



# ORTHO BALITA



Official Newsletter of the Philippine Orthopaedic Association, Inc.

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## BREAKING NEWS!

# Philippine Medical Act of 2023

### HOUSE PANEL APPROVES BILL REPLACING MEDICAL ACT OF 1959

According to Congresswoman Kristine Tutor of Bohol: "After 64 long years, we are much closer to putting in place a new governing law on the practice of medicine in the Philippines, now that the House Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation has approved the consolidated substitute bill."

She further adds the salient features of the committee-approved bill: "The Philippine Medical Association shall be integrated and acknowledged as the Integrated Philippine Medical Association (IPMA). All physicians, duly registered and licensed with the Professional Regulatory Board of Medicine (PRBM) and Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), shall automatically become members of the IPMA, maintain such memberships therein as a requisite to practice the profession, and shall receive benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto upon payment of the required reasonable fees and dues. Membership in the IPMA shall not be a bar to membership in other associations of physicians."

Regulatory powers within specific domains are vested in the Professional Regulatory Board of Medicine (PRBM), the Post-Graduate Medical Education Council, and the Integrated Philippine Medical Association. This means that these groups shall determine and define not only who can practice medicine in the country, but also who the medical

specialist is. They will regulate the way exams are given and set standards on who to accept as diplomates and fellows of a specialty.

The approval of the house of representatives though, is just the initial step in making a law. The Philippine Congress, being a bicameral legislature, is composed of two co-equal houses: The House of Representatives and The Senate. Therefore, the bill passed by Congresswoman Tutor from the lower house, cannot become a law unless there is a counterpart bill coming from the Senate.

On August 17, 2023, President Dr. David Alagar, Vice-President Dr. Melito Ramos, and Secretary Dr. JAC Pimentel went to the Senate of the Philippines to deliver our stand on the Medical Act. The group went to the office of Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III and met with his legislative officers headed by chief of staff Atty. Daniel Salomon. In that meeting we insisted that orthopedics should be considered a separate and distinct specialty, and that we hoped the POA will be invited in the committee hearings in the Senate. The name of our



POA President was submitted to the Committee on Professional Regulation headed by Senator Ramon Revilla Jr.

The following is the stand of the POA, which we presented to the Senate and submitted to the different offices of the Senators:

- 1. Orthopedics is a specialized field in medicine concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of musculoskeletal conditions. That being said, it should be considered a separate and distinct field rather than a subspecialty of General Surgery, as it is currently classified in the medical curriculum and in professional practice.**

*Though it may have started as a subspecialty of general surgery in the Philippines, advancements*

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# Philippine Medical Act...

From Page 1



POA President Dr. David Alagar pushing for the Orthopedic Agenda during a meeting in the Senate. To his right are Vice President Dr. Melito Ramos and Secretary Dr. JAC Pimentel

in knowledge, application, and coverage have distinguished the field of Orthopedics as its own standalone and autonomous specialty. As such, separate Departments of Orthopedic Surgery have been established in most hospitals and medical centers. The specialty has diversified into several components, or subspecialties, representing the different regions of the human body. Residency training in Orthopedics continues to be a straight program, no longer requiring a year or two of general surgery training, as it used to.

2. **Only physicians with post-graduate (residency) training under an accredited specialty program, and who have passed its diplomate board examination, should be accorded the title of 'medical specialist' of that field.**

For orthopedic surgery, the Philippine Board of Orthopedics (PBO) is the only existing body that regulates and safeguards the quality of post-graduate orthopedic education and training in the country. It is the official accrediting and examining arm of the Philippine Orthopaedic Association, a group of professional orthopedic surgeons, that has been promoting the advancement of the science and practice of orthopedic surgery for 75 years. With well-structured, time-tested, and up-to-date methods and processes of the PBO, we have time and again produced knowledgeable and competent orthopedic surgeons who are at par and attuned with the global standards.

3. **Complications that lead to disability or death in the course of treatment of a patient under a trained and licensed physician or surgeon should never in any case or situation be considered a criminal offense.**

*Complication is an unintentional and undesirable outcome arising from a medical or surgical treatment of a patient. It is a recognized event in medicine that can be prevented or minimized with proper training, application of best practices, provision of the appropriate tools and facilities, and awareness of its possibility. However, even strict observance of all these factors cannot completely eliminate the possibility of complications. Physicians should not be intimidated or hindered from treating patients for fear of a criminal offense should complications occur.*

With all the above considered, we support the enactment of legislation in Congress that shall govern the basic education, post-graduate training, and professional practice of medicine in the country, which will replace the outdated Philippine Medical Act of 1959.

We, the POA, have to be proactive. We encourage you to write or talk to your favorite Congressman or Senator and push for the Orthopedic Agenda.

**JAC Pimentel, MD, FPOA**

## Working Together for a Better POA and Nation

In the vibrant tapestry of the international orthopedic community, the POA has made an indelible mark, brilliantly shining for decades! Yet, as we bask in the glory of our achievements, a new resounding call echoes through the walls of our workspace: an appeal for more involvement in nation-building—And heeding that call, is what this year has been all about.

We have initiated and participated in local and national programs, in partnership with government and non-government agencies. We have engaged them in matters that affect not only the lives and living conditions of our patients, but also of the whole citizenry. We have pushed for our long-held advocacies, and stood pat for the principles we believe in on contentious issues. We have worked hard and made strides, but the journey is long and vast.

To keep the momentum, every member's active involvement is imperative. While the POA has historically championed orthopedic progress and fellows' welfare, inspiring reciprocal engagement from everyone has been a challenge. We must ask the same dedication from our fellows that our organization extends to us; this is the relationship that we want to reestablish and nurture.

To achieve this, we should have a change of mindset. We must contemplate earnestly what we can offer, not merely what we can gain. The POA is in an era where it is expected to assume a more significant role in nation-building – this is not a choice but a necessity : these words echo the timeless wisdom of JFK, urging actions over complaints, to be architects of change, rather than mere spectators; this call resounds again today.

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# Working Together...

From Page 2



If we aspire for recognition as an autonomous and a relevant organization, we must be able to identify our problems and find solutions to them ourselves. The biblical story of the lepers should serve as an inspiration, wherein their transformative miracle emerged not from mere hope, but from their actions to Jesus' instructions. Likewise, if we wish to get better, we

must act now, and act together. No longer can we wait for opportunities to come, we must create one, and shape our own destiny.

At the same time, it will be better not only to establish ourselves as an authority in orthopedics, but also in broader national health issues. We must become the voice that the government and non-government agencies turn to for insights and expertise. By actively engaging with the government and non-government agencies, we do not only promote the organization, or influence policies, but also shape the very foundation of our nation.

The task at hand is monumental, but so is our potential. Let's bring back our initiative, the spirit of volunteerism, and proactive participation, and propel the POA and the nation to a healthier, more robust tomorrow. As we extend our hands to contribute, we not only enrich the POA, but also ourselves, and the nation.

Let us not just make a mark, let us build a legacy!

**David L. Alagar, MD, FPOA**

# POA TOWNHALL Meeting on Proposed By- Laws Amendments

A townhall zoom meeting was held Sept 8, 2023 to discuss two important proposed amendments which will be put forth during this years POA Business meeting. These amendments were the results of discussions by the BOT headed by President David Alagar to take care of the association membership. The proposed amendments focus on individuals and groups.

Amendment #1: creation of a candidate member (CM-POA). Recognition of fresh graduates from PBO accredited institutions into the POA as a candidate

member allows them a taste of what it is to be a fellow. From attending business meetings (none voting) to being registered as a CM (same fees as fellows) to access/participation with learning opportunities and POA committees, the new graduates will helpfully be kept into the fold of the POA until they pass the diplomates within 3 years. These fresh graduates will hopefully transition from their training institutions to the POA.

Amendment #2: creation of affiliate societies. Because of numerous applications from special interest

groups, President Alagar has spearheaded the creation of an affiliate society section. As differentiated from subspecialties that identify a recognized orthopedic field, an affiliate society is one group of fellows that have a special interest to be connected with the POA.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the Business Meeting for its approval. This shall take place during the POA Business Meeting on Nov 16, 2023.

**John Andrew Michael Bengzon, MD, FPOA, MBAH**

# NCDA Approves PWD Poster

The National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) recently gave its approval to the Person with Disability (PWD) poster project of the POA. Our President, Dr. David Alagar personally met with the NCDA Executive Director, Mr. Joniro Fradejas and requested that the NCDA go thru the PWD poster project of the POA.

This project started when one of our fellows asked if the POA can give guidelines on patients asking for medical certificates for proof of disability. The board of trustees then went to work and came across the NCDA Administrative Order Number 001 Series issued in 2021.

It is a fairly common scenario to see our patients with an obvious disability come to us and still ask us for medical certificates. I have a patient, who was a double amputee secondary to diabetic gangrene come to my clinic to ask for a medical certificate so he can "renew" his disability card. Under the guidelines of the NCDA, these patients with obvious or apparent disability do not need to get a medical certificate from us, but instead they can go directly to the PDAO or Person with Disability Affairs Office of the city or municipality. Only on rare occasions, when the disability is not obvious, would they need a certificate from us.

The posters will be given during the annual convention to the POA fellows and the Board of Trustees (BOT) hopes this will benefit and educate our patients on the current guidelines by the NCDA. The BOT has also made inquiries to

different local governments and some of them do require medical certificates from specialists, but with the imprimatur of the NCDA we can confidently tell our patients to go directly to the appropriate local government office.

The infographic was translated to Filipino by Dr. Mar Cadag, and together with the English version, these were printed into displayable posters for our clinics. It is suggested that the different chapters make this their own project and make posters in the vernacular of their areas.

**JAC Pimentel, MD, FPOA**

**GABAY SA PAGBIBIGAY NG CERTIFICATE OF DISABILITY UPANG MAKAKUHA NG PERSON WITH DISABILITY (PWD) ID CARD**  
NCDA AO NO. 001 SERIES OF 2021

**KAILANGAN KO BANG HUMINGI NG CERTIFICATE OF DISABILITY SA AKING ORTHOPEDIC DOCTOR PARA MAG-APPLY?**

Karamihan ng kapansanan nakaka-apekto sa pang-araw araw na gawain, ay hayagang nakikita (*halimbawa: putol na binti o hita; mga kamay o paa na wala sa maayos na porma at hindi nagagamit*) at hindi na kailangan ng Certificate of Disability mula sa inyong Orthopedic Doctor. Mangyari po lamang na magtungo sa Person with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) ng inyong siyudad o munisipyo para mag-apply ng PWD ID

**KAILAN KO KAILANGANG MAGPUNTA SA AKING ORTHOPEDIC DOCTOR?**

Kapag ang kapansanan ay hindi hayagang nakikita, kailangang magsadya sa inyong Orthopedic Doctor upang makakuha ng Certificate of Disability.

**MAAARI PA BA AKONG MAG-APPLY NG PWD ID CARD KUNG AKO'Y SUMAILALIM NA SA ORTHOPEDIC TREATMENT?**

Kung ang iyong kapansanan ay hindi nalutas, sa kabila ng angkop na Orthopedic Treatment, maaari kang manghingi ng Certificate of Disability mula sa iyong Orthopedic Doctor. Subalit, kung ang iyong kundisyon ay nalutas na, hindi ka na maituturing na may kapansanan pa.

Ang pagkakaroon ng Scoliosis ay hindi nangangahulugang ikaw ay may kapansanan. Mangyari po lamang na magpa-konsulta sa sertipikadong Orthopedic Doctor para sa wastong pagsusuri.

**GUIDE ON THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF DISABILITY FOR APPLICATION OF PERSON WITH DISABILITY (PWD) ID CARD**  
NCDA AO NO. 001 SERIES OF 2021

**DO I NEED A CERTIFICATE OF DISABILITY FROM MY ORTHOPEDIC DOCTOR TO APPLY?**

Most physical disabilities that impair activities of daily living are obvious (*e.g. amputated leg, deformed and non-functional extremity*) and do not need a certificate of disability from an orthopedic specialist. You can proceed to the Person with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) in your city or municipality for your application for a PWD ID card.

**WHEN IS IT NECESSARY TO SEE MY ORTHOPEDIC DOCTOR?**

Only when the disability is not obvious will there be a need for a certificate of disability from your orthopedic surgeon

**WHAT IF I HAVE UNDERGONE TREATMENT, CAN I STILL APPLY FOR A PWD ID CARD?**

If your disability has not been resolved despite the appropriate treatment, then you may request a certificate of disability from your orthopedic doctor. However, if the condition has been resolved, you cannot be considered as disabled.

Scoliosis is not automatically a disability. Please consult a certified Orthopedic Doctor for proper evaluation.





# Dr. Melito Antonio P. Ramos

Dr. Melito Antonio P. Ramos, our Vice-President, can best be described as a doer. Mel, as we

fondly call him, has been known to take on the many assignments asked by the previous and present Presidents of our association. His diligence is reflected by the fact that he graduated Cum Laude from Our Lady of Fatima Medical School. He went to Residency first at the V. Luna Medical Center but opted to transfer to the Philippine Orthopedic Center (POC) where he finished in 1996. He is the first fellow of the Musculoskeletal Tumor Fellowship Program of the POC. He is currently the Chairman of the Department of Orthopedics of the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRMMC). He is a past president of the Philippine Musculoskeletal Society. He also headed the various committees in JRMMC like the ER, bids and awards,

which shows his commitment not only to his craft, but also to his associations. Mel has been known to be a family man, having been happily married since 1996 to Jaja, a dermatologist. He is proud of his children; Migi, a graduate of computer science from the Ateneo de Manila University and Angela, a graduate of the UST College of Medicine and currently an intern at JRMMC.

During residency, Mel has impressed many of his colleagues with his pleasing and accommodating personality. All who have encountered Mel have only good words about him. Dr. Mikey Bengzon, who worked in POC with Mel said: "From then till now, my impression of him has always been: he is a congenial, humble, and helpful guy." Dr. Jhong Palabrica a fellow tumor specialist said: "I was the 4th fellow of the Musculoskeletal Tumor Unit of POC. I've known him to be helpful and diligent and easy to talk to". Dr. Peter Quiaoit,

a fellow Board of Trustees member and a junior of Mel during residency, described him as a very approachable senior and reliable colleague; silent but performs beyond expectations.

Personally, when I entered POC as a resident, I was assigned to Brown Service with Dr. Mel Ramos. I was uncertain on what to do, but Mel readily guided me on what was expected of us as first year residents; him, being just 6 months ahead of me, seemed to know a lot!

Now 58 years old and a veteran of many challenges, Mel will soon face the demands of being the leader of the POA. We are confident that this doer can really make things happen for our association. The POA is indeed lucky to have Mel at the helm next year.

**JAC Pimentel, MD, FPOA**

## Dave the Beloved.....



What more can I say about Dave Alagar? Dave's name in Hebrew means beloved... and rightfully so, he has been described and introduced several times that his CV is already public property. How many Orthobalita articles are needed to describe a man, who may well be one of the most visible POA fellows in the recent years?

Other than the CV and all his accomplishments, there are more to Dave than meets the eye. After more than 8 years with him as POA Trustee, I have grown to really admire Dave, aside from the fact that I have grown a few millimeters taller than him.

He is not tall, but he stands tall among the Goliaths of the POA...

He is unassuming but readily assumes leadership when called upon...

He doesn't care what people think of him, but he always thinks of ways to care about people...

He is one of a kind, the kind that is "kind" even to people that are not...

He never backs down from challenges and will always have your back when challenges are upon you...

He sometimes asks for help, but more importantly, he will always help you when you ask...

He is intelligent, but more than intelligent, he is also street smart...

He doesn't brag about himself, but he will brag about his friends' accomplishments...

Size really does not matter... just look at the 3 kids he has fathered...

They fear him when he is around, but they are more frightened when he is not...

He sometimes tells me it is tiring to work, but really, he works like he is a tireless man...

He may not be readily visible in a sea

of people, but really, his works are truly visible for people to see...

He cares like a nurse and treats patients as a doctor, because he is both... and on the other hand, he has hands that cure other hands...

He sets his priorities, but on top of it all is his family...

He may have chosen a stent rather than open heart surgery, but his heart is open for everybody...

Da Vinci may have painted the Mona Lisa, the most viewed woman in the world, but Dave doesn't care.. he only has eyes for Mona...

I don't know the size of his feet, but I'm sure they are big... and like what they say to men with big feet... that they have big... shoes... and with that I am sure... he will leave very, very big shoes to fill when he is done as POA President...

To my friend Dave... Congratulations!!! And, thank you for a great great job bringing the POA to where it is now.

**Melito Antonio P. Ramos, MD, FPOA**

# ASEAN Arthroplasty Association



It is with great pleasure and a profound sense of privilege that I welcome you to the 15th ASEAN Arthroplasty Association Scientific Meeting in Manila, Philippines. As the President, I am truly honored to welcome the delegates to this assembly of remarkable professionals, dedicated to the advancement of arthroplasty in our region.

This gathering represents the essence of our association – a diverse and dynamic community of experts, surgeons, researchers and healthcare practitioners, united by a shared passion for improving the lives of our patients through cutting-edge orthopedic interventions.

In these times of rapid advancements and evolving healthcare landscapes, it is paramount that we come together

to exchange knowledge, share insights and foster collaboration. The challenges we face may be significant, but they are met with an even greater reservoir of expertise, dedication, and the indomitable spirit that characterize our association.

Our mission is clear: to enhance patient care, to stay at the forefront of innovations in arthroplasty, and to ensure that our practices align with the highest standards of excellence. We have the power to change lives, to restore mobility, and to alleviate pain. These responsibilities inspire us to strive for excellence every day.

Over the course of this conference, we will engage in stimulating discussions, learn from experts in the field, and forge connections that will undoubtedly strengthen our collective pursuit of excellence. I encourage you to make the most of this valuable opportunity, to seek inspiration in the work of your peers, and to contribute your unique insights to the discourse.

As we embark on this scientific meeting, let us recommit ourselves to our shared

goals and aspirations. Let us foster an environment of mutual support and respect, where each member's voice is valued, and every contribution is acknowledged.

I look forward to the knowledge we will share, the camaraderie we will build, and the progress we will collectively achieve. The future of arthroplasty in our region is in our capable hands, and I have no doubt that together, we will continue to set new standards of excellence and make an enduring impact.

Once again, a warm welcome to the 15th ASEAN Arthroplasty Association Scientific Meeting. May these days be filled with learning, inspiration, and the boundless possibilities that our field presents.

Thank you for being a part of this scientific meeting and for your dedication to our shared mission.

With warm regards,

**Marcelino T. Cadag, MD, FPOA**

*President*

ASEAN Arthroplasty Association



## An open letter to my fellow Filipino Doctors and Friends

**(Iggy's letter to the Supreme Court)**

"There can be no Reckless Imprudence (a criminal complaint) if it is not voluntarily done. It can only be voluntary if there was no legal obligation, no compulsion, nor persuasion and made without payment or recompense in any form a voluntary conveyance."

I write as a prisoner of Manila City Jail

and a doctor. I am not a lawyer but I have studied my case thoroughly with all the focus and benefit of time in jail. I am a licensed Physician and a highly trained and experienced Orthopedic Surgeon that still believes in the freedom of speech and of true Justice. As a human being I value independent and critical thinking because they are keys to our better perception of the truth.

I blame the complainant, a lawyer who teaches criminal law and married

to a physician, for intentionally filing a malicious accusation to make sure I suffered severely through sixteen years of litigation and harassment and my eventual conviction affirmed with finality by the third division of the Supreme Court.

I know in my heart and mind that a grave injustice had been foisted upon me because I am not guilty of any crime.

# An open letter...

*From Page 6*

Well-meaning lawyers have told me that it is nearly impossible to reverse the decisions of the SC. But I live in hope - in humanity and justice despite my experience, and because I have seen so many people, some who I don't even know, wanting to help me fight for my cause of seeking Justice not just for me but now also for the protection of the Medical profession.

I have been convicted of reckless imprudence and sentenced to jail for one year and a day. I have now served three months and twenty five days of this sentence in one of the most congested city jails in the world. As you can imagine, this conviction has caused me and my family not only of mental suffering and humiliation but also of tremendous anxiety for my future as a surgeon and doctor.

I believe it is the first of its kind for a case of Reckless Imprudence to prosper in the courts as a result of a medical complication. This idea was further enhanced when veteran jail officers here in Manila City Jail told me that this was the first time to their knowledge, that a doctor, due to his profession, was convicted for reckless imprudence. And that such cases of reckless imprudence are almost always due to vehicular accidents. This was a complete eye opener for me and so I began my research and study while in jail.

The records show that the surgical instruments I used have been sterilized and all steps to avoid infection was adhered to by me and nursing staff. As a Doctor and Surgeon of more than thirty years, I can sincerely confirm that infections occur almost routinely and likely even daily in all hospitals of Manila despite our best efforts because there are factors beyond our control such as the hospital, the sterility of the instruments used and the factors associated with the patient himself. No surgeon can claim honestly that a post-

operation infection will never occur.

In my opinion, the most important and significant root cause of error or injustice in my case is the use of Reckless imprudence resulting in serious physical injury to charge me. Reckless imprudence requires that the act must be done "voluntarily". The law states: "Reckless imprudence consists in voluntarily, but without malice, doing or failing to do an act from which material damage results." No matter the outcome, be it slight, severe or even death, the manner or the circumstances in which the act or cause was done is what defines it to be a crime or of the nature of civil damages.

By definition, the word voluntarily as it is used in law means:

a. Acting or done without legal obligation, compulsion, or persuasion b. made without payment or recompense in any form a voluntary conveyance."

A patient consults a doctor for a health problem in the hope of finding a cure. Persuading or compensating a doctor to act based on the agreement between patient and doctor is not a voluntary action but a joint agreement or partnership with the patient.

My case is entirely different from a true case of reckless imprudence where for example a pedestrian accidentally, and therefore without malice, gets hit by a driver-bearing vehicle and suffers physical injury as a result. A civil case of malpractice, negligence or incompetence on the other hand may be the right cases to file under because the alleged cause is not an act done in a voluntary manner. It is also clearly understood that payment or compensation was expected and was done so with a fully informed consent by the complainant. The treatment or action offered is based on the information offered by the complainant/patient and subsequently agreed upon by both parties.

Moreover, I learned that in a published Supreme Court decision of a reckless imprudence resulting in serious physical case, defined the sentence of such a crime to be a fixed two months and one day. Yet I am still here in jail now for more than three months and still counting

In my opinion the courts may have committed an oversight by putting more weight on legal or procedural technicalities rather than my substantive human rights. Pointing out for example that it was my lawyer who was faulted by the courts for causing the loss of my statutory privilege of appealing my case in both the RTC and the CA. In doing so they also took my right to a fair trial that in my mere knowledge of the Law should be given automatically to those accused of criminal cases. And despite putting the blame on my lawyer, all punishment was given to me alone. And yet again I discovered recently in another Supreme Court ruling, a criminal conviction was reversed on the grounds that a lawyer's inability to perform his duties should not be cause for any accused to lose his constitutionally given right to liberty.

I therefore with hope and good intention that you my fellow doctors, individually or through the various medical and surgical organizations, to read and share this open letter to help us Doctors understand what has happened to me. I sincerely believe that by our awareness we will be able to protect our beloved profession better against predators and opportunist who are already using my case as a legal precedent to file a criminal cases for any complication arising from any of our treatment or surgery. It is time we Doctors heal and protect ourselves too, but eventually for the good of our patients.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Benigno "Iggy" Agbayani Jr., MD,  
FPOA**



## Philippine Orthopaedic Association, Inc.

*A Surgical Specialty Society recognized by the Philippine College of Surgeons and the Philippine Medical Association*

October 26, 2023

### LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE LATE DR. BENIGNO "IGGY" AGBAYANI, Jr

We, the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Orthopedic Association (POA), express our unwavering support for the appeal for review of the case of the late Dr. Benigno A. Agbayani, Jr, by his friends and family. Dr Agbayani was an experienced and dedicated orthopedic surgeon who was incarcerated for an apparent common complication associated with a surgical procedure. Unfortunately, he suffered a major heart attack and passed on while in prison.

We strongly support the request for clarifications regarding the legal issues related to his incarceration. We firmly believe that this intervention is necessary to address the growing concerns among the medical practitioners who fear a similar fate in the future.


We believe that Dr. Agbayani's case raises important questions about the complexities, challenges, and risks faced by medical professionals, particularly surgeons who perform critical procedures every day. Learning from this incident can help prevent similar situations, ensuring the safety of both patients and medical professionals.

In honor of Dr. Iggy Agbayani's memory, we implore the relevant authorities to hear and act on this appeal the soonest possible time to provide the necessary closure to his family, friends, and colleagues. We remain confident of the wisdom and integrity of the legal system in the country.

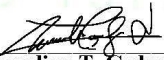
We at the POA, stand united in the pursuit of truth and justice, not only for the sake of the late Dr Agbayani, but for the welfare and protection of all medical professionals in the country.

Signed by

  
**David L. Alagar, MD, FPOA**  
President

  
**Melito Antonio P. Ramos, MD, FPOA**  
Vice-President

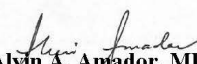
  
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Trustee

  
**Frederic Joseph F. Diyco, MD, FPOA**  
Ex-Officio Member



# PBO in Focus

## ACCREDITATION

2023 was a productive year for the Philippine Board of Orthopaedics, Inc. The Board triumphantly covered all the Training Programs' accreditation visits. Albeit tedious and exhausting, the different teams enjoyed the camaraderie, the food, and sometimes sightseeing, and most importantly, the discovery of each program's uniqueness. We visited twenty-nine (29) hospitals in five (5) months! There were nineteen (19) qualified programs, seven (7) provisional, one (1) conditional, and one (1) suspended of its provisional accreditation.

## EXAMINATION

The Board successfully conducted the certification examinations, both written and oral, last July 6 - 7, 2023. There were 77 written examinees with five (5) retakers. The Board, especially the Examination Committee, were mighty proud that we had a 100% passing rate, for the first time! Similarly, the oral examination took place immediately on the following day. There were 79 takers, including two (2) retakers. Out of the 79, there were seven (7) candidates who failed.

We are very grateful to the UNILAB pharmaceutical company for allowing us to use their facility for the oral examination. We also would like to thank the Associate Examiners who sacrificed their time in assisting the Board and make the oral examination a successful one --- Kudos!

The following candidates shall be formally inducted as bona fide Diplomates during the POA Annual Convention on the 17th of November. CONGRATULATIONS!

1. ACRICHE, MAUREEN MAE M.
2. ADAME, GLENCON B.
3. ADLON, LANCE ALDWIN S.
4. AGONCILLO, ANIKA JOHANNA G.
5. ALAMANI, JASON A.
6. ALVAREZ, AUDIMAR GLENN A.
7. ANDRADE, EUGENE M.
8. BADILLES, CHARMAINE BLANCHE C.
9. BAJAO, JOEVEL CHRISTIAN T.
10. BERNABE, JOHN MARVIN S.
11. CABAIS, DERRICK JOHN L.
12. CAMPOS, MARK KEVIN P.
13. CERIALES, RONALD R.
14. CHU-SANTOS, CHARLES ANDREW R.
15. CHUA, ERIKA NICOLE L.
16. CONDOR, VIENNAH B.
17. CORTEZ, KIKO A.
18. CRUZ, JHULIA NICHOLLE K.
19. DE ASIS, KATHERINE MARIE J.
20. DE LEON, KIM ANDREW S.
21. DETABALI, FRANCIS O.

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Dr. Edward Sarrosa and Dr. Renier Gerochi going around CVMC. Assisted by Dr. Angel Cayetano Jr. and staff.



BGHMC Visit: Headed by Dr. Lendell John Gatchalian together with Dr. Henry Tupas and Dr. James Paggao



USTH Visit: Headed by Dr. Richard Condor together with Dr. Angel Cayetano, Jr. and Dr. Ricardo Liwag (Associate Accreditor)



After visiting three (3) training institutions, the team had coffee before heading home.



Written Examination

# PBO in Focus... From Page 9

22. DIMACALI, GILBERT B.
23. DISTOR, MON GABRIEL P.
24. DOMINADO, JULIUS LOREN B.
25. EVANGELISTA, TED MATTHEW P.
26. FENG, MARIANNE THERESE S.
27. GALAPON II, ROMEO G.
28. GONZALEZ, VINCENT PAUL C.
29. GUEVARA, ANA MARGARITA C.
30. GUINOMLA, MAHAMMAD KHALIL A.
31. HERMOSO, EARL KEVIN A.
32. HERNANDEZ, JAN PATRICK R.
33. JUAN, CHRISTIAN JOEY L.
34. LANTIN, MA. LOREN JOSEPHINE D.
35. LEE, AL-MONDJID L.
36. LIM, JEAN MARICE S.
37. LIM, JOSHUA JOSSEN Z.
38. LUKBAN, NICOLE TERESA D.
39. MAGALONG, JAN MARVINS B.
40. MANALAYSAY, PATRICK MICHAEL V.
41. MANGALINO, RAE JOSEPH G.
42. MARQUEZ, JOHN PATRICK R.
43. MENDOZA, GILBERTO LUCCIO V.
44. MINA, JOSEPHINE E.
45. MUTIA, JOSIAH PAOLO M.
46. NAVARRO, JESSIAH AURA M.
47. NOCOM, JOSHUA JOSEPH F.
48. OBENIETA, HARJOLAND L.
49. ONG, KENNETH MANN W.
50. ORTEGA, ANDRIE LORENZO F.
51. PANGANIBAN, MOONYEN ALMIRA A.
52. PEÑA, MARIA ANTONIA ROSANNA G.
53. PENDALILAY, ALI FARHAN D.
54. PUNZALAN, AARON PAUL A.
55. QUIAMBAO, RAYMUND B.
56. RABARA, ROMUEL R.
57. RIVERA, PAOLO MIGUEL O.
58. ROBLES, ANNA FRANCESCA M.
59. ROMERO, RON RYAN D.
60. SABADO, MICHAEL ANTHONY B.
61. SAMARITA, CHLOE MARIE C.
62. TABLANTE, ADRIAN JOSEPH C.
63. TAN, JOED BEZER U.
64. URBIZTONDO III, GODOLIVO I.
65. UY, ALAN RYAN S.
66. VALDECAÑAS, FRANCESCO ANTONIO T.
67. VILLAREAL, DAVID JOHN C.
68. YASA, KUTCH V.
69. YEO, NOREEN JOYCE L.
70. YEUNG, RALPH GEOFFREY A.
71. YOUNG III, LEON JAMES A.
72. ZALAMEA, CHARLES-VINCENT G.



*Tumor Station.*



*Pedia Station*



*Trauma Station*



*Hand Station*



*2023 Diplomate Examinees*

# PBO in Focus...

From Page 10



## POA-PBO-PRC

Another significant activity of the PBO together with the POA, was the Level Alignment Matrix Workshop held last the 3rd of October 2023 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). This was organized by the Philippine College of Surgeons

(PCS) together with its different subspecialties in collaboration with the Philippine Regulatory Commission, headed by Commissioner Jose Y. Cueto Jr., MD. It was a collaborative learning experienced where the different subspecialty societies engaged in hands-on activities, and practical exercises to gain new skills or

knowledge in a specific area. An expert in that field facilitated the program and promoted skill development, and community building.

**ISAGANI E. GARIN, MD, FPOA**

*Chairman*

*Philippine Board of Orthopaedics*

## National Orthopaedic Residency Assistance Program (NORAP): An Update

The National Orthopaedic Residency Assistance Program is a program established by The Philippine Board of Orthopaedics, Inc. through a board resolution passed in its board meeting on the 11th of December, 2020 for the following intentions:

- a. To help the orthopedic training departments in getting the best applicants to undergo their training programs by providing a pool of resident applicants best suited to the strengths and capabilities of the department to undergo the training program.
- b. To help the resident applicant find the institution that he/she believes will provide them with the best orthopedics training.

A website of the PBO was created to contain all information pertinent to orthopedic training in the Philippines, including NORAP. To facilitate the assistance of residents, regionalization of residency programs in the country was done, where all training programs in the Philippines were distributed into seven (7) groups. This regionalization is for:

- a. Helping the resident applicant decide where to apply depending on their area of residence.
- b. Giving them a bird's eye view of the available training programs with no prejudice to applying to a training program outside of the region of their residence.

A newly licensed physician who wishes to undergo training in orthopedic

surgery in an accredited training program and participating in NORAP will have to apply to NORAP. Applicants will choose at least two training programs, ranking them as first or second choice. All applications will be submitted through the website, and the Committee will check the completeness of the requirements for residency training. The training department will also entertain walk-in applications on implementing this program. All queries concerning NORAP should be directed to the PBO website or through an e-mail addressed to the Committee.

Part of NORAP is a National Orthopedic Aptitude Examination (NOAE) made up of 200 questions to be conducted by the NORAP Committee for all applicants. The examination will only rank the

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# National Orthopaedic Residency...

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applicants from highest to lowest, giving a percentile rank, and the examination results will only be provided to the examinee and the training program of choice of a particular resident applicant within a week after the examination. It is hoped that the percentile ranking of the resident applicant, as a measure of their potential intellectual capacity, will help the department decide whether to accept the applicant. The department sets the percentile ranking of the applicant that is acceptable to them.

Since not all training programs have problems with the quantity and quality of their resident applicants, a survey was done last February 2023 on who among the accredited training programs in orthopedics will participate in NORAP. As of this writing, 12 institutions have signified their participation in NORAP:

1. BATANGAS MEDICAL CENTER (BATMC)
2. BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER (BGHMC)
3. BICOL MEDICAL CENTER (BMC)
4. CAGAYAN VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER (CVMC)
5. EASTERN VISAYAS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER (EVRMC)
6. ILOCOS TRAINING AND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

- (ITRMC)
7. MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER (MMC)
8. NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER (NMMC)
9. REGION 1 MEDICAL CENTER (R1MC)
10. ST LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER (SLMC)
11. UNIVERSITY OF CEBU MEDICAL CENTER (UCMED)
12. WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER (WVSUMC)

This year, the first NOAE was conducted last the 14th of October 2023, after an orientation meeting via Zoom of all resident applicants. A total of 30 examinees took the exam. Setting it to an acceptable percentile rank at 56%, 50% of applicants are eligible for acceptance to a training program for this batch of examinees. Acceptable percentile rank will still depend on the department concerned, and the department will decide who will be accepted according to their percentile rank.

The training departments may schedule additional requirements like personal or online interviews of the resident applicants or a pre-residency period to

be spent in the department as deemed needed for the final decision on the acceptance of the resident applicant to their training program. The NORAP Committee will not be responsible for deciding who to accept. However, it will have a central repository of the requirements and documentaries, and these documents will be forwarded to the department to facilitate their selection process.

Once a decision is reached on who to accept into the institution's residency program, the department's Training Officer will forward the list of selected applicants to the Committee, who will record it in the National Orthopedic Residency Assistance Program. The applicants will then communicate directly with the residency programs where they were accepted.

With this pilot launch of the NOAE and feedback from the departments participating in NORAP this year, it is hoped that NORAP will eventually be accepted by training programs as an aid to their decision to fill up the required number of residents for the need of the department and getting the best applicants for their department.

**Reynaldo V. Lopez, MD, FPOA**  
*PBO Ex-Officio*

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## PBO Outstanding Residents 2023

The Philippine Board of Orthopedics, Inc, in its desire to give due recognition to our hard working and sleep-deprived residents, resurrected this humble Project Search last year, in 2022, after a brief interruption due to severe restrictions at that time. This is to give due acknowledgement to the residents' exemplary performance, hard work, and diligence in the workplace and beyond. This was timely as it was conferred in conjunction with the PBO Golden Anniversary Celebration.

This year 2023, the enduring endeavor goes on with the same rules and implementing guidelines.

On the outset, there were 43 nominees coming from the different Training Programs throughout the country. This list was submitted prior to the scheduled In-Training Examinations for all levels to eliminate any bias. To qualify for the final stage of the search, which is the "Interview", a nominee should be in the Top Ten Percent of his/her year level.

After diligently employing the above cardinal rules, the candidates for personal interview were further trimmed down to 12 nominees.

A closed-door interview was conducted by the Board of Trustees en banc on each hopeful candidate last October 28,

2023, taking into consideration their ITE performance, research paper submitted, achievement, social accountability, professional development, and other relevant information.

After computing all the scores submitted by each trustee, and after due deliberation, there will be 6 residents to be conferred as an outstanding resident in orthopedics for the year 2023 during the PBO HOUR on the 74th POA Annual Congress at the EDSA Shangri-La, Mandaluyong City.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

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# PBO Outstanding...

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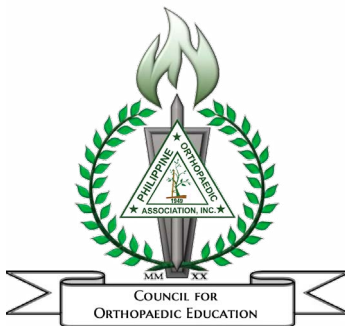
The following are the winners namely:  
Level 1: Molano, Angelino Mari USTH  
Level 3: Mendoza, Angelo Rafael USTH  
Level 4:

1st: Fernandez, Carlo USTH  
2nd: Bilog, Antonette Mariama UP-PGH  
3rd: Cruz, Paul Adrian JBLMGH  
4th: Abesamis, Julius Bryan UP-PGH

**James C. Paggao, MD, FPOA**  
PBO Trustee



## Advancing Orthopaedic Education for Our Fellows and Residents



The POA Council for Orthopaedic Education embarked on a two-pronged approach aimed at improving the delivery of orthopaedic training and education for our Fellows and orthopaedic trainees. The first set of activities was aimed at improving the knowledge and skills of the Training Officers of the 28 PBO Accredited Training Programs. Dubbed as the "Training Officers' Toolkit", a series of lectures were conducted via Zoom as well as face-to-face encounters, with experienced POA Fellows sharing their varying expertise in order to give better ideas on soft and hard skills needed for orthopedic training. The first session held last March 18, 2023, focused on lecturing and small group discussion skills, with talks entitled: "Preparing for Lectures", "Projecting and Connecting with Your Audience", "Preparing a Presentation", "Taking Clinical Pictures", "Making Anatomy and Biomechanics Interesting", and "Learning in Small Groups". A special talk on "Millennial Learners" was also presented.

The second session was held last April 18, 2023 during the Midyear Convention in Bacolod City. Ideas on teaching clinical skills were shared, with the talks focusing on "Effective Teaching Methods", "Effectively Teaching Surgical Skills", "Use of Core Clinical Cases", "Teaching Lower Extremity Immobilization for Students", "Teaching the Ponseti Technique", and the "Use of Simulation in the Clinical Skills".

A third session was held online last June 17, 2023 with a focus on "Preparing Written Examinations", wherein the PBO Blueprint for 2023 was presented during this session; this was followed by lectures on "Multiple Choice Questions: The Whys and Hows", "Common Errors in MCQs", and "Critiquing MCQs: How to Make Good Even Better".

The last session for the year will be held during the Annual Convention of the POA, where a panel discussion on the use of artificial intelligence in orthopaedics will be conducted.

The other set of activities of the CORe was dubbed "The Friday Five o'clock Habit". This lecture series was conceived in order to lay a common foundation for basic orthopaedics for our resident trainees across all 28 training institutions all over the country. It was also aimed at training our junior Fellows on how to prepare and deliver lectures to a virtual audience. The lectures were conducted by all twelve

subspecialty societies of the POA, with each society tasked to determine the basic coverage of the topics and assign the lecturers from among their members. From May to August, a total of 21 lecture sessions were conducted, with 92 lectures delivered by 87 POA Fellows to a minimum of 60 residents per session, covering the length and breadth of topics that a resident is expected to know. Feedback sessions will then be held to further improve the content of the lectures, as well as improve the editing, presentation and delivery skills of our Fellows.

The Council for Orthopedic Education would like to thank all the Fellows who generously contributed to this year's activities in furthering orthopedic education, whether for training consultants or for residents. We would also like to thank the POA Board of Trustees for giving the green light and encouraging our teaching activities for the year. It is encouraging to see so many of our Fellows selflessly looking out for the next generation of orthopedic surgeons. It truly does take a village to raise a child. On behalf of the CORe, Maraming Salamat po!

When we learn, we teach. And when we teach, we learn a lot more.

**Jean Pierre F. Leung, MD, FPOA & Daniel V. Dungca, MD, FPOA**

# POA Orthogeriatric and Osteoporosis Working Group: Clinical Practice Guidelines about Osteoporosis, Fragility Fracture Management, and Research Projects about the Fracture Liaison Service



For the year 2023, the Orthogeriatric and Osteoporosis Working Group represented the POA in the formulation of the 2023 Philippine Clinical Practice

Guidelines on Screening, Diagnosis, Management, and Prevention of Primary Osteoporosis and Fragility Fractures Among Postmenopausal Women and Elderly Men, which was spearheaded by the Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines Inc. (OSPMI). The following POA fellows: Drs. Nathaniel Orillaza Jr., Mary Ruth Padua and Jonathan Ronquillo served as evidence review experts, while Dr. Czar Louie Gaston acted as a Panel Board Review Member. They all patiently participated in the monthly meetings for more than one year, duly representing the POA. The task force members, represented by six different organizations will submit the CPG to relevant stakeholders and policymakers (HTAC and DOH), with the hope of incorporating these evidence-based suggestions in the pathway of care for elderly patients with osteoporosis and fragility fractures under the universal health care.

The working group is also supporting the DOST funded Orthogeriatric-FLS Hip Registry project entitled "Multicenter Implementation of Orthogeriatrics and the Fracture Liaison Service for Elderly Hip Fractures: An Evidence-based Framework for a Sustainable Digital Health Registry" involving twelve institutions under the Department of

Health. One of the goals of this project is to expand the number of FLS programs in the country, providing training and assistance to the participating hospitals on how to establish their own Orthogeriatric-FLS programs. The project is expected to finish middle of next year.

Lastly, the POA Fellows from our working group, in collaboration with the (FFN) Fragility Fracture Network- Philippines, supported and were included in the authorship page of the regional research project entitled "Service Availability and Readiness for Hip Fracture Care in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

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## Surgical Management

Clinical Question	Recommendations	QOE	SOR
21. Among patients with previous fragility fractures, what is the effect of pharmacologic intervention on the risk of having a subsequent or second fracture?	Among patients with previous or prevalent fragility fractures, it is recommended to give pharmacologic therapies specifically bisphosphonates and teriparatide to reduce the risk of subsequent fractures.	Mod	Strong
22. Among patients with acute displaced fragility fractures of the distal radius, is early surgical intervention superior to conservative management for improving functionality?	Among patients 65 years old and above with acute displaced fragility fractures of the distal radius, it is not recommended to proceed with surgery to improve long-term patient functional outcomes.	High	Strong
23. Among patients who have painful osteoporotic compression fractures of the spine, is kyphoplasty superior to nonsurgical management for controlling pain and improvement of quality of life (QOL)?	Among patients with painful osteoporotic compression fractures of the spine, it is suggested that kyphoplasty be done over non-surgical treatment for acute pain control (6 to 8 weeks) and improvement of QoL.	Mod	Weak

## Surgical Management

Clinical Question	Recommendations	QOE	SOR
24. Among patients who sustained fragility fractures of the hip, is early surgical intervention superior to delayed surgical intervention in improving overall survival, morbidity, mortality, and functionality of patients?	Among patients who sustained fragility fractures of the hip, it is suggested that early surgical management (24 to 48 hours) be done to reduce morbidity and improve survival.	Mod	Strong
25. In patients with a previous osteoporotic fragility fracture, will enrollment in a secondary fracture prevention program or fracture liaison service (FLS) improve treatment adherence and prevent re-fractures?	Among patients who have experienced a fragility fracture, it is recommended that they be managed within a formal integrated system of care that incorporates a fracture liaison service (FLS) to prevent re-fractures and improve adherence to osteoporosis treatment.	High	Strong
	Among patients who have fragility fracture/s, it is recommended that appropriate	High	Strong

# POA Orthogeriatric...

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in South and Southeast Asia", which was spearheaded by the research coordinating and writing team of Professor Matthew Costa (past FFN Global President) from Oxford-Nuffield Orthopedics. This research project included "collaborators" from five participating countries including the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand,

Vietnam, and Sri Lanka. The output was recently published in the Bone Joint Open Journal (Open Access) in September this year.

Rest assured that our group will continue to represent the POA and work to push for the improvement of osteoporosis and fragility fracture care in the country.

**Irewin A. Tabu MD, FPOA**

Head, POA Orthogeriatric and Osteoporosis Working Group  
Associate Professor, UP-PGH Dept. of Orthopedics  
Chair, FFN Global Regionalization Committee

## POA NMC's Six Initiatives: A Commitment to Health and Community Welfare

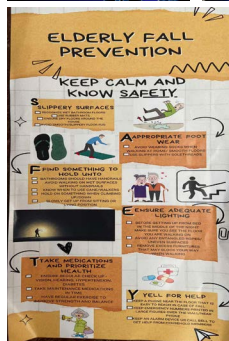
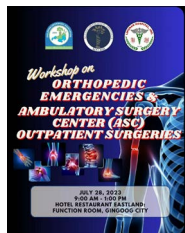
The Philippine Orthopaedic Association Northern Mindanao Chapter (POA-NM) has made significant strides in promoting orthopedic care and community welfare through a series of impactful projects conducted throughout the region. Spanning from May to August 2023, these initiatives have left a lasting impression on both the medical community and the local population.

### "Broken Bones... Broken Lives" Osteoporosis and Fragility Fracture Awareness Lecture

In cooperation with the Agusan Orthopedic Institute (AOI) and M.J. Santos Hospital, the Philippine Orthopaedic Association Northern Mindanao Chapter organized a pivotal event on May 26, 2023. Doctors from various specialties, nurses, and physical therapists gathered to participate in an enlightening lecture aimed at raising awareness about osteoporosis and fragility fractures. This initiative sheds light on the profound impact of these conditions on individuals' lives and underscored the importance of prevention.

### "Practice and Upgrade Limb Salvage Skills" Workshop

POA-NM continued its commitment to education on June 17, 2023, with a workshop held at the Northern Mindanao Medical Center in Cagayan



de Oro City. Titled "Practice and Upgrade Limb Salvage Skills," the event focused on enhancing essential skills required for limb preservation—a critical aspect of orthopedic care.

### Scoliosis Awareness Seminar: "Beyond the Bend: Managing Scoliosis for a Lifetime"

In collaboration with the Agusan Orthopedic Institute (AOI) and ACE Medical Center Butuan, a Scoliosis Awareness Seminar was conducted on June 30, 2023, at the 8th Floor Auditorium of ACEMC - Butuan, Inc. Majority of the attendees were dedicated barangay health workers hailing from neighboring communities. The seminar delved into comprehensive strategies for managing scoliosis throughout an

individual's lifetime.

### Orthopedic Emergencies and Outpatient Surgeries Lecture

In cooperation with the Gingoog Orthopaedic and Multispecialty Ambulatory Clinic, on July 28, 2023, at the Eastland Hotel and Restaurant in Gingoog City, the Philippine Orthopaedic Association Northern Mindanao Chapter organized a vital lecture addressing orthopedic emergencies and outpatient surgeries. This educational session equipped medical professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to handle urgent orthopedic cases effectively.

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# POA NMC's Six Initiatives...

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## Fall Prevention Lecture Series

Community welfare took center stage on August 24, 2023, as a series of lectures on fall prevention was held at the Butuan City Hall Lobby. In collaboration with the Butuan LGU and the Butuan Medical Center (BMC), the audience comprised senior citizens, government employees, and healthcare workers, emphasizing the importance of safety and injury prevention within the community.

## Charitable Donation to the Por Cristo Foundation Inc. Home for the Abandoned Elderly

In a heartwarming act of benevolence on August 25, 2023, the Philippine

Orthopaedic Association Northern Mindanao Chapter donated 100,000 pesos to the Por Cristo Foundation Inc. Home for the Abandoned Elderly in Butuan City. Notably, these funds were generated from the earnings of the POA North Mindanao's midyear convention in 2020. During the donation ceremony, orthopedic surgeons and physical therapists also provided valuable lectures on fall prevention, further exemplifying the association's dedication to holistic community welfare.

Looking forward, the association plans to conduct another educational lecture before the end of the year. This

commitment reaffirms the Philippine Orthopaedic Association Northern Mindanao Chapter's dedication to spreading knowledge and improving community well-being. In conclusion, the Philippine Orthopaedic Association Northern Mindanao Chapter's six projects showcased a deep commitment to the health and well-being of both the medical community and the local population. Through education, skill enhancement, charitable contributions, and ongoing initiatives, the Philippine Orthopaedic Association Northern

**Antonio S. Montalban, Jr., MD, FPOA**





# Sulong South Luzon

## TEAMERGENCY: Unity for Multiple Injuries

POASL Second Quarter Meeting and Team Building Activity  
June 24-25, 2023, Quest Plus Conference Center, Clark, Pampanga



"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."  
- Henry Ford

Aside from keeping its members updated by providing regular scientific meetings and workshops, the POA South Luzon Chapter maintains its "absolute stability" by holding various types of activities to enhance social relations to promote unity and camaraderie. The latest of which was strategically entitled, "TEAMERGENCY: Unity for the Multiple Injuries," as treating a multiply-injured patient requires collaboration with other specialties and health care professionals. It was held last June 24-25, 2023 at Quest Plus Conference Center in Clark, Pampanga.

The fellows were grouped into teams and participated in several activities. The physical exercise was facilitated by Mr. John Allan Añonuevo, a senior field training specialist.

The team building part was followed with a scientific lecture by our very own, Dr. Joshua Unsay, an Orthopedic trauma specialist. He discussed the current orthopedic updates in managing polytrauma patients, particularly the roles of damage control orthopedics versus early total care. The audience, being fresh from the team building activity, enthusiastically participated during the open forum.



The fellows participating at the team building event.



Lastly, the fellows had a brief business meeting, presided by POASL chapter president, Dr. Bogie Anatalio. The event was officially closed by chapter vice president, Dr. Lendell Gatchalian. A KTV fellowship party followed to cap the night off.



### PAALAM, KUYANG ERNIE.

Some of the POASL officers and past presidents paid their final respects to one of the chapter's founding member, past president and pillar, Dr. Ernesto F. Reyes, Jr., in Batangas City where his remains lied last July 3, 2023.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.



### SOUTH AND NORTH LUZON: OPLAN BALKATAN: POA South & North Luzon "Joint" Summit

August 26-27, 2023  
Crimson Hotel, Filinvest, Alabang

POA fellows from South and North Luzon chapters, once again, met in

# Sulong...

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a joint summit hosted by POASL chapter in Crimson Hotel in Alabang. The scientific meeting was entitled, "Oplan Balikatan" since the "joint" (pun intended) summit focused on shoulder fracture management.

The fellows from both chapters were welcomed by POASL chapter president, Dr. Bogie Anatalio and the event was hosted by POASL chapter scientific officer and POA trustee, Drs. Mike Muñoz and Mar Cadag.

Dr. Cayetano talked about the updates on both scapula and clavicle fractures management, while Dr. Ronquillo gave tips and updates on proximal humerus fracture management.

The third speaker, Dr. Michael Joseph Magabo, a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation specialist, talked about the science of probiotics in treating osteoarthritis.

After the scientific meeting, two fellows from POANL chapter were inducted as new members by their chapter president, Dr. Rolando Gerardo dela Cruz, who later that night, formally closed the event.

## POA SOUTH LUZON HALL OF FAME AWARDS

After the "joint" summit, POASL chapter launched its hall of fame awards. The following were recognized in grateful recognition to their distinguished and invaluable services rendered to the chapter:

1. Leslie M. Reyes, MD, FPOA: Founding Member and Chapter President (1996-1997)
2. Geronimo B. Sales, Jr., MD, FPOA: Chapter President (2000-2001)
3. Ernesto F. Reyes, Jr. MD, FPOA+: Founding Member and Chapter President (1994-1995)

Upon receiving their awards, Dr. Leslie Reyes and Dr. Gerry Sales shared their experiences and challenges during their time. They also gave a few words of inspiration and encouragement.



The hosts and the Presidents of POASL (Dr. Bogie Anatalio) and POANL (Dr. Rolando Dela Cruz) giving their welcoming address and closing remarks, respectively.



Dr. Cayetano, Dr. Ronquillo and Dr. Magabo during the scientific session



As always, every POA SL chapter activity ends with a fellowship night with food, drinks and music!

Dr. Ernie's award was given posthumously and was received by his wife, Mrs. Ellen Reyes, and son, Atty. Earnest Anthony Reyes. Atty. Reyes shared his experiences growing up in front of orthopedic surgeons, as POA SL



Induction of new POA NLC Fellows



POA Fellows from South and North Luzon in good attendance

chapter, even from its birth, has always been a family-oriented organization.

Congratulations to our Hall of Fame Awardees --- and thank you for being the foundation of our chapter. We will continue your legacy.

**SULONG SOUTH LUZON!**

**Rey-an Niño L. Garcia, MD, FPOA**  
POA SLC Trustee

# The Philippine Shoulder Society – Staying Relevant in the Region

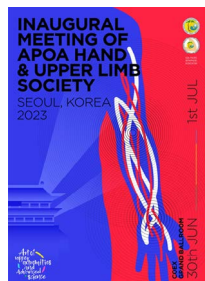
From the 73rd Philippine Orthopaedic Association Annual combined with the 22nd Asia-Pacific Orthopaedic Association Congress held purely online in November 2022, the walls of the pandemic that kept everyone in a virtual atmosphere has finally collapsed; and the Philippine Shoulder Society went head on to join the 44th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Singapore Orthopaedic Association from 5-10 December 2022, with 3 research papers presented by resident trainees co-authored by our society president.



Quarterly meeting posters

2023 turned out to be quite an adjustment for most, as we sat around in virtual screens for the past 2 years to join our colleagues across the globe. Locally, the society held its first quarter meeting virtually on 1 March 2023, hosted and chaired by Dr. Janos Vizcayno. Interesting cases were presented by orthopedic trainees from Chong Hua Hospital and from the University of Cebu. The Officers' meeting followed to finalize the Society's participation for the POA CORE lectures. The second quarterly meeting was hosted by our P.R.O., Dr. JC Paredes at the Firehouse Pizza sponsored by Pacific Surgical. A very productive night was indeed commemorated by presentations from St. Luke's Medical Center, the Philippine General Hospital and the Philippine Orthopaedic Center, as this was the first face to face meeting of the Society since the pandemic. Giving responsibility to our trainees is an up-skill that mentors provide to our residents. Thus, the 3rd quarter meeting was hosted by the orthopedic chief resident at De La Salle University, Dr. Juancho Abejo, and held his own meeting, bringing co-residents and trainees from the DLSU Medical Center, V. Luna Medical Center and East Avenue Medical Center.

Successfully taking place during the 2nd to 3rd quarter of the year, with 21 sessions, was the Basic Lecture Series for Orthopedic Residents / the POA CORE Lectures, spearheaded by Dr. Danny Dunca — became the 5 o'clock



Dr. Kester Lim (left) and Dr. Ronquillo (right) on the stage at the Inaugural Meeting of the APOA - Hand and Upper Limb Society in Seoul, Korea



Organizing committee of the APOA - Hand and Upper Limb Society and judges for the finalists of shoulder specialty research papers

habit for all orthopedic trainees throughout the country. With collective discussions under the Shoulder Society education committee, our society delivered an informative sessions on common shoulder maladies on 14 July 2023. Our young and accomplished fellows addressed the following topics:



APOA - Hand and Upper Limb Society meeting in Rome at the 15th ICSES. At the foreground is Prof. In-Ho Jeon, president of the APOA-HUL and vice president of SICOT.

# The Philippine Shoulder Society...

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1. Rotator Cuff Tears and Basic Shoulder Arthroscopy - Dr. Jana Tumpalan
2. Glenohumeral Instability Basics - Dr. Pia Quiñones
3. Glenohumeral Management; Clavicle Fractures; AC Joint, SC Joint and Scapular Injuries - Dr. Janos Vizcayno
4. Proximal Humerus Fractures - Dr. Kristine Italia

Under the leadership of our longest reigning society president and orthopedic department chair of the University of Sto. Tomas, Dr. Alberto Molano and his team led the way for shoulder cadaveric learning activities. Dr. Raymond Nuñez headed the cadaveric lab surgeries on 16 May 2023, sharing his skills and expertise in arthroscopic shoulder surgery. Dr. Molano and his team will be holding their annual pre-congress knee and shoulder workshop at UST on 13-14 November 2023, along with Professors Joo Han Oh and Bancha Chernchujit as guest instructors.

Research presentation of our results and active involvement in academic conventions are at the forefront of providing better care for our patients and advances our proficiency in our

field of practice; these also provide opportunities to mingle and exchange ideas with like-minded colleagues from all over the world. This year, the following members of our Society contributed to these efforts:

1. Dr. Alberto Molano remains an active board member of the Asian Shoulder and Elbow Society. With our Society, he constantly leads his team in providing practical training in arthroscopic procedures for the hip and knee.
2. Dr. Kristine Italia published 3 papers this year in peer-reviewed journals and was the main author of 2 papers published in the Journal of Clinical Medicine and the Journal of ISAKOS. Being an indispensable member of the research team of a world-renowned orthopedic innovator from Brisbane, Queensland, Tin also had 2 podium presentations in Australia and had 7 poster presentations accepted in the recently held 15th ICSES Congress in Rome, Italy. She is tirelessly involved in all educational activities of the Society.
3. Dr. Jana Francesca Tumpalan actively extends her effort to the

educational committee of the Society and was the awardee this year of the ISAKOS Gender and Diversity Task Force Scholarship, given in Boston, Massachusetts.

4. Dr. Janos Vizcayno is a specialist in hip and knee surgery and is a shoulder and elbow specialist who devotes his time to the teaching activities of our Society. He has just concluded further training in musculoskeletal ultrasound and will be sharing his newfound skills during the shoulder workshop in our Annual.
5. Dr. Kester Lim presented a lecture on tendon transfer for massive irreparable cuff tears in the inaugural meeting of the APOA - Hand and Upper Limb Society held in Seoul, South Korea this year.
6. Dr. Jonathan Ronquillo relentlessly works for the credibility of our society. He is the CME co-chair of the Shoulder Education Committee for the Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association - Hand and Upper Limb Society, and a Board Member of the Asian Shoulder and Elbow Society. He is a paper reviewer for 2 international peer-reviewed journals, a student research examiner for University of New South Wales through the Orthopaedics Research Institute of St. George Hospital, Kogarah, NSW. He is a member of the POA team that provided relevant input for the national CPG on Osteoporosis.

His paper entitled "Interpositional Patch Graft Using TFL" was also accepted for presentation at the Korean Shoulder and Elbow Society on 31 March to 1 April 2023 at the SC Convention in Seoul, Korea. Recently, Dr. Ronquillo was an invited speaker at the Inaugural Meeting of the APOA - Hand and Upper Limb Society held in Seoul, South Korea to talk about "Updates on Proximal Humerus Fractures".

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Philippine Shoulder Society President, Dr. Ronquillo as speaker and moderator at the 15th International Congress on Shoulder and Elbow Surgery in Rome, Italy



Members of the Board, Asian Shoulder and Elbow Association (on the stage representing the Philippines, upper left-most Drs. Molano and Ronquillo).

# The Philippine Shoulder Society...

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As a mentor and senior co-author, he had 2 of his orthopedic trainees present their research papers at the said convention. During the congress, he was also part of the organizing committee, was a research reviewer, moderator and judge for both poster and final paper presentations for shoulder specialty. He continues to work with the educational committees of the APOA-HUL to maintain the regular webinar meeting on basic and advanced topics of the society.

Dr. Ronquillo was also invited as a faculty and speaker on "Asian Perspectives for the Management of Massive Irreparable Cuff Tears", and a moderator/panelist for the symposium on Acromioclavicular Joint and Elbow Surgery during the 15th International Congress on Shoulder and Elbow Surgery, from 5-8 September 2023.

Together with Dr. Alberto Molano, they represented the Philippines

during the Asian Shoulder and Elbow Society meeting.

- To all society members who dedicate their time and effort to attend as delegates to various conferences all over... You make our Society relevant in the region!

Throughout the course of the 74th Congress of the Philippine Orthopaedic Association, the Philippine Shoulder Society will be providing an excellent presentation on different, yet very common conditions of the shoulder. On the first day of the Congress, we prepared to showcase evidence-based crossfires presented by local surgeons, just as how they are applicable locally. The topics include SLAP Lesions, PASTA lesions, first time glenohumeral dislocations, AC Joint dislocations and 3-4-part proximal humerus fractures. The debates on opposite approaches will be overseen by known shoulder experts, namely: Prof. Denny Lie of Singapore, Prof. Joo Han Oh of South

Korea, and Assoc. Prof. Bancha Chernchujit from Thailand.

Instructional course lectures and a workshop have also been set up for Day 2. We will be discussing landmark-based and ultrasound-guided shoulder injections. A workshop follows the lecture with expert table instructors overseeing the practical application of shoulder injections in an orthopedic clinic.

The Philippine Shoulder Society continues to work with peers and keeps our presence relevant in the region. We will remain present to keep our flag flying high in the upcoming Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Congress, through the Hand and Upper Limb Society on 28-29 February to 1 March 2024 in Dubai, and the 11th Academic Congress of the Asian Shoulder and Elbow Association on 2-5 October 2024 in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

**Jonathan C. Ronquillo, MD, FPOA**

## ASAMI Philippines All-over the Map

With the end of the Covid-19 pandemic, members of ASAMI Philippines have become more active than ever. Elective surgeries have gone full throttle and learning activities on the Methods of Ilizarov are back in full swing as restrictions were lifted.

January 2023 saw the start of the Ilizarov and Limb Reconstruction Fellowship Program of the Department of Orthopaedics of Jose B. Lingad Memorial General Hospital in San Fernando, Pampanga. Two fellows from Baguio and Quezon City embarked on a one year programme where they were exposed to the many and varied ways that one can apply the Ilizarov Fixator and its methods for various challenging orthopedic conditions. This complements the similar Fellowship Program of the UP-PGH Department of Orthopaedics, making the Ilizarov Fellowship presently available in two



institutions in the country. A memorandum of agreement was also inked between the two institutions for an exchange program, whereby the Fellows of both institutions can participate in each other's activities and surgeries in order to maximize their experience with

the various techniques.

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# ASAMI...

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The Basic Course and Workshop on the Methods of Ilizarov was back to face-to-face mode. This was held last Feb 4-5, 2023 at the Department of Orthopaedics of the UP-PGH. A full house of residents participated in the lectures and sawbone workshops, as

well as in the cadaveric course at the UP College of Medicine.

The Ilizarov Method has proven to be more and more relevant in our country as we continue to see more complex cases of trauma, infection, tumors and

limb deformities. ASAMI Philippines will continue to spearhead activities to serve the needs of patients needing limb reconstruction.

**Daniel V. Dungca, MD, FPOA**



A second Ilizarov Mission was done at the Ilocos Training Regional Medical Center in San Fernando, La Union last April 29, 2023 for two cases of Infected Nonunion of the Tibia.

ASAMI members were also very active in surgical missions throughout Luzon. The aims of these missions were to assist our members with complex cases as well as to enhance the awareness and understanding of orthopedic residents on the Methods of Ilizarov. Most of the activities were held in training institutions where cases are first discussed with the training residents in a conference prior to the performance of the procedure. The first of such activities started in the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center last March 24, 2023, where two cases of Congenital Pseudoarthrosis of the Tibia and Untreated Complex Fracture-Dislocation of the Elbow were managed.



Jose B. Lingad Memorial General Hospital in San Fernando, Pampanga was the host for the third surgical mission held last June 24, 2023. A total of seven patients with diagnoses of Malunion, Untreated Dislocation, Congenital Pseudoarthrosis and Infected Nonunion were managed by five ASAMI members led by our President Emeritus, Dr. Juanito Javier.



A fourth Ilizarov Mission was held at the Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center in Batac, Ilocos Norte last August 26, 2023 for two cases of Chronic Dislocation and one case of Tuberculous Arthritis of the elbow.

The fifth Ilizarov Mission for the year was held at the UP-Philippine General Hospital last September 17, 2024. Six ASAMI members and three Ilizarov Fellows joined hands and performed 2 Ilizarov Hip Reconstructions, 2 Congenital Tibial Cases, and 2 Chronic Infection cases.

# The PHKS Roadshow Surgical Mission: Batangas Medical Center

The Philippine Hip and Knee Society Roadshow Surgical Mission is an avenue for our society to showcase the specialty of hip and knee arthroplasty to the provinces. This also serves as an outreach program. The society provides free surgeries and free implants for our less fortunate countrymen, who may need joint replacement surgery. We also aim to promote camaraderie among members by touching base with our members practicing in the provinces. Like everything else, the pandemic has put this regular activity on hold for three years. We were ecstatic to be able to resume our roadshow and very happy that Batangas Medical Center was able to accommodate us.

At the crack of dawn of June 10, 2023, we ventured on the road trip to Batangas City. Most of us were first timers in the place. It was an easy drive to Batangas Medical Center. There, we were welcomed by the Orthopedics Department Chair Dr Alexander Pring and our two members practicing in Batangas City: Dr Jim Bryan Pantas and Dr Philipp Aristotle Hermida. They prepared a hearty breakfast to start the day.

After breakfast was a short orientation on the tasks for the day. A prayer was even said before we proceeded to the operating room (not a common practice especially from a government institution). We had two arthroplasty cases that morning: a knee osteoarthritis case and an old untreated intertrochanteric fracture hip case. A total knee arthroplasty was done for the knee case and a bipolar partial hip arthroplasty was done for the hip case. The two cases were done simultaneously in two adjacent operating rooms. We were done before lunch time.

We headed to a nearby restaurant for lunch after the surgeries. We sampled the famous Batangas Lomi and other Batangueno delicacies. Definitely the



highlight of the day was lunch. That concluded our roadshow surgical mission to Batangas Medical Center. We all went home with our tummies and hearts full. Happy that once again we were able to help our countrymen,

even in our own little way. Looking forward to our next PHKS Roadshow Surgical Mission.

**Nilo Paner, MD, FPOA**  
President, PHKS

# PMTS Annual Report



What a year it was for the Philippine Musculoskeletal Tumor Society! A fruitful year of collaborations geared towards our mission of promoting continued education on orthopaedic oncology in the local, regional and international settings.

We kicked off the first quarter with a webinar for residents of the nine (9) member countries of the Asean Orthopaedic Association in cooperation with the Philippine Orthopaedic Association (POA). Entitled Bone Tumors 101: Back to Basics; our young experts, Drs. Karla Araneta, Jasson Louie Arcinue and Ken Aeson Barsales, gave talks on radiologic and analytical approach as well as tumor biopsy. In attendance were 200 online participants from Brunei Darrusalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines.

In February, the POA-Negros Panay Chapter invited members to organize, participate and conduct an MSK Tumor Biopsy workshop in Iloilo City. The hands-on biopsy workshop was conducted for the three (3) training institutions in the Western Visayas region by Drs. Judith Valerie Akol, Karla Araneta, Noel Rex Peñaranda and Abraham Saad.

In March 2023, we collaborated with the UP Manila Sarcoma Consortium for a round table discussion (RTD) on Infiltrative Soft Tissue Sarcoma with Dr. Shintaro Iwata of Japan as guest lecturer. Interesting cases were presented from UP-PGH and Chong Hua Hospital with a mutidisciplinary panel discussion.



Our second quarter meeting was held in April in Iloilo City and organized by our Western and Central Visayas members, Drs. Karla Araneta and Judith Valerie Akol. This was in collaboration with the Philippine Pediatric Society Western Visayas Chapter. In line with the society's objective of standardizing management, we held an RTD on Disrupting the System: Identifying and Addressing Barriers to Optimal Sarcoma Care with Drs. Edward Wang and Czar Louie Gaston as speakers from the society.



The third quarter was our busiest! We were invited by our very own Dr. Lilia Monina Jose and Mamer Rosario of the East Avenue Medical Center Department of Orthopaedics to co-sponsor their post-grad on Thinking Global; ACTING LOCAL; Identifying Silver Linings in the Philippine Musculoskeletal Oncology Practice. Speakers included Drs. Rafael Claudio, Edward Wang, Cesar Cipriano Dimayuga, Czar Louie Gaston, Noel Rex Peñaranda, Abigail Tud and Charles Abraham Villamin.



# PMTS...

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July being Sarcoma Month, we participated in the virtual multidisciplinary tumor board sponsored by the Philippine College of Surgeons, in cooperation with the Surgical Oncology Society of the Philippines. Case presentations were moderated by our own Dr. Marjorie Sierra; and Dr. Donnel Alexis Rubio was the orthopaedic oncologist in the panel discussing management of a recurrent malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor along with specialists in pathology, medical, surgical and radiation oncology.

A 2-week Tissue Banking Training Programme on Bone and Amnion was organized by PMTS Secretary, Dr. Ma. Felma Rayel under Prof. Dr. Suzina Sikh Ab. Hamid at the Universiti Sains Malaysia Tissue Bank in Kota Bharu. This was attended by 10 members of 9 training institutions from Bicol, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Pampanga, and NCR representing Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The Philippine Board of Orthopaedics invited six members of the society during the Diplomate Oral Examination also in July 2023. Composed of 2 teams, Drs. Jeanne Bertol, Czar Louie Gaston, Lilia Monina Jose, Neilson Palabrica, Noel Rex Peñaranda and Charles Abraham Villamin discussed the case "pre-op" to ensure uniformity and objectivity in the conduct of both tumor panels.

In August, the PMTS Education Committee participated in the POA-CORe Residents Lecture Series with 2 sessions on bone tumors in August 18 and soft tissue tumors, metastatic tumors and tumor-like conditions in August 25.

The Philippine Society of Oncologists invited PMTS to their 39th Annual Convention entitled COLLAB: Collaboration in Oncologic Learning, Leadership, Alliance and Best Practices. Presented virtually in Sept. 26, Dr. Charles Abraham Villamin gave an introduction to osteosarcoma while Dr. Abigail Tud presented Cryosurgery:

Innovations in Musculoskeletal Tumor Management.

For our fourth quarter, 19 members attended the Asia Pacific Musculoskeletal Tumor Society meeting in Taipei, Taiwan from October 4-7, 2023. Dr. Edward Wang gave a special lecture on Managing Soft Tissue Sarcomas; Drs. Rafael Claudio, Cesar Cipriano Dimayuga, Judith Valerie Akol and Abigail Tud were session moderators; and, tumor papers were presented from the different training institutions, namely, Baguio General Hospital, Dela Salle University Medical Center, Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Makati Medical Center, Philippine Orthopaedic Center and Southern Philippines Medical Center. Dr. Abigail Tud was awarded APMSTS 2023 Young Investigator Awardee!!

We cap off the year with our general assembly on November 14 and induction of new members, Drs. Martin Bangcoy and Abraham Saad. Our website is [msktumorph.org](http://msktumorph.org) where you can find an orthopaedic oncologist near you in the 11 regions of the archipelago.

We thank all the Fellows for your continued support of the society's activities and we look forward to turning 20 in 2024!

**Marie Jeanne L. Bertol, MD, FPOA**

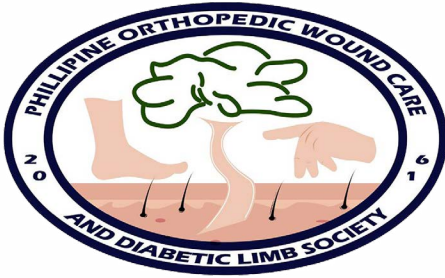


**CRYOSURGERY**

INNOVATIONS IN MUSCULOSKELETAL TUMOR MANAGEMENT

Abigail Tud, MD-MBA, FPOA  
 Philippine Orthopaedic Center  
 Taipei Veterans General Hospital

# Reconnecting After the Pandemic Through Wound Care



Last September 9, 2023 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, the Philippine Orthopedic Wound Care and Diabetic Limb Society (POWC-DLS) held their 4th Annual Convention with a theme of "Reconnecting the Dots in Advanced Wound Care". After 3 years of on-line learning, the face to face gathering brought back old friends and new acquaintances to where it all began. And there was no better way to celebrate the event than to enrich each one's knowledge with the basics and reinforcing it with new technologies in advanced wound care.

Topics discussed were diverse as it ranged from common non-healing wound seen in the wards and outpatient department to difficult case presentations from different institutions. Lectures about basic knowledge in wound care were given by orthopedic surgeons and nurses, while guest speakers from different countries enlightened the participants with improvements in wound care. At the same time, the common diabetic foot problems and management were thoroughly discussed by expert presenters from the Philippine Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Society (POFAS).

Induction of officers was also held during the convention and was facilitated by no other than the President of the Philippine Orthopedic Association Dr. David Alagar. The officers included:

- President: Roberto Lopez MD, FPOA

- Vice-President: Charles Cabuquit, MD, FPOA
- Secretary: Lendell Gatchalian MD, FPOA
- Treasurer: Ariel Sandoval MD, FPOA
- PRO: Renier D. Gerochi, Jr. MD, FPOA
- Trustee: Adrian Burgos MD, FPOA
- Pierre Mella MD, FPOA
- Advisors: Daniel Caro MD, FPOA
- Leslie Reyes MD, FPOA
- Jerome Asuncion MD, FPOA
- Past President: Jonathan Ronquillo MD, FPOA

At the end of the conference, all 185 attendees were able to gain insight about wound care with the help of the 10 industry partners. Not only were the attendees able to see the wound care products but they were also able to apply it through a workshop organized by the society.

**Roberto Gabriel L. Lopez MD, FPOA**

## Philippine Spine Society 2023

The Philippine Spine Society had two major activities this year - The PSS Live Tissue Course and the PSS Annual Scientific Meeting.

### PSS LIVE TISSUE COURSE

As a backgrounder, The PSS Live Tissue Course started in 2012 and it was held at the University of Santo Tomas, spearheaded by the UST Department of Orthopaedics. From 2013 to 2017, all Live Tissue Courses were done here in Veterans Memorial Medical Center in cooperation with the staff, residents and consultants of the VMMC Department of Orthopaedics. After 2017, it was agreed upon that we do this Live Tissue Course every 2 years, so the



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# Philippine Spine...

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next Live Tissue Course was done again here in 2019. The organizers yet again pursued the 8th Live Tissue Course and it was done online during the COVID pandemic in 2021. Our 9th Live tissue course was done here yet again at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center with a different setup and different venue. Salutations goes to the warm accommodation of VMMC Department of Orthopedics' staffs, residents and consultants.

The program laid down for this course was exemplary – didactics in the morning and (swine) hands on workshop for the residents in the afternoon. This was a well-attended course with a total of 119 Participants.

## PSS ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

The Society recently concluded its Annual Scientific Meeting last October 16-27 at the Marco Polo Ortigas Manila with the theme "Cervical Spine Conditions". An unanticipated number of attendees was remarkable – 219 delegates for which about 62% comprises the PSS members. The one-and-a-half day was composed of lectures, debates, interesting case presentations and presentations from the different study groups. Our Faculty comprised our own membership – orthopaedic surgeons and neurosurgeons and a foreign faculty Prof. Yong-Chan Kim, MD, PHD from Korea.

The last half day was the induction of our 9 new members and the PSS Business Meeting thereafter. Our 9 inductees are the following:

1. Warren S. Bustos, MD, FPOA
2. Bienvenido Leo Antonio M. Caro, MD, FPOA
3. Jae-jegvinne R. De Guzman, MD, FPOA
4. Pamela Louise G. Gervasio, MD, FPOA
5. Clint P. Guitarte, MD, FPOA

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# Philippine Spine...

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6. Dr. Derek Ben T. Jabines
7. Rina Therese R Madelar, MD, FPOA
8. Dr. John David B. Mata
9. William Daniel T. Yu, MD, FPOA

This will be a 2-day event to be delivered by the faculty through didactics, panel discussions, and interactive sessions. Dedicated time will be given for a series of practical hands-on exercises focusing on the anterior and posterior approaches of the cervical spine.

workshop - dealing with deformity and degenerative spine conditions requires a basic foundation and a special skill set. This course aims to enhance the basic knowledge practicing spine surgeons have, helping them deal with deformity and degenerative spine conditions and improving outcomes when managing these cases.

## THE PSS in 2024

PSS CSMC Cervical Workshop with the theme "Advanced Management of the Cervical Spine Conditions" to be held on March 2-3, 2024 at the PCAS Skills Lab, Cardinal Santos Medical Center.

APSS-PSS-MMC Operative Workshop will be held on August 17-18, 2024 at Makati Medical Center with the theme "Deformity and Degenerative Spine Conditions". The general objective of this

**Ronald P. Tangente, MD, MBA, FPOA, FPSS**

# Collaborating with the Stakeholders First Tripartite Meeting PSS, AFNI and POA

The Board of Trustees of the Philippine Spine Society (PSS) had a Tripartite Meeting with the Academy of Filipino Neurosurgeons Inc. (AFNI) and the Philippine Orthopaedic Association

(POA) last October 26, 2023 in Marco Polo Hotel, Ortigas. The main objective was to foster collaboration amongst the different societies.

Dr. Antonio Sison, founder, Council of Elders and the Trustees were present for PSS. Dr. James Soriano, President, were with Dr. Eric Legaspi and Dr.

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# Collaborating...

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Elmer Jose Meceda came for AFNI. Dr. Dave Alagar and Dr Melito Ramos represented the POA.

Pail Solarz quoted, "Collaboration allows us to know more than we are capable of knowing by ourselves". In this context, the PSS would like to strengthen our partnership with the AFNI as far as creating common strategies and plan of action with respect to the practice of spine surgery in the country. The PSS is the only organization in the Asia Pacific region that allows orthopedic surgeons and Neurosurgeons to work together. By combining the strengths of each society, we will come out much stronger as an organization moving forward.

In principle, PSS settled some trivial issues related to alignment as a subspecialty society in the POA. An amendment in the constitution and bylaws of the POA will formalize this agreement.

At the end of the meeting, we came up with a common statement, "PSS, AFNI and POA support non exclusivity in the practice of epidural spine surgery." Finally, we agreed to collaborate further in the pursuit of academic excellence and service to the Filipino people.

**Ronald P. Tangente, MD, MBA, FPOA, FPSS**

*President, Phiippine Spine Society*



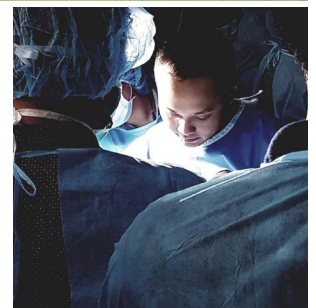
Visit us at <https://www.philspinesoc.org/>

# History of Philippine Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society

In May 2000, a group of orthopedic surgeons, headed by Dr. Emiliano Tablante, established the Philippine Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (POFAS). The idea was brought up by Prof. James Sammarco, one of the foreign guest speakers during the Philippine Orthopaedic Association (POA) 50th Anniversary Convention, who also mentored Dr. Tablante during his fellowship. The pioneering group was composed of 18 orthopaedists sharing a common interest in foot and ankle (F&A) surgery.

Succumbing to growing pains, the initial years were noted to be difficult as none of the members of the Philippine Orthopaedic Association prior to Dr. Tablante, had any formal subspecialty training in foot and ankle surgery. The tenacity and perseverance of the society's leaders allowed them to maintain their primary objective and mold a formal foot and ankle society. This led to the formation of the first Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society in Southeast Asia, and the fourth in Asia.

During the first few years of the society's existence, numerous work shops were conducted to foster and promote the current treatment methods of the more commonly encountered foot and ankle problems. These work shops were well attended not only by the general orthopaedic practitioners but also by other medical specialist and allied health workers. The receptiveness from the Orthopaedic Society and other Medical Specialties gave the society tremendous sense of pride and satisfaction.



# History of...

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4 years after, the society hosted the POA Annual Congress and was privileged to have hosted it simultaneously with the 2nd Asian Federation of Foot and Ankle Surgeons Conference. The convention was graced by world-renowned speakers, who shared their expertise in the field of foot and ankle surgery.

The thrust of the society during the succeeding years was to encourage young orthopaedic residents and diplomates to seek for fellowship in Foot and Ankle Surgery in different areas of the world. The goal of the society is to further promote interest in the field of Foot and Ankle Surgery and stay updated in the diagnosis and treatment of foot and ankle diseases.

5 years after the formation of the society, the 2nd POA fellow with formal F&A subspecialty training, Dr. Alvin Abueg (2005) joined the group. He graduated from Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center and did his fellowship with Professor Lee Kyung Tai in Korea. 3 years after, Dr. John Carag (2008) from Baguio General Hospital joined and he did his fellowship with Professor Hong Geun Jung Korea as well. 3 years after, the first POA fellow who took a F&A fellowship in Europe, Dr. Carlo Borbon (2011) from Makati Medical Center joined the society. He took his training under Prof. Hajo Thermann in Heidelberg, Germany. The society continued to grow, with fellows coming from different parts of the world, providing a better environment for growth and development as they are bringing back different techniques and perspectives in dealing with F&A cases. Qualified Fellows, diplomates or residents with special interest in foot and ankle are encouraged to seek fellowship for further training. The society also provides some guidance and assistance for these young colleagues to be able to land a good F&A training.

A decade of hard work, sweat and tears after, Dr. Tablante retired from being an officer of the society. In 2014, Dr. Borbon was elected as president of POFAS, and



is currently serving his term up to the present time. Dr. Tablante remains to be an Ex-Officio of the group. This was then, probably the next generation of foot and ankle orthopods. This was the time foot and ankle surgery have been becoming more and more popular to the community and in line with this, newer products, instruments and technology in F&A have been vastly growing. This was the period when the society will be receiving an average of 3-4 fellows, coming from International fellowship programs every year. As of the present time, the society has a total of 23 active members, with approximately 5 more new applicants coming back from their respective fellowship trainings by the end of the year, all trained in Foot and Ankle Surgery. Dr. Borbon would still recall a time when meetings would be casual and will consist of just 4 individuals. At the present time, having all active members on board, for which majority of the training institutions are well represented, meetings were always well attended by residents and fellows. Having a diverse group provided different insights and great flow of thoughts and deep discussions during the society's quarterly meetings.

The society continued its regular conferences throughout the years as well as its workshops and annual symposiums. Moreover, the group has

been actively participating in F&A meeting internationally whether as an attendee or as a faculty. Fundraising events such as a golf tournament was also hosted by the society. These events were somewhat hampered then by the pandemic. Because of the lockdowns and risk of exposure to the virus, face-to-face conferences were shifted to virtual meetings. The society then hosted the 1st webinar for POA fellows and residents during the pandemic. This was initiated by the group's desire to reach out to our colleagues, more specially the orthopaedic residents, whose training have been hindered by the lack of cases during these trying times. This first webinar was very memorable, as in a matter of less than 2 minutes, the maximum capacity for participants have already been reached. We then had to adjust for the succeeding meetings after. Due to this, the society saw the desire and willingness of fellows and residents to learn foot and ankle surgery, and hopefully instill interest in this field of subspecialty.

At the present time, the thrust and legacy for which was the society was initially built still remains, which is to promote foot and ankle surgery by sharing our expertise and knowledge to all fellows and residents and further developing

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# History of...

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new skills in the said field. The group still encourages young aspirants, more specially to doctors practicing in less-served areas around the country to further widen the scope covered by the society and hopefully, will provide better service to our countrymen. Moreover, the society aims to develop Foot and Ankle Fellowship programs locally.

I will probably end this article with a phrase from Margaret Fuller, "If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it." The aim of Philippine Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society revolves around this saying. This is probably the reason why the membership of the group has been increasing in numbers as well as the demand in foot and ankle fellowship in the country.

**Carlo Angelo V. Borbon, MD, FPOA**



## Capacity Building of Local Faculty to Improve Clubfoot Training and Service Delivery

**Rosalyn P. Flores, MD, FPOA**

The Philippine National Clubfoot Program held the Global Clubfoot Training Advanced Clubfoot Treatment Course together with the Train the Trainer Course last 26-28 June 2023 at the Midas Hotel in Pasay City. Majority of the training faculty and participants were members of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of the Philippines affiliated with the different partner clubfoot clinics.

The Global Clubfoot Training materials comprise a complete set of standardized teaching resources designed to help train health care workers ranging from different levels of expertise in clubfoot treatment. The Advanced Clubfoot Treatment Course aims to develop



understanding and skills in the non-surgical management of challenging cases such as atypical, recurrent, neglected, and secondary clubfoot, while the Train the Trainer course aims to develop the appropriate skills in effectively teaching and mentoring health care professionals involved in treating clubfoot. Such courses

ultimately prepare the participants to organize and deliver the Basic and Advanced Clubfoot Treatment Provider Courses.

As part of the output of the Train the Trainer Course, four newly certified trainers served as faculty during the

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# Capacity Building...

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Basic Clubfoot Treatment Provider Course held last 19-20 August 2023 at East Avenue Medical Center. Resident trainees from East Avenue Medical Center, Quirino Memorial Medical Center, Batangas Medical Center, and The Medical City participated in the 2-day training. Other trainers will get the chance to apply the skills acquired during the Train the Trainer Course in upcoming Basic Clubfoot Treatment Provider Courses to be held in Tacloban (Eastern Visayas Medical Center), Iloilo (West Visayas State University Center), and Manila (Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center) in the last quarter of 2023.

The various efforts of and close coordination between the Philippine National Clubfoot Program, the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of the Philippines, and the 29 partner clinics nationwide hope to address the gaps in clubfoot treatment access and management. The program is driven by comprehensive and quality-focused care, which includes training providers, building awareness, improving clubfoot identification and referral processes, providing supplies for casting, tenotomy, and bracing and implementing strategies to improve treatment adherence. This concerted effort is in support of Run Free 2030, a global strategy to end clubfoot disability wherein at least 70% of children born with clubfoot in lower- and middle-income countries can access treatment by the year 2030.

For more information regarding the Philippine National Clubfoot Program, you may visit <https://www.facebook.com/phnationalclubfootprogram>

Course faculty and participants during the Basic Clubfoot Treatment Course held at East Avenue Medical Center. Newly trained faculty who joined the course were Dr. Nesti James Panopio, Dr. Candice Elaine Lim, Dr. Lois Desiree Obra-Roces, and Dr. Maria Pamela Ann Cayanan.



The Advanced Clubfoot Treatment Course included practical skills sessions on manipulation and casting of atypical clubfoot. Shown here are participants Dr. Candice Elaine and Dr. Chastity Amor Rejuso, both happy to display their work, with training faculty Dr. Rosalyn Flores.



As part of the practical skills session of the Train the Trainer Course, Dr. Gracia Cielo Balce is seen here delivering a mini lecture on Pirani scoring.



Training faculty Dr. Jean Pierre Leung and Dr. Antonio Nicanor Suero demonstrating how to teach a practical skill, which is an essential tool in training treatment providers on the Ponseti method of clubfoot management.



# The APOA @ 61



The Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association (APOA) is one of the largest Orthopaedic professional organizations in the world, with 21 Federation member countries, 24 National chapters, and 65,000 individual fellows. Few people know that the Philippines was there from the very beginning, in 1962, more than 61 years ago. In fact, the APOA was founded in the Philippines by eight Orthopaedic surgeons led by our very own Dr. Catalino Jocson. It was established initially as the Western Pacific Orthopaedic Association (WPOA) until it formally adopted its current name in 2000.

As one of the founding member countries of the APOA, the Philippines, through the POA, has always actively participated in the activities and programs of the APOA. In addition, there are also currently 12 individuals who are individual members of the Philippine chapter. However, since the establishment of Federation membership in 2016, all members in good standing of the POA are now automatically members of the APOA.

I would like to encourage more POA fellows to register and join as individual members of the Philippine Chapter and even consider Lifetime Membership. Individual members enjoy more privileges compared to Federation members. Individual members have reduced registration fees at congresses, and they are more likely to be granted Traveling Fellowships or Diploma course positions, be elected as Chair of any of the subspecialty sections, be a member of the Executive Committee, or even be elected to other high-ranking positions in the Association.

To join as an individual member, POA fellows can opt for a yearly annual subscription of USD 50/year or a one-time fee of USD 500 for Lifetime

Membership. As an individual APOA member, you can join any of the 12 subspecialty sections or societies under the APOA for a one-time fee of USD50 per subspecialty. You can join as many subspecialty sections as you wish. The APOA fellows can then be actively involved in all the activities of the Subspecialty section. For example, our young Orthopaedic consultants can join the Young Surgeons Committee, where young Orthopaedic surgeons can interact with colleagues from all over the Asia Pacific region.

I highly encourage our POA Fellows, especially our younger members, to join the APOA as more opportunities for learning and professional growth will open up to you. More individual members in the APOA will also benefit the Philippine Chapter and give the Philippines more representation in the APOA Council. Each National Chapter is allowed to have one Council Member for every ten Chapter members, up to a maximum of five Council Members.

## My term as APOA President

During my term as APOA President, the APOA came out with several projects that will be implemented starting next year. First is launching of the interactive electronic library (e-library), accessible to members and young trainees. The e-library will be linked to an open learning platform in which interesting papers can be discussed with the respective authors. There will also be a new interactive website for easier access and communication. This website can be linked to the various National association websites.

Next, the APOA will release a standardized curriculum for training in the Asia Pacific region. This curriculum will be based on the minimum standards resident trainees require to be considered competent to practice general Orthopaedics and traumatology. Asia Pacific member countries will now have a common standard in terms of residency training.

There will also be diploma programs or subspecialty fellowship training programs in identified centers of excellence. This program will focus more on advanced fellowship training in the various subspecialties. These programs will range from 6-12 months in the different subspecialties. A diploma or certificate of training will be issued by both the APOA and the training institution after the training period.

## Changes in the APOA: Presidential Line, Congress frequency and format.

There have been a lot of changes in the APOA since its formation 61 years ago (1962).

In 2020, there was a revision in the APOA constitution. The position of President-elect was abolished, and in its place, the positions of 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President were created as the "Presidential line" of succession. The APOA Council members elect the 1st and 2nd vice Presidents.

Another significant change in the APOA is the frequency of the APOA Congress. Previously, the APOA held triennial congresses every three years. The interval was shortened, and from 2010 until 2022, biennial congresses were held – the last being hosted by the POA. However, starting 2024, the APOA Congress will now be held annually.

The APOA Executive Committee, the Secretariat, and the Scientific Program Committee will run the Congress. There will be a Congress President from the host country and the Congress Chairman from the APOA Executive Committee. All 12 Subspecialty Sections, headed by their respective chairpersons, will also contribute to the scientific program. This new format will result in separate concurrent sessions for all the subspecialties during the Congress. The host country for the Annual Congress will be selected from interested countries who submit their respective bids.

# The APOA @ 61

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## The 23rd APOA Congress in Dubai

The 23rd APOA Congress next year will be held at the Intercontinental Dubai Festival City, Dubai, UAE, from February 29 to March 2, 2024. On behalf of the APOA Executive Committee and the APOA Council, I invite you to attend this first face-to-face congress after the pandemic. The scientific extravaganza is not to be missed, as it will cover a diverse range of topics on all Orthopaedic subspecialties. The Organizing Committee has gathered a team of experts from around the world to speak at the meeting. The Congress will be preceded by a hands-on workshop and Specialty Day program on February 28, 2024. It will cover

various topics to be delivered by international experts in their respective fields. Our committee has worked hard to prepare a unique and exciting selection of topics for the different subspecialties. The lectures and symposia will provide all delegates with relevant information on the international stage.

In addition, there will be an exhibition area that will feature many of the world's leading companies, showing the latest equipment, technology, and state-of-the-art Orthopaedic devices. There will be a lot of sponsors and exhibitors booths to enjoy. We look forward to seeing you and your family at the meeting. Let us enjoy the scientific and cultural extravaganza, local cuisine, shopping, and the warm Emirati hospitality.

**Ellewellyn G. Pasion, MD, FACS, FPOA, FPCS**  
President  
Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association  
2022-2024



# Bacolod Hosts International Foot and Ankle Course

## Juan Agustin Coruña IV, MD, FPOA

Bacolod City recently held the first AO Trauma Foot and Ankle Seminar in the Philippines beginning August 11, 2023. "AO is the world's largest global trauma and orthopedic community fostering excellence in the surgical management of trauma and disorders of the musculoskeletal system." It was headed by course chairman Dr. Juan Agustin Coruña IV, the pioneer foot and ankle surgeon in Western Visayas. "What we have here is an utter celebration of the best faculty in the world meeting in the City of Smiles for relevant foot and ankle education for specialized learners from around the globe." The event hosted delegates from Australia, India, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, and the Philippines which concluded August 12, 2023.

"This also culminates with Bacolod as a rich health teaching venue for allied health practitioners with the

engagement of the biggest local players in medical education. We have Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital (CLMMRH) headed by Dr. Julius Drilon, University of St. La Salle College of Medicine (USLS COM) led by Dr. Radela Yvonne Cortes, CLMMRH Department of Orthopaedics

and Traumatology ushered by Dr. Franklin Delano Tumaneng, all working in synchrony to offer a robust program with high calibre mentors.

The Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology is celebrating 25 years

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*Best-in-Class Lectures. Regional faculty from Thailand Tanawat Vaseenon delivers state-of-the-art updates on complications from ankle fractures with fluent exchange of ideas from the participants. Dr. Jean Pierre Leung moderates the academic discussion.*

# Bacolod Hosts International...

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of serving Negros Island. This year, its collaboration with the AO Foundation is a milestone many years in the making beginning with the vision of its chairman emeritus Dr. Jose Maria Coruña. "I have long wanted to have an AO course in Bacolod City. We have the faculty, an adequate number of cases, and the infrastructure to host this kind of teaching engagement. I am so glad that we have been successful in finally bringing it to our city with the AO country council." These educators are comprised Drs. Jean Pierre Leung (Baguio), Dr. Maria Adelwisa Belen (Manila), Frederic Diyco (Manila), Jose Antonio San Juan (Cebu), and Nathaniel Orillaza Jr. (Manila).

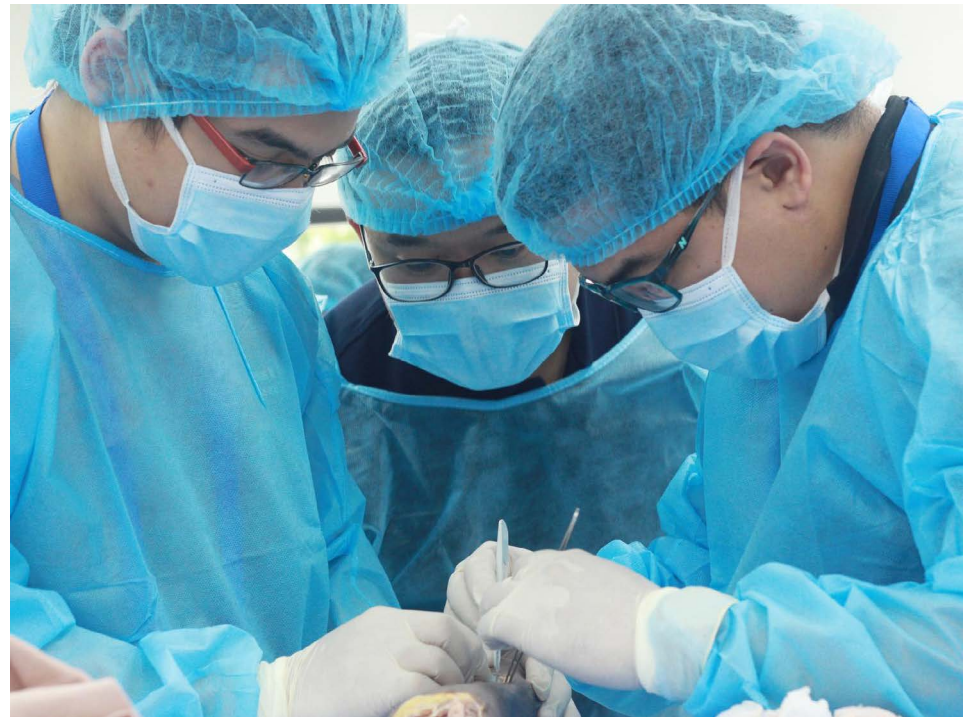
The international faculty were Drs. Mandeep Dhillon and Tanawat Vaseenon, both accomplished scientific authors, and highly sought clinicians and orthopaedic foot and ankle surgeons in their home countries. The national faculty included Drs. Dilbert Monicit (Cebu) and Bernardino Alpuerto II (Laguna). The event was designed together with the Philippine Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society marshalled by Dr. Carlo Borbon. All faculty are prominent figures shaping relevant orthopaedic education and research in Asia Pacific and the Philippines.

Another highlight of the course was a hands-on lower limb cadaver dissection at the USLS COM, allowing for greater learning by translating classroom principles into tactile skillful incisions the surgeon can further develop.

The younger Coruña adds, "I don't know

when the next foot and ankle course will be here in the Philippines. But Bacolod sure is ready for another, and we will

unselfishly share that knowledge and expertise to a global audience when invited."



*Cadaver Dissection. Course chairman Dr. Coruña guides young orthopedic trainees with personalized teaching in surgical approaches to the foot and ankle.*



*First AO Trauma Foot and Ankle session in the Philippines held in Bacolod. Esteemed faculty and council members visited the University of St. La Salle College of Medicine for a two-day international foot and ankle course. Seated from left: Juan Agustin Coruña IV, Mandeep Dhillon, Tanawat Vaseenon, Jean Pierre Leung. Standing from left: Nathaniel Orillaza Jr., Maria Adelwisa Belen, Bernardino Alpuerto II, Frederic Diyco, Dilbert Monicit.*

# AOA Senior Travelling Fellowship 2023

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



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



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



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



We visited the Rajah Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital (RIPAS), the largest government general hospital in

Brunei, gave talks to the members of the orthopedic staff and went around the hospital premises. We also visited the largest private hospital in Brunei, the Jerudong Park Medical Center. We also enjoyed our stay in the country, with a little river cruise adventure at Brunei river, home to Kampong Ayer,



# AOA Senior...

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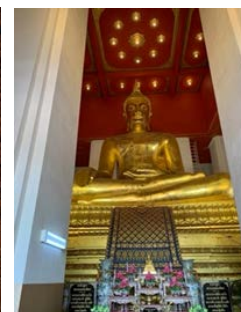


which is Brunei's traditional village-on-stilts above river waters. We also saw the longest bridge in Southeast Asia, known as the Temburong Bridge.

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

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

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# AOA Senior Travelling...

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back to Manila, we brought Prof. Razak to the airport for he had to leave early for Indonesia to deliver some lectures.

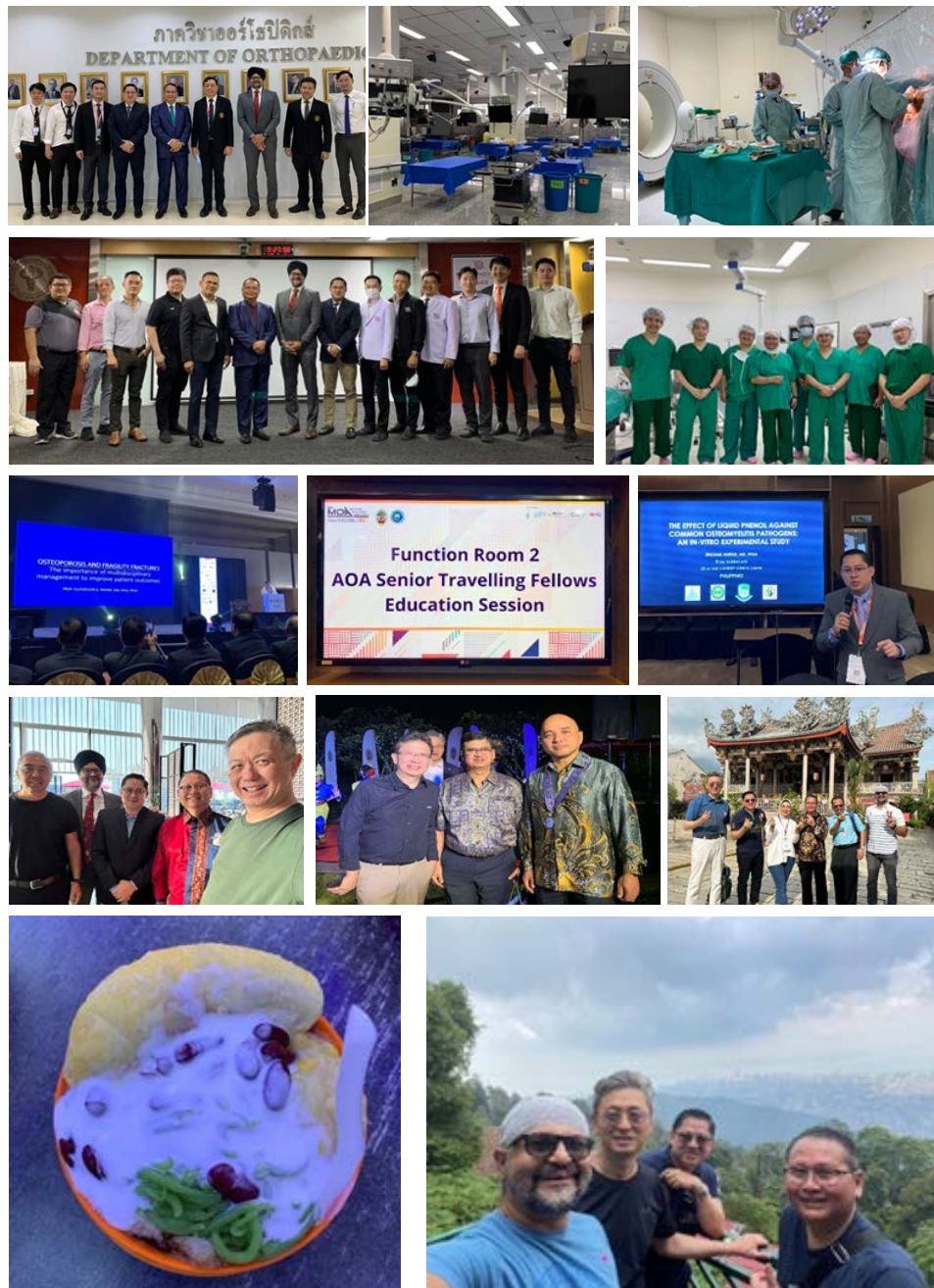
On our 3rd day, we proceeded to the Philippine Orthopedic Center (POC); it is the oldest specialized government funded institution known to take care of the musculoskeletal health of Filipinos. Together with Dr. Soetjahjo, we were welcomed by the consultant staffs of the POC and were toured around the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

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

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

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

The next day, we visited the Police General Hospital (PGH), which is headed by an orthopedic surgeon. We were warmly welcomed by the faculty



and staffs of the orthopedic department, who toured us in their facilities. We also had the opportunity to deliver our lectures to them and their students.

Our last stop was in Malaysia; here we had the opportunity to join the 52nd Malaysian Orthopaedic Association Annual Scientific Meeting and Annual General Meeting held in Penang, filling our minds with knowledge and experiences. We were invited to the Presidential dinner, where we gained new friends from our ASEAN

colleagues. Penang was adorable with rich history combined with diverse ethnicity, culture, language and religion. We also had the chance to tour Georgetown Cannon Square in Penang Hill.

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

**Michael DR Muñoz, MD, FPOA**  
AOA Senior Travelling Fellow 2023

# Philippines Warmly Received by India

The country sent a delegation to the 28th International Young Surgeons Meeting last August 19-20, 2023 in Chennai. The group was led by Chinkin Coruña, a foot and ankle fellow from Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital. Until recently, Chinkin served as the Geographic Representative for Asia of SICOT's Young Surgeons Committee (YSC), starting his recent promotion as its Vice-Chair after deliberation of the global Education Academy. The event was the first of its kind in India, showcasing its unique patient diversity, cuisine, and culture. There were over 400 registered participants, faculty, and industry partners from various regions of the predominantly-Hindu nation, with seven other countries (Egypt, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Hong Kong) represented.

The delegates from the Philippines included Daniela Kristina Carolino, Vanea Uyvico-Lim, and Alexander Cañares from Philippine Orthopedic Center, Juan Victor Tungul from East Avenue Medical Center, and Gabriel Antonio Escueta from De La Salle University Medical Center. All these outstanding young individuals had one thing in common: They each had winning research during the memorable Midyear in Bacolod City earlier this year. They were each awarded complimentary registration, hotel accommodation, tours, and meals abroad.

Dani talked about "Treatment of Pathologic Proximal Femur Fractures using the Improvised Megaprosthesis: Combination of the Hip Prosthesis and Intramedullary Nail." She was a speaker in the exclusive session guiding female orthopods. "The segment of Women in Orthopedics was a wonderful opportunity for me and my fellow female surgeons to showcase our research, build networks, and to indeed, lead by example in this road less travelled," says

Dr. Carolino. Discussing with peers, it was revealed that India has 15,000 orthopedics surgeons, 400 of which are female (3%). Citing the surgeon directory published by the POA, the Coruñas of Bacolod have counted a total of 835 orthopedic fellows, with 61 women (13%) from their unpublished manuscript on orthopedic manpower for the country. Comparing the two countries, the Philippines is just a fraction of India's population despite the decreased disparity in gender representation.

In the same session, the tumor specialist shared the spotlight with Vanea whose recorded lecture on "Functional Outcome of Arthroscopic Bankart Repair in Filipino Patients treated at the Philippine Orthopedic Center," was played remotely. Dr. Uyvico-Lim shares that the venue "was an eye-opener on how orthopedic surgery remains to



*EIGHT NATIONS. International Faculty and Delegates to Chennai, India for the 28th International Young Surgeons Meeting are featured in the event poster.*

this day, one of the medical specialties with the least number of representation of female doctors, especially in India.



*TEAM PHILIPPINES. From Left: Juan Victor Tungul (EAMC), Daniela Kristina Carolino (POC), Chinkin Coruña (CLMMRH), Alexander Cañares (POC), and Gabriel Antonio Escueta (DLSUMC)*



*GIRL POWER: Dr. Dani Carolino (7th from left) shares the stage with the panel for Women in Orthopedics. Topics discussed included leadership in the field, preference for surgeon perception and attributes, infection, tumor, non-union, and sports injuries.*



# Philippines Warmly...

From Page 40

It was refreshing to see that there is growing movement and support to change this predicament. The conference gave us, Asian female orthopods, a platform to contribute to the orthopedic surgery society through our research presentations. Similarities in experiences in orthopedic training still transcend over differences in cultural and social practices."

"What stood out for me was the unwavering support of our SICOT mentors both local and international, to young surgeons, inspiring us to never stop learning, to teach innovations in orthopedics. I had a great time in the meeting, the fact that I was chosen and was able to present my paper and represent my institution and country was an honor and privilege. I am always thankful and grateful to Dr. Coruña and the SICOT organizers for choosing me as part of the delegates," are heartfelt words from Alexander. Dr. Cañares had the distinction of presenting "Local Infiltration Analgesia Among Adult Patients Treated with Hip Arthroplasty in Philippine Orthopedic Center: A Double Blind Randomized Controlled Trial," one of the entries in Best Scientific Paper Session, chaired by SICOT past president Ashok Johari and Prof. Gopinath Menon, both research publication giants in India.

Dr. Tungul's paper, "A Case Series: The Effectiveness of the Use of Ultrasound Guided PRP Injection for Ankle Sprains in patients at the Center for Musculoskeletal Science-Asia during the Pre-Covid Season" was warmly received in Sports Medicine Session. JV continues, "It was my first time to present research internationally. Not only did it boost my confidence, but it also gave me a chance to meet other orthopedic surgeons from different parts of the world. What stood out for me was the number of researches being presented. How all these help and develop management options in the field of orthopedics. I learned a lot



Best Scientific Paper Session: Dr. Alexander Cañares introduces his high-level study. He concluded that in general, local infiltration anesthesia had no significant effect in hip replacement surgery.



Sports Medicine Session: Dr. Juan Victor Tungul discusses his paper to an audience abroad. He won First Place in the Poster Category during the 31st POA Midyear Research Contest last April 19, 2023 in Bacolod City.



TRIP COLLAGE: Chennai in India makes quite the impression to the team. (Clockwise from Top Left) The lamb biryani, sampled with many cooked grains, served with different types of curries, pulses and bread, is very fragrant and delicious. Mahabalipuram is a UNESCO-heritage site featuring ornate stone temples.

from the different workshops especially from the AO Basic Principles provided during the meeting."

The final study from the group was delivered by Gabriel Antonio. Dr. Escueta delivered "A novel budget-friendly home and office setup to enhance orthopaedic residents' suturing consistency in microsurgery" to a wide audience. He echoes and synthesizes observations by many of the delegates: "Research papers presented were of great value in updating and expanding our knowledge in the different subspecialties in orthopedics, as well as the difference in surgical techniques of other countries in contrast to what we do here in the Philippines. What

stood out for me was the culture of friendliness and hospitality of our fellow Indian hosts. This was an eye-opener for me, in trying to reinvent myself and honing my skills through further training."

The two-day event included a YSC Session moderated by Dr. Coruña who shared the dais with Prof. Johari and Dr. Aju Bosco, who is the chairman of the YSC, and organizer of the event. Chinkin opened the floor for Aju who introduces what SICOT is, and he continued by showcasing the opportunities for new recruits being involved with the YSC. Eminent speakers involved veteran orthopaedic board examiners who

# Philippines Warmly...

From Page 41

gave advice on how to pass trainee examinations, diploma certification, as well as detailing very clear road maps heading to successful admission to training programs abroad.

Overall, attendance in Chennai marks the valuable role of the Philippines in an international stage. And one that deserves consistency, support, and attention. Given the number of residency training programs in the country, the excellent push of the

Philippine Board of Orthopaedics for trainee and consultant publication, and the desire of young orthopedic surgeons to go beyond themselves, the potential for further participation is continuous. The sincere thrust of international cooperation is also tangible, and as we advocate life-long learning, there are also deeply-knitted friendships to be forged through these activities supported and endorsed by the POA.

It is worth the long drive. Hindu is the dominant religion of the country and crafts venerating deities are abundant. Marina Beach has 6km of shore that greets eastward to face the Philippines. When homesick, just face the direction where home is.

**Juan Agustin D. Coruña IV, MD FPOA FPCS**



*FREE Basic Principles Course on Fracture Fixation: Dr. Gabo Escueta (Center) listens to a National Faculty from AO India in one of many table exercises complementing topic lectures.*



*SESSION Chair: Dr. Chinkin Coruña moderates the YSC Session with past president of SICOT Prof. Ashok Johari. Their session engaged trainees on why they should consider joining SICOT, how to do well in training and examinations, and likely pathways to receive training abroad.*



*TIME WELL SPENT: The Philippine delegation takes a breather after a day of touring. Trips abroad are not purely academic, and time invested to learn a new country's culture is worthwhile and memorable.*



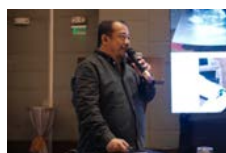
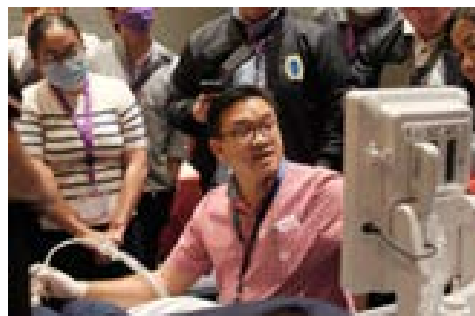
*YOUNG SURGEONS COMMITTEE: Dr. Aju Bosco, the Chairman of SICOT YSC, answers each question of trainees interested joining SICOT. Founded in 1929, SICOT is the largest academic organization in the field of orthopedic surgery, consisting of members of orthopedic surgeons in more than 110 countries. The Philippines has a proud history with SICOT.*

# JRRMMC holds Two Consecutive Successful Post Graduate Courses

COVID-19 has restricted all activities around the world. Social gatherings and symposiums were only limited to online platforms during the height of the pandemic. With the rise of vaccinations and the ease of restrictions, the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center Department of Orthopaedics was able to conduct successful face-to-face post graduate courses in two consecutive years with last year's topic focusing on the basics of arthroscopy and this year's theme tackling the basics of musculoskeletal ultrasound.

Last year's post graduate course entitled, "Looking In To Look Forward: A Basic Course on Arthroscopy" held last July 30, 2022 at Luxent Hotel, Quezon City centered on the basic arthroscopy set-up, positioning and portal placement, as well as tips and pearls of arthroscopic procedures on the wrist, elbow, knee and ankle. Introduction to the Arthroscopy Tower and Troubleshooting Basic Tower Issues was lectured by Mr. John Carl Nepumuceno from Pacific Surgical. Invited renowned Orthopedic consultants, who shared their invaluable expertise in the field of sports and arthroscopic surgery were as follows: Dr. Albert Cesar Faller and Dr. Kristin Italia for shoulder arthroscopy; Dr. John Hubert Pua for wrist arthroscopy; Dr. Juan Agustin Coruña IV and Dr. Carlo Angelo Borbon for ankle arthroscopy; Dr. Enrique Leonardo Pasion and Dr. Wesson Pious Espiritu for knee arthroscopy.

After the lecture proper, participants who signed up for the workshop were able to use instruments for arthroscopy in order to learn and practice knot tying, shoulder and knee arthroscopy with the guidance of the lecturers.



# JRRMMC... *From Page 43*



This year, the gloomy weather did not stop the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center Department of Orthopaedics from holding its 14th Post Graduate Course entitled "Sounds Like A Plan: Basics of Musculoskeletal Ultrasound in Orthopaedics" last July 29, 2023 at Luxent Hotel, Quezon City.

Prestigious consultants in the field of interest were invited to share their knowledge and expertise. There were over a hundred guests, which included allied medical professionals, residents, diplomates and fellows from various specialty training programs and institutions all around the Philippines.

In order to equip the participants with the basics, an introduction to ultrasound and knobology was

discussed by Dr. Robert Chan. Various ultrasound tips and pearls were discussed by the following speakers from different fields of Medicine: Dr. Robert Chan, an Orthopaedic surgeon for shoulder ultrasound; Dr. Millicent Tan-Ong, an Internist for wrist ultrasound; Dr. Raymond Silverio Barba, an Orthopaedic surgeon for tumor diagnosis using ultrasound; Dr. Michael Francis Obispo, a Physiatrist for knee ultrasound; Dr. Juan Agustin Coruña IV, an Orthopaedic surgeon for foot and ankle ultrasound; and Dr. Numeriano Samar, an Anesthesiologist for ultrasound-guided peripheral nerve blocks.

During lecture breaks, guests were able to roam around the booths of the different sponsors. The lecture

proper was then followed by a live demonstration of ultrasound guided procedures such as hydro-dissection and steroid injection for carpal tunnel, hyaluronic acid and platelet rich plasma injection for knee osteoarthritis and hyaluronic acid injection for plantar fasciitis. After the live demonstration, the workshop participants were grouped accordingly to learn and practice ultrasound of the shoulder, wrist, knee, foot and ankle.

It was a fun-filled learning day for everyone. JRRMMC definitely had a great comeback for their annual post graduate course.

**Antonio R. Puti, MD, FPOA**

# St.Luke's Institute of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine 2023

As we transitioned into the new normal in 2023, the Institute of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine (IOSM), slowly began to re incorporate our previous activities back into the calendar year. Our conferences have transitioned from a purely online platform, to now a hybrid setup. Numerous learning activities were also done now face to face, such as our OSCE and 31st Post Graduate course, which was the culminating activity of our anniversary week.

Our annual OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Exam) for our recent graduates and residents was done this June, this simulated and prepared our graduates for the upcoming PBO oral exams. We had 9 stations namely, Upper ex. Trauma, Lower ex. Trauma, Adult, Pedia, Hand, Spine, Joints, Sports and Tumor. This was organized and participated by our training committee and guest consultants from our staff roster at SLMC QC/BGC, in the said subspecialties.

This year marked the 30th anniversary of our Institute. The week was jumpstarted with our annual staff picture taking, immediately followed by an anniversary holy mass, fellowship travelogue, and case report contest for our junior residents, which was won by Dr. Ervin Valencia. On Tuesday, we had a free hand surgery day, wherein our residents, supervised by our hand consultants did free hand surgery procedures to our social service patients. Wednesday, an obstacle course race (held at pretty huge BGC), organized by our alumni association, wherein alumni, residents, associates and medical students participated in the endeavor. The highlight event of week was the post-graduate course, which was a 2 day event, which also included a fun Fellowship on Friday night.

Our post-graduate course for the year was entitled B.A.C.K. (Basic and Advanced Core Knowledge): The

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*SLMC-IOSM Training committee and subspecialty consultants together with the resident staff and recent graduates of the 2023 OSCE*



*Consultants and Resident Staff during the Annual IOSM picture taking to officially start our Anniversary Week*



*Post-graduate course attendees*



*Dr. Jose Raul Canlas, Dr. Janis Espino-De Vera (Head FIBA Medical Local Organizing Committee) and Dr. Gabriel Zetazate at the FIBA World Cup 2023 (MOA)*

# St.Luke's Institute...

From Page 45

Lumbar Spine. We brought together local and foreign experts to discuss the latest trends in diagnosing and treating low back pain. The successful 2 day course was an in-person event and was widely-attended by POA colleagues, training residents, and allied medical professionals held at St.Luke's BGC. Interesting topics of note were percutaneous endoscopic lumbar surgery, advancements in anterior and lateral approaches to the lumbar spine, and understanding evidence-based degenerative deformity surgery. The course was ably and successfully headed by our Spine section head Dr. Ronald Pidlaon. We highly anticipate and plan to do future installments of the B.A.C.K. series.

2023 also showcased our multispecialty consultant staff who were involved in various local and international sporting events to offer their expertise. Our past Institute head (BGC) Dr. Jose Raul Canlas, Institute head (QC) Dr. Randolph Molo, Dr. Victor Gaddi, Dr. Janis Espino - De Vera, Dr. Enrique Pasion, Dr. Yehlen Saligumba, Dr. Jose Estrellas, Dr. Gabriel Zetazate, and Dr. Irving Bernardo, were part of the medical staff representing our nation at the FIFA Women's world cup, FIBA Basketball World Cup and



Dr. Enrique Pasion, Dr. Janis Espino-De Vera, Dr. Randolph Molo (Gilas team Physician) and Dr. Gabriel Zetazate courtside at the Araneta colosseum



Gilas Team doctor Dr. Randolph Molo and Dr. Yehlen Saligumba with medical staff, guiding Team Philippines in the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.



PWNT Filipinas, Team doctor Dr. Janis Espino-De Vera at the football pitch for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in New Zealand

2023 Asian games. Together with our national athletes our consultants gave honor to our flag, country and the POA.

Looking for a bigger and brighter 2024

**Henry M. Calleja MD, FPOA**

## OrthoRoCKs X

**Carlo Emmanuel J. Sumpaico, MD FPOA**

OrthoRoCKs celebrated her 10<sup>th</sup> edition last September 1-2, 2023 at the Novotel



Manila, Araneta Center. Now a decade old, OrthoRoCKs X or Orthopedics: A Review of Core Knowledge still continues to uphold its prime objective of providing a venue for Orthopedic Surgeons and those interested in the science of Orthopedics, a smorgasbord of learning opportunities spanning the breadth and depth of any topic in Orthopedics.



From her humble beginnings in 2014 under then Chair, Dr. Edward Wang of the Department of Orthopedics of the University of the Philippines Manila -Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH), and succeeding and current Chair, Dr. Juanito Javier and Dr. Peter Bernardo, OrthoRoCKs has gotten bigger and bigger every year - with constant innovations and improvements. What has remained constant though is that all lecturers, whether foreign or local, come from the illustrious roster of alumni of the Department of Orthopedics of UP-PGH.

When everything seemed to stop and was put on hold because of the Covid

# OrthoRoCKs X

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pandemic, OrthoRoCKs never skipped a beat and even flourished. The online version, that coincided with the department's golden anniversary, gave us the opportunity to expand our lectures in terms of scope and scale by doing weekly on-line drops of 5 topics lasting 45 minutes each. These on-line drops spanned 10 weeks which resulted in 50 glorious lectures. From our usual number of attendees, the pandemic version of OrthoRoCKs ballooned to 1500 to 1700 participants worldwide. We had attendees from all parts of the world, spanning 6 continents. And if only penguins could register, we would have gotten Antarctica too!

The pandemic also gave us the opportunity to launch the official logo of OrthoRoCKs. The logo, which depicts a stack of books with the tree of Andry to its side represents the department's zeal for Orthopedic Education. It also alludes to the actual 4 floors of the UP-PGH Department of Orthopedics and our beloved mango tree beside it. OrthoRoCKs™ and her logo have also been registered and trademarked by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines since 2020.

With orthopedic education in center stage, OrthoRoCKs continues to deliver quality lectures on topics that all Orthopods should know. Throughout the years, we have

# OrthoRoCKs X

From Page 47



employed numerous strategies to help our participants learn - by giving them a comfortable venue complete with sumptuous meals to calm and feed the brain; Q and A sessions for both on-line and face to face lectures to give the participants a chance to clarify queries and conundra that they may have; and most recently, post-lecture quizzes complete with item analyses to give participants a snapshot on topics where they do well and topics where improvement is necessary.



As we move towards the next decade of OrthoRoCKs, we promise to stay faithful to our core value of orthopedic education. Fully ingrained and embodied by each graduate of the Department of Orthopedics, UP-PGH we follow the words of our mentors, Dr. Rafael Recto and Dr. Norberto Agcaoil, and now mantra, on why we do this year in and year out, "We love to teach." And this is why, ORTHO ROCKS!



Visit our Congress website at

<https://www.poacongress2023.org/>

to view the detailed 74th POA  
Annual Congress Program



# Program at-a-Glance

NOV 15 WED	ISLA 1	ISLA 2 & 3	PALAWAN
0700-0830	Orientation of New POA Fellows		Philippine Board of Orthopaedics Meeting w/ Training Programs ZCCXZ
0900-1200		OPENING CEREMONIES	
1200-1300	Lunch Symposium		
1300-1500	SHOULDER Part 1	HIP/AAA Part 1	TUMOR Part 1
1500-1530	Snack Symposium		
1530-1700	SHOULDER Part 2	HIP/AAA Part 2	TUMOR Part 2
1700-1730	Plenary Session		
1730-1800	Cocktails		
1800	Fellowship Night		

NOV 16 THU	ISLA 1	ISLA 2	ISLA 3	PALAWAN
0700-0830	ICL 1: FOOT & ANKLE	ICL 2: SHOULDER	ICL 3: SPORTS MEDICINE	ICL 4: TUMOR Part 1
0830-0900	Snack Symposium			
0900-1230	FOOT & ANKLE	KNEE/AAA		PEDIATRIC ORTHO
1230-1330	Lunch Symposium			
1330-1600	WOMEN ORTHOPEDICS	WOUND CARE	Pedia Case Contest	Residents' Research Forum
1600-1800		POA Business Meeting		
1800	Alumni Night	Presidents' Night		Alumni Night

NOV 17 FRI	ISLA 1	ISLA 2	ISLA 3	PALAWAN
0700-0830	ICL 5: WOUND CARE	ICL 6: SPINE	ICL 7: HAND with UTZ	ICL 8: TUMOR Part 2
0830-0900	Snack Symposium			
0900-1230	ILIZAROV	SPINE Part 1	HAND Part 1	HIP & KNEE/AAA: Revisions & Complications
1230-1330	Lunch Symposium			
1330-1530	SPORTS MEDICINE Part 1	SPINE Part 2	HAND Part 2	Philippine Board of Orthopaedics Affair & Lectures
1530-1600	Snack Symposium			
1600-1730	SPORTS MEDICINE Part 2	SPINE: "An Afternoon with a Spine Surgeon"	Orthopedic Research Society	
1730-1800	Plenary Session			
1830	Congress Banquet			

NOV 18 SAT	ISLA 1	ISLA 2	ISLA 3
0730-0900		POA Council for Orthopedic Education (COE) Lectures	Research: Free Papers
0900-1200	TRAUMA		
1200-1300	Lunch & Closing Ceremonies		



**32nd POA**  
*Midyear*  
Convention

# ADVANCED WOUND CARE

*in the New Normal*



**April 11-14, 2024**  
**Aziza Paradise Hotel**  
**Puerto Princesa, Palawan**



**POA 75th Annual**  
**Congress**  
**"Cutting Diamond"**

*Nov 13 to 16, 2024*  
*Edsa Shangri-La Hotel Manila*



# PHILIPPINE ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION, INC NATIONAL ELECTRONIC ELECTIONS via **Philortho App**

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- 4** CHOOSE YOUR CANDIDATES. THEN CLICK SUBMIT VOTES BUTTON

### ELECTION DATES

<b>NOV</b>	<b>NOV</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>STARTS @</b>	<b>ENDS @</b>
<b>12:00 NN</b>	<b>12:00 NN</b>

For assistance, please contact POA Secretariat thru:  
 Email: [philorthopaedic@gmail.com](mailto:philorthopaedic@gmail.com) with the Subject: **Philortho App E-Vote** (followed by your PRC Number)  
 SMS: Ms. Eden Ladrica – 09453429987 include your PRC Number in your message

## STEP BY STEP GUIDE FOR THE **POA TRUSTEES EVOTE**

# Philippine Board of Orthopaedics Elections 2024



To Know more about the PBO Election Step By Step Tutorial, you can scan the QR CODE or [\*\*click here.\*\*](#)



# Obituaries



**ALLAN J. SANCHEZ**  
06/29/1948 - 04/04/2023  
Yr. Inducted: 1982  
Place of Practice: Quezon City



**ERNESTO F. REYES, JR.**  
10/15/1944 - 07/01/2023  
Yr. Inducted: 1980  
Place of Practice: Batangas City  
Chapter: POA-SLC



**BENIGNO A. AGBAYANI, JR.**  
02/22/1965 - 10/05-2023  
Yr. Inducted: 1999  
Place of Practice: NCR



**EDGARDO V. SALUD**  
09/16/1946 - 10/14/2023  
Yr. Inducted: 1983  
Place of Practice: Quezon City

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*Executive Secretary: Weng Pandio*

*Secretary: Eden Ladrica*

*Utilities: Moises Manalo*

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*John Andrew Michael A. Bengzon*

*Secretariat Staff: Eden Ladrica*

*Layout Artist: Mike Villanueva*

