Incisions

The Newsletter of the Philippine College of Surgeons
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90 years
Philippine College of Surgeons
Home of the Filipino Surgeon
1936-2026

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Volume 46 Number 2 • secretariat@pcs.org.ph/www.pcs.org.ph • May - August 2026

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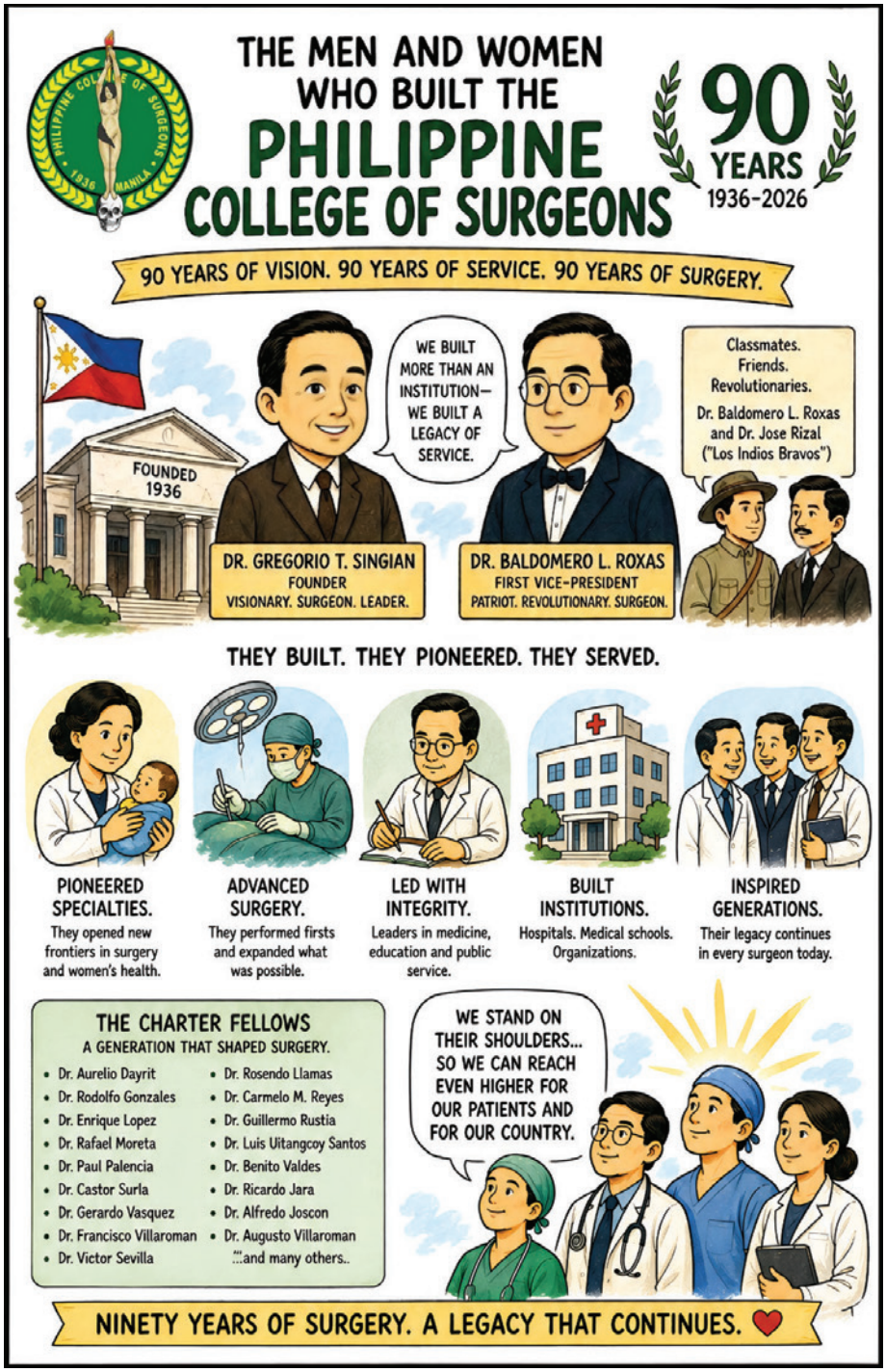
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Rey-An Niño L. Garcia, MD





On the Cover: PCS Founders

Left to Right, Top to Bottom: *Dr. Gregorio T. Singian, Dr. Basilio J. Valdes, Dr. Victor B. Sevilla, Dr. Valentine S. Afable, Dr. Baldomoro L. Roxas, Dr. Guillermo J. Rustia, Dr. Carmelo M. Reyes, Dr. Conrado D. Ayuyao, Dr. Rosendo R. Llamas, Dr. Fortunato S. Guerrero, Dr. Gumersindo B. Garcia Sr., Dr. Honoria Acosta-Sison, Dr. Juanario R. Estrada Sr., Dr. Miguel D. Canizares, Dr. Alfredo S. Baens & Dr. Rufino N. Abriol*

FROM THE

EDITOR'S DESK

Marcus Jose B. Brillantes, MD, FPCS



The Founders Who Built the Philippine College of Surgeons

Ninety years is a long time. Long enough for buildings to rise and fall, for wars to be fought and fade into history, for cities to be rebuilt and transformed, for generations of surgeons to come and go, and for countless patients to heal without ever knowing the names of those who quietly shaped the surgical profession that cared for them. As the Philippine College of Surgeons celebrates its 90th Foundation Anniversary in 2026, it is fitting that we pause - not merely to commemorate an institution, but to honor the remarkable men and women whose vision, courage, and dedication gave it life and whose legacy continues to guide the hands and hearts of Filipino surgeons today.

An institution is measured by the stature it eventually attains, yet its deepest identity is forged in the dreams of those who first envisioned it. The Philippine College of Surgeons draws its lasting strength from that quiet beginning, when a handful of men possessed not merely exceptional skill, but a larger vision of what surgery in our country may become. Their legacy was shaped by integrity, by service to the public good, and by a steadfast devotion to elevating the profession beyond personal distinction. In honoring them, we recognize that the true foundation of any great institution is not its walls or its triumphs, but the character of those who laid its first stone.

Foremost among them was Dr. Gregorio T. Singian, whose colleagues remembered him as a surgeon of uncommon empathy, tireless industry, and relentless pursuit of excellence. He was Chief of Hospital of San Juan de Dios from 1920 until his death in 1937. He understood, perhaps earlier than most, that surgery had grown too vast and too complex to be practiced in isolation. The future belonged to collaboration among specialists, and from that conviction emerged his vision of a Philippine College of Surgeons - a professional organization dedicated to raising standards, fostering fellowship, and advancing the science of surgery.

Dr. Baldomero L. Roxas was the College's first Vice-President. His story reaches beyond the medical field into the battle field of the history of the Filipino nation itself. A classmate of our national hero Dr. Jose Rizal at the University of Santo Tomas and later in Spain, Roxas joined Rizal in transforming the once-derogatory term Indio into a badge of honor through the celebrated circle known as Los Indios Bravos. Like Dr. Singian, Dr. Roxas also served in the Medical Corps during the Philippine Revolution struggle for independence, reminding us that service to one's country often begins before service to one's profession. Dr. Roxas succeeded Dr. Singian as President of the PCS and held this position from 1937-1944.

The PCS Charter Fellows reflected a generation whose influence extended far beyond the operating room. Dr. Valentine Afable founded the Afable College of Medicine and Surgery, which would later become the nucleus of the Manila Central University Hospital. Dr. Januario Y. Estrada, Sr., from humblest beginnings became the first locally trained surgeon to head the Department of Surgery of the Philippine General Hospital. Dr. Estrada was one of those to establish the Department of Surgery at Manila Doctors Hospital while serving as the trusted personal physician of President Manuel L. Quezon. Dr. Miguel Cañizares was one of the founders of the Philippine Hospital Association and helped establish the Philippine Chapter of the International College of Surgeons in 1948. Dr. Antonio Vasquez, who likewise attended to the nation's highest office, has a street in Ermita named after him.

Their contributions were remarkably diverse. Dr. Herminio Velarde, Sr. led the Ophthalmology Department at UP–PGH. Dr. Facundo Frias Esquivel oversaw the construction of Baguio General Hospital and became its first Director from 1936-1946. Because

Dr. Esquivel secretly supported the Filipino guerrilla forces during the Second World War, he was arrested in late 1944 by the Japanese and tortured. Dr. Gumersindo B. Garcia, Sr. was also the Director of both Mary Chiles and Mary Johnston Hospitals, chaired the Board of Medicine (1932-1935), and encouraged legislators Jose P. Laurel and Claro M. Recto to pursue legislation promoting the study of Rizal's life and writings.

Several pioneers transformed entire specialties. Dr. Honoria Acosta-Sison, the country's first Filipino woman physician, returned from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania to pioneer modern Obstetrics and Gynecology in our country, performing the nation's first low cesarean section in 1927. Dr. Gervacio Santos-Cuyugan, among the earliest Filipino Pensionado scholars, performed the country's first pneumonectomy for a large tuberculoma in a 9 year old boy in 1949. Their work expanded not only the frontiers of surgery but also the possibilities available to future generations.

Others strengthened medicine through leadership, education, and institution-building. Dr. Rufino Abriol chaired the Board of Medical Examiners in 1913 and led the Philippine Islands Medical Association during the early 1930s . Dr. Conrado Ayuyao became Director of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) who also made early pivotal contributions to ophthalmology and public health awareness regarding blindness in the Philippines during the mid-20th century. Dr. Nicanor Jacinto became the first Medical Director of the UST Hospital and helped establish the Philippine Chapter of the International College of Surgeons. He was also a professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery (1937-1961). Dr. Fortunato Guerrero, who headed the Surgery Department of Manila General Hospital in 1947, was one of the surgeons to operate on then Cabinet Secretary Jose P. Laurel after an assassination attempt. Many other founders demonstrated that surgeons could also be administrators, innovators, entrepreneurs, and public servants.

The remaining Charter Fellows collectively enriched nearly every field of surgery and hospital practice. Dr. Alfredo Baens, Dr. Aurelio Dayrit, Dr. Rodolfo Gonzales, Dr. Ricardo Jara, Dr. Alfredo Jocson, Dr. Rosendo Llamas, Dr. Enrique Lopez, Dr. Rafael Moreta, Dr. Paul Palencia, Dr. Carmelo M. Reyes, Dr. Guillermo Rustia, Dr. Luis Santos, Dr. Victor Sevilla, Dr. Castor Surla, Dr. Manuel Tuazon, Dr. Benito Valdes, Dr. Antonio Vasquez, Dr. Gerardo Vasquez, Dr. Herminio Velarde, Sr., Dr. Augusto Villarama and Dr. Francisco Villaroman have each left distinct and lasting contributions to Philippine surgery. They led departments, founded hospitals, trained future surgeons, served in government, published scholarly work, supported medical education, and devoted themselves to the welfare of their communities.

Among these founders, six would later ascend to the presidency of the Philippine College of Surgeons following Dr. Singian: Drs. Baldomero L. Roxas, Nicanor Jacinto, Januario R. Estrada, Sr., Basilio Valdes, Guillermo Rustia, and Gumersindo S. Garcia, Sr. Their successive leadership ensured that the ideals upon which the College was founded would not remain aspirations but become enduring traditions.

Looking back after nine decades, what stands out is not simply the impressive list of achievements, honors, or appointments. It is the remarkable breadth of their vision. These surgeons built hospitals where none existed, founded professional societies that continue to flourish, advanced medical education, served their nation in times of war and peace, and mentored generations who would follow. They understood that surgery was never merely a technical discipline; it was a vocation rooted in service, learning, and stewardship.

Every member of today's Philippine College of Surgeons stands, knowingly or not, upon the foundation they laid. Their legacy is found not only in archives or portraits displayed in meeting halls, but in every operating room where excellence is pursued, every resident who is mentored, every patient whose life is restored, and every surgeon who chooses duty over comfort.

As we celebrate ninety years of the Philippine College of Surgeons, we honor not only an institution but also the extraordinary lives that shaped it. Their hands healed patients. Their minds transformed Philippine surgery. Their vision continues to guide and inspire. And that, perhaps, is the finest measure of a legacy: that long after the pioneers themselves have departed, the work they began continues to heal a nation.



PCS Annual Meeting at the Philippine General Hospital, 1948.

The Wrong Question Is Killing the Right Conversation

Why "Who Should Transplant?" Misses the Point in the Philippines

• Catherine SC Teh, MD, MSc, FPCS, FRCSED, FACS(Hon), ESA(Hon), G.CIEHF •

The operating room is ready. The team is waiting. The donor clock is ticking. And the real constraint is not who holds the scalpel—it is whether the system behind that scalpel can sustain the patient who survives it.

That is the reality of liver transplantation in the Philippines. Not ideology. Not labels. Not professional turf.

Yet the current debate insists on asking a smaller, safer, but fundamentally wrong question: *Who should perform liver transplantation?*

It is the wrong question. And in a low-volume, resource-constrained environment, it is a dangerous one.

Stop Drawing Lines That Do Not Exist in Practice

A recent commentary in this newsletter argued that liver transplantation in the Philippines must be restricted to formally board-certified transplant surgeons, and that hepatobiliary (HPB) or pediatric surgeons should not lead these operations independently.[1] The argument rests on a neat fiction: that "transplant surgeons" and "HPB surgeons or pediatric surgeons" occupy distinct, non-overlapping domains, and that one group alone possesses the legitimacy to lead transplantation.

Reality does not cooperate.

Modern liver transplantation is not the product of a single training pathway. It is the product of converging competencies—complex vascular control, parenchymal transection, donor hepatectomy, recipient hepatectomy in hostile cirrhotic fields, perioperative physiology, immunosuppression, and longitudinal care.

Contemporary literature documents exactly this convergence. A 2025 review in Current Surgery Reports describes how transplant exposure systematically develops the retrohepatic dissection, porta dissection, and vascular anastomosis skills required for advanced HPB resections, and how oncotransplant has become an established therapy for HPB malignancies.[2] A second 2025 review in Current Transplantation Reports goes further: it argues that the boundary between HPB surgery, surgical oncology, and transplantation has dissolved so completely that the field now warrants a formally restructured, competency-based pathway—"transplant oncology"—rather than parallel siloed fellowships.[3] These are not the views of a fringe minority; they are the direction of travel in academic surgery globally.

The idea that a credential alone guarantees readiness is comforting. It is also false.

Titles do not transplant patients. Systems do.

Volume Is the Truth Everyone Avoids

Here is the uncomfortable fact: the Philippines performs very few liver transplants annually. The most recent published national series—covering four centers from 1988 through 2023—reports a modern-era one-year graft survival of only 64% in adults and 67% in pediatric recipients, well below the 85–90% benchmarks of established international programs.[4] The Medical City, one of only a handful of active centers, reported just 30 liver transplants between 2011 and 2025; 466 Filipinos sat on organ waiting lists as of 2025.[5] That single reality dismantles most of the certainty in this debate. You cannot train competence in a procedure that is rarely performed. You cannot maintain excellence without repetition. You cannot build mastery on exposure measured in single digits.

And yet, the conversation continues as if volume were irrelevant. It is not irrelevant. It is decisive.

The published learning curve for deceased donor liver transplantation is approximately 45 cases during fellowship; the American Society of Transplant Surgeons uses that same threshold for credentialing.[6] A 2026 nationwide cohort study found that one-year patient survival was only 71% when surgeons had performed fewer than 31 prior transplants, rose to 85% between 41 and 60 cases, and reached 95% only beyond several hundred.[7] In other words, the threshold the ASTS itself uses to define independent practice is mathematically unreachable inside any single Philippine program at current national volumes.

Low volume is not just a limitation—it is the central problem.

So any argument that claims a particular training pathway produces fully independent transplant surgeons locally must answer a simple question: where is the volume that sustains that claim? If the answer is unclear, the certainty should be as well.

Exclusivity Does Not Protect Patients—It Restricts Them

The instinct to restrict practice to a narrowly defined group comes from a good place: protect patients. But in a low-capacity system, exclusivity produces a different outcome—fewer surgeons capable of participating, slower program growth, concentration of cases in two or three urban centers, prolonged waiting times, and reduced access outside Metro Manila.

This is not theoretical. It is structural. When capacity is scarce, *exclusion is not safety—it is rationing*.

The alternative is not open access. It is structured inclusion: supervised participation, progressive responsibility, rigorous proctorship, and transparent outcome monitoring. This is exactly the model the International Liver Transplantation Society now formalizes through its Global Liver Transplant Mentorship (GLTM) Program, launched in 2025 precisely to bridge training gaps in emerging programs.[8] It is also the model documented in the peer-reviewed literature on establishing new centers: a 40-month structured mentorship between an experienced and an emerging institution, with on-site proctorship and shared accountability, produced acceptable outcomes and sustainable capacity—without requiring every operating surgeon to have completed a full overseas fellowship.[9]

That is how every high-performing transplant system evolved—stepwise, not sealed.

Competence Is a Continuum, Not a Credential

There is a deeper flaw in the current framing: it treats competence as binary. You either "have it" or you do not. You are "qualified" or you are not. That is not how surgical competence works.

Competence develops along a continuum: exposure, assisted participation, supervised independence, full autonomy, and sustained outcomes. Every credible training model—whether ASTS in North America, ESOT in Europe, or the Asian living-donor programs that have produced some of the best outcomes in the world—follows this arc.[3,10] The Philippines cannot skip this process. It also cannot afford to block it.

Competence must be built. Not declared. Not denied. Built.

The Myth of the Single-Surgeon Model

The debate continues to orbit around the surgeon, as if transplantation were a technical act performed by an individual. That model is obsolete. The European Society for Organ Transplantation's 2024 consensus statement on outcome measures in liver transplantation explicitly redefines success as a value- based, system-wide construct—multidisciplinary candidate selection, anesthesia and hemodynamic management, ICU care, infection control, longitudinal follow-up, and institutional governance—rather than as a metric attached to a single operator.[11] The EASL 2024 Clinical Practice Guideline on liver transplantation says the same: outcomes are owned by teams, not individuals.[12]

Strip those systems away, and the most technically perfect operation still fails. A great surgeon in a weak system produces poor outcomes. A good surgeon in a strong system produces reliable ones.

So why does the local argument remain surgeon-centric? Because it is easier. And because it avoids the harder truth: building systems is more difficult than defending titles.

HPB and Transplant Surgery Are Not Opponents

The framing of HPB and transplant surgery as competing entities is not just outdated—it is counterproductive. HPB surgeons bring deep anatomical knowledge, high-volume liver surgery experience, vascular and biliary reconstruction skill, and integration into liver-disease MDTs. Transplant- focused training brings immunology, graft physiology, allocation frameworks, and longitudinal post- transplant care. These are not substitutes. They are complements.[2,3]

In the high-volume Asian centers that pioneered living donor liver transplantation—Seoul, Taipei, Kyoto, Hong Kong, Singapore—these domains have already merged, functionally if not formally; many of the world's most prolific living-donor surgeons trained primarily in HPB before extending into transplantation.[10] The Philippines will not move forward by forcing a separation that the rest of the world has already abandoned.

A Note on the Evidence Being Cited

It is striking that the case for strict exclusivity in our local debate continues to lean on a very small, very old evidence base. The commentary that prompted this response cites three sources: the ASTS fellowship website, an SRTR program-reports primer published in 2008, and a consensus conference report from 2012—all predating modern competency-based frameworks, the formal emergence of transplant oncology, the ILTS Global Liver Transplant Mentorship Program, the ESOT

and EASL 2024 consensus documents, and a decade of Asian living-donor data that has reshaped how this field is practiced and taught.[1–12]

An argument built on 13- to 18-year-old literature, in a field that has changed this rapidly, is not a defense of standards. It is an artifact of inertia.

The Real Question Everyone Is Avoiding

Here is the question that matters: *What does it take to build a safe, sustainable liver transplant system in a low-volume country?*

Not: Who gets to do the operation?

Answer that honestly, and the rest follows:

- **Competency frameworks**, not labels.
- **Pathways**, not barriers.
- **Proctorship**, not isolation.
- **Outcomes**, not assumptions.

Everything else is noise.

A Reality Check

If the goal is to expand liver transplantation safely in the Philippines, then three truths must be accepted:

1. No single existing pathway is sufficient on its own.
2. Volume constraints limit traditional training models.
3. Capacity must be built deliberately, not restricted reflexively. Ignoring these does not preserve standards. It delays progress.

The Way Forward Is Not Comfortable

It requires:

- Admitting gaps in training and exposure.
- Building hybrid, competency-based pathways modelled on transplant oncology and ILTS mentorship principles.
- Collaborating across HPB, transplant, pediatric, hepatology, and ICU specialties.
- Accepting shared ownership of outcomes.
- Measuring outcomes transparently against published value-based benchmarks. This is slower than claiming authority. It is also more honest. And ultimately, safer.

Finally

Stop asking who should transplant.

Start defining what it takes to transplant safely—and build toward it.

Because in a system with too few transplants, too few trained teams, and too many patients waiting, the real risk is not who operates.

The real risk is standing still.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

JOSELITO M. MENDOZA, MD, FPCS



Building a Stronger PCS: Eight Months of Progress, Ninety Years of Purpose

Time has certainly flown. It is hard to believe we are already eight months into our term. This milestone offers an opportunity to reflect on what the Board of Regents of the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) and the Board of Trustees of the Philippine College of Surgeons Foundation, Inc. (PCSF) have accomplished together in pursuit of our shared vision.

Guided by the principles of One PCS, Unity in Diversity, and our vision of the Philippine College of Surgeons as the true umbrella organization of Filipino surgeons, our efforts during the past eight months have focused on building stronger institutions that will serve our Fellows for generations to come.

Strategic Pillar 1. Building Stronger Institutions

Eight Months of Building Stronger Foundations

Among our most significant achievements is the successful completion of a long-awaited milestone for the Philippine College of Surgeons Foundation.

PCSF Achieves Full PCNC Accreditation

In March 2025, during my term as President of the Philippine College of Surgeons Foundation, Inc., the Foundation finally secured accreditation from the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC) after years of persistent effort. This was more than a regulatory accomplishment—it was a strategic breakthrough.

As a non-stock, non-profit organization, PCNC accreditation is the cornerstone that allows the Foundation to build meaningful partnerships with individuals, corporations, and institutions that wish to support our mission. It opens the door to sustainable funding for programs that directly benefit Filipino surgeons and the communities we serve through research, surgical education and training, humanitarian missions, and other professional and public service initiatives.

However, obtaining PCNC accreditation was only the first step. To qualify for the privilege of receiving tax-deductible donations, two additional requirements had to be fulfilled. First, the Foundation needed to establish a formal partnership with a government agency through a Memorandum of Agreement. Second, we had to secure certification from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) authorizing the Foundation to receive tax-exempt donations.

After months of consultations, virtual meetings, documentary submissions, and compliance with government requirements, the Philippine College of Surgeons Foundation entered into a partnership with the **Department of Science and Technology (DOST)**, with a Memorandum of Agreement effective from **February 2026 to February 2028**.

This paved the way for the final milestone. On **March 19, 2026**, the Bureau of Internal Revenue granted the Foundation its certification to receive tax-free donations, valid until **March 2028**.

Today, the Philippine College of Surgeons Foundation is fully equipped to receive tax-deductible donations from individuals, corporations, and philanthropic organizations that share our commitment to advancing surgical care in the Philippines.

Equally important, this accreditation extends beyond the Foundation itself. It provides an avenue through which our subspecialty and affiliate societies may also benefit by channeling eligible donations for their educational, research, humanitarian, and advocacy programs through the Foundation, allowing donors to enjoy the corresponding tax incentives.

This achievement represents years of perseverance by many dedicated leaders before us. We simply had the

privilege of bringing the process across the finish line. It is a testament to what can be accomplished through patience, collaboration, and a shared commitment to strengthening our institution.

As we continue our journey toward the Philippine College of Surgeons' 90th Foundation Year and beyond, we remain focused on building systems and partnerships that will sustain our mission for generations to come. Strong institutions are built not only through visionary leadership, but also through the enduring foundations that enable them to serve more effectively.

This milestone is one such foundation—and it belongs to every Fellow of the Philippine College of Surgeons.

PCS- PHIC MOA

On April 17, 2026, the PCS entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with PHIC (Philippine Health Insurance Corporation), the very first medical society to do so with PHIC . This was signed by yours truly as PCS President, VP Rodney Dofitas , PHIC President & CEO Dr. Edwin M. Mercado , and PHIC Director Dr Gap Legaspi. This was followed by a TWG between PCS representatives (President Joselito Mendoza, VP Rodney Dofitas, Sec. Rex Madrigal, PCS Past President & PCSF Treasurer Dondi Dizon, PSCRS Pres Joseph Roy Fuentes, PCS Committee on Patient Safety & Quality M. Assurance Chair Jorge M. Concepcion and PCS PSQA Regent-in-charge Gerardo d. Legaspi) and PHIC VP Alfred Philip de Dios. The objective of this MOA is to strengthen quality assurance and standards for surgical care.

Key provisions of the PCS–PhilHealth MOA

1. **Development of surgical benefit packages**
   PCS and PhilHealth will work together in developing and improving **surgical benefit packages**, with the goal of making appropriate surgical care more accessible to Filipino patients.

2. **Surgical referral networks**
   The partnership includes developing **referral networks** to help patients reach appropriate surgical services and improve continuity of care.

3. **Quality standards for surgery**
   A major component is establishing and strengthening **quality standards for surgical care**, directly supporting PCS's patient-safety and quality-assurance agenda.

4. **Research and geographic mapping**
   The two organizations will support the work with **research and geographic mapping of surgical services nationwide**. This can help identify areas with inadequate surgical capacity and guide resource allocation.

5. **Compliance and ethical practice**
   PCS will assist in ensuring that its member-surgeons comply with **PhilHealth policies and requirements**.

6. **Fraud detection and claims review**
   PCS will participate in strengthening **fraud detection and ethical claims review**, particularly in relation to surgical claims.

7. **Surgical claims and complaints**
   The MOA establishes a **joint mechanism for addressing surgical claims and complaints**, potentially allowing issues to be resolved collaboratively before they escalate. The PCS 2026 publication specifically notes that PCS will assist in reviewing cases involving alleged **upscaling of surgical procedures** and help resolve concerns before legal proceedings.

8. **Sharing surgical best practices**
   PCS will identify and share **emerging best practices in surgical procedures** with PhilHealth, helping translate professional standards into national health-insurance policy.



April 17, 2026
PCS-PHIC MOA Signing, PHIC Bldg. Shaw Blvd.



June 1, 2026
TWG PHIC-PCS MOA, PHIC Bldg. Shaw Blvd.

Chapter Code Revision

The **2026 PCS Chapter Code** was revised to strengthen consistency, governance, and communication across all PCS Chapters. Updated hard copies were distributed to all Chapters during their respective induction ceremonies, ensuring that chapter leaders and members have direct access to the revised guidelines. This initiative promotes **uniformity in chapter operations, greater organizational accountability, and stronger alignment with the policies and objectives of the Philippine College of Surgeons**.

Strategic Pillar 2. One PCS: Strengthening Our Surgical Family

Great institutions are strengthened not only by policies but by people.

The greatest achievement of this administration has been bringing our surgical community closer together.

If there is one vision that has guided our administration from the very beginning, it is the belief that the Philippine College of Surgeons must truly become the **Home of the Filipino Surgeon**—an institution where every surgeon, regardless of specialty, subspecialty, chapter, or area of practice, finds a common identity, a shared purpose, and a collective voice.

For ninety years, the Philippine College of Surgeons has served as the mother organization of Philippine surgery. Throughout those decades, surgical science has evolved tremendously. New specialties and subspecialties have emerged, each developing its own expertise, traditions, and professional identity. These developments have enriched the practice of surgery and ultimately improved patient care.

Yet as our profession has become increasingly specialized, we must never lose sight of what binds us together.

Before we are orthopedic surgeons, neurosurgeons, pediatric surgeons, urologists, plastic surgeons, hepatobiliary surgeons, or colorectal surgeons—we are first and foremost **surgeons**. We are united by the same calling, the same ethical principles, the same commitment to lifelong learning, and the same responsibility to provide safe, compassionate, and equitable surgical care to every Filipino.

This conviction inspired our 90th Foundation Year theme and our enduring message of "**Unity in Diversity**." Diversity is one of the Philippine College of Surgeons' greatest strengths. Our various specialty and affiliate societies bring unique expertise, perspectives, and innovations that enrich our profession. But diversity should never become division. Instead, it should strengthen the bonds that unite us as one surgical family.

The vision of **One PCS** is therefore much more than a slogan. It is a commitment to foster collaboration rather than fragmentation; partnership rather than isolation; and mutual respect rather than competition. It is our affirmation that while each specialty advances its own discipline, we all share one profession, one College, and one responsibility to the Filipino patient.

This vision has begun to translate into meaningful action.

POA -PCS Group Membership

One of the most significant milestones during this administration was the historic decision of the **Philippine Orthopaedic Association (POA)** to enroll its entire Fellowship into the Philippine College of Surgeons. With more than one thousand Fellows joining the PCS as a unified body, the POA became the first specialty society to fully embrace this model of institutional membership. The first batch for Induction was carried out on April 23,2026 during the 34th POA Midyear Convention in Cebu.

This landmark achievement represents far more than an increase in membership. It symbolizes a renewed spirit of trust, collaboration, and solidarity within the Philippine surgical community. It demonstrates that our vision of the PCS as the true umbrella organization of Filipino surgeons is not merely aspirational—it is becoming a reality.

We are deeply grateful to POA President Dr. Marcelino T. Cadag and Immediate Past President Dr. Justinian Aquilino Cyril "Jac" Pimentel IV for their leadership, openness, and commitment to this shared vision. Their partnership has established a meaningful precedent for stronger collaboration among our specialty societies and has opened new opportunities for future growth across the College.

Strengthening International Surgical Relations

As President of the Philippine College of Surgeons, I have placed strong emphasis on strengthening our international surgical relations and positioning the PCS as an active and respected partner in the global surgical



community. In 2026, I represented the PCS at major regional and international meetings, including the Taiwan Surgical Association Annual Convention in Taipei, the RACS Annual Scientific Congress in Perth, the CSAMM Annual Scientific Conference in Kuala Lumpur, and the 59th Malaysia-Singapore Congress of Medicine in Kuala Lumpur.



TSA Annual Meeting & International Joint Surgical Conference
Lower photo: shaking hands with President of Taiwan (Republic of China) Dr. Lai Ching-te also known internationally as William Lai.



94Th Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress

These engagements strengthened our partnerships with surgical organizations across the Asia-Pacific and ASEAN regions, facilitated the exchange of knowledge and best practices, and opened opportunities for collaborative programs in education, training, research, quality improvement, and sustainable surgery. More importantly, they reinforced the PCS commitment to **Unity in Diversity, regional solidarity, and advancing Filipino surgery through meaningful international collaboration**.



July 3 , 2026
Academy of Malaysia & Singapore Cogress of Medicine

International Surgical Leaders' Roundtable

As President of the Philippine College of Surgeons, I represented the PCS in international surgical leaders' roundtable discussions, engaging with surgical leaders from across the region and beyond on issues affecting the future of surgery. These high-level exchanges provided an important platform to share the Philippine experience, learn from global best practices, and discuss common challenges in surgical education, training, patient safety, quality improvement, workforce development, and access to surgical care. Through these engagements, the PCS strengthened its international partnerships and contributed the Filipino surgical perspective to the collective effort to advance safe, equitable, sustainable, and high-quality surgical care.



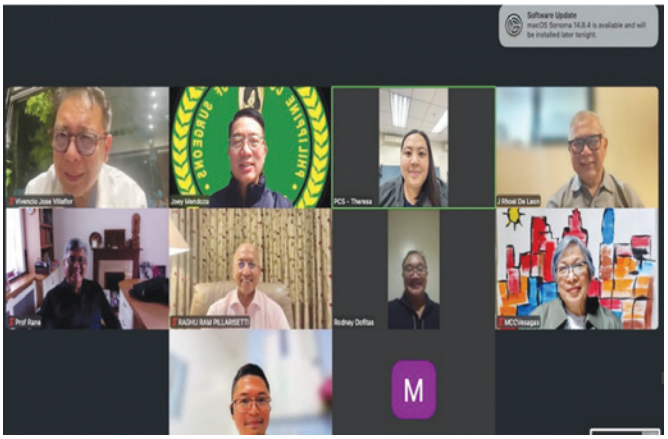
PCS-RCPSG Collaboration

On March 16, 2026, the Philippine College of Surgeons engaged in a strategic zoom meeting with the **Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (RCPSG)** to explore opportunities for international collaboration. Discussions focused on a **joint webinar, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and a dedicated PCS–RCPSG session during the ACC**. This initiative strengthens the PCS's global partnerships and creates opportunities for knowledge exchange, education, and professional development with one of the world's established surgical colleges.

Strategic Pillar 3. Surgery with a Greater Purpose

The calling of a surgeon extends beyond the operating room. Our responsibility includes caring for communities, protecting our environment, and advocating for healthier lives.

PCS Tree Planting Activity



TIES

As we went to the different PCS Chapters in Bicol, Ilocos Norte & Sur, Nueva Viscaya, Baguio, Batangas, Clark Pampanga, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro and Cotabato for thePCS Chapter Inductions ,we made it a point to carry out one of our traditional advocacies since last year as a show of support to our Sarawak Declaration of 2025 for Sustainable Surgery, the first joint declaration of the ASEAN surgical colleges.

The declaration recognizes that climate change is an urgent threat to health in Southeast Asia and that **surgery has an important environmental footprint**. Operating theatres are among the most resource-intensive areas of hospitals and are estimated to account for approximately **30–40% of a hospital's carbon footprint**.

Its central message is that **sustainable surgery is a collective responsibility of surgeons and surgical institutions across ASEAN**.





National Women's Week Celebration

Breast Cancer Awareness and Community Outreach

On March 27, 2026, the Philippine College of Surgeons supported breast cancer awareness initiatives in partnership with the AWSP, and PCSF Cancer Commission. Through the **PICO PCS Building**, the initiative focused on bringing breast cancer education and early detection closer to the community through **barangay health worker workshops and breast cancer screening**. This reflects the PCS commitment to extending surgical care beyond the hospital, empowering frontline health workers, promoting early diagnosis, and improving access to timely breast cancer care—particularly among women in underserved communities.



PCS–City of Manila Community Projects

The Philippine College of Surgeons continues to strengthen its commitment to community **service and social responsibility** through collaborative projects with the City of Manila. Key initiatives include **Operation Tuli**, the **Boystown Feeding Program**, and **tree-planting activities**. These programs reflect the PCS commitment to bringing the spirit of service beyond the operating room—providing accessible health services, supporting the welfare of children and underserved communities, and promoting environmental stewardship. Through these partnerships, the PCS demonstrates that **surgical leadership is not only about advancing the profession, but also about serving communities and improving the lives of Filipinos**.



Strategic Pillar 4. Delivering Greater Value to our Fellows

The strength of any professional organization is ultimately measured by the value it creates for its members. While the Philippine College of Surgeons has long been recognized for excellence in surgical education, training, certification, and professional development, we must also continuously evolve to meet the changing needs of today's Filipino surgeon.

Membership in the Philippine College of Surgeons is more than a professional distinction—it is a lifelong partnership. Every Fellow invests time, dedication, and expertise in strengthening our College. In return, the College has the responsibility to create opportunities that enrich professional practice, support personal well-being, and reinforce the value of belonging to the PCS family.

Our vision extends beyond organizing scientific meetings and granting Fellowship. We aspire to build an organization that accompanies its members throughout their professional journey—one that opens doors to meaningful partnerships, recognizes the identity of every Fellow, provides practical benefits, and fosters a stronger sense of pride and belonging within our surgical community.

Guided by this commitment, we have initiated several programs that translate the value of PCS membership into tangible benefits. These include strategic partnerships with respected institutions in the public and private sectors, enhanced membership privileges, and commemorative initiatives that celebrate our shared identity as Filipino surgeons.

PCS ID and Industry Partners Collaboration

The Philippine College of Surgeons strengthened its engagement with key **industry and institutional partners** through the development and implementation of the **PCS Fellow Identification Card**. Partnerships with organizations such as **The Manila Hotel, Megaworld, Manila Bulletin, UNTV, DZRH, Park & Fly**, etc. provide opportunities to extend recognition and benefits to PCS Fellows while enhancing the value of PCS membership. This initiative reinforces the identity of PCS Fellows and strengthens the College's relationship with the private sector and other community partners, ultimately supporting the welfare and professional needs of Filipino surgeons.



PCS–Security Bank Card Partnership

The Philippine College of Surgeons strengthened its partnership with **Security Bank** through a dedicated PCS–Security Bank membership card designed to provide added benefits and privileges to PCS Fellows. The **World Card** offers **unlimited access to local business-class airport lounges, six complimentary international lounge visits per year, no minimum usage requirement, and no annual dues**. This collaboration reflects the PCS commitment to providing meaningful professional and lifestyle benefits to its members while building mutually beneficial partnerships with leading institutions in the private sector.



PCS Merchandise

The Philippine College of Surgeons has expanded its **official merchandise program** as part of the celebration of its 90th Anniversary and to strengthen the sense of identity and unity among PCS Fellows and members. The collection features a variety of **PCS-branded apparel, caps, jackets, tumblers, pins, and other commemorative items**, including the distinctive **"90" anniversary designs and "One PCS" branding**. Beyond serving as commemorative keepsakes, these products promote the visibility and identity of the College and foster a stronger sense of **pride, belonging, and unity within the PCS family**.



90th Anniversary Commemorative Watch

To commemorate the **90th Anniversary of the Philippine College of Surgeons**, a special commemorative timepiece was conceptualized as a lasting symbol of the College's rich heritage and enduring legacy. The watch carries the **PCS 90th Anniversary identity**, combining elegance and functionality while serving as a meaningful keepsake for Fellows and members. More than a commemorative item, it represents **90 years of surgical excellence, service, unity, and commitment to**

the Filipino people, while looking forward to the next chapter of the PCS journey.





Strategic Pillar 5. Celebrating 90 Years of Excellence

52nd PCS Midyear Convention

The **52nd Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) Midyear Convention, held on May 6–8, 2026 at the SMX Convention Center, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga**, was a highly successful gathering of Fellows, surgical leaders, and members of the Philippine surgical community. With the theme **"Precision Care in Surgery by Cultivating Leadership and Competence,"** the convention provided a meaningful platform for advancing surgical knowledge, strengthening professional competence, and cultivating the leadership needed to shape the future of Philippine surgery.

As PCS President, I was honored to lead the opening of this important gathering and to witness the strong spirit of **fellowship, collegiality, and unity** among our members. The success of the convention was made possible through the dedication, hard work, and collaboration of many individuals. **My deepest appreciation goes to the Overall Committee on Conventions Chair, PCS VP Dr. Rodney Dofitas, BOG Chairman Dr Benedicto "Bing"Joson and the PCS Central Luzon Chapter (CLC) President Dr. Emiliano Gatchalian**, for their outstanding leadership and commitment in making this event a resounding success.

The 52nd Midyear Convention exemplified our continuing commitment to **precision in surgical care, lifelong learning, leadership development, and service to our patients and our nation**, while strengthening the PCS spirit of **Unity in Diversity and One PCS**.



KALAYAG: A Celebration of Unity in Philippine Surgery

The **PCS Coffee Table Book, *KALAYAG***, is a celebration of the Philippine College of Surgeons' **90 years of heritage, service, and unity**. More than a collection of photographs and stories, *KALAYAG* represents the collective journey of the PCS and its diverse family of **subspecialty and affiliate societies**, each contributing uniquely to the advancement of surgery in the Philippines.

The book embodies the principle that while our specialties, expertise, and individual missions may differ, we are united by one profession, one College, and one commitment to the Filipino patient. It showcases the strength of collaboration and the shared vision that has allowed Philippine surgery to grow and flourish through the years.

KALAYAG—meaning to **sail, to voyage, or to journey**—beautifully symbolizes the PCS journey: **different vessels, but one direction; diverse specialties, but one purpose; many voices, but one united surgical community**. As the PCS celebrates its 90th year, KALAYAG stands as a lasting testament to **Unity in Diversity** and to the enduring spirit of the **One PCS** family.



90th Anniversary Commemorative Sculpture

To mark the **90th Anniversary of the Philippine College of Surgeons**, a commemorative sculpture by renowned Filipino sculptor **Daniel Dela Cruz** was commissioned as a lasting symbol of the College's heritage and enduring values. The sculpture depicts **multiple hands coming together to hold a single flame**, powerfully representing the collective strength, shared responsibility, and unity of Filipino surgeons.

The **flame** symbolizes the enduring spirit of surgical excellence, service, knowledge, and compassion that has been passed from one generation of surgeons to the next. The hands represent the many **subspecialty and affiliate societies, Chapters, Fellows, and members** that come together as one College. It beautifully captures the theme of the 90th Anniversary: "**Unity in Diversity**."

More than an anniversary memento, the sculpture serves as a permanent reminder that **while we may differ in specialty and expertise, we are united by one profession, one purpose, and one commitment to the Filipino patient**.



As we celebrate the **90th Foundation Year of the Philippine College of Surgeons**, these initiatives remind us that the true value of Fellowship extends far beyond credentials and titles. It is reflected in the opportunities we create, the partnerships we forge, the communities we serve, and the enduring commitment we make to support one another throughout our professional lives.

At the heart of these accomplishments lies a simple yet enduring truth: **unity creates strength**. No single specialty can meet the healthcare challenges of our nation alone, and no single institution holds all the answers. The future of surgery will be shaped by collaboration—across specialties, across institutions, across generations, and across national borders.

As we commemorate ninety years of excellence, we reaffirm our vision of a Philippine College of Surgeons where every surgeon finds a home, every specialty has a voice, and every Fellow shares in the responsibility of shaping our collective future. The strength of our College has never been defined by the achievements of any one specialty, chapter, or generation. Rather, it has always been built upon our shared purpose, mutual respect, and unwavering commitment to advancing the highest standards of surgical care for every Filipino.

A stronger Philippine College of Surgeons is one that not only advances surgical science but also invests in its greatest asset—its Fellows. By nurturing their professional growth, strengthening their identity, fostering meaningful partnerships, and promoting their welfare, we build an institution that is resilient, relevant, and prepared for the future.

This is the spirit of **One PCS**.

This is the enduring promise of **Unity in Diversity**.

This is how we continue to build a Philippine College of Surgeons that is truly the **Home of the Filipino Surgeon**.

And this remains our unwavering commitment—not only for today, but for the generations of surgeons who will follow.

ACROSS THE BOARD

Rex A. Madrigal, MD, FPCS



5th BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
May 8, 2026 (Friday); 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Hues Restaurant – Radisson Park Inn Hotel

Part I – Philhealth Matter 12:00PM – 1:00PM

- **Drafting and development of the necessary Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with PCS & Philhealth**
  The Board discussed the need to establish a broad **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)** as previously requested. It was agreed that the institution will first review the details and guidelines provided by the concerned party and formally submit a letter of request as needed.

- The Board also deliberated on designating a **point person or responsible committee** to oversee the matter. It was agreed that the **Committee on HMO, PSQA, HSA and PhilHealth** will take the lead in this process.

Part II – Meeting Proper (1:00 PM – 4:00 PM)

1. Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm with Dr. Joselito M. Mendoza presiding.

2. Invocation – led by Maria Rica M. Lumague, MD

3. Approval of the Agenda

4. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting on April 18, 2026 was deferred.

5. President's Report

5.1. April 19 - PCS, PSGS, PSPS Operation Tuli
In cooperation with Manila City Health Dept. Parola Health Center

5.2. April 23 - Cebu POA MYC
PCS Induction Radisson Hotel, Mactan
1043 POA Fellows

5.3. April 24 - TSA Convention
Dinner
Celebrity Cuisine
World Trade Center
Taipei / Chien –Sung Tsai

5.4. April 25 - International Leaders 'Forum 8:00 am
TICC-Taiwan Int'l Convention Center

- Opening Ceremonies
  10:00 am TICC - Pres Ching-te Lai

5.5. April 30 - RACS Annual Scientific Conference
Perth Convention & Exhibition Center
Convocation & Opening Ceremonies
103 Fellows

- Post Convocation Cocktails & Presidential Dinner

5.6. May 2 - RACS Interaction President Round Table
Surgical Training Pathways
Bellevue Lounge PCEC
1 of 6 who was asked to present

RCS Ed
Thailand
Indonesia
Sri Lanka
Pacific Islands
Philippines

- RACS Gala Dinner
  BelleVue Ballroom PCEC
  Owen Ung
  Phillip Morreou

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes
6.1. Approval of the Minutes of the April Board meeting was held in abeyance. Dra Tagayuna and Dr. Bartolome pointed out that the Minutes of the previous meeting should be forwarded to all members at least one week in advance to ensure adequate time for consideration and feedback. Items that were vetted and subsequently voted upon during the previous meeting should be elaborated for proper context and future referencing.

6.2. Midyear Convention
6.2.1. Issue was raised by Dra. Torre, on behalf of the Negros Island Chapter, regarding the hosting of Bicol Chapter of the 2027 Midyear Convention. It was pointed out that NIC received a formal letter from the Board awarding the hosting of the 2027 Midyear Convention last August 2025. To date, the chapter has not received any letter rescinding their hosting rights.
6.2.2. Upon the motion of Dr. Mendoza, Dr. Madrigal presented the minutes of the board meeting last January 17, 2026 and it was resolved that Bicol

Chapter was granted the privilege to host the 2027 Midyear during the January board meeting and for the 2028 Midyear be offered to NIC.

6.2.3. Dr. Dofitas recommended considering the transfer of the Midyear Convention to Metro Manila if the event cannot be held in Bicol due to Mayon's unrest. Dr. Madrigal pointed out that never in the history that Mayon became restive for two years.

6.2.4. The board secretary, Dr. Madrigal was instructed to send a formal letter of apology to Negros Island Chapter, on behalf of the Board, for the failure to communicate its decision to award the hosting of MYC 2027 to the Bicol Chapter prior to announcement made during the MYC.

7. Treasurer's Report
   7.1. Already presented during the PCS Business Meeting held May 8, 2026.

8. Board of Governors
   8.1. Dr. Joson expressed gratitude for the success of the 52nd Midyear Convention and extended his apologies on behalf of Central Luzon Chapter for any shortcomings or minor issues encountered during the event.

9. Executive Director's Report
   9.1. Maria Theresa Dela Fuente underwent laparoscopic cholecystectomy with Intraoperative ERCP, extraction of CBD stone. Insurance coverage from I-Care should have been up to Php200,000. However, the renewal of the insurance with I-care has not been finalized yet. She is instructed to submit actual billing for possible reimbursement.
   9.2. Medicard was the previous PCS Health Insurance, iCare has been designated as new HMO insurance provider.

10. Committee Reports
    10.1.Cluster A – National Programs

10.1.1. **COMMITTEE ON HMO – RVS**

FOR INFORMATION

1. Adoption of a Chapter-Based Communication Structure
   The Committee will implement a chapter-based communication structure, designating chapter presidents as primary coordinators between the Committee and members. This aims to ensure a more organized, consistent, and efficient flow of information.

2. Creation of an Official Viber Group (Target: May 2026)
   An official Viber group composed of chapter presidents and Committee members will be established to facilitate faster communication, timely updates, and efficient issue resolution.

3. Implementation of a Structured Complaints and Reporting System (Target: June–July 2026)
   A standardized system will be developed and implemented to consolidate and process member concerns—particularly those related to HMO transactions—through chapter presidents for proper documentation, tracking, and resolution.

4. Intensified Information Dissemination and Chapter Engagement (Ongoing, starting May 2026)
   The Committee will enhance dissemination efforts through sustained chapter-level activities. When feasible, Committee representatives will attend chapter events to enable direct dialogue with members and improve awareness of HMO agreements, policies, benefits, and processes.

5. Encouragement Campaign for Signing the Universal Service Agreement (USA) (June– December 2026)
   The Committee will actively promote member participation in signing the Universal Service Agreement (USA) with HMO providers to strengthen collective negotiation capacity and expand coverage.

6. Support for Participation in the Mid-Year Convention (May 8, 2026)
   Members and chapter presidents are encouraged to actively participate in the Mid-Year Convention, particularly in the Committee session scheduled on May 8.

7. Coordination Meetings with Partner Associations (Target: July 2026)
   The Committee is scheduled to meet with AHMOPI and PAHMOC to strengthen collaboration, align processes, and support membership expansion initiatives.

8. Membership Growth and Accreditation Drive (July–December 2026)
   The Committee aims to significantly increase accredited membership, with a target of doubling the current number from 640 through intensified awareness campaigns, direct engagement, and collaboration with partner associations.

10.1.2. **COMMITTEE ON UHC**

- Include in the Meeting the Subcommittee on Primary Care Surgery headed by Dr. Robby Chacon.

10.1.3.**COMMITTEE ON ASEAN SUMMIT & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

- Dr. Buenafe asked the Board for follow up on the Scholarship of Young Fellow with Dr. Jose Rhoel De Leon.

10.1.4. **COMMITTEE ON TRAUMA**

- Dr, Buenafe informed the Board that the Committee will set a final date for MOA Signing with the Arm Forces of the Philippines and to make sure to involve Dr. Acoba.

10.1.5. **COMMITTEE ON CANCER**

- Dr. Manuel Francisco T. Roxas recommended that the PCS CanCom presents its Annual Report during the next PCSF Board Meeting. Following the presentation, the PCSF Board may discuss and determine the future direction of the PCS CanCom. It was further recommended that the PCSF considers providing support and funding for the annual activities of the PCS CanCom to help sustain its programs and initiatives.

Board Action: The recommendation was approved and may be presented in the next BOR Meeting in June.

10.1.6. **COMMITTEE ON SURE**

FOR APPROVAL:

Dra. Tagayuna presented for approval the following

1. New chairman of the PCS SURE Committee due to the current health issue of Dr. Eric de Leon
   a. Chairman: Dr. Roberto A. Chacon, Jr

2. Benefit-Dinner for Dr Eric de Leon
   a. June 1, 2026
   b. Give a plaque of appreciation from PCS

3. Funds for Surgical Missions:
   - Requesting a permanent source of funds for Charity/ Mission of 5% from the net income of both Annual Clinical Congress and Midyear Convention.
   - Finance Committee to look into this.
   - Long term plan for the implementation of the Surgical Missions solely by PCS

Board Action: Approved only of the appointment of Dr. Chacon as new chairman of the PCS SURE Committee
Benefit dinner however will depend on the availability of Dr. De Leon
Permanent source of funds for Missions for further study by the Committee

FOR INFORMATION:

1. PCS Chapter-initiated Missions

	CHAPTER	PROCEDURES	VENUE	DATE	PARTNERS
1.	PCS Panay Chapter	Laparoscopic, General and Specialty Surgery	Antique	April 2026	Calmoseptine World Surgical Foundation - Phils
2.	PCS Northern Mindanao Chapter	Laparoscopic, General and Specialty Surgery	Amai Pakpak Medical Center, Marawi City	25-28 July 2026	Calmoseptine Sui Generis Calma
3.	PCS Northern Luzon Chapter	Laparoscopic, General and Specialty Surgery	Mangtarem or Alaminos, Dagupan City		Calmoseptine World Surgical Foundation - Phils
4.	PCS Cebu – Eastern Visayas Chapter	Pediatric Surgery Mission: Colostomy Freedom Project	UC Med	10 - 14 August 2026	Sui Generis Calma
5.	PCS Southern Tagalog Chapter	Laparoscopic, General and Specialty Surgery	Palayan, Batangas		Calmoseptine World Surgical Foundation - Phils
6.	PCS Bicol Chapter	Laparoscopic, General and Specialty Surgery	Sorsogon	7 – 10 July 2026	

2. Project HOPE:
   a. Introductory meeting of point persons on May 14, 2026, 8 PM via zoom
   b. Attendees:
      i. Dr. Mike Mercado
      ii. Dr. Dures Fe E. Tagayuna

3. Guinness World Records Application:
   a. Application sent and acknowledged for the Simultaneous Surgery during the Foundation Day in September.
   b. Awaiting reply.

10.2. Cluster B – Surgical Education

10.2.1. **COMMITTEE ON CONVENTIONS**
- Vice President Dr. Dofitas discussed the land concession under the PCS–Clark Development Corporation (CDC) Project with Atty. Agnes VST. Devanadera. Atty. Devanadera advised that coordination and meeting be arranged with her Executive Director, Atty. Ruel, for further discussion on the matter.

10.2.2. **COMMITTEE ON CSE**
- A checklist for the Session Coordinators will be included in the Administrative Manual to serve as a guide for standard operating procedures and ensure consistency in session management.

10.2.3. **COMMITTEE ON LMS**
- MOA between Nephila Web Technology Inc and PCS will be presented for final approval next BOR Meeting
- PCS to inform and encourage the Resident members and Fellows publish their papers is PJSS.

10.2.4. **COMMITTEE ON SURGICAL TRAINING**
- Region 10 Dr. Cruz informed the board that TESDA will unify all Programs

10.3. Cluster C – Membership Development

10.3.1. **COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP**

FOR INFORMATION

I. Deadline Adjustment
   - o Application submission deadline moved from April 30 to September 15 to allow more time for applicants and for the processing of Group membership.

II. Application Review Process
   - o Non-endorsed applications → marked unfavorable, with option to appeal
   - o Endorsed applications → proceed to Committee on Membership review
   - o Final approval by Board of Regents required by October 15
   - o Successful applicants receive acceptance letters and proceed to induction on December 6

III. **Appeals and Objection Timeline**
   - o Complaint submission deadline: **June 30**
   - o Applicant response deadline: **July 15**
   - o Reconsideration deadline: **August 15**
   - o Finalization of unfavorable/deferral status: **August 31**
   - o Appeals to Board of Regents remain allowed
   - o Existing timeline retained, adjusted to fit new submission deadline

IV. Membership Categories
   - o Categories include: group membership, simplified, diplomates, residents, and Associate applications
   - o Need to have process flow for the different membership categories.
   - o Group membership currently has no fixed deadline

V. Key Issues Identified
   - o Lack of standardized process flow for all membership types
   - o Need for legally sound and comprehensive administrative manual
   - o Complexity in integrating all categories into one system

VI. Decisions Made
- o Adopt September 15 submission deadline
- o Maintain existing appeals and objection timelines
- o Prioritize development of detailed process flows for all membership categories

VII. Next Steps
- o Circulate updated deadlines to all stakeholders
- o Retrieve last year's timelines for reference
- o Schedule face-to-face meeting (target: last week of May)

VIII. Pending Action Items
- o Gather previous deadlines for replies, endorsements, and appeals
- o Seek legal consultation on membership categories
- o Draft process flows for all membership types
- o Finalize administrative manual covering full application process

10.4. Cluster D – External Affairs

10.4.1. **COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

- Request for Food for 200 adults at Boystown Parang Marikina

Board Recommendation: Look for acceptable catering service

10.5. Cluster E – Socio-economic Matters

10.5.1. **COMMITTEE ON FAP**

FOR APPROVAL:

I. Name of Manual: FAP or MAP Manual

A. FAP

- Benefits:
  - i. Death: Php50,000.00
  - ii. Permanent Total Disability: Php50,000.00

- FAP Dues:
  - i. Individual Members: incorporated in the MAP dues
  - ii. Group Members: Php500.00

A. MAP

- Benefits:
  - i. Hospitalization benefit: Php50,000.00 per hospitalization per year
  - ii. Calamity Loan:
    1. Without collateral: up to Php500,000.00
    2. With collateral: Php500,001.00 - Php1,000,000.00
  - iii. Personal Loan
    1. Without collateral: up to Php500,000.00
    2. With collateral: Php500,001.00 – Php1,000,000.00

- MAP Dues:
  - i. Individual Members: Php1,500.00 + Php500 (PCS Subsidy)
  - ii. Group Members: Php2,000.00

B. A buffer fund of Php20.0 million shall be maintained to ensure the sustainability and financial stability of the FAP. The amount of the buffer fund may be revised from time to time at the discretion of the Committee.

Board Action: The Board directed the review of previous BOR resolutions. If no existing resolution is found, a new BOR Resolution shall be prepared accordingly.

C. Committee would like to add to its membership:
- Legal adviser
- Financial adviser

Board action: Upon the motion of Dr. Madrigal, seconded by Dra, Tagayuna, a joint face to face meeting will be scheduled on June 19, 2026 (Committee on Finance, Committee on Membership and FAP).

D. Other Concerns:
- MAP benefits will only be availed of if the arrears amount is equivalent to 3 years, provided the same is paid prior to application for benefits.
- Other conditions that can be considered as Permanent Total Disability for a surgeon may be recommended by the Committee for approval by the BOR. (for revision)
- Change the term "reimbursement" to hospitalization benefit, this will also be the benefit for the Temporary disability.
- Unified form to be filled out: "Application form for Benefits and Loans"
- The Committee on Membership will hold a joint meeting with SICT, FAP and finance Committee on July 19, 2026 for the revision of Administrative Manual and to align each process involved affecting the four Committees.

Note: These matters will be discussed in an in-person meeting of the Committees on FAP, Membership and Finance on June 19, 2026 at the PCS Bldg.

11. Other Matters
- 11.1. Administrative Manual – Dra. Lahoz still waiting for the recommended revisions from other concerned committees
- 11.2. PCS support on POA"s stand against illegal practice of bone setting by unqualified and unlicensed Individuals-PCS to come up with the position statement
- 11.3. Taiwan Medical Society requesting support

12. Next Meeting
- 12.1. June 20, 2026 (Saturday)
  PCS Bldg., 3rd Floor GT Singian
  Time 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

13. Adjourned 4:00 pm

6th BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
June 20, 2026 (Saturday); 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
PCS Bldg., 3rd Floor GT Singian Room

Part I – Meeting Proper

1. Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 8:29 am with Dr. Joselito M. Mendoza presiding.

2. Invocation – led by Manuel Francisco T. Roxas, MD

3. Approval of the Agenda

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – June 20, 2026

5. President's Update

a. May 13,2026 - 119th PMA Annual Convention & Scientific Meeting
EDSA Shangri-La

b. May 15, 2026 - PMA General Assembly

c. May 16,2026 - EXECOM Zoom meeting with Negros Island Chapter
2028 MYC Hosting

d. May 17, 2026 - Feeding Program
Manila Boystown Feeding Program
Parang Marikina
PCS, PSGS, PSPS

e. May 18, 2026 - Protecting Boys' Dignity: Addressing Disparities in Circumcision Practices in the Philippines
QC Social Service Development Dept.
Civic Center E. Building, QC City Hall
Round Table Discussion in observance of Blue Umbrella Day
(Representative Dr. Roberto G. Tuazon Jr., - PSPS)

f. June 1, 2026 - TWG PHIC-PCS MOA
PHIC Bldg., Shaw Blvd.

- SLNB CONSENSUS IMPLEMENTATION
  - Training the Trainors
  - Start with PSGS Accredited Training Hospitals
  - Joint workshop: PSGS, SOSP, PSBS

g. June 8, 2026 - Zoom Meeting Mindanao chapters' Earthquake Reports
  - Taiwan scholarship rotation Bariatric & Cardiac transplant
  - Young Fellows retreat/ pre-con or ACC session
  - ACS Filipino Fellowship Night
  - Re-organizing ACS Phil Chapter
  - 2027 Scholarship rotation: ENT Onco Asho Shahak , Sloan Keterring

h. June 9, 2026 - Zoom Meeting Committee on Convention

i. June 10, 2026 - Zoom PSST Annual Convention
- Zoom Committee on Nominations

j. June 12, 2026 - CSAMM Annual Scientific Conference Shangri-La Kuala Lumpur
- Presidents' Round Table Discussion AI in Surgical Training and Practice

k. June 13, 2026 - Global Surgery Forum
Improving Surgical Outcomes in the Philippines through Quality Programs

l. June 16, 2026 - Zoom Meeting Committee on Awards

6. New Matters – No Matters Arising from the previous minutes

7. **Treasurer's Report**

Dra. Lahoz presented the summary of receipts for April-May 2026

8. Board of Governors

a. Acceptance of the resignation letter of Dr. Benedicto S. Joson Jr. as Chair of the Board of Governors.
b. Letter of appreciation and gratitude in recognition of his dedicated service and valuable contributions as Chair of the Board of Governors will be given to Dr. Benedicto S. Joson Jr.
c. Election of a new Chair of the Board of Governors or designation of the Vice Chair Dr. Rodolfo G. Tuazon Jr as the new Chair to fill the vacancy created by the resignation.

9. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Dr. Maria Concepcion C. Vesagas recommended the following:

- Permanent Appointment of Ms. Carmelita Vesito as Executive Secretary with corresponding increase in her salary.
- Permanent Appointment of Ms. Theresa de la Fuente as Assistant Executive Secretary, with corresponding increase in her salary.
- Request for 3 computers for the following: 1 laptop, 2 desktops
  - o Assistant Executive Secretary - Ms. De La Fuente's laptop is c. 2021, very slow, to be replaced by a laptop
  - o Carmelita Aldas – Her desktop is c. 2019 and cannot be updated to Windows 11.
  - Gayle Marquez – Her desktop is c. 2019 and cannot be updated to Windows 11.
    Total Expense for 1 laptop and 2 desktops: Php. 184,000. (Discount of 14,000 applied)
    Note: The computers are on reserve, even after June 10.

4. Expenses incurred by Ms. Theresa Dela Fuente totaled Php. 210,292.03. Awaiting instructions regarding reimbursement as per May 8, 2026 BOR meeting. The professional fee was paid by Ms. De la Fuente. (Bill attached to this report as requested).

Introduction of newly hired secretaries

- Ms. Mariah Alecsandra P. Del Rosario – Secretary
- Ms. Jan Irish M. De Vera – Secretary
- Ms. Princess Kyle Miafe P. Fabro - Bookkeeper

BOARD ACTIONS

- The Board deferred the appointment of Ms. Carmelita Vesito as Executive Secretary noting that the 6 months grace period will end by July 2026. However, the Board approved to give her an allowance equivalent to the salary given to our previous Executive Secretary, less her current salary retroactively starting February 2026. The Board will coordinate with our Executive Director regarding written guidelines, expectations and job description of the permanent Executive Secretary.

- Likewise, the appointment of Ms. Maria Theresa Dela Funtes as Assistant Executive Secretary is deferred.
- The procurement of one (1) laptop and two (2) desktop computers was approved.
- The Board approved the partial reimbursement of the expenses incurred for the procedure and surgery of Secretary Maria Theresa Dela Fuentes to follow the amount that should be covered by the previous accredited health card.

10. Committee Reports
Cluster A – National Programs

10.1. Committee on HMO-RVS

FOR APPROVAL

A. Proposed Strategic Initiatives
The HMO Committee seeks approval for the following initiatives to strengthen HMO engagement, improve compliance with existing agreements, and enhance monitoring of professional fee payments:

1. Establishment of HMO Communities
   - o Encourage each PCS Chapter and Department of Surgery to establish HMO committees or communities.
   - o Facilitate local monitoring of HMO-related concerns, accreditation, payment compliance, and data gathering.
2. Implementation of a National Monitoring System
   - o Develop and implement a standardized monitoring sheet (Excel-based) for individual surgeons to track:

Sample:

DATE	PAYMENT STATUS	DELAY	PF DUE PLUS PENALTY
12 SEPTEMBER 2025	PAID EH0826AAAAAAKKHK 4/17/26	5 MONTHS	₱90
12 SEPTEMBER 2025	PAID EH0826AAAAAAKKHK 4/17/26	5 MONTHS	₱90
15 SEPTEMBER 2025	PAID EH0826AAAAAAKKHK 4/17/26	5 MONTHS	₱90
15 SEPTEMBER 2025	PAID EH0826AAAAAAKKHK 4/17/26	5 MONTHS	₱90
15 SEPTEMBER 2025	UNPAID ₱600	6 MONTHS	₱708
17 SEPTEMBER 2025	PAID EH0826AAAAAAKKHK 4/17/26	5 MONTHS	₱90
22 SEPTEMBER 2025	PAID EH0826AAAAAAKKHK 4/17/26	5 MONTHS	₱90
20 OCTOBER 2025	PAID EH0826AAAAAAKKHK 4/17/26	4 MONTHS	₱72
22 OCTOBER 2025	PAID EH0826AAAAAAKKHK 4/17/26	4 MONTHS	₱72
27 OCTOBER 2025	PAID EH0826AAAAAAKKHK 4/17/26	4 MONTHS	₱72
27 OCTOBER 2025	UNPAID ₱600	5 MONTHS	₱690
03 NOVEMBER 2025	UNPAID ₱600	5 MONTHS	₱690
05 NOVEMBER 2025	UNPAID ₱600	5 MONTHS	₱690
26 NOVEMBER 2025	UNPAID ₱600	4 MONTHS	₱672

• Professional fee rates
• Billing submissions
• Payment timelines
• Delayed payments
• Underpayments and discrepancies

   - o Pilot implementation to be initiated by designated committee members.

3. Additional Administrative Support
   - o Review and potentially reduce the committee load of the HMO Committee Secretary to allow greater focus on HMO-related activities.
   - o Explore the provision of additional clerical or secretarial support to assist with monitoring, documentation, encoding, correspondence, and data management.
4. HMO Accreditation Promotion Program
   - o Conduct a nationwide campaign through chapter presidents to increase HMO accreditation among PCS Fellows.
   - o Develop educational materials and presentations highlighting the benefits of HMO participation.
5. Collaboration with External Stakeholders
   - o Formalize engagement with the Philippine Hospital Association (PHA) regarding payment recoupment, reimbursement issues, and monitoring of professional fee payments.
   - o Continue dialogue with HMO organizations concerning new surgical procedures proposed by specialty societies.

Board Action: The Board approved recommendation of the Committee as presented by Dr. Azores for the Establishment of HMO Communities, Implementation of a National Monitoring System, Additional Administrative Support, HMO Accreditation Program and Collaboration with External Stakeholders. However the request for a dedicated secretary solely for HMO is deferred for further study.

B. Endorsement of Committee Objectives for 2026

Approval is requested for the following priority objectives:

1. Monitor implementation of agreed HMO professional fee rates for 2026.
2. Increase recruitment of surgeons willing to participate in HMO programs.
3. Strengthen collaboration with PHA regarding payment and reimbursement concerns.
4. Engage HMOs regarding accreditation, new procedures, and implementation of negotiated agreements.

Board Action: Approved

10.2. Committee on UHC (Universal Health Care)

INFORMATION
Dinagat Island (Dr Brent Viray)

- Basic Surgical Intervention Course for Primary Health Care Workers (Basic pH) is a training program designed to equip Municipal Health Officers, public health nurses, and midwives with the skills to recognize common surgical conditions, provide initial assessment and stabilization, and facilitate appropriate referral of surgical patients.
- Previously, it was proposed for funding under St. Luke's Medical Center Foundation and Unilab Foundation but neither materialized.
- Needs assessment conducted in Dinagat Island (March 16)
  a. response rate was low
  b. only 2 of 47 expected MHOs responded
  c. 6.3% of midwives responded
  d. majority of respondents were nurses.
  e. Only one surgeon (Dr. Brian Bandolon) responded.
- No onsite visit done
  Key findings:
- Most municipalities are within two hours of a surgical facility.
- Surgical patients often require multiple transportation modes before reaching definitive care.

- Average of four surgical cases are encountered weekly per municipality.
- Common conditions include trauma, soft tissue infections, acute abdomen, hernias, appendicitis, bowel obstruction, breast, thyroid, urologic, and obstetric cases.
- Many district and provincial hospital operating rooms are non-functional.
- 96.9% of respondents expressed a need for Basic pH training.

Priority training areas:
- Trauma management/suturing and wound care
- Splinting and casting
- Recognition of surgical emergencies
- Basic surgical resuscitation

Major barriers identified:
- Limited surgical skills and confidence
- Inadequate training opportunities
- Resource limitations
- Geographic isolation
- Scope-of-practice restrictions

No funding source has yet been secured for pilot implementation.

Sorsogon Model: Itinerant Surgical Team (Dr Robbie Chacon/ Dr. Aileen Espina)

Key features:
- Sorsogon's 27 municipalities are organized into health zones with designated sentinel hospitals.
- An itinerant surgical team rotates among these hospitals and is funded by the provincial government.
- Family Medicine (FM) residents perform preoperative assessment, assist in surgery, and provide postoperative care under supervision.
- Telemedicine has been utilized to guide selected procedures remotely and reduce unnecessary patient transfers.
- Point-of-care ultrasound training has been provided to FM residents across the province.
- The program has operated successfully but lacks a formal PCS-supported framework and MOA.

Strategic Recommendations
- Develop a standardized national program rather than replicate isolated provincial models.
- Update the PCS-PAFP MOA and training manual as the foundation for collaboration.
- Define specific surgical competencies that may safely be delegated to family physicians.
- Utilize the PCS Learning Management System (LMS) for online learning, supplemented by hands-on workshops and competency assessments.
- Maintain focus on surgical competencies and avoid expansion into other specialties.
- Formally engage PAFP through designated official representatives.

PAFP Coordination
- The committee was advised to formally communicate with PAFP President Dr. Limuel Abrogena regarding future collaboration and appointment of official representatives.

Board Recommendation:
The Board recommends that the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) take the lead in the preparation, development, and implementation of the Manual, in coordination with the concerned committees and stakeholders.

10.3. Committee on Asean Summit & International Relations

FOR INFORMATION:

A. Taiwan Surgical Association (TSA) Scholarship Program
   - ➢ The Ministry of Health accepted Dr. Alexine Gayle Nadres (PAMOS) for her observership rotation.
     - Rotation Date: July 11-August 22, 2026
   - ➢ The Ministry of Health requested for additional requirements from Dr. Cherisse Vinoya which was eventually submitted last June 17, 2026.
   - ➢ The Committee plans to put an infographic in the Incision to call for applicants for the 2027 observership program.

B. Young Fellows
   - ➢ The Committee requested Dr. Juan Agustin D. Coruña IV to submit an article on his experience in the Young Fellows Forum in Perth, Australia for the purpose of inspiring young fellows of the College.

C. ACS Updates
   - ➢ Plans to have a meeting with ACS Philippine Chapter President, Dr. Sammy Cunanan for the integration of the ACS chapter with the PCS.

D. Participation in 82nd Annual Clinical Congress on December 5-9, 2026, "PCS Universal Access to Quality Surgery: Integrating Expertise, Innovation and Compassion"
   - ➢ The President intends to have a "Leaders Forum" on Quality Surgery with ASEAN and other leaders during the President's hour.
   - ➢ Committee session schedule:
     - Date and Time: December 6, 2026 (Sunday); 1PM – 3PM
     - Venue: Kamia Room
     - Title of the session: Sustainable Health and Surgery: The Philippine Initiative
       - o Program:
         - Introduction to Sustainability Healthcare – Alejandro C. Dizon, MD, FPCS
         - Presentation of Institutional and other initiatives in Sustainability (at least 3 studies and institutions)
         - Chair: Jose Rhoel C. De Leon, MD, FPCS
         - Co-Chair: Joana Pauline A. Baltazar, MD, FPCS

10.4. Committee on Trauma

FOR APPROVAL:

I. ATLS (Note: Please see the attached quotations and presentation of proposal below)
   1. Procurement of Handheld Ultrasound
      1.1. Quotation for Medasia Wireless Dual Probe Ultrasound Scanner amounting to Php220,000.00
      1.2. Quotation for Medsinglong Co LTD Handheld Probe MY10P amounting to Php130,000.00
   2. Procurement of intraosseous drill (from Teleflex) worth Php40,000.00

3. Procurement of 4 monitors for skills stations – portable TV 22"
   3.1. Lazada (Ginza) 24" TV – Php 2,830.00
   3.2. Lazada Smart TV 30" – Php 4,487.00
   3.3. Lazada (Gell) 43" – Php 6,849.00

4. Lower registration fees for the Hybrid and Refresher Course.

Board Action: The board approved the following:

i. Purchase of one (1) **Medsinglong Co. Ltd. Handheld Probe MY10P in the amount of Php130,000.00**.
ii. Procurement of one (1) **Intraosseous Drill** from **Teleflex** worth **Php 40,000.00**.
iii. Procurement of four (4) monitors for skills stations, specifically **Portable TV 22" units from Lazada (Gell), 43**", at **Php6,849.00 per unit**.

- The Board also instructed the committee to study the possibility of reducing the registration Fees for ATLS Hybrid and Refresher Course.

10.5. Committee on Cancer

FOR APPROVAL:

A. Participation on PCS 82nd Annual Clinical Congress on December 5 - 9 2026, at the Shangri-La Hotel Mandaluyong City, with the theme "PCS Universal Access to Quality Surgery: Integrating Expertise, Innovation and Compassion".
   - Date/Time/Venue: Day 4 Dec. 8, 2026 Tuesday; 2:00-3:00PM Garden Ballroom
   - Format: short lecture/Panel discussion
   - Objective: c/o Dr. Cajucom

B. Expounding talks regarding Cancer Z-package for breast, colorectal and prostate, etc.
   - Title/Topic to follow

C. Cancer packages/policy/implementation
   Possible Speakers or Panelists:
   - Will invite somebody from the government, DOH or PhilHealth that will address our theme.
   - To talk about cancer management care: screening, prevention, diagnosis, treatment management, survivor sheet and palliative care
   - One who can discuss regarding Z packages in private sector/hospitals
   - After deliberation, the committee proposed to invite as Speakers;
     ➢ Dr. Alfred Phillip O. de Dios - PhilHealth
     ➢ Dr. Gerardo D. Legaspi – Public Hospital sector – hospital assistance funds
     ➢ Dr. Alfonso G. Nuñez III- Interim Director, upcoming Philippine Cancer Center

Board Action: Approved

10.6. Committee on SURE

FOR INFORMATION:

A. New Chair and Members of the Committee
   1) Chairman: Dr. Roberto A Chacon
   2) Members: Benedicto S. Joson Jr., MD (BOG Chairman)
   Dr. Rodolfo G. Tuazon Jr. (BOG Representative)
   Dr. Enrique Hilario O. Esguerra
   Dr. Michael B. Mercado
   Dr. Benedict Edward P. Valdez
   Dr. Alfonso C. Danac
   Dr. Henry C. Chua
   Dr. Michael T. Catiwala-an (PSCRS)
   Dr. Henrique Samuel Da Roza (PSA)
   Mr. Ernesto R. Tolentino, RN (ORNAP)
   Ms. Sheree Velasco, RN (ORNAP President)

   3) Regent-in-Charge: Dr. Dures Fe E. Tagayuna

B. PCS Chapter-initiated Mission
   1. PCS Northern Mindanao Chapter
      a. The local chapter has plans of conducting missions in:
         i. Agusan del Sur – June 26-27, 2026
         ii. Bukidnon-
            1. Kalilangan, Bukidnon - July 4, 2026
            2. Talakag, Bukidnon – July 18, 2026
            3. Bukidnon Provincial Medical Center, Malaybalay, Bukidnon
         iii. Camiguin Island – mission with PCS SURE and WSF
         iv. Dinagat Island – still to confirm with Dr. De Leon

      b. Amai Pakpak Medical Center, Marawi City – July 24-25, 2026
         i. Cases: 88 patients for cholecystectomy, 34 patients for hernia surgery
         ii. Plan: MIS for all patients, hernia shall be teaching cases for local doctors
         iii. Will coordinate with PALES through Dr. Ike Mendoza
         iv. Generis and CALMA will participate
         v. Php400k funds will be for supplies, consumables (lap needs)

   2. PCS Bicol Chapter
      a. Province of Masbate – After August, 2026

   3. PCS Northern Luzon Chapter
      a. Surgical backlog is at a minimum
      b. Will coordinate with PMA to conduct surgical mission at an underserved locality

   4. Southern Tagalog Chapter
      a. Minor Surgical Missions in:
         i. San Pedro, Laguna
         ii. Santa Cruz, Laguna
         iii. Cavite
         iv. Batangas City
         v. Surgical Mission in coordination with World Surgical Foundation – June 26, 2026 & Sept 2026.

10.7. Committee on Surgical Infections

FOR INFORMATION:

1. 82nd Annual Clinical Congress on December 5 - 9 2026, at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel Mandaluyong City, with the

theme "PCS Universal Access to Quality Surgery: Integrating Expertise, Innovation and Compassion".

- Date/Time: (Day 5) Dec. 9, 2026 Wednesday 8am - 10am Kamia Room (Request to change the time slot 10am – 12pm)
- Lecture /Topic: to be announced
- Proposed Speaker/Panelists: to be identified

2. Other Matters:

2.1. Project with Pfizer:

2.1.1. CSI Modules for LMS - 2025 Updates

CSI ON LMS PROJECT with Pfizer 2025

February 17 - March 1, 2025 (398)
March 5 - May 11, 2025 (406)
According from issued certificates

NAME	MODULE
1. Hermogenes J. Monroy II, MD - Speaker Esther A. Saguil, MD, MD - Moderator September 20, 2025 (Saturday) 2:00-4:00 PM	Webinar: **Navigating Challenges in the Management of Complicated Intra- Abdominal Infections**
2. Mariam Grace A. Delima, MD (Lecture)	EMPYEMA THORACIS Diagnosis and Management
3. Ly-Ann T. Diwa, MD (Lecture)	UROLOGIC INFECTIONS
4. Nino P. Isabedra, MD (Lecture)	Updates in the management of Hepatic Abscess



2.1.2. Webinar and 3 lectures for CSI on LMS (LMS Module for 3rd year)
- Webinar
  - ➢ To upgrade/expand the session during the PCS 81st ACC session on HIV to include other blood born infections like hepatitis – this is to be able to share the lecture to a wider audience.
  - ➢ Will invite the same speaker: President of the Philippine Hospital Infection Society
    o Dr. Pamela Rose A. Matti, FPCP, FPSMID

2.1.3. Lectures for LMS
- ➢ Infection prevention using ERAS in Adult and pediatric patients – will invite Dr. Mark Omlao (President of the ERAS Society)
- ➢ Vascular and Central Line infection Prevention – Speaker from PATACSI to be invited
- ➢ Diabetic foot infections

2.2. Update on PSIS, ORNAP and B Braun Skin Preparation Video
- PSIS and B. Braun needs to finalize the venue and other details of their project

2.3. Proposed Committee projects for the year 2026
- Using the KAP paper (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Surgical Trainees and Trainers on Recommended Surgical Site Infection Prevention Protocols)
  - ➢ Request PAGSR through PSGS, to have an online session conducted with residents from selected hospitals sharing their experience regarding their patients with SSI
  - ➢ 2 or more members of the Committee will moderate and react to bring up issues/findings of the KAP paper and share their expertise in the management of SSI
- Simultaneous administration of prophylactic antimicrobials before the simultaneous cutting during the PCS Outreach Day
  - ➢ Will request to include at the National Surgical Outreach during PCS 90th Foundation Day celebration
- Antimicrobial prophylaxis as an important measure to prevent SSI but also to emphasize proper duration of use
  - ➢ To create a checklist focusing on the indications for continuing or for discontinuation of antibiotics post-surgery
  - ➢ Will make a poster for awareness of need to discontinue unnecessary antibiotic use that will be placed in the OR and nurses stations as a reminder to surgeons
- Creating an SSI bundle of care to lower the risk of surgical site infections
  - ➢ The Committee can update or recommend a new SSI bundle for use by surgeons

- Collaboration with the PSGS, Philippine Wound Care Society, and ORNAP to create a module for first year residents and wound care nurses on wound care strategies and techniques.
- There will be online didactics and face-to-face sessions on actual wound care techniques (re: debridement, I and D, etc.)
- Would like to invite Drs. Luinio Tongson and Vicente Firmalo to work with the committee

2.4. Philippine Wound Care Society Convention: August 13-14, 2026; Novotel Quezon City
- A member of the committee will give a lecture on updates in Surgical Site Infections
- Dr. Maria Cielo G. Ampuan has been assigned to give the lecture.

Note: To present the poster for the Surgical Outreach scheduled on September 1, 2026 during the next Board of Regents (BOR) Meeting in July for review and approval.

11. Cluster B – Surgical Education

11.1. Committee on Conventions

11.1.1. Dr. Alfred Allen E. Buenafe and Dr. Rouel Mateo M. Azores were designated to lead the Ad hoc Committee on Ways and Means.

11.1.2. Event Organizer

11.1.2.1. The Board of Regents resolved to forego the engagement of an external event organizer for this year's Annual Clinical Congress.

11.1.2.2. The Board further designates Ms. Annette D. Tolentino to oversee, coordinate, and lead the planning, organizing, and implementing all activities related to the Annual Clinical Congress in relation to previous arrangements done by Event organizers.

11.1.2.3. Audio-Visual and Technical Services
The Board approved the outsourcing of the LED wall, lighting, and sound system requirements to a qualified external service provider to ensure the efficient and professional delivery of audio-visual and technical support during the event.

11.2. Committee on CSE

FOR APPROVAL

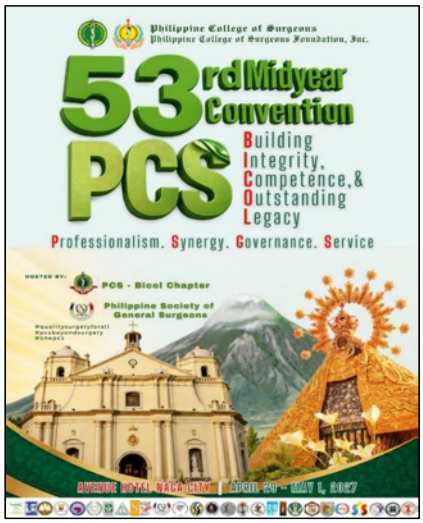
a. **82nd Annual Clinical Congress** - on December 5-9, 2026, with the Theme: "**Universal Access to Quality Surgery Integrating Expertise Innovation and Compassion**" at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong Manila City.

➢ **Poster with QR Code – Request for printing 300 copies**
Board Action: Approved



B. **53RD Midyear Convention (MYC)** on April 29 – May 1, 2027 located at The Plaza Avenue Hotel, Naga City 2027 with the Theme: **B**uilding **I**ntegrity, **C**ompetence, and **O**utstanding **L**eadership in Surgery (**B.I.C.O.L.)**

Proposed Poster
OPTION 1
8/13 Votes



C. **83rd Annual Clinical Congress** - on December 2027, with the Theme: Strength in Unity: Building a Culture of Safety and Excellence at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong Manila City.

Proposed Foreign Speakers

- Clifford Y. Ko, MD, MS, MSHS, FACS
  - Senior Vice President, ACS
  Division of Research and Optimal Patient Care
- Rachel R. Kelz, MD, FACS
  -Associate Program Director, General Surgery
  Residency Program ACS NSQIP
- Tan Ying Ching, MD
  - Breast Surgery Singapore
  MBBS, MRCS (Edinburgh)
  MMed (Surgery), FRCS (Edinburgh)

Board Action: Approved

I. 82nd Annual Clinical Congress Poster with QR Code
- Approved the request for the printing of three hundred (300) copies of the Congress poster with QR Code.

- PAHBPSI letter request for financial assistance for Prof. Bachelier's participation to the Annual Congres
  - o After due deliberation, the Board of Regents approved the provision of financial assistance equivalent to fifty percent (50%) of the honorarium given to foreign speaker specifically covering the Hotel Accommodation, Airfare and Ground Transportation during the Annual Congress. In return, Prof. Bachelier's will be required to speak during the Annual Clinical Congress.

- Enrique T. Ona Oration – Suggested Speaker: Thanyadej Nimmanwudipong, MD

II. 53rd Midyear Convention (MYC) Proposed Poster
- Approved Option 1 of the proposed poster design, subject to the following revisions:
  - o Reduce the size of the Peñafrancia image;
  - o Remove the cloud elements from the design
  - o Align the theme and accompanying text for improved layout and presentation.
  - o The Board also approved the extension of the allotted time for the Scientific Sessions to accommodate the expanded program if needed and enhance the quality of the scientific presentations and discussions.

III. 83rd Annual Clinical Congress Proposed Foreign Speaker
- The Board of Regents approved the invitation and engagement of the proposed foreign speaker(s) for the 83rd Annual Clinical Congress, subject to the finalization of arrangements, availability, and budgetary considerations.

11.3. Committee on LMS

FOR INFORMATION

1. PCS MOA Signing with Nephila Web Technology Inc. on June 20, 2026 (Saturday) 7:30-8am at PCS Office.
   ➢ Retain the amount to Php365,000.00 instead of Php400,400.00
   ➢ MOA with Nephila Web Technology Inc. expired last May 20, 2025 - May 20, 2026
   ➢ Present during MOA signing:
   1. Rodney B. Dofitas, MD - PCSFI President
   2. Alberto P. Paulino Jr., MD - RIC / Witness
   3. Ms. Sheryl R. Villaroman - Owner, Nephila Web Technology Inc.
   4. Ms Thalia Erika O. Del Mar - Witness

2. LMS Modules Updates
   2.1 Fixed Schedules for 2026
   ➢ June - Surgical Research (PSGS)
   ➢ July:
   1. PATOS Module 101 (Fellows)

2. PATOS Module 102 (Residents)
3. B.E.S.T Didactics and B.E.S.T Skill Station at PCS Office (July 25-26, 2026)

- August:
  1. Basic Ultrasound
  2. B.E.S.T Didactics and B.E.S.T Skill Station at PCS Office (August 8-9, 2026)
- October:
  1. Critical Care, Head & Neck
- November - PATOS Module

2.2 Creation of Modules:

- Surgical Infection
- Critical Care, Head & Neck
- Teaching Modules for Residents -PSGS/CST/ PATOS (August)
- Soft Skills for Residents (PSGS/MMC) - c/o Dr. Jerusalem
- B.E.S.T - On going renew some chapters of the lecture - c/o Dr. Romancap

3. Participated in 15th Year Anniversary of Nephila Web Technology Inc., with the theme: "***Nephila Web: Fifteen Years in Weaving Innovations***" Nominations for Nephila Web Technology Inc. on June 18, 2026 (Thursday) at 8:15pm at Ibis Styles Manila, Araneta City, General Roxas Ave., Cubao, Quezon City
   - Attended and received 5th Year Loyalty Award
     1. Warren M. Roraldo, MD - Chair, Com on LMS
     2. Rodney B. Dofitas, MD - PCSFI President

11.4. Committee on Surgical Research

FOR APPROVAL

A. Letter from Brent Viray, MD

- Dr. Madrigal, on behalf of Dr. Bartolome, read the Committee's report for the approval for funding for PCS-led Research Presentation in World Congress on Public Health 2026, Cape Town, South Africa on September 6-9, 2026

Board Action: Approved for funding to be endorsed to PCSF

11.5. Committee Surgical Training

FOR APPROVAL

A. Participation in the PCS Annual Convention 2026

The Committee discussed securing a slot during the PCS Annual Convention scheduled in December 2026.

Proposed Activity:
A one-hour panel discussion highlighting the Committee's major initiatives and collaborative projects, including:

- PCS–ORNAP Collaboration Project
- Surgical Technology Program Development
- Mapua Partnership Initiatives
- TESDA and Accreditation Efforts

Proposed Participants:

- Committee representatives
- Representatives from Mapua University
- TESDA representatives
- Accrediting agencies and stakeholders

Board Action: Approved

12. Cluster C – Membership Development

12.1. Committee on CSSBP

Dra. Lumague elaborated on the letter request of PSBS for the recognition of Philippine Board of Breast Surgery as a subspecialty board under the CSSBP.

A.

- A response letter will be sent to PSBS indicating that the Council had forwarded its favorable endorsement to the PCS Board of Regents.
- The Council will await further guidance or official action from the Board of Regents regarding the application.
- Additional comments from Council members may be incorporated before issuing a final communication.

B. 82nd ACC session in December 5-9, 2026 / Topic & Speaker
   a. Proposed Topic:
      i. AI in Residency Training, and How it Impacts our Residents in their Academics and Research.
      ii. PRC Regulatory Issue (Level 8 Alignment)
      Create a letter to Dr. Efren C. Laxamana

Board Recommendation

A. The **PSBS application** will be presented for deliberation and voting during the next **Board of Regents (BOR) Meeting** in July.
B. Finalize and send the invitation to the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) – Board of Medicine.

12.2. Committee on Nominations

FOR APPROVAL:

1. Search Subcommittee 2026

1.1. Composition:

Chapters:

• Metro Manila Chapter	Rhoderick M. Casis, MD
• Cordillera Chapter	Roel Anthony T. Domingo, MD
• North Eastern Luzon Chapter	Ma. Selina P. Rupisan, MD
• Cebu-Eastern Visayas Chapter	Harem P, Deiparine, MD
• Northern Mindanao Chapter	Erika Marie C. Gacus, MD

Subspecialty Societies:

• PSGS	Alfred Q. Lasala II, MD
• PATACSI	Robin Augustine Q. Flores, MD
• SOSP	Gemma Leonora B. Uy, MD
• PSTS	Leo Carlo V. Baloloy, MD
• PAPRAS	Ma. Arlene C. Cala-or, MD

(Note: The Committee stated that if, for whatever reason, the Chapter/Subspecialty President declines his/her membership to the Search Sub-committee, the next highest-ranking officer (Must be a Fellow) will replace him/her.

1.2. Appointment of a Chair
The Committee recommends Dr. Leo Carlo V. Baloloy. (Alternate is Dr. Rhoderick M. Casis)

1.3. Tasks
The Search Subcommittee is tasked to recommend at least twenty-five (25) nominees based on the nominees submitted by the Chapter and subspecialty societies; the Subcommittee may add nominees should the list be less than 25.

Should the Subcommittee have any issues/concern about a certain candidate(s), they will refer this to the Committee on Nominations for evaluation.

1.4. The Committee on Nominations will schedule an orientation meeting with the members of the Search Sub-committee in order to give them an overview of their tasks.

The meeting is scheduled first week of July.

2. Review of the Duties & Responsibilities of a Regent (Please see attached document.)

3. Time Table
- July 27 (Monday) – deadline for direct nomination to be submitted to the Com. On Nominations
- August 3 (Monday) – deadline for submission of Nominees from the Search Subcommittee (Chapters and subspecialty societies)
- August 10 (Monday) – Committee on Nominations finalizes the list of candidates for the BOR 2027 (minimum of 20 candidates)
- August 28 (Friday) – Committee on Nominations submits final list of candidates to the COMELEC

Board Action: Approved

12.3. Committee on Membership

FOR INFORMATION

I. Membership Classification

- The Committee on Membership conducted a face-to-face meeting with the Committee on Finance, the Fellows Assistance Plan (FAP) Committee, and the Surgical Information and Communications Technology (SICT) Committee.
- The meeting focused on the review and finalization of the proposed revisions to the PCS Administrative Manual.
- Comments, recommendations, and proposed amendments were deliberated upon and consolidated for incorporation into the revised Administrative Manual. The collaborative meeting served as a final review mechanism prior to the submission of the revised document for approval and implementation.

II. Outcome
- The revision of Admin Manual will be finalized subject to final approval by the Board.
- Recommendations and amendments from the participating committees were discussed and consolidated.
- The revision process of the Administrative Manual was finalized, subject to approval by the appropriate governing body.

III. Next Steps
- Submit the final revised Administrative Manual for approval.
- Disseminate the approved revisions to the membership and concerned committees.
- Implement the updated provisions upon approval.

12.4. Committee on Awards

FOR APPROVAL:

1. Recommendations:
   - For the College to waive this year the 6 months grace period required of being a member to qualify for the Most Outstanding Resident Award.

2. Appointment of 2 fellows to the Search Sub-Committee.
   - Alvin A. Amador, MD
   - Jorge Concepcion, MD

Board Action: Approved

13. Cluster D – External Affairs

13.1. Committee on External Affairs & P.R.

FOR APPROVAL:

1. Three MOA for partnership (please see attached files)
   - BMPI (UNTV)
   - Megaworld Hotel and Resorts
   - Kimberly Hotel

Board Action: Approved

13.2. Committee on Publications

FOR APPROVAL
1. Hire IT/Graphic Artist Mr. Mike Villanueva to do the page layout design for KALAYAG
2. Service Professional Fee: Php150,000
   a. See Attachment 1- Contract Proposal
   b. See Attachment 2 – sample 4-page layout draft designed by Mr. Mike Villanueva o Budget to be taken from main PCS
3. Get the services of Manila Bulletin to do the pagination layout and printing

Board Action: Approved

13.3. Committee on SICT

FOR APPROVAL
a. In order to utilize the PCS Fellows app, the Committee would like to recommend that all Fellows download the app and settle their annual dues within the app before they can register for the Convention.
   - Official receipt/Service invoice will be available for download at the app and/or available for pick up at the PCS Secretariat after payment has been made using the app
   - The PCS Events app for the online registration will notify the Fellows to first settle their arrears in case there is before they can register for the Convention
   - A much higher on-site registration fee was suggested by the Committee to discourage the Fellows to register on-site

b. To create a Viber group for all the Chapters, Sub-specialty and Affiliate Societies' secretaries for easy communication and posting of their respective activities
c. A formal letter together with an infographic regarding our PCS Online Platforms (please see attachment) will be sent to all Presidents of PCS Chapters, Sub-specialty, and Affiliate Societies

Board Action: Approved

13.4. Committee on Patient Safety & Quality Assurance (PSQA)

FOR APPROVAL

1. Additional session for our workshop on December 5, 2026 (Saturday) at 8am to 4pm during our 82nd Annual Clinical Congress
   - Propose Title: "**Implementing a Surgical Quality Improvement Program (SQIP): From Framework to Practice**"
   - Propose date: December 5, 2026 (Saturday)
   - Propose time: 8am to 4pm
   - Propose (5) Speaker/s:
     1. Alejandro C. Dizon, MD
     2. Gilmyr Jude G. Marañon, MD
     3. Catherine SC. Teh, MD
     4. Anthony R. Perez, MD
     5. Raymund Joaquin F. Erese, MD
   - Propose target participants: 100pax
   - No Registration Fee
   - Please quote for the room expenses (am/lunch/snack) - c/o CSE
   - With CPDD units (coordinated with CSE)
   - Open for all non-training and training programs
   - Please see power point presentation of program flow (Please see attachment)

2. Additional (1) session for the Adverse event reporting during our 82nd Annual Clinical Congress (Details to follow next meeting)

Board Action: Approved

14. Cluster E – Socio-economic Matters

14.1. Committee on Finance

FOR APPROVAL

1. The withdrawal of investment earnings from the Insular Life Prominence Max-Peso Global Tech Fund;
2. The withdrawal of investment earnings from the FWD All Set Higher FWD Global Good Peso ESG Fund;
3. The utilization of the available funds, including the proceeds from the matured Ayala Land Corporation Investment credited to the PCS BDO Savings Account No. 53-14, to fund the operational requirements of the College for the next two months; and
4. The reinvestment of the matured short-term investments under the most advantageous terms and prevailing market rates, in accordance with existing financial policies of the College.

Board Resolution: The BOR upon the motion of Dra Lahoz and seconded by Dr. Madrigal approved the committees' recommendation.

14.2. PCS Building

1. Renewal of Elevator Maintenance Contract with Jardine Schindler Corporation
The Committee reviewed the proposed renewal of the elevator maintenance contract and compared two available options:

Option 1 – Comprehensive Maintenance Coverage
- 15% price adjustment on the first year and 10% annual increase thereafter.
- Includes replacement and repair of major components, subject to specified exclusions.
- 24/7 troubleshooting and callback support.
- Five (5)-year contract term.

Option 2 – Semi-Comprehensive Maintenance Coverage
- 12% annual price escalation.
- Limited parts replacement and repairs based on exclusions.
- 24/7 troubleshooting and callback support.
- Five (5)-year contract term.

Committee Recommendation:
Approval of Option 1 (Comprehensive Maintenance Coverage) considering the broader maintenance coverage and long-term operational benefits.

2. Salary Increase of Security Agency Personnel
The Committee reviewed the request for salary adjustment of the security personnel as endorsed by the security agency.

Committee Recommendation:
Approval of the requested salary adjustment in principle, subject to Board confirmation.

3. Conversion of Former Operating Room into a Stock Room
The Committee approved the conversion of the former Operating Room into a stock room to accommodate:
- Membership Data Files
- Accounting Files

Committee Recommendation:
Approval of the proposed conversion and allocation of space.

4. Purchase of Office Chairs for the Secretariat
The Committee reviewed the request for the acquisition of office chairs for Secretariat personnel. (Please see attachment)

Committee Recommendation:
Approval of the purchase request.

Vacant Office Space Previously Occupied by SOAP (Society for Obstetric Anesthesia of the Philippines)

Following the expiration of SOAP's lease agreement, the Committee discussed the utilization of the vacant office space.

Committee Recommendation:
Authorize management to negotiate and offer the office space to:
- Philippine Society of Breast Surgeons (PSBS)

- Philippine Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (PSCRS), which expressed interest in sharing office space.

Projected annual income from the office rental is approximately Php 175,919.16 net of withholding tax.

5. **Board Action: Approved option 1 for the renewal of the elevator maintenance contract and salary increase of security agency personnel, conversion of Former Operating Room into a Stock Room and Purchase of Office Chairs for the Secretariatupon the motion of Dr. Madrigal and seconded by Dr. Cruz.**

14.3. Fellows Assistance Plan (FAP)

FOR INFORMATION

The committee conducted a preliminary review of issues concerning the **Fellowship Assistance Plan (FAP)** and **Mutual Aid Program (MAP)** benefits, as well as a request for waiver of arrears submitted by a retired member. Discussions focused on policy interpretation, benefit eligibility, financial sustainability, and the need for clearer guidelines.

Key Discussions

1. **Review and Clarification of FAP and MAP Benefits**
   - The committee noted widespread confusion regarding the coverage, computation, and implementation of FAP and MAP benefits.
   - Questions arose on whether hospitalization and death benefits under the two programs should be treated separately or combined.
   - Recent cases involving Dr. Eric Leon and Dr. Joel U. Macalino highlighted inconsistencies in the interpretation of benefit entitlements, particularly concerning hospitalization and death benefit claims within the same year.
   - Concerns were raised regarding the Board's interpretation of granting hospitalization benefits from both FAP and MAP and the corresponding death benefits.
   - Members emphasized the importance of establishing a uniform and clearly defined benefit structure to prevent conflicting interpretations.
   - Previous Board resolutions issued in 2013 and 2014 were identified as requiring review and clarification.
   - The committee reaffirmed that benefit claims must be filed within three months; otherwise, coverage is forfeited.
   - A comprehensive review of FAP and MAP policies, including consultation with former committee members and examination of historical records, was deemed necessary.

Board Recommendation:
   - A benefit of Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00) may be availed of once every three (3) years, subject to the terms and conditions of this Manual.

2. **Request for Waiver of Arrears by Dr. Nelson Garciano**
   - The committee reviewed the request of Dr. Nelson Garciano, a 77-year-old retired member, seeking waiver of Php 2,000 in accumulated arrears since 2020.
   - Dr. Garciano cited retirement, non-practice of medicine, and lack of income as grounds for his request.
   - The waiver was requested to facilitate renewal of his PhilHealth accreditation.
   - Members discussed potential policy implications and the possibility of setting a precedent for similar requests from other retired members.
   - Clarification was sought regarding existing policies governing dues and obligations of retired and senior citizen members.
   - Questions were raised regarding the purpose of renewing PhilHealth accreditation despite his retirement status.
   - The committee agreed that further information and verification are required before a recommendation can be made.

Meeting Outcomes
   - Significant ambiguities and inconsistencies were identified in the implementation and interpretation of FAP and MAP benefits.
   - The committee recognized the absence of a clear policy governing waiver requests from retired members.
   - Members stressed the need for policy standardization, clarification of previous Board resolutions, and evaluation of the long-term financial sustainability of benefit programs.

Recommended Next Steps
   1. Clarify and standardize FAP and MAP benefit structures and implementation procedures.
   2. Obtain historical records and guidance from former committee members regarding FAP and MAP policies.
   3. Gather additional information concerning Dr. Garciano's retirement status and PhilHealth accreditation renewal.
   4. Review possible benefit provisions for long-term retired contributors.
   5. Present findings, concerns, and recommendations to the Board, Regent, and Committees during the scheduled Friday meeting.

Pending Action Items
   1. Formalize and clearly define FAP and MAP benefit provisions.
   2. Conduct a financial sustainability assessment of current and proposed benefit structures.
   3. Secure complete information regarding Dr. Garciano's circumstances for further deliberation.
   4. Draft policy recommendations concerning retired members, including dues, arrears, and benefit eligibility.

14.4. Committee on Internal Audit

FOR INFORMATION

A. June 02, 2026

Implementation of the ISO 9001 Quality Management System (QMS)

The meeting included a presentation of Ms Isabel Tiu and Ms Althea De La Cruz from TUV Rheinland- a global, independent, testing, inspection and certification (TIC) company.

- The ISO 9001 certification process, including certification requirements, audit stages, documentation needs, corrective action procedures, and post-certification surveillance audits were discussed.

- She advised that while TUV Rheinland may provide training, the organization should consider engaging External Consultants to assist with process mapping, documentation development, internal audits, and organizational readiness activities.

- The cost to obtain ISO 9001 is approximately at PHP 240,000 for a three-year certification cycle, based on the current size and operational scope of the organization. The actual cost may vary depending on the final certification scope and consultancy requirements.

- Core processes for inclusion in the ISO 9001 certification:
  a. Membership- Fellows
  b. Financial Management- provide timely reporting and submission of the Audited Financial Statements (AFS)
     - The Committee discussed the organization's current financial management challenges, particularly delays in financial reporting and submission of financial statements. Financial management was recognized as a key area that could benefit from process improvements under an ISO 9001 framework.
  c. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programs-Annual Clinical Congress (ACC); LMS
  d. Governance and administrative functions

- The Committee welcomed and formally introduced the two new members:
  a. Gurmesindo Garcia III, MD
  b. Kirsten Golpeo, MD
     - Obtain detailed quotations and proposals for certification, training, and consultancy services.
     - Conduct a follow-up discussion with TUV Rheinland and prospective consultants to further clarify certification requirements and scope.
     - Further discuss the core processes to be included in the initial certification effort.-Coordinate with management thru Maria Concepcion C. Vesagas, MD, Executive Director to finalize proposed core processes for the ISO 9100 Certification before submission to the Board of Regents (BOR).

B. June 08, 2026

The Committee had a zoom meeting with Rosehall Management Consultants, Inc.

Company Background:
- 37 years of experience in Total Quality Management.
- Assistance provided to over 600 organizations in ISO certification initiatives.
- Delivery of training programs to more than 2,000 clients.
- Expertise in Environmental Management Systems, Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems, Information Security Management Systems, and related standards.
- Partnership with the Quality Council of the Philippines as a corporate partner.

The Company presented their four-phase implementation approach:

Phase 1: Planning and Training
- Gap assessment against ISO requirements
- Top management orientation
- Awareness training for process owners
- Foundation-setting and KPI workshop
- Process mapping and orientation
- Risk management orientation

Phase 2: Systems Development
- Documentation of the Quality Manual
- Development of Process Manuals
- Development of Policy Manuals
- Rollout and implementation of documented systems

B
- Internal Auditor Training
- Conduct of Internal Audits
- Root Cause Analysis Training
- Monitoring of implementation activities
- Management Review Meetings

Phase 4: Certification Audit
- Pre-certification assessment (Mock Audit)
- Stage 1 Certification Audit
- Stage 2 Certification Audit by an independent certification body

The Committee raised concerns regarding implementation citing its limited workforce of approximately 12 employees and reliance on volunteer-based committees.

Rosehall Management Consultants clarified that:
- The employees will serve as the primary implementors of the management system.
- They will provide guidance, coaching, and capacity-building support throughout the project.
- Successful implementation is feasible regardless of organizational size, provided that there is management commitment and active employee participation.
- The initial scope may focus on key operational areas such as:
  o Membership Management
  o Financial Management
  o Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
  o Administrative Processes

The Committee is in the process of obtaining a proposal including the scope and cost analysis from Rosehall Management Consultants, Inc. and another Consultancy Agent (from Dagupan) recommended by Dr. Gurmesindo M. Garcia III.

Board Action:

Approve the engagement of an Independent Internal Auditor. The scope of the Independent Internal Audit shall include the provision of training for PCS staff to strengthen internal controls, enhance regulatory compliance, and improve operational efficiency.

14.5. Committee on Social & Sports

FOR APPROVAL

1. **Camaraderie Golf 2026**
   Date: September 02, 2026
   Venue: Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course
   • Proposed budget P450,000-480,000

2. **Swing for a Cause 2026**
   Date: December 4, 2026 (Friday)
   Venue: Royal Northwoods Golf & Residential Estates, San Rafael, Bulacan
   • Proposed budget: Php 450,000–500,000

3. **ACC Fellowship Night**
   Date: December 6, 2026 (Sunday), 7:00 PM
   ACC Theme: "*PCS Universal Access to Quality Surgery: Integrating Expertise, Innovation and Compassion*"
   • Proposed budget: **Php1.1M**
   o Raffle Prizes: **Php 600,000**
   o Drinks: **Php100,000**
   o Entertainment: **Php400,000**

Proposed Performers:
- **True Faith** – Php 400,000
- **Sitti** – Php 420,000
- **Side A** – Php 650,000
- **Jonalyn Viray** – Php 680,000–950,000
- Ocular for other bands

Board Action: Proposed budget for the Golf tournament was clarified. It was the previous understanding that all golf activities and budget should come from the Tournament fees to be collected by the Committee on Social and Sports. However current arrangement is for the budget to come from External affairs this being part of the 90th Foundation day activities.

The budget for the fellowship night was deferred for further study.

The Board of Regents is recommending the return of Society/ chapter participation subject to strict screening of interested Chapters/Specialty Societies.

The winners of the PCS Residents Got Talent may also be invited to perform.

14.6. Committee on Hospital Standardization & Accreditation (HSA)

FOR APPROVAL:

1. **Operating Room Standards**
   - Recommend to update the OR Guidelines published 2020.
   - Most of the contents are still applicable, a 5-year update is necessary and through the PCS BOR, to formally request the Committee on Surgical Infections to again work with ORNAP on the updates. CHSA to work with this group.

2. **PCS -_PhilHealth MOA**
   - Form a Technical Working Group (TWG) to come out with the IRR, composed of representatives from the following: PCS BOR, PSQA, CHSA, HMO/RVS Comm.

3. **Surgical Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidelines**
   - To gather a group (Ad-Hoc) to look into creating AI Guidelines with suggested representatives from the following: CHSA, PSQA, Ethics Committee, Research (?)

Board Action: Approved

15. Other Matters

15.1. DOH – Philippine Clinical Guidelines Update 2025 – Write a letter of request to include the PCS Logo in the Breast
15.2. Invitation of BPOF & APGCS Organizing Committee
15.3. PAHPBSI follow up letter on its Application Status for Accreditation as a Sub Specialty Society of the Philippine College of Surgeons-Response letter to be sent
15.4. PAHPBSI – Request a Financial Assistance to help for the expenses with Prof. Bachelier – for deliberation next meeting
15.5. Benedicto S. Joson Jr., MD – Resignation as BOG Chair
15.6. Ms. Katrina B. Borcena - Resignation as Bookkeeper
15.7. Request of 100k Grant
   15.7.1. Academy of Filipino Neurosurgeons, Inc. (AFNI)
   15.7.2. Philippine Urological Association (PUA)
   15.7.3. Association of Women Surgeons of the Philippines (AWSP)
   15.7.4. Philippine Association of Metabolic and Obesity Surgery (PAMOS)
15.8. Request of 400k Grant
   15.8.1. Davao Southern Mindanao Chapter
   15.8.2. Northern Mindanao Chapter
15.9. 90th Anniversary Celebration Update
   15.9.1. 90th Commemorative Watch
15.10. Performance Evaluation (PCSF & PCS Staff) year 2025
   Board Action: The Board noted the discrepancies in the number of evaluators ranging from 4-26. There should be a standard minimum number of evaluators and a maximum number to be recommended by the Board.
15.11. AWSP RE Block Screening of the movie Spider-Man.
15.12. Next Meeting
   15.12.1. July 18, 2026 (Saturday) 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM PCS Bldg., 3RD Floor GT Singian
16. Adjournment 4:45 pm

7th BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
July 18, 2026 (Saturday) 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
PCS Bldg., 3rd Floor GT Singian Room

Part I – Meeting Proper

17. Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 8:39 am with Dr. Joselito M. Mendoza presiding.

1. Invocation lead by Andrea Joanne A. Torre, MD

2. Approval of the Agenda

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – June 20, 2026

4. President's Update

4.1.	June 24, 2026 -	128 Founding Anniversary AFP Medical Service Camp Aguinaldo Commissioned Officers' Club
4.2.	June 27, 2026 -	HPACC Meeting
4.3.	July 3-5, 2026 -	Academy of Medicine of Malaysia
4.4.	July 4, 2026 -	Academy of Medicine of Malaysia Presidents Round Table Discussions Topic: AI

4.5. July 6, 2026 - PALES Nationwide Simultaneous Lap Chole with Simultaneous BDI Timeout
PCS Bldg., 3rd Floor PICO Room

4.6. July 9, 2026 - PALES 16th Annual Convention and 20th Founding Anniversary Opening Ceremony
EDSA Shangri-La Hotel

4.7. July 10, 2026 - SOSP 10th Annual Convention

4.8. July 10, 2026 - PALES Induction Ceremonies & Fellowship Night
EDSA Shangri-La Hotel

4.9. July 11, 2026 - ORNAP 53RD Founding Anniversary 51st Annual Convention & Scientific meeting
SMX Convention Center MOA

4.10. July 11, 2026 - PCS Past Presidents' Dinner
EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mactan Room

4.11. July 13, 2026 - New DOH Secretary

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Follow up on the Application as a Subspecialty.
5.1. PALES -letters to be sent regarding requirements for their application
5.2. PAHPBSI - letters to be sent regarding requirements for their appliucation

6. Treasurer's Report
The Vice President in the absence of Dra. Lahoz presented the Treasurer's report

7. Board of Governors-No report

8. Executive Director's Report

FOR APPROVAL

1. Asia-Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors Convention 2026 delegates – Aug 20-21, 2026, at Henry Sy Hall, UP College of Medicine
a. Dr. Catherine S. Co – Co-Editor-in-Chief of PJSS
b. Dr. Maria Concepcion C. Vesagas – Executive Director

2. Regarding Ms. Theresa de la Fuente's hospitalization (presented June 2026 BOR meeting)
a. As per Medicard (previous HMO), PhP 50,000 is the compensation for a Cholecystectomy.
b. Medicard declined to give an amount for the ERCP. They just remarked that it is a procedure and not an operation.



3. Use of the 90 years banner by different chapters in their own language
E.g. - Balay sa siruhano nga Pilipino (Cebuano)
Can be used for shirts, activities, etc.

Boad Action:
1. Approved
2. The Board approved financial assistance amounting to Php100,000 for the hospitalization of Ms. Maria Theresa Dela Fuentes.
3. Approved the use of 90th PCS logo

For Information
1. Visit by Dr. Evan Payawal of Pfizer regarding the grant given to the PCS
(c/o Dr. Dofitas)
2. Past Presidents' Dinner concluded
3. Arrangements and preparations for the 90th Gala Dinner currently being done

9. Committee Reports
9.1. Cluster A – National Programs
9.1.1.COMMITTEE ON HMO-RVS

FOR INFORMATION

I. The PCS HMO Committee convened to discuss the implementation of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) and the HMO umbrella organizations, AHMOPI and PAHMOC, as well as other concerns affecting accredited PCS Fellows.

I.1. Implementation of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
- The Committee reviewed the current MOA and noted that several HMO member companies have not consistently implemented its provisions, particularly the agreed increase in professional fees for accredited PCS Fellows.
- Members expressed concern over the absence of a formal monitoring mechanism to ensure compliance with the MOA. It was likewise reported that physicians continue to undergo hospital re-accreditation despite already being accredited through the umbrella HMO organizations.
- The Committee also discussed the continuing issue of delayed reimbursements, with some professional fees for services rendered in 2024 reportedly released only in 2026.

I.2. Professional Fees and HMO Payment Issues
- The Committee discussed the persistent delays and inconsistencies in the payment of professional fees by hospitals and HMOs. Members observed that many institutions lack transparency in their payment processes, making it difficult for physicians to verify the status of their reimbursements.
- Reports were also received that certain hospitals deduct a portion of surgeons' professional fees prior to payment. Members emphasized the need for HMOs to provide physicians with direct online access to monitor the status of their claims and reimbursements.

I.3. Monitoring of MOA Implementation
- The Committee acknowledged that monitoring of MOA compliance currently relies primarily on physicians reporting individual concerns. Members agreed on the importance of establishing a structured monitoring

mechanism to document delayed reimbursements, non-compliance with agreed professional fee adjustments, accreditation concerns, and other MOA-related issues.
- The Committee further recognized that stronger collaboration with hospitals could improve compliance and facilitate more timely processing of professional fee payments.

I.4. Nature of Existing HMO Agreements

- The Committee clarified that current HMO arrangements are generally contractual agreements between individual physicians and HMOs rather than between hospitals and HMOs. This contractual structure has made implementation of negotiated provisions, including the agreed annual five percent (5%) increase in professional fees, more challenging.
- Dr. Ejercito suggested exploring hospital-based negotiations with HMOs to strengthen compliance and monitoring. The Committee noted the experience of the Department of Surgery of Asian Hospital, which successfully negotiated improved HMO package rates. Dr. Maria Lourdes Otayza likewise expressed support for exploring greater hospital participation in future negotiations.

I.5. Committee Recommendations and Planned Activities

- For the information of the Board, the Committee will continue to:
  a. Develop a monitoring system to document compliance with the MOA.
  b. Collect documented cases of delayed reimbursements and other MOA violations.
  c. Conduct a nationwide survey to identify payment irregularities and non-compliant HMOs.
  d. Coordinate with the Philippine Hospital Association regarding a panel discussion or webinar on HMO-related concerns.
  e. Continue discussions with HMO organizations regarding professional fees and reimbursement issues.
  f. Study the legal and operational implications of hospital-HMO contractual arrangements in consultation with legal counsel.
  g. Present the survey findings and recommendations during the Luzon Town Hall and the PCS Annual Congress.

I.6. Next Meeting

a. The Committee is scheduled to hold the Luzon Town Hall in August, subject to confirmation of the venue and hybrid meeting arrangements. If finalized earlier, a dedicated webinar may be conducted this July.
b. The next meeting will focus on reviewing the nationwide survey findings, discussing the proposed MOA monitoring mechanism, and continuing engagement with the Philippine Hospital Association and HMO representatives.

9.1.2. COMMITTEE ON UHC

INFORMATION

1. Dinagat Rural Surgery
   Continue to Explore the Dinagat Rural Surgery Program

Key effects:

- Dinagat now has more surgical clinics and weekly minor operating schedules.
- Dinagat Community Hospital is preparing to become a Level 1 hospital in 2027
- Northern Mindanao Chapter visits once in a while.

2. Sorsogon Model for Universal Surgical Care
   A hub-and-spoke provincial surgical system integrating:
   - PCS Primary Care Surgery
   - PCS S.U.R.E. surgical missions
   - PSGS Network Accreditation
   - Family and Community Medicine residency training
   - Sorsogon Health Care Provider Network



Existing components include rotating elective surgery, a unified referral system, telemedicine, Family Medicine and Surgery residency programs, and partnerships with tertiary hospitals.

Proposed next steps:

- PCS to unify the different initiatives and address remaining gaps.
- Secure a technical partner similar to JHPIEGO.
- Obtain sustainable project funding.

Previous initiatives in Sorsogon include a PCS–SPSA surgeon deployment project worth Php492,000 and a three-year JHPIEGO maternal and child health project worth approximately Php25 million.

3. Research Initiatives
   - **Essential Surgical Capacity Study**: Phase 1 was presented at the 2025 PCS Congress and will be presented at the World Congress on Public Health in Cape Town in September 2026. Phase 2 awaits ethics approval.

- **Comparison of three rural surgery initiatives**: Manuscript completed and being prepared for submission to the *Philippine Journal of Surgical Specialties*.
- **Basic pH–Dinagat needs assessment**: Online data collection is complete. Focus group discussions and an onsite assessment still need to be conducted.

4. Proposed Partnership with Incision Philippine

Three connected programs were proposed:

- **SIBOL**: Mentorship between PCS surgeons and medical students.
- **LAYAG**: Four-week immersion in PCS operations and rural surgery sites.
- **TINDIG**: Collaborative research on equitable surgical care in the Philippines.

Together, these programs aim to build a pipeline from early student mentorship and field exposure to surgical research and eventual residency recruitment.

5. Other Partnerships and Future Directions

Potential collaboration is being explored with:

- G4 Alliance
  - o Dr. Jaymie Claire Henry
- American College of Surgeons H.O.P.E.
- The new Department of Health leadership

6. Upcoming PCS Congress Session
   - Date: December 9, 2026
   - Time: 8:00–10:00 AM
   - Venue: Kamia Room, EDSA Shangri-La
   - Topic and speaker: Still to be finalized

Priority Action Items

1. Develop a unified implementation and funding plan for the Sorsogon model.
2. Address the shortage and unequal distribution of surgeons in Aurora.
3. Secure ethics approval and proceed with Phase 2 of the surgical capacity study.
4. Review and formalize the Incision Philippines partnership.
5. Finalize the topic and speaker for the December congress session.

Board Action:

- **Sorsogon Project**: The Board approved the preparation of a **Board Resolution of Support for the Sorsogon Model for Universal Health Care** and agreed to convene with the concerned stakeholders to formulate and execute a **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)**. The proposed Resolution of Support and MOA shall be presented to the **Department of Health (DOH)** and the **Governor of Sorsogon** for their consideration and appropriate action, with the objective of advancing the initiative. The Board further agreed to cascade the initiative to all PCS subspecialty sections. **Dr. Tagayuna and Dr. Bartolome were tasked to prepare and draft the proposed Board Resolution for the Board's review and approval**.
- Incision Philippines – The Board agreed to defer the proposed partnership and schedule a **Zoom presentation** at a later date, subject to the availability and approval of the Board.
- **PCS Congress Session: Proposed Speaker**
  - o Kerin Kinfielding - Neurosurgeon
  - o Sorsogon Model Representative
  - o Incision Philippine Representative

9.1.3. COMMITTEE ON ASEAN Summit & International

E. Taiwan Surgical Association (TSA) Scholarship Program

- The committee recommends the approval of the expenses for the scholars inclusive of airfare, visa application, dorm fee , training fee and daily subsistence allowance per diem.

Board Action: Approved

ACS Updates

- The committee received the ACS Project H.O.P.E. report submitted by Dr. Dures Fe Tagayuna and they set a steering committee meeting on July 22 at 9pm via zoom platform.

9.1.4. COMMITTEE ON TRAUMA

II. ATLS

- Dr. Buenafe presented the request of the Committee for the lowering of registration fees of the Hybrid and Refresher Course

COSTING FOR ATLS COURSES 2026 Course Location - Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS)

FACE TO FACE COURSE

					PCS (F2F) 3d: Fri - Sun
INCOME:					
1	**Registration Fee:**				
	a.	Php 24,000.00/16 participants (F2F)			384,000.00
	b.	Php 43,000.00/foreign participant			
	c.	Php1,500.00/12 participants (Nurse)			18,000.00
				TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE:	**402,000.00**
EXPENSES:					
1	**Honorarium for :**				
	a.	Course Director			12,000.00
	b.	Instructor	3days F2F	49 hours - lectures and skills station	49,000.00
			1day Refresher	24 hours - lectures and skills station	
			1.5 day Hybrid	34 hours - lectures and skills station	
	c.	Course Coordinator			35,000.00
	d.	Technical Support			6,000.00
2	**Meals for 700/pax (16 participants, 8 instructors 12 nurses/models)**				75,600.00
	a.	First Day Php 700x40 = 28,000.00			28,000.00
	b.	2nd Day Php 700x40 = 28,000.00			28,000.00
	c.	3rd Day Php 700x40 = 28,000.00			28,000.00
3	**Medical Supplies (10 pcs Douderm patch)**				10,000.00
4	**Office Supplies**				2,500.00
5	**Moulage Models/Artist**				9,000.00
6	**ATLS Manuals Php2,700.00/manual**				43,200.00
7	**ATLS T-Shirts Php430.00/shirt**				10,320.00
8	**Cleaners Overtime pay**				2,000.00
9	**Laundry**				400.00
				TOTAL EXPENSES:	**339,020.00**
				NET INCOME:	**62,980.00**

REFRESHER AND HYBRID COURSE

			PCS (Refresher) 1d: Fri	PCS (Hybrid) 1.5d: Sat-Sun
INCOME:				
1	**Registration Fee:**			
	a.	Php 15,000.00/16 participants (Refresher)	240,000.00	
	b.	Php 18,000.00/16 participants (Hybrid)		288,000.00
	c.	Php1,500.00/12 participants (Nurse)	18,000.00	18,000.00
		TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE:	**258,000.00**	**306,000.00**
EXPENSES:				
1	**Honorarium for:**			
	a.	Course Director	5,000.00	7,000.00
	b.	Instructor (1 day Refresher - 24 hrs. lecture & skills station)	24,000.00	
		Instructor (1.5 day Hybrid - 34 hrs. lecture & skills station)		34,000.00
	c.	Course Coordinator	10,000.00	25,000.00
	d.	Technical Support	2,000.00	4,000.00
2	**Meals for 700/pax (16 participants, 8 instructors, 12 nurses/models**			
	a.	First Day Php 700 x 40 = 28,000.00	28,000.00	
	b.	2nd Day Php 700x40 = 28,000.00		28,000.00
	c.	3rd Day Php 700x40 = 28,000.00		28,000.00
3	**Medical Supplies (10pcs Douderm patch)**		5,000.00	5,000.00
4	**Office Supplies**		1,000.00	1,500.00
5	**Moulage Models/Artist**		3,000.00	6,000.00
6	**ATLS Manuals Php2,700.00/Manual**		43,200.00	43,200.00
7	**ATLS T-Shirts Php430.00/Shirt**		10,320.00	6,880.00
8	**Cleaners Overtime Pay**		600.00	1,400.00
9	**Laundry**		300.00	300.00
		TOTAL EXPENSES:	**132,420.00**	**190,280.00**
		NET INCOME:	**125,580.00**	**115,720.00**

III. Disaster Preparedness Program

- Table-Top Exercise August 15, 2026 – 8th BOR Meeting at the G.T. Singian Board Room

IV. Stop The Bleed Program

- Shirt design



Board Action:

1. Approved the suggested lower rates for ATLS
3. Approved the table top exercises
4. Approved the t-shirt design

FOR INFORMATION:

I. B.E.S.T.

- Workshop Schedules (available slots as of June 09, 2026)
  1. July 25-26, 2026 at PCS Building
     - July 25 (AM Session): 30 registrants
     - July 26 (AM Session): 30 registrants
  2. August 08-09, 2026 at PCS Building
     - August 08 (AM Session): 30 registrants
     - August 09 (AM Session): 30 registrants

II. Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS)

- Workshop Schedules
  1. July 10-12, 2026 at PCS Office
  2. July 17-19, 2026 at Amai Pakpak Medical Center
  3. August 14-16, 2026 at PCS Office
  4. August 18-20, 2026 at Bacolod

III. BURNS – c/o **Dr. Jose Joven V. Cruz**

- LMS Lectures
  - **For clarification**: Current practice registration fee of Php500.00. Out of the Php500.00 registration fee; 70% - the society share & 30% - PCSF share)
- SCALD BURNS POSTER
  - No deliveries yet for the pending printed poster from Unilab.
  - Dissemination of posters on 82nd PCS Annual Clinical Congress once all are delivered.
  - The sub-committee plans to post the poster in the online platform of the PCS.

BOARD ACTION: LMS lectures' registration fee sharing follows the 70% society share and 30% for PCSF.

9.1.5. COMMITTEE ON CANCER

FOR INFORMATION:

1. Participation on PCS 90th Foundation and will hold its 82nd Annual Clinical Congress on December 5 - 9 2026, at the Shangri-la Hotel Mandaluyong City, with the theme "**PCS Universal Access to Quality Surgery: Integrating Expertise, Innovation and Compassion**".

1.1. Date/Time/Venue: Day 4 Dec. 8, 2026 Tuesday; 2:00-3:00PM Garden Ballroom

1.2. Format: short lecture/Panel discussion
Objective: c/o Dr. Cajucom

1.3. Title/Topic:

- Z Cancer Packages
  - Implementation
  - Best practices
  - Requirements/compliance/validating
  - F&Q
- Suggested topic contents:
  - Overall Effect of Z packages as to the improvement of survival
  - Multi-sectoral approach to address Economic Toxicity of Cancer Care – to streamline the finances and to allocate the budget for a cancer patient
  - Suggested to have Pharma industry
  - How and why some are not accepted to Z package, more of increasing chances for inclusion
  - One question for the panelist

1.4. Possible Speakers:

- Possible Speakers:
  - Dr. Alfred Phillip O. de Dios – PhilHealth (confirmed)
  - Dr. Gerardo D. Legaspi – Hospital sector
  - Dr. Alfonso G. Nuñez III- Interim Executive Director, Philippine Cancer Center c/o Dr. Teh
- Moderator: Shalimar C. Cortez, MD

5. Other Matters:

5.1. Cancer Bulletin Vol. 11 number 2:

- Deadline of submission of articles, October 31, 2026

5.2. PCS and PSMO collaboration on the **National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Guidelines Adaption Project**

Aim: To review and adapt the NCCN Clinical Practical Guidelines to better reflect the local Philippine setting through a multidisciplinary and evidence –based approach.

- Will draft a letter for the nominees.

- Breast Cancer – 1 nominee
  PSBS Rep – Claudine Ordoñez, MD
  PSGS rep preferably from Visayas – c/o Dr. Peña; will send letter to PSGS National
  SOSP rep preferably from Mindanao – Sittie Aneza Maglangit, MD

- Colon/Rectal Cancer – 3 nominees
  PSCRS – Justine Leo Carpio, MD
  SOSP from Visayas – Ma. Dulce Consuegra, MD
  PSGS from Mindanao – Cris George Pales, MD

- Hepatocellular Cancer – 3 nominees
  PAHBPS – address the letter to Anthony Perez, MD
  PSGS from Visayas – Neil Bacaltos, MD
  SOSP from Mindanao – Rose Belle Sucgang, MD

5.3. Invitation for Nominations for the 2026 PSO Annual Awards submission on or before August 15, 2026
- Will forward the letter to other PCS Sub-specialty societies.
- Will request PSO to send the list of PSO Fellows who are also PCS Fellows.
  - Outstanding Teacher in Oncology Award
  - Outstanding Cancer Researcher Award
  - Most Outstanding Oncologist Award
  - Outstanding in Community Service Award

9.1.6. COMMITTEE ON SURE

FOR APPROVAL

A. Chapter-Initiated Surgical Missions
The Committee confirmed the participation of the following chapters in the 2026 Chapter-Initiated Missions:

1. Davao Southern Mindanao Chapter
   a. Venue: major procedures to be conducted at Davao del Sur Provincial Hospital
   b. Establishment of an integrated referral system for complex cases from Don Marcelino to Southern Philippines Medical Center, consistent with the Universal Health Care Act.
   c. documentation of the mission will include patient registries, operative procedures, referral outcomes, and photo/video documentation

2. Bicol Chapter:
   a. Venue: Masbate (significant surgical backlog)
   b. Alternate venue: Matnog, Sorsogon
   c. Date: August 2026
   d. Patients: 43 (Chole, Hernia, Thyroid, Sistrunk, Parotid.)

3. Cebu–Eastern Visayas Chapter: Pull-through Surgical Mission
   a. Lead is Dr. Maribel Du / President Harem P. Deiparine
   b. Date: October 13-16, 2026
   c. Venue: Cebu Provincial Hospital, Carcar
   d. In coordination with PSPS Colostomy Freedom Project and WSFP

4. Northern Mindanao Chapter
   a. Minimally Invasive Surgery Mission
   b. Education: Laparoscopic Hernia repair
   c. Date: July 24-26, 2026
   d. Venue: Amai Pakpak Medical Center, Marawi City
   e. Participants: PCS, PCSF, PCS-NMC, PALES, CALMA, Local Government, ORNAP, PSA
   f. Patients: Chole (88), Hernia (34)

5. Southern Tagalog Chapter
   a. Venue: Balayan
   b. Dates: August 11-14, 2026
   c. With WSFP

Board Action: Approved the Chapter Initiated Surgical Mission for Bicol Chapter & Cebu-Eastern Visayas Chapter.

FOR INFORMATION

1. Central Mindanao Chapter Major Surgical Outreach
   a. Venue: Basilan
   b. Dates: After the BARMM Elections in September
   c. With WSFP

2. North Luzon Chapter c/o Dr Juvie Villaflor and President Ria Uclara

9.1.7. COMMITTEE ON SURGICAL INFECTIONS

FOR INFORMATION:

1. 82nd Annual Clinical Congress on December 5 - 9 2026, at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel Mandaluyong City, with the theme "**PCS Universal Access to Quality Surgery: Integrating Expertise, Innovation and Compassion**".
   1.1. Date/Time/Venue: Dec. 8, 2026 (Day 4) Tuesday 10:30 am – 12 nn at Kamia Room
   1.2. Tentative Lecture/Topic: Optimizing SSI prevention using Bundle of Care
   1.3. Proposed Speaker/Panelists: to be chosen from members of Surgical Infection Committee Moderators: Domingo S. Bongala, Jr., MD and Regent Andrea Torre, MD

2. Other Matters:
   2.1. Project with Pfizer:
   2.1.1. 1 webinar and 3 lectures for CSI on LMS (LMS Module for 3rd year)
   - Webinar
     - Projected Date for completion of first webinar: end of October 2026
     - To revise by the end of September 2026
     - Facilitator:
     - Lecture: HIV and other blood borne infections including hepatitis
     - The initially proposed speaker Dr. Pamela Rose A. Matti, FPCP, FPSMID, the President of the Philippine Hospital Infection Society has declined and has recommended choosing from the following members of the PHICS board instead:
     - Dr. Chan (Chinese General Hospital)
     - Dr. Bello (De la Salle EAC)
     - Dr. Gascon (RITM)
   - the committee will coordinate with these doctors to finalize who will be delivering the lecture for the webinar

   - 3 Lectures for LMS
     - Target Date: October 2026
     - Infection prevention using ERAS in Adult and Pediatric patients
       - Dr. Isabedra and Dr. Cajucom have been requested to personally coordinate with Dr. Mark Augustine Onglao (President of the ERAS Society)
     - Vascular and Central Line infection Prevention
       - the 2 Speakers and the moderator will represent each of the 3 sub-specialties societies PATACSI, PSTS and PSVES
       - the committee will request the Presidents of the 3 societies to recommend the Speakers and the moderator for the module

   2.1.2. Collaboration with the PSGS, Philippine Wound Care Society, and ORNAP

- The committee plans to create a module on wound care that will be useful for wound care nurses and first year residents of the specialties dealing with wound care
- Will set a meeting with PWCS and PAPRAS to discuss the possible topics and possible speakers.

2.2. Update on PSIS, ORNAP and B Braun Skin Preparation Video
- PSIS and B. Braun will finalize the venue and other details of their project after the PSIS SIPA Day

2.3. Committee projects for the year 2026

2.3.1. Using the KAP paper (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Surgical Trainees and Trainers on Recommended Surgical Site Infection Prevention Protocols)
- will request 1 webinar in October 2026 with PAGSR
- will have 1-2 residents preferably from government training institutions to share their surgical site infection case
- Dr. Astudillo will be the moderator while 2 other members of the committee will serve as reactors

2.3.2. Highlighting the necessity of administration of prophylactic antimicrobials before the simultaneous commencement of surgery during the PCS Surgical Outreach Day
- will request the SURE Commission to include this in their letter of invitation for the participants with a short script and mechanics (prepared by the Committee on Surgical Infections) to be read and delivered before the simultaneous cutting to highlight the TIME OUT question: (8:00 am). Has antimicrobial prophylaxis been given within the last 60 minutes before skin incision?

2.3.3. Antimicrobial prophylaxis duration as an important measure not only to prevent SSI but to emphasize proper duration of use to prevent antimicrobial resistance
- the committee will draft a poster and will finalize this during the next Committee meeting
- once approved by the Board, funding will be requested for printing of the posters (to be taken from the committee budget for 2026)

2.3.4. The committee will be drafting a proposed SSI bundle of care intended to lower the risk of surgical site infections
- This will be the topic for the ACC session of the Committee on Surgical Infections

2.4. Participation of the committee during the Philippine Wound Care Society Convention on August 13-14, 2026; at Novotel Quezon City
- Dr. Maria Cielo G. Ampuan will give a lecture regarding "**Abdominal Wound Dehiscence: What's out there now?"** on August 13, 2026 Thursday from 3:00 -3:40 PM

9.2. Cluster B – Surgical Education

9.2.1. COMMITTEE ON CONVENTIONS

FOR APPROVAL

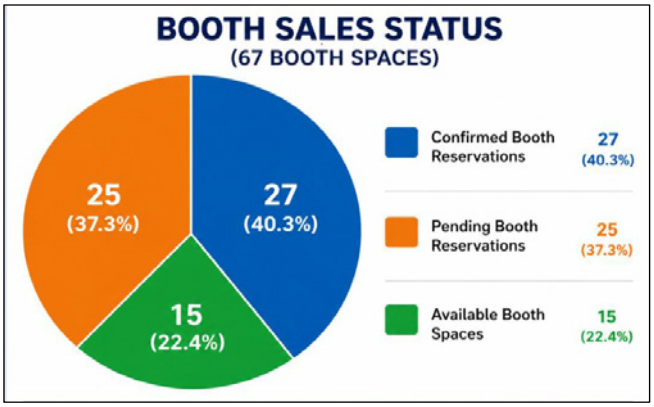
A. Ways & Means Working Group

o Dr. Alfred Allen E. Buenafe, Dr. Rouel Mateo M. Azores and Dr. Rodney B. Dofitas were designated to lead the Ad hoc Committee on Ways and Means

Board Action: Approved

Sponsorship / Exhibitor Updates

Cost of Booth Increased Modestly (Approved by PCSF)
Progress in Sponsorship



B. Hotel Arrangement

Hotel Accommodation Summary
82nd Annual Clinical Congress
December 5–9, 2026

Hotel	Room Allocation	Rooming List Deadline
Edsa Shangri-La, Manila	400	November 5, 2026 – Initial Rooming List November 12, 2026 – Final Rooming List
Marco Polo Ortigas Manila	80	October 19, 2026
The Westin Manila	50	October 19, 2026
The Linden Suites	40	October 5, 2026
Richmonde Hotel Ortigas	60	October 9, 2026
Total	**630 Rooms**	

C. Registration fees – No increase

D. Event organizer

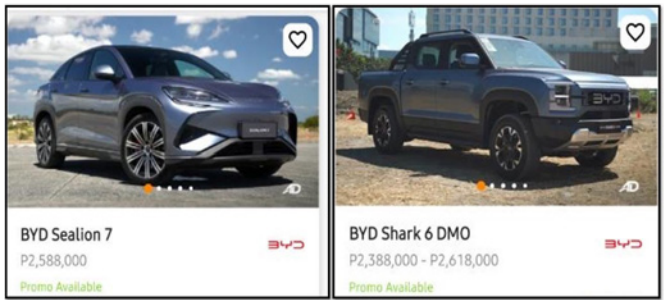
Event Organizer (In House) designated lead Ms. Annette D. Tolentino
Management Team – ED Dr. Connie Vesagas
Venue – Ms Carla of Edsa Shangri La
Hotel Arrangement – Ms. Nadia Trinchera
Booths – Market Scoping
Audio Visual Provider – Market Scoping
Manpower – former PCS Employees, new hires
Bag – to be presented

E. Fellowship Night

The Board of Regents discussed the preparations for the ACC 2026 Fellowship Night and made the following recommendations:

- Return of Society/Chapter participation in the Fellowship Night program, including the Battle of the Bands, Judges (Dr. Robert T. Bandolon Organizer)
- Winners of the PCS Residents Got Talent competition to be invited
- Separate raffle prize Budget of Php600,000

F. **Additional Activity - Car Raffle Fund-Raising Activity**
(Will be drawn During the Fellowship Night of the 82nd Annual Clinical Congress)



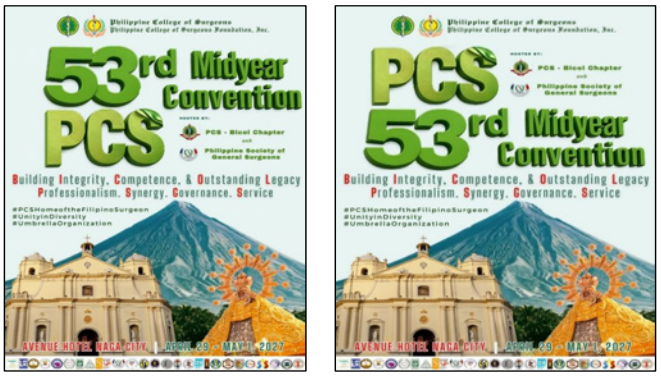
9.2.2. COMMITTEE ON CSE

FOR APPROVAL

a. **53RD Midyear Convention (MYC)** on April 29 – May 1, 2027 located at The Plaza Avenue Hotel, Naga City 2027 with the Theme: **B**uilding **I**ntegrity, **C**ompetence, and **O**utstanding **L**eadership in Surgery (**B.I.C.O.L**.)

Proposed Poster

OPTION 1 OPTION 2



Board Action: Option 2 Approved

b. **83rd Annual Clinical Congress** - on December 2027, with the Theme: Strength in Unity: Building a Culture of Safety and Excellence at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong Manila City.

Proposed Topic:

1. Enhanced Recovery & Perioperative Optimization
2. ERAS Across Surgical Specialties
3. Prehabilitation and Risk Stratification
4. Postoperative Care and Complication Prevention
5. Simulation Training
6. Human Factors and Error in Surgery: Fatigue, Burnout, and Performance
7. Cognitive Bias in Surgical Decision-Making
8. Communication Failures in the OR

Poster Concept: "Strength in Unity"
Design Philosophy
The theme naturally lends itself to:

- A unified surgical circle signifying unity
- Interconnected Strategic Initiatives of the PCS as nodes of the circle representing unity and working together
- A modern subtle hint of the Philippine territory-inspired geometric pattern in the background
- Light beams converging toward a central surgical emblem
- Clean, premium academic-congress appearance

Recommended Color Palette
PCS Navy Blue (#0A2E5D)

- Leadership
- Professionalism
- Academic excellence

Surgical Teal (#007A7A)

- Patient safety
- Healthcare quality
- Innovation

Gold Accent (#D4A017)

- Excellence
- Achievement
- Prestige

White

- Purity
- Transparency
- Safety culture

The combination conveys unity, trust, quality, and excellence while remaining distinctly professional.

PROPOSED POSTER

OPTION 1 OPTION 2



OPTION 3 OPTION 4



Board Action: Options 2 & 4

- Remove the advertisements and the vehicles in the PCS Bldg. picture
- Remove the Symbolic and essentials elements
- Include the Hashtag applicable this year

C. 54th Midyear Convention – May 2028
a. Chapter and Society Bids
1. Northern Luzon Chapter (NLC)
b. Proposed Chair:
i. Jan Andrew D.Bueno, MD

D. 84th Annual Clinical Congress – December 2028
   a. Chapter and Society bids
   b. Proposed Chair:
      i. Raymond joseph R. Manzo, MD

Board Action: Approved

9.2.3. COMMITTEE ON LMS

I. FOR APPROVAL

PCS Committee on Management Learning System additional members:

1. Peter S. Quiaoit, MD - Vice President, Philippine Orthopaedic Association
2. Maria Adela A. Nable-Aguilera, MD – Member, Philippine Society for Burn Injuries, Inc.

Board Action: Approved

II. FOR INFORMATION

1. LMS Modules Updates
   1.1 Fixed Schedules for 2026
   - June - Surgical Research (PSGS)
     4. Module 1 = 411 432
     5. Module 2 = 365 387
     6. Module 3 = 335 354
   - July:
     a. PATOS Module 101 (Fellows)
     b. PATOS Module 102 (Residents)
     c. B.E.S.T Didactics and B.E.S.T Skill Station at PCS Office (July 25-26, 2026)
   - August:
     a. Basic Ultrasound
     b. B.E.S.T Didactics and B.E.S.T Skill Station at PCS Office (August 8-9, 2026)
   - October:
     a. Critical Care, Head & Neck
     b. Basic Ultrasound
   - November - PATOS Module

   1.2 Creation of Modules:
   - Residents as Teacher Module – in collaboration with PSGS-CST and PATOS
   - Soft Skills for Residents – in collaboration with PCS-MMC c/o Dr. Joy Jerusalem
   - Updates on B.E.S.T. – on going renew some chapters of the lecture - c/o Dr. Romancap
   - Burn Module (it will be uploaded once done)
   - Research Integrity Module – by the PCS and PSGS Research Committees (this is for residents, fellows and other specialties)

9.2.4. COMMITTEE ON SURGICAL RESEARCH

I. FOR APPROVAL

1. **Proposed AI Use Policy for Research and Publishing** – The Committee recommends the **development of an advisory on the ethical and responsible use of AI** in research and scholarly publishing, **in collaboration with PJSS**. Subject to Board approval, **the proposal will be elevated to PJSS for consideration as a joint statement**. The proposed policy will align with Philippine Association of Medical Journal Editors (PAMJE) and International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) recommendations, emphasizing transparency in AI use, human oversight, accountability, and protection of confidentiality.

Board Action: Approved

II. FOR INFORMATION

1. Participation - 82nd Annual Clinical Congress on December 5-9, 2026 at Edsa Shangri-la Hotel.
   - Letters for the proposed judges of the 18th PCS Annual Surgical Research Contest, including the Champion of Champions: Research Category, Interesting Case and Free Paper Presentation have already been approved and are currently being sent out.
   - We have already distributed letters to the component societies regarding the participants to the research events for the 82nd ACC.

2. A workshop is being planned on December 6, 2026 at Joy Nostalg Hotel and Suites Manila in collaboration with PATOS for the PCS Research Agenda Setting for Surgical Societies.

3. Plan for LMS Platform - Letters have already been sent to the resource speakers.
   - Research Integrity Speakers:
     - Topics:
       1. Authorship - Theodor S. Vesagas, MD, FPCS (Speaker)
       2. Foundation - Jean Anne B. Toral, MD (Speaker - Non-PCS)
       3. Editorial Ethics - Jose Modesto B. Abellera III, MD, FPCS (Speaker)
       4. Conflict of Interest - Joy Grace G. Jerusalem, MD, FPCS (Speaker)
       5. Ethical issue in AI - Alvin B. Marcelo, MD, FPCS (Speaker)
          - For non-PCS honoraria of Php3,000.00 will be given

4. Research Education for Scientific Excellence, A Research Capacity Hub (R.E.S.E.A.R.C.H.) Project Concept Proposal: Letter submitted to DOST. PSGS serves as the lead agency, with PCS as collaborating partner. Currently awaiting DOST feedback.

5. Training Workshop last July 9, 2026 (Thursday) 2-4 PM via Zoom platform on PCS-MMC GCP Workshop were attended by Jose Modesto B. Abellera, MD, FPCS and Maila Rose Torrillo, MD, FPCS.

9.2.5. COMMITTE ON SURGICAL TRAINING

FOR INFORMATION

I. ACC (Annual Clinical Congress)
Participation to the Annual Clinical Congress
Date: December 8, 2026 (Tuesday)
Time: 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Venue: EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Santan Room

Panel Discussion
"Crafting and Operationalizing a Surgical Technician Training Program, Identifying Synergies among Stakeholders

Panelists:
Natasha E. Elazegui, MD, FPCS
Dean Malaya Santos, RN
Blance Orpilla, RN
Frances Gay Pia-Acuña, MD
Jose Joven C. Cruz, MD, FPCS

Moderator: Deogracias Alberto G. Reyes, MD, FPCS

II. PCS-Mapua University Collaboration

- The Committee discussed the Philippine College of Surgeons' ongoing collaborations with Mapua University and the TESDA-accredited CDO group led by Dra. Elazegui in support of perioperative education and training. Updates were provided on the development of the Certified Surgical Technician (CST) Program. The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening partnerships with qualified academic and training institutions to promote high-quality education, professional development, and excellence in perioperative care.

III. ORNAP Collaboration

- The Committee reviewed our collaboration with the **Operating Room Nurses Association of the Philippines (ORNAP)** in regards to developing a professional training program for perioperative nurses. The response highlights a collaborative approach in curriculum development, with clearly defined responsibilities for both PCS and ORNAP. The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to lead the development of competency-based learning modules while encouraging ORNAP's active participation in establishing competency standards, learning objectives, and program content. The Committee will await ORNAP's formal response and the Board's guidance on the proposed collaboration.

9.3. Cluster C – Membership Development

9.3.1. COMMITTEE ON CSSBP

9.3.1.1. Clarification on the Recognition of the Board or Recognition as Subspecialty for PSBS, Dr. Maria Rica M. Lumague gave the circumstance regarding the Application of the Board of PSBS in relation to their plans of giving specialty board examination to the graduate of their different training programs, as such we will wait the completion of examination to given to the graduates of their programs for the recognition of the Board of PSBS

9.3.2. COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

FOR INFORMATION:

1. Introduction and Orientation of the Search Sub-committee on Nominations

- Committee composition:

Chair:	Rhoderick M. Casis, MD	Metro Manila Chapter
Members:	Roel Anthony T. Domingo, MD	Cordillera Chapter
	Ma. Selina P. Rupisan, MD	North Eastern Luzon Chapter
	Erika Marie C. Gacus, MD	Northern Mindanao Chapter
	Alfred Q. Lasala II, MD	PSGS
	Robin Augustine Q. Flores, MD	PATACSI
	Gemma Leonora B. Uy, MD	SOSP
	Ma. Arlene C. Calaor, MD	PAPRAS
	Harem P, Deiparine, MD	Cebu-Eastern Visayas Chapter
	Leo Carlo V. Baloloy, MD	PSTS

2. Qualifications of Candidates for PCS BOR

- Will make an excel file and tabulate all the criteria of each nominee for first time candidates.
- Delinquent FPOA who wish to run, may apply for an amnesty, pay 4-year arrears to qualify.

First Time Candidates

a. Must be a PCS Fellow in good standing for the past five (5) years; no arrears
b. Must have actively participated in PCS activities in the last five (5) years, demonstrating loyalty and commitment to the ideals of the College;
c. Must be of good moral character, observe ethical practice and exhibit a high degree of professionalism;
d. Should have served as President of a chapter/specialty society, Chair of a PCS committee or certifying board, or Director/Co-Director of a PCS commission;
e. Should possess impressive credentials, preferably with academic experience;
f. Must possess good leadership skills; and
g. Must be endorsed by the Fellow's chapter or specialty society.

Incumbent Regents for Re-Nomination

In addition to fulfilling the requirements for first time nominees, those who have previously served in the BOR must satisfy the following:

Excellent performance as a Regent, said performance including but not limited to near perfect attendance in Board meetings and activities and active participation in Board deliberations and their assigned committees'/commissions' output.

Candidates shall be limited in seeking re-election to not more than six (6) consecutive terms

- The Search sub-committee will not be the one to decide who among the current regents will run or cannot run
- The current PCS President will give his assessment of the current regents.
- The Committee on Nominations will just discuss if there are incumbent regents who have not been nominated by the society.

Disqualification from Nomination

a. A Fellow cannot occupy simultaneous positions as President of a PCS chapter or surgical specialty society during the same year that he/she will occupy the position of Regent of the College.
b. All members of the Search Sub-committee of the Committee on Nominations are disqualified from being nominated as candidates
c. Past Presidents of the College are disqualified from being re-nominated.

d. Any eligible PCS Fellow who is the subject of a pending criminal/administrative case involving moral turpitude in any judicial/quasi-judicial body is not necessarily disqualified; however, conviction by final judgment of such is a ground for disqualification.
e. A former Regent who was not re-nominated because of poor performance cannot be considered again except when exemplary performance in PCS activities following his/her tenure is demonstrated.
f. A Regent who resigns before finishing his/her term shall not be considered for re-nomination unless this is due to a valid cause.

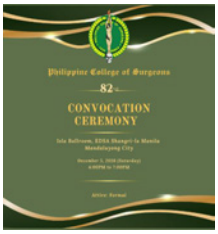
3.3. Direct Nominations:
- Must be submitted directly to the Committee on Nominations and not to the Search Sub-committee.

3.4. Time table: Based on the letter:
- July 27, 2025 (Monday) – deadline for direct nomination to be submitted to the Committee on Nominations
- August 3, 2025 (Monday) – deadline for submission of Nominees from the Search Subcommittee (Chapters and Subspecialty societies)

9.3.3. COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP

FOR APPROVAL

I. Convocation program





II. Committee Recommendation for this year's Inspirational Speaker (For Board Consideration)
1. Josefina R. Almonte, MD
2. Enrico P. Ragaza, MD
3. Alejandro C. Dizon, MD

III. Ecumenical Prayer
Committee Recommendation: Andrea Joanne A. Torre, MD

Board Action:
I. Approved the Convocation Program
II. Inspirational Speaker for further review
III. Approved the recommendation for Dra Torre to lead the prayer

IV. Committee Recommendation for the Orientation of 2026 Inductees
The Committee recommends conducting a **face-to-face orientation** for the 2026 inductees. However online orientation is our default type of orientation just like the previous years

Proposed Schedule:
- **Date**: Friday, December 4, 2026 if face to face
- **Time**: 2:00 PM
- To ask possible sponsorship from Unilab. Scheduled for Friday, December 4, 2026, at 2:00 PM.
- **Date**: Friday, November 13, 2026 if via zoom
- **Time**: 2:00 PM

V. PCS 2026 Annual Clinical Congress (ACC) Participation

Title: *The PCS Journey: From Membership to Fellowship*
Session Format: Panel Discussion

Session Overview:
A special discussion highlighting the pathway from Associate Membership to Fellowship in the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS), featuring insights, experiences, and opportunities for professional growth.

Suggested Speakers:
- Alfred Phillip O. De Dios, MD – Philippine Board of Surgery (PBS)
- Representative from the Philippine Society of General Surgeons (PSGS)
- Representative from the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS)

The panel discussion will be moderated by **Dr. Avenilo Aventura Jr., MD**

Session Chair: Dr. Madrigal

Vice Chair: Dr. Salonga

Topic Highlight:

Participation in the session, Becoming a Fellow, to provide guidance and inspiration on the journey toward Fellowship and professional advancement within the Philippine College of Surgeons.

BOARD ACTION: Approved the participation to the Annual Congress. Orientation of new Fellows for review.

II. Proposed 2027 Budget

BUDGET	PROPOSAL 2027	
		APPROVED BUDGET
B	OPERATING EXPENSES (OPEX)	
	FOOD (cost of food served during meetings) (20 X 500 12)	120,000
	INDUCTION OF NEW FELLOWS' EXPENSES	300,000
	SUPPLIES & MATERIALS (office supplies/medical supplies, etc.)	75,000
	COMMITTEE PROJECTS	100,000
	SOCIAL MEDIA -Newspaper- add'l mileage	
	HOTEL ACCOMMODATION	
	HONORARIUM	

PLAQUES, MEDALS, MEDALLIONS, ETC.		75,000
CONTRACTS AND SERVICES (E.M. Zalamea Actuarial)		
TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION EXPENSE - airfare, per diem, insurance		0
WEBSITE		
PRINTING AND REPRODUCTION		
PICTURES		
TOGA EXPENSE		
CASH ADVANCE- (Emcee 40K/ VMC Mass 10K)		
MARKETING		
MISCELLANEOUS- Donation, Representation, Delivery Charge		5,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	Php	675,000
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (CAPEX)		
Membership Recruitment and Promotions (Attendance to Society Conventic		100,000
Recording Studio/ Sound System Equipment (LMS/SICT/CSE)		
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	Php	100,000
TOTAL	**Php**	**775,000**

III. Please see the attached **Revision – Chapter II: Membership**

FOR INFORMATION

I. A total of **304** new Fellows were inducted under the Group Membership category from POA during the Induction Ceremony held on April 23, 2026, in Cebu.

II. Total Inductees as of July 17, 2026

Membership Category	Specialty	Total
Simplified	Ophthalmology	4
Regular	General Surgery	82
	Obstetrics and Gynecology	1
	Pediatric Surgery	1
Associate	Associate Members	6
Grand Total		**94**

9.4. Cluster D – External Affairs

9.4.1. COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS & P.R.


























9.4.2. COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS

INFORMATIONS

I. 2nd Issue, Incision, May – August, 2026

a. Newsletter Cover Page
- o Special Edition – 90th Anniversary Celebration



b. POA – Group Membership Article (Dr. Marcelino T. Cadag)

* Deadline of Submission: August 15, 2026
* Late Submission will no longer be accepted
* **Incisions Issue 2** will be a **hard copy special edition** celebrating the PCS 90th anniversary; budget for 750 copies was previously approved
* **Distribution** will be limited to the **September 12 Foundation Gala Dinner** - distributing at scattered sports/ activity events deemed impractical due to low retention. Remaining Incisions will be distributed during the Annual Congress.

II. 90th Foundation Coffee Table Book (CTB) – KALAYAG

a. Materials:
- o Specialty : 2 (PSO-HNS; PSCRS)

- o Affiliate : 5 (PALES; PATOS; PASUS; PSS; PSIS)
- o Still following up the article for the above specialties and affiliate as above

b. Cover: c/o VP Dr. Rodney Dofitas (For revision of the design initial rendering: make it a big ship with Balanggay elements incorporated)
- o Graphic Layout Designer – Handles the page layout, typography (ongoing c/o Mr. Mike Villanueva)

- o Target Deadlines
  1. Specialty Societies (12 = 48 pages layout) - delayed by 4 days (38/48 pages done)
  2. Affiliate Societies (15 = 45 pages layout)
  3. Visual structure of the inside content of the CTB; pagination & page design; printing to be done by Manila Bulletin - all materials should be submitted by August 10, 2026 (Wednesday)
  4. Meeting with point person/s of Manila Bulletin last July 13, 2026 Monday (F2F at Manila Bulletin) – Dr. Julyn A. Aguilar and Dr. Rouel Azores
  5. Creative Consultant/AVP Producer – Conceptualizes and produces the audio-visual presentation; develops the storyline and flow.

* The official launch of the **PCS Coffee Table Book, *KALAYAG***, will take place on September 12, 2026, during the **Gala Dinner** at the **EDSA Shangri-La Hotel**.

III. 2026 ACC Poster
> Printed posters with working QR code already distributed to the different Chapters, Training Institutions, Chapters, Subspec & Affiliate societies (c/o Mhel)

IV. 2026 ACC Teaser AVP
> Initial version released during the 2026 MYC
> Updated version - delayed release

V. Other Matters
a. Date for next meeting: Aug.11, 2026 (Wednesday) 8PM
b. Writing Workshop
- o August 22, 2026 (Saturday)
- o The Writer in the Age of A.I.
- o Time 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
- o Venue: 3RD Floor PCS Bldg., GT Singian
- o Speaker Ms. Isa Garcia / another speaker
- o Honorarium – Php. 25,000.00
- o Token to the speaker
- o Hybrid Platform
- o Meal (light Breakfast / Lunch) Budget Php. 16,000.00
- o GT Singian (limit to 30 participants F2F) – Subspecialties can send a participant – send a letter (c/o Dr. Madrigal)
- o Online (Chapters, Committees, Residents)
- o Poster of Workshop c/o Sir. Alvin
- o Materials to prepare (Paper & Pencil)

Pending Confirmation
- Quotations for **500 vs. 750 vs. 1,000 print copies** of Incisions to be obtained (smaller runs cost more per unit)
- **10-year centennial countdown plan** (activities per year to 100th anniversary) — Dr. Madrigal to clarify at next board meeting.

9.4.3. COMMITTEE ON SICT

I. FOR APPROVAL

a. The Committee would like to propose the following:
- Voting Feature of the PCS Fellows mobile app
  - To use the app voting feature starting this year
  - To have a larger booth for the Committee during the Annual Convention for assisting our Fellows especially those first time registrants
- Issuance of Certificate of Good Standing
  - Automatic issuance of the PCS Certificate of Good Standing through the app, provided with the following requirements:
    1. The Fellow paid his/her annual dues without arrears through the app
    2. The Fellow voted during the PCS election using the app
    3. The Fellow attended at least one of the PCS Conventions a year
  - The automatic issuance will be done yearly after the annual convention
- A formal communication from the Board of Regents to our PCS Chapters, Sub-specialty and Affiliate Societies to accomplish our Google Form for mapping and mandatory submission of its respective activities

Board Action: Approved

II. FOR INFORMATION

a. Awaiting the updated list of Fellows for annual dues from the PCS Accounting Department and Membership Committee for the accurate amount of arrears that will be shown in the Fellows mobile app
b. Society/Chapter activities have constantly followed up to their respective secretaries for upload on our different PCS online platforms (PCS Fellows app, Viber Community, website and Facebook page).
c. We aim to offer the Fellows mobile app for in-app advertisements to different pharmaceutical companies and other advertisers to help the College lessen the expenses for the development and maintenance of the mobile app once it is fully utilized, at least for about 90 percent
d. The Committee would like to reiterate to all the PCS Sub-specialty and Affiliate Societies, most especially to the PCS Chapters, to have an intensive campaign to all their members to download and utilize the app – this will help them also to make their members well informed in using the app to pay during pre-registration to avoid a much higher registration fee during on-site registration

9.4.4. COMMITTEE ON PSQA

I. FOR APPROVAL

1. Consensus guidelines on safe incorporation of Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy for breast cancer into clinical practice.

Board Action: Approved

III. FOR INFORMATION

1. Participation in the PCS 2026 Annual Clinical Congress
   How to start a Quality Surgical Improvement Program c/o Dr. Domino
   - ➢ Additional session for our workshop on December 9, 2026 (Wednesday) from 8AM to 4PM during our 82nd Annual Clinical Congress

a) Propose Title: "Implementing a Surgical Quality Improvement Program (SQIP): From Framework to Practice"
b) Propose (5) Speaker/s:
1. Alejandro C. Dizon, MD
2. Gilmyr Jude G. Marañon, MD
3. Catherine SC. Teh, MD
4. Anthony R. Perez, MD
5. Raymund Joaquin F. Erese, MD

- Propose target participants: 100pax
- No Registration Fee
- Please quote for the room expenses (am/lunch/snack) - c/o CSE
- With CPDD units (coordinated with CSE)
- Open for all non-training and training programs
- Please see power point presentation of program flow

➢ Additional (1) session for the Adverse event reporting during our 82nd Annual Clinical Congress

1. Letter from PhilHealth - Necessary Training Required in the Performance of Nasal Endoscopy of General, Plastic and Neurosurgeons
   - The concerned specialty societies—AFN, PSGS, and PAPRAS—have already submitted their respective recommendations and comments on the matter.
   - Meanwhile, PSO-HNS has informed us that PhilHealth has been engaging directly with their society regarding this issue.

2. Scoping a unified PCS framework across all subspecialties to establish consistent patient quality standards.

3. Participation - Lifestage Technical Working Group (TWG): National Practice Guidelines Program (NPGP) Evidence Summit has been re-scheduled for September 15-18, 2026.

4. Theme of MYC 2027 – Building Integrity, Competence, & Outstanding Legacy (BICOL) Professionalism, Synergy, Governance, Service (PSGS)

➢ Dr. Abratique and Dr. Romero to lead the development of the MYC 2027 proposal, with at least one month for brainstorming.

9.4.5. COMMITTEE ON PJSS

I. FOR APPROVAL:

1. Participation on PCS 82nd Annual Clinical Congress: December 5-9, 2026, Edsa Shangri-la Manila, Mandaluyong City. **THEME: "PCS Universal Access to Quality Surgery: Integrating Expertise, Innovation and Compassion".**

1.1. Dec. 7, 2026 Monday (Day 3) 10:00 – 11:00AM Sampaguita
1.2. Format: Lecture
1.3. Proposed Topic/Title:
   - How to properly review an article
   - Related on how to change our Instructions to Authors (ITA) with AI in publishing, what's acceptable and what's not acceptable

1.4. Possible Speakers: TBI

4.2. Changes of the Instructions to Authors and PJSS Manuscript template
- Need to adjust for the use of artificial intelligence
- To be inserted in the introduction before the ITA

The PJSS may use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to assist with copy-editing, proofreading, formatting, and other production tasks to speed workflows and improve consistency. AI services used run inference-only; they do not train on user inputs or retain data. Outputs from these AI tools are reviewed and edited by human staff and do not replace human editorial judgement. Authors may request that their manuscripts not be processed by AI; such opt-out are honored and documented.

- To be inserted in the ITA
  If the authors used an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-assisted technologies in the production of the manuscript, they should include a short description of its use here. Use the following as a template:
  "The authors used (AI tool, version, date of use) for (purpose and specific tasks performed) of the (extent of use and identifiable content produced by AI); all text was reviewed and approved by the authors, who are responsible for the final content."

- Authors can use AI specifically allowed for:
  ➢ To improve/refine language/correct grammar but not allowed to generate manuscript or images
  ➢ Not for data presentation

- To be inserted in Cover letter:

Disclose whether any artificial intelligence-assisted technologies (e.g,, large language models, chatbots, or image generators) were used in producing the manuscript. If used, authors should briefly describe which tools were used and exactly how they contributed (for example; drafting text, editing, figure generation, data analysis).

Board Action: Approved

II. FOR INFORMATION:

1. Committee composition:

Editor-in-Chief	Theodor S. Vesagas, MD
Co-Editor	Catherine S. Co, MD
Associate Editors	Ma. Luisa D. Aquino, MD
	Jose D. Quebral, MD
	Ma. Arlene C. Cala-or, MD
	Ricardo Jose T. Quintos II, MD
	Alfred Phillip O. de Dios, MD
	Gemma Leonora B. Uy, MD
	Ida MaRie T. Lim, MD
	Adrian E. Manapat, MD
	Kenneth E. Yabut, MD (VMMC) *new member*
Regent in charge	Rex A. Madrigal, MD

2. PJSS volume 81 number 1 was published on June 10, 2025

9.4.6. SUB-COMMITTEE ON BUILDING

FOR APPROVAL

1. Renewal of Lease Contracts

Approval is requested for the renewal of the lease contracts of the following tenants for a period of two (2) years, subject to the following rental escalation:

- 1st Year: 10%
- 2nd Year: 15%

Tenant	Area	CURRENT RATE	Net Amount 1st Year (10 %) 2027	Net Amount 2nd Year (15%) 2028
Neoderm, Inc.	27.40 sqm	31,142.14	34,256.36	39,394.81
Galinato & Enriquez Dental Clinic-Conference Room	29.30 sqm	27,646.79	30,411.47	34,973.19
Galinato & Enriquez Dental Clinic I-II	27.14 sqm	23,281.00	25,609.10	29,450.46
Galinato & Enriquez Dental Clinic III	53.75 sqm	41,914.48	46,105.93	53,021.82
Dentristree OPC 27062.42	27.14 sqm	22,365.64	24,322.87	27,062.42

Recommended Action:
Approve the renewal of the lease contracts of the above tenants under the proposed terms and rental escalation.

2. Comfort Room Design, Layout, and Piping Quotations

Recommended Action:

Approve the proposed comfort room design, layout, and the corresponding quotations, subject to the Board of Regents' final evaluation.

Supporting documents are attached for reference.

Sketch Work by Ms. Charlene Velondo

The Committee noted the previous architectural and interior design projects undertaken by **Ms. Charlene Velondo** for the PCS Building, as follows:

- **2025**
  - Building Corridors with WPC Accent Wall
  - Exterior Repainting (Knoxout)
  - 3rd Floor Meeting Room
  - Design and sketch work for the PCS Museum and Educational Center
- **2024**
  - PCS BLDG ROOF REPAIR
  - Repainting of the **PCS Building Exterior**
  - Interior design and sketch work for the **Ground Floor to 3rd Floor Meeting and Conference Rooms**
- **2023**
  - Interior design and sketch work for the 3rd Floor – PCSF and Commissions Office
  - Design and sketch work for the PICO Hub

The Committee recognized Ms. Velondo's familiarity with the PCS Building and her previous involvement in its renovation and improvement projects, which may be taken into consideration in future building enhancement initiatives.

3. Request for Reupholstery of Chairs

The Committee reviewed the request for the reupholstery of existing chairs.

After deliberation, the Committee recommends obtaining quotations for new chairs and comparing their costs with the proposed reupholstery before making a final decision.

Recommended Action:
Approve the conduct of price canvassing for new chairs and authorize the Committee to determine the most cost-effective option between purchasing new chairs and reupholstering the existing ones.

BOARD ACTION: Approved

9.5. Cluster E – Socio-economic Matters

9.5.1. COMMITTEE ON FAP

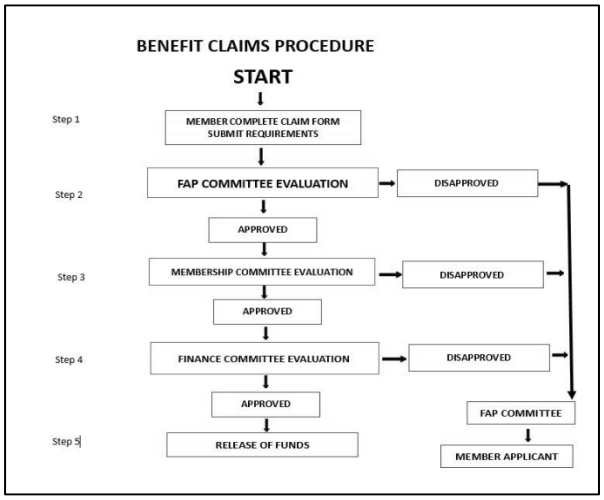
I. FOR APPROVAL

1. Final form of the **Fellows Assistance Plan Plus (FAP+) Manual**
   - Possible launch during the Foundation Dinner
   - Print a few copies for distribution during the launch

2. **Death Benefit of Dr. Cesar D. Chan, MD, FPCS**, former President of the **Cebu-Eastern Visayas Chapter** (1982–1983), a member of the Philippine College of Surgeons since **1975**, and a **General Surgeon** who retired from surgical practice in **2000**.
   - In arrears since 2021
   - Total arrears: P3,500.00
   - Committee recommendation:
     1. Php10,000 because of the arrears of 5 years
     2. Refund his total FAP contributions of Php23,000 for 41 years

3. Additional committee members:
   1. Dr Siegfried Yap
   2. Dr Marco Neri

4. Benefit claims process flow diagram



Board Actions:
1. **No Final Approval – For further review and finalization.**
2. **Approved – In consideration of the services rendered by Dr. Chan to the Philippine College of Surgeons, the Board approved the reimbursement of the FAP contribution, together with an additional Php10,000.00, instead of the full amount of Php50,000.00.**
3. **Approved.**
4. **Approved.**

II. FOR INFORMATION

FAP+ manual and forms to be included in the **PCS Mobile App**

9.5.2. COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AUDIT

FOR APPROVAL

1. Required documents for submission to the prospective Internal Auditor for the computation of the fees:
   a. Latest Audited Financial Statements
   b. Average number of transactions per month- billings, collections and disbursements
   c. Office Address
   d. Complete name and designation of the Addressee of the proposal

2. Non- Disclosure Agreement (NDA- with separate file) to be signed by the Internal Auditor (please read before BOR meeting this Saturday, July 18).

Board Action: Approved

9.5.3. COMMITTEE ON SOCIALS & SPORTS

I. FOR APPROVAL

A. ACC Fellowship Night

Date and Time: December 6, 2026 (Sunday), 7:00 PM
ACC Theme: PCS Universal Access to Quality Surgery: Integrating Expertise, Innovation, and Compassion

1.1 Proposed Fellowship Night Theme
1.1.1 "Innovators and Healers: Universal Rhythm"
1.1.2 " Surgical Soundcheck"

1.2 Proposed Entertainment Options

Option 1: Hire a Featured Entertainer
Proposed performers:
- True Faith
- Sitti
- Side A
- Jona Viray
- Other reputable local bands

Option 2: Battle of the Bands (show infographic)
- Participating bands will represent the surgical societies.
- Complete contest mechanics will be presented separately.
- Proposed judges:
  o Three professional musicians or
  o Three members of the Board of Regents

1.3 Raffle Budget
Approved raffle budget:

Board Action Subject: Battle of the Bands – Entry Limit and Prize Allocation

The Board hereby resolves the following:

1. **Entry Limitation**
o The Battle of the Bands competition shall be limited to a maximum of eight (8) band entries.



2. Prize Allocation

II. FOR INFORMATION

1. Camaraderie Golf 2026 (Dr P Olalia)

Date: September 2, 2026 (Wednesday)
Venue: Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course
- Tournament format: **Shamble**
- Registration fee: **Php3,000 per player**
- Funding source: Approved 2026 budget of the **Committee on External Affairs and Public Relations**
- Everything is a GO. Minor finishing touches

Board Action: Approved

2. Pickleball Tournament (Dr F Syfu)

Date and Time: September 3, 2026 (Thursday), 2:00 PM
Venue: Unilab High Court, Mandaluyong City

3. Swing for a Cause 2026 (Dr P Olalia)

Date: December 4, 2026 (Friday)
Venue: The Royal Northwoods Golf and Residential Estates, San Rafael, Bulacan

- Proposed budget submitted
- Discussions with Sun Pharma as a possible co-presenter are ongoing.
- Commitment almost 100%
- Sponsorship arrangements are currently being finalized.

9.5.4. COMMITTEE ON HSA

FOR INFORMATION

1. Ambulatory Surgery Guidelines

- Though this was put on hold, we will be awaiting possible new developments with the appointment of a new DOH Secretary. There will be a meeting with PhilHealth on July 23, 2026 at 9:00 AM for us to give insights and expert recommendations regarding procedures performed in ambulatory surgical clinics.

2. Surgical AI Guidelines

- Following the approval of the Board of Regents, an Ad-Hoc Committee will be created to formulate the Surgical Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidelines, possible representations from: CHSA, PSQA, Ethics Committee, Research Committee.

3. Operating Room Standards

- Approved by the BOR and to go ahead and communicate with Committee on Surgical Infection (Lead committee for 2020 Operating Room Standards)

4. PCS – PhilHealth (PHIC) MOA

- Approved by the BOR to create TWG for the creation of IRR.
- TWG representatives: PCS BOR; PSQA; CHSA; HMO/ RVS Comm
- Suggestion was made by RIC Dr. G. Legaspi to include already other specialty organizations that we decided to initially work with on a generic framework within PCS and once this is firmed up, to involve the other Specialty Societies.

5. Participation in the PCS 2026 Annual Clinical Congress

- Following the approval of the Board of Regents, preparations will proceed for the presentation of the Framework and IRR of the PCS–PhilHealth Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) during the PCS 2026 Annual Clinical Congress. PCS Chapter and Subspecialty representatives will be invited. Panelists to follow.

10. Other Matters

10.1. PSPS – Financial Support Php. 200,000.00 - **Approved**

10.2. DOST – The National Journal Selection Committee (NJSC)

10.3. DOH – Letter to Dr. Jose Brittanio "Brix" S. Pujalte Jr., – **Approved / Done sending**

10.4. Scheduling of Convention & Conferences-Coordination should be done to make sure thee will be no overlapping of activities

10.5. Scheduling of International Conferences-Invitations will be shared for interested parties

10.6. Review the status of Philippine Journals indexed in the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus (WPRIM)

10.7. Termination of Contract with Prizer on LMS- **Approved**

10.8. AWSP – Block Screening Ticket (Spiderman: Brand New Day) August 1, 2026 at SM Megamall Cinema 4, Time: 3:50 PM

10.9. Admin Concerns

10.9.1. New Committee Assignments to PCS Secretaries

10.9.2. Regents consent for Nomination

11. Next Meeting

11.1. August 15, 2026 Saturday
Time: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Venue: 3rd Floor PCS Bldg., GT Singian

12. Adjournment 4:17PM

Philippine College of Surgeons Foundation, Inc.

Commit to donate and help ensure the improvement and delivery of quality surgical health care to the Filipino patient. Proceeds will be used to sustain the operations of the following PCS programs:

- Surgery for Underserved Regions for Education (S.U.R.E.) Commission
- Trauma, Injury and Burn Care Commission (T.I.B.C.C.)
- Cancer Commission (CANCOM)
- Research and Continuing Surgical Education (CSE) initiatives through PCS Chapters and Specialty Societies
- International Fellowship Program

JOIN THE GT SINGIAN HONOR SOCIETY TODAY!

Donate-for-a-Cause

Donors shall receive a special recognition from the PCS

For further details, contact:
Phone: 89274973; 89292379; 29281083
e-mail: **pcsfsecretariat@pcs.org.ph**

Your donation is tax-deductible

PCS Celebrates 90 Years of Service, Fellowship, and Excellence

The Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) marks a significant milestone in 2026 by celebrating its **90th Foundation Anniversary** with a series of meaningful activities from **September 1 to 12, 2026**. Under the leadership of the PCS president, **Dr. Joselito M. Mendoza** and ably supported by the Board of Regents, the College has included activities that embody a holistic and inviting group. Reflecting the College's enduring commitment to service, camaraderie, wellness, environmental responsibility, and professional fellowship, the celebration brings together surgeons, trainees, partners, and communities in commemorating nine decades of advancing surgery in the Philippines.

The celebration begins on September 1 with the National Surgical Outreach Program, underscoring one of the College's most important missions: bringing surgical care and expertise closer to communities in need. It has been the mission of the College to provide quality, safe surgery to underserved Filipinos. Participation in this activity is not limited to accredited surgery training programs; it has also been extended to all surgical specialties and government and private hospitals interested in this worthy endeavor.

The succeeding days celebrate fellowship and wellness through a diverse range of activities. These include traditional activities like the Camaraderie Golf Tournament at Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course and the PCS Fun Shoot at Batangueno Gatilleros Firing Range & Resort in Lipa, Batangas. New activities that encourage every fellow to join include the Pickleball Tournament, scuba diving and environmental awareness and cleanup in Anilao, Batangas, and mountain climbing and trekking. Together, these activities provide opportunities for PCS Fellows and colleagues to strengthen friendships beyond the operating room while promoting active and healthy lifestyles.

The celebration also provides moments for reflection and service. A Healing Mass for the "Healers" will be held at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center Ecumenical Chapel. Community-centered activities on September 9 include nutrition lectures and a feeding program, simultaneous tree planting, and the symbolic release of 90 doves, representing the College's 90 years and its continuing aspirations for service, hope, and unity.

Highlighting the talents and spirit of the next generation of surgeons, the very successful launch last year of this program will be repeated with the PCS Residents and Fellows in Training Got Talent, Season 2, on September 10. The following day, the College returns with its advocacy for community health through the National Stop the Bleed and Blood Letting Activity with the Philippine Red Cross. It will be conducted simultaneously all over the archipelago.

The nearly two-week celebration culminates on September 12, 2026, with the PCS 90th Anniversary Gala Foundation Dinner at the Marquee Tent, EDSA Shangri-La. It is a fitting conclusion to celebrate and honor the people, individual and group achievements and surgical excellence. It upholds traditions, and shared values that have shaped the Philippine College of Surgeons through nine remarkable decades.

At 90, the Philippine College of Surgeons celebrates not only its distinguished past, but also the fellowship that sustains it, the communities it serves, and the generations of Filipino surgeons who will carry its legacy forward.

The 52nd PCS Midyear Convention

• Helen B. Amo, MD •

The recently concluded 52nd Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) Midyear Convention, hosted by the Central Luzon Chapter, headed by Dr. Jose Emiliano T. Gatchalian, in partnership with the Philippine Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (PAPRAS), was a resounding success. Held at the SMX Convention Center in Clark, Pampanga, the convention brought together surgeons, fellows, residents, healthcare professionals, and their families for a celebration of surgical excellence, wellness, camaraderie, and lifelong learning. Despite the limited time for preparation, the Central Luzon Chapter delivered a memorable convention that reflected the dedication, resourcefulness, and collective spirit of the surgical community.

Pre-Congress Activities: Beyond the Operating Room

This year's pre-congress activities offered something for everyone. More than simply setting the stage for the scientific program, these activities provided opportunities for members of the College to step away from the operating room, reconnect with colleagues, build new friendships, and celebrate the importance of health and well-being.

Pickleball: Precision Beyond the Operating Room

Fast becoming one of the country's favorite sports, pickleball brought surgeons together in a spirited display of teamwork, strategy, agility, and friendly competition. Much like surgery, pickleball demands precision, anticipation, adaptability, and focus. More importantly, the tournament provided a relaxed environment where colleagues from across the country was able to compete, laugh, and enjoy each other's company. It was a reminder that while precision is essential in the operating room, it can also be a source of fun and camaraderie beyond it.

The Food Crawl: Sharing Stories One Plate at a Time

Pampanga, widely celebrated as the culinary capital of the Philippines, provided the perfect



setting for the Food Crawl. Participants were treated to an unforgettable journey through local flavors and culinary traditions, but the experience was about much more than food. Around every table were stories, laughter, memories, and conversations that went beyond surgery. The Food Crawl created a space where colleagues exchanged experiences, strengthened friendships, and simply enjoyed being together. After all, some of the most meaningful professional relationships are built not in conference halls, but around a dining table.

Golf: Where Friendships Are Built Fairway by Fairway

The annual PCS Golf Tournament remained one of the most anticipated pre-convention activities. Golf, much like surgery, requires discipline, patience, concentration, consistency, and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances. Beyond the competition, the tournament provided a valuable opportunity for mentorship, networking, and fellowship. Every round offered a chance to reconnect with old friends, meet new colleagues, and strengthen relationships within the College. Every swing was more than a shot—it was another opportunity to build friendships, share stories, and welcome new members into the PCS family.

Sikad: Moving Forward Together

Health begins with ourselves. The Sikad Cycling Ride encouraged PCS members to embrace an active and healthy lifestyle while enjoying the outdoors with colleagues, friends, and family. More than a cycling event, Sikad symbolized movement, progress, and unity. As participants rode together, the activity reflected the shared journey of surgeons: continuously moving forward through lifelong learning, professional growth, and unwavering commitment to patient care. Together, we pedal forward. Together, we move the profession forward.

Scientific Forum: Precision Care in Surgery

At the heart of the convention was the Scientific Forum, which gathered 1,242 surgeons and healthcare professionals from across the country under the theme: "Precision Care in Surgery by Cultivating Leadership and Competence." Over two and a half days, participants engaged in scientific lectures, panel discussions, workshops, and interdisciplinary exchanges focused on evidence-based surgery, innovation, leadership, competence, and collaboration across surgical specialties. The program successfully highlighted the importance of combining technical excellence with sound judgment, effective leadership, continuous learning, and multidisciplinary collaboration. These are essential elements of precision care and are critical to improving outcomes for our patients. The high level of participation from both speakers and delegates was evident throughout the scientific sessions. Meaningful exchanges during the open forums encouraged discussion, challenged perspectives, and fostered a culture of learning and collaboration. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from delegates and invited experts, both local and international, reflected the relevance and quality of the program.

The Scientific Forum therefore represented another important milestone in the PCS's continuing commitment to professional development, surgical education, and better healthcare outcomes for Filipino patients.

Fellowship Beyond the Conference Halls

Yet, beyond the lectures, workshops, and scientific discussions, the PCS has always recognized that some of the strongest professional relationships are forged outside the conference halls. The much-anticipated Fellowship Night, with its exciting "Top Gun" theme, brought everyone together for an evening of celebration, laughter, music, and camaraderie. It was an opportunity for surgeons to set aside their professional roles for a while, celebrate shared accomplishments, and enjoy the fellowship that makes the PCS community truly special.

A Celebration of the PCS Spirit

The success of the 52nd PCS Midyear Convention was a testament to the dedication and collective effort of the Central Luzon Chapter, its partners, the organizing committees, faculty, delegates, volunteers, and everyone who contributed to making the event possible. More than a convention, it was a celebration of what makes the Philippine College of Surgeons strong: our commitment to excellence, our passion for learning, our dedication to our patients, and our willingness to support and learn from one another. The friendships strengthened through the pre-convention activities, the insights gained during the scientific forum, and the fellowship shared throughout the gathering all contributed to a stronger and more connected College. Ultimately, the strength of the Philippine College of Surgeons is measured not only by the knowledge we share, the skills we develop, or the advances we bring to surgical practice, but by the fellowship we cultivate, and the patients we serve.

Together, we learn. Together, we lead. Together, we move surgery forward.

Beyond the Scalpel: Surgeons as Architects of the Philippine National Cancer Grid

• Catherine SC Teh, MD, MSc, FPCS, FRCSED, FACS(Hon), ESA(Hon), G.CIEHF •
for the PCS Cancer Commission

The Philippine National Cancer Summit (PNCS) 2026 did not simply convene—it clarified a mandate. Under the theme "**Scaling Up What Matters Most**," the summit marked the launch of the Philippine National Cancer Grid Initiative, a long-overdue systems response to a fragmented oncology landscape.

But beyond policy and proclamation, it delivered something more urgent: a reframing of the surgeon's role. We are no longer defined solely by what we do inside the operating room; we are being called to shape what happens before, around, and beyond it.

The Surgical Mandate: 300 Lives a Day

The numbers are stark. Cancer remains the second leading cause of death in the Philippines, claiming more than 300 lives each day. Behind this statistic is a pattern we know too well: patients presenting late, pathways delayed, and care fragmented.

These are not failures of skill; they are failures of systems.

Dr. Catherine SC Teh (FPCS), Chairperson of the PCS Cancer Commission, addressed this head-on:

> *"Every year, 1.5 million families are pushed into poverty due to healthcare expenditures. We have skilled clinicians and strong intent, but the burden of integrating care is currently placed on the sick patient rather than the system. 'Scaling up what matters most' is person-centered care—building care around the person, not expecting the person to navigate the system!"*

This is the inflection point. Surgery remains central—especially in a country where the majority of cancers are solid tumors—but excellence in technique alone will not bend the curve. **Integration will**.

Precision Surgery: The Cancer Genetics Workshop

If the summit defined the mandate, the Cancer Genetics Workshop defined the shift. Held as a post-summit deep dive on February 21, it challenged a long-held surgical reflex: the idea that disease declares itself only when it is visible, palpable, or resectable.

That is no longer true.

Recognizing that the modern surgeon must be a master of biology as much as anatomy, the summit momentum extended into a specialized post-summit Cancer Genetics Workshop held on February 21.

This was not merely an academic exercise—it was a recalibration of the surgeon's role in the era of precision oncology.

Dr. Rhoel de Leon (FPCS), Immediate Past President of the PCS, underscored a critical truth that reframes how we understand cancer:

> *"Although not all cancers are hereditary, all cancers are genetic. Cancer is driven by mutations in DNA that dictate cellular behavior. Understanding this allows us to move beyond treating disease to truly personalizing care."*

The workshop challenged Fellows to move beyond the traditional paradigm of reactive surgery. It positioned genetics not as an adjunct, but as a foundational layer in decision-making—guiding risk assessment, tailoring treatment, and identifying opportunities for prevention.



Here, surgery evolves from **excision to anticipation**.

This is where surgery begins to change.

Not at the incision- but at insight.

The workshop positioned genetics as a core competency, not a subspecialty interest. It calls on surgeons to recognize patterns of risk, integrate molecular profiling into decision-making, and collaborate upstream with geneticists and oncologists.

Dr. Catherine SC Teh (FPCS) captured this shift with clarity:

> *"The future of surgery is not defined by how well we remove disease, but by how deeply we understand it. Genetics allows us to see what the scalpel cannot—risk before it manifests, biology before it declares itself, and opportunity before it is lost."*

By integrating genetic counseling, hereditary risk profiling, and molecular diagnostics into surgical pathways, the workshop signaled a turning point. Surgeons are no longer the end-point of care—they are becoming its architects, shaping trajectories long before the first incision.

This is precision surgery—where knowledge precedes action, and foresight becomes intervention.

Leadership from the College and the Bureaucracy

What made PNCS 2026 different was alignment—not just within the College, but across governance, policy, and implementation.

Hon. Teodoro J. Herbosa (FPCS), Secretary of Health, set a national direction: "As surgeons, we know that timing is everything. Our goal is to increase screening, diagnosis, and treatment by 50% by 2028. We must ensure that the surgical capability of our government hospitals is integrated into a grid that provides rapid, high-quality care to even the most remote Filipino."

Dr. Joselito M. Mendoza (FPCS), President of the PCS, added: "Our commitment is to ensure that surgical excellence is accessible to every Filipino. We are not just operators; we are the anchors of a multidisciplinary team that must speak with one voice."

Dr. Alfonso Nuñez III (FPCS), Executive Director of the Philippine Cancer Center, noted: "The development of the Philippine Cancer Center and the National Cancer Grid is our way of ensuring that the highest standards of oncology are distributed, reaching every region with equity and precision."

Dr. Vivencio Jose "Juvie" Villaflor III (FPCS), Director of the PCS Cancer Commission Foundation, grounded the vision in accountability: "Our work does not end when the summit closes. We must ensure that our interventions are not only clinically sound but also socially responsible, ensuring that the financial and emotional burden on our patients is minimized through better system integration."

This convergence is rare.

It must not be wasted.

A Call to Action

Cancer care is no longer just a clinical challenge. According to **Lilian M. De Leon, Assistant Secretary for International Relations (DILG)**, the fight against cancer is a "governance and social equity issue." Surgeons sit at its center.

We see the consequences of delay. We understand the urgency of time. We hold the trust of patients at their most vulnerable. That position carries a profound responsibility.

The Philippine National Cancer Grid is not just a framework—it is an invitation to:

- Lead integration.
- Champion person-centered care.
- Bridge biology, technology, and humanity.

Because in the end, what we scale is not just systems.

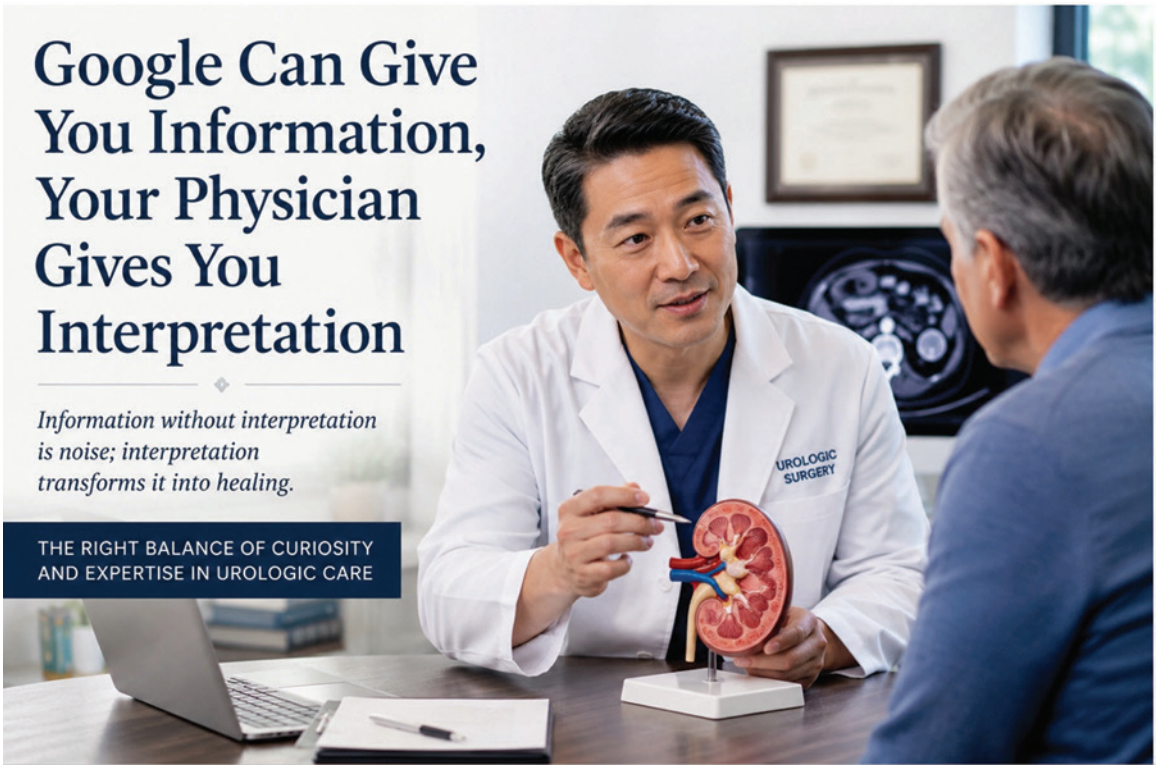
It is dignity. It is access.

It is life.

Together, as a College, we will scale what matters most: the life and dignity of the Filipino patient.

For more information, contact PCS CanCom Foundation Secretariat at +639177007500 or send email inquiries to secretariat@pcscancom.org or pncs2026@gmail.com or visit https://cancersummit.pcscancom.org/ https://www.pcscancom.org/





The Search for Answers: Why Physicians Matter More Than Ever

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

In reflecting on how patients use Google Search in the context of urology, I often think of a man who came to me convinced he had advanced prostate cancer. He had typed "difficulty urinating" and "lower back pain" into the search bar, and the results led him down a frightening rabbit hole. By the time he arrived in my clinic, he was already imagining long term hormonal and radiation therapy, terminal illness, and the worst possible outcome.

What Google had provided was information. What it lacked was interpretation. His symptoms, though concerning, were ultimately explained by benign prostatic hyperplasia—a condition requiring careful management, but not the dire interventions he feared. That encounter reminded me of the delicate balance between online information and physician expertise. Google can spark awareness, but it cannot replace the nuanced, individualized analysis that comes from years of clinical training and experience.

I have also witnessed the opposite: patients who use Google responsibly, arriving informed yet open-minded. One woman with a small renal mass had extensively researched minimally invasive nephron-sparing surgery. She asked whether "clampless, sutureless tumor enucleation" might be appropriate for her case. Her research was accurate, but incomplete. The decision depended on multiple factors—tumor size, location, vascular anatomy, and baseline kidney function. Together, we reviewed her imaging and discussed the risks and benefits. Her use of Google empowered her to ask meaningful questions, but it was surgical judgment and individualized application of principles that ensured her treatment was both safe and effective.

These experiences illustrate the limitations of online information. Google can list possible diagnoses, but it cannot weigh probabilities. It cannot integrate laboratory data, imaging findings, comorbidities, and patient history into a coherent clinical narrative. It cannot improvise in the operating room when unexpected anatomical variations arise. That remains the domain of physicians, whose lengthy training and skills acquisition prepare them for complexity and uncertainty.

In kidney cancer surgery, for example, the decision to perform partial nephrectomy versus radical nephrectomy is rarely straightforward. Guidelines provide structure, but not absolute answers. The surgeon must determine whether nephron-sparing is technically feasible, whether ischemia can be minimized, and whether the patient's overall condition permits safe recovery. These decisions are shaped not only by evidence, but by thousands of hours of operative experience and clinical judgment—elements no search engine can replicate.

I remember vividly a patient with chronic kidney disease who feared losing his remaining renal function. He had read online about "zero-ischemia" techniques and asked whether they were possible in his case. His question was insightful, but the answer required far more than a simple yes or no. It demanded careful clinical analysis, balancing innovation with safety. In his case, a clampless enucleation was indeed feasible and ultimately preserved his kidney function. The joy on his face after surgery was a testament not only to surgical innovation, but also to the importance of individualized decision-making. Google had given him hope; physician expertise transformed that hope into healing.

Prostate cancer offers another example. Patients frequently arrive having read about PSA levels, biopsy techniques, mpMRI findings, PIRADS scoring system and robotic surgery. Some become convinced they require immediate radical prostatectomy, while others fear overtreatment. The truth often lies in careful risk stratification—evaluating Gleason score, disease stage, life expectancy, and patient preferences. I recall one patient who insisted on surgery after reading alarming statistics online. Yet after thorough analysis, we determined that active surveillance was the safest and most appropriate option for his low-risk disease. Years later, he thanked me for sparing him an unnecessary intervention. His case underscored the importance of respecting physician judgment, even when online information suggests otherwise.

These reflections lead me to a simple conclusion: Google is a powerful tool for patient education, but it must exist in harmony with physician expertise. Patients should embrace the accessibility of information while recognizing its limitations. They should prepare thoughtful questions, seek reputable sources, and approach consultations with curiosity rather than certainty. Physicians, in turn, should welcome patient engagement and guide it toward accurate understanding and appropriate management.

Ultimately, the healthiest approach is not "Google versus physician," but "Google with physician guidance." Patients who combine online curiosity with professional medical judgment benefit from both empowerment and safety. They enter consultations informed yet open, prepared yet receptive. Physicians contribute decades of training, analytical reasoning, technical expertise, and human judgment that no algorithm can fully reproduce. Together, patients and physicians transform information into insight, and insight into healing.

I often tell my patients: Google can give you information, but your physician gives you interpretation. Information without interpretation is noise; interpretation transforms it into knowledge. And knowledge, when applied with skill, experience, and compassion, becomes healing. That is the balance we must strive for in the digital age—where curiosity meets expertise, and where the wisdom of the physician ensures that every patient's journey through kidney cancer, prostate cancer, or any illness is guided not merely by information, but by individualized care.

The Cutting Edge

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



What does it truly mean to be a cut above the rest?

It is a question that quietly defines the soul of every craftsman, every artist and every professional who devotes their life to mastery. Whether one is a gemologist, a basket weaver, a horologist, a mechanic or most especially a surgeon like us, excellence is born from an unwavering commitment to detail, the willingness to labor over the smallest intricacies because we understand that greatness is never accidental.

I vividly remember once writing about horology and its parallelism to the life of a surgeon. The delicate mechanisms of a watch mirror the rhythm of our own lives: every cog, every spring and every movement dependent on timing, precision and harmony. In much the same way, we move through each day balancing pressure, responsibility and the relentless demand for exactness. One small miscalculation can alter the entire outcome.

Recently, I came across the story of a lapidary artist, a craftsman who, early in life, experimented with carving geometric patterns guided by sound and mathematical precision. From rough, unremarkable stones emerged breathtaking gems, each one transformed through patience, discipline and vision. I could not help but see ourselves in that process.

As surgeons, we work with our hands much in the same way. Every motion must be deliberate, balanced and deeply intuitive. Through skill and hand-eye coordination, we attempt what once seemed impossible. Each procedure is a sequence of carefully connected stages where every step prepares the next. Today, even with the advancement of robotics and technology assisting our craft, the truth remains unchanged: one wrong move, one overlooked detail can compromise everything that follows.

To strive relentlessly toward what we can become, and what we can give, should be a lifelong obsession for all professionals. There is something profoundly human in dedicating ourselves to excellence. What we create with our hands is more than work; it is a reflection of love, discipline, sacrifice and purpose. Vision alone is never enough. It must be matched with pragmatism, perseverance and humility.

And perhaps our greatest responsibility is not merely the surgeries we perform today, but the standards and traditions we leave behind for those who will follow after us. Our trainees will inherit not only our techniques, but also our values, our discipline and our reverence for the craft.

I said this before and i will say it again. Let us make every decision stand and each stitch matter.

Let us make every thread we use to close a patient's wound carry meaning beyond the procedure itself. Let those sutures become symbols of healing, hope and renewal. This devotion will define us far beyond ourselves.

What else should we call them but the Threads of Transformation?

*Dr. Heborsa is Chief, Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery, Makati Medical Center and Member, Medical Advisory Council, Smile Asia.

Beyond Scalpels and Stethoscopes

• Alyza Taguilaso, MD* •

Originally published in Journalixm (https://journalixm.com/2024/05/31/beyond-scalpels-and-stethoscopes)

My late grandmother Pearla was a doctor. I remember weekends visiting her clinic in Makati – cream white walls with a single painting, plain and unassuming furniture. The reception and waiting area a wide, well-lit space with magazines, the lab and radiology room smaller and darker, and my lola's clinic – cold enough as one imagines doctor's offices back in the 90's.

She trained as an obstetrician-gynecologist and eventually limited her clinic time to office hours, enough time to tell me stories of diwatas, tikbalangs, and giants of all sorts at night. Fast forward decades later, I am now a resident doctor in General Surgery undergoing my nth year of training. The widest room I've seen was the lobby of a private hospital. Our operating room theatres are temperate at best, if the aircon were functioning during the time of your procedure. The hours run short at 24 and long at anything beyond that. Longer if you have a backlog case due to multiple factors (no relatives, no materials, broken anesthesia machine, no slot available in the operating theater, etc). It varies per institution.

Later on, my lola would tell me that she had cancer. Not just any cancer, but a type of lymphoma that rose up from the immunosuppressive drugs she had to take to keep her transplanted kidney alive. It has been sixteen years since her death and I still cannot bring myself to review her records. Losing a loved one is funny. It breaks you up and still you remain, while the person you love is no longer there.

I started writing poetry as a means to cope with the sadness of losing my late lola. It was understandably horrible at first, like any child's first drafts. Then I started reading – initially Keats (piqued after watching Bright Star), then Rosetti and Yeats. I took an elective class on writing poetry under Larry Ypil in my last year of college (the lone Bio major in the room) and from there I learned about Louise Gluck, Robert Hass, Li-Young Lee, and even the poetry of Yoko Ono.

I had read that to be a good writer one needed to read, and so that I did. Being a science major obsessed with to-do lists made it easier for me to meet deadlines. By my first year of med school, I had participated in three national writing workshops. I treated each of these workshops as vacations from the doctorly life. Each time I'd get back, my med school friends were always keen to hear stories of what exactly writers did during these workshops.

Again and again I go back to the idea of pursuing creativity not through inspiration, but through discipline. I've found that it's a function less of talent, and more of the effort one places in pursuit of. As with maintenance medications, creativity, requires a consistent dosage and enough discipline in order to thrive in its potency.

The same things I use in my surgical training, I use in my writing practice. To write, I read a slew of works to get me started – these can be poems, articles, or whatever gets my mind at ease. At the start of every month, I list down deadlines for journals that interest me. I work around this with the deadlines required in my general surgery training curriculum (exams, conferences, and presentations). These are listed both in my laptop and in a notebook – I tend to forget which works I send out to where, hence the list. I also keep an updated list of which poems are unpublished and could still be sent out, and I rank them via different highlighter colors. It's the same way I study for my exams – I use seven different highlighters and each color indicates definition, treatment, contraindication/side effect, etc. The devil is in the details.

Community is also a big factor in keeping the pace – I have groups of people whom I write with and

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The Steel Surgeon and the Bamboo Cradle

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

In the gleaming operating theaters of Manila's most advanced private hospitals, a surgeon sits in a console, fingers manipulating joysticks that control robotic arms with micron-level precision. The da Vinci surgical system—worth upwards of Php150 million—translates his hand movements into delicate dissections, promising shorter hospital stays, fewer complications, and scars no larger than a fingernail. This is the frontier of medicine. This is progress.

Twenty kilometers away, in a rural health unit in Quezon province, a midwife holds a flashlight over a rusty cot. The health center has run out of amoxicillin for the third week in a row. A mother in labor has been waiting for an ambulance that runs on a single tank of fuel rationed for emergencies only. There is no surgeon here—robotic or otherwise. There is barely a doctor.

This is the paradox of robotic surgery in a country like the Philippines. We stand at a crossroads where the dazzling promise of high-technology medicine collides with the brutal reality of primary health care failure. The question is not whether robotic surgery is impressive. The question is: In a nation where millions still die from treatable infections and preventable childbirth complications, where does one draw the line between actual progress and real concern for health care delivery?

The Allure of the Machine

Robotic surgery has undeniable merit. For complex urologic, gynecologic, and colorectal procedures, it offers visualization and precision that open surgery cannot match. For the wealthy patient or the well-insured, it means returning to work in days instead of weeks. For the surgeon, it means less physical strain and longer careers.

But in the Philippine context, the adoption of robotic surgery is often driven less by evidence-based need and more by hospital branding, medical tourism aspirations, and the natural human fascination with new tools. When a tertiary hospital acquires a robotic system, it announces itself as "world-class." The press

releases write themselves. Donors and investors take notice.

Yet the operational costs are staggering: the initial purchase, the annual service contracts (often exceeding Php15 million), the single-use instruments that cost Php50,000 to Php100,000 per procedure, and the specialized training for surgeons and staff. These costs are almost never subsidized by universal health coverage. They are passed on to patients or absorbed only by elite institutions.

The Other Waiting List

Meanwhile, the real surgical backlog in the Philippines is not robotic—it is basic. According to the Department of Health, thousands of Filipinos with cleft lips, hernias, goiters, and obstructed labor wait years for conventional surgery simply because there are no operating rooms, no anesthesia machines, or no surgeons within reach. For every one robotic prostatectomy performed in Makati, a hundred mothers in Mindanao give birth without access to emergency caesarean sections.

The indigent population—more than a quarter of the country—does not lack access to robotic surgery. They lack access to a stitch. They lack access to a blood pressure monitor. They lack access to a health card that doesn't get refused.

And here lies the deepest ethical wound: health care resources are finite. The Php150 million spent on a single robotic system could have funded twenty rural birthing centers, each capable of saving hundreds of lives annually. It could have purchased thousands of ventilators for provincial hospitals that still share pulse oximeters between wards. It could have trained one hundred barangay health workers for a decade.

Where is the Line?

Does that mean robotic surgery is unethical? No. Progress is not inherently zero-sum. But the Philippines is not walking and chewing gum—it is limping.

The real concern is not the existence of robotic surgery but the distribution of health investment. When a public hospital—funded by taxpayers, including the poorest—allocates scarce capital to a robotic system while its emergency room lacks oxygen lines or working defibrillators, that is not progress. That is theater.

The line is drawn by one question: Does this technology lift the floor, or only raise the ceiling?

If robotic surgery is deployed where primary care is already strong—where every Filipino can see a doctor, access basic surgery, and receive antibiotics—then it represents vertical advancement. But if it is introduced while a child with appendicitis in Samar still dies because no surgeon can reach her in time, then the robot is not a symbol of progress. It is a monument to unequal care.

A Compassionate Way Forward

There is a middle path. Robotic surgery need not be banned, but its adoption must be tied to equity. For example: a hospital acquiring a robotic system should first meet primary care benchmarks—zero maternal deaths from delayed referral, fully stocked essential medicines, functioning ambulance networks. Or a portion of every robotic surgery fee could subsidize rural surgical missions.

Above all, the country must resist technological solutionism. A robotic arm cannot vaccinate a child. It cannot treat tuberculosis. It cannot perform a hernia repair on a remote island. These things are less glamorous, but they are the bedrock of any health system.

The line, finally, is drawn by remembering who health care is for. Not for medical journal accolades. Not for the convenience of the rich. But for the young mother needing a safe delivery, the farmer with a strangulated hernia, the child with a fever that will not break.

Robotic surgery is a tool. It is not a strategy. In a nation where even basic care remains a luxury for so many, the truest progress is not acquiring the steel surgeon—but finally tending to the bamboo cradle that holds the majority of Filipino lives. Until that day, every robotic arm bought without securing the basics is a measure of our failure, not our advancement.

Busy quarter for CEV chapter

As we move through the middle of 2026, the PCS – CEV Chapter remains steadfast in our twin mission of advancing surgical excellence, strengthening fellowship, and bringing quality care closer to our communities. This edition of Incisions highlights our recent work and the activities lined up in the coming months.

Community Service in Action: Operation Tuli 2026

Our first major activity for this period brought together chapter fellows, resident physicians, nurses, medical students, allied health volunteers, and uniformed personnel for a successful free OperationTulimission.

Young beneficiaries arrived early with their families, patiently waiting in the line as our team completed registration and pre-procedure health screenings. Once cleared, every child received safe, sterile circumcision procedures performed by our skilled surgeons, supported by trained nursing staff and volunteers. The venue was systematically organized, with strict infection control measures observed at all times. Our team also took time to comfort the children, ensuring they felt safe throughout the activity.

After the procedures, we provided clear post-operative care instructions and free medications to all beneficiaries, to help ensure proper healing and recovery. This meaningful mission was made possible through the generosity of our host institution USJ-R, Basak Campus, and the unwavering dedication of every volunteer who shared their time, skill, and compassion to serve those in need.



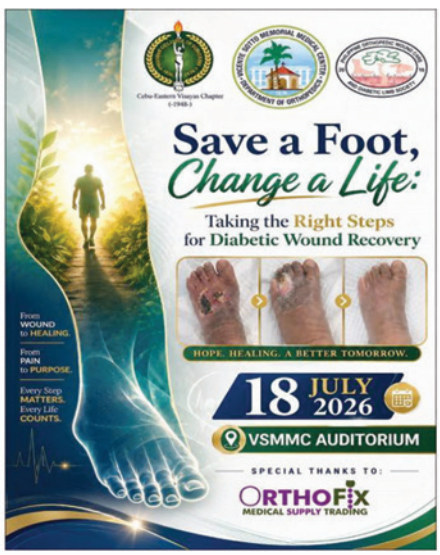
May 17, 2026 | University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R), Basak Campus, Cebu City

Health Advocacy & Education: Savea Foot, Change a Life: Taking the Right Steps for Diabetic Wound Recovery | July 18, 2026 | Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (VSMMC) – Auditorium

Continuing our commitment to specialized care and public health education, PCS – CEVC partnered with the VSMMC Department of Orthopedics and the Philippine Orthopedic Wound Care and Diabetic Limb Society for the program : "Save a Foot, Change a Life: Taking the Right Steps for Diabetic Wound Recovery."

This collaborative activity gathered surgeons, orthopedic specialists, primary care physicians, nurses, and allied health workers for lectures, care reviews, and practical demonstrations focused on early detection, proper wound care, and prevention of diabetic foot complications. The program aimed to equip healthcare providers with better tools and knowledge to reduce avoidable amputations and improve outcomes for persons living with diabetes.

This event was well-attended, fostering meaningful exchange of expertise and reinforcing the value of working together toward better patient care in our region.







Trauma Hemorrhage Workshop: Control the Bleed. Save Lives

Conducted in partnership with PSGS - CEVC, CAASE, and PSST, this hands-on workshop focused on life-saving techniques to manage severe bleeding in trauma cases, equipping participants with critical skills for emergency care.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all officers, members, partner organizations, and volunteers who made these activities successful. Your dedication to service and professional excellence continues to drive our chapter forward.

What's Ahead

These activities are just part of our chapter's ongoing work for this period. In the coming weeks, we will proceed with:

- Continuing medical education sessions for our members
- Additional surgical and medical outreach programs across the region
- Preparation for the upcoming PCS Foundation Week, CMS Medicine Week, Pink October and Election of Officers for 2027
- Regular chapter meetings to plan future initiatives We invite all PCS – CEVC fellows and members to take part in our activities, and we welcome partners and volunteers who wish to support our advocacies.



June 2026 Board Meeting

PCS-Cordillera Chapter

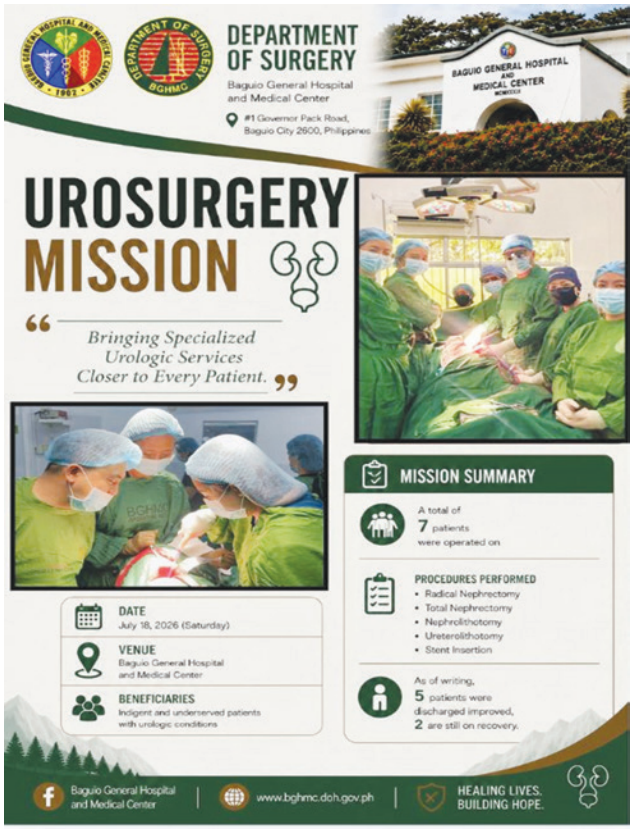
Urosurgery Mission in Baguio City

BAGUIO CITY--On July 18, 2026, the Department of Surgery, Urology section, conducted a Urology Mission at Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC), bringing together specialists and surgical trainees in a shared commitment to providing quality urologic care to patients.

The mission was led by Dr. Carlos Dumlao II and Dr. Percival Yang-ed, with the active participation of the General Surgery residents. A total of seven (7) patients underwent surgical management during the mission. The procedures performed encompassed a wide range of urologic operations, including radical nephrectomy, total nephrectomy, nephrolithotomy, ureterolithotomy, and ureteral stent insertion, reflecting the breadth and complexity of cases managed by the team.

As of this writing, five (5) patients have been discharged in improved condition, while two (2) patients remain admitted and are recovering well under close postoperative care. These favorable outcomes underscore the success of the mission and the dedication of the multidisciplinary team in ensuring safe and effective patient care.

The activity highlighted the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration, service, and surgical education while reinforcing Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center's commitment to providing compassionate, high-quality, and patient-centered healthcare to the community.



Beyond Scalpels and Stethoscopes... from page 58

who give me recommendations on which new works to read. I am also lucky that my bosses at work are open minded enough to let me pursue writing and attend certain book launches or open mics, despite the weight of training. People will ask "Where do you find the time?" Sometimes when there isn't as many consults during duty, I find the time to write.

Really, it's less of finding time but instead, making time. I always tell aspiring doctors (eyes still gleaming with optimism) that training for a subspecialty in The Philippines is no walk in the park. In the words of the late Paul Kalanithi, "Good intentions were not enough, not when so much depended on my skills, when the difference between tragedy and triumph was defined by one or two millimeters." It's not easy – yet some of us manage to make time for lives outside the scalpel and stethoscope. Where others in training might prefer the solace of sleep and rest, I find my comfort in writing.

I remember my lola and how much she had encouraged me to enjoy my life – enjoy reading, enjoy art, enjoy weekends. I like to see these as less of "hobbies" (some doctors play sports, others DJ, brew coffee, ride bikes, draw and paint) and more of as things that allow us to help make sense of the chaos of the human body – of the human condition – which we encounter every day.

How else to break bad news to our patients without breaking down ourselves? How else to get through as witnesses to dying and death on a daily basis?

United in Service: PCS-Davao Southern Mindanao Chapter's 2026 Journey

From an oath-taking in Cotabato City, to an operating room in earthquake-struck Sarangani Province and a pickleball court raising funds for a cause, PCS-DSMC surgeons carried the PCS mission of service, mentorship, and excellence across the region.





April 25, 2026: Optuli and Alis Bukol at Marilog District Hospital, Calinan, Davao City



June 12, 2026 : Pickleball Energy Cup

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Events and Accomplishments

The Philippine College of Surgeons–Davao Southern Mindanao Chapter opened 2026 with purpose, formally installing its new set of officers before turning quickly toward the twin pillars of the College's mandate: surgical service to the underserved and continuing growth for its members. On March 28, PCS-DSMC officers and new chapter members took their oath jointly with PCS Central Mindanao at Al Nur Hotel in Cotabato City, formalizing the leadership that would steer the chapter through the year.

Barely a month later, on April 25, the chapter partnered with the SPMC Department of Surgery for an Operation Tuli and Alis Bukol outreach at Marilog District Hospital, bringing free minor surgical services directly to families in the district. On May 15, members gathered for the chapter's General Assembly and Fellowship Night, strengthening the bonds that keep PCS-DSMC's surgical community close-knit even across a wide and mountainous province.

The chapter's readiness to respond was tested on June 11, when PCS-DSMC, together with PCS-National, supported the surgical care of two survivors of the June 8 Sarangani earthquake, aiding the surgical staff of Dr. Jorge Royeca City Hospital in a display of the PCS-DSMC disaster-response capability. The very next day, June 12, the chapter shifted from operating room to open court for the Pickleball Energy Cup: Set, Serve, Save Lives — a spirited fundraising tournament that turned fitness and friendly competition into support for the chapter's advocacies.

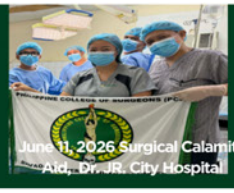
On the academic front, PCS-DSMC partnered with the Surgical Oncology Society of the Philippines and the Mindanao Surgical Oncology Fellowship Training for the Surgical Oncology Summit Convention last April 10-11, 2026. The Chapter furthered its mission to excellence in surgical education by partnering with the Southern Philippines Medical Center's GS2 Division for an Interhospital Conference on the "Perfect Pancreatitis," and was followed by Sharpened by Surgical Mentors: Mastering the Oral Examination, August 2, 2026 reinforcing the chapter's standing commitment to continuing surgical education and interhospital collaboration — proof that a chapter this active in the field remains just as active in the lecture hall.



April 10-11, 2026: Surgical Oncology Summit Convention



August 2, 2026: Mastering the Oral Examination



June 11, 2026 Surgical Calamity Aid, Dr. JR. City Hospital

Beyond the Operating Room: PCSMMC Drives Community Service, Research, and Surgical Education

• PCS MMC Committee on Publications •

As surgeons, our calling is defined as much by what we do beyond the operating room, as by what we perform within it. True clinical mastery demands a dual commitment: stepping outside our hospital walls to care for our communities, while continuously looking inward to critique our data, refine our techniques, and re-examine foundational principles.

Throughout the second quarter of 2026, the Philippine College of Surgeons – Metro Manila Chapter (PCS MMC) put this philosophy into practice. Through the synchronized efforts of the Committee on External Affairs and Public Relations, the Committee on Surgical Research, and the Committee on Continuing Surgical Education, our Chapter mobilized officers, trustees, and fellow surgeons across a broad spectrum of civic, scientific, and educational initiatives. From reforestation in Palawan to surgical missions in Tondo, and from competitive research defenses to an intensive four-day postgraduate course, Q2 demonstrated how expanding our service footprint directly sharpens our clinical practice.

Community & Environmental Stewardship: Expanding Outreach Beyond the Operating Room
by *Committee on External Affairs and Public Relations*

We recognize that surgical health does not exist in a vacuum; it is deeply tied to the health of our environment and the accessibility of basic healthcare in underserved communities.

Reforestation Initiatives in Palawan (April 10, 2026)

Our second quarter opened with a clear stand on planetary health —a vital initiative aligned with the overarching advocacy of the Philippine College of Surgeons. Understanding that ecological degradation ultimately impacts public health outcomes, the Committee on External Affairs and Public Relations collaborated with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for a Tree Planting Activity in Palawan.

Led by PCS MMC President Dr. Rhoderick Casis alongside members of the Board of Trustees, the delegation planted native trees across designated reforestation zones, underscoring our profession's broader duty toward environmental conservation and community well-being.



The Annual Summer "Operation Tuli" Missions: Serving Communities Across the Metro *(April – May 2026)*

A cornerstone activity of the chapter every summer, the Chapter executed its annual Operation Tuli series, delivering safe, surgical circumcisions and postoperative care to 374 young boys across Metro Manila:

Our summer outreach campaign unfolded across three high-volume sites, demonstrating collaboration and strong volunteerism among surgeons in Metro Manila. On April 19, we kicked off at the Parola Health Center in Tondo, Manila, in a joint flagship operation alongside PCS National and PSGS National. Honored by the presence and active support of PCS President Dr. Joselito Mendoza and PSGS President Dr. Alfred Lasala, a dedicated contingent of 77 volunteers representing 22 medical centers mobilized in the heart of one of the capital's most densely populated districts, safely performing outpatient circumcisions and delivering postoperative care to 117 young boys.

The momentum surged at our second site, Rosario Maclang Bautista General Hospital, where we partnered with PSGS MMC. Here, 69 volunteers drawn from 20 partner institutions operated with remarkable efficiency to treat 238 young patients, marking the largest single-day surgical turnout of our summer campaign. We brought the outreach series to a close at Asian Hospital and Medical Center, where a focused team provided safe minor surgical procedures, meticulous sterile wound care, and comprehensive home-care instructions for 19 patients, completing a campaign dedicated to upholding surgical standards at every level of community care.









Academic Inquiry: Validating Practice Through Evidence by *Committee on Surgical Research*

A surgical society that fails to critically evaluate its outcomes risks stagnation. Systematic appraisal of our clinical data and the active mentoring of resident investigators are vital to the continuous evolution of our specialty. Grounded in this responsibility, the PCS MMC Committee on Research, in partnership with PSGS MMC, convened our annual Surgical Research Paper Contest on May 21, 2026, at Gabaldon Hall in Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan—providing a dedicated academic stage to study local data, refine scientific methodology, and advance regional surgical practice.

Following a thorough preliminary screening of entries submitted by training institutions across Metro Manila, the top five finalists in two competitive categories earned their place on stage for live podium defense before an esteemed panel of senior academic surgeons. The Board of Judges—chaired by Dr. Christine Fausto, alongside Dr. Charo Coloma and Dr. Ralph Cabaddu—subjected each paper to sharp scientific scrutiny, critically evaluating the investigators on study methodology, statistical rigor, clinical applicability, and the clarity and composure of their defense under questioning.

The Outstanding Research Proposal is awarded to Dr. Roi Kevin Marcial from Rizal Medical Center, for a well-designed study proposal on "Comparative Outcomes of Same-Admission Wound Closure and Delayed Reconstruction Following Radical Debridement for Fournier's Gangrene: A 2019–2025 Cohort Study at Rizal Medical Center" .

The Outstanding Research Paper is awarded to Dr. Jana Marie Negre from East Avenue Medical Center, for a rigorous, high-quality full paper on "Association Between Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy and Estrogen, Progesterone and Her2 Receptor Status Conversion Among Breast Cancer Patients in a Philippine Tertiary Government Hospital: A Prospective Cohort Study".





Continuous Learning: Refining Core Surgical Capabilities by *Committee on Continuing Surgical Education*

Maintaining operative excellence requires dedicated time away from the scrub sink to review evolving guidelines and revisit core physiological principles. Under the direction of Directors-in-Charge Dr. Felicidad Claudia P. Ordoñez and Dr. Carlo Angelo C. Cajucom, and supported by PSGS MMC and Unilab, the Committee on Continuing Surgical Education rolled out an intensive academic calendar for the second quarter.

Core Comprehension Webinar Series

On April 25, 2026, the academic calendar opened with a deep dive into technical precision during the webinar "*Small Vessels, Big Impact: Reconstructive Microsurgery*," organized in collaboration with the Philippine Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (PAPRAS). The masterclass dissected the fine nuances of microvascular repair, beginning with Dr. Anthony Philip P. Calimag, who demystified complex tissue transfer and structural restoration in his lecture, *Reconstructive Microsurgery: What is it, and what can it do*? Expanding the horizon into micro-physiological interventions, Dr. Pacifico Armando M. Cruz presented *The Lymphatic Plane: An Introduction to Surgical Lymphology*, shedding light on modern, targeted approaches to managing chronic lymphedema. Under the adept moderation of Dr. Gerald Marion M. Abesamis, the virtual symposium resonated strongly across the surgical community, drawing 146 Zoom registrants, 79 live Zoom participants, and 84 Facebook Livestream viewers.

On May 27, 2026, the focus shifted to the unique challenges of acute pediatric gastrointestinal pathology in the webinar "*GUT INSTINCTS: Core Concepts in Hirschsprung's Disease and Intussusception*."



Featuring expert insights from Dr. Solna Minerva A. Decena and Dr. Monica Bianca C. Balictar, the session systematically untangled complex clinical presentations and diagnostic algorithms while refining operative considerations for these critical conditions. Under the insightful guidance of moderator Dr. Jose Modesto B. Abellera III, the discussion highlighted the subtle judgment and decisive action required when operating on delicate young lives. The evening session captured widespread engagement across the surgical community, drawing 214 Zoom registrants, 127 live Zoom participants, and 57 Facebook Livestream viewers.

The 41st Postgraduate Course: *Essential Surgical Practice: Bridging Fundamentals and Current Standards* *(June 13, 14, 20, and 21, 2026)*

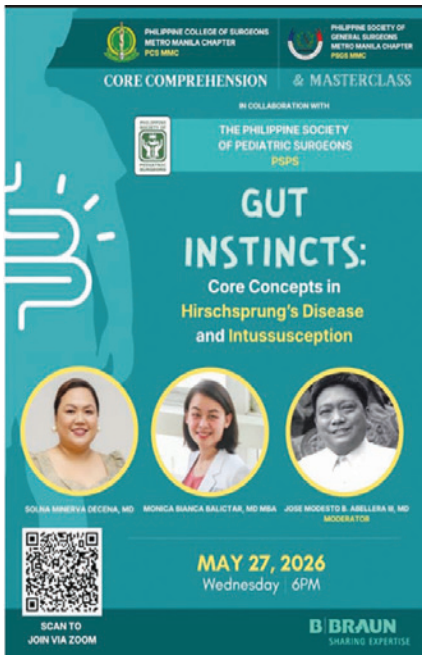
The academic quarter culminated in the 41st PCS MMC Postgraduate Course, a virtual symposium held over two consecutive June weekends. Designed to align core surgical tenets with updated clinical algorithms, the course maintained an average of over 470 registered delegates per day on Zoom.

Over four intensive days, our annual postgraduate convention unfolded as a targeted, systematic review through the surgical discipline—designed explicitly to help our young fellows and resident trainees consolidate core knowledge, refine clinical decision-making, and prepare rigorously for their upcoming board and specialty examinations.

We launched the first weekend on June 13 under the steady stewardship of Master of Ceremonies Dr. Carlo Angelo C. Cajucom. Following opening addresses from PCS President Dr. Joselito M. Mendoza, PCS MMC President Dr. Rhoderick M. Casis, and sponsor representative Ms. Melai Zita, we stepped straight into high-yield exam and practice topics. Dr. Christelle Anne M. Almanon dissected essential staging and operative paradigms in Head and Neck Cancers (moderated by Dr. Faye Michelle P. Gilbuena), while Dr. Anthony L. Dofitas walked trainees through high-yield technical and anatomical nuances in Esophagogastric Surgery (moderated by Dr. Ann Camille Q. Yuga). Rounding out the afternoon, Dr. Jon Paolo C. Chua re-anchored core, must-know principles in Appendiceal, Hernia, and Small Bowel Pathology under the moderation of Dr. Mary Grace B. Rojas.

The momentum carried seamlessly into Day 2 on June 14, guided by Master of Ceremonies Dr. Joan S. Tagorda, shifting focus to endocrine,







hepatobiliary, and specialized tissue care. Roles seamlessly reversed as Dr. Faye Michelle P. Gilbuena delivered a authoritative, exam-focused update on Thyroid Malignancy, this time moderated by Dr. Christelle Anne M. Almanon. Dr. Marivic A. Mapa then walked delegates through updated diagnostic and operative algorithms in Hepatopancreaticobiliary (HPB) Surgery (moderated by Dr. Raymond Joseph S. De Vera), before a collaborative session featuring Dr. Chris Evert R. Valdez and Dr. Adrianne Carmel Y. Cabrera—moderated by Dr. Angeli Andrea S. Cocos-Alcantara—evaluated contemporary strategies and guidelines in benign and malignant breast management.

Reconvening on June 20 for our second weekend, Master of Ceremonies Dr. Felicidad Claudia R. Ordoñezled Day 3 into pelvic anatomy, acute trauma, and surface lesions. Dr. Alberto P. Paulino III unraveled complex Colorectal Pathology and surgical options (moderated by Dr. Jan Edward P. Albano), followed by Dr. Maria Lourdes C. Gutierrez, who addressed critical emergency decisions in Brain and Spine Trauma (moderated by Dr. Helen B. Amo). Dr. Angelica W. Montesa concluded the session with a practical review of skin and soft tissue lesions.

Our symposium reached its culmination on Day 4 (June 21) as we pivoted decisively toward the high-stakes physiological management that forms the backbone of critical care board questions. Also led by Dr. Felicidad Claudia R. Ordoñez as Master of Ceremonies, the final day challenged trainees to master system-level resuscitation. Dr. Ma. Corazon Cabanilla-Manuntag outlined key advancements and core concepts in ATLS protocols, while Dr. Aireen Patricia M. Madrid detailed metabolic, fluid, and hemodynamic strategies in Critical Care Burn Resuscitation (moderated by Dr. Faiyazudin Ibrahim). Continuing our deep dive into critical physiology, Dr. Raymundo F. Resurreccion reviewed updated Surviving Sepsis Campaign guidelines (moderated by Dr. Albertson R. Gumarao), before Dr. Reynaldo P. Sinamban delivered a vital, safety-focused revisit to Refeeding Syndrome.

Bringing four rigorous days of academic preparation to a close, Dr. Karlos Noel R. Aleta delivered the final remarks, leaving our young fellows and residents re-grounded in their fundamentals, sharp on current standards, and ready for their examinations.

Moving Forward as One Chapter

The second quarter of 2026 served as a reminder of the broad scope of our profession. Whether planting trees in Palawan, performing outpatient procedures in Tondo, defending data in San Juan, or reviewing critical care physiology online, the fellows of the PCS Metro Manila Chapter demonstrated that our duty is multi-faceted.

By remaining active in the community while constantly returning to the books and the evidence, we ensure that our practice remains grounded, relevant, and centered on providing the highest standard of patient care.

AFN hosts AASPN Educational Course 2026 in Manila

For the first time, the Asian-Australasian Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery (AASPN) held its educational course in Manila, Philippines from May 7-10, 2026. Organized with the Academy of Filipino Neurosurgeons, the highly successful event had a total of 24 faculty (21 international, 2 local, and 1 virtual) and 72 participants (40 international, 32 local), which included pediatric neurosurgeons, general neurosurgeons, and trainees (fellows, residents, and one medical student).

Meng-Fai Kuo, pediatric neurosurgeon from Taiwan National University Hospital and AASPN President 2026-2027, expressed gratitude and praise for the course, describing it as "Well organized and fruitful. An unforgettable tour." She said that the AFN and Filipino organizers had "leveled up our society (AASPN)."

Apart from the Philippines, 18 other countries were represented at the meeting: Australia, Cambodia, Canada, China, Ethiopia, Indonesia, India, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States, and Vietnam. Previously called the Asian-Australasian Advanced Course in Pediatric Neurosurgery (AAACPN), the inaugural course was held in 2004 in Palm Cove, Australia.

In keeping with tradition, the faculty and participants of the AASPN stayed in the same hotel, Rizal Park Hotel in Manila, which also served as the venue of the scientific sessions. The expert lectures and case discussions focused on pediatric neuro-oncology, epilepsy surgery, and surgery for spasticity, showcasing both surgical technique and nuances in decision-making. The AFN provided attendees with ABCD flash cards to be able to engage with the lecturers onstage. There were also one-on-one mentoring sessions between neurosurgery trainees and AASPN faculty during the afternoon coffee breaks.

On the second day of the course, the faculty and participants enjoyed a walking tour of Luneta







and Intramuros, led by expert guides from Don't Skip Manila. Taho and sorbetes were served to everyone for refreshments. The attendees then proceeded to the Department of Anatomy at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine for lunch—where the guests had a chance to taste Jollibee chickenjoy, spaghetti, and peach mango pie—followed by a hands-on cadaver workshop on Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy. The Philippine General Hospital provided funding for the dissection course, organized by the PGH Division of Neurosurgery and the UPCM Department of Anatomy. In addition, the AASPN held concurrent video sessions on neurosurgical oncology and epilepsy surgery, and a special lecture on research in pediatric neurosurgery.

Before the course proper, the international faculty had the opportunity to tour PGH followed by a welcome dinner with the AFN Board of Trustees at Max's Restaurant Malate on May 6. During the welcome dinner for all participants on May 7, the Muntinlupa Dance Company performed various Philippine folk dances to entertain the audience, with the dancers inviting guests to try the tinikling.

On the other hand, during the networking dinner on May 9, the seven scholars of the Neurosurgery Outreach Foundation were recognized and presented by Executive Director Carmina Aldana and Phil Aldana. The NOF scholars were: Muhammad Fahmi Rasyid (Indonesia), Meron Bladie Gebrie (Ethiopia), Alvernia Neysa binti Ujat (Malaysia), Sittie Nadjierah Bantuas (Philippines), Yudistira Wardana (Indonesia), Ardagyeldi Burkitkhan (Mongolia), and Dewaraj Velayudhan (Malaysia). Another highlight of the evening was the standing ovation for Wirginia Maixner from Australia, who was retiring from being AASPN Course Faculty. From the inception of the AAACPN, she served as Course Director and Education Chair before becoming AASPN President from 2024-2025.

Ronnie E. Baticulon, AASPN Education Chair, served as director of AASPN Course 2026, with Anabelle Alcarde, AFN Vice-Present, as course co-director. The event would not have been possible without the support of AFN President Eric Legaspi, AFN committee members Tin Florendo-Dalisay, Louie Gayao, Manilyn Hong, and Jonis Esguerra, and AFN office secretary Cristine Aves. The event partners were Medilight Inc. (Gold), Medtronic (Gold), Zeiss (Silver), PRAXISmed Technologies Inc. (Silver), Reign Medical Enterprises (Bronze), and Integra Medical Solutions Corp. (Bronze).

The AASPN Congress will be held in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia in March 2027 while the venue of AASPN Course 2028 has yet to be determined.

Philippine Society of Breast Surgeons: Advancing Excellence Through Education and Collaboration

The Philippine Society of Breast Surgeons (PSBS) continued its commitment to advancing breast surgery practice through a series of successful educational programs, scientific meetings, and international engagements from April to July 2026. These activities reinforced the Society's mission of promoting excellence in patient care, fostering collaboration, and supporting lifelong learning among its members.

Hands-on Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy Workshop



On April 18, 2026, PSBS successfully conducted its Hands-on Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy (SLNB) Workshop at East Avenue Medical Center. Organized under the leadership of Dr. Nicola Tison, the workshop brought together 18 participants for an intensive practical training focused on sentinel lymph node biopsy techniques.

The hands-on sessions were facilitated by esteemed mentors Dr. Felicidad Claudia Ordoñez, Dr. Gemma Uy, Dr. Remi Karis Velasco, Dr. Melanie Cruz, and Dr. Michelle Uy, who guided participants through essential procedures, including blue dye injection and sentinel lymph node identification.



Post-workshop evaluations reflected excellent participant satisfaction, with attendees reporting significantly improved confidence in performing these procedures. The workshop underscored PSBS's commitment to equipping breast surgeons with practical skills that translate into improved surgical outcomes and patient care.

15th Interhospital Breast Case Conference



The **15th Interhospital Breast Case Conference**, hosted by **Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center** on **April 17, 2026**, brought together **120 participants** for an evening of scientific exchange and multidisciplinary learning. The program featured a lecture by **Dr. Remi Karis M. Velasco**, *"What Matters Most: Achieving Overall Survival in HR+/HER2-Metastatic Breast cancer,"* highlighting the latest advances in systemic therapy for breast cancer.

A major highlight of the conference was the multidisciplinary case discussion on **"Beyond Open**

Surgery: Endoscopic and Robotic Mastectomy," presented by breast surgery fellow **Dr. Raissa Maxine T. Que** and moderated by training officer **Dr. Remi Karis M. Velasco**, with contributions from specialists in breast surgery, plastic surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, pathology, and international experts Dr Mok Chi Wei from Singapore and Dr Lee Han-Byoel form South Korea. The interactive discussions underscored the value of minimally invasive techniques and multidisciplinary collaboration in advancing breast cancer care.

International Representation

PSBS members continued to represent the Philippines in prestigious international scientific meetings.

From April 22–25, 2026, Dr. Felicidad Claudia Ordoñez, Dr. Nicola Tison, and Dr. Maria Cecilia Pagdanganan attended the **Global Breast Cancer Conference (GBCC)** in Seoul, South Korea, where they participated in discussions on emerging innovations in breast cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Shortly thereafter, from April 29 to May 3, 2026, PSBS delegates attended the **27th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Breast Surgeons (ASBrS 2026)** in Seattle, Washington, USA. Representing the Society were Dr. Aldine Astrid Basa, Dr. Remi Karis Velasco, Dr. Melanie Cruz, Dr. Joan Fabiosa, Dr Lydcelle Encarnacion and Dr Chris Valdez. An oral presentation of research on sentinel lymph node biopsy by breast fellow Dr Victoria Chan of Chinese General Hospital is also a testament of global participation of our fellows. Their participation strengthened international collaboration while allowing members to bring home the latest evidence-based practices in breast surgery.



PSBS at the PCS Midyear Convention

During the Philippine College of Surgeons Midyear Convention, held on May 6–8, 2026, at the SMX Convention Center, Clark, Pampanga, PSBS organized a scientific session entitled "Contralateral Prophylactic Mastectomy: Fear, Facts, and Surgical Responsibility."

The lecture was delivered by Dr. Eillen A. Borje, with Dr. Joseph Jude Mercado serving as session chair and moderator. The discussion addressed current evidence, ethical considerations, and appropriate patient selection, encouraging balanced decision-making in the management of breast cancer patients.

PSBS–PALES Collaboration in Minimally Invasive Surgery

Continuing its efforts to expand surgical expertise, PSBS partnered with PALES in conducting the PSBS– PALES collaboration in Minimally Invasive Breast Surgery Workshop on July 7, 2026 at St. Luke's Medical Center – Quezon City with the guest faculty Dr Chayanee Sae-Lim from Thailand.

The workshop attracted 28 participants, reflecting the growing interest in minimally invasive approaches to breast surgery. Through expert instruction and hands- on learning, participants enhanced their knowledge and technical skills while strengthening professional collaboration between the two organizations.



Looking Ahead

The numerous educational activities, scientific conferences, and international engagements over the past several months demonstrate the Philippine Society of Breast Surgeons' unwavering commitment to professional development and excellence in breast care. As the Society continues to foster innovation, collaboration, and evidence-based practice, PSBS remains steadfast in its mission of advancing the standards of breast surgery for the benefit of Filipino patients.

PSPS Conducts Activity Series in Q2 of 2026

The Philippine Society of Pediatric Surgeons (PSPS) successfully conducted a series of activities during the second quarter of 2026 in line with its continued commitment to professional excellence, and clinical advancement.

Represented by Dr. Edrick Lim and Dr. Jason Castro, PSPS took part in the opening ceremony of the 63rd annual convention of the Philippine Pediatric Society (PPS) held from April 27 to 30, 2026, at Conrad Manila. PSPS also participated in the PCS 52nd Midyear Convention from May 6 to 8, 2026, at the SMX Convention Center in Clark, Pampanga. The society's scientific session for the convention entitled "Saving Lifetimes, One Liver at a Time: From Kasai to Liver Transplantation," was delivered by Dr. Leona Betina Dungca under the chairmanship of Dr. Paulo Castillo. It highlighted the recent developments in pediatric hepatobiliary surgery and liver transplantation. During the convention, the society also conducted its Business Meeting at Consuelo Restaurant.

As part of its focus on community outreach, the society, together with partner surgical organizations, conducted a Feeding Program at Boys Town Manila on May 17, 2026. The event was attended by Dr. Rodolfo Tuazon Jr. demonstrating the society's dedication to serve Filipino children in various community settings. Continuing its advocacy for child welfare, PSPS also participated in the round table discussion of the Center for the Prevention of Treatment of Child Sexual Abuse (CPTCSA) last May 18, 2026, at the Quezon City Social Services Development Department. The dialogue, entitled "Addressing Disparities in Circumcision Practices in the Philippines," encouraged meaningful exchange of ideas on improving specific healthcare practices affecting Filipino children.

On May 23, 2026, the Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC) hosted the society's 4th Interhospital Conference. This was followed by the PCS-MMC and PSPS Core Comprehension and Masterclass on May 27, 2026. This virtual masterclass featured lectures by members of the PSPS on topics such as Hirschsprung's Disease by Dr. Monica Bianca Balictar and Intussusception by Dr. Solna Minerva Decena, with Dr. Jose Modesto Abellera III serving as chair.

On June 06 2026, the Philippine General Hospital hosted the society's 5th Interhospital Conference which featured a stapling workshop designed to enhance the participants' surgical skills. Subsequently, on June 16 to 19, 2026, the society welcomed Prof. Yudai Goto for an academic visit at PCMC and PGH, providing members with valuable learning opportunities from an internationally recognized expert. On June 20, 2026, as part of the society's professional development and certification, selected candidates took the Philippine Board of Pediatric Surgery (PBPS) Written Examination at the National Children's Hospital (NCH).

PSPS also participated in the 16th PALES Annual Convention, held from July 8 to 10, 2026, at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel. The society conducted a Scientific Session entitled "MIS Pediatric Surgery: Children are Not Small Adults" delivered by Dr. Bayani B. Tecson, and chaired by Dr. Rodolfo G. Tuazon Jr. The convention also included cine clinic presentations by Dr. Gabriel Anthony Villa on thoracoscopic repair of Tracheo- esophageal Fistula (TEF) and Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH). Dr. Joselito DG. Tantoco also presented cine-clinics on advances in pediatric laparoscopic surgery, specifically on The Versatility of the use of the Multichannel Port. Finally, on July 11, 2026, representatives of the society attended the PCS Past President's Dinner at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, with Dr. Edrick H. Lim representing the PSPS.

The first activity for the third quarter is the Jun Resurreccion Webinar, to be held virtually on August 8, 2026. The webinar will focus on strengthening research capabilities among pediatric surgeons through two timely and relevant lectures. Dr. Amabelle A. Moreno will present a lecture entitled "The Pediatric Surgery Research Toolkit," providing participants with practical guidance on conducting high-quality research and developing meaningful scientific studies. This will be followed by a lecture entitled "Introduction to Qualitative Research for Pediatric Surgeons" by Dr. Raisa Ladha, BPH, MSc, PhD, from The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), Toronto. Her presentation aims to introduce participants to qualitative research methodologies that can enhance

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Your PCS Calls to a Younger Generation of Women and Men

• Juan Agustin D. Coruña IV, MD, FPCS, FPOA •
President, Philippine Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society

In my fourth year as a PCS Fellow, I was given the immense honor of representing the nation at this year's Younger Fellows Forum (YFF) and Annual Scientific Congress organized by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS). My credentials included being a surgeon under 45 years of age—basic qualifications shared by all new applicants to the PCS. What I am driving at is the affirmation that new members of the College are valuable and essential, and that they have important early-career roles to play in helping the PCS grow as an institution. Had I not been sent to Perth from April to May this year, any one of the hundreds of promising Fellows inducted annually could have represented the College just as well. Everyone should strongly consider applying for the generous international scholarships offered by the PCS. Being selected clearly helps nurture younger surgeons, regardless of gender, specialization, or location within the archipelago.

"It will be 44 years since the first YFF started. The concept was to acknowledge and encourage the contributions of younger fellows. The YFF selects 20 young and emerging global leaders from all disciplines of surgery. It aims to develop leadership and performance skills for new consultants to thrive within surgical workforce and become leaders within their communities."

All surgical specialties were represented, and participants were introduced to the pathways their mentors and colleagues had followed to



Surgical leadership and knowledge span generations and cross borders. They are shared at many levels and across various countries, including representation from the Philippines. RACS administration, faculty and emerging young leaders from six nations at Mandoon Estate, Australia. From left: Prof. Henry Woo (Councilor, Urology), Prof. Owen Ung (RACS President, Breast Surgery), Aslam Ejaz (USA Association for Academic Surgery, Surgical Oncology), Chinkin Coruña (PCS, Orthopedic Surgery), Prof. Deborah Bailey (Councilor, Pediatric Surgery), Komol Chaivanijchaya (Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand, Bariatric Surgery), Jacky Ho (College of Surgeons of Hong Kong, TCVS), Su Mei Hoh (Chair, Younger Fellows Committee, Colorectal), Prof. Phil Morreau (RACS Censor-In-Chief, Pediatric Surgery), Pamela Caleo (Deputy Chair, Younger Fellows Committee, Colorectal), Helen Ballal (2026 YFF Convener, Breast Surgery), Alexandra O'Neill (2026 YFF Convener, Plastic Surgery).



"Mentorship doesn't just happen — you create it by showing up, connecting and getting involved." Prof. Owen Ung, RACS President (center) points to a Recommendation made by Younger Fellows that can be adapted by the College. Topics ranged from structured mentorship, workforce job security, and the future of surgical practice. At the conclusion of the YFF, these issues were endorsed to RACS.

reach where they are today. Testimonials from eminent educators, team-building activities delivered by professional facilitators, playbooks grounded in industrial psychology theories, and even industry organizations offering advisory services to medical professionals were seamlessly integrated into the event.

Some training pathways are shorter than others, while a select few require fellows to complete specialty training more than twenty years after beginning medical school. Delegates had ample opportunity to compare how surgical practice is both similar and different across the world. Concerns regarding where to work and whether facilities have the infrastructure necessary to support one's specialty were openly discussed. Finding time for family, starting a family, and balancing personal and professional responsibilities emerged as universal challenges.

A recurring theme was how today's student interns are being trained. Despite their increasing numbers, there is a perceived decline in their participation in hospital activities. Protected work hours and accessible mechanisms for raising concerns are now common and actively encouraged. Practices that were once considered taboo or unheard of in medical education a decade ago are gradually being redefined.

Health insurance models vary globally, and institution-driven quotas for research and operative case volumes continue to burden even well-established healthcare systems, despite reductions in support staff. Providing care for Indigenous peoples—the original inhabitants of the land—remains a significant challenge due to geographic barriers, dietary access, unique comorbidities, and language barriers. These are not uncommon issues back home. I delivered a lecture on Lower Extremity Care in the Philippines, and the burden of diabetic foot infections is relatable and globally permeative.

In the Philippines, having an equivalent immersion for its young fellows will give them the best opportunity to recognize what the PCS really does, how to get involved, and learn why it is important to be engaged. Your PCS takes its participation and representation at international gatherings seriously, and should continue nurturing its young pool of fellows, transforming them into the surgeons they aspire to become.

Philippine Orthopedic Association Joins Group Membership

• **John Andrew Michael A. Bengzon, MD, FPOA** •
Secretary, Philippine Orthopaedic Association, Inc.

During the 34th POA Midyear Convention Business Meeting at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Cebu City, PCS President Dr. Joselito M. Mendoza presented the Group Membership details and benefits to the POA Fellows. This was followed by an open forum, during which Dr. Mendoza thoroughly addressed questions from the fellows.

Dr. Mendoza led the oath-taking of the 457 fellows in attendance as the new PCS Group Members. The POA currently has 1041 fellows, and a subsequent oath-taking ceremony will induct the remaining members.



PAHNSI 2026: Strengthening Collaboration, Advancing Standards, and Expanding Head and Neck Care

• **Adrian F. Fernando, RND, MD, FPSOHNS, FPCS, FPAHNSI** •

The Philippine Academy for Head and Neck Surgery, Inc. (PAHNSI) continues to strengthen its role as a multidisciplinary organization bringing together specialists committed to advancing the care of patients with head and neck diseases in the Philippines.

A new chapter for the Academy began in 2025 with the election of a new generation of Head and Neck surgeons into leadership positions. Under the leadership of PAHNSI President Dr. Adrian F. Fernando, the Academy embarked on a strategic revitalization focused on strengthening organizational identity and governance, revitalizing membership, expanding multidisciplinary collaboration, and increasing its contributions to education, research, advocacy, and standards of care.

The process was informed by the priorities expressed by PAHNSI members themselves, who identified continuing education, training and certification, standards and guidelines, research, advocacy, multidisciplinary collaboration, mentorship, and greater national and international engagement among the important roles of the Academy.

Central to this renewal was the formulation of PAHNSI's Vision and Mission to guide the Academy toward 2030.

Vision

"To be the foremost multidisciplinary organization for Head and Neck Surgery, uniting specialists across various fields in promoting collaboration, advancing research, and delivering comprehensive, patient-centered care in the Philippines by 2030."

Mission

"To establish pathways and policies that will transform the Academy into a platform for research, education, socio-civic engagement, and cross-disciplinary collaboration in Head and Neck Surgery."

From these emerged five strategic priorities: excellence through best-practice policies, innovation and research, stronger collaboration among specialties, greater public engagement and advocacy, and sustainable growth through credentialing and quality training.

Throughout 2026, these priorities have increasingly moved from strategy into action.

Strengthening Multidisciplinary Head and Neck Cancer Care

In April, in conjunction with Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Month and Head and Neck Consciousness Week, PAHNSI hosted the **Philippine College of Surgeons Cancer Commission Foundation (CanCom)** Virtual Multidisciplinary Tumor Board on Head and Neck Cancer. The activity brought together specialists involved in the diagnosis and treatment of head and neck malignancies, emphasizing a fundamental principle of contemporary cancer care: the best outcomes increasingly depend on coordinated decision-making among surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, radiologists, pathologists, and other members of the multidisciplinary team.

This collaboration with PCS Cancer Commission will continue on September 24, 2026, when PAHNSI hosts a Virtual Multidisciplinary Tumor Board on Thyroid Cancer in conjunction with National Thyroid Cancer Awareness Week. These initiatives embody one of PAHNSI's central purposes: creating a common platform where specialists from different disciplines can work together toward better and more patient-centered head and neck cancer care.

Contributing to National Standards in Thyroid Cancer Care

PAHNSI also participated in **the 2026 Thyroid Cancer Summit**, joining other professional organizations and stakeholders involved in thyroid cancer management. An important component of the Summit is an exploratory meeting of the Thyroid Cancer Clinical Practice Guideline Technical Working Group, intended to initiate discussions toward future updates of the Philippine thyroid cancer guidelines.

Among the areas for consideration are evolving treatment options for early thyroid cancer, appropriate preoperative evaluation, thyroid nodule risk-stratification systems, and other areas in which emerging evidence may influence Philippine clinical practice. Participation in such initiatives represents an increasingly important role for the Academy. Beyond education and scientific exchange, PAHNSI seeks to contribute multidisciplinary expertise toward evidence-based policies, consensus recommendations, and standards that can help improve the quality and consistency of Head and Neck Surgery in the country.

Building Consensus on Thyroid Thermal Ablation

The rapid development of minimally invasive approaches to thyroid disease has created new opportunities for patients, but it has also highlighted the need for appropriate standards governing their use. Recognizing this, PAHNSI Vice President Dr. Rainier Y. Lutanco spearheaded the convening of a multidisciplinary group currently working toward a **Consensus Statement on Thyroid Thermal Ablation**.

The ongoing initiative brings together experts from relevant disciplines to examine indications, patient selection, technique, training, safety, follow-up, and other considerations surrounding thermal ablation. The effort represents an important evolution from simply introducing new technologies to helping establish a framework for their responsible, evidence-based, and multidisciplinary application in Philippine practice.

Bringing Education and Advanced Head and Neck Care to the Regions

PAHNSI has also continued to support regional education, surgical missions, and capacity-building programs designed to bring expertise closer to communities outside major metropolitan centers.

One recent initiative was the **Head and Neck Surgical Mission at Cotabato Regional and Medical Center (CRMC)**, conducted in partnership with the hospital's Department of Surgery and collaborating organizations. The program combined direct patient care with education and hands-on training in advanced Head and Neck Surgery. Procedures during the mission included total laryngectomies, extensive superficial parotidectomies, total thyroidectomies, neck dissections, and thyroid thermal ablation. Visiting faculty also conducted educational sessions on thyroid thermal ablation and provided practical training for CRMC surgical residents.

A milestone during the mission was the performance of CRMC's first thyroid thermal ablation procedure, further expanding the institution's capacity to provide minimally invasive treatment options for appropriately selected thyroid conditions. The value of these missions extends beyond the procedures performed during a single visit. Through mentorship, skills transfer, simulation, and collaboration with local specialists, PAHNSI aims to help develop sustainable regional capacity for specialized head and neck care.

Expanding Training in Thyroid Ablation

The Academy's involvement in thyroid ablation education will continue with the upcoming **Philippine Thyroid Ablation Congress and Workshop**, scheduled for September 10 to 11, 2026 at Makati Medical Center. Through the efforts of PAHNSI members including Dr. King Cedeño, Dr. Rainier Lutanco, and other collaborating experts, the program will combine comprehensive lectures and interactive discussions with live demonstrations involving ten patient cases and individualized hands-on training in ultrasound-guided thyroid ablation.

The program reflects PAHNSI's position that the introduction of emerging technologies must be accompanied by structured training, proper patient selection, mentorship, safety standards, and continuing evaluation of outcomes.

PAHNSI in the Regional and International Community

PAHNSI members have likewise continued to represent Philippine Head and Neck Surgery internationally. During the **Asia-Pacific Thyroid Surgery Society (APTS)** meeting in Singapore from April 9 to 11, 2026, PAHNSI President Dr. Adrian F. Fernando, together with PAHNSI Fellow Dr.

Christine Arquiza and Past President Dr. Ida Marie T. Lim, participated as invited lecturers.

The meeting also marked an important milestone for the Philippine thyroid surgery community, as the Philippines successfully won the bid to host the 2028 APTS Congress. Hosting this regional scientific meeting will provide an opportunity to showcase Philippine expertise while further strengthening relationships among thyroid and head and neck surgeons throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Building Bridges Across Surgical Oncology and Thyroid Specialties

PAHNSI's commitment to multidisciplinary collaboration was similarly reflected in its participation in the **10th Annual Convention of the Surgical Oncology Society of the Philippines (SOSP)**, held on July 10 to 11, 2026 at the Grand Hyatt Manila in Bonifacio Global City. PAHNSI members contributed to discussions on contemporary thyroid cancer management.

Earlier in the year, PAHNSI also participated in the **41st Annual Convention of the Philippine Thyroid Association (PTA)** on January 23, 2026. Dr. Fernando and Dr. Lutanco served as panelists in a multidisciplinary discussion involving a patient with radioactive iodine-refractory thyroid cancer. These collaborations underscore PAHNSI's evolving role as a bridge between specialties that share responsibility for patients with thyroid and head and neck diseases.

Looking Ahead: Continuity and the Next Generation of Leadership

PAHNSI as always, will be greatful to participate in the **upcoming 2026 PCS Annual Convention** through its Head and Neck Surgery plenary program, providing another venue for multidisciplinary education and scientific exchange.

The convention will also mark an important transition as Dr. Adrian F. Fernando completes his term as President and turns over the leadership of the Academy to Dr. Rainier Y. Lutanco. This transition

PAHNSI Officers, 2025–2026

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Vice President: Dr. Rainier Y. Lutanco

Secretary: Dr. Kirt Areis E. Delovino

Treasurer: Dr. Michael Jeff B. Fontano

Auditor: Dr. Sherwin B. Biasura

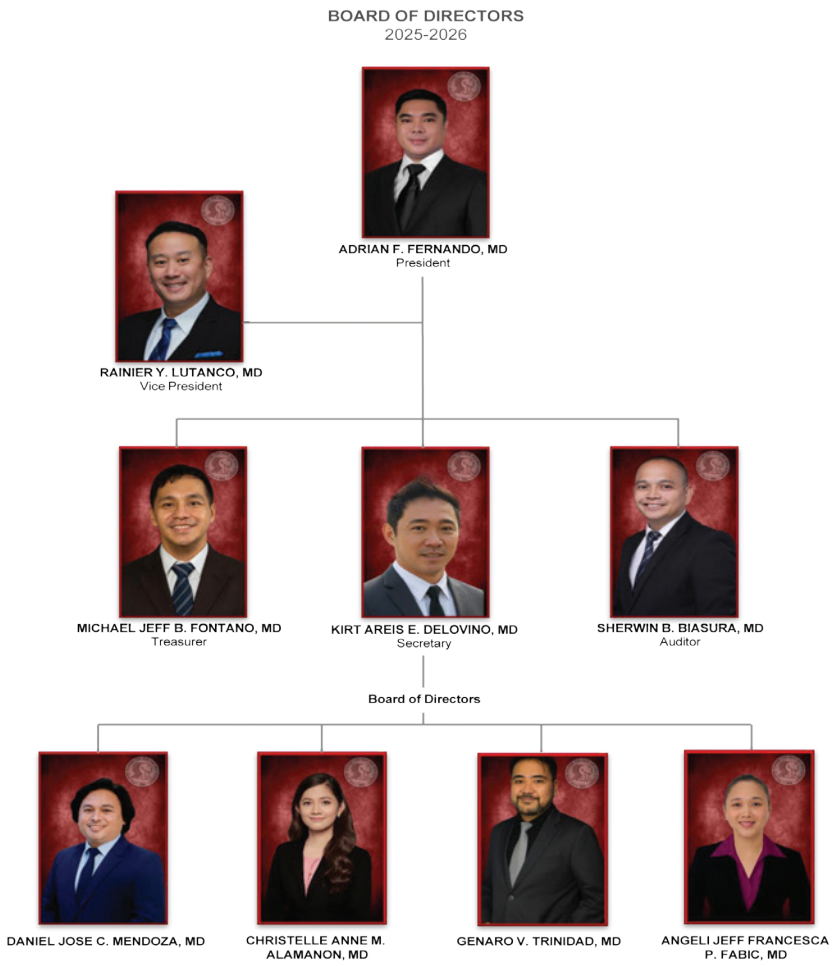
Board of Directors:

Dr. Daniel Jose C. Mendoza

Dr. Christelle Anne M. Almanon

Dr. Genaro V. Trinidad

Dr. Angeli Jeff Francesca P. Fabic



represents continuity rather than conclusion. The revitalization initiated in 2025 was intended not simply to define programs for one administration, but to establish a stronger organizational foundation that succeeding generations of PAHNSI leaders can continue to develop.

As part of preserving that institutional legacy, PAHNSI has also shared its history and milestones for the forthcoming PCS 90th Anniversary Coffee Table Book, KALAYAG, documenting the Academy's contribution to the broader history of Philippine surgery.

Moving Forward Together

As PAHNSI approaches its fourth decade, the Academy remains committed to honoring the legacy of its pioneers while adapting to a rapidly changing healthcare landscape. Its direction for the coming years is clear: broaden opportunities for education and training, strengthen multidisciplinary and multi-institutional collaboration, increase advocacy for head and neck cancer and thyroid diseases, support research and innovation, contribute to guideline and standards development, expand national and international partnerships, revitalize membership and mentorship, and strengthen the governance and sustainability of the organization.

Ultimately, PAHNSI's work is not measured simply by the number of meetings, missions, workshops, or congresses it conducts. Its greater purpose is to bring people and specialties together, transform shared expertise into better standards and wider access to care, and ensure that progress in Head and Neck Surgery ultimately reaches the Filipino patient.

Guided by a renewed vision and strengthened by collaboration, PAHNSI moves forward as one Academy, across disciplines, working together toward excellence in Head and Neck Surgery and better care for the Filipino people.

As I conclude my tenure as President, it has been a great honor and privilege to serve PAHNSI and our Head and Neck Surgery community. I am grateful to our officers, fellows, partners, mentors, and colleagues who have shared in this journey. I leave this role with confidence in the Academy's future and with the hope that we will continue to build on what we have begun, together, for our specialty and, most importantly, for the patients and communities we serve.



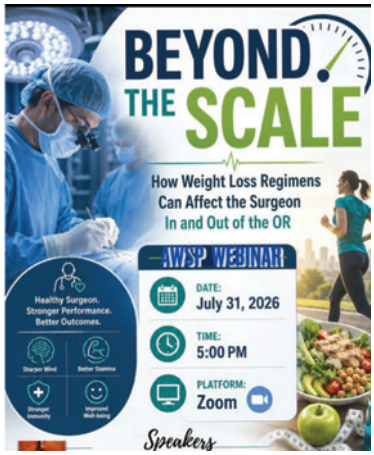






Beyond the Scale: AWSP Webinar Examines Current Medical and Surgical Approaches to Weight Management

MANILA, Philippines — The Association of Women Surgeons of the Philippines (AWSP), in collaboration with the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS), highlighted current advances in obesity and weight management during the webinar "Beyond the Scale: How Weight Loss Regimens Can Affect the Surgeon In and Out of the OR," held on July 31, 2026, via Zoom.



The webinar provided participants with an overview of current weight-management protocols, encompassing both medical and surgical approaches, with particular attention to the rapidly expanding use of glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1)-based therapies. Importantly for the surgical audience, the program went beyond the role of these medications in achieving weight loss and examined how their physiologic effects may influence the perioperative management of patients undergoing surgery.

As pharmacologic options for obesity continue to evolve and become more widely used, surgeons are increasingly likely to encounter patients taking GLP-1-based medications. Familiarity with these therapies, their effects, and their implications before, during, and after surgery has therefore become an increasingly relevant component of contemporary surgical practice.

Current Approaches to Medical Weight Management

The medical component of the webinar reviewed the changing approach to obesity management. Lifestyle interventions—including appropriate nutrition, regular physical activity, behavioral modification, and management of associated metabolic conditions—remain important foundations of treatment.

However, advances in pharmacotherapy have substantially expanded the options available to patients who require additional treatment. Among the most significant developments has been the increasing use of GLP-1 receptor agonists and related incretin-based therapies for obesity and metabolic disease.

These agents act through several mechanisms that can contribute to clinically significant weight loss, including effects on appetite, satiety, glucose regulation, and gastrointestinal function.

Their growing utilization has changed the landscape of obesity treatment, providing patients with additional nonsurgical options when used according to appropriate indications and under medical supervision.

The discussion emphasized the importance of considering pharmacologic therapy as part of a comprehensive and individualized weight-management strategy, rather than as a replacement for appropriate lifestyle interventions or multidisciplinary care.

Why GLP-1 Therapy Matters to Surgeons

Of particular relevance to the surgical community was the discussion of how GLP-1-based medications may affect patients in the perioperative period.

Because these medications can influence gastric emptying and gastrointestinal function, their use has implications for preoperative assessment and anesthetic and surgical planning. A patient presenting for an operation may be taking a GLP-1-based medication for obesity, diabetes, or both, making medication history increasingly important during preoperative evaluation.

The webinar highlighted the need for surgeons to recognize that decisions regarding the perioperative management of these medications should take into account the individual patient, the medication being used, the treatment phase, gastrointestinal symptoms, the nature and urgency of the planned procedure, and other factors that may influence perioperative risk.

This represents an important shift for surgical practice. Weight-loss medications are no longer solely the concern of physicians managing obesity or diabetes. Their increasing prevalence means that surgeons, anesthesiologists, endocrinologists, and other members of the perioperative team must understand their potential effects and coordinate patient management appropriately.

The Surgical Approach to Obesity

Complementing the medical discussion, the webinar also addressed bariatric and metabolic surgery and its continuing role in the treatment of obesity.

Despite major advances in pharmacologic therapy, bariatric surgery remains an important therapeutic option for appropriately selected patients. The surgical perspective emphasized appropriate patient selection, indications for intervention, expected outcomes, and the role of surgery within a comprehensive obesity-management program.

Rather than positioning medical therapy and bariatric surgery as competing treatments, the program presented them as components of an expanding spectrum of evidence-based obesity care. Treatment decisions should be individualized according to factors such as the degree of obesity, associated comorbidities, previous treatment, response to therapy, patient preferences, and overall clinical circumstances.

The emergence of highly effective pharmacologic therapies also creates new considerations regarding how medications and surgery may be integrated. Some patients may achieve their goals with medical therapy, while others may require surgical intervention. In selected circumstances, pharmacologic therapy may also have a role before or after bariatric surgery as part of longitudinal weight management.

A Multidisciplinary Perspective

The webinar featured Dr. Ericks S. Mendoza, endocrinologist, who discussed the medical approach to contemporary weight management, and Dr. Therese Bautista, bariatric surgeon, who provided the surgical perspective. Dr. Bernice C. Navarro served as moderator.

Bringing endocrinology and surgery together underscored the increasingly multidisciplinary nature of obesity management. As therapeutic choices expand, effective care requires an understanding not only of what treatments are available but also of



how these treatments interact with other aspects of a patient's medical and surgical care.

For surgeons, this is especially relevant as the number of patients receiving modern weight-loss medications continues to increase. Asking about these therapies during preoperative assessment, recognizing their potential perioperative implications, and coordinating management with anesthesia and the prescribing physician are becoming practical considerations in everyday surgical care.

Keeping Surgical Practice Current

Through *Beyond the Scale*, AWSP and PCS provided surgeons and other healthcare professionals with a timely update on a rapidly changing area of medicine.

The program demonstrated that contemporary weight management now encompasses a continuum of strategies—from lifestyle intervention and increasingly effective pharmacologic therapies to established bariatric and metabolic surgical procedures. At the same time, the growing use of GLP-1-based medications has created new considerations that extend directly into the operating room.

For the surgical community, understanding modern weight-loss therapy is therefore no longer limited to knowing how patients lose weight. It increasingly means understanding how these treatments may affect surgical preparation, perioperative decision-making, and multidisciplinary patient care.

As obesity treatment continues to evolve, *Beyond the Scale* reinforced the importance of keeping surgeons informed and prepared to manage patients receiving these therapies—before, during, and after surgery.

AWSP Hosts Special Movie Block Screening at SM Megamall

MANILA, Philippines — The Association of Women Surgeons of the Philippines (AWSP) hosted a special movie block screening on August 1, 2026, at Cinema 4, SM Megamall, bringing together members, colleagues, families, friends, and supporters for an afternoon of fellowship.

The event featured Marvel Studios' Spider-Man: Brand New Day and provided the AWSP community with an opportunity to gather outside the usual setting of operating rooms, hospitals, conferences, and scientific meetings.

The screening was organized as both a fellowship and fundraising activity, with proceeds from the event earmarked to support AWSP projects and initiatives. The activity enabled members and supporters to enjoy a shared social event while contributing to the organization's continuing programs.

The movie screening also formed part of AWSP's efforts to strengthen camaraderie and engagement among its members. While the organization regularly conducts educational and professional programs, the event provided an informal setting for surgeons from different institutions and stages of practice to reconnect and build professional relationships.

Professional organizations such as AWSP provide opportunities for women surgeons to develop networks for mentorship, collaboration, leadership, and professional support. Social activities complement these initiatives by allowing members to interact beyond formal meetings and institutional affiliations.

Through the support of its members, colleagues, families, friends, and partners, AWSP continues to pursue projects that advance its organizational goals and benefit the communities it serves.



State of Thoracic, Cardiac, and Vascular Surgery in the Philippines: Current Landscape, Innovations, Challenges, and the Role of PATACSI

Thoracic, cardiac, and vascular surgery has undergone remarkable transformation in the Philippines over the past six decades. From an era when thoracic surgery was practiced largely as a subset of general surgery, the specialty has evolved into a sophisticated discipline encompassing minimally invasive thoracic surgery, complex cardiac reconstruction, advanced aortic and peripheral vascular interventions, hybrid procedures, extracorporeal life support, and emerging transplant programs. This evolution has been driven not only by advances in surgical science but also by the dedication of Filipino surgeons committed to providing world-class care despite the unique challenges of a developing healthcare system.

The Philippine Association of Thoracic, Cardiac and Vascular Surgeons, Inc. (PATACSI), founded in 1959 as the Philippine Association of Thoracic Surgeons, has been central to this journey. Through its commitment to education, certification, research, and professional development, PATACSI has fostered generations of specialists who continue to shape the landscape of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery both nationally and internationally. Milestones such as the establishment of the Philippine Board of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, the development of accredited fellowship programs, the adoption of focused training tracks in thoracic, cardiac, and vascular surgery, and the hosting of major regional scientific meetings reflect the organization's enduring commitment to excellence.

Today, the specialty stands at a pivotal moment. The increasing burden of cardiovascular disease, thoracic malignancies, chronic kidney disease requiring vascular access, and degenerative vascular disorders continues to drive demand for highly specialized surgical services. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, ischemic heart disease remains the leading cause of mortality in the country, while malignant neoplasms consistently rank second, underscoring the importance of timely access to comprehensive thoracic and cardiac surgical care.

Yet, remarkable progress has accompanied these challenges. Filipino surgeons have successfully adopted minimally invasive and hybrid surgical approaches that were once available only in high-income countries. Video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS), uniportal thoracic surgery, robotic-assisted thoracic procedures, minimally invasive valve surgery, thoracic endovascular aortic repair (TEVAR), endovascular aneurysm repair (EVAR), extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), and multidisciplinary heart and aortic teams are now established in several centers throughout the country. These innovations have significantly improved perioperative outcomes while reducing surgical trauma and length of hospitalization.

Several institutions have played pivotal roles in advancing the specialty. The Philippine Heart Center has remained the country's flagship institution for adult and pediatric cardiac surgery, mechanical circulatory support, ECMO, structural heart interventions, and complex aortic surgery. The Lung Center of the Philippines has served as a national leader in thoracic oncology, minimally invasive pulmonary resection, mediastinal surgery, airway reconstruction, and thoracic surgical education. The Philippine General Hospital has long been recognized for managing highly complex thoracic and cardiovascular diseases while continuing to pioneer innovations in surgical education, multidisciplinary care, and research. University-based centers such as the University of Santo Tomas Hospital, together with major private institutions including St. Luke's Medical Center, The Medical City, and Makati Medical Center, have further expanded access to advanced cardiothoracic and vascular procedures by introducing minimally

invasive surgery, hybrid operating rooms, and comprehensive cardiovascular programs.

Although transplantation remains a relatively small component of Philippine thoracic and cardiac surgery, it represents one of the specialty's most promising frontiers. Advances in donor management, extracorporeal life support, perioperative critical care, and immunosuppressive therapy have created opportunities for the continued development of heart and lung transplantation programs. As regional collaboration strengthens and expertise continues to mature, transplantation has the potential to become an increasingly important component of comprehensive cardiothoracic care in the Philippines.

Despite these achievements, important challenges remain. The distribution of specialists remains heavily concentrated in urban centers, leaving many provinces without immediate access to thoracic, cardiac, and vascular surgical services. Financial barriers continue to limit access to advanced technologies, while variations in institutional resources affect the availability of minimally invasive and endovascular procedures.

Furthermore, the absence of comprehensive national clinical registries limits the ability to benchmark outcomes, conduct multicenter research, and inform health policy.

Nevertheless, the future of the specialty is exceptionally promising. Advances in artificial intelligence, robotic surgery, image-guided interventions, simulation-based education, enhanced recovery protocols, and precision medicine are redefining the standards of surgical care worldwide. Filipino surgeons have consistently demonstrated their ability to adopt these innovations while maintaining excellent clinical outcomes. The next phase of development will require closer collaboration among healthcare institutions, government agencies, academic centers, and professional organizations to ensure that these advances benefit patients throughout the archipelago rather than only those in major metropolitan centers.

As the national organization representing thoracic, cardiac, and vascular surgeons, PATACSI is uniquely positioned to lead this transformation. By promoting excellence in education, fostering collaborative research, strengthening quality assurance, advocating for equitable access to care, and embracing technological innovation, PATACSI can continue to shape the future of the specialty. In doing so, it not only preserves a distinguished legacy spanning more than six decades but also ensures that Filipino patients receive safe, equitable, and world-class thoracic, cardiac, and vascular surgical care for generations to come.

PSPS... from page 73.

clinical investigations and improve patient-centered care. Subsequently, on August 15, 2026, the second part of the society's professional certification will see eligible aspiring pediatric surgeons take the PBPS Oral Examination at NCH.

The highlight of the year's activities will be the 18th ASEAN Society of Pediatric Surgery (ASPS) Congress on November 19–20, 2026 in Bohol which will be hosted by the PSPS. A significant feature of the congress will be its collaboration among three leading specialty organizations: the Philippine Society of Pediatric Surgeons (PSPS), the Philippine Society of Pediatric Oncology (PSPO), and the Philippine Society for Pediatric Anesthesia (PSPA). This multidisciplinary partnership highlights the importance of integrated care in managing complex pediatric surgical conditions. By bringing together experts from surgery, oncology, and anesthesia, the congress aims to promote comprehensive patient management, encourage interdisciplinary research, and strengthen professional networks throughout the ASEAN region.

Overall, these upcoming activities reflect the Philippine Society of Pediatric Surgeons' continued commitment to academic excellence, research development, professional certification, and international collaboration. PSPS aims to continue providing meaningful opportunities for lifelong learning, fostering multidisciplinary partnerships, and promoting innovations that will ultimately improve the quality of surgical care for children in the Philippines and across Southeast Asia.

Mechanics for the PCS Centennial Anniversary Logo-Making Contest

1. Contest Overview

The Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) is celebrating its Centennial Anniversary. To commemorate this milestone, a logo-making contest is being held to create a design that will represent the organization's legacy, values, and vision for the future. The winninag logo will be used in various promotional materials, events, and activities related to the 100th Anniversary.

2. Eligibility

- The contest is open to **all PCS members**, including fellows, associate and affiliate members, and residents from PCS-accredited institutions.
- Only one entry per participant is allowed.

3. Theme

The logo should reflect the **Centennial Anniversary** of the Philippine College of Surgeons, incorporating elements that symbolize:

- **The history** and **legacy** of PCS
- The **advancement** of the surgical profession in the Philippines
- The commitment to **excellence in healthcare** and **service to the Filipino people**
- The **future** of surgery in the Philippines
- The **unity** and collaborative spirit of the medical and surgical community

4. Logo Specifications

- **Color Scheme**: The design should align with PCS's official colors, but creativity in incorporating gold (to symbolize the 100th milestone) is encouraged.
- **Design Elements**: The logo should include a visual representation of "100 years" (in Roman numerals or numbers), and may incorporate surgical instruments, the caduceus, or other relevant symbols of medicine and surgery. However, the design must be original, not copying other logos or designs.
- **File Format**: Submissions must be in **vector format (AI, EPS, SVG)** or **high-resolution PNG** (at least 300 dpi).
- **Logo Usage**: The logo should be clear, scalable, and adaptable to both large and small formats (for print and digital purposes).

5. Contest Guidelines

- **Design Submission**: All entries must be submitted to the PCS Secretariat or through the designated online portal.
- **Submission Deadline**: Entries must be received by **August 31, 2027**
- **File Naming**: Each submission must be named in the format: "Name_100th AnniversaryLogo" (e.g., JuanDelaCruz_100thAnniversaryLogo).
- **Accompanying Description**: Each entry must include a brief description (maximum 200 words) of the design concept and how it represents the PCS's 100th Anniversary.

6. Criteria for Judging

Entries will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Creativity and Originality** (30%): How unique and innovative the design is.
- **Relevance to Theme** (30%): How well the logo represents the theme of the 100th Anniversary of PCS.
- **Aesthetic Quality** (20%): The visual appeal, color choices, and design composition. Scalability and Usability (20%): How well the logo can be used across various media (e.g., websites, print materials, merchandise).

7. Prizes

- **Winner**: Php 100,000 + Certificate of Recognition + the winning logo will be used for the PCS 100th Anniversary campaign and related materials.

8. Announcement of Winner

- The winner will be announced during the 91st PCS Anniversary Celebration and will also be posted at our PCS website, social media platforms, and billboards.
- The winner will be contacted directly by the PCS Secretariat.

9. Rights and Ownership

- All submitted logos will become the property of the Philippine College of Surgeons.
- PCS reserves the right to modify or adapt the winning logo as needed for various promotional uses.
- By submitting an entry, participants agree to allow PCS to use their design for promotional purposes related to the Centennial Anniversary and future PCS-related activities.

10. Disqualification

- Entries that do not follow the guidelines or that involve plagiarism will be disqualified.
- Incomplete submissions or those received after the deadline will not be considered.

11. Contact Information

For further inquiries, please contact the PCS Secretariat:

- Email: secretariate@pcs.com.ph
- Phone:09176200280
- Website: hhtp://www.pcs.org.ph


PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS FOUNDATION, INC
82ND ANNUAL CLINICAL CONGRESS
90TH ANNIVERSARY
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Open on August 1, 2026
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