

HISTORY

Philippine Orthopaedic Association, Inc.

Jose S. Pujalte, Jr., MD, FPOA (POA President – 2009)

Paul Ruel C. Camiña, MD, FPOA (POA President – 2020)

Frederic Joseph F. Diyco, MD, FPOA (POA Secretary – 2020)



The Philippine Orthopaedic Association, Inc (POA) was formerly known as the Philippine Society for Trauma and Orthopaedics. The first set of officers was inducted into office on December 11, 1949 at the Conference Room of the Philippine General Hospital. The officers were Drs. Jose V. Delos Santos as President, Ambrosio F. Tangco as

VICE - PRESIDENT, Augusto S. Besa as Secretary-Treasurer and Rodolfo P. Gonzales, Trustee. They were elected by a small group of practicing orthopaedic surgeons at that time. Dr. Januario Y. Estrada, Sr., then the President of the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS), inducted them into office. Likewise, Drs. Basilio J. Valdes, Buenaventura J. Canto, Jr. and Benjamin V. Tamesis were inducted as fellows and members.

After undergoing training in the United States and England, this group of doctors banded together, sharing a common interest in Orthopedics. They worked together towards the end of the Second World War when the US Army organized the PCAU (Philippine Civilian Affairs Unit) to take care of the civilian casualties of war, many of whom had traumatic injuries. Dr. Francisco Roman, a young Filipino army colonel headed the unit and was joined by Dr. Jose V. Delos Santos who trained in Orthopaedics from Johns Hopkins Hospital and Germany even before the war. Others who joined the PCAU were Drs. Benjamin V. Tamesis, Abelardo Inocentes and Antonio Gisbert. The devastation of the Philippine General Hospital led to Drs. Ambrosio F. Tangco, Augusto S. Besa, Buenaventura Canto, Jr., and Francisco N. Aguilar joining in and helping in the treatment of patients. Soon, not only trauma patients were treated in the unit but also those with other musculoskeletal afflictions like bone and joint tuberculosis and infections.

After the pull out of the US Army, the PCAU I was disbanded, and the civilian doctors continued their work despite meager resources. Some of the doctors returned to PGH and other hospitals. Still others sought further training in orthopaedics as government scholars and “pensionados”. Upon his return to the country in 1948, Dr. Tangco conceived the idea of banding together as a society. He, together with Drs. Delos Santos and Dr. Gonzalez, prepared the constitution and by-laws of the emerging society. They also designed a logo for the society consisting of a triangle with a narra sapling tied to a stick to keep it straight. They saw this concept in front of the Manila City Hall. The triangle was to represent the three main islands of the country namely Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Dr. Tangco was not aware at that time that a tree tied to a splint was later to be widely used by

other orthopedic associations as well as a universal symbol for orthopaedics.

In the early years of the society, the association accepted radiologists, pathologists, plastic and trauma surgeons as members, and they were classified as Associate Fellows. As many trained orthopedic surgeons became fellows later on, the society was renamed the Philippine Orthopaedic Association in 1952 and the membership was restricted only to orthopedic surgeons. Two decades later in 1972, the Association sought formal and legal recognition when it was incorporated and was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Amongst its original incorporators were Drs. Rodolfo C. Dimayuga, the newly elected President of the Association, Manuel T. Rivera, Jose M. Pujalte, Benjamin V. Tamesis and Angel N. Poblete. According to its articles of Incorporation, the POA was formed to promote and maintain the high standards of the practice of orthopaedic surgery in the Philippines. It required applicants to the Association to have done at least 100 operations and 50 of which should be of varied cases. The Association also administered written, oral and practical examinations that the applicant has to pass.

In 1972, the officers of the POA created an independent board to be named the Philippine Board of Orthopaedics (PBO) to accredit training institutions and individual applicants into the specialty. According to Dr. Dimayuga, this setup places the Association in its proper perspective. The PBO will take charge of the academic aspect while the POA will attend to other responsibilities pertaining to the operations of the Association and the welfare of the Fellows. Thus, the Philippine Board of Orthopaedics was incorporated and registered with the SEC on February 29, 1972. The founding chairman was Rodolfo C. Dimayuga with Drs. Benjamin V. Tamesis, Antonio C. Acosta, Jose M. Pujalte and Manuel T. Rivera as trustees. At that time, there were only two institutions with orthopedic training programs, the National Orthopedic Hospital (NOH) and the Philippine General Hospital. Dr. Tamesis established the first residency training program in orthopedics at the NOH in August 1956. In June 1971, by virtue of a resolution of the UP Board of Regents, introduced by then UP Regent Dr. Ambrosio F. Tangco, the Department of Orthopedics was formally created at the UP-PGH thus opening another orthopedic residency training program.



The POA officers and members, in keeping with the objective of the association, that is, to keep its members abreast with new trends in the specialty, held scientific meetings on a monthly basis and annual conventions in December of each year. Postgraduate courses were held every two years. The members of the POA

lectured to general surgeons and held joint conferences with other specialties and even went to the provinces to give talks on musculoskeletal conditions. Research were made and papers were published in the Acta Medica of the UP-PGH, The Proceedings of the NOH and The Philippine Journal of Surgical Specialties of the PCS.

The Philippine Orthopaedic Association played important roles in the establishment of regional orthopedic associations in this part of the world. In 1962, a group of local and international orthopedic surgeons who were attending the 2nd Pan Pacific Rehabilitation Congress in Manila had a side meeting with the Association as host. These surgeons, realizing similarities and the need to share experiences, knowledge and problems, thought of organizing a regional association composed of orthopedic surgeons bordering the Pacific and Asia. Thus, the Western Pacific Orthopaedic Association (WPOA) was born. Two officers of the POA, namely Drs. Basilio J. Valdes and Catalino T. Jocson took an active role in the formation of the WPOA.

Dr. Jocson's residence served as the venue for the organizational meetings. They elected Dr. Isaharu Miki as the first President and Dr. Jocson as Honorary Secretary General and Treasurer. The WPOA was renamed as the Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association (APOA) in 2000 during the incumbency of Prof. Robert G. Bauze of Australia.

In 1979, Dr. Jose M. Pujalte was invited to attend the annual congress of the Indonesian Orthopaedic Association. During the Congress, the idea of forming an ASEAN Orthopaedic Association composed of five national orthopedic associations of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand was conceived. Dr. Pujalte was elected founding President and the by-laws was drafted a year later and the Inaugural Congress was held in Manila hosted by the POA in December of 1981.



The period of the 80s brought forth a steady increase in the number of fellows in the association. The need therefore for additional fora for intellectual exchange was deemed necessary. Answering this call was the birth of the Philippine Journal of Orthopaedics, the maiden issue of which was published in December 1982. It served to inform, educate, and instill a sense of camaraderie amongst the fellows and friends of the Association. Its first editor-in-chief was Dr. Antonio A. Montalban. This growth in number was not limited to the fellows as a parallel increase of training residents was also noted. There was therefore a need to establish a forum of research presentations, thus giving rise to the First Residents' Research Forum on July 27, 1984 at the NOH. This activity became an annual event which the training residents looked forward to in a friendly but competitive arena of research presentations.

The first Regional Chapter of the Philippine Orthopedic Association is the Visayas Chapter. It was conceived in 1984, through the initiative and hard work of Dr. Jose Z. Flordelis, in cooperation with the local practicing orthopedic surgeons in

Cebu City. The pioneering members were Dr. Merito N. Yuviengco, Dr. Felix J. Vicuña, Jr., Dr. Onie H. Macavinta, Dr. Fidencio M. Pañares, Dr. Venustiano U. Barte, Dr. Alex Mediano, and Dr. Harris S. Roska. The creation of local or regional chapters was not part of the provisions in the original POA constitution until it was first revised in the 1994 Constitutional Convention.



In February 1990, the Philippine Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (POSSM) was established as the first subspecialty society under the wings of the POA, which on its own accord indirectly strengthened the POA's global position with its interlinkages in the international community of sports medicine.



The POA Fellows started to look beyond Philippine shores and that of the regional associations. They started attending and representing the country in more international meetings. Beginning in the 1990's, the POA established formal ties with orthopedic associations abroad. Dr. Norberto R. Agcaoili as incoming president was invited and attended the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) meeting and soon Filipino surgeons found their way attending other meetings and becoming members of international organizations such as SICOT (Societe Internationale de Chirurgae Orthopedic et Traumatologie), and EFORT (European Federation of Orthopedic Associations). Through the ASEAN, traveling fellowships were established that linked up the ASEAN to North America and Europe and this culminated in a joint meeting of the AOA-AOA or the American Orthopaedic Association and the ASEAN Orthopaedic Association in the spring of 1995 at Greenbrier, West Virginia.

A growing association brought about also its growing pains and thus a need for changes in the association's structural framework was recognized. On April 27-28, 1991, the POA convened a Constitutional Convention to review its by-laws and adopt it to its present needs. Present during the convention were early pioneers like Dr. Ambrosio F. Tangco together with the past POA Presidents.

More training centers were put up even in the provinces and the examining arm of the POA, the Philippine Board of Orthopaedics accredited these centers. Thus, with the rapid growth of the membership, the clamor for the setting up of regional chapters soon followed.

In the late eighties, the North Luzon Chapter of the POA materialized during the 1991 midyear convention, strongly supported by Drs. Allan J. Sanchez and Senen L. Garcia (Cabanatuan City), Rudy Q. Vigilia (Tarlac City), Glorifino M. Juan and Reynaldo F. Cariaga (Baguio City), Raul F. Sabado (Dagupan City), Catalino A. Calimbas (Bataan), Jose P. Tranquilino, Jr. (Angeles City), Roberto M. Amansec, Pedro G. Papio and Ferdinand E. De Mesa (Pampanga).



POA HISTORY

The Philippine Orthopaedic Association-South Luzon Chapter (POA- SLC) was one of the earliest regional chapters of the POA. Ten orthopaedic practitioners in Southern Luzon and Bicol areas, met among themselves, and organized in 1991 what is now known as the POA-SLC.



In 1992, the Philippine Orthopedic Association Mindanao Chapter was formally organized by a group of orthopedic surgeons mostly coming from the cities of Davao and Cagayan de Oro. It was indeed historical for the region. Dr. Espiridion R. Reyes from Davao City was named as its founding president and sat for a year.

For the past 50 years, the Association has grown to 4 regional chapters, 17 accredited training institutions and a little more than a 300 certified fellows spread all over the country, servicing the needs of the Filipino people for quality care of their musculo-skeletal afflictions. The POA has undertaken programs geared towards research, realizing that this would be the foundation of an effective orthopedic learning center for local surgeons especially in areas that are indigenous to the people and country. A National Trauma Registry was envisioned to provide a vital database from which rational treatment regimens can be adopted to meet specific concerns. The Association plans to embark on an expanded research council and foundation, to produce quality output that can be shared with the international community. In November 1999, the POA entered the international orthopedic arena, proud, head held high, as it hosted its 50th Congress together with the Western Pacific Orthopedic Association and the ASEAN Orthopaedic Association, looking forward to the next millennium.

Recognizing the need for a regular publication to inform the fellows of the POA's activities and projects, the ORTHO BALITA was launched in March 1999. As the official quarterly newsletter of the POA, it helped chronicle the POA's history and activities. Its first editor-in-chief was Dr. Rodolfo L. Nitollama.

During the fifty-second-year foundation and ten years after its first four regional chapters were created, the POA gave birth to its new baby, its fifth chapter in its history – The POA-Western Visayas chapter, borne out of the mother POA Visayas chapter. It was formally installed in fitting ceremonies on March 27, 2001.

The constituents of the POA Western Visayas (POA WV) Chapter was formerly part of the aggregated POA Visayas Chapter back in 1984. It was organized to promote camaraderie among the orthopaedic surgeons in the region, foster academic interactions, and hold outreach programs. This was done to recognize the growing number of practicing orthopods in the western part of the Visayan Islands; namely Panay & Negros Occidental.

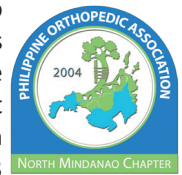


The idea of dividing the POA Mindanao Chapter into two separate organizations was formally introduced in a Mindanao Chapter meeting held in Davao City on March 8, 2003. The newest chapter was born due to the increase in the number of its members and

the vastness of the region – The South Mindanao chapter. It covers the southern part of Mindanao, which came from the mother Mindanao Chapter. The chapter is now known as the South Mindanao Chapter and was incorporated in 2004 and hosted the POA 16th Midyear convention in Davao City. Dr. Hilario M. Diaz became its first president.

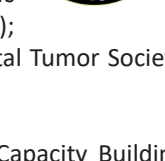
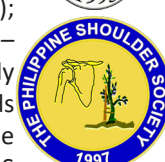


In line with this event, the POA North Mindanao Chapter based in Cagayan De Oro City was created and headed by Dr. Manuel Z. Sison. The concept gradually solidified into a formal request for recognition signed by 17 fellows from North Mindanao on July 30, 2003. On October 17, 2003 an organizational meeting was held in Camiguin Island to plan for the chapter's formal operations in 2004.



The POA recently (2005) hosted the Silver Anniversary of the ASEAN Orthopaedic Association (AOA) combining it with the 56th POA Annual Convention where past presidents, their families and the Junior and Senior travelling Fellows from all over the five ASEAN countries (Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines) submitted themselves to the delegation for this momentous event. The POA has once again proven itself ready for this kind of event while showcasing Filipino hospitality to every participant. This event also marked the acceptance of the Vietnam Orthopaedic Association as a new member of the AOA.

The six POA regional chapters have been given the opportunity to host the midyear conventions, of which seventeen have been officially held. Aside from the POSSM, other subspecialty associations were soon formed and affiliated with the POA. These are: The Philippine Society for the Surgery of the Hand (PSSH – 1986); Philippine Hip and Knee Society (PHKS – 1991); Philippine Spine Society (PSS – 1995); Association for the Study and Application of the Methods of Ilizarov (ASAMI – 1995); The Philippine Shoulder Society (PShS – 1997); Philippine Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (POFAS – 2000); Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of the Philippines (POSP – 2000); Philippine Orthopaedic Trauma Society (POTS – 2002); and the Philippine Musculoskeletal Tumor Society (PMTS – 2004).



2010 – The first POA Research Capacity Building Program for POA fellows was organized. The program was developed and conducted by resource faculties from the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of the Philippines. The activity was founded on a “Research Needs

Assessment Survey” conducted among POA Fellows nationwide.

Efforts were initiated to build ties and foster relations with the Royal Australian Orthopedic Association and New Zealand Orthopedic Association. POA had the first meeting during The Annual Convention of the Royal Australian Orthopedic Association, October 2010 in Cairns, QLD, Australia. After that meeting, a big delegation from Australia and New Zealand attended the 61st Annual POA congress, dubbed “Geriatric Orthopedics: Best Evidence for Better Care”. Among the attendees were Dr. Bill Cumberland, President of RAOA and Dr. John Calder, President of NZOA. The following year, another meeting was held in Adelaide, SA, Australia with two representatives from the POA Board of Trustees. The meetings culminated in further strengthening relations among the three Orthopedic Associations in the Asia Pacific Region.

The year highlighted the role of POA and assumed center stage on the occasion of the Philippine Council for the Bone and Joint Decade (2000-2010). An entire day of our 61st Congress was set aside to celebrate and appreciate the accomplishments of a decade in improving Musculoskeletal Health.

A Nationwide Protocol Writing Contest was initiated by POA and sponsored by the Philippine Orthopedic Association Foundation Inc. (POAFI). Of the more than 20 protocols submitted, three papers were selected for national implementation. Grants were given to the best three protocols.

The Dr. Jose V Delos Santos, Sr Memorial Lecture commenced on this year. This was in recognition of Dr. Jose V Delos Santos, Sr as the first President of Philippine Orthopedic Association. This is sponsored by Dr. JV Delos Santos Memorial Foundation. The Memorial Lecturer was Dr. Mohit Bhandari, a world-renowned leader in Orthopedic Research.

2012 – The POA Website was revitalized. Membership data base was upgraded to search fields according to subspecialties and location of regions based on chapters. Regular reporting of the President was done quarterly through the website news.

POA membership ID was created with Bar codes designed to facilitate attendance and other transactions.

A membership directory was distributed during the Annual convention held at the Crowne Plaza with the Theme: “Osteoarthritis: What’s in, What’s out”. This was a continuation of the series of themes to tackle the Top three common orthopaedic conditions of the country. Starting with Trauma, followed by Osteoporosis then Osteoarthritis. This was the first time we had a speaker from the African Continent Dr. Pieter Erasmus from Cape Town South Africa. He delivered the 3rd Jose V. Delos Santos Memorial Speaker. During the Opening Ceremony, an AVP of the POA hymn composed by Dr. Rodolfo ‘Ogie’ V. Frez was shown.

2014 – Strict adherence to one responsibility per board trustee in order to groom trustees to become “experts” on each issue, e.g., Bernardo – EBM, Camiña – non-fellows, Reyes - POA Foundation

program, Grey – PhilHealth, Diyco – Disaster, Siatan – Research, etc. The Board of Trustees increased the benefit of all fellows by taking out an insurance policy, covering for deaths – AXA. This year also saw the start of the Evidence Based Workshop for fellows.

The 2014 Mid-Year Convention was cancelled due to the Mindanao bombing, leading to the bringing AOA-POA convention in Cebu. Part of the proceeds from the Annual convention was given as an outreach program for Cagayan De Oro. A playground was donated as part of 2014 POA Foundation Day.

Philippine Society of Women Orthopaedic Surgeons, Inc. (PSoWOSI) was organized with Dr. Emilia H. Tanchuling as the Founding President.



2015 – POA official coat was distributed to all POA Fellows in good standing. Group life insurance for Fellows in good standing was renewed for 2015-2016.

The group of Dr. Paul Cesar N. San Pedro and Dr. David L. Alagar devised a mechanism to update the RUV/RVS. It was completed and submitted to the PHIC in 2015. A research workbook “10 Easy Steps to Writing a Research Proposal in Orthopedics” was launched and distributed.

POA in cooperation with POANLC did an outreach program for street/disadvantaged children of “Bahay at Yaman ni San Martin De Porres” in Bustos Bulacan, by providing materials to upgrade their playground.

2015 saw the largest number of registrants in our local annual convention (951 registrants with 495 fellows), resulting from the effort of trustees reaching out to other members. These was the start of a constant increase of delegates in attendance for our succeeding annual conventions.

2016 – POA was formally acknowledged as winner of APOA 2022 Congress bid. The POA likewise won the maiden award given by PCS as Most Outstanding Sub-Specialty.

Due to the increasing interest in basic knowledge and therapy of acute, chronic and diabetic wounds, the Philippine Orthopedic Wound Care and Diabetic Limb Society (POWCDLS) was founded by Orthopaedic surgeons who are Fellows of the Philippine Orthopaedic Association. Annual conventions were held for all Orthopaedic surgeons (fellows and non-fellows), residents and allied medical including nurses with the aim of acquiring new knowledge on advanced wound care treatment.



2017 – In compliance with R.A. No. 10912, “Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Act”, the need to simplify monitoring of units obtained by each fellow was done through the development of the POA Application. This contained the scheduled activities during the convention and the feedback made by the registrants,

as well as providing the platform for possible online elections later on.

2018 – Engagement of an external lawyer on retainer basis for purpose of handling legal affairs of POA including corporate matters and contract entered to by the association was done. Some of the corporate matters approved by the membership is the exemption of PWD Fellows from Annual and Convention fees and the required attendance to Business Meetings as one of the requirements in issuing Certificate of Good Standing. This year started an annual POA Support to PBO by providing additional budget for their operational expenses.

2019 – The growing number of groups of POA fellows joining the Local Chapters and Subspecialty Societies was draining budgets from pharmaceutical companies. The uncoordinated activities among chapters and societies created confusion among fellows. Thus, a strategic plan was made to seek cooperation amongst them, the “One POA.”

The constitution was also ratified after improving its form and substance with the inclusion of committees relevant to the 21st century.

2020 – The year was welcomed last January 12th with the eruption of Taal Volcano. This unexpected event transformed its immediate surroundings to a barren area significantly affecting the lives of our countrymen in South Luzon, including some of our POA colleagues.

The Philippine Orthopaedic Association (POA) Board of Trustees convened the Orthopaedic Education Council (OEC), and together with the Philippine Board of Orthopaedics (PBO), organized a “Training the Trainers” meeting last January 18, 2020 with the goal of providing learning tools to further improve the training for Fellows and Residents. This project, now made online, is a major and imperative paradigm shift as we all jump into and embrace 21st Century Orthopaedics.

Responding to an increasing number of cases caused by fragility fractures, the Philippine Orthopaedic Association, through its Ortho-Geriatric and Osteoporosis Working Group, supported a multicenter project in the form of a research study entitled “A Multicenter Implementation of the Combined Ortho-geriatric Fragility Fracture Management (OFFM) and Fracture Liaison Service (FLS): Challenges and Clinical Impact on the Elderly with Hip Fractures during the New Normal”.

March 2020, COVID19 exploded into the picture and the country was placed in quarantine. Face-to-face meetings, national congress, ASEAN conventions and the international events were all cancelled. PBO postponed all the 2020 Diplomate Practical Exams for 2021 and cancelled the 2020 In-Service Training Examinations (ITE) for First Year to Third Year Residents.

‘LOCKDOWN’ since March 16. Everything came to a standstill. While on HOME QUARANTINE, minds were stimulated, resulting in creativity to generate the NEW NORMAL. In the weeks that

followed, which turned into months till the present, a silver lining of Covid-19 slowly seemed to be possible.

The regular monthly POA Board Meetings were done via “zoom” meetings as constitutional functions of the elected officers. Unexpectedly but reflexively, the association began to adapt to the changes. ‘Guidelines for Surgeries’ were made for POA Fellows during the crisis, adjusting to working remotely for the subspecialties and extending assistance to fellows for protection from the virus.

At the height of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), our government’s response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the demand for on-line learning surged. The Philippine Orthopaedic Association understood the yearning for knowledge of our orthopedic surgeons, thus the platform for interactive on-line learning was conceptualized late April 2020. Immediately, the invitation to hold on-line learning activities was extended to the subspecialty and chapter presidents. The title “Residents and Orthopods Lockdown Encounters” was created by Dr. Edsel F. Arandia as he rolled out a series of lectures on principles of total hip arthroplasty delivered by Fellows of the PHKS.

The Council for Orthopaedic Education (CORe) with the support of the Philippine Board of Orthopaedics conducted a four-week online workshop for Orthopaedic Surgeon Educators in October 2020, “Orthopaedic Education in Covid Times: Shifting to Online Learning and Evaluation Methods.” The program is geared and directed towards empowering the training faculty of the different Orthopaedic Training Programs with the purpose of modifying and implementing a more appropriate system of teaching and evaluation of our resident physician trainees.

The ASEAN and PBO orthopaedic curricula were further expounded on by Drs. Arturo C. Cañete, Jean Pierre F. Leung, and William T. Lavadia, and “The Curriculum for Resident Education and Training in Orthopaedic Surgery 2020” was launched.

The 71st POA Annual Convention is the First ever Virtual Congress of POA. This also includes the pure online election of the Board of Trustees of both POA and PBO, an Annual Business Meeting via Zoom, and virtual recognition of new POA Fellows. The hand-over of presidency was done face-to-face with minimum health requirements.



ONE
POA