 s 2022 – May 5, 2023, A report was submitted by Dr. GGLim since he represented the College during this meeting. His recommendations are as follows:
   - To start collating; flow process for continuous updating;
   - To create an organizational structure - PCS w/ Subspecs & Affiliate societies
   - To initiate talks with Subspecs – for functional delineation
     - ➢ To schedule meeting w/ Subspecs & affiliate societies
     - ➢ To reiterate about the contents of the A.O.

3. Adhoc Com. on Medical Act
   - ❖ Part I - w/Commission on Civil Service – May 9, 2023; De Venecia Hall
   - ❖ Part II – May 16, 2023
     Re: Proposed Physicians Act
     - ➢ Consolidated bill –for presentation – 1st and 2nd reading of Congress
     - ➢ final version – 95% PCS output

4. DOH-HHRDB

   Re: Espesyalista ng Bayan – May 12, 2023

   - ➢ To answer concerns for specialists – re; provisions in the UHC
   - ➢ Asking for applicants in the different areas → Palawan
   - ➢ Pilot batch – June 2023
   - ➢ Entry level – MS2 (under DOH)
   - ➢ Promote ENB & participate by implementing and attending consultative meetings
   - ➢ CARAGA Regional, Bukidnon Provincial, Palawan Hospital & Adela Ty Hospitals

5. PhilHealth (Online Meetings)

   a) Z Benefit Package for Breast Cancer – May 17, 2023 (by: Manuel Francisco T. Roxas, MD)
      - ➢ 1st of many meetings. Recommendation to be finalized

   b) QAC Meeting – May 22, 2023
      - ➢ PHIC concerns on wound debridement and need to send pictures of patient's face and wounds for reimbursement. The PCS and other specialty society present , vehemently objected to such policy. The motion was thus deferred for further consultations .

6. Adhoc Committee on UHC – May 29, 2023

   Update – Research Study on "Costing Analysis of Selected Inpatient Case Rates"
   (previous title: "Cost-estimation of Medical Services and Professional Fees in the Philippines")
   - ➢ Study will continue
   - ➢ Another meeting – June 20 – re: TOR given by the DOST

5.8. Events Attended
   a) PMA Opening Ceremonies – Manila Hotel; May 15, 2023
   b) PMA General Assembly – Manila Hotel; May 17, 2023

Board of Governors

The budget (Php 50K) allocated to the Chapters in preparation for the 87th PCS Foundation Day celebration for September will be given provided the 2022 expenses have been liquidated.

Committee Reports

Cluster E – Socio-economic Matters

Finance Committee

1. e-FAP (Expanded Fellowship Assistance Plan)

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To schedule a meeting with the Committee on FAP and Membership to further discuss the e-FAP as it is currently held in abeyance until a more detailed study is in place.
To study the possibility of incorporating eFAP into FAP as a program.

2. QnE Software Program

To schedule a meeting with the representatives from QnE Software Philippines to discuss their other system programs ensuring that all existing data from the current QnE software are migrated accordingly. The Board was informed that the current QnE software program will expire by the end of the year.

3. Delinquent Fellows

The Committee on Membership is currently working on the Amnesty Program as Board approved. This will be a one-time offer to the Fellows who have arrears of more than three (3) years.

However, the Fellow would have to comply with the following conditions:

- ❖ To settle his previous 3 year back dues plus current dues (2020, 2021, 2022 + 2023)(P 5,900)
- ❖ Must attend 3 major Conventions (Midyear Convention or Annual Convention) in three (3) years; and
- ❖ Should actively participate in Chapter events.

PCS Building Committee

1. Vision/Mission Marker
The Board approved a new 40" x 40" brass plate with green granite background and brass boarder for the PCS Mission , Vision statements to be placed at the ground floor lobby.

2. Letter of appeal from one of our tenants : Dentistree OPC & Enriquez Dental Clinic to lower scheduled rent escalation on year 2 of their 2-year contract was Disapproved by the Board as discounts and reduction on escalation given in 2020 and 2021 as well as the increasing expense on the building maintenance and implementation of the projects for the year were noted.

3. The Board approved the purchase of new office chairs for the PCS & PCS Foundation staff (last purchase was in 2012)

4. Converge
The Board APPROVED upgrading the College's internet connection from 20mbps up to 200 mbps (Converge's FlexiBiz),

Cluster A – National Programs
Committee on HMO, PHIC, RVS

With the recent appointment of DOH Secretary, Dr. Teodoro J. Herbosa, the Board would like to request the Committee to communicate with him by submitting the RVS 2020 and requesting that this be recognized by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

Committee on Trauma

1. ATLS – provision for a room during the 79th ACC for the ATLS Annual Meeting and to celebrate the 10th Year Anniversary of ATLS.

The Committee has conducted 5 courses from January to May 2023 and plan to have additional 7 Student courses and 2 Instructor Courses before the year ends

2. BURNS

Technical Working Group on Burns Prevention Committee:
Workshop on July 1, 2023 (Saturday) at 9am-12nn at Conference Room, St. Lukes Global

3 . The Board mentioned that TESDA offers a course for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) , consisting of a step-ladder course from basic, advance and finally becoming a paramedic. TESDA conducted consultations with the committee and Sec. Teodoro J. Herbosa.

The Committee was requested to re-visit this program of TESDA.

4 . S.T.O.P. the Bleed

The Chapters may utilize the Php50K budget allotted for activities conducted in conjunction with the College's 87th Foundation celebration. This may include a S.T.O.P. the Bleed program and hence they can purchase torniquets using th allotted budget.

Committee on SURE

National Surgical Outreach 2023 budget

The Board APPROVED the Budget for the National Surgical\ Outreach Program.

Cluster B – Surgical Education

Committee on Conventions

79th Annual Clinical Congress combined with the 24th ASA Biennial Congress & 12th AFSC Summit. The Fees for Sponsorship packages , Learning stations , Lunch symposiums & Twilight sessions were approved by the Board.

The Board also approved the plans for MYC 2024 in Baguio Country Club
The following proposals were identified:

1. To conduct the MYC in collaboration with a Specialty Society &/or Affiliate Society (Open for bid.) – starting 2024 onwards.
2. To write the subspecialty & affiliate societies and invite them to collaborate. Guidelines will be formulated since this is the 1st time for such collaboration.

Committee on Socials & Sports

The Board approved the following :

1. September 10, 2023 (Sunday) – in celebration of PCS Foundation Week Camaraderie Golf Tournament will be held at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, Quezon City .

2. December 1, 2023 (Friday) –
"Swing Fore-A-Cause 2" (Fund raising golf tournament.) to be held at the Wack Wack Golf & Country Club, Mandaluyong City

3. 79th Annual Clinical Congress, 24th Asian Congress of Surgery & 12th AFSC Summit; December 3-6, 2023; Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, December 3, 2023 (Sunday); Fellowship Night; Isla Ballroom. The Board APPROVED the following proposals:
   - No Chapter presentations

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- To get two (2) bands to perform genres: 1) mellow/ ballad/ and 2) upbeat music
- PCS Com. on Socials will prepare the details and submit this to Unilab
- To hire the services of an event organizer
- To retain a budget of Php300K for the raffle prizes
- To consider entertainers – acceptable to both local and foreign delegates/Fellows

Committee on CSE

1. 50th Midyear Convention on May 2-3, 2024, at Baguio Country Club, Camp John Hay, Baguio City; Host Chapter: Cordillera Chapter

   The Board APPROVED the theme: Milestones in the Past 50 years of Philippine Surgery.

2. 79th Annual Clinical Congress-December 3-6, 2023; Edsa Shangri-La Hotel Manila; Theme: "COLLABORATIONS AND INNOVATIONS IN THE ERA OF GLOBAL SURGERY"

   b.2.1. New sessions:

   - AFSC Summit 2023
     December 3 at 12:00 - 5:00 PM
     December 4 at 1:00 - 4:00 PM
   - Asian Surgical Association 24th Biennial Congress; Garden Ballroom
     December 3 at 1:30 – 3:30 PM with Business Meeting at 3:30-5:00 PM
     December 4 at 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM; 1:30 – 5:00 PM
     December 5 at 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM; 1:30 – 5:00 PM
   - PCS Roundtable Series with ASEAN Leaders (1 1/2 hours; 2-day limit in one of the smaller rooms)
   - Proposed topics for discussion:
     Advocacies or programs in the regions
     Trauma Systems in the different countries
     Referral Systems
     Disaster Management in Time of Conflict
     Surgical Education
     UHC Experience in Thailand and Malaysia
     Reciprocity

   Reserved Sampaguita Room for Free Paper Presentations starting from Day 1
   - Committee on Health Maintenance Organization (1-hour session)
   - AdHoc Committee on UHC (2-hour session)
   - Pain Summit as Twilight Symposium (5:00-6:00PM)

Committee on LMS

The Board APPROVED organizing a technical group comprising surgical residents to provide assistance in the videos for the LMS.

As a token to these residents, a 20% discount in their convention registration fees will be extended.

Committee on Surgical Research

1. ERB -SOP TEAM
   The Board APPROVED the following documents as requirements for PHREB Application with come revisions:
   1. Cover Letter
   2. Institutional Policy Statement
   3. Institutional Organogram

   The Education, Training and Research Activities should be a dotted line instead of a straight line to the Management Committee.

2. Global Evaluation of Cholecystectomy Knowledge and Outcomes "GECKO" Study
   Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wdj3eSs8bVg

   Board Action: The Board APPROVED that the Global Evaluation of Cholecystectomy Knowledge and Outcomes (GECKO) be forwarded/disseminated to the surgical societies, institutions and surgeons and NOT the College.

Cluster C – Membership Development

Committee on By-laws & Amendments

The Board APPROVED the following recommendations as presented:

1. To amend the PCS By-laws particularly on the following provisions:

1.1. Additional membership category, namely: Diplomate and Associate Member
1.2. Definition of Diplomate and Associate Member
1.3. Rights & Privileges

2. To ratify these amendments during the PCS Business Meeting on December 3, 2023

3. To disseminate these amendments to the Fellows at least two (2) months before the scheduled Business Meeting.

4. The ratification will be supervised by the PCS COMELEC who will also prepare the pertinent documents, i.e. Proxy Forms.

5. Each provision/amendment will be voted upon For or Against

   A meeting with the PCS Board of Governors and Subspecialties will be scheduled to present these amendments

Committee on Membership

1. Granting of Amnesty to Delinquent Fellows

   Granting of a one-time amnesty to delinquent Fellows with unpaid financial obligations of three (years) and more, provided the following are met:
   a) He/she will have to settle his previous 3-year arrears prior to the amnesty plus the 2023 dues
   b) Attendance to at least three (3) conventions in three years, either Midyear Convention or Annual Clinical Congress
   c) Active participation in his/her local PCS Chapter

   The timing of the amnesty is important in relation to updating the membership roster:
   The AMNESTY SHOULD BE OFFERRED AHEAD OF THE DELISTING PROCESS. Deadline for Amnesty : November 30, 2023.
   Thereafter, delisting process will begin Dec, Jan, Feb. Persistent delinquents will be dropped March 2024.

2. Giving discounts to Sub-Specialty Societies applying for PCS Fellowship on behalf of their members.

   The Board APPROVED the following conditions:

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A 20% discount will be given to Subspecialties upon application of majority; if not all of their Fellows for PCS membership. This is a one-time discount.

The members pay the regular amount in succeeding annual dues.

e.3. Extending the Regular application for Fellowship up to JUNE 30, 2023.

Cluster D – External Affairs

Committee on External Affairs & PR

1. Budget Proposal for PCS 87th Foundation Week Activities
The Board Approved the Budget 2023 for the SUB-COMMITTEE ON FOUNDATION DAY:

2. PCS Bazaar Guidelines - September 9-10, 2023; Veterans Memorial Medical Center Basketball Court

The following were noted:

2.1. Vending Guidelines

2.2. Set up and Operation of Vendor Booths

2.3. Using of PCS Logo for indigenous products of the Chapters.

3. PCS Retro Car Festival 2023: "A Gentlemen's Open Car Competition"

30 cars to compete for the following Criteria:
- ❖ Best of Show
- ❖ Best in Paint
- ❖ Best in Engine Display
- ❖ Best in Interior
- ❖ Best in its Class 60's 2 dr/4dr
- ❖ Best in its Class 70's 2dr/4dr
- ❖ Best in its Class 80's 2dr/4dr
- ❖ Star of Excellence Award - PCS President's Choice Award
- ❖ Best RetroMod
- ❖ President/Regent's Choice - Best Retro Sport

a.4. PCS Motorcade
Route: VMMC → (Starting point) → PCS Building → Quezon City Circle → Commonwealth and back to VMMC.

Committee on ASEAN Summit & International Relations

The Board APPROVED the following recommendations as presented:

a.1.1. Additional Members:
- ➢ Josefina R. Almonte, MD
- ➢ Natasha Emano-Elazegui, MD

a.1.2. Participation – 79th Annual Clinical Congress, 24th Asian Surgical Congress & 12th AFSC Summit – December 3-6, 2023; EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City

a.1.3 AFSC Summit - Proposed Scientific Program

The Summit will also focus on sharing of best practices; a comparative matrix on cancer, trauma and other relevant areas.

a.1.4. 24th ASA Biennial Congress
A copy of the draft scientific program will be forwarded to the ASA President, Prof. Kent Man-Chu before this is disseminated to the ASA membership.

The final materials will be ready by June 15, 2023.

a.1.5. Letters of invitation have been sent to the Presidents of Surgical Colleges both from the region and the regular invitees from Surgical Colleges.

As of this writing, the Vice President from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Dr. Clare McNaught together with one of the Council Members, Dr. Stuart Clark have confirmed their attendance.

a.1.6. Proposed partnership with the recognized Taiwan Surgical Society on the following aspects:
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Training
- ❖ Surgical Research

Dr. VP Villaflor, III will update the Committee based on his talks with Dr. Wayne Shih-Wei Huang, Director of IRCAD Taiwan.

BOR Action: Why not "sisterhood"?

a.1.7. Update on the following:

- ❖ NOTSS (Non-Technical Skills for Surgeons) & MRCS (Membership of The Royal College of Surgeons)

As discussed by the undersigned with Dr. Clare McNaught, a NOTSS Workshop will be held during the 79th ACC; 20-30 participants will be invited. As discussed, a plan to increase the number of faculty for the NOTSS is targeted.

MRCS (Membership of The Royal College of Surgeons)

The following were identified:

The Committee proposed conducting a workshop on December 6, 2023 to meet with prospective examiners (7-10) and once chosen, an orientation/training is scheduled for 2024.

Council Member, Dr. Stuart Clark will spear-head the MRCS workshop.

To schedule an audience with the BOR and Presidents of subspecialty societies to discuss plans regarding the MRCS together with Dr. Stuart Clark.

Prof. Clare McNaught, the vice president of RCS Edinburgh , will talk on NOTSS and can also talk about the alimentary tract if requested and Dr. Stuart Clark will talk about MRCS and can also talk on maxillo facial surgery if requested. → give to Com. on CSE

A renewal of the MOA with RCSEd for collaboration and cooperation reg about surgical training and education by December.

Committee on Publications

The Board APPROVED the following recommendations as presented:

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PCS Board of Regents Honors Dr. Teodoro Herbosa for his Appointment as Secretary of Health

• Joy Grace Jerusalem, MD, FPCS •

In a momentous ceremony held at the Department of Health, the esteemed Board of Regents proudly presented Dr. Teodoro Herbosa, the newly appointed Department of Health (DOH) Secretary, with a resolution, acknowledging his remarkable achievements in the field of healthcare administration and his invaluable contributions to advancing public health in the Philippines, particularly that of Trauma and Disaster Preparedness. Resolution 2023-10 was unanimously approved by the PCS Board of Regents last July 15, 2023, and was presented to Dr Herbosa last August 4, in his office at the Department of Health.

Dr. Herbosa's appointment as DOH Secretary marked a significant milestone in his already illustrious career. A seasoned medical professional with decades of experience, Dr. Herbosa has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving healthcare systems, trauma care, and disaster management within the Philippines. Dr Herbosa formerly worked as a Department of Health Undersecretary between 2010 and 2015. During this time, he played a role in various projects like the Hospital Accreditation Commission, modernizing the Philippine Orthopedics Center, and advancing Public-Private Partnerships in Health. He earned his medical degree from UP-Manila and a bachelor's degree in Biology from UP-Diliman. Dr Herbosa also completed an International Diploma Course in Emergency and Crisis Management from the University of Geneva and Postgraduate Studies in Medicine from Tel Aviv University's Sackler Faculty of Medicine. Between October 2017 and April 2021, he served as the Executive Vice President of the UP System. Dr Herbosa held other positions including Chief Division of Trauma at the Department of Surgery in the Philippine General Hospital, Chair of the Board for Physicians for Peace Philippines, and 3rd Vice President of the UP Alumni Association. He taught at the Emergency Department of Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and the National University of Malaysia. He also sat on the Board of Directors for the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM), advised the Australasian Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians in Melbourne, Australia, and acted as a Regional Education Coordinator for the HOPE Program at John Hopkins University's Center for International Emergencies, Disasters, and Refugee Studies (CIEDRS). He advised the National Task Force Against COVID-19 and consulted internationally in countries like Palau, Maldives, Malaysia, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Vietnam, Tunisia, and Thailand. His contributions have significantly impacted emergency medicine and trauma care. Dr Herbosa played a key role in creating the STOP DEATH Program and participated in the Safe Surgery Saves Lives Global Task Force, responsible for the WHO safe surgery checklist. Before his appointment, Herbosa was a distinguished Professor at the College of Medicine at UP-Manila.

The resolution (see page 19) presented by the PCS Board of Regents recognized Dr. Herbosa's numerous accomplishments in the College, having served in various capacities, particularly in the trauma and disaster preparedness programs. The resolution highlighted his instrumental role as the first Director of the PCS Trauma, Injury and Burn Care Commission, whose structure and programs were established under his leadership.

The event underscored the invaluable role that healthcare leaders like Dr. Herbosa play in shaping the nation's health landscape. As the Philippines strives for a stronger, more equitable healthcare system, the dedication and expertise of individuals like Dr. Herbosa serve as an inspiration to both current and future generations of surgeons.

The Philippine College of Surgeons' Board of Regents' presentation of a resolution recognizing Dr. Teodoro Herbosa's appointment as the Department of Health Secretary serves as a testament to his exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of all Filipinos. His dedication to advancing healthcare services, ensuring disaster preparedness, and promoting public health awareness has not only earned him this well-deserved recognition from the College but has also left an indelible mark on the nation's healthcare legacy.

Philippine College of Surgeons

Quality Surgery For All

Resolution no. 2023-10

RESOLUTION HONORING TEODORO J. HERBOSA, MD, FPCS FOR HIS APPOINTMENT AS THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, The Philippine College of Surgeons is the prime organization of cutting specialists in the country with a mission and a vision of providing "Quality Surgery for All";

WHEREAS, its roster of Fellows - then and now - are at the forefront, not only in the surgical management of Filipino patients, but in many facets of society particularly leadership;

WHEREAS, the Filipino surgeon is a vital part in nation building which is at the core of the values being promoted and advocated by the College to its Fellows;

WHEREAS, Dr. Teodoro J. Herbosa has been one of the valued Fellows of the College having selflessly served the College in various capacities particularly in our trauma and disaster preparedness programs;

WHEREAS, Dr. Teodoro J. Herbosa is the first director of the PCS Trauma, Injury and Burn Care Commission - whose structure and programs were established under his leadership;

WHEREAS, recognizing the leadership quality and competence of one of our Fellows - Dr. Teodoro J. Herbosa, his excellency President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. appointed him as Secretary of Health to steer the health programs and initiatives of the government;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Board of Regents formally expresses its deep and sincere recognition to TEODORO J. HERBOSA, MD, Fellow of the Philippine College of Surgeons for his appointment as SECRETARY OF HEALTH, Republic of the Philippines;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of this resolution be formally and personally awarded to him by the Officers and Regents of the Philippine College of Surgeons;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that a copy of this resolution be published in the official gazette of the College and copies sent to all subspecialties, affiliate societies, and chapters of the College.

This foregoing resolution was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED by the PCS Board of Regents this 15th day of July in the year of our Lord 2023.

JOSELITO M. MENDOZA, MD, FPCS
Secretary

MARIA CONCEPCION A. ESAGAS, MD, FPCS
President



Proposed Amendments to PCS By-Laws: Pioneering Professional Integration

• Joy Grace Jerusalem, MD, FPCS •

In a pivotal move to adapt to the evolving landscape of healthcare and surgery, the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) has introduced proposed amendments to its By-Laws through the establishment of an Adhoc Committee on Professional Integration, chaired by Regent, Dr. Esperanza R. Lahoz. These proposed changes reflect the PCS's expanded responsibilities, now encompassing not only the professional growth of its Fellows but also active participation in nation-building and the transformation of the medical field within the Philippines.

Over the years, the PCS has been at the forefront of advocating for Filipino surgeons, representing their interests in various government agencies such as the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), Department of Health (DOH), and Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). The College's engagement with non-government organizations has also strengthened its position as a pivotal player in the medical community.

A significant achievement attributed to the PCS is its crucial role in formulating the pending Physicians' Act in Congress, spearheaded by then 2019 PCS President, Dr. George G. Lim. This legislative endeavor underlines the PCS's commitment to the integration of the entire medical profession, including surgeons. The impending implementation of the Universal Health Care (UHC) policy further underscores the need for proactive adaptation within the field of surgery in the Philippines.

In addition, the PCS acknowledges the mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) among ASEAN countries, emphasizing the necessity to identify and certify specialists across borders. Within the Philippines, the PRC exclusively recognizes the PCS as the authoritative organization for surgical specialties, amplifying the College's role in shaping surgical standards and practices.

The proposed amendments seek to build upon this legacy and address the ever-evolving challenges faced by the medical community. The creation of two new categories of membership, namely "Associate" and "Diplomate," represents a significant step forward. These categories are designed to encompass a wider range of medical professionals and specialists, aligning with the PCS's goal of holistic professional integration.

The emergence of the UHC, impending legislative changes, and the ASEAN MRA necessitate a comprehensive approach to surgical practice and professional representation. The PCS's commitment to nurturing surgeons from their early residency training, through the rigorous specialty board examinations, until they attain the esteemed status of Fellow within their respective specialty, is integral to the College's vision of excellence.

In conclusion, the proposed amendments to the Philippine College of Surgeons' By-Laws are a testament to the College's visionary leadership and its unwavering dedication to the advancement of surgery and healthcare in the Philippines. The creation of Associate and Diplomate categories marks a bold step towards integrating the medical profession, ensuring that the PCS continues to be a beacon of innovation and excellence within the medical landscape of the nation.

Amendments are indicated in bold letters & underlined.

ARTICLE I - ***Section 1. Membership***
The College shall be composed of Fellows, Honorary Fellows, **Diplomates, Associates** and Resident Members.

Section 4. Diplomate
A Diplomate is a surgeon who has graduated from a surgical residency training program duly accredited by a PCS specialty society; has passed that specialty board's certifying examination/s recognized by the PCS.

Section 5. Associate
An Associate is a surgeon who has graduated from a residency training program duly accredited by a PCS specialty society but has not taken or passed that specialty board's certifying examinations.

Section 6. **Resident Member**

ARTICLE III – Fellowship Rights and Privileges

Section 1 - Rights

Membership in the College and all rights arising there from are personal and non-transferable. These rights may be limited or denied by the Board of Regents based on standard corporate practice.

Section 2 - Privileges ***of a Fellow***
Privileges inherent to fellowship may be extended or suspended by the Board of Regents based on compliance with the duties and obligations of membership.
A Fellow shall have the right to participate in any scientific and social activities of the College with a preferential rate and enjoy the goodwill and use of the facilities of the organization. They may be invited to be speakers, chair or members of the Committees
Fellows shall be allowed to use the suffix "FPCS" to indicate their membership category in the College.

Section 4 – Rights and Privileges of Diplomates and Associates

a) Diplomate

A Diplomate shall have the right to participate in any of the scientific and social activities of the College with a preferential rate and enjoy the goodwill and use of the facilities of the organization. He/She may be invited to be a member of National Committee/s. He/She shall have such other privileges as stated in the administrative manual.

He/She cannot vote and be voted upon for any elective office of the College.

Diplomates shall not be allowed to use the suffix "FPCS". They can use "Diplomate PCS" to indicate their membership category in the College.

b) Associate

An Associate shall have the privilege to participate in any of the scientific and social activities of the College with a preferential rate and conditionally enjoy the goodwill and use of the facilities of the organization. He/She shall have such other privileges as stated in the administrative manual.

He/She cannot vote and cannot be voted upon for any elective office of the College.

Associates shall not be allowed to use the suffix "FPCS". However, they can use "Associate PCS" to indicate their membership category in the College.

ARTICLE IV – Maintenance of ***Membership***

Section 1 - Good standing

Maintenance of professional competence and personal integrity, as well as the faithful compliance with the duties and obligations of membership, are requisites for maintenance of ***membership.*** The Board of Regents may from time to time promulgate additional requirements.

Section 2 - Discipline

c. ***Membership*** shall be terminated for failure to meet financial obligations imposed by the College or for failure to attend either the Annual or Midyear Conventions for three (3) consecutive years or, for failure to satisfy other requirements which the Board of Regents may impose for the maintenance of membership, provided that such other requirements shall have been ratified by a majority of all the Fellows in good standing.

Section 3 - Inactive Status

The Board of Regents may grant inactive status to ***members who are incapacitated*** or retired from active practice of Surgery. They are exempted from the payment of dues, fees and assessments, but may continue to enjoy the rights and privileges of membership.

Section 4 – Reinstatement

The Board of Regents may reinstate ***members*** under the following circumstances: a) when the termination is due only to failure to comply with the financial requirements of the College; and b) when termination is based on an erroneous judgment.

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As of this writing, Fellows in good standing have been given electronic survey forms for them to cast their votes on the proposed amendments. The Adhoc Committee on Professional Integration, in behalf of the PCS Board of Regents, has also called for an online PCS Town Hall Meeting to present and discuss the amendments to the PCS By-Laws on August 18, 2023, at 7:00 PM. The Approval of these changes will be part of the Agenda of the Annual Business Meeting of the Philippine College of Surgeons on December 3, 2023, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Isla Ballroom 3 of the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel Manila, Mandaluyong City.



PCS 49th Midyear Convention

• Hannah Angela D. Acosta, MD, FPCS •

This glorious affair - 9 years since the last hosting of the PCS Davao Southern Mindanao (DSM) Chapter - came into fruition upon the arrival of more than 1000 delegates on the 4th of May 2023 in the Durian and Chocolate Capital of the Philippines.

The PCS 49th Midyear Convention entitled Surgery and Universal Health Care was held at SMX Convention Center in Davao City on May 4-5, 2023 and hosted by PCS Davao Southern Mindanao Chapter. The said event, deemed a success, opened with an inspiring speech by Vice President Inday Sara Duterte-Carpio. Various programs that followed were organized by the many subspecialty societies and organizations under PCS.

One of the many highlights of the convention was the active participation of Mindanao-wide multi-specialty colleagues and national key stakeholders on the Universal Health Care (UHC) Summit. The main authors and honored speakers took action in the conversations on Universal Health Care and its effects on general and specialty medical practice and on the Filipino community.

The Fellowship Night held on the first evening of the convention had a theme: Kadayawan Festival in May. The awe-inspiring production and stunts of the Mindanao performers during the night was equal in magnitude with the staggering feast and prizes prepared by PCS and the DSM chapter.







With a wide array of topics for all surgeons involved, it was only apt to culminate the convention with the Dr. Alex Lay Tan Memorial Lecture for his lasting legacy on the expert practice of surgical oncology in Davao City and in the whole country. There were also community services hosted by different societies and PCS Fellows in many locations of Mindanao.

The PCS 49th Midyear Convention was truly an exceptional celebration of intellect and holistic view to improved circumstances in universal health care. This was an opportunity after the pandemic wherein we were able to step away from the virtual screen and rebuild in-person relationships between colleagues, friends and Fellows.



UHC Stakeholders' Summit Synthesis

• Carlo Irwin Panelo, MD •

We face the challenge of having a varied understanding of UHC mandates by different stakeholders. But Sen. Bong Go has effectively articulated the UHC vision through a story. At the end of the day, what will matter is that our people, especially the poor will be able to access care and not have to line up to multiple offices to beg for help. PCS is on the right track by engaging in the UHC dialog to carry the voice of surgeons and better understand and respond to the concerns of other stakeholders. The discussions this afternoon have unearthed very complex and highly value-laden issues that are not easy to resolve and address. The proposal for a high level commission to study and provide guidance on UHC implementation is a very timely recommendation.

The UHC law was passed nearly 4 years ago but understanding of the law's spirit and intent and expectations in implementation vary among stakeholders. But according to Senator Bong Go, the goal is clear to ensure that health services are accessible, especially for the poor.

Dr. Juvie Villaflor and Dr. Connie Vesagas offered this UHC Summit as a way for PCS to bridge the knowledge gap and set off a process of dialog among the community of surgeons and with government and other stakeholders.

The role of surgery in primary health care is critical as access to lifesaving surgery is among the most cost-effective health interventions based on the Copenhagen Consensus. Access to essential surgical care should be one of the outcome goals of UHC in addition to financial risk protection. Dr. Chacon reported that surgeons have introduced several measures to increase access to surgical services, e.g. training family physicians and task shifting, surgical residency rotations and outreach missions. Surgical access can also be increased by complying with the 10% ward bed mandate in the UHC Act.

Dr. Enrique Ona recalled that surgeons have been part of the long history of health reform such as through formal specialization, setting the RVUs in Medicare as the precursor of DRGs, among others. The UHC Act mandated a shift to DRG-based global budget payments. But DRG is a very complicated procedure that our systems may not be ready to implement. Dr. Olarte explained the complex nature of the DRG system. While the shift may have improved access from a public health standpoint, Dr. LeoOlarte also warned that some studies report association with a decline in the quality of surgical care as shown by the 5-fold increase in OPD surgeries, shorter hospital stay and higher readmission rates. This is not counting fraud in claims by unduly reporting higher severity to get higher pay, i.e. DRG creep.

Dr. Alvin Marcelo explained that UHC such as the adoption of DRGs and use of EMRs require higher IT requirements, for both PhilHealth and from providers. He also warned that poorly designed IT systems can worsen health outcomes and practitioners need to be actively engaged in its development. Dr. Marcelo recommended the MIND THE GAPS as guiding framework for developing IT systems and called for a national and provider level blueprint. AVP Rulloda emphasized the need for strengthening PhilHealth's IT system , i.e. coming up with standards and a blueprint given the mandate for universal enrolment and immediate eligibility, registration with primary care networks for access to a comprehensive benefit package, and shift to DRG based global budget payments.

Dr. Ona challenged the surgeons to engage DOH and PhilHealth in developing a system that is suitable and practical for our setting. Dr. Art Flores conveyed the concern of PHAPI on how the professional fees and Konsulta capitation will be computed. The way benefit payments are designed pose challenges in private hospitals where the doctors are not salaried. Dr. Ona said that surgeons need to explain the need for balance in expanding access to care and ensuring quality of care, including protecting the doctor-patient relationship, autonomy in practice and setting professional fees with fixed copayments by third party payers like PhilHealth.

UHC Stakeholders' Summit... from page 23

PCS should lead efforts in carrying the voice of surgeons in defining the path for UHC in the country. This and more were discussed during the UHC Stakeholders' Summit during the PCS Midyear Convention in Davao City on May 4, 2023.

VP Rulloda of PhilHealth assured stakeholders that the development of these systems will be done in close consultation. PhilHealth is also continuously learning from implementation experience. Sen. Go challenged PhilHealth and DOH to step up to the challenge of realizing UHC in the country especially that 40% of health expenditures are from out-of-pocket sources. While government health expenditures have increased, there is a need to increase government spending and improve efficiency in fund management to meet expectations from UHC and reverse the decline in the share of PhilHealth financing. Sen. Bong Go highlighted the need to invest in expanding the capacity of our health system and to focus efforts and subsidies to the poor. Another source of government financing are the LGUs that are mandated to pool their funds in a Special Health Fund, but this process is highly variable given the preferences of participating LGUs.

Dr. Hilton Lam warned of rationing if UHC benefits increase but financing and health system capacity will not keep pace. Assignment of accountabilities need to be clarified as heavy reliance in SHI financing can lead to hospital bias and increase inequity. In the case of hospitals and the health care industry, Dr. Lirio saw challenges in cost containment and viability given that medical inflation has a faster rate of increase. On top of this, PHAPI members are agonizing over delayed payments. Shortage in health workers also put the health system at risk.

On the whole, the discussions unearthed technically complex and highly value-laden topics. PCS should continue this dialog in its annual convention and set up an engagement process with stakeholders. Sen. Bong Go illustrated how the poor are failed by our current system. Dr Ona's suggestion to convene a multidisciplinary team or commission to guide monitor and evaluate UHC implementation is a timely suggestion.

Across the Board... from page 16

c.1. 2023 ACC/ASA/AFSC ANIMATED POSTER

c.2. 2023 ACC/ASA/AFSC ABSTRACT INVITE HTML-BASED EMAIL

c.3. ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GOOGLE FORM

c.4. 2023 ACC/ASA/AFSC ABSTRACT INVITE VIA VIBER COMMUNITY

c.5. PCS NEWSLETTER INCISIONS

To print 500 copies of the final issue of Incisions for distribution during the Congress.

c.6. 2023 CONGRESS PROSPECTUS/NEWSPAPER AD
The MOA proposed by Manila Bulletin was rejected/ DISAPPROVED by the BOR. PCS will just pay for the desired advertisements.

Committee on PJSS

The Board APPROVED the following as recommended:

d.1. Securing Digital Object Identifier (DOI)
DOI is a number link to meta data to easily find the articles on the internet.

d.2. Back file & Current record retrieval

Committee on SICT

The Board APPROVED the following as recommended:

Software provider – Quatro Cantos proposed a PCS Clinical Congress mobile app for Android and iOS devices

Committee on Patient Safety & Quality Assurance

A copy of the template for the Operations Manual will be provided to all the Committees for purposes of uniformity.

PCS CanCom Multidisciplinary Tumor Board Workshop goes to BICOL!

Be our partner and learn how to establish your own tumor board at our touring workshops

Congratulations to Team Bicol for a Successful Multidisciplinary Tumor Board Workshop!

This workshop was a testament to the power of teamwork and collaboration in advancing cancer care. We are grateful to all the participants for their contributions to improving the care of patients with cancer.

The multidisciplinary tumor board workshop brought together experts from different disciplines to discuss the best treatment options for patients with cancer.

This collaborative approach allows for a more comprehensive and individualized treatment plan for each patient.

We are excited to see the impact that this workshop will have on the care of patients with cancer in Bicol.

Thank you again to all the participants for their hard work and dedication.

Be our partner and learn how to establish your own tumor board at our next touring workshops.





PCS Cancer Commission and Bicol Medical Center Leaders Unite to Advance Cancer Care

The leaders of the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) Cancer Commission and Bicol Medical Center (BMC) are pictured here at a recent workshop on multidisciplinary tumor boards.

Multidisciplinary tumor boards are a collaborative approach to cancer care that brings together experts from different disciplines to discuss the best treatment options for each patient. This approach allows for a more comprehensive and individualized treatment plan, which can lead to better outcomes for patients.

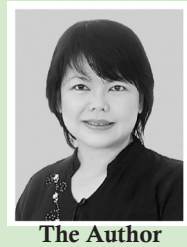
The PCS Cancer Commission and BMC are committed to advancing cancer care in the Philippines. By working together, they can improve the quality of cancer care.



(L-R): PCS Cancer Commission Chairman, Dr. Manuel Francisco Roxas; Bicol Medical Center Regional Cancer Center Vice-Chair and Tumor Board Chair, Dr. Maria Karla C. Malanyaon-Ermino, PCS Cancer Commission Director, Dr. Necy Juat; PCS Cancer Commission Director for Cancer Surgery Quality Improvement Program, Dr. Catherine SC Teh; and Bicol Medical Center Infection Control Committee Chair & EREID Head, Jose Manuel Rañola III, and Medical Training Officer, Rex Madrigal

The Philippine Medical Association: Isang Daan at Dalawampung Taong Pagsilbi sa Tanán

• Vietrez David Abella, MD, FPCS, FPSGS •
PMA Governor for Bicol Region, FY 2023 to 2024


The Author

Ang puso ko'y tigib ng kasayahan
Dahil ako ay nasama sa tanán
Ang lahat may gintong nasa
Makisig at masigla
Kapisanan ay tunay ang damdamin
Suliranin nitong Baya'y pawiin
Idalangin natin ng tapat
Sa Maykapal may lunas ang lahat

Awit ng PMA
Tayo ay magdiwang
Magtulungan, pag-unlad ng Bayan
Ang kailangan ibigay sa tanan
Kalusugan at kasaganahan

- by Dr. Felicisimo Y. Guevara, PMA Hymn, 1969

The Philippine Medical Association, since its inception in 1903, has always been at the forefront of health care delivery in the country. An article written by Dr. Santiago S. Del Rosario, PMA President for 1988 to 1989 (PMA Legacy – Philippine Medical Association), highlights PMA's pioneering efforts hand-in-hand with the Philippine Republic: establishing within its first decade a second medical school (presumably the University of the Philippines College of Medicine), and several hospitals including the Philippine General Hospital; creation of the Department of Health (1939), the Board of Examiners in Medicine and Surgery (1944 to 1954), the Food and Drugs and Cosmetics Board (1954 to 1964, later on to become the Food and Drug Administration), and the Dangerous Drugs Board (1964 to 1965). Likewise, it also put forth the idea of medical care, actualized with the Philippine Medical Care Commission, which eventually became the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

PMA has always championed the improvement of the quality of health care, especially public health - hygiene, sanitation, and immunization; taking big strides towards the effective management of communicable diseases, including typhoid fever and cholera; advocating childcare and nutrition (such as "Tiki-tiki" for children when it was discovered that beri-beri or vitamin B deficiency accounted for the high mortality rate of children under 5 years old); and initiated the public declaration on the dangers of tobacco and smoking.

Now, with over a hundred thousand physicians spread across most of the main Philippine islands, PMA turns inward to focus on its membership base. Critical is the passage into law of the proposed Philippine Medical Act of 2023, which seeks to reinvigorate the Medical Act of 1959 and mandate all licensed physicians in the Philippines to be members of the PMA, and thus solidify its ranks and contribute to the actualization of its Mission and Vision put forth as follows:

Mission

A dynamic, responsive, and unified PMA committed to serve its members thru increased benefits, enhanced professional development, and the promotion and defense of the rights and privileges of the Medical Profession.

These efforts, in partnership with other organizations and the Government, shall contribute to excellent healthcare delivery to its patients and the community at large.

"PMA: In a dedicated selfless and humane service of the Medical Profession for a healthy Philippines and for the Glory of God."

Vision

Our vision in the Association is to have a fellowship of physicians united in the common goal of acquiring the highest levels of medical knowledge and skills through continuing education and research, and to promote the healing ministrations of the physicians in the delivery of health care to patients.

We seem to have lost sight of our commonality when medical practice became differentiated further and further through specializations and subspecializations. Let us not forget that first of all, we are Filipino Physicians. Bilang manggagamot ng bayan, nawa'y tayo'y magbalik sa tanán, sa Nagkakaisang PMA.

ONE PMA: Service to the Profession

• Vietrez David Abella, MD, FPCS, FPSGS •

I became a member of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) in 1997 only after my training in general surgery. Why?

A. PMA membership is not required of a licensed MD.

B: I was just too lazy to drop by the Quezon City Medical Society (QCMS) office which was just minutes away from my residence AND from my workplace.

C: I did not see the benefit in becoming a member of
the PMA.

Answer: A and C.

Or more precisely, D: I was already a pre-resident and busy assisting in surgery at the time of the Physician Oath-Taking. This was the time when an officer of the PMA guested to imprint upon eager young doctors the value of joining the club, and outside the doors were staff of the Association waiting to collect dues and sign up the new MDs.

But the message then that was being chain-mailed within our ranks went like this: defer your membership to PMA, because when you sign up, you'd have to start paying your annual dues, which was a hefty PhP 150 back then (valued at PhP 766.01 today according to WorldData.info), or else you'd have to pay arrears. For a government worker on Salary Grade 21, that was advice worth following.

After my training, knowing that I'd have to be a good standing member of a component medical society to apply for Philhealth accreditation, I promptly registered at QCMS. Then transferred my membership to Catanduanes Medical Society (CMS) a few months later, when I was island-based already.

In 1999, two years into my surgical practice in the Land of the Howling Winds, during a meeting of the CMS (and if memory serves me right, the first meeting that was called to elect officers in those two years), I, together with 3 other colleagues, were like deer in headlights as we were ap-POINTED officers by the senior members of the Society. Apparently, this had been our Medical Society's standard for electing officers.

How to serve the component medical society? As there was no turnover from the previous set of officers, we had to recover quickly from our state of shock. I was President, and together with the other officers (Vice- President, Secretary, and Treasurer) agreed on monthly meetings, drawing from our thinly lined pockets to finance our meals. When we found no By-Laws, we immediately drafted one, patterned after that of PMA.

To make a splash into local scene, we made an event out of the induction of officers, inviting the President of the PMA, Dr. Nenita Lee-Tan, and the Regional Governor, Dr. Rodolfo Nitollama. It helped that I was a contributing writer to the weekly tabloid, so this activity made it to the back pages.

Since I was a practicing clinician, medical companies readily volunteered to sponsor continuing medical education activities as well as lay forums. We had an activity every two to three months. When September rolled around, we simply followed the template that PMA set out for the celebration of Medicine Week.

I did all the secretarial work, efficient and cost-effective during this pre-mobile phone era: I wrote and edited the newsletter, and had it mimeographed. My clinic secretary then hand-delivered it to members within Virac, or sent it through jeep and bus lines with a ten-peso "mailing fee" for those in the other ten towns. This way we were able to connect monthly with 50 or so members scattered

throughout the hilly island, most of whom were serving district hospitals or rural health units.

At the same time, we needed to collect the PMA Annual dues and remit (hand-carry) to the PMA office in Quezon City. Having a trustworthy and efficient treasurer is gold. Within the year, we reversed our PMA standing from "poor" (no remittance of dues) to "excellent." We reconciled our members' records with that of PMA, mano-mano. For our component society expenses, us officers dipped into our own pockets for the miscellaneous expenses for meetings and administration, guaranteed by unwritten IOUs. Needing funds and needing them fast, and empowered by our newly written By-Laws, we increased our local annual dues from fifty to five hundred pesos. I did not hear the loud complaints of the senior members of the Society since I did not know how to speak the local language.
We started the "For A Cause" fundraisers with ballroom dancing, which was all the rage on the island back then. Our main attraction was imported ballroom dancers from the mainland. Thankful that were was no social media back then, or else I would surely have been bashed by the members, senior and junior alike, for sending them "considered sold" tickets worth PhP 2000 per member (4,769 in today's pesos). We raised around twenty thousand pesos (or around fifty thousand pesos now), which accounted for most of the funds that we turned over to the next set of officers.

Before my two-year term ended, we proposed local legislation to regulate medical and surgical missions which were not coordinated with the medical society and primarily politically-driven. Worse, there was an ophthalmic mission then that was making the rounds of underserved areas in the country and collecting the Medicare information of patients. The provincial governor welcomed our proposal, and even endorsed this positively to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan. Alas, I unknowingly crossed an organization of medical practitioners from the island who were already based abroad and were coming home every three years to hold medical missions. In a letter to the editor that was headlined in a local tabloid, I was called out for "just wanting a piece of the action," and "nursing my government job in order to fish out potential private patients." I answered back using the politest words I could muster, in a letter to the editor that I sent to THREE tabloids, crawled into my cave with my badly bruised ego for the next three weeks or so. And then poured my heart out in letters to the presidents of both the Philippine Medical Association, AND to the Philippine College of Surgeons (it helped that I was acquainted with the first, and the second was one of my consultants during my training days). I'd like to believe that subsequent resolutions by these organizations on the conduct of foreign medical missions were instigated in part by my letter-writing and follow up of these issues.

Lastly, to ensure the continuity of the Society, we facilitated the election of the next set of officers and prepared for the turnover. For Fiscal Year 2001 to 2003, I turned over CMS to the very capable hands of my Vice-President, Dr. Joselito Urgel, who brought CMS to even greater heights, and became Regional Governor for Bicol. In the following years, I moved on and out to my other professional and regional organizations, the Bicol Chapters of the Philippine College of Surgeons and the Philippine Society of General Surgeons.

I remain in the background of our Medical Society, honored to be called on from time to time as adviser or committee chair or member. Though many more issues would beset our organization, it has survived the past two decades and even thrived during the COVID-19 pandemic, thanks to colleagues who rose to the challenge of leading this organization.

Books to Get You Out of Your Reading Slump

• Tamarah P. Cristobal, MD, DPBS •

I have always been a book lover for as long as I can remember. The best childhood memories for me are when I was sitting inside my grandfather's cupboard and reading the books in his little library. He was a college professor and passed on his love for books to my father who then made sure that I carry the torch of being the family nerd. My parents taught me how to read very early on and I learned to read as early as 4 years old and I was already reading Aesop's Fables, Mr. Men, and Little Miss books on my own.

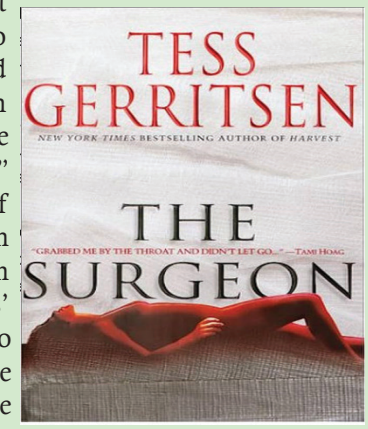
My father would buy audiotapes and I would read along with the books that it came with and learned to read more difficult books past my age. I would play with toys occasionally but books gave a lot of comfort when I was growing up and while my brothers are off to the toy store, I would be off to the bookstore with my dad as promised and he would buy me a maximum of three books, one of which could be a comic book of my own choosing. My go to childhood past time was me pretending to be a librarian and signing out books to my friends and charging them 2 pesos per book per night. The money that I earned paid for more books and more cherished memories.

Reading has always been a way for me to escape and relax and so when I got into Medical school, I forgot about it for awhile and novels were replaced with medical books and up until Residency, I only found time to read when I was not on duty and not preparing for an exam or a report. When I finished residency and passed my exams, I was more than excited to renew my halted passion. What I didn't expect was that transitioning to medical books to novels was trickier than I thought. I found myself repeating every line and memorizing every line and laughing about it after realizing I was reading for fun and not for an exam. Being engrossed with private practice and dealing with stressful situations only left a little time for me to read continuously and so I found myself starting a book and not finishing it and entirely forgetting about it in a cycle that seemed to run endlessly. At first, I thought it was just because of the time constraint that I have, or that I could be outgrowing my love for books but then I realized that I may just need to come across books that would put me out of my reading slump and get me started again. The books that I were reaching for did not piqued my interest, have a slow turn of events, and just not interesting enough to sustain my attention.

I came up with this system that if I am stuck at a book that I am reading for 3 days straight and putting it back in bag after a few pages, then I have to let go of it and start reading something else. Because chances are, if at 3 days I could not find myself to bother flipping the pages, it would probably not go anywhere near something awesome. That was phase 1 for me and it did save me a lot of time and energy into finding more of the things that I was interested in. I know a lot of surgeons are also book lovers and often find themselves in a reading slump and turning their attention towards other things. But thing is, we could get out of our reading hibernation and rediscover the joy of reading once again with great books that would make us fall in love with the smell of freshly opened books once more. Though these are not the usual books from well known authors, these books were selected because these are the same books that proved to get me out of my time space warp from time to time and I would love to share my great finds with you and hope that you will enjoy them as much as I did.

1. The Surgeon By Tess Gerritsen

A medical suspense novel and the first of the Isles Rizzoli series. A serial killer begins stalking the streets of Boston, using his vast medical knowledge to systematically torture and kill vulnerable women which has earned him the nickname "The Surgeon" due to his precision of his killing methods with regards to the human body. The authorities' only clue and close link to the killing rests with a true surgeon, Dr. Catherine

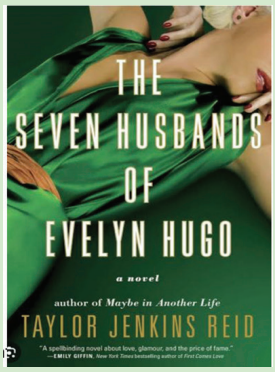


Cordell, a victim of a nearly identical crime two years ago.

This book is filled with the authentic detail of the medical field, owing to the fact that the author is a true doctor in real life. This novel is very captivating and I had a hard time putting it down once I picked it up. If you are an avid fan of mystery/thriller books, this will definitely set you on an exciting journey and will make you want to read the sequel soon after you finish reading it. This is also a great starter book for those who want to explore a different genre and try medical suspense/ thrillers for the first time.

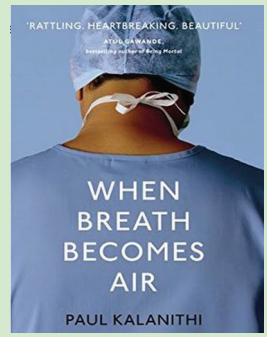
2. The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo By Taylor

Jenkins Reid It is a historical fiction novel and it tells the story of the fictional old Hollywood star Evelyn Hugo, who at the ripe age of 79, gives a final interview to an unknown journalist. The book is split into seven parts all named after Hugo's seven husbands in order to chronicle her life during the marriages. It is a glimpse into the life of a beloved Hollywood starlet better known for her romantic endeavors and scandalous affairs off the screen.



This is the first book of this author that I have read and it go me hooked instantly which I did not expect. It was a deviation from my usual thriller novels but the book cover peaked my interest enough for me to give it a chance and I was not disappointed at all but elated that I have found a new genre that I could actually love as much as mystery novels. It is like an E! True Hollywood Story in book form and is probably one of the most entertaining novels that I have ever read. This book is so juicy and compelling and it kept me turning the pages and desperate enough to find out who among her seven husbands is her greatest love.

3. When Breath Becomes Air By Paul Kalanithi

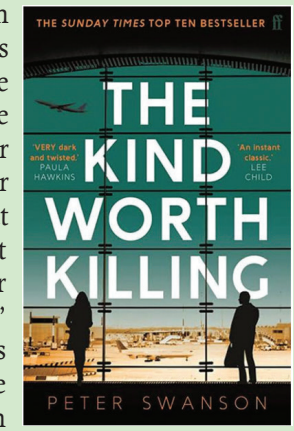


This is a profoundly moving memoir by a young neurosurgeon faced with a terminal cancer diagnosis attempting to answer the question, "What makes life worth living?". At a young age of 36, and on the verge of completing his training as a neurosurgeon, Dr Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer which led him to question his reason for living and what makes it worth living when faced with imminent mortality. It is a book on the challenges of facing one's own possible death while trying to save others. It speaks of his reflections on his work as a doctor and recalls his unforgettable relationships with some of his patients.

While he passed away while working on his memoir, his wife completed it for him and this gem of a book is a remarkable testament to his life that was truly lived with both a mission and a purpose.

I could not promise a dry eye while reading his memoir and I believe that this book is one book that should be a staple in every doctor's bookcase.

4. The Kind Worth Killing by Peter Swanson

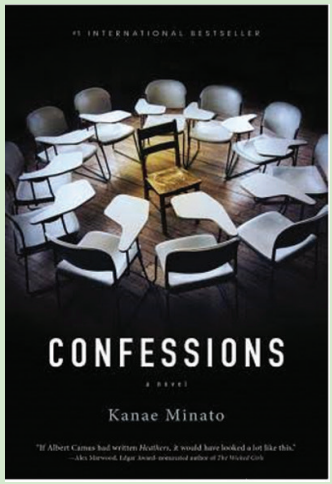


On a night flight from London to Boston, two strangers meet and begin to play a game of truth, revealing very intimate details about themselves. Their game turns a little darker when one of them jokes that he could kill his wife for what she has done and the other saying calmly,"I'd like to Help." Suddenly, these co-conspirators are embroiled in a chilling game of cat and mouse, one they both cannot survive.

To say that this book is my most gifted and recommended book to my friends is an understatement. It is well written, fast paced, and straight to the point. I have converted a couple of people to being book readers with this book. For me this book is not getting the attention it truly deserves and should be made in to a movie. Every twist and deviant plot made me hang on to every page and the ending was a sure winner for me. This masterpiece made me fall in love with this author and wait for every book that he comes up with next.

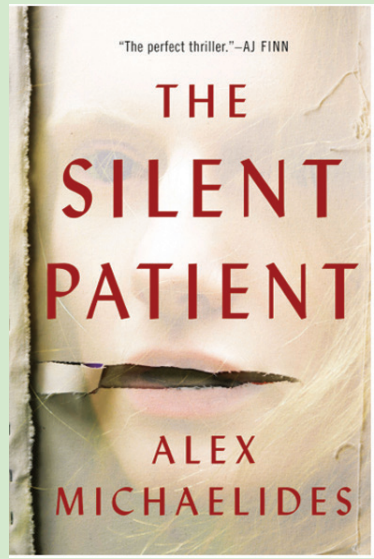
5. Confessions by Kanae Minato

The story centers on a teacher, Yuko Moriguchi whose 4 year old daughter Manami is found to have drowned in the school swimming pool. On the last day of school, she then decides to tell the class the truth that her daughter didn't drown by accident and that the culprits are members of the class. What comes next is a story that traces the impact of A teacher's act of revenge while dealing with themes of power, motherhood, and other social issues.



I came across this book by accident. I was at Fully Booked Looking for a different book when I glanced upon the cover and was so intrigued with the little summary that it had to tell. I had a feeling that I will enjoy this one and after reading the last page, I know my little accident would turn out to be one of the best accidents that I could have ever encountered. This is wonderfully written literary mystery. Knowing who did it and how it happened, but what unfolds is the story of revenge and the consequences of their actions. Chapters are told in different viewpoints of the different characters and we learn of delectable plot twists along the way. It is one of my most reread novels and I have also gifted this book to some friends who loved it as much as I did.

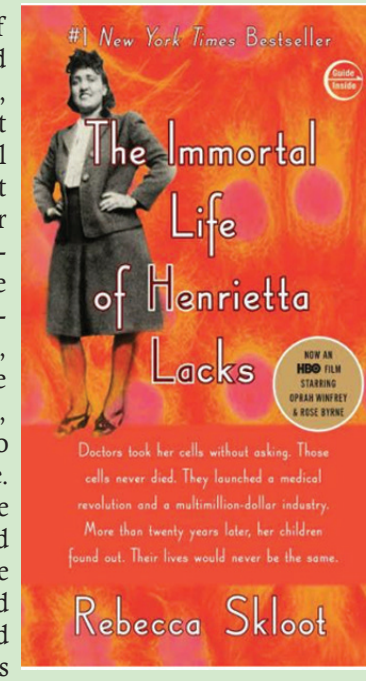
6. The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides



The story is centered on a woman named Alicia, who murdered her husband in an open and shut case and then becomes completely silent through her psychological treatment and has not spoken a word since. Her doctor, a psychotherapist named Theo, is then obsessed with uncovering her motive.

I read this book in a single day and I was so hooked that I found myself ending my clinic hours way earlier than I should be because I could not part with this book for a long time. It is a very compelling and fast paced story that has so many twists and questions at every turn. I suggest reading it in the morning because it will definitely consume your entire day and starting it at night is not a good idea when all you want to do is get a good night's sleep.

7. The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot



This is a true story of Henrietta Lacks, and the immortal cell line, known as HeLa, that came from her cervical cancer cells in 1951 that was taken without her and her family's knowledge. Her cells became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, in vitro fertilization, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains unknown and her family cannot afford health insurance. It tells a riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine.

I rarely read non fiction books but this one is just so interesting and shocking that I found myself going through it without difficulty. It's not just about the medical injustices but also about a story about a remarkable woman that was responsible for revolutionizing medicine but remained unknown and invisible.

Silent Casualties

• Lynne Lourdes Lucena, MD, FPCS •

I sat silently at the back of the conference room. I have a fairly good idea of what happened during that night when Mr G. died. But then again it was not me who directly handled him. The resident trainee obviously did not make rounds on the patient and he was found lifeless on his bed. A silent casualty. Should I raise my hand and give my two cents or shall I keep my ideas to myself? After all the patient is already dead. But then again, I cannot be silent for I am a physician and I have sworn an oath.

But before I earned the position of seniority, I have undergone the rigorous training of a resident physician and have had my share of mistakes and failures. Even now as a senior consultant and medical specialist, I have to study every case before I go into surgery so much that I usually dream of the procedure the night before I perform them.

Am I worthy to become a mentor to someone?

Do years of experience make one a teacher or is it years of wisdom and not just knowledge? If I do not correct the mistakes or negligence done by the trainees who are part of the department, does that make me an accomplice to the detriment of the sick and to the poor patients who entrusted their lives to us? I think so. A lot of these mistakes could have been avoided if the trainees were properly guided and taught. So did I do my part to teach and guide them? My former students should be the one to tell me to my face if I taught them anything. And they are successful consultants now in their own specialties and I am proud of them.

If I could impart a little bit of advice to my trainees, it only consists of two things- one, to abide by the Golden Rule — you do unto others what you want done unto you. That question is at the forefront of all the dealings that I have with my own patients. I would always ask myself before an operation is prescribed to a patient that if I were on the same situation or if my loved ones are suffering from the same condition, would I have that paritucular operation done also? Will I also take this particular brand or kind of medicine that I am prescribing to my patient if I am on the same boat? The power of healing has been shared to us and with this comes a great deal of responsibility towards the welfare and over all wellness and safety of our patients. This particular adage also reflects part of the Hippocratic oath of "first do no harm'.

Secondly, caring for patients means service with compassion. Treat your patients as you would care for your own family. At the same time, take note that one also has to care for oneself. For one cannot impart care and compassion if there is no self care and self value. One cannot give what one does not have.

These reflections that I carried throughout my training days have been reinforced by the teachings of my own mentors who have in their own ways walked with me through the ups and downs of my path as a physician and doctor.

I have learned to be forgiving both to myself and everyone in the team. I have accepted the grave mistakes which later led to learning experiences. I have this graveyard in my mind and in my heart. There I bury and archive these failures and when I need them to remind me of the past lessons, I spend some moments praying for the ghosts in this graveyard of mine. And after laying bare my soul, I open it to the Divine Healer for the ultimate guidance. And I emerge back into the present ready to be in the battle for the health of my patients.

Yes, maybe I will continue to teach and mentor and I will not be silent in those times when the need arises. The pain and stress that it also echoes in my heart is there but I cannot allow that the dead will be buried unrecognized. The failures and mistakes need to be written out in bold letters to be the next lessons to be taken to heart by the one committing the errors. They have to have their own graveyard of mistakes where they can seek to gain their own path to wisdom and final forgiveness.

Only when I can speak plainly will I not be part of the silent casualty. For in the end, my silence would lead to more silent casualties of patients and ultimately affect the uncorrected and drag them down into the quagmire of health care mediocrity which will cause more deaths and silence. Alas, by then everyone will be silent casualties.

Lux In Domino

• Edwin Villanueva, MD, FPCS, FPSGS •

Do you believe in miracles?

This is a question I ask with my terminally ill patients. It may be construed as a consolation to provide hope, However, with my Catholic upbringing, I firmly believe in its existence.

Let me narrate to you how this scenario came about and eventually had been part of my practice.

As a General and Cancer surgeon, I come across patients who are terminally ill with stage 4 cancer. To which, Medical or Surgical treatment seems to be futile. The limitation of doctors to heal becomes apparent. An acceptance of truth that doctors seem to portray sometimes, " My hands are tied. I am not God".

What then can we do or say? As doctors, if we cannot treat the illness, we are bound to palliate and ease the pain of suffering. At this point of despair, I asked myself on what else can I still offer? As a believer in Christ, to whom a lot of miracles happened, I now offer the HOPE in which our Lord had done and continously been doing. Definitely, it is being asked of the patient and not being forced to, to provide a semblance of courtesy and respect to one's belief and religion.

Miracle as defined by the dictionary is an effect or event manifesting or considered as a work of God.

Once a patient affirms in this belief, I qualify its meaning, not to its wonder or marvel, but to its application on the patient's reality. Naturally, terminally ill patients would pray for a cure. It happens to some but not to all. Does this mean that God doesn't listen to all? A selective deafness, perhaps? I don't think so. God, in His divine existence, is Omnipotent and Omniscient. Therefore, it is safe to presume that He is aware of our prayers, needs or requests. This may be beyond our human limitation to grasp. Nevertheless, faith is the one that we hold on to rely in its truthfulness.

Miracles may come in different forms. It may not be the one that we expect or ask for. God may have a different plan or approach but this will be better as anticipated.

Let me explain this in my experiences as a doctor towards the on goings within the family of patients. I tell them to open their hearts and not their minds to see the miracles in front of them. The spouse who had been with the patient through out her ordeal, is a heartwarming experience that no one can just deny nor take for granted. There is a tendency to blind ourselves because we are so immersed on our own problems. The pronounced actions of love ones to offer care and comfort might be small miracles that open one's heart and soul that would provide an insight and meaning to one's existence. The ample time left for survival becomes valuable and joyful.

There might be other ways on how a miracle will manifest itself. You will notice this when you experience happiness, contentment and ultimately at peace with your friends, love ones and with your Creator. What serves a man to have a long life but exists without meaning?

I have also encountered atheists and existentialists. Once death is around the corner, they somehow convert to the belief of God for this is the only hope that they can cling on.

"What is essential is invisible to the eye, only through the heart that one can see rightly." This is an excerpt from the Little Prince. We should learn to decipher our experiences so as to unravel the miracles that we seem to neglect or take for granted.

Addendum: To my doctor friends, you might be the miracle to your patients. We are not god but we are the instruments of God.-

Board Certification and the Practice of Plastic Surgery

• Benjamin G. Herbosa, MD, FPCS, FPAPRAS •



Cosmesis has opened the floodgates and with billions of dollars at stake everywhere in the world, it is rife "and ripe" to partake of the market. Just join the bandwagon whether one is not trained to do procedures and merely be bold and brave enough to do them. This lies on the premise "whatever it takes to earn and get the piece of the pie" at the expense of patient safety.

So what does a Board Certification entail? Many list themselves as plastic surgeons. Those who do are usually not. There is so much internet fabrication and many who advertise are those most commonly the ones who just do not have adequate training and the process to specialize was not robust. Sadly, the social media nowadays foster or even promote online ignorance. Many more pass themselves as Cosmetic Surgeons when in fact they didn't go through an inch of Surgery training. Procedures are not weekend courses. So passing one's self as such but never sufficiently trained and therefore hazardous. More so, none of these claimers took part if an exam conducted by a legitimate board for accreditation of the said specialty. In the U.S, as it is here, there exists a Board which is duly recognized by authorized stakeholders that include the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC) and the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS). It must be clearly emphasized that the prescribed training specific for aesthetic surgeries be in-depth, duly accredited and accountable.

The Board of Examiners of Plastic Surgery is an independent institution from the PAPRAS. The legitimacy of the Philippine Board of Plastic Surgery defines the purview of the fixed standards of Cosmetics or Aesthetic practice as well. It is also the body that evaluates the quality and standards of Reconstructive Surgery done by its medical specialists under its realm. Thus for a specialist to even take the Board Certifying Examinations, he or she must have graduated from an accredited plastic surgery training program and then have completed the needed number of cases other than fulfilling the stringent requirements of knowledge, length of training, the skills, accompanying responsibilities, competency milestones and practice outcomes of his 3-year tenure as Resident or Fellow. This is after at least a 3-year General Surgery Residency. The Certifying examination must be hurdled eventually to test the knowledge and minimum workload of the examinee; which becomes the actual test of unparalleled scrutiny. This level is the highest grade of uncompromised diligence conducted by the Board of Examiners to ensure patient and public safety is achieved above all. In other words, plastic surgeons have been trained with complete emphasis on cutting-edge surgical skills, uncompromising decision making especially on the aesthetic and reconstruction groundwork.

The burden of proof is on the patient; especially with the cascade of fake news and internet false advertisements are in abundance. This is to simply lure people towards unscrupulous characters. It is the onus or responsibility of each and every individual to find the proper surgeons for them. I am not saying that those who have the credentials do not make mistakes or unwanted results. But if they do, these board-certified plastic surgeons will be the best surgeons to revise and repair those complications or morbidities.

A study was made by the American Board of Cosmetic Surgery (ASPS 2020), the recognized College providing a certification process for physicians desiring third-party credentialing to deal in aesthetic surgery. The study aimed to show that more than half or 62-63% of advertised surgical operations were performed by specialists (of the 342 cosmetic surgeons screened) worked beyond the scope of what they were trained for (as discovered and monitored by the American Council for Graduate Medical Education which includes the Commission on Dental Accreditation Training Specialties). To enumerate, the following specialties with the highest prevalence of practicing beyond their scope were Internists at 100%, General Surgeons at 95.8%, Obstetrics and Gynecology 85%, Otorhinolaryngology 65%, Dermatology at 51.6%, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons at 50%. Furthermore, the most commonly performed or offered out-of-scope procedures were Liposuction or Suction-Assisted Lipectomy (60%), Tummy tuck or Abdominoplasty (50%), Breast Augmentation (50%) and Buttock Augmentation (37%). The last two entries are implant-based enhancements without fat grafting. With these alarming findings, there are too many doctors who market themselves beyond

their competencies. So if we expect people to have adaptive social norms, we too as medical professionals must adhere to our honesty, dignity and capability-claims on our roles in society.

Writing on Prosociality, I partly covered on my previous sentence. As we expect to test like everyone for Covid if one becomes symptomatic, or observe social distancing and proper decorum while in a public setting, we, as responsible citizens, should act accordingly. It is an opportunity for everyone, government and citizens alike, to work as one and as a whole, instead of being limited to individual desires and interests. Furthermore, the rule is for the public health interest which is beneficial for the majority. Ergo, all doctors must declare their true expertise capacities.

Patients will be at the mercy of amoral practitioners. Truthfully, patients who seek the right doctor may never comprehend the scope of the physician's training experience and qualifications. Therefore, it must be made mandatory or even demand a show of responsible doctoring on all of us. A show of the title and printed hard copied-paper of "Board Certified" should come into play. Of course, anything can be faked during this time, but a little more research and perseverance to search for the specialists like in the PAPRAS will never lead patients astray.

Just an additional afterthought for this article on being Diplomates in our career and Diplomats as well. Diplomacy, especially as a profession, requires a lot of drafting and writing. I was informed that K 1-12 students disliked 3 subjects during their studies namely Filipino, Essay Writing and Group Work. I know the issue on Diplomacy is a totally different matter but it is essential on set skills. A mismatch to educational training with important set skills will not develop a child well to become both a Diplomate and a Diplomat. We are our very own Ambassadors of our work, domestically and globally.

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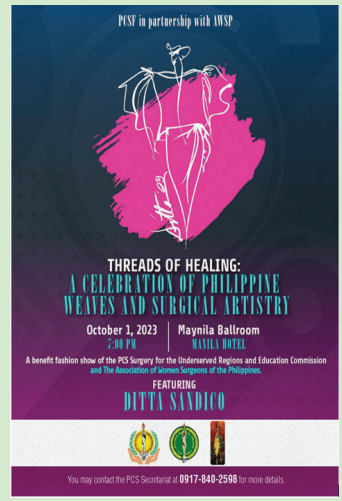
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"Threads of Healing" Meet and Greet: Unveiling the Vision Behind the Fashion Show

• Joy Grace Jeursalem, MD, FPCS •

The anticipation for the groundbreaking fashion show, "Threads of Healing: A Celebration of Philippine Weaves and Surgical Artistry," reached new heights as the Association of Women Surgeons of the Philippines (AWSP) and the Philippine College of Surgeons' (PCS) Commission on Surgery in Underserved Regions and Education hosted an exclusive "Meet and Greet" event. This prelude to the show provided an intimate glimpse into the unique collaboration that brought together medical expertise, artistic ingenuity, and the Philippines' renowned designer, Ms. Ditta Sandico. The event, held in an atmosphere of creativity and camaraderie, last August 4, at the PCS Bldg, highlighted the convergence of two seemingly disparate worlds: the intricate world of surgical science and the vibrant realm of textile artistry. As guests mingled and shared stories, the essence of "Threads of Healing" began to unfold – a celebration of culture, craftsmanship, and the power of unity.

The evening commenced with heartfelt words from representatives of the AWSP and the PCS Commission on Surgery in Underserved Regions and Education, led by PCS President, Dr Maria Concepcion C. Vesagas; AWSP President, Dr Esther A. Saguil; and PCS Foundation President, Dr Vivencio Jose P. Villaflor, III. Their gratitude for the collaboration was palpable, as they spoke about the significance of blending the two disciplines to create an event that would transcend expectations and benefit the advocacies of the AWSP and the PCS SURE Commission. Also in attendance was Veteran Fashion Show director, Raymond Villanueva, not a stranger to the AWSP and PCS, for his work in Surgeons in Couture: Strut For A Cause, v. 1 and 2, who returns to direct the show.



At the heart of the "Meet and Greet" was the Philippines' "wrap artiste," Ms. Ditta Sandico, renowned for her mastery of traditional Philippine weaves and her ability to transform them into unique, wearable art. Sandico quickly gained recognition for her bold efforts in championing environmentally conscious and sustainable fashion over three decades ago. She blazed a trail by introducing banaca, an exceptional fabric crafted from a combination of banana and abaca fibers, into her exquisite collection of couture dresses, wraps, shawls, cover-alls, and various other creations. This solidified her role as a dedicated supporter of preserving native textiles, uplifting weaving communities—especially the Mangyan tribe—and wholeheartedly advocating for novel approaches to fashion through inventive weaving techniques and sustainable practices. Her presence added an extra layer of excitement to the event, as attendees had the opportunity to engage with her and witness her creative process firsthand.

Ms. Sandico's passion for preserving and promoting Philippine culture through textiles resonated with the ethos of "Threads of Healing." Her intricate "wrap" creations, which effortlessly combined tradition with innovation, served as a visual metaphor for the convergence of medical healing and artistic expression.





Surgeons, designers, artisans, and enthusiasts in attendance engaged in lively conversations, bridging the gap between their respective fields. Surgeons shared their motivations for participating, emphasizing the importance of reaching underserved regions and highlighting the vital role that artistic collaboration plays in raising health awareness.

The "Threads of Healing" Meet and Greet event provided a sneak peek into the world of artistry and surgical expertise that will soon take center stage. The fusion of Ditta Sandico's "wrap" art with the AWSP and PCS Commission's medical vision exemplified the potential of interdisciplinary collaboration to make a lasting impact. This event celebrated the upcoming marriage of tradition and innovation, culture and healing, underlining the AWSP and PCS Commission's shared commitment to transforming lives through the threads of creativity and compassion.

PAHPBS Breaking Barriers is Her Bare Minimum: Dr. Catherine SC Teh

• Karen B. Latorre, MD, FPCS, FPSGS, FPAHPBS •

The Philippine Association of Hepatobiliary Surgeons (PAHPBS) proudly recognizes the enormous achievement of Past President Dr Catherine SC Teh, on her recent induction into the prestigious Les Compagnons Hépato-Biliaires. Founded in 1986 by no less than the world-renowned French HPB Surgeon Prof Henri Bismuth; the Companions, comprising of 136 distinguished HPB surgeons from 31 countries, aim to nurture an international scientific community with the ideals of lively intellectual discourse and exchange of ideas for the advancement of HPB Surgery.

Dr. Catherine Teh's induction into this esteemed organization, and being the First Asian Woman to do so, is a testament to her exemplary career and her profound impact on the HPB surgical community. It solidifies her status as one of the leading experts in the field and provides a platform to collaborate with other established HPB surgeons globally, fostering further advancements and collaborations between the Philippines and other countries. This network opens up avenues for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and advancements in research and clinical practice.



Dr. Catherine Teh with Prof. Henri Bismuth during her Induction into Les Compagnons Hépato-Biliares

Her induction into Les Compagnons Hépato-Biliares represents the culmination of her tireless efforts, expertise in HPB surgery, and contributions to the field. Throughout her remarkable career, she has set the bar high for aspiring HPB surgeons and has made a lasting impact on patient care. As a member of Les Compagnons Hépato-Biliare, Dr. Teh will undoubtedly continue to push the boundaries of innovation and contribute to the ongoing evolution of HPB surgery not just locally, but certainly will put Philippine HPB Surgery on the world stage as well.

Inaugural PALES Midyear Convention in Baguio

• Domingo C. Sampang, MD, FPCS, FPALES •

The Philippine Association of Laparoscopic and Endoscopic Surgeons conducted its 1st Midyear Convention in Baguio City last January 18-19, 2023 at Baguio Country Club with the theme "PALES Midyear Convention "R & R: Reformation and Renewal". The aim was to equip the audience with the ability to provide the highest standard of minimally invasive surgery and maintain the best quality patient care by improving current standards, promoting emerging relevant techniques and technologies, resolving present controversies and dilemmas, and enhancing surgical training.

International faculties from different parts of Asia dignified the event and was collaborated with various national societies. The success of this event was attributed to the active participation of of PALES Fellows, General Surgeons, Fellows in training and Surgical Residents under the coordination of PALES Northern Luzon Chapter being the host of the event. A total of 223 participants who registered came from different parts of the country. Fellows comprised 167; 41Trainees/Residents/Fellows and 15 Guests.

The Midyear Convention was commenced by the teeing off of PALES President Dr Raymund Andrew G. Ong. A series of definitive lectures, meaningful debates among experts and relevant discussions then followed. Part of the core of the conference was the first Basic Laparoscopic Surgery Refresher Course that was positively accepted and welcomed by the Fellows.



The Philippine Board of Advanced Minimally Invasive Surgery (PBAMIS)

• Omar O. Ocampo, MD, FPCS, Raymund Andrew G. Ong, MD, FPCS, Jose Antonio M. Salud, MD, FPCS and Jeffrey JP. Domino, MD, FPCS •

Minimally invasive surgery (MIS) constitutes a medical discipline and surgical specialty that provides robotic, laparoscopic and endoscopic approaches to the diagnosis and treatment of adult and pediatric diseases, thereby providing benefits such as lesser trauma and blood loss; faster recovery, shorter hospital stay, lesser postoperative pain, lesser scarring, better cosmesis, and decreased risk of complications as compared to laparotomy.

The Philippine Association of Laparoscopic & Endoscopic Surgeons (PALES) was founded in 2006 from the union of the Philippine Society of Laparoscopic Surgeons and the Philippine Association of Endoscopic Surgeons. It is an Affiliate Specialty Society recognized by the Philippine College of Surgeons that is dedicated to the advancement of laparoscopic and endoscopic surgery in the Philippines through excellence in surgical care, education, training and research. The PALES has a strong membership of close to a thousand Fellows, almost seven hundreds of whom are general surgeons. However, all current Fellows, even those who are trained and practicing Advanced Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS), have the category of Fellow in Basic Laparoscopy.

The PALES has been accrediting fellowship training programs in advanced MIS and surgical endoscopy since 2011. At present, there are six accredited fellowship training programs for advanced MIS and one accredited fellowship training program for surgical endoscopy, which include nineteen institutions namely: 1) St. Luke's Medical Center, 2) Asian Hospital and Medical Center; 3) Fellowship of Consortium in Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery (FoCALS) which is composed of FEU-NRMF Medical Center, Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Veterans Memorial Medical Center, Metropolitan Medical Center, East Avenue Medical Center; and Fatima University Medical and Valenzuela Medical Center consortium; 4) Unified MIS Training (UMIST) Program which is composed of Quirino Memorial Medical Center, Batangas Medical Center, Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital, Cardinal Santos Medical Center and Rizal Medical Center Surgical Endoscopy and Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship Training Program (SEMF) which also has an accredited surgical endoscopy training program; 5) Cebu Doctors' University Hospital; and 6) EndoLaparoscopic Institute of the Philippines which is composed of Dagupan Doctors Villaflor Memorial Hospital, Baguio General Hospital, Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center; and Gastrohep Center producing numerous graduates yearly.



Election of Officers, nomination of Governors, identification of committee members and finalization of the PBLS guidelines on October 10, 2022.



Induction of PBLS Board of Directors during the PALES Midyear Convention in Baguio City on January 18, 2023, with Dr. Alejandro M. Palines Jr. as the Inducting Officer.

In order to enhance the practice, raise the standards, and advance the science of advanced MIS in the country, and in this manner protect and promote public health, the need for establishing a dedicated board that will provide certification to advanced minimally invasive surgeons and surgical endoscopists who have met a defined standard of education, training and knowledge in the field of MIS was realized. Through the initiative of the current PALES President, Dr. Raymund Andrew G. Ong, together with the current PALES Board of Directors, the Philippine Board of Advanced Minimally Invasive Surgery or PBAMIS was formed, replacing the current Philippine Board of Laparoscopic Surgery of PALES. The PBAMIS will serve as the vanguard in setting standards in ensuring competency and safety in advanced minimally surgery and surgical endoscopy in the Philippines.

The PALES had identified and approved fifteen experienced minimally invasive surgeons with expertise in conducting certifying examinations who will become the Founding Directors of the PBAMIS. In a series of meetings of the Founding Directors since August 2022, the guidelines or bylaws of the PBAMIS had been finalized and approved by the PALES Board of Directors before the year end. The PBAMIS was initially named as the Philippine Board of Laparo-endoscopic Surgery (PBLS) and the Founding Directors, namely, Dr. Jose Antonio M. Salud as Chair, Dr. Miguel C. Mendoza as Vice-Chair, Dr. Jeffrey Jeronimo P. Domino as Secretary, Dr. Catherine SC. Teh as Treasurer, Dr. Alex A. Erasmo as Executive Officer, Dr. Alfred Allen E. Buenafe, Dr. Jose Macario V. Faylona, Dr. Hermogenes J. Monroy III, Dr. Omar O. Ocampo, Dr. Raymund Andrew G. Ong, Dr. Vicente R. Porciuncula, Dr. Rey Melchor F. Santos, Dr. Ray I. Sarmiento, Dr. Ernesto C. Tan and Dr. Kim Shi C. Tan were all inducted in Baguio City during the PALES Midyear Convention on January 18, 2023, with Dr. Alejandro M. Palines Jr., the current Vice President of PALES, as the Inducting Officer.



Strategic planning of the PBAMIS Directors, Governors and Committee Members in Philippine Center for Advanced Surgery, CSMC on April 29, 2023.



Induction of PBAMIS Board of Directors and Governors during the Joint PSGS-PALES Convention in Cebu City on July 21, 2023 with PRC Commissioner Hon. Jose Y. Cueto Jr., as the Inducting Officer.

However, when the PBLS applied in the Securities and Exchange Commission as a non-stock corporation, the name of the organization was disapproved. Hence, the PALES and the PBLS board had agreed to change the name of the organization to PBAMIS. The Board of Directors of PBLS was again inducted in Cebu City as the Board of Directors of the PBAMIS during the recent Joint PSGS and PALES Annual Convention on July 21, 2023, with Professional Regulations Commission Commissioner Hon. Jose Y. Cueto Jr., as the Inducting Officer.

Furthermore, the PBAMIS Board of Governors namely Dr. Jon Paolo C. Chua and Dr. Jose Paolo C. Porciuncula for Metro Manila Chapter; Dr. Banny Bay C. Genuino for Northern Luzon Chapter; Dr. Jeremy J. Tan for Central Luzon Chapter; Dr. Arvin G. Briones for Southern Tagalog Chapter; Dr. Rommel E. Romero for Western Visayas Chapter; Dr. Don Edward S. Rosello for Cebu Eastern Visayas Chapter; Dr. Josil R. Cruz for Davao Southern Mindanao Chapter and Dr. Natasha Emano-Elazegui for Northern Mindanao Chapter; as well as fifty two applicants for Grandfather PBAMIS Diplomate in Advanced MIS and nine applicants for Grandfather PBAMIS Diplomate in Advanced MIS for specific organ system such as for endoscopic thyroidectomy, esophagogastric surgery, bariatric surgery, liver surgery, pancreatic surgery hepatobiliary surgery, colon surgery, rectal surgery, hernia surgery endocrine surgery, and surgical endoscopy were likewise inducted.

The PBAMIS will work with PALES Accreditation Committee in credentialing training programs in advanced MIS, conduct in-service examinations for fellows-in-training of PALES Accredited Training Programs in Advanced MIS; determine eligibility and conduct PBAMIS certifying written and oral examinations; and certify Diplomates in Advanced MIS.



The inducted PBAMIS Board of Directors, Governors, and Grandfather Diplomates in Advanced MIS and Advanced MIS for different specific organ system during the Joint PSGS-PALES Convention in Cebu City on July 21, 2023.

Continuing to Serve: The Philippine Association of Thoracic, Cardiac and Vascular Surgeons, Inc. (PATACSI) Makes a Difference Through Surgical Missions

• Racel Ireneo Luis C. Querol, MD •

In the spirit of altruism and dedication to the Filipino community, the PATACSI has remained committed to its mission of providing vital surgical services to those in need. This year, PATACSI has once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment by conducting a series of surgical missions, providing critical medical interventions to numerous patients in various locations across the country.

In the first half of 2023, PATACSI undertook a total of four surgical missions, making a significant impact on the lives of 114 patients who sought medical attention. The organization's dedication to reaching underserved areas and collaborating with different medical facilities and societies is evident in the diverse range of locations where these missions were carried out.

The first mission took place on April 1, 2023, at the Cagayan United Doctors Medical Center, where PATACSI performed 32 arteriovenous fistula (AVF) procedures. This particular intervention is essential for patients undergoing hemodialysis, whose permanent hemodialysis accesses has been delayed due to long waiting times. By providing these services, PATACSI has played a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for those undergoing dialysis treatment in the various regions.

On April 5, 2023, PATACSI conducted another significant surgical mission at the Gat Andres Bonifacio Medical Center. This time, 41 patients received various hemodialysis access procedures, further addressing the critical healthcare needs of individuals relying on regular dialysis treatment to sustain their lives.

Subsequently, on April 24, 2023, the dedicated team of PATACSI surgeons served 21 patients at the Quezon Medical Center. This mission allowed them to extend their reach and impact, ensuring that patients in different parts of the country receive access to much-needed medical attention.

One of the most remarkable highlights of PATACSI's efforts this year was the society's partnership with the Philippine College of Surgeons for the mission entitled "Pagtulong ng PATACSI sa Panahon ng Pandemiya: PATACSI AVF Creation and Venous Access Surgical Mission." This collaborative effort took place on May 6, 2023, at the Digos Provincial Hospital in Digos City, Davao Del Sur. During this mission, PATACSI conducted a total of 19 hemodialysis access procedures, along with a VATS (video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery) lobectomy.

The successful execution of this mission not only provided essential hemodialysis access but also showcased the organization's expertise in thoracic surgery. By performing the VATS lobectomy, PATACSI demonstrated its capabilities in addressing thoracic conditions and contributing to the advancement of medical care in the country.

Throughout these surgical missions, PATACSI has consistently exemplified its dedication to the well-being of the Filipino people. The selfless efforts of the organization's members have undoubtedly made a profound impact on the lives of the patients they served. By bringing their skills and compassion to different regions, they have demonstrated that access to quality healthcare should know no boundaries.

As PATACSI continues to uphold its mission of serving the Filipino community through surgical missions, it sets a shining example for other medical organizations to follow. Their commitment to reaching underserved areas and providing essential medical services in partnership with various healthcare institutions is a testament to the power of collaborative efforts in achieving meaningful and lasting change in the lives of those in need.



Asean Orthopedic Association Senior Travelling Fellow

• Michael Muñoz, MD, FPOA •

"Of all the books in the world, the best stories are found between the pages of a passport"
- Unknown



The annual travelling fellowship of the AOA is truly a wonderful idea. The program networks people among neighboring ASEAN Orthopedic communities. It bridges the cultures, strengthens camaraderie and forges friendship among ASEAN countries. It also promotes the exchange of ideas, knowledge and experiences through research, lectures, exposure to new technologies and initiates the asking of questions such as: "How do these co-orthopods do it?".

Being one of the senior travelling fellows of 2023, I was privileged to experience the said program, together with two travelling fellows: Prof. Dr. Abdul Razak Sulaiman from Malaysia (Dean of Universiti Sains Malaysia) and Dr. Bintang Soetjahjo from Indonesia (President Elect Indonesian Orthopaedic Association). Being together and travelling with such colleagues from other countries is truly a great opportunity.

Our journey started in Brunei Darussalam. I learned that Malaysians, Bruneians and Indonesians understand each other, since they share the same language, which is Malay or Bahasa. I also learned that are only 14 orthopedic surgeons taking care of all Bruneian people with orthopedic needs in the country.



We visited the Rajah Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital (RIPAS), the largest government general hospital in Brunei, gave talks to the members of the orthopedic staff and went around the hospital premises. We also visited the largest private hospital in Brunei, the Jerudong Park Medical Center. We also enjoyed our stay in the country, with a little river cruise adventure on Brunei river, home to Kampong Ayer, which is Brunei's traditional village-on-stilts above river waters. We also saw the longest bridge in Southeast Asia, known as the Temburong Bridge.





Our next stop was the Philippines. We started our journey by visiting the facilities of Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRMMC). Prof. Razak and Dr. Soetjahjo gave some lectures, wherein the session was interactive, discussing a few pediatric cases. We also had the chance to visit the Philippine General Hospital (PGH), where we visited the gait analysis center and the new orthopedic skills lab. From PGH we paid a visit to our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, in Luneta as well as to his monument in Intramuros. At night, we had a dinner with Dr. David Alagar and Dr. Melito Ramos, our POA President and Vice-President respectively. It was a fun night.





The next institution we visited was the De La Salle Health Sciences Institute (DLSHSI) in Dasmariñas, Cavite. In DLSHSI, we were welcomed by the faculty and orthopedic consultant staff of our department, together with the residents, interns, and clerks. Some interesting and interactive lectures were given by our visitors. Specialized areas were visited such as: the Advanced Wound Care Clinic, the new Medical Arts Building and the College of Medicine Building. Prof. Razak, being the Dean of Universiti Sains Malaysia, requested to pay a courtesy call to our Dean of College of Medicine, Prof. Dr. Madeleine Grace Sosa. Lunch was served in Balai Dako in Tagaytay. Going back to Manila, we brought Prof. Razak to the airport for he had to leave for Indonesia to deliver some lectures.



On our 3rd day, we proceeded to the Philippine Orthopedic Center (POC); it is the oldest specialized government funded institution known to take care of the musculosketal health of Filipinos. Together with Dr. Soetjahjo, we were welcomed by the consultant staff of the POC and were toured around the facility. We observed that the POC is a well-rounded institution for orthopedics, serving a lot of Filipinos from all walks of life, most specially the needy.







The third country we visited was Thailand, where we met another Malaysian fellow, Dr. Harjeet Singh, who took the place of Prof. Razak. Our first agenda was to meet with the Royal College of Orthopaedic Surgeons of Thailand (RCOST); we felt the warm welcome from our Thai colleagues from the sumptuous dinner prepared for us.

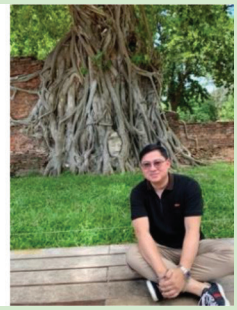




Since it was a Sunday the next day, our itinerary brought us to the very popular tourist spot, the Ayutthaya National Park, which is a ruin of the historical Siam Kingdom. We also visited several Buddah temples, as well as the iconic image of the Buddha head, entwined within the roots of a Banyan tree.







The first hospital we visited in Thailand was the King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital (KCMH), a public general and tertiary hospital in Bangkok. The KCMH serves as the teaching hospital for the Faculty of Medicine of Chulalongkorn University, and is one of the largest hospitals in Thailand. We toured around the hospital facilities, including their operating theaters, out-patient clinics, and vast skills lab, where various international live surgeries are held. We also visited their cadaver lab, where they kept a huge supply of cadavers.



The next day, we visited the Police General Hospital (PGH), which is directed by an orthopedic surgeon. We were warmly welcomed by the faculty and staff of the orthopedic department, who toured us in their facilities. We also had the opportunity to deliver our lectures to them and their students.



Our last stop was in Malaysia; here we had the opportunity to join the 52nd Malaysian Orthopaedic Association Annual Scientific Meeting and Annual General Meeting held in Penang, filling our minds with knowledge and experiences. We were invited to the Presidential dinner, where we gained new colleagues and friends from ASEAN luminaries. Penang was adorable with rich history combined with diverse ethnicity, culture, language and religion. We also had the chance to tour Georgetown Cannon Square in Penang Hill.







Our fantastic journey ends here…
But let me end my story by saying: "Cendol with durian still lingers in my mouth!".



PSCRS holds 13th Int'l. Scientific Meeting

• Jeryl Anne Silvia R. Reyes, MD •

The Philippine Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, Inc. (PSCRS) held its 13th International Scientific Meeting last March 17 to 18, 2023. It started with two pre-congress workshops. The first workshop was a laparoscopic colon surgery cadaveric workshop done last March 15, 2023 in the Philippine Cancer for Advanced Surgery (PCAS) in Cardinal Santos Medical Center. The anal fistula workshop was then held on March 16, 2023 in the Philippine General Hospital. Both were held in a hybrid interactive format.

The first pre-congress workshop entitled, "Laparoscopic Colon Surgery Cadaveric Workshop," was held in conjunction with PSCRS and the Unified Minimally Invasive Surgery Training Program (UMIST) at the PCAS. The event was moderated by Drs. Kelvin Alex Uy and Dr. Kenneth Yabut. Lectures were given during the morning session by Drs. Ryan Raniel Abary, Carlo Angelo Cajucom, Andrei Cesar Abella, and Joseph Roy Fuentes. The cadaveric hands-on workshop was done after lunch with the following faciltiators: Dr. Jan Paolo Cruz, Dr. Mark Anthony Fontanilla, and Dr. Mark Augustine Onglao.

The second pre-congress workshop, "Anal Fistula Workshop: Inherent Challenges and Proposed Solutions," was headed by Dr. Jeryl Anne Reyes and held in the Philippine General Hospital with invited experts locally and internationally. Dr. Maher Abbas from Cleveland Clinic Dubai shared his experiences and demonstrated techniques he uses for complex anal fistulas. He was joined by Dr. Hermogenes Monroy, III in the operating theatre, while Dr. Manuel Francisco Roxas participated in the interactive sessions throughout the day. The workshop was attended by surgical trainees of various institutions in the Estrada Hall Auditorium, while some fellows were encouraged to join in the surgeries with Dr. Abbas. The workshop was held to enhance the knowledge of both general surgery residents and subspecialty trainees in the art and science of the management of the whole spectrum of anal fistula – from the most basic to the more complex.

The congress proper then started on March 17, 2023. Dr. Carlo Angelo C. Cajucom, the outgoing PSCRS President, opened the convention and Dr. Marc Paul J. Lopez, PSCRS President-elect, gave a general overview. Dr. Maria Minerva P. Calimag, Philippine Medical Association (PMA) President, and Dr. Maria Concepcion C. Vesagas, Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) President, gave their messages. Dr. Vesagas also inducted the new set of officers of the PSCRS for the year 2023 to 2025. This was followed by the presentation and conferment of the new PSCRS Fellows by Drs. Armando C. Crisostomo, Hermogenes J. Monroy III, and Carlo Angelo C. Cajucom. The newly inducted Fellows were: Drs. Willmar Jayve Añoso, Joanna Pauline Baltazar, Anisa Sadain-Bangcola, Jesus Dabalos Jr., Kerby Chloe Go, Michael Geoffrey Lim, Raleigh Lean Rojas, Tristan Trinidad, and Cristeta Unira.





The Dr. Porfirio M. Recio Memorial Lecture was given by Dr. Francis Seow-Chen. His lecture, entitled, "How to build an international Colorectal Surgery Department," focused on strategies and insights on building up linkages for a collaborative international colorectal surgery program. Dr. Omar O. Ocampo, PSCRS Secretary, then presented the Honorary Fellowship to Dr. Francis Seow-Chen.

Other distinguished international faculty joined the scientific meeting face-to-face. They shared their knowledge and views regarding the differences and similarities in the management of colon and rectal diseases on a global scale. The various international speakers were:

Francis Seow-Choen, MBBS, FRCS (Ed), FAMS (Singapore)
Maher Abbas, FACS, FASCRS (Dubai)
Kay Uehara, MD, PhD (Japan)
Matthew Mutch, MD, FACS, FASCRS (USA)
Yoon Suk Lee, MD, PhD (South Korea)
Terje Lund-Iversen, MD (Norway)

The fellowship night was held in the evening at the Constellation of the Diamond Hotel Philippines. Drs. Carlo Cajucom and Robert Bandolon served as the hosts, and the international guests were given the traditional "balut" as a welcome and in appreciation of their contributions to the Philippine surgery. The fellowship celebrations continued to the late hours of the night with the Intimate Band serenading the attendees throughout the festivities.

Day 2 of the congress began with the fellows-in-training of the various accredited training programs presenting their abstracts in the PSCRS Colorectal Compendium. Currently, there are eleven accredited training institutions for colorectal surgery fellowship in the Philippines: University of the Philippines – Philippine General Hospital (Manila), Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center (Manila), The Medical City (Pasig City), Rizal Medical Center (Pasig City), Quirino Memorial Medical Center (Quezon City), St. Luke's Medical Center (Quezon City), UERM Memorial Medical Center (Quezon City) and Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center (Marikina City) Consortium, East Avenue Medical Center (Quezon City), Batangas Medical Center (Batangas City), Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (Cebu City) and Southern Philippines Medical Center (Davao City).

Apart from the international speakers, renowned local experts from different specialties of medicine and surgery were invited to share their expertise in their respective fields regarding the management of colon and rectal diseases. They were: Arthur Dessi E. Roman, MD, FPCP, FPSMID (Infectious Diseaes), Aireen Patricia M. Madrid, MD, FPCS, FPSGS, FPSST (Critical Care and Trauma), Lisa Teresa T. Prodigalidad-Jabson, MD, FPOGS, FPSURPS (Obstetrics and Gynecology). Mr. Nathan P. Monty, an engineer, also shared his novel instrument in the identification of metastasis using a laser device. The congress was closed with a panel discussion on Intraoperative Complications in Colorectal Surgery, chaired by Dr. Enrico P. Ragaza and co-chaired by Dr. John Paul P. Gonzales.



The PSCRS 14th International Scientific Meeting will be held on March 14-16, 2024. This will be in conjunction with the 12th ASEAN Society of Colorectal Surgeons (ASCS) Biennial Clinical Congress.

On March 30, 2023, the PCS held a virtual multidisciplinary tumor board meeting, "Colon and Rectal Cancer Virtual Multidisciplinary Tumor Board: Beyond Adenocarcinoma." This was organized by the PCS Cancer Commission and hosted by the PSCRS. Case discussions on the uncommon colorectal cancers such as perianal squamous cell carcinoma, perianal basal cell carcinoma and rectal neuroendocrine tumors were presented in a multidisciplinary format with the following as panelists: Dr. Mark Anthony Fontanilla (Colorectal Surgery) and Dr. Michael Catiwalaan Catiwala-an (Colorectal Surgery), Dr. Joar Kent Gumapon (Medical Oncology), Dr. Anna Maria Fineza (Radiation Oncology), and Dr. Evangeline Barbara Go (Hospice and Palliative Medicine).

A Round Table Discussion on Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) was also held last May 27 and 28, 2023 at the Makati Diamond Residences. This was the first round table discussion to be held with various subspecialties, namely adult gastroenterology, pediatric gastroenterology, and colorectal surgery. This was hosted by the IBD Club of the Philippines to raise awareness on the rise of IBD in the Filipino population. The conference was conceptualized and spearheaded by Dr. Jose D. Sollano, Jr., Adult Gastroenterology, and Dr. Robert L. Chang, Colorectal Surgery.

Several PSCRS fellows, fellows-in-training, and surgery residents were able to attend the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) Annual Scientific Meeting held last June 3-6, 2023 in Seattle, Washington, USA. They presented their research papers and listened to the various workshops and lectures during the said event. A total of 1 oral podium presentation and 22 e-poster presentations were given and exhibited by the Philippine delegates. Dr. Mario Angelo A. Zamora was invited to present his work orally in the ASCRS annual congress in a face-to-face format and is the first Filipino to do so. He presented his work on the cost analysis of patients undergoing Enhanced Recovery after Surgery (ERAS) in the Philippine setting.

The PCS Metro Manila Chapter (MMC), PSCRS, and PCS Foundation, Inc. held a webinar, "Contemporary Management of Locally Advanced Rectal Cancer" last June 28, 2023, via Zoom. Drs. Willmar Jayve M. Anoso, Romulo R. Cabantac III, Raleigh Lean P. Rojas, and Tristan F. Trinidad shared their expertise on the different issues regarding the said topic. The event was opened by Dr. Ferdinand Y. Syfu, PCS MMC President. Messages from Dr. Marc Paul J. Lopez, PSCRS President, and Dr. Maria Concepcion C. Vesagas, PCS President, followed thereafter. The event was moderated by Dr. Omar O. Ocampo, Chair of the Continuing Surgical Education, PCS MMC. The event was closed by Dr. Stanley U. Kho, PCS MMC Vice President.



67th PSO-HNS Annual Convention

• Aileen Delos Santos-Garcia, MD, FPSO-HNS, FPCS •



The Philippine Society of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS) in cooperation with the Philippine Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery (PACMFS), are excited to extend our warmest invitation to you for the upcoming 67th Annual Convention entitled "CMF Surgery Across Specialties".

Headed by PSO-HNS President Dr. Ricardo Ramirez, Jr., Overall Convention Chair, Dr. Aileen Delos Santos-Garcia, Overall Convention Co-Chair Dr. Jehan Maglaya and Convention Secretary-General Dr. Kennard Felix, the event took place on Nov 29 to Dec 2, 2023 at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel, Manila.

With the theme "CMF Surgery Across Specialties" and the convention was an enriching and enlightening experience for all attendees. It also helped foster meaningful connections within the community.

The convention also included an array of engaging activities: keynote speeches by renowned industry experts; interactive workshops and panel discussions; networking opportunities with like-minded professionals; showcase of cutting-edge products and services in our exhibition area; gala dinner and entertainment to conclude the event on a high note during our fellowship night.



Standing L-R: Dr. Archie Ramos (Registration); Dr. Jehan Maglaya (Overall Co-Chair); Dr. Ricardo Ramirez, Jr. (PSO-HNS President); Dr. Aileen Delos Santos-Garcia (Overall Convention Chair); Dr. Kennard Felix (Secretary-General).
Seated L-R: Dr. Candice Ansorge (Booths & Exhibits); Dr. Enrico Donato (Scientific); Dr. Elaine Villanueva (Opening Ceremonies); Dr. Frendi Agustin (Publicity & Documentation); Dr. Emma Guevara (Finance); Dr. Ma. Cristina Viceral (Socials); Dr. Jona Ligon (CPD); Dr. Frederick Untalan (Ways & Means); Dr. Rowena Muñoz (Physical Arrangements)

PSTS Holds Multi-Organ Donor Retrieval Workshop

• Jose Benito A. Abraham, MD, FPCS, FPUA, FPSTS •

The Philippine Society for Transplant Surgeons (PSTS) is committed to the promotion of the deceased organ donation which can help supplant the persistent scarcity of organ donors and the corresponding transplantable solid organs. For this purpose, through its leadership, the incumbent PSTS President, Dr. Rose Marie O. Rosete-Liquete, organized a Deceased Donor Multi-organ Retrieval Workshop at the Philippine Center for Advanced Surgery, Cardinal Santos Medical Center, Greenhills, San Juan City last Just 13, 2023.

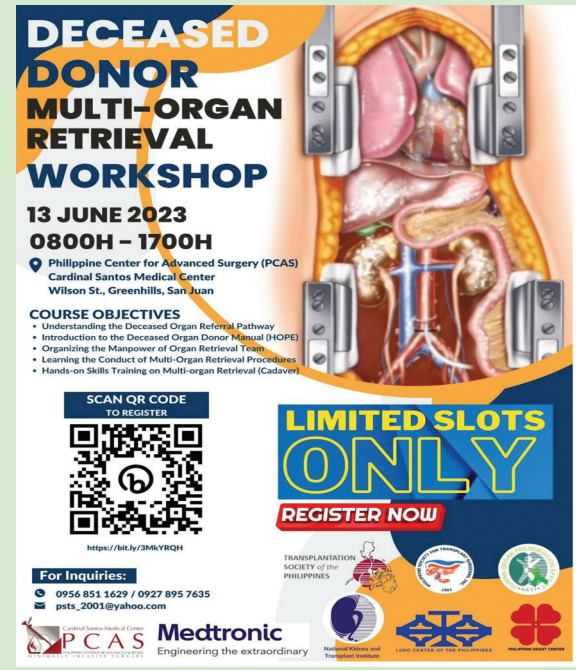
This first and "one-of-a-kind" activity resulted from an academic grant by Medtronic and the collaborative efforts of the PSTS, the Transplantation Society of the Philippines (TSP), Philippine Heart Center (PHC), Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP), National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI) and the Human Organ Preservation Effort (HOPE) and aimed to help the participants to achieve the following objectives:

1) understand the Referral Pathway for potential Deceased Organ Donors
2) understand the Manpower which forms the Organ Retrieval Team
3) develop skills for the effective retrieval of organs for transplantation
4) launch the Manual of Deceased Organ and Tissue Donation

With these goals in mind, transplant surgeons, fellows-in-training, transplant coordinators, and operating room nurses gathered together in a day-long activity which consisted of a half-day didactics followed by hands-on organ retrieval skills training on cadavers.

The didactics started with lectures on the proper utilization of cadavers for education and surgical training, a description on the current status of deceased organ donation in the country, introduction to the Deceased Donor Manual, Operating Room set-up, and the processes for organ retrieval surgery for the heart, lung, liver, kidney, pancreas, small intestines, and segmental liver resection.

The hands-on training on the cadavers provided an opportunity for the surgeons to simulate the actual procedure performed during the organ donor retrieval. Whilst it may not closely resemble the realism of the clinical setting where the donor still has a heartbeat (brain-dead) and therefore the organs still have perfusion, dissection of the cadaver in the skills laboratory still enabled the surgeons to be familiar with the anatomical structures, the dissection, and the explantation and later, reimplantation of organs.



Speakers included: Drs. Gerardo S. Manzo and Avenilo Jun L. Aventura, from the PHC, Drs. Jose Luis J. Danguilan (virtual), Edmund E. Villaroman and Ruari Lee, from the LCP; Drs. Siegfredo R.Paloyo, Adolfo C. Parayno and Jose Benito A. Abraham, from the NKTI and Dante Allan Concejero MD from the St. Luke's Medical Center in Global City. The speakers from the Nursing Staff included Peter Plegaria, RN, Genevieve Joves-Lukban, RN, Malvin Ian Lim, RN (NKTI) and Lans Santiago, RN.

Hopefully, this Workshop marks the beginning of several training workshops which will help us do a more efficient donor organ retrieval that will benefit a lot of patients awaiting a transplant.

PUA Midyear Convention 2023: Chasing Eunoia, Beyond the Urology Practice

• Romeo Lloyd T. Romero, MD, FPUA •

Panglao, Bohol, June 10, 2023 - Amid the tranquil beauty of Panglao, Bohol, the Philippine Urological Association (PUA) MIDYEAR Convention 2023 unfolded, captivating attendees with a diverse series of Plenary Sessions that ventured beyond the traditional realms of urology practice. Themed "Chasing Eunoia," the convention brought together esteemed speakers who provided invaluable insights and perspectives on innovative approaches, radiation safety, medico-legal matters, and financial literacy within the urological landscape.

Plenary Session 1- Moderator: Dr. Meliton Alpas

Radiation Exposure for Urologists

The opening Plenary Session shed light on a crucial aspect of urologists' practice - radiation exposure. Ms. Karl Joy C. Abaca, MSc, a distinguished expert in radiological safety, delivered an enlightening lecture on the importance of understanding and mitigating the risks associated with radiation exposure in Urology. Ms. Abaca emphasized the significance of implementing robust safety protocols and modern technologies to minimize radiation exposure while ensuring optimal patient care. Attendees gained invaluable knowledge on best practices for radiation safety, which is essential in today's evolving medical landscape.

Radiation-Free PCNL (Percutaneous Nephrolithotomy)

The Plenary Session continued with a groundbreaking presentation by Prof. Jian Xing Li, MD, focusing on radiation-free PCNL, a cutting-edge technique in urology. Prof. Li's expertise and pioneering work in this field were evident as he shared innovative methods to perform PCNL without the need for radiation exposure. Attendees were captivated by Prof. Li's demonstration of advanced imaging techniques and navigation that allow for precise and radiation-free stone removal. The lecture showcased how embracing familiar but different styles could revolutionize urological care, benefiting patients, operative staff and Urologists.





The First Philippine Neurotrauma Bootcamp

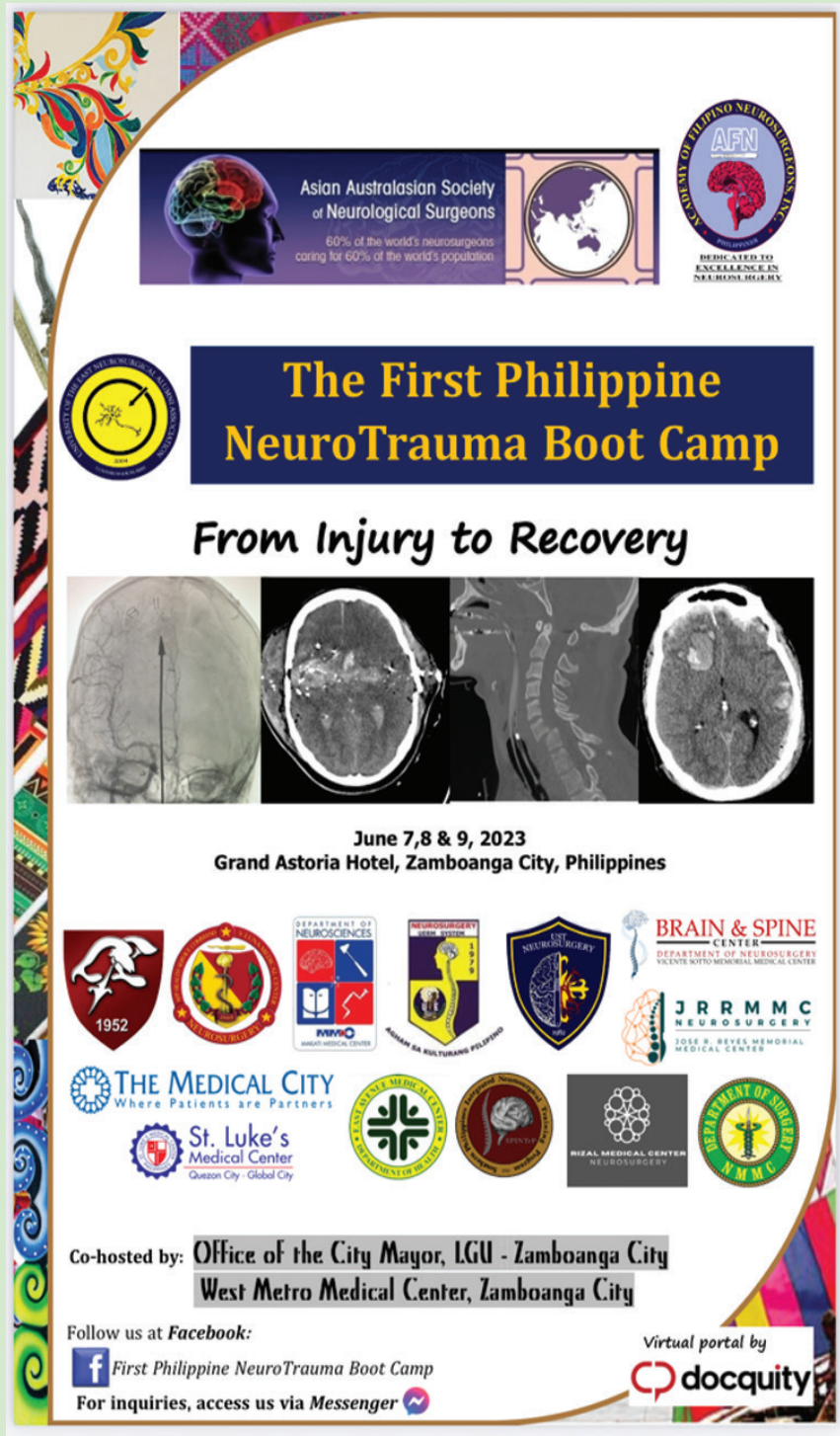
Acute, Critical, Rehabilitative and Preventive Care
"From Injury to Recovery"
Zamboanga City, June 7, 8 & 9, 2023

• Lynne Lourdes Lucena, MD, FPCS •

Neurotrauma has been identified by the WHO as a public health burden with 50-60 million traumatic brain injuries per year (MC Dewan 2018) but it has only been in recent years that attention has been given towards this not so "silent epidemic". It has been the leading cause of disability to the young generation due to motor vehicle accidents especially in the low to middle income countries (LMIC).

The Neurotrauma Committee of the Asian Australasian Society of Neurological Surgeons (AASNS) chaired by Dr. Lynne Lourdes N. Lucena, who is also the immediate Vice President of the Academy of Filipino Neurosurgeons (AFNI) endeavored to start educational courses and advocacy awareness about Neurotrauma.

As the First Philippine Neurotrauma Bootcamp was conceptualized and modules were created, the organizing committee in Zamboanga City, Philippines was headed by Dr. Gaudencio Tan Ligutom, a member of the Neurotrauma subcommittee -Philippines. Together with the officers of the AASNS headed by President Kate Drummond, the three- day activity was realized with the support of the AFN fellows and the UERM Neurosurgery Alumni Association and partners







from the pharmaceutical and medical equipment companies.

It was a hybrid platform powered by Docquity and was broadcasted nationally and in several countries. The attendees reached 220 and represented the medical, nursing, education, allied medical profession and the military who registered for free and was entitled to the lectures, didactics and also demonstrations aside from enjoying free
meals and snacks. The virtual attendees reached a total number of 1052 unique viewers from day 1-3 with most of them coming from Vietnam and the Philippines. The top 6 specialties who attended virtually were GPs, nursing, pediatrics, neurosurgery, general surgery and neurology.

The speakers included the Secretary General of the AASNS Dr. Virendra Sinha and chief consultant neurosurgeon Dr. Nemichand Poonia who both travelled all the way from Jaipur, India to be able to share their knowledge and experience in Neurotrauma. Dr. Yigal Soshan, the chair of the Education Committee of the AASNS gave his lecture virtually and Prof Kate Drummond personally welcomed the attendees through the virtual platform. Lecturers from the Philippine society included Dr. Ligutom, Dr Lucena, Dr. Asis Encarnacion, Dr. Mitchel Gonzales, Dr. Ronnie Baticulon, Dr. Khalil Ibaoc, Dr Annabelle Alcarde, Dr Charles Neil Tan, Dr Christopher Concepcion, Dr Nicanor Del Rosario, Dr Elmer Jose Meceda, Dr. Jude Gonzalves, Dr Russell Sasing, and Dr James Soriano, current President of the AFNI. Experts from the medical community and local society in Zamboanga were also speakers.

The participants expressed their utmost appreciation of the whole course and it was reflected in the whole afternoon workshop where the attendees were able to ask questions and express opinions and receive answers from the panel of experts. They are looking forward to the next Neurotrauma bootcamp next year.

PCS - Cordillera Chapter
Gears for a busy sked and hosting of 50th MYC

In the first few months of this year, the fellows, and the officers of the PCS—Cordillera Chapter have tried their best in implementing activities that would cater to the two focus areas of PCS namely social involvement and outreach, and professional development. These included small-group activities catering to few selected participants and community-based activities catering to diverse and wide-range of people belonging to a specific geographic location.

Social Involvement and Outreach

In general, the social involvement and outreach arm of the PCS aims to give back to the community in various ways including medical services and technical knowledge that would address the current needs of the community. This year, we initiated this program by coordinating with various groups and institutions to be able to achieve a more meaningful outcome by increasing the possible resources of the Chapter to reach wider population groups.

To start off, we initiated early this year the implementation of the regular radio guesting by our PCS—Chapter fellows. This activity is in partnership with the DZWT 540 Radyo Totoo which aims to discuss, in a public media platform, pertinent medical issue that confronts the community. Up to present, there are already three radio guesting attended by our Chapter Fellows discussing on the topics of cervical, bladder and prostate cancer awareness and we are hoping to increase our involvement in such activity by making more regular guesting to the radio program.



PCS—Cordillera Chapter Fellows providing their insights on medical issues as guests to the DZWT 540 Radyo Totoo with news anchor, Dr. Benito V. Sunga, FPUA. *Dr. Ener Baysa-pee, FPUA, FPCS as discussant on bladder cancer awareness on May 7 (top); Dr. Elizabeth Solang. FPGS, FPCS as discussant on cervical cancer and globesity on May 14 (bottom left); Dr. Carlos Dumlao II, FPUA, FPCS as discussant on prostate cancer awareness on June 25 (bottom right).*

Partnership with other medical societies and civic organizations has been one of the strategies adopted by the PCS—Cordillera Chapter to ensure that outreach activities are able to reach a wider array of participants by allowing pooled resources from various interest groups. One of the major partnerships by our local Chapter was performed with the local chapter of the Philippine Urological Association (PUA) to implement a multi-site barangay prostate cancer and DRE screening activity in line with the Prostate Cancer Awareness Month celebrated for the month of June. The activity was able to cater a total of 233 male participants with a 30% positivity rate after provision of free DRE service.

Activity: DRE and Lecture for Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Date	District Health Center	Time	Urologist/GS	DRE	With Findings(for follow up, PSA, UTZ)	Positivity Rate
June 16, 2023	Quezon Hill	8:30-11:00	Dr. Darwin Gahiba	7	6	86%
June 21, 2023	Loakan	8:30-10:00	Dr. Ener Baysa-Pee	21	5	24%
June 22, 2023	Irisan	1:00-4:00	Dr. Percival Yang-ed	52	7	13%
June 23, 2023	Mines View and Pacdal (Gibraltar Multipurpose Hall)	8:30-10:00	Dr. Ener Baysa-Pee	42	9	21%
June 26, 2023	Quirino Hill	8:30-10:00	Dr. Ener Baysa-Pee	25	4	16%
June 27, 2023	Asin	9:00-12:00	Dr. Matthew Bawayan	23	13	57%
June 29, 2023	Scout Barrio	8:00-11:00	Dr. Carlos Dumalao II	35	13	37%
June 30, 2023	Aurora Hill	1:00-4:00	Dr. Percival Yang-ed	28	13	46%
			TOTAL	233	70	30%



PCS—Cordillera Chapter Fellows participating during the Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. *Activity report from the recently concluded Prostate Cancer Awareness Month for the month of June (top); Dr. Percival Yang-ed, FPUA, PCS (bottom left) and Dr. Ener Baysa-pee, FPUA, PCS (bottom right) providing lecture on prostate cancer among lay participants.*

Also, the PCS—Cordillera Chapter have also partnered with the local government unit of Baguio, and other civic organizations, to deliver a city-wide free circumcision service among children of Baguio as part of the seasoned circumcision activity on July 22, 2023.



PCS—Cordillera Chapter Fellows participating in a city-based free circumcision drive.

Finally, the PCS—Cordillera Chapter has also been a partner with the World Surgical Foundation Philippine (WSPF), Inc. and Local Government of Abra in delivering free surgical service among 150 indigent patients in Abra Province. The PCS Chapter Fellows have been instrumental in providing technical knowledge in the conduct of surgeries as assisted by surgical residents of the province.



PCS—Cordillera Chapter Fellows [L-R: Dr. Zsarin Tuason-Batcagan (Vice President), Dr. Joselito Bringas, Dr. Noli Velasquez (President), and Dr. Anthony Vanadero (Governor)] leading the team of volunteers during the surgical mission held at Abra.

Professional Development

In the area of Professional Development, the PCS—Cordillera Chapter has focused its efforts on enhancing the competencies of surgical residents of the locality in the field of research appraisal. This was performed by hosting two separate joint journal club conferences focusing on the topics of *Surgical Approach for Perforated Peptic Ulcer* on March 10 and *Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis for Trauma* on June 30, 2023.



PCS—Cordillera Chapter Fellows spearheading the Joint Journal Club Conferences of Surgical Residents from different training institutions of Baguio City.

Also, the Chapter have partnered with Johnsons and Johnsons to deliver a lecture and hands-on training on wound suturing to the OR staff and surgical clerks, interns and residents of Saint Louis University—Sacred Heart and Medical Center (SLU-SHMC) with the goal of enhancing safety and efficiency within the operating room of the institution.



PCS—Cordillera Chapter organizing a lecture on wound suturing for SLU-SHMC personnel.

Invitation to all PCS Fellows!

A Message from Dr. Noli Velasquez, PCS—Cordillera Chapter President



In behalf of the PCS—Cordillera Chapter, I am proud to announce that the working committees and subcommittees for the 50th Midyear PCS Convention to be held on May 2-3, 2024 have been established and are currently working organize events and activities the would cater to the interests of our PCS Fellows. Please watch out for upcoming announcements regarding registration, available billeting, and other conference-related announcements.

Get ready with your luggage and travel tickets and see you in Baguio!



PCS-MMC 2023: Committed to Excellence and Service

• Joan S. Tagorda, MD, FPCS •

On February 18, 2023, the induction ceremony of the new Board of Directors of the PCS- Metro Manila Chapter took place at the Magellan Room of the Discovery Suites Hotel in Mandaluyong City. The inducting officer was none other than the 2023 PCS President, Dr. Maria Concepcion Vesagas.

As they took their oaths of office, the new Board of Directors, led by President Dr. Ferdinand Syfu, pledged to uphold the values and mission of the PCS, and to serve the organization with dedication and integrity.

The ceremony was also an occasion to welcome new members into the PCS-MMC. The event was graced by the presence of the PCS Board of Regents and several Past Presidents of the PCS-MMC.

Commitment to surgical education

The PCS-MMC in collaboration with the PSGS-MMC regularly organizes continuing surgical education activities for the professional development of residents and fellows. The committee on Surgical Research, led by Dr. Karlos Noel Aleta, organized the webinar on the critical appraisal of research evidence last April 1 and April 15, 2023. It was well-attended, with 450 participants online. The workshop covered various aspects of research appraisal, including evidenced-based medicine, appraisal of journals on diagnosis and prognosis.

The webinar on Basic Research Methodology workshop which took place on May 13, 2023 discussed the latest methodologies in research and data analysis. Led by experienced clinical researchers, the workshop covered topics on research design, data collection and analysis, statistical analysis and data visualization. Attendees, regardless of their level of experience, had the opportunity to learn and improve their skills in the field of research and data analysis.

The chapter collaborates with various specialty societies under her wing to provide lectures to residents and fellow surgeons. The Committee on Surgical Education under Dr. Omar Ocampo organized a joint webinar with the PCS and the Philippine Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons Last July 28, 2023. The webinar on "Contemporary Management of Locally Advanced Rectal Cancer" focused on the various challenges in management locally advanced rectal cancer. The webinar was very well attended and well-received by 341 participants.

Making a difference in the lives of others

The PCS-MMC, through Dr. Teddy Abellera, prepared a heart-warming gift-giving activity for pediatric patients at the Surgery Ward of the National Children's Hospital on February 14, 2023. Spearheaded by Dr. Leonardo Ona II, the 2022 PCSMMC President, and Dr. Ferdinand Syfu, the 2023 PCSMMC President, the event was a great success in bringing joy to the young patients and their families.



Inducting Officer PCS President Dr. Maria Concepcion Vesagas with the 2023 PCS-Metro Manila Chapter Board of Directors led by Dr. Ferdinand Syfu.

True to its commitment to provide surgical service to others, the PCS-MMC and PSGS-MMC organized several "Operation Tuli" surgical missions in various hospitals in Metro Manila including Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Hospital last April 22, 2023, Rosario Maclang Bautista General Hospital last June 17, 2023 and Amoranto Health Clinic in Quezon City last July 2, 2023. Surgical consultants, residents and volunteer medical clerks and interns worked tirelessly to provide service to those who need it most.

Building stronger fellowship

The chapter also organized activities to promote camaraderie and fellowship among its members and fellow doctors. The PCSMMC Annual Golf Tournament held on June 5, 2023, at Ayala Greenfield and Leisure Club, Calamba City, Laguna was a great success. It was a perfect combination of sports, fun, and friendship and everyone had an unforgettable experience.



As the 30th Founding Anniversary of PCSMMC comes to a close this July 2023, a new chapter begins. With the guidance and leadership of PCS-MMC President Dr. Ferdinand Syfu, the PCS-MMC is poised to continue its tradition of excellence in surgical practice and education, and its commitment to serve the Filipinos.

Winners of the PCSMMC Annual Golf Tournament

PUA... from page 51

Plenary Session 2- Moderator: Dr. Ryan Cablitas

Medico-Legal Matters: How to Avoid

The second Plenary Session addressed a critical aspect of modern medical practice - medico-legal matters. Attorney Marc Achilles Phua, MD, an experienced medico-legal expert, engaged the audience with a comprehensive lecture on navigating the complex landscape of medico-legal issues in urology. Through real-life case studies and practical advice, Attorney Phua equipped Urologists with the knowledge to safeguard their practices and protect patient welfare within the bounds of the law. Attendees gained valuable insights on risk management, proper documentation, and ethical considerations, empowering them to practice with confidence.

Financial Literacy and Investments

The Plenary Session continued with a session on financial literacy and investments, a topic often overlooked but essential for medical professionals. Dr. Robert Moises Romero, a Physician and a financial expert, delivered an engaging presentation on making sound financial decisions and planning for a secure future. Dr. Romero's insights into wealth management and investment strategies resonated with the audience, emphasizing the importance of achieving financial stability while pursuing a successful career in urology. Attendees left the session empowered with tools to make informed financial choices and create a prosperous financial future.

The Plenary Sessions at the Philippine Urological Association Midyear Convention 2023 showcased a dynamic array of topics, from radiation safety and innovative procedures to medico-legal matters and financial well-being. The engaging lectures provided attendees with practical knowledge and inspiration, reinforcing the commitment of urologists to delivering exemplary patient care while continuously pushing the boundaries of urology practice.

As the convention concluded, the impact of these enlightening Plenary Sessions would undoubtedly resonate throughout the urological community, driving progress and embracing the spirit of "Chasing Eunoia: Beyond the Urology Practice."

Applicants for PCS Fellowship

The final list of applicants for PCS Fellowship has been received by the Committee on Membership after several changes resulting from late applicants and the deadline being moved further to accommodate them. The number has reached a record-high of 104 applicants who will be inducted during the opening ceremonies of the forthcoming Annual Clinical Congress this December. New graduates from accredited training programs who passed the Certifying Exams given by their respective Specialty Boards and those who completed all the requirements have submitted their applications via the regular route for application for Fellowship to the College. Since last year, the PCS has simplified the acceptance of applications for fellowship for surgeons who have been Fellows of their respective Specialty Societies for at least 3 years. The documentary requirements have been greatly reduced; there is no deadline; and the application can be submitted online. This year, 38 applications were received via the simplified route. For most applicants in the simplified route, there is no deadline and there are several options where they can have their Induction. Those who want to be inducted during the Annual Clinical Congress in December, however, are advised to submit their application no later than August 30.

REGULAR APPLICANTS

	NAME	CHAPTER
	COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY	
1	CUETO, MARY ANNE CAROL A.	MMC
	ENT	
2	YANG, LEFKOTHEA P.	CLC
	GENERAL SURGERY	
3	ABUAN, KAREN DIANNE A.	MMC
4	ADRANEDA, III NARCISO T.	MMC
5	ALABADO, LIZA GRACE T.	PC
6	ALVEZ, ALLAIN A.	MMC
7	AMODIA, JOVELYN T.	CEVC
8	ANGAS, AL-JAZZER M.	DSMC
9	ANGON, CHERRY ANN C.	STC
10	APELES, KEVIN KIEL V.	MMC
11	BAGAS, IVAN BENJAMIN M.	NMC
12	BAJAO, EVE QUEENNIE MAY B.	NIC
13	BALMORES, BOB C.	MMC
14	BERGADO, JOHN REY G.	STC
15	CABANGAL, CHARLIE MAGNE D.	DSMC
16	CAYABYAB, RYAN D.	NLC
17	CHAN, MARIE ABIGAIL C.	MMC
18	COLLADO, GABRIEL JR. A.	NLC
19	CORTES, DAN RICKENSON L.	CEVC
20	CRUZ, EDGARDO AUGUSTO D.	MMC
21	DAVID, PAOLO L.	CLC
22	DAW-AS, SAMUEL JR. P.	CC
23	DE ASIS, EDWIN FRANCIS I.	MMC
24	DELA CRUZ, JOSE MIGUEL M.	DSMC
25	DELA PAZ, POPPER JOHN C.	MMC
26	DELGADO, ANGELICA FELIZ V.	STC

27	GABAY, JENNIFER FRANCES T.	MMC
28	GO, RICHIE C.	CEVC
29	GUINA, JAN CYRUS S.	STC
30	HABACON, GEORGE VINCENT D.	MMC
31	HAO, EMMANUEL II U.	MMC
32	JANDOC, RODOLFO JR. R.	NIC
33	LAO, SHARLENE MARIE L.	MMC
34	LOCSIN, NICHOLE B.	STC
35	MADARCOS, RAPHAEL ANGELO C.	MMC
36	MAGLANGIT, SITTIE ANEZA CAMILLE A.	DSMC
37	NG, NICHOLAS M.	PC
38	NOGUERA, JEFFERSON D.	MMC
39	OBENZA, RUSSELL ADRIAN G.	CEVC
40	ONG, KYLE GERVIN Y.	MMC
41	ORACION, PRINCESS BEVERLIE C.	MMC
42	ORTAÑEZ, CLIVE KEVIN R.	MMC
43	PAGUIRIGAN, KRISTINE A.	NELC
44	PARILLA, KRIS DANIEL V.	CEVC
45	PIALAGO, EDRICK LUKE T.	PC
46	PONCE, ARCH THOR V.	NMC
47	PORTIGO, RANDY B.	PC
48	POZON, NICCOLO HORACIO S.	NMC
49	RIVERA-LAZA, JENNIFER R.	CC
50	SADAIN, ANISA Z.	DSMC
51	SAHIBBIL, AHMED-DEEDAT S.	CEVC
52	TAN, ROBERTSON P.	NIC
53	TENORIO, EARNEST JOHN B.	NIC
54	TORRE, LEANDRO V.	NIC
55	UNARCE, JACOB JULIAN S.	MMC
56	VARGAS, ARVEE T.	BC
57	VELEZ, MARK B.	MMC
58	YAÑEZ, MARK HENRI C.	MMC
59	YANG, JOHN RAY B.	CLC
	PLASTIC SURGERY	
60	FIRAZA, MYRA ALEXANDRA P.	NMC
	PEDIA SURGERY	
61	GACUS, ERIKA MARIE C.	NMC
62	UCLARAY, RIA JANE U.	NLC
63	VILLA, GABRIEL ANTHONY V.	CEVC
	UROLOGY	
64	ARADA, RAPHAEL BENJAMIN B.	STC
65	LIM, HARRIS L.	MMC
66	SID, SERGIO C.	CLC

SIMPLIFIED APPLICANTS

	NAME	CHAPTER
	COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY	
1	GONZALES, JEFFREY U.	NLC
	GENERAL SURGERY	
2	ABARRIENTOS, JAY K.	NMC
3	AZARES, MANUEL RAFAEL R.	MMC
4	BALUDA, MICHAEL JOSEPH P.	CC
5	DE LEON, JESSIE V.	CLC
6	MESO, CLAIRE D.	NMC
7	QUIDOLES, EDUARDO S.	BC
	NEURO SURGERY	
8	BARREDO, CARLO G.	MMC
9	IBAOC, KHALIL B.	CEVC
10	MAGLINAO, MA. LOURDES D.	MMC
11	MECEDA, ELMER JOSE	BC
12	TAPIA, REYMOND B.	BC
	OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY	
13	MONTAÑER, HANIPHA M.	DSMC
	OPHTHALMOLOGY	
14	CANSON, JAYSON T.	MMC
	ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY	
15	ARADA, ERNESTO CARLO B.	MMC
16	EUROPA, GIANCARLO R.	MMC
17	GERVASIO, PAMELA LOUISE G.	MMC
18	LAZARO-KAMPITAN, GENIE ROSE ANN A.	STC
19	MIRANDA, JOYCE FRANSECA C.	MMC
	ENT	
20	BERGADO, MARY ANN M.	STC
21	DOROY, GERARD AGA RAFAEL G.	CEVC
22	ZANTUA-GARCIA, ANNA CARMINA T.	STC
	PEDIA SURGERY	
23	MATILAC, JOSE III M.	DSMC
	PLASTIC SURGERY	
24	BUENAVENTURA, DINO F.	DSMC
25	LUMAGUE, ROWENA S.	MMC
	UROLOGY	
26	AGTARAP, FREDERICK S.	NELC
27	ALONZO, JOHN IVAN S.	MMC
28	ALVAREZ, ARVIN S.	STC
29	AÑONUEVO, EDUARDO M.	STC
30	BADULIS, RAY JOSEPH R.	STC
31	DEGAL, EMMANUEL S.	MMC
32	ECALNIR, ERIC ROUDEL C.	STC
33	GARCIA, EMERSON D.C.	CLC
34	HURTADO, DARNEL JASPER O.	STC
35	MARIÑAS, JOHN PAUL EMERSON S.	MMC
36	PEDRAGOSA, ROBERT LEEH E.	MMC
37	ROA, MARK BRIAN S.	STC
38	SAGUN, MICHAEL S.	MMC