



## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF THE APOA “No walls can divide our unity in diversity”

In the Philippines, turning 60 is a milestone as it marks one's officially becoming a senior citizen, complete with all the benefits the government bestows. The APOA's 60th Anniversary was a huge milestone as it was celebrated in the Philippines, where in 1962 a Filipino Orthopedic Surgeon formalized its inception.

Dr Catalino Jocson's efforts came full circle as the country hosted the 60th Anniversary of the APOA, together with the 22nd Congress of the APOA. The theme “APOA 2022: 60 YEARS OF TRAILBLAZING ORTHOPAEDICS THROUGH DIVERSITY AND SYNERGY” encapsulated the spirit of the organization as it recognized the myriad of cultures and backgrounds present in the Asia Pacific region, pushing together at the forefront of Orthopedic advancement.

From November 24 to 26, 2022 the fruits of one year's work were finally put on display. Recognizing the limited time to prepare for this Congress, the Philippine Orthopedic Association harnessed all its resources to launch a meeting worthy of international flavor and standards. In three days, six breakout rooms were filled with content, as 8-hour streams of information were broadcasted, having an hour's break to feature sponsors' lectures and presentations. From 12 noon Manila time to 9pm, all twelve APOA subspecialty sections were given the opportunity to showcase their expertise, via

a rich roster of speakers from around the world. Added to the existing twelve subspecialty sections, the POA added sessions from local sections including Tumor Section, Ilizarov Section, Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Section and Wound Care Society. The result was an astounding 400 lectures plus case discussions, panel discussions and over 200 research

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# CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF THE APOA...

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papers presented. Capping each day were plenary lectures from Orthopedic luminaries, Professor Shanmuganathan Rajasekaran, Professor Rami Sorial, Professor Donald Lalonde, Professor Onder Aydingoz, Professor Suthorn Bavonratanavech, Professor Shoichi Kokubun and the Philippines' very own Professor Teresita Altre. Plenary topics ranged from personal experience and growth, results of extensive efforts to gain information, healthy attitudes towards challenges, different outlooks towards overcoming problems and a huge dose of wisdom gleaned from decades of lives dedicated to Orthopedic Surgery.

The APOA Executive Council was likewise hosted personally for face-to-face meetings in Cebu City during the broadcast. Present throughout the congress were Prof Shoichi Kokubun, Prof David Choon, Prof Syed Alsagoff, Prof Syed Shahidul Islam, Prof Jae Yoon Chung and of course the incoming President himself, Prof Ellewelyn Pasion. With us also was the President of the upcoming 23rd Congress, Dr Saeed Al Thani from Dubai. The APOA Secretariat Miss Molly Kong and Miss Kristin Liew were also present to make sure all the meetings went smoothly although hybrid in format, via Zoom for those who couldn't be with us in person.

The 22nd Congress featured a small but solemn turnover ceremony during which Prof Kokubun passed on the reins of the APOA to the Philippines'

Prof Pasion. Both gentlemen delivered heartfelt and sincere valedictory and inaugural messages for the association. During the Opening Ceremony, a special Congress Hymn as suggested by Prof Pasion, and penned and put to music by the Philippine Orthopedic Association was played, accompanied by images from the APOA's history. Admixed throughout were video clips of greetings from past presidents of the APOA. Put together, it made for a moving and inspiring musical presentation. The Congress was closed with another simple ceremony, highlighted by the earnest invitation delivered by Dr Saeed Al Thani, to journey to Dubai in 2024 for the 23rd Congress of the APOA.

We would like to thank the APOA for the distinct honor and pleasure of hosting the 22nd Congress. We truly enjoyed the company of the Executive

Committee throughout the three days. Credit is due to our Scientific Committee Chairpersons Dr Jean Pierre F. Leung and Dr Jose Antonio San Juan for masterfully crafting and putting together the program. We remain grateful to our sponsors for their support, and we are eternally in debt to our distinguished faculty, both foreign and local, who have shared both time and talent towards the success of this Congress.

**"Hand in hand we fight the storm, united we stand, divided we fall. We reach out beyond the skies and seas. No wall can divide our unity in diversity!" - 2022 Congress Hymn Chorus**

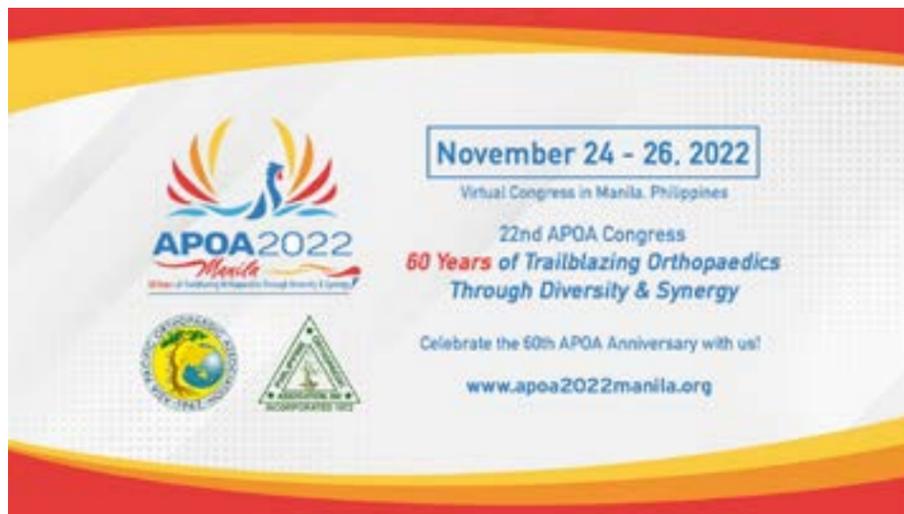
**Frederic Joseph F. Diyco, MD, FPOA**  
22nd APOA Congress President

*As Christmas 2022 draws near, and as my term comes to a close, a long list of gratitude materializes before me. Twelve months of being "Mr President" really does go by quickly. With a steady stream of issues and concerns for the Association, a constant presence amongst external organizations, and a steadfast effort to launch worthwhile congresses in June and in November, the Office of the POA President was kept very busy this year. I reflect on my journey in the POA, beginning ten years ago as a newbie in the Board, trying to get a feel of how best to serve our Fellows. With the passing of every year, one learns to contribute more, to give more and to bequeath more, culminating in a year of final service to the Association. I will forever be grateful to my 2022 Board of Trustees, the POA Secretariat and most especially to my family for the understanding and patience. 2022 has been a good year. Merry Christmas to my dear colleagues and POA Fellows!*



## APOA Did You Know?

- In 1960, Dr. Catalino Jocson of the Philippines first thought of forming an association of Orthopedic surgeons from Asia after presenting a paper at the Pan-Pacific Surgical Association in Honolulu, Hawaii. Two years later, in 1962, during the 2nd Pan-Pacific Rehabilitation Conference of Rehabilitation International, Dr. Jocson met with Orthopedic surgeons from Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Vietnam and Malaysia, and created the Western Pacific Orthopaedic Association. The first Congress of the WPOA was held in Japan in 1965, then regularly thereafter. With each congress, more members joined the Association, until its transition to the Asia Pacific Orthopedic Association in 2000. At present, there are 24 country members of the APOA, and over 60,000 members, making this the biggest orthopedic association in the world
- 2022 is the 3rd hosting of the APOA by the Philippines. We first hosted the 3rd Congress in 1970 in Manila. In 1987, the Philippines again hosted the Congress during the 25th Anniversary of the APOA. 2022 is the 3rd time for the Philippines to host the event, now in its 22nd Congress and during the 60th anniversary of the APOA (formerly WPOA)
- This Year's POA and 22nd Congress President, Frederic Diyco, led his team of POA Trustees and Subspecialty Sections in the preparations leading to the Congress. They worked long hours for over a year making this Congress a reality.
- The Congress Hymn, commissioned by Prof Lewy Pasion, was written and sung by our very own POA Trustee and Singing Idol Mic Muñoz together with his daughter Bea. Amazing job Mic!
- The three-day program for the 22nd Congress of the APOA will feature



all twelve subspecialty sections ( Trauma / Hip / Knee / Sports / Hand and Upper Limb / Spine / Foot and Ankle / Pediatric Orthopedics / Infection / Research / WAVES / Young Surgeon's Forum ) of the APOA plus more. Each of these sections coordinated with our own subspecialty sessions to prepare world-class scientific programs in their field. This was a task that looked simple on paper but led to blood, sweat, and tears for our local subspec heads during preparation. Nonetheless, the output of each was impressive. Thanks to the following reps from their societies:

- » Joseph Lai and Adel Belen from POTS;
- » Mar Cadag, Edsel Arandia, and Tony San Juan from the PHKS;
- » Tony San Juan (again!) and Janis Espino De Vera from POSSM;
- » Dave Alagar and JJ Pua from AHSP;
- » Rolly Tangente, Pebbles Ganal Antonio and Dimples Reyes Diyco from PSS,
- » Carlo Borbon from POFAS,
- » Al Legaspi, Dalo Sumpaico, Candice Lim, and Rotti Flores for POSP
- » Nilo Paner for Infection
- » Estee Estrella for the Orthopedic Research Society
- » Janis Espino De Vera (again!) for WAVES
- » Nesti Panopio for the Young Surgeon's Forum

- Aside from the APOA's specialty sections, there were sessions handled by our very own subspecialty societies ( PMTS for Musculoskeletal Tumors, Musculoskeletal Ultrasound and Ilizarov Methods by ASAMI Philippines). These sessions also features internationally renowned leaders in the field sharing their expertise. Take a bow, Mutch Gaston and Judith Akol, Obet Chan, and Danny Dungca, and your respective societies for putting on world class sessions!
- There were also two special sessions featured: the Trauma section co-sponsored a Fragility Fracture and Osteoporosis Session on November 25, spearheaded by the FFN-Philippines headed by Irewin Tabu. Not to be outdone was the special clubfoot session on the last day with featured a mix of the biggest names in Clubfoot management globally (Profs Morquende, Dobbs, Aroojis, and Ortiz) with our very own Filipino counterparts sharing our local experience (Take a bow, Rotti Flores, Dalo Sumpaico, and Elsa Calvez, Danny Dungca, JP Leung, and Anya Peña)
- POA Trustee Peter Quiaoit and Mar Cadag headed the Free Paper Section, which managed to

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## APOA Did You Know...

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- attract over 200 research paper submissions. This was bolstered by over 40 case presentations submitted for the POSP Interesting Case Presentation Contest. Diamond Sponsor 3M likewise sponsored a wound care-themed contest, announcing winners from the region during the opening ceremonies.
- The Plenary lectures were the highlight of each evening, with a total of seven Luminaries in the field of Orthopedics, coming from various countries, different subspecialties, all sharing motivational talks from a lifetime of orthopedic experience
- Prof Rajasekaran talked about David and Goliath, the disparity between orthopedic conditions and research between the developed and developing countries. He showed how they were tackling this issue to push for more research for orthopedic problems in 3rd world countries.
- Prof Shoichi Kokubun, the outgoing APOA president, spoke on the need for Lateral Thinking, and showed his evolution from a master spine surgeon to going back and embracing Oriental Medicine in the approach and management of musculoskeletal pain
- Prof Lalonde started the WALANT movement and in so doing opened a world of opportunities for orthopedic surgeons, a new way of doing cases, particularly suited to the restrictions of the covid pandemic
- Prof Aydingoz talked about the state of orthopedic education in the Asia Pacific Region, and the importance of keeping the APOA fires lit
- Prof Rami Sorial showed the importance of "Just say Yes!" in facing new challenges during his orthopedic career, which has led him down numerous paths in

arthroplasty, orthopedic education, and outreach, in Australia and around the World.

- Prof Tess Altre (Our very own! Go Philippines!) recounted her life as a pioneering orthopedic surgeon. The first lady president of the POA (or of any national orthopedic association worldwide), the first lady chair of the PBO, the first female pediatric orthopedic surgeon in the Philippines, and the founding president of the Philippine Society of Women Orthopedic Surgeons. We have much to be proud of, Maam Tess!
- One of the highlights for our country, of course, was the induction of our very own Prof Ellewelyn Pasion as the incoming President of the APOA, steering it until the next Conference in March 2024 in Dubai! Congratulations sir!
- The APOA Congress, although with a purely virtual scientific program, had face to face APOA Council Meetings including guests Professor Shoichi Kokubun (outgoing president), Prof Ellewelyn Pasion (incoming President), Prof David Choon (Congress Committee Chair), Prof Jae Yoon Chung, Prof Syed Aslagoff (treasurer), Prof Syed Shahidul Islam ( at large), and Dr. Saeed Al Thani (Dubai Congress Chair). Also with us were Ms. Molly Kong and Kristin Liew of the APOA secretariat.
- The Congress wouldn't have been possible without the help of the POA Secretariat (Celia, Weng, Eden, Moises, and Mike V.) Thanks also to those who came to support the sessions in person!
- After years of preparation, 400 lectures, 240 free papers and case presentations, 36 sessions from 15 subspecialty societies, 7 plenary lectures, this is your Congress Organizing Committee, signing out.

JP Leung

### PS... Behind the Scenes:

- Did you know that Tony San Juan gave a last minute impromptu live lecture for the knee section when the original lecturer didn't make it? In addition to his 3 other recorded lectures - Amazing Tony!
- We received several lecture submissions literally minutes before they were scheduled to go on air
- Thanks to the PMTS team of Judith, Mutch, Abi, Dani, Ricky, and Mel for being the cavalry and coming in 9pm to past midnight before their Tumor sessions to iron out their program!
- The Spine team of Rolly, Pebbles, and Dimples ran into so many technical glitches on the first day which miraculously disappeared on Day two—their conclusion, minulto ang day 1!
- We still have an open vote for the best lecture of the conference - Candidates include 1)The Role of ) Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery in Treating Spinal Infections
- 2)Complex Tibial Fractures
- 3)Troubleshooting Your Way in Total Knee Arthroplasty
- Salamat sa kanila nag-trending ang APOA sa mga Orthopedic Chatgroups!
- Although the organizing committee pretty much never left the conference venue, we never went hungry—tita Judith provided a whole Cebu lechon, complete with fixings, on the 25th and tito Tony supplied us with Cebu's famous "Manok Bisaya". We also had our nightly "one round" at the lobby for our debriefing sessions with the team.
- The mic drop moment of the conference; one of our trustees, Ms. PGA, was surprised when her husband, fellow orthoped DA, flew in from Manila on the last night of the Conference to lend some much needed moral support!

## Video Links



POA - Philippine National Anthem

POA Hymn

One Vision AVP

APOA Hymn



[Join the Survey: Survey of awareness and attitudes to the management of fragility fractures among the membership of the Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association](#)

APOA Highlights

**Enjoy viewing,  
Happy Holidays to all!**

## Prof. Ellewellyn G. Pasion - New APOA President

This is an excerpt from the inaugural speech rendered by the new APOA President Prof. Ellewellyn G. Pasion

My dear Colleagues of the APOA:

It is my honor to be inducted today as President of the APOA for 2022-2023. I would like to thank the members of the Council for their trust and confidence in bestowing this distinct privilege upon me.

Today we celebrate 60 years of the APOA since its founding in 1962. I would also like to thank the Philippine Orthopaedic Association for hosting the APOA's diamond Anniversary which makes it all the more memorable for me. I am humbled to be the second Filipino to serve as President of the APOA since it was first established in Manila in 1962.

At its founding in 1962, the APOA was known as the Western Pacific Orthopaedic Association with only 13 countries as members. It was only in the year 2000 that the WPOA was renamed the Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association. Today, there are now 21 member federation countries, 24 chapters, and the total membership has now increased to more than 60,000 making the APOA the largest Orthopaedic association in the world.

These past 60 years, our association has prospered in spite of the many adversities that has come along. Mutual understanding and cooperation has always kept us UNITED. This is the core strength of the APOA.

Two years of the Covid pandemic has disrupted our association's activities. We were forced to quickly adapt and innovate. We hosted virtual webinars, held online meetings, and continued to hold annual congresses to ensure that everyone was updated and abreast with the latest Orthopaedic education, training, research and innovations. The



past two years showed the resiliency of our organization, and proved that the APOA works together to further the advancement of Orthopaedics in our region despite all odds.

As the world slowly normalizes post-Pandemic, the APOA will continue to move forward and upward. As your incoming APOA President, I ask your full support on our planned programs and activities. These three will be my main areas of focus:

1. Orthopaedic Education;
2. Orthopaedic Research; and
3. Strengthened membership and collaboration

### 1) Orthopaedic Education

- We will endeavor to establish a common training syllabus or curriculum for all Asia Pacific member countries. This will be based on minimum standards required to practice as competently as a general Orthopaedic surgeon.
- We will identify centers of Orthopaedic excellence in the Region which can offer short term specialty fellowship training in the subspecialties.
- We will increase the number of Traveling Fellowships in the

different APOA specialty sections to benefit our young surgeons

- We will explore the creation of an electronic library which can be easily accessed by members and the Orthopedic trainees.
- We will continue to offer webinars even after the pandemic, and will be part of the new normal as these will benefit the majority of our members and trainees.

### 2) Orthopaedic Research

- We will start the creation of registries for the different specialty sections in order to have a shared database which can be used for advancing research initiatives.
- We will support the Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Research Society (APORS) in their projects to promote the further advancement of research in the region.

### 3) Strengthened membership and collaboration

- We will encourage the APOA Chapters to increase their individual memberships and promote active involvement in regional initiatives.
- We will encourage our young surgeons to contribute to the advancement of Orthopaedics

# Prof. Ellewellyn G. Pasion...

through their active participation in APOA activities by sharing new ideas and concepts. These young surgeons are in fact the future of the APOA!

- We will promote collaboration with other regional Orthopaedic associations for knowledge and innovation sharing.
- I encourage all the 12 APOA Specialty Sections & Societies to continue their respective program of educational activities for the year.
- We will also try to give back to our respective communities with the establishment of an Outreach Project Committee that can look into helping the less or underserved communities

identified in the Asia Pacific region.

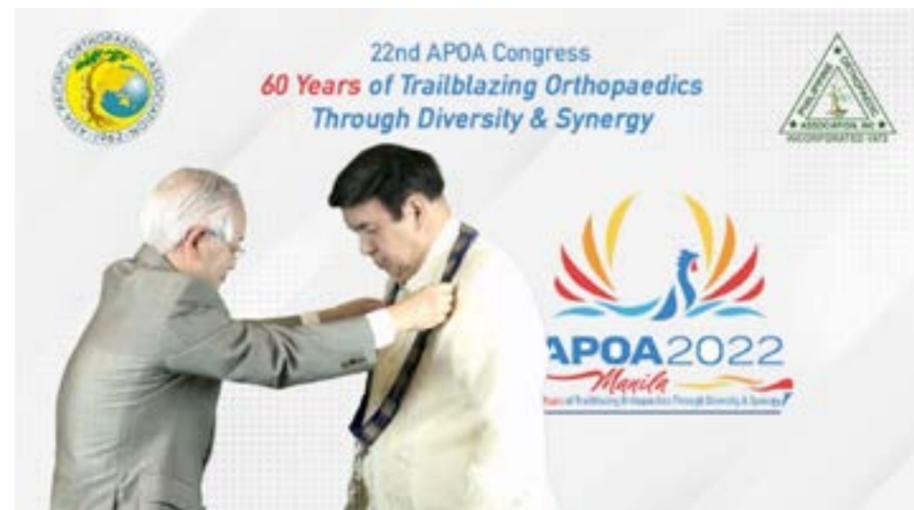
These are some of the plans, programs and activities that I intend to accomplish within my 15-month term. Of course, the success of an organization is not solely the responsibility of its leaders, but of the responsibility of the entire membership. I therefore ask for your full support and cooperation, and encourage everyone's active participation.

For the continued advancement of Orthopaedics in the Asia Pacific, let us all pledge our commitment, mutual cooperation, close collaboration and wholesome camaraderie among all our members, starting with the Executive Committee and the Council. I hope to see the collective effort of the EXECOM, the standing committees, the extended committees, and the specialty sections

in bringing more success to the APOA. Let us also encourage new ideas on how to further strengthen our beloved association. I welcome our Young Surgeons Committee to actively participate and come out with ideas for the future of the APOA. The future of our Association lies in the strength of its members. Let us all work together as one united Orthopaedic family of the Asia Pacific region.

In closing, I would like to thank everybody for the trust and support in giving me the mandate to lead the APOA for 2022-2023. I am confident that with your support, and the support of the EXECOM and the Council we will not fail in further advancing Orthopaedics in the Asia Pacific region!

Thank you and MABUHAY!!



# The APOA Congress Hymn

On June 18, 2022, I received a message from Dr. Ellewellyn Pasion sharing his thoughts about creating a hymn for the upcoming APOA Congress to be held in Manila. His vision was to make history by creating a hymn for the APOA, made by a Filipino that will promote unity among neighboring countries in the Asia Pacific region and will echo globally. Little did I know, he was thinking of commissioning me to create the song. I was reluctant at first, given that this would be my first time to create a song however, the full confidence given to me by Dr. Pasion made me decide to take this huge challenge. I am humbled to have been given this opportunity and trust to create not just any song, but in particular, an honorable one.

The first challenge I was faced with was how to lay the words and lyrics. To my surprise, I found myself scribbling words that when put together, fit the theme "Unity in Diversity", which blended with the Core Mission of the APOA. The next challenge I had to face and question I had to ask was "Who was going to compose and arrange the music?" It was then Ma'am Celia Rigor, who introduced her husband's friend and gave us the composer of the APOA Congress hymn— Mr. Carmelo Gaa, a musician, who is full of enthusiasm and passion in creating songs. We worked only through Messenger to communicate our thoughts, creative ideas and concept for the song, which was not easy. As someone who has never made a song before, I had to work hand-in-hand with Sir Carlo. I gave Sir Carlo the overall vibe and idea that I had conceptualized for the song, and he executed it, until we could come up with raw files that were presented to the POA Board of Trustees for their curation; they suggested to add a female voice to the hymn, so as to represent the women, who are also a part of the APOA. This is where my daughter Bea came in and contributed to the hymn's



The Team (from L-R): Mr. Dave (Sound Engineer), Ms. Bea Muñoz, Dr. Michael Muñoz and Mr. Carlo Gaa (Musician/Composer)



delivery — she sang the female part of the song and helped direct how the story of the APOA Congress hymn should be told in order to inspire those listening to it.

Listing down the challenges we had to face would include: writing meaningful lyrics, composing a melodramatic, yet



heartfelt melody that had ease of recall and ease of singing even for those, who would not usually sing, incorporating the idea of unity in diversity, making the members of the APOA really feel they are part of the community, and basically balancing all the aforementioned factors all together.

# The APOA Congress Hymn

We believe that with this hymn, we are able to achieve our goal in delivering genuine Filipino craftsmanship, promoting sodality, camaraderie and unity in the Asia Pacific Orthopedic community.

- Michael DR Muñoz, MD, FPOA



## APOA Hymn "Unity in Diversity"

APOA Congress Hymn

"Unity in Diversity"

I  
I have often dreamed of nations bound together as one  
Believing as one  
Thriving as one  
Strengthened by sodality and camaraderie  
We are the APOA men and women of integrity  
Dreaming of unity in diversity!

CHORUS:

Hand in hand we fight the storm  
United we stand  
Divided we fall  
We reach out beyond the skies and seas  
No wall can divide our unity

II  
Armed with education and technology  
With skill and research,  
It's a synergy!  
Uniting bone and joint, restoring function and limb  
We are the Orthopedic Surgeons giving health care for humanity

CHORUS:

Hand in hand we fight the storm  
United we stand  
Divided we fall  
We reach out beyond the skies and seas  
No wall can divide our unity

CHORUS:

Hand in hand we fight the storm  
United we stand  
Divided we fall  
We reach out beyond the skies and seas

CODA:

No wall can divide  
No wall can divide us  
No wall can divide our unity in diversity!

*Performed by Ms. Bea Muñoz and Dr. Michael Muñoz  
Words and Lyrics by Dr. Michael Muñoz  
Music arranged and produced by Mr. Carmelo Gaa*

# APOA 2022 update: POA supports regional programs and initiatives about Osteoporosis and Fragility Fracture Management

Fellows of the Philippine Orthopedic Association recently supported the research project of the APOA-APOFFS entitled "Survey of awareness and attitudes to the management of fragility fractures among the membership of the Asia-Pacific Orthopaedic Association." The survey has been developed as a collaborative work between the APOA, the Asia-Pacific Osteoporosis and Fragility Fracture Society, and the Asia Pacific Fragility Fracture Alliance. It aims to seek insights regarding the care of fragility fracture patients at presentation, surgery and mobilization, as well as secondary fracture prevention from the perspective of an Orthopaedic surgeon. Findings from the survey can help bridge the gap between the ideal management of fragility fractures and Orthopedic surgeons in the Asia-Pacific region, focusing on multidisciplinary care the patient and not just fixing the fracture.

Also, in the just recently concluded Asia-Pacific Orthopedic Association 2022 online global congress hosted by the Philippines, the Philippine Orthopedic Association and the Fragility Fracture Network-Philippines actively took part in hosting the Osteoporosis and Fragility Fracture sessions of the congress. Collaborative sessions about multi-disciplinary fracture management and secondary fracture prevention were held with the Fragility Fracture Network (FFN) Global and the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF), as well as the Asia-Pacific Consortium on Osteoporosis (APCO). Crossfire discussions about fragility fracture management of the hip, spine and distal 3rd radius was also held in collaboration with the Philippine Orthopedic Trauma society and the Asia-Pacific Trauma society.

Overall, a successful program about fragility fracture management and



osteoporosis was conducted, which will further improve the care these subsets of patients in the Philippines!

-Irwin A. Tabu, MD, FPOA : Head, POA Orthogeriatric and Osteoporosis Working group



POA Board of Trustees 2022

# POA Goes to Singapore



The 44th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Singapore Orthopaedic Association (SOA) was held at the Shangri-La Singapore last December 5-10, 2022. This was a combined meeting with 10th ACASEA [Academic Congress of ASEAN Shoulder and Elbow Association], 9th ASSA (ASEAN Society for Sports Medicine and Arthroscopy), and the 42nd ASEAN Orthopedic Association (AOA). There were knee and shoulder cadaver workshops, ICLs, subspecialty symposia, and orthopedic research lectures.



Filipino orthopods who attended the meeting were; Prof. Ellewellyn G. Pasion- AOA Secretary General, A/Prof. Peter B. Bernardo - AOA President, Dr. Dave Alagar- POA president, Dr. Tony San Juan - ASSA President, Dr. Edgar Eufemio, Dr. Bing Molano (ACASEA), Dr. Braggy Braganza, Dr. Jem Munji, Dr. Eman Mata (Chong Hua Fellow in Adult Reconstruction who presented a paper), Dr. Gelo Nerit (doing Fellowship in Sports at Singapore General Hospital), Dr. Edward Woo (doing Fellowship in Adult reconstruction in SGH).



There was the AOA council meeting presided over by President Peter B. Bernardo on December 9, 2022, where the new officers for 2022-23 were elected. The new officers are:



President- Assoc Prof. Denny Lie  
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# POA Goes to Singapore



(Singapore)  
Senior Vice President - Prof. Tipachart Punyaratabandhu (Thailand)  
Vice Presidents  
Mr Khairul Azmi Abd Kadir (Brunei)  
Prof. Sin Tourphot (Cambodia)  
Prof. Ismail Haedisubroto (Indonesia)  
Prof. Tunku Kamarul (Malaysia)  
Prof. Khin Maung Myint (Myanmar)  
Dr. David L. Alagar (Philippines)  
Dr Nguyen Manh Khanh (Vietnam)  
Ex officio - A/Prof Peter B. Bernardo [Philippines]

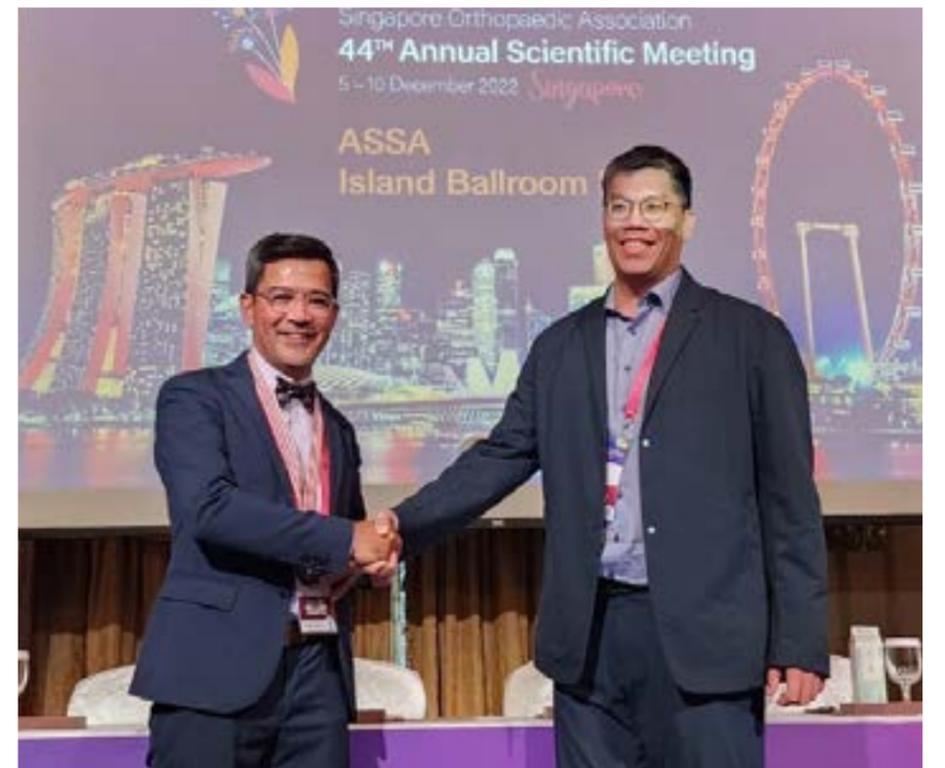
The new council members of each national associations were also named and appointed.

Also, Secretary General Prof Ellewellyn G. Pasion, who has held the position for the last 17 years, stepped down as he would concentrate more on the APOA (Asia Pacific Orthopedic Association), for which he was elected President recently.

Dr Peter Lee from Singapore was elected as the new Secretary General, and Prof Saw Aik from Malaysia as the Assistant Secretary General.

Dr Azlina Abas (Malaysia) was appointed as the new editor in chief of the MOA-AOA journal from Prof. Saw Aik (Malaysia).

Prof. Edward H.M. Wang (Philippines) was elected as the new secretary of the



ASEAN Orthopedic Research Society [AORS].

Next year the Junior and Senior travelling fellowships will be resumed. The guidelines and schedules have already been finalized.

ASSA president Dr Tony San Juan also had turnover ceremony for new incoming President Dr Dave Lee from Singapore.

At the Closing Banquet, there was the turnover ceremony of the AOA presidency from Ass Prof. Peter B. Bernardo (Philippines) to Ass Prof. Denny Lie of Singapore. Prof. Ellewellyn G. Pasion was also honored for his meritorious service as Secretary General of the AOA for the past 17 years having steered and guided the association. The next AOA meeting will be held in Thailand in November 2023.

- A/Prof. Peter B. Bernardo  
AOA President 2022

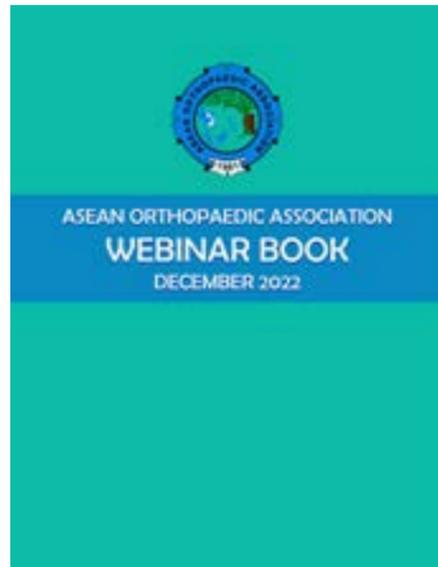
# AOA Webinar Book Launched

The ASEAN Orthopedic Association [AOA] WEBINAR Book was launched at the Singapore Orthopedic Association Meeting last December 7-2022.

The AOA Education committee, headed by Prof Lee Eng Hin, was requested by 2021 AOA President Prof. Chye Ping Ching to conduct regular teaching sessions via zoom during the COVID pandemic. Dr Denny Lie volunteered to oversee this project along with Prof. Ketan Pande from Brunei and Dr Anhdika Yudistira from Indonesia. The committee proposed a series of 12 webinars, covering the main topics in the Orthopedic curriculum, to be held every 2 months, and assigned to the different member countries. Member countries with smaller orthopedic societies were encouraged to co-host these webinars. The target audience was the residents and fellows in the ASEAN region. About 2,000 participants tuned in these 6 webinars.

The webinar book was done to document the talks. Each host country contributed two or more chapters transcribed from the webinar lectures delivered. It was a challenging task. The book is a compilation of the different speakers. There were a total of 20 lectures. It was Mike Villanueva, AOA secretariat, who compiled and formatted these lectures into the book form. Printing of the book was shouldered by the AOA and in the AOA council mtg in Singapore, copies were distributed to each member national association.

In September 22- 2022, the POA hosted a webinar on Trends in Hip Arthroplasty, and in November 22- 2022, another webinar on Knee Arthroplasty Current Concepts and Updates was hosted by the SOA. In 2023, four more webinars will follow on Musculoskeletal tumors, Spine, Sports Injuries, Foot and Ankle. These will bring the 2-year cycle to a conclusion. Hopefully, another book



will be launched to document the next 6 webinar talks!

- A/Prof. Peter B. Bernardo  
Prof Denny Lie

## AOA - WEBINAR SERIES SCHEDULE

Date	Topics	Host	Attendees
Sep-21	Advanced Orthopaedic Trauma – Case Discussions	IOA - IOTS	883
Nov-21	Musculoskeletal Infections	OSBD	242
Jan-22	Hand & Microsurgery	MOA	233
Mar-22	Paediatric Orthopaedics and Trauma	MOA	188
May-22	Shoulder & Elbow	SOA	103
Jul-22	Trauma 2 (incl Fragility Fractures & Osteoporosis)	OSBD	
Sep-22	Hip arthroplasty: current concepts & updates	POA-PHKS	100
Nov-22	Knee arthroplasty: current concepts & updates	SOA	153

Date	Topics	Host/Coordinator
Jan-23	MSK Tumours	POA (PMTS)
Mar-23	Sports Knees	RCOST (Dr. Chanakarn)
May-23	Spine	IOA/MOS
Jul-23	Foot & Ankle	RCOST



# Down Under and Across the Ditch



On October 31, 2022 to November 3, 2022, the joint meeting of the Australian Orthopedic Association and the New Zealand Orthopedic Association was held in the Te Pae Convention Center in Christchurch, New Zealand. The POA was one of a handful of Asia Pacific national orthopedic associations in attendance, together with the president of the Indian Orthopedic Association, Prof Ramesh Sen, the president of the Indonesian Orthopedic Association, Prof Edi Mustamsir, the president of the Korean Orthopedic Association, Prof Hong Geun Jung and the past president of the Malaysian Orthopedic Association, Prof Sharifah Roohi SW Ahmad.

We witnessed the changing of guard from the Australian Orthopedic Association and the New Zealand Orthopedic Association, together with insightful and eye-opening plenaries on diversity and inclusivity.

The APOA Session had us participating in a lively discussion on how the pandemic has affected not only local Orthopedic practices but also Orthopedic education across the different nations. It was certainly a successful meeting as the POA shook hands and rubbed elbows with our brothers and sisters from down under and across the Tasman Sea.

- Frederic Joseph F. Diyco  
POA President



Incoming AOA President Chris Morrey and lovely wife Marilla, Prof Jung (Korea) and Prof Edi (Indonesia)



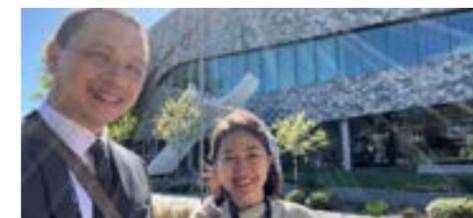
Prof Edi, Prof Jung, Prof Roohi and Prof Ramesh Sen



With AOA President Annette Holian



With Australia's Prof John Tuffley, recipient of AOA's lifetime achievement award (Lo Betts Memorial Medal).



At the Te Pae Convention Center



With Incoming AOA President Chris Morrey and lovely wife Marilla



APOA Session



With Prof Roohi (Malaysia) and Prof Sue Liew (Australia)



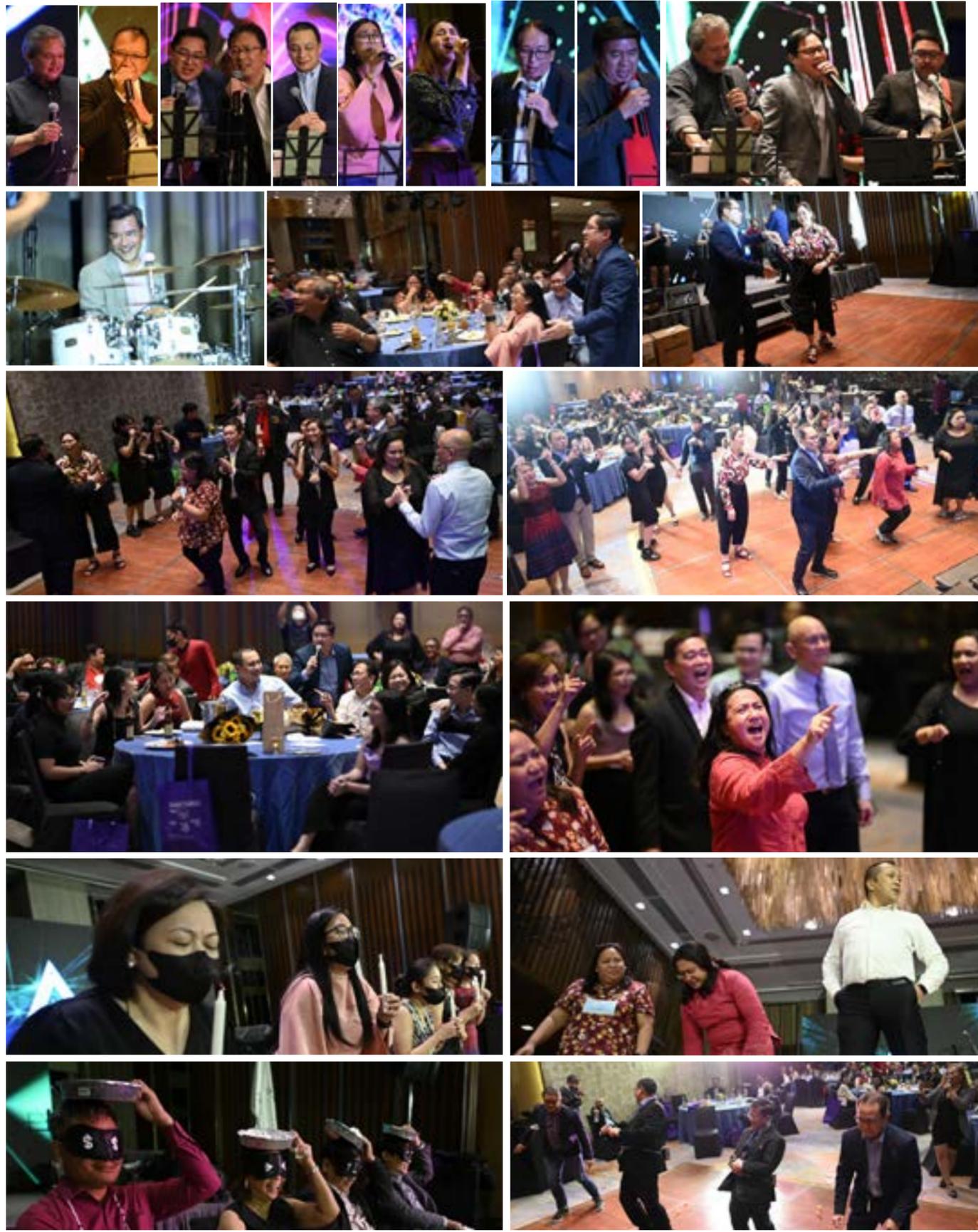
# Induction Ceremonies: POA BOT 2023



# New POA Fellows



# POA Thanksgiving



# PBO Celebrates its Golden Anniversary



The Philippine Board of Orthopaedics was incorporated in 1972 and registered with the SEC as a corporate entity independent of the Philippine Orthopaedic Association. Although independent from POA, it had a mandate since then to be the accrediting and examining arm of the POA. This mandate it has done for the last 48 years of its existence. Thru the years, the PBO has gone through various changes in the implementation of this dual function up until 2020 at the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic where face-to-face visits

and examinations were prohibited because of health protocols mandated by the government. PBO has to adapt to these requirements by shifting to virtual visits to all institutions via Zoom and postponing all examinations for that year. Come 2021, everyone thought that there will be easing of the restrictions but this continued on because of development of a new Covid Delta variant that was more infectious and lead to more deaths during the latter part of the year.

There was a glimmer of hope that the pandemic will end by 2022 because of vaccines developed and more experience on how to manage infected patients. But this did not happen and so early on, the Board decided to continue on with virtual visits to training institutions but visit the 5 applying institutions on a face-to-face basis to properly assess them if they meet all the requirements to conduct training of orthopedic residents. This was with the attendant risk to the visiting Trustees of

# PBO Celebrates its Golden Anniversary

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getting infected with Covid but up to the last applying institution visited, with luck and prayers, nobody among the Trustees got infected from these visits.

Because of the difficulties encountered in 2021 by both the PBO Trustees and the examinees utilizing virtual examinations primarily due to problems in internet connectivity, examinations

this year were held in a testing center for a face-to-face Diplomate written examination using computers with all the necessary health protocols in place. This was followed by an oral examination the following day of those who passed the written examination held in another testing center again on a face-to-face basis. With the experience from these Diplomate examinations held in March,

the October In-Training Examination for Level 1,2 and 3 residents and Qualifying Examination for Level 4 residents were held in 3 testing centers in Manila, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro since there were more examinees taking these examinations. All of these examinations were conducted successfully with a very minor glitch in one testing center.

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# PBO Celebrates its Golden Anniversary

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To celebrate the Golden Anniversary of PBO this year, a gala day celebration was planned that will include a coffee table book launching, recognition of past Chairmen, recognition of Outstanding Residents and Diplomates and a turnover ceremony of the Board of Trustees. There will also be 3 international speakers that will speak on various topics on residency training and 2 local speakers one of which will travel with us down memory lane about the history of PBO and the other to guide training programs in the future directions of residency training.

From these activities held in the midst of a pandemic, the Trustees of PBO have shown their resilience, dedication and commitment to their duty to be the guardian of orthopaedic training in the country with the aim of providing the best orthopaedic care to our countrymen through proper guidance of training programs in the conduct of orthopaedic residency training and proper assessment of graduates of these programs. It is with fervent hope that in the next 50 years, the PBO will remain steadfast in fulfilling its duty and responsibility towards orthopaedic training in the country.

- Reynaldo V. Lopez, MD, FPOA  
PBO Chairman



# PCS Legend of the Knife Awardee: Teresita L. Altre, MD, FPOA, FPCS



The Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) bestowed the 2022 Legends of the Knife Award to Dr. Teresita L. Altre last 12 September 2022 during the 86th PCS Foundation Day held in EDSA Shangri-la, Mandaluyong, in recognition of her outstanding achievements and significant contributions to the College, the community, and Philippine Surgery.

Dr. Altre is recognized as one of the pillars of the Philippine Orthopaedic community. As the only girl in a brood of 6, she is no stranger to challenges brought about by being in a male-dominated environment. Upon graduating from the University of Santo Tomas - Faculty of Medicine and Surgery in 1965, she pursued a 5-year residency training in Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology at the National Orthopedic Hospital from 1966 to 1971. She entered a rotating internship program at the Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland in 1974 to 1975, after which she did an observership in Pediatric Orthopaedics at the Alfred I. duPont Institute in Delaware in October 1975. She was inducted as Fellow of the Philippine Orthopaedic Association in December 1976, making her the First

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Dr. Teresita Altre receiving the PCS Legends of the Knife Award, with PCS President Dr. Ramon Inso and PCS Vice President Dr. Maria Concepcion Vesagas.



POA President Dr. Richie Diyco, POA Past President Dr. Antonio Sison, and PHKS President Dr. Mar Cadag were in attendance during the awarding ceremony.



Dr. Altre is the Founding President of the Philippine Society of Women Orthopaedic Surgeons, Inc.

# PCS Legend of the Knife Awardee...

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Dr. Altre with the University of Santo Tomas Hospital Department of Orthopaedics

Woman Doctor in the Philippines to become an Orthopaedic Surgeon. Dr. Altre pursued a Fellowship in Pediatric Orthopaedics under the Colombo Plan in the United Kingdom from 1979 to 1980, with rotations in the following hospitals: Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (Great Portland St. and Stanmore, London), Hospital for Sick Children (Great Ormond St., London), Alder Hey Children's Hospital (Liverpool), Royal Hospital for Sick Children (Glasgow), and Birmingham Children's Hospital (Birmingham).

Upon her return from fellowship, she became a consultant of the National Orthopedic Hospital (now Philippine Orthopedic Center) and was Head of the Children's Orthopedics Section from 1980 until her retirement in 2007. She also served as Head of the Orthopedic Unit in Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center (1982-2005); Chief - Section of Orthopedics, Department of Surgery, University of Santo Tomas Hospital (1999-2002); Chair - Department of Surgery (2007-2011) and President - Medical Staff Association (2008-2012), Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center; Head of the Department of Orthopaedics of the Philippine Band of Mercy (2015 to present); and Chief - Section of Pediatric Orthopaedics, Department

of Orthopaedics, University of Santo Tomas Hospital (2016 to present).

Dr. Altre joined the academe in 1986, teaching at the University of Santo Tomas - Faculty of Medicine and Surgery under the Department of Surgery. She served as Section Chief of Orthopaedics from 1999 to 2002, and remained with the Department of Surgery as an Associate Professor until her retirement in 2017. For her dedication to the attainment of the ideals and objectives of Catholic Education, she was recognized as a Dangal UST Awardee on multiple occasions (2006, 2008, 2011, 2016, and 2017).

She had numerous leadership positions and achievements in Orthopaedics. Dr. Altre became President of the Philippine Orthopaedic Association in 1986, making her the First Woman to become an Orthopaedic Association President in the World. She also held the following positions: twice Chairman of the Philippine Board of Orthopaedics (1994 and 1998), President of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of the Philippines (2000-2010), and Founding President of the Philippine Society of Women Orthopaedic Surgeons Inc. (2014-2018). She became the First Female Senior Traveling Fellow of the

ASEAN Orthopaedic Association in 1999, which opened the door for more female orthopaedic surgeons to take part in the program.

Dr. Altre became a Fellow of the Philippine College of Surgeons in 1987. She is an active Fellow of the College, participating as a member in different committees (Membership Committee - Metro Manila Chapter and National Level, and the Subcommittee on Awards - National Level). From 2005-2007, she served as Chair of the Committee on Awards - National Level. She also served as Vice President of the Association of Women Surgeons from 2006 to 2008, further highlighting her vital role as a mentor and an inspiration to female surgeons in the country.

Despite all these achievements, she remains humble and magnanimous. She is the beloved "Ate" of the Philippine Orthopaedic community and a mentor to female orthopaedic surgeons. Dr. Teresita Altre is truly a Pioneer and a Legend: she was able to push boundaries and overcome challenges, inspiring young surgeons to turn faith into reality.

- Rosalyn P. Flores, MD, FPOA

# POA Chapters Ortho Metal Book Launch



The Northern Mindanao Medical Center (NMMC) Department of Orthopaedics celebrated the publication of their book, the Ortho Metal, with a book launch event on September 2, 2022, in Cagayan de Oro City. The event was attended by POA President Dr. Frederick Joseph F. Diyco, PBO Chairman Reynaldo V. Lopez, Department of Health-10 Regional Director Jose R. Llacuna Jr, POA North Mindanao President

Antonio S. Montalban Jr., Quirino Memorial Medical Center Department of Orthopedics Chairman Gregorio Marcelo S. Azores, consultant staff from different medical departments of NMMC, hospital directors from tertiary hospitals in the city, pharmaceutical and implant industry partners, and local media.

The Ortho Metal is an ER manual with

57 easy-to-follow algorithms designed to guide orthopaedic residents' decision making in an emergency room setting. The book is authored by the consultants of the NMMC Department of Orthopaedics led by Medical Center Chief Dr. Jose C. Chan, Department Chairman Dr. Justinian Aquilino IV Cyril LL. Pimentel, Vice-Chairman Dr.

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# POA Chapters Ortho Metal Book Launch

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Neilson G. Palabrica, Training Officer Dr. Bernard P. Antolin and Subspecialty Consultants Dr. Leonard T. Khu, Dr. Geneva S. Khu, Dr. Christopher C. Balaba, Dr. Renan B. Abellera, and Dr. Sharvyl B. Cantila. The first set of prints was published with the support of Engr. Cresencio and Mrs. Aquilina (+) Fernandez.

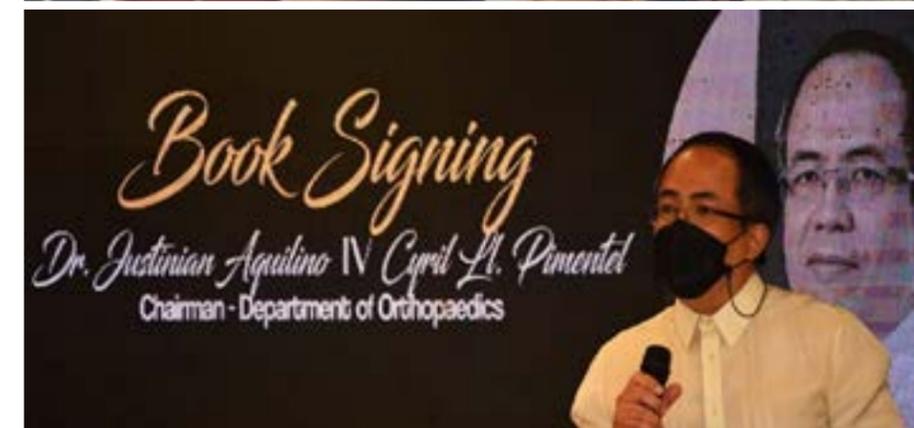
innovative and adaptive changes in teaching and assessment during the PBO Golden Anniversary Celebration last November 12, 2022, in Quezon City. The publication of NMMC Orthopaedics' Ortho Metal was one of the reasons cited by PBO trustee Dr. James C. Paggao for the award.

Paperback copies of the books are printed on glossy paper and available for sale at PHP 1,000 per copy. Please contact the department secretary at nmmcortho@yahoo.com for details.

- Ma. Geneva S. Khu, M.D., FPOA

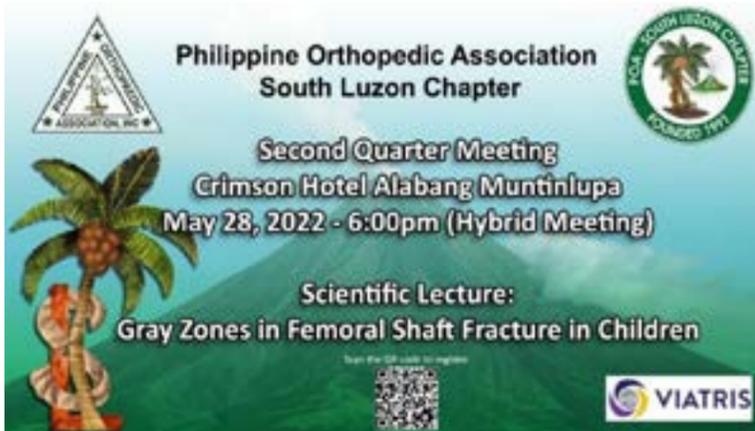
In the foreword, Dr. Edward V.A. Lim introduces the book as "a body of work that is quite comprehensive and covers major fields of orthopaedics in an emergency room setting . . ." Jose R. Llacuna Jr, DOH-10 regional director, said in his speech that algorithms of this kind set standards of care that will further professionalize health and medical services to the people, in line with the Universal Health Care law of 2019.

On a related note, the Philippine Board of Orthopaedics gave a best practice award to the NMMC Department of Orthopaedics in recognition of its



# POA Chapters

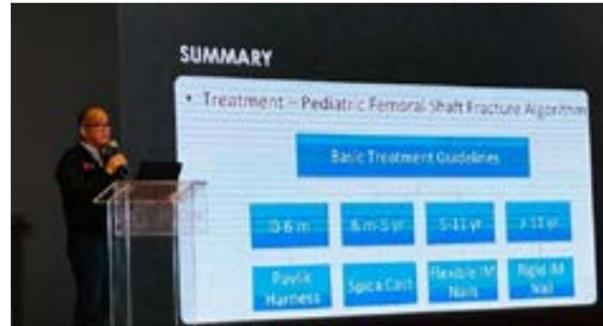
## POA South Luzon Chapter Activities



Finally, after 2 years of not having a face-to-face meeting and fellowship due to the pandemic, some POASL fellows had the opportunity to see each other again at the chapter's second quarterly meeting held at the Crimson Hotel in Muntinlupa City.



POASL President, Dr. Ramon Anatalio III, greets the on-site and virtual attendees



The scientific sessions focused on the Gray Zones in Femoral Shaft Fractures in Children. Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of the Philippines (POSP) president, Dr. Juan Alejandro Legaspi, was invited to be the guest speaker. During the dinner symposium, Dr. Jose Antonio San Juan gave a lecture on the multimodal approach in the management of osteoarthritis in the new normal. A neurologist, Dr. Rosalina Picar, was also invited to give a lecture on the evolving concepts in back pain management.

# POA Chapters

## POA South Luzon Chapter Activities

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SOUTH MEETS NORTH: POA North & South Luzon Summit, September 10-11, 2022, The Plaza Lodge, Baguio City. POA fellows from North and South Luzon chapters, once again, met in a joint summit hosted by POANL in The Plaza Lodge in Baguio City. The fellows were welcomed by then POANL president, Dr. Peter Paul Papio+.



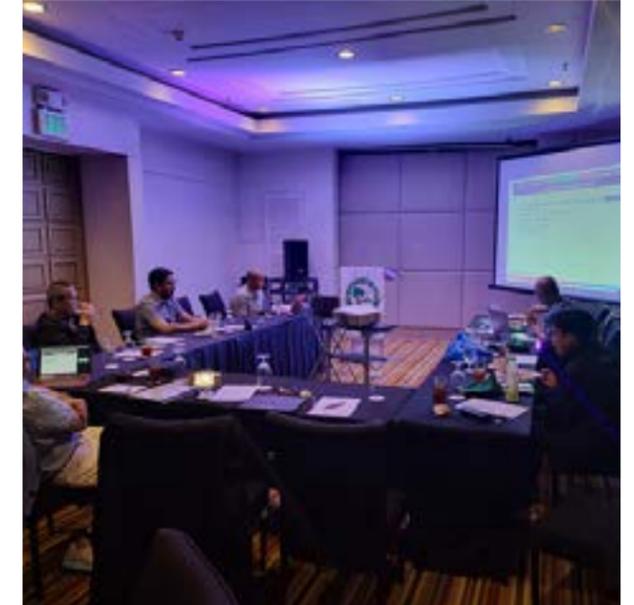
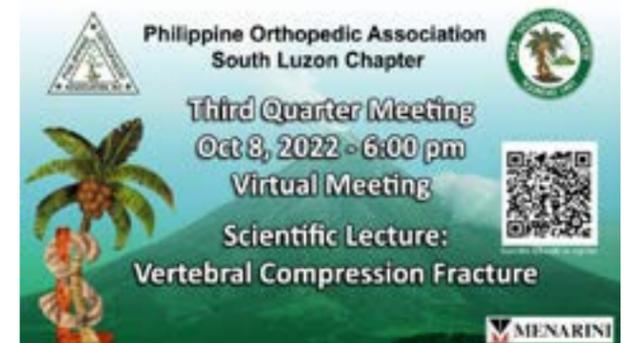
The scientific meeting part consisted of spine topics. POASL's Dr. Paul Atienza (Spine consultant, DLSUMC and Pagamutan ng Dasmariñas) was among the speakers. He gave a lecture entitled, "Updates in the Diagnosis and Management of Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis."



The last POA North & South Summit was hosted by POASL in Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay City last August 25-26, 2022 during the term of Dr. Joaquin Pandanan.



The scientific session was officially closed by Dr. Ramon Anatalio III and was followed by a fellowship night activity.

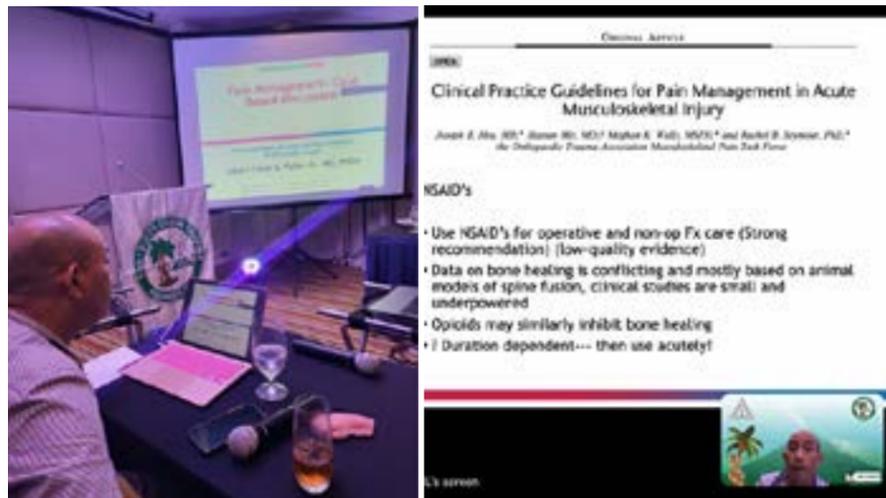
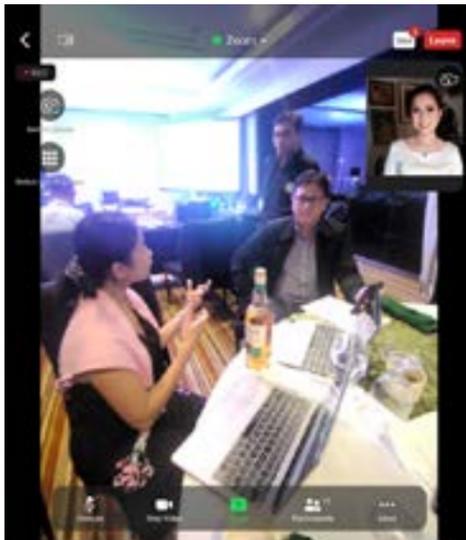


POASL Third Quarter Meeting (Virtual), Oct. 8, 2022, Hilton Clark Sun Valley Resort, Clark, Pampanga - With the increasing new COVID cases mid-September due to the new Omicron subvariant, POASL prioritized the safety of its members by reverting to a virtual platform for its third quarter meeting.

# POA Chapters

## POA South Luzon Chapter Activities

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It was preceded by a case-based discussion on pain management by POASL past president, Dr. Albert Cesar Faller, Jr.

The scientific session focused on the management of vertebral compression fractures in general orthopedic setting with Dr. Anne Kathleen Ganal-Antonio as speaker.



Dr. Anatolio updating the members on the chapter's future activities



POASL Officers' Regular Meetings - The officers regularly meet face-to-face in Alabang, Muntinlupa in between the chapter's quarterly meetings to evaluate past activities and plan for the future ones.

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# POA Chapters

## POA South Luzon Chapter Activities

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22nd APOA Congress  
Nov. 24-26, 2022

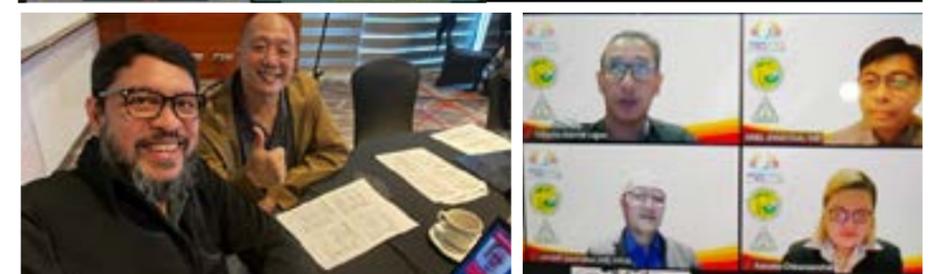
POASL was proudly represented by these several fellows who actively participated as organizers, speakers or moderators during the recently concluded APOA congress:

- Dr. Bernardino Alpuerto II
- Dr. Karlomagno Barzaga
- Dr. Carlo Angelo Borbon
- Dr. Marcelino Cadag
- Dr. Adrian Catbagan
- Dr. Robert Chan
- Dr. Albert Cesar Faller, Jr.
- Dr. Rey-an Niño Garcia
- Dr. Lendell John Gatchalian
- Dr. Roberto Gabriel Lopez
- Dr. Michael Muñoz
- Dr. Frederick Patrick Nicomedez
- Dr. Julius Pallera
- Dr. Lois Desiree Obra-Roces
- Dr. Nilo Paner
- Dr. Antonio Puti, Jr.
- Dr. Leslie Reyes
- Dr. Jonathan Ronquillo
- Dr. Ariel Sandoval
- Dr. Irewin Tabu
- Dr. Jana Francesca Tumpalan

Special mention to our very own, Dr. Michael Muñoz, who wrote the lyrics and sang the APOA Congress Hymn!

Sulong South Luzon!

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



# POA Chapters

## POA Western Visayas Chapter: Bacolod in Three C's

### Coffee

It is always a good idea to start things early in Bacolod City and coffee is the fuel of choice. It is in the early mornings in coffee shops at local markets or in village side streets that you get to experience the remnants of the soul of what was once a laid-back provincial city where time once moved at a leisurely pace. This is the place to eavesdrop on discussions about news, events, politics, personal shenanigans, etc. This is where laughter can linger for hours on end. This is the place where you can still be generous enough to pay for everyone's cup without leaving a dent in your pocket. The city has caught up to the times with a few high-rises popping up here and there and the dreaded bane of the modern world - traffic. International chain coffee places have been present for quite some time

and are thriving with clientele willing to pay a pretty penny for their offerings. New "Instagrammable" and "aesthetic" cafes have sprouted like mushrooms after a thunderstorm. These are the places where "influencers" pose, snap, and post their visits. But the tiny coffee shops are still alive and teeming with patrons. The "kapehan" culture is deeply ingrained in Bacolod City that even the influx of the new will never totally replaces the old. There are folks who still prefer strong brewed coffee tempered with evaporated milk without the complicated caffeinated concoctions combining caramel, cinnamon, chocolate syrup, candy sprinkles, and copious clouds of cream in a venti sized cardboard cup. TIP: Caffeinate at the Bacolod Central Market for an authentic experience. The cups are chipped and mismatched, the linoleum is peeling, what used to be

white monobloc chairs are gray, the pace is frenetic, but the coffee will have a strong kick to it and is always cheap.

### Chicken

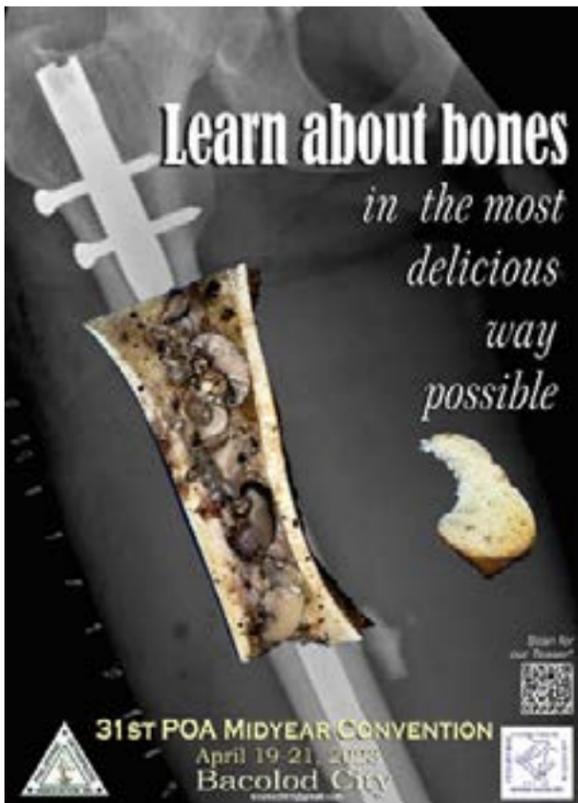
Bacolod = Chicken. End of story. Not really. A Chicken Inasal meal is an uncomplicated affair but writing about the experience is quite a challenge. Can words set in Arial size 11 font replicate the captivating aroma of smoke from chicken fat and tangy marinade dripping on hot coals? Can you conjure words from a keyboard to capture the sight of a platter of grilled chicken legs, breasts, wings, neck, and the connoisseur's favorite "isol" or that fleshy and fatty chicken rear end?

Do we really write papers on breaking Western influenced rules regarding specific functions of cutlery when we use our bare hands in tearing the slightly hot pieces of chicken apart before dipping them in a soy and spiced vinegar? We do not write instruction manuals on how to drizzle rice with grains of rock salt and annatto-infused oil and squish it into little balls of well lubricated carb bombs that we pop in our mouth to go with every bite of chicken. TIP: You can have a choice to rough it up in Manokan Country beside SM or ask a friend for their preferred air conditioned and "refined" inasal restaurant. Wash your hands too.

### Cake

The best way to end a food journey in the capital city of a sugar producing province is with, of course, sugar. Ask anyone from Bacolod for suggestions on where to and what sweet treat to have and you will not just get a light dusting or a sprinkle of answers. You are guaranteed to be bombarded with choices that will make your sweet tooth quiver in anticipation. You will be more than satisfied with treats ranging from ubiquitous crunchy and flaky piaya filled with mascobado sugar and mango filled tartlets to napoleones and cakes from home grown pastry stores. TIP: Try everything from the traditional fare to the established Bacolod places and the new ones too. Purchase airline baggage allowance and stock up on pasalubong items to bring with you and to share. And bring your maintenance meds.

- Dr. Lee Santiago



# Subspecialty Societies

## Introduction to PSoWOSI

Ever wondered how and why the Philippine Society of Women Orthopedic Surgeons Inc. (PSoWOSI - pronounced as "so-wo-si" with a silent "P" like psoas) came about? Did it just happen after a group of Filipina Orthopods (who had nothing better to do on a Friday evening) went for a night out and thought of forming a sisterhood of some sort? Or was it something that had been brewing for a while, just waiting for the perfect time to happen? Have you also ever wondered how many Filipina Orthopods there have been, who they are, and especially who these women behind PSoWOSI were? Read on to find out...

The Philippine Orthopaedic Association inducted the first female orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Teresita Altre, as Fellow in 1976. She was also the first Female Pediatric Orthopedic Specialist in the Philippines. Ten years later, she became the first Lady President of the POA, making her the First Female Orthopaedic President of a National Society in the World. Dr. Altre was also the first Lady Member and Chairman of the Philippine Board of Orthopedics (PBO) in 1994 and 1998, Past President of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of the Philippines (2000-2010), and Past President of PSoWOSI (2014-2018). Aside from these, she has also become

either Chief of the Section of Pediatric Orthopedics or the Department of Orthopedics of the following institutions: Philippine Orthopedic Center (1980-2007), Dr. Fe Del Mundo Medical Center (1982-2005), the Philippine Band of Mercy (2015-present) and the University of Santo Tomas Hospital (1999-2002, 2016-present). She also retired as an Associate Professor of the University of Santo Tomas-Faculty of Medicine and Surgery (UST-FMS). Just recently, she received the Philippine College of Surgeons' distinction as a "Legend of the Knife", in recognition of her outstanding achievements and significant contributions to the College, the community, and Philippine Surgery.

The second female orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Ida Tacata, a hand specialist, was inducted in 1983. For 5 years during the 1990's she was the Hand Section Chief of the University of the Philippines - Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH) Department of Orthopedics. She was also Past President of the Association of Hand Surgeons of the Philippines (2004-2006) and is an International Member of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (1996-present).

The first female spine surgeon is Dr. Leah Carreon. She is now the Clinical Research Director at the Spine Institute

PSC in Louisville, Kentucky.

Dr. Julyn Aguilar, also a Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon, was inducted in 1993 and became the POA President in 2016. She was a PBO Board of Trustee (2019-2022) and Chief of the Section of Pediatric Orthopedics in St. Luke's Medical Center.

Dr. Emilia Tanchuling, also inducted in 1993, was the first female Bone and Joint and Shoulder Surgery specialist, who became the Past President of the Philippine Shoulder Society and Past President of PSoWOSI (2018-2020).

Dr. Virginia Cabling, who was inducted in 1994, became Past President of the POA North Luzon Chapter (2004), Past POA Board of Trustee (2009-2015), POA President in 2015, Board of Trustee of PSoWOSI (2014-2018), and member of the Asia Pacific Orthopedic Association (APOA) Philippine Council (2010-2013).

After Dr. Cabling, there were at least 5 female POA fellows inducted per year. The female Orthopods also started doing fellowship trainings abroad for the different Orthopedic subspecialties...

Dr. Judith Valerie Akol and Dr. Marie Jeanne Bertol were the first two female

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The first PsoWOSI Meeting, August 2014 attended by L-R: Dr. Janis Ann Espino-de Vera, Dr. Ma. Josephine de Peralta, Dr. Teresita Altre, Dr. Virginia Cabling, Dr. Emilia Tanchuling, Dr. Maria Adelwisa Belen, Dr. Julyn Aguilar, Dr. Anne Kathleen Ganal-Antonio and Dr. Pamela Ah (not in picture)

# Subspecialty Societies Introduction to PSoWOSI

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Induction of Officers on November 28, 2014 (L-R: Board of Trustee Dr. Anne Kathleen Ganal - Antonio, Dr. Teresita Altre [President], Dr. Emilia Tanchuling [Vice President], Dr. Janis Ann Espino-de Vera [Secretary], Dr. Pamela Ah [Treasurer])

Musculoskeletal Tumor specialists. Dr. Akol was also Past President of the POA-Central and Eastern Visayas Chapter (2010-2012), Past President of the Philippine Musculoskeletal Tumor Society (PMTS) (2013-2014), Past Trustee of the PBO (2013-2017), and Past Chairman of the PBO (2017). She is the current Training officer of the Department of Orthopedics of Chong Hua Hospital (2020-present).

Dr. Bertol is the incoming President and current Vice President of the PMTS, and Secretary of the San Juan Medical Society and Board of Trustee of PSoWOSI (2014 - present).

I finished my fellowship training in Sports Medicine and Arthroscopy in 2010 and was inducted as the first Female Philippine Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine (POSSM) President in 2016. I became Board of Trustee of PSoWOSI (2014-2022), and subsequently became the third President of PSoWOSI (2020-2022). I am currently the Head of the Sports Section of the Department of Orthopaedics of Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center. I am a member of the panel of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Medical and Doping Control Officers since 2017, but in 2020, I joined the AFC history books by becoming one of the first women Medical Officers

to be appointed in an AFC men's club championship competition.

The first female AO Trained Pelvic Trauma Specialist is Dr. Maria Adelwisa Belen. She is currently the AOTrauma Philippines Community Development Officer and Research Officer, Board of Trustee of the PBO (2019-Present), an auditor of the Philippine Orthopedic Trauma Society, and the Trauma Section Head of St Luke's Medical Center (Global City: 2014-present; Quezon City: 2021-present).

The first female Joint Arthroplasty Fellowship Trained specialist is Dr Joyce Garcia.

The first two female Foot and Ankle Specialists are Dr. Ana Cristina Decenteceo and Dr. Ai Gamboa.

It is also worth mentioning that there were 4 brave Filipinas who joined the Médecins Sans Frontières, or Doctors Without Borders: Dr. Marie Jeanne Bertol joined MSF in 2010. She has been to Nigeria, Haiti, Kunduz in Afghanistan, and Masisi in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Dr Lynn Sarah Agdeppa also joined MSF in 2010. She has gone to several missions in Haiti, Libya, Afghanistan, Guiuan in Eastern Samar, and the Gaza Strip. Dr. Rowena Helena

Evangelista joined MSF in 2011 and has been deployed to Kunduz, Afghanistan and Guiuan, Eastern Samar. Dr. Maria Adelwisa Belen joined MSF in 2014 and was deployed to Kunduz, Afghanistan. Incidentally, Drs. Bertol, Evangelista and Belen are also volunteers for Remote Area Medical, where they go to geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas to take part in medical missions.

Other notable Filipina Orthopedic surgeons are the following:

Dr. Anne Kathleen Ganal-Antonio is one of the Board of Trustees of the POA and the Philippine Spine Society. She has been BOT (since 2014), current VP (2020-2022), and the Incoming President (2022-2024) of PSoWOSI. She is also the Section Head of Orthopedic Spine Surgery at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center, and an Assistant Professor of the Membership Subcommittee of APSS.

Dr. Geneva Khu was a PBO Board of Trustee (2022).

Dr. Lucille Detoyato was Past President of the POA Western Visayas Chapter (2014-2015), a past member of the PBO

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# Subspecialty Societies Introduction to PSoWOSI

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First PSoWOSI Annual Members Meeting in Cebu, 2014



The first Annual General Assembly entitled "Ortho Women on the Rise" held on August 13, 2016

Board of Trustees (2015-2017), Past Head of Exam Committee of the PBO (2017-2018), Past Vice-Chairman of the PBO (2018), and is the current Training Officer of Western Visayas Medical Center (2021-present).

Dr. Romina Mendoza-Torres is the Hand Section Chief of the East Avenue Medical Center Department of Orthopaedics (2010's-2022), and is also currently the Training Officer of the same institution (2018-present).

Dr. Joyce Francesca Miranda-Caparas is currently the Medical Director (2019-

2022) and Chairman of the Emergency Department (2016-2017 and July 2022-present) of Metro Antipolo Hospital and Medical Center. She is also the Chairman of the Disaster Committee of Antipolo City Medical Society (2021-present) and the President of Rizal Doctors Hospital and Medical Center, Inc. She is also the Chairman of the Emergency Department of Ortigas Hospital and Healthcare Center (OHCC) (2018-2021), Chairman of the Infection Prevention and Control Committee of OHCC (2022-present), and Chairman of the Hospital Information Management Section of

the same institution (2022-present). She is also one of the Founders of Metro Antipolo Hospital and Medical Center, Binangonan Lakeview Hospital, Ortigas Hospital and Medical Center, and Rizal Doctors Hospital and Medical Center. Apart from these, she is also an Assistant Professor of the College of Medicine of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM).

Dr. Candice Lim is the Secretary of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of the Philippines (2016-present), Training Officer of The Medical City

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# Subspecialty Societies Introduction to PSoWOSI

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(2022-present), and Chairman of the Department of Surgery and ORMAC Head of Pasig City Children's Hospital - Child's Hope (2020-present).

Dr. Rosalyn Flores was an AAOS International Surgical Skills Scholarship Recipient in 2016. She is the Training and Support Supervision Head of the Philippine National Clubfoot Program (2018-present), Medical Adviser of the Philippine Clubfoot Resource Center (2016-present), and Training Consultant of Miracle Feet (2019-present). She served as PRO (2019-2021) and Treasurer (2021-present) of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of the Philippines, and PRO of the Association for the Study and Application of the Methods of Ilizarov-Philippines (2019-present). She is also an Assistant Professor in the University of Santo Tomas-Faculty of Medicine and Surgery (UST-FMS).

Dr. Gracia Cielo Balce is Chief of the Ilizarov Section of UP-PGH (2013-present) and current Resident Training officer of the same institution (2019-present) as well as the current Vice President of ASAMI (2019-present).

Dr. Ma. Lilia Monina Jose served as Secretary of the PMTS (2012-2014) and PRO of the POA-North Luzon Chapter (2017). She also headed the East Avenue Medical Center and The Medical City Clark-Orthopedic Oncology Section. Aside from these, she has also conquered 6 Full Marathons, 9 Half Ironman Distance Triathlons and 2 Full Ironman Distance Triathlons. She has had several podium finishes during her Triathlon career (Aboitiz Tri Pico De Loro 2015 - Age Group 3rd place; Bulacan Tourism Duathlon 2015 - Age Group 1st place; SBR series Triman Clark 2015 - Age Group 3rd place, 2017 - Age Group 2nd place; TeamBro Aquathlon 2018 - Age Group 1st place; and Pilipinas Duathlon series 2019 -



Second PSoWOSI Annual Members Meeting in Manila, 2015

Age Group 2nd place).

Now if these ladies have not yet amazed you, I don't know what will....

In 2013, Ortho Women on the rise explained the reason behind PSoWOSI's inception. As Dr. Altre saw the increase in number of female POA fellows being inducted, the younger generations subspecializing in all the other orthopedic subspecialties, plus having Drs. Aguilar and Cabling being elected POA Presidents, she began to think of a possible women Orthopedic Society. This thought was inspired by the Ruth Jackson Orthopaedic Society.

In 2014, since the number of female orthopedic surgeons reached almost 30, and the number of female Orthopaedic residents reached almost the same number as the female fellows, Dr. Altre said, "It was time..." We now have the number to form a society with the objectives of supporting the POA's mission and vision and addressing the concerns of women and women's musculoskeletal health concerns. We were met by raised eyebrows from our male colleagues. "Can these not be addressed by men as well?" is what

they said when they learned we were forming this group. However, we have our own concerns - our goal is not to transform women into a replica of our male orthopedic surgeons. We have a different mindset and a different chemistry that need to be developed. We have to think of our interpersonal relationships. We change depending on the situation... So she started calling women Orthopods and we held our first Board Meeting in August 2014. The Officers were elected in October 2014 and the first set of Officers inducted in Cebu on November 28, 2014 were the following: Dr. Teresita Altre (President), Dr. Emilia Tanchuling (Vice President), Dr. Janis Ann Espino-de Vera (Secretary), Dr. Pamela Ah (Treasurer), and Board of Trustees Dr. Virginia Cabling, Dr. Anne Kathleen Ganal-Antonio, and Dr. Ma. Lilia Monina Jose.

The First Annual Members Meeting was held in Cebu in 2014. The Second Annual Members Meeting was held in Manila in 2015. The first Annual General Assembly entitled Ortho Women on the Rise was held on August 13, 2016. In this Assembly, we talked about Pain Management in the Orthopaedic

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# Subspecialty Societies Introduction to PSoWOSI

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PSoWOSI ICL during the 68th Annual POA Congress, November 16, 2017

Setting and Women Empowerment, both lectures given by women highly respected in their fields. This activity aimed to help the Society in achieving and advance musculoskeletal health and Orthopaedic surgery, including, but not limited to, female gender-related musculoskeletal issues and peculiarities; as well as enhance camaraderie among the members and promote the welfare of female Orthopaedic surgeons practicing in the country.

On July 1, 2017, PSoWOSI held its first outreach program: an Osteoporosis Bone Screening in San Isidro Labrador Parish in Las Piñas. Later that year, we held our first Instructional Course Lectures during the 68th Annual POA Congress.

The following year, we held another outreach program in Quezon City.



Osteoporosis Bone Screening, Las Piñas, July 1, 2017



Osteoporosis Bone Screening, Quezon City, 2018

During the 69th POA Annual Congress, we were again given a session. Because of the success of our previous Osteoporosis Screening, we did it again in 2019, this time now including a Chair Yoga session for our participants, which was a huge hit!

In 2020, the pandemic reached the country. We wanted to hold activities for the Society; however, restrictions were in place, so the society decided instead to gather funds and donate PPEs to our colleagues and hospitals in need. We were able to donate to our friends in Luzon and Mindanao. In keeping with the online nature of learning activities, we organized 2 webinars in 2020 and 2 more in 2021. For 2022, we had a session during the 73rd Annual POA Congress and showcased the "Giting at

Galing" of our Female Orthopods.

On a side note, in 2021, a Women's Advocacy Section was founded by members of the Asia Pacific Orthopedic Association (APOA). WAVES (Women of APOA AdVocate Educate Support) is a Section of the APOA formed in order to support and advocate for women in Orthopaedics as well as to increase the awareness and improve the management of Orthopaedic Conditions affecting women in the community. The Women Orthopods of WAVES aim to create a supportive network of female orthopaedic

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# Subspecialty Societies Introduction to PSoWOSI

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PSoWOSI Session during the 69th POA Annual Congress, November 2018



PSoWOSI PPE Donations

surgeons and male champions of change to advocate for and work with each other to improve diversity, inclusivity, and working conditions of female orthopaedic surgeons in Asia Pacific countries. APOA WAVES was then formally launched in January of 2022.

On November 24-26, 2022, the APOA 22nd Biennial Congress was hosted by the POA. Incidentally, APOA was conceptualized in 1962 in the Philippines as the Western Pacific Orthopedic Association, with its first President being a Filipino, Dr. Catalino Jocson. It was then renamed APOA in 2000, and this year marks APOA's 60th Anniversary. It is fitting that the Philippines served as host for this year's congress with the following theme: "60th APOA in Manila: Trailblazing Orthopedics Amidst Synergy and Diversity", as it was also the first congress with the APOA WAVES Section. PSoWOSI was given the chance to help organize the first Scientific Session of WAVES during the APOA Congress. Of course, we chose pioneering ladies and trailblazers from the Asia Pacific Region as well as from the United States, to be our speakers and panelists for our session, and I can say that it was indeed an honor that PSoWOSI was given this privilege!

To date, there are 73 Female Fellows inducted in the Philippine Orthopaedic Association. Presently, PSoWOSI is on its 8th year and now has 52 Fellows as members of the society...

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the Philippine Society of Women Orthopedic Surgeons, Inc. Filipinas are not just firsts in achievements. We also have pursuits outside of orthopedics - we have numerous talents, engage in different sports, and have several hobbies. We are great mothers, wonderful sisters, amazing wives, and

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# Subspecialty Societies Introduction to PSoWOSI

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Osteoporosis Bone Screening with Chair Yoga Session, Las Piñas, 2019

loyal friends. We are teachers and role models. We showcase excellence and leadership. The Filipina female Orthopods have indeed been making waves in and out of the field, here and abroad. I would like to say that I am one of the proud founders of the Society. As final words, I would like to repeat what Tanya Burgess, Past President of APOA WAVES said in her introduction to the APOA WAVES Talk, "We, as a section, as Orthopedic Surgeons, and as women, lift as we rise."

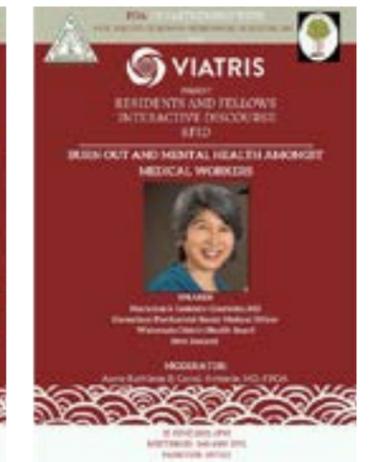
Janis Ann F. Espino-de Vera, MD, FPOA  
Rosalyn P. Flores, MD, FPOA, FPCS



PSoWOSI ROLE Sessions in 2020



PSoWOSI ROLE Sessions in 2021



PSoWOSI Session during the 73rd Annual POA Congress "Giting at Galing"



# Subspecialty Societies Shoulder to Shoulder in 2022 – A Look Back

In keeping with the practice over the last 2 years, our activities for 2022 were still held remotely. Though virtual, the major overhaul with the Philippine Orthopaedic Association's schedule of activities ensured a busy year ahead for the Philippine Shoulder Society.

We started with a webinar under the Residents and Fellows Interactive Discourse (RFID) series. Moderated by the society's president, the forum included presentations by Dr. Dean Cuarte from St. Luke's Medical Center discussing on how to identify predatory journals; Dr. Ric Adrian Estacio from De La Salle University Medical Center reviewing what we needed to know on a "hot topic," SIRVA; and from Perpetual Help Medical Center, a fellow of the society, Dr. Juan Carlos Paredes talking about biceps tenodesis options.

The POA Annual convention showcased the Filipino shoulder orthopods' "Giting at Galing." Nine of our very own local surgeons delivered masterful lectures on dealing with common shoulder conditions, from the simple to the complex – exhibiting how they rise above and beyond to provide topnotch care despite restrictions and challenges. Indeed, these were brilliant talks; but they were only preliminaries for what was about to take place on the international stage...

The Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association (APOA) Congress came back to where it all started 60 years ago – The Philippines. Our local surgeons stood shoulder to shoulder among international luminaries in the field. The president and vice president of the Philippine Shoulder Society – Dr. Jonathan Ronquillo and Dr. Jeremy James Munji – were among the featured speakers in the APOA symposia on massive irreparable rotator cuff tears and instability with bone loss, respectively.

The Philippine Shoulder Society gathered international megastars in

the art of shoulder surgery to share their experiences in their research interests:

**Adhesive Capsulitis**

- Prof. Neal Millar, Scotland
- Prof. George Murrell, Australia
- Prof. Chul-Hyun Cho, South Korea
- Prof. Scott Rodeo, USA

**Proximal Humerus Fracture**

- Prof. Joo Han Oh, South Korea
- Dr. Chih-Hao Chiu, Taiwan
- Dr. Kenneth Cutbush, Australia
- Prof. Ashish Gupta, Australia
- Prof. Chanakarn Phornphutkul, Thailand

**Special Case Discussions**

- Professor Bassem Elhassan, USA
- Dr. Geoffrey Smith, Australia
- Professor Hiroyuki Sugaya, Japan

Standing tall among giants was also a case presentation from a local resident trainee from De La Salle University Medical Center, Dr. Roel Rabino.

Hitches and glitches were encountered, but we came through! Special appreciation from the PShS to its members who spared their time to act

as moderators during the sessions: Dr. Kristine Italia, who also recruited several of our international speakers; Dr. Antonio Puti Jr.; Dr. Albert Faller Jr.; Dr. Victor Felix Samson Gaddi; and Dr. Jana Tumpalan. Of course, the society thanks our president, Dr. Jonathan Ronquillo, who's tireless efforts as organizer, moderator, and speaker for

the POA Annual and APOA Congress has kept the society very visible during both major events.

We look forward to 2023 when the virtual walls come down and we can once again connect in person.

*Jana Francesca T. Tumpalan, MD, FPOA*



*PShS RFID & First Quarterly Meeting (16 Feb 2022)*



*PShS members actively at work during 22nd APOA Congress*

# Subspecialty Societies Rise up to the Challenge: The Philippine Board of Spine Surgery



From the humble beginnings of the Philippine Spine Society in November 27, 1995, spine surgery in the country has evolved tremendously over the years. From 15 pioneer spine surgeons, the organization has grown to 128 active members. We have local spine surgeons who have been very active in the pursuit of academic excellence in the Asia Pacific region. Furthermore, PSS has matured enough that cemented the bondage of both orthopedic surgeons and neurosurgeons. Our common denominator is to give the best clinical outcome and advance scientific knowledge.

Dr. William Halstead of Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1892 said, " We need a system and we shall have it, which will produce not only surgeons but surgeons of the highest type... men who will rise the standards of surgical science." Dr. Halstead pioneered the " apprenticeship model" in the training of surgeons. This model seemed to work and was innovative at that time. However, times have changed. The

demand and expectation of a spine surgeon have risen up to include core competencies, technical aptitude, and even professionalism. Unfortunately, there is a vast disparity between spine surgery training and educational curriculum. Some clinical programs abroad still follow the apprenticeship model of 100 years ago.

As we speak, there are only three recognized spine surgery fellowship programs in the country. Because of these limited opportunities, most of the local surgeons are trained abroad ranging from structured accredited clinical fellowships down to apprenticeships. This inequality and gap in training led to different interpretations of common spine conditions which ended up with variations in the management. Regrettably, some spine surgeons are being labeled as too aggressive or ended up with poorer surgical outcomes.

A paradigm shift is very timely and necessary. Our local surgeons should

have their basic spine surgery training in the country rather than going abroad. The Philippine Spine Society should take ownership of this ambitious dream. We need to create a competency-based medical education and common curriculum for all the local fellowship programs. A standard requirement is mandatory to assess the knowledge and technical skills of all the trainees. Rather than competing with the different training programs, collaboration should be the norm. We should maximize and share the strengths of the different programs which meant allowing rotations of the trainees.

In order to address the gap, the leadership of the society should encourage different institutions to form their own programs and even create consortiums between private and public hospitals. This concept of the consortium will answer the variety of cases required both in quality and quantity. The trainee will value this unique experience that will provide

# Subspecialty Societies Rise up to the Challenge...

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confidence once set on independent practice.

The Philippine Spine Society amended the constitution and by-laws in August 2022. The Philippine Board of Spine Surgery was promulgated by both Orthopedic Surgeons and Neurosurgeons. The organization set the right tone by building integrity, consistency, work ethic, and collaboration.

We understand the political implications and challenges. The most important move for all of us is to take the first step. Despite the enormous tasks and responsibilities, the Philippine Spine Society will prevail.

- Ronald P. Tangente, MD, FPOA, FPSS  
PSS President



# Subspecialty Societies PHKS Scientific Meeting

On 03 December 2022, the Philippine Hip and Knee Society held its last quarter Scientific Meeting in collaboration with the Philippine Musculoskeletal Tumor Society at the Discovery Suites, Ortigas District Pasig.

The year-end scientific meeting was a huge success, it was attended by luminaries in the fields of hip and knee joint replacement as well as orthopedic tumor specialties. Joining the meeting

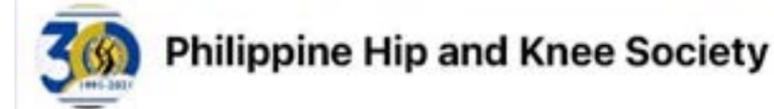
were the orthopedic residents from various training institutions.

Interesting cases were presented by Dr. Diana Bandong from Baguio General Hospital, Dr. Carlos Mallari and Dr. Agu Veloso from Philippine Orthopedic Center, Dr. Anton Valdecañas from Philippine General Hospital and last, but not the least, is the prominent musculoskeletal orthopedic tumor surgeon of Cebu, Dr. Judith Akol from

Chong Hua Hospital. Dr. Akol, presented a fascinating case of a 10-year fused knee converted into a more functional limb fixed with tumor prosthesis.

We were also blessed to have notable speakers, who generously shared their experiences in dealing with complex hip and knee issues. Dr. Tony San Juan talked about challenges in "Acetabular Bone Loss in Conversion Total Hip

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# Subspecialty Societies

## PHKS Scientific Meeting

Replacement, Dr. Edsel Arandia discussed “Megaprosthesis for Tumor and Non-Tumor Reconstructions” while Dr. Nonong Tanchuling spoke about his extensive experience in dealing with “Total Knee Replacement in Valgus Knee”. A lot of jewels, pearls and tips were shared during the discussions. Moreover, the conference was aired on livestream via FB Live. Audiences at home were also able to participate in

the discussion. This last quarter meeting was spearheaded by the PHKS President himself — Dr. Mar Cadag, and his support group — Dr. Nilo Paner (VP), Dr. Miniong Valenzuela (Sec), Dr. Raldy Herrera (Treas), Dr. Mic Muñoz (PRO) and Dr. Edsel Arandia (Ex-Off). This current set of officers may be replaced in the upcoming 2023 PHKS election.

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With this, we would like to thank everyone for trusting us and giving us the opportunity to serve our beloved society— The PHKS.

Maligayang Pasko at Masaganang Bagong Taon sa ating lahat!

Mabuhay ang PHKS!

- Michael DR Muñoz, MD, FPOA



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The Embassy of France awards five notable Filipino alumni who have used their international education to help our country thrive and provide better opportunities and work knowledge for more aspiring local entrepreneurs and artists.

The awardees are Doctor Raymond Yrreverre Nuñez, the first Southeast Asian to be under the tutelage of the pioneer of modern shoulder surgery, Dr. Laurent Lafosse, during his fellowship training at Alps Surgery Institute - Clinique Générale d'Annecy in 2007; Mark Edward Melly, an award-winning producer who studied film at the Ecole Supérieure d'Etudes Cinématographiques (ESEC) in Paris; Doctor Julius Andrew Nuñez, who was among the ranks of the PhilFrance-CHED scholars, having completed his Ph.D. in materials science at the Université Grenoble Alpes earlier in 2022; Jojie Lloren, a fashion designer and entrepreneur who studied at the Ecole de Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne; and Daniela Laurel, former doctorate scholar at HEC Paris.



**POA 74th Annual Convention**

*cohosted by*

**ASEAN Arthroplasty Association: At Par & Attuned with Global Advances"**

**EDSA Shangri-la Hotel November 15-18, 2023**

**Notice of Meeting**

To: All Training Officers, Chapters and Subspecialty representatives

What: Town Hall Meeting on the Universal Health Care Law and the Physician's Act

When: 8 am - 12 nn, January 21, 2023

Where: Unilab Bayanihan Center

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Acta Orthopaedica 1/20

Taylor & Francis Group

Volume 91, Number 1, February 2020

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# A Tribute To Peter Paul Papio, MD, FPOA: The PPP Show

The best act in town is done and the host of the show has taken a bow and left the stage. But the laughter and the revelry can still be heard – too loud to be silenced. The most memorable moments continue to roll and play in everyone’s mind – too real to be forgotten. The supporting cast are still playing their characters – too in love to let go.

Last Thursday, the Peter Paul Papio Show came to an abrupt end. Without warning or premonition, the star made a sudden exit and a sad announcement made it official. It seems like, a call from a more important producer called with an offer he just could not refuse. And we are all left in awe with everything he left behind and wonder if it will ever be the same without him. The show lasted for 43 years, but it seems just like yesterday when it started and we fell in love with it and everything that it provided. The show was always wonderfully different and full of life.

The star of the show Peter Paul or Pete for short (“Master” to some, “Papi” to the more close to him), was no different than many of us. But there are so many things about him that are difficult to forget. He came into my life by way of the introduction of his father, Dr. Pedro Papio, with whom I worked with as my respected senior for more than 20 years at JBL, until his retirement. Pete did not follow his father’s footsteps, not exactly, he created his own by producing a volume of work that was unique and memorable. I cannot personally claim that I knew Pete deeply. We worked more professionally perhaps because he saw me as his father’s contemporary, as such a respectful distance was maintained. But I sensed his pride and his candor, and more importantly, his zest for life and his work – that was his class act.

I admit that I envied Pete in many ways which sometimes made me feel guilty. He made things look easy by doing

them well, be it in work, his business ventures or family life. There is nothing much that trickles out around him as signs or evidence of failure or difficulties – I am sure there were, but he is able to handle them smoothly and come out positively. There is a coolness in his demeanour that diffuses the tension and resolves it successfully – that is clearly evident when in the midst of a difficult surgery or in situational lock-ups in the department. I once remember asking him to diffuse a probable conflict brewing among the staff and he quite adeptly suggested to bring the matter to a night out. Even in the medical problem he went through last year, he made no mention of what he was going through, and we were just jolted that he was already headed to the operating room for a coronary angioplasty or a bypass. And no sooner than we can recover from the concerns of our own mortality, brought about by the news of his illness, he was back working harder than most of us.

It must be a gut feeling he had for “time lost is time wasted” that made him work with the wind behind his back all the time - as if a clock is ticking within him to accomplish a task without delay. It is as if God had programmed him to proceed with haste with what he had to do, because his time here on earth mattered. His dearest mother grudgingly but lovingly described it as his hastiness to get rich quickly - but to his defense, aren't we all infected by that virus – hopefully, for the good. For Pete, he matched it with his charitable willingness to help everyone who sought out the skills and knowledge God had gifted him; which saw him travel everywhere in the islands north to south and cultivated great friendships east to west. He was constantly on the move, soaking every moment for what it was worth.

Despite his unexpected departure,

Pete fulfilled a great deal for the people he loved and cared for. To his family, the



spontaneous show of affection and love from colleagues, patients and friends, in the course of his wake, was a verification of the best rearing and loving he received from everyone, at home. To his wife, Hena, a union of love that produced two beautiful children and to whom he has all confidence that she will know in her heart what is best for Simon and Stacie, true to the great mother and partner he saw in her. To his residents, he connected with them as a dedicated mentor and treated everyone as friends to bring out the best in them, and in effect, give the best to their patients. To us his friends and colleagues, an endearing friendship that was grounded on enjoying each other and sharing common interest and goals. To his patients, a generous and compassionate heart that offered the promise of receiving the best care for all it is worth.

You will be missed Pete and the unforgettable life show that you left behind. You left a void that is hard to fill and we are finding it hard to understand how you could leave while the going was good. You are always the star of the show – keeping the life going, lightening up the event and engaging everyone to belong in the fun. The show will definitely not be the same without you.

I was deeply moved by how sincere and deeply affected many felt with your passing – consultants, residents, patients and others you touched were unabashed by their show of tears and

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# A Tribute To Peter Paul Papio...

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emotions as they bemoan the loss they felt. You are truly a class act Pete and we are grateful that we got to see you at your best.

Finally, we surrender you to the God that gave you to us to love and to fill our lives with joy. You have accomplished that task and are called to a bigger and amazing show where you can bring more happiness to everyone you left behind and to a greater captive audience where you are headed. Find your peace and rest wherever you are and know that your parents, Hena and the kids will be loved and well-provided for by all the people you touched and cared for while you were alive.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends and colleagues – allow me to say: The Peter Paul Papio Show is now signing off. Let us give our host a rousing applause! Thank you. God bless you.

- Ivvan John P. Concepcion

## SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES

From JP Leung: Thank you for this opportunity, Ivan— I have had the privilege of knowing Pete through our AO Trauma Courses, our camaraderie in the POA North Luzon Chapter, and our shared love of cycling. While everybody knew and loved Pete for his playful manner, I had a chance to see a different side. I appreciated his love for teaching working with him during AO small group discussions and also having the opportunity to coach his lectures. In our discussions I appreciated how seriously he took his craft as a teacher and wanted to improve. We often worked together at the North Luzon Chapter, collaborating on the scientific programs for our meetings. However, I will never forget spending time with him last year. I took a friend to buy a bike from Pete’s bike shop, he accommodated us even though bikes were in short supply in the pandemic. He showed us around his bike shop/ car wash/ restobar and took

us on a tour of his usual bike route (post angioplasty siya nun so couldn’t bike yet) including the sunken churches of Bacolor and guagua and the mega dike. More than the tour I appreciated our conversations about his family, decision to return to the province, and acumen in business. We never did get to do our ride together but hope to be able to ride with you when I get there Pete!

From Bibs Carilo: Low maintenance colleague friends are just unforgettable. They are people who understand that life is busy but when you are with them light moments come with smiles and laughter- they just know when and how to hit the button and you burst into laughter. Pete was like that. Despite the humor he was serious in many things, especially orthopedics. We remember him as a life of every dwindling group conversation. Who can forget the parties he hosted that all turned out to be hilarious affairs. We will miss you Pete, thank you for being there for all of us, you were a part of our much-needed therapy, and even if you have gone ahead your memory will still remind us of the laughters you all naturally initiated with such amazing spontaneity. Rest in peace!

From Miles delarosa: What Bibs has mentioned is true for all who have benefited from Papi’s smiles and laughter...A respite from seriousness, a tablet of laughter, washed down with a mug of san miguel .... But there is some seriousness in this art of making people laugh...I had a chance to see the other side of Papi ... unusually quiet, with Hena and their first born. We were in the pre departure area on our way to a PCS convention. I jokingly commented how different he was from his Dad and all I got was a smile... {parang hindi si Papi or takot kay Hena} so serious ang usapan namin... Sabi ko ... how do you do what you do.

Nabigla uli ako sa sagot... He told me that he took this craft seriously,

from observing stand-up comics to researching clips if shows...As diligent as he was in orthopedics ...He prepared for the event ... researching the subjects who would be the roast as well as the audience... Then he mentioned timing ... He told me that was very important ... once nahuli na yung audience ... no different when you give an AO lecture ... control of attention ... you have to maintain ... sometimes pushing the limit but knowing how to withdraw.... So you see How much Papi loved us is actually equitable to how much he made us laugh... knowing that if he did ...some worries would fly away and perhaps make us think better, love better and be



Click above images to watch tribute slides and videos

# Wishing you and your Family a Fun-Filled and Merry Christmas

*"Mankind is a great,  
an immense family.  
This is proved by  
what we feel in our  
hearts at Christmas."*

*Pope John XXIII*

*Happy Holidays!!*



From your POA Family

