



the Alumni Newsletter

Post-Convention Issue

Marshfield, Wisconsin

February 2009

Another Successful Reunion



Dr Irene Ibanez-Manlapaz delivering her first speech as president of your Alumni Association

The 20th Annual Convention and Reunion of your Alumni Association was held last July 3 to 6, 2008 at the San Francisco Marriott Hotel in downtown San Francisco, California. Thursday evening's theme for Welcome and Fellowship Night was "Black & White" and the attendees were clad appropriately. An entertaining program was staged by the host Northern California chapter (Clementina Manio, MD, President), highlighted by performances by Alberto Palacio, MD ('63), Kathryn Casuga, and Nicole Roco, and concluding with a medley of Filipino haranas by Class '72.

The fourth of July began with a hearty breakfast followed by an entire day of CME, discussing "Selected Issues in Medical Practice. Dr Mari Escay moderated the morning session, with Dr Filmore Riego hosting afternoon meetings. Morning Presenters were: David Paraiso, "HIPAA Today"; Vanessa V. Wilson, MD, "Usefulness of the Electronic Medical Record in Chronic Illnesses"; Daniel M. Atienza, MD; "What's your Oncotype?"; Ernesto L. Chua, MD, "Coronary Artery Disease- does sex make a difference?"; Mary Lyn T. Lu, MD, "Plastics Surgery: What's New, What's Old that's New Again?"

The Jose Cuyegkeng Memorial Luncheon featured Dr Romeo Divinagracia, President and Executive Director of the UERM Medical Center, with Dr Benjie

Rigor moderating.

In the afternoon, speakers included: Samuel A. Dona, MD "Screening and Management of Colorectal Carcinoma"; Rolando T. Corpuz, MD, "Varicose Veins- New Solutions to an Old Problem"; Albert C. Gaw, MD, "Desperate Housewives- Crisis and Challenge for International and Philippine Medical Graduates" ..

Jubilarian Night was hosted by Class '83. Following a slide show presentation and dinner was a short program with performances by Pete and Nini Parayno, MD, Rachel and Denise Tansioyco (daughters of Dennis Tansioyco, MD), and Erik Wilson.

On Saturday, July 5, "Mentoring the Next Generation" was discussed by the MarvaDC chapter, then a general meeting and election was held (see list of officials inside this issue- Dr Susan Perez-Suntay was chosen to be the President-elect). After an auction style "wish list" session, medical school updates, an open forum, a founder's luncheon was held for the newly minted Legacy Keepers.

Dr. Ed Banez delivered his Valedictory Speech during the Gala Dinner and Dance Night. Then a solemn ceremony awarding of commemorative medallions to Silver Jubilarian Class '83 was held, followed by the oath taking of incoming officers, presided over by Consul General Marciano Paynor, Dean Alfaretta Tan-Reyes and Dr Romeo Divinagracia. Dining and dancing lasted far into the evening.

In this Issue:

- **Second Opinion**, page 2
- **Letters**, page 3
- **Never Give Up**, page 4
- **A Positive Approach to Doctors-in-Training**, page 5
- **Kudos**, page 6
- **Executive Committee, Lifetime Membership Drive**, page 7
- **In The Shadow of the LRT**, page 8
- **NY Schedule of Events**, page 10
- **CME Program Schedule**, page 11
- **An Appeal**, page 12

Second Opinion

By Senen V. Siasoco, M.D.



My siblings and I moved the folks to an assisted living facility last month. It was a transformative moment- as memorable as my wedding day and the birth of my child. Mother required a full tank of gas whenever she left home (she was driving in circles, forgetting the route back home). She was having difficulty balancing her checkbook, and was leaving the range on after cooking dinner. Dad's smoking was depleting the smoke detector's battery, and his lottery/casino budget was perpetually overdrawn. They both would, at various times, be dizzy or manic or downcast (depending on their blood glucose levels?). They were constantly arguing with Jun (my brother, who lived upstairs) over the most trivial of concerns.

Over dinner, four bottles of cabernet, and lots of hollering and sniffing and hugging (pam-FAMAS talaga)- it was decided that the only way to maintain sanity, harmony, and peace of mind for us mag-uutol (and especially our magulang) was to have the constant surveillance available only at a senior facility. Mind you, back in the old country, where labor is cheap, and there is a glut of kinfolk, this issue would never have arisen. Pero aqui- OMG, para bagang itinakwil mo sila!

Nursing homes, shmursing homes, uriniferous hallways, cold aseptic corridors, impersonal attendants- mom and dad had always dreaded the concept. We became instant experts on ElderCare. We read -Muriel Gillick (The Denial of Aging, Harvard Press, 2008), Mary Pipher (Another Country, Navigating the Emotional Terrain of Our Elders, Penguin Books, 2000). We watched videos (www.pbs.org/wgbh/caringforyourparents - then click on: view online) which was very enlightening. Likewise, Young@Heart (www.youngatheartchorus.com), a documentary about a group comprised of octo- and nonagenarians singing pop songs. Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont, a movie based on the novel by the same name, was heartwarming.

Then Sue, the eldest sister, discovered Mercy Court- "Apartments for the Way You Want to Live Today" (my quotes). The folks have their own 2 bedroom flat (like before) but now they are downtown, with 24 hour assistance via a huge red alarm button. A few steps away are the cafeteria, a sari-sari store, and an activity center (where mom can do her yoga and taichi or surf the web). A bus chauffeurs them to the grocery weekly. When the grandkids visit, they can swim in the pool or picnic on the lawn.

The parents are all settled in now. We make frequent phone calls and visit when we can. The Winter of Our Lives (and theirs) may not be so bleak after all.

Apologies to whoever was affected/offended by Dr Blas' open letter (in our previous issue, spring'08). There are two sides to every contentious issue and I printed only his views, neglecting to present the NYC organizer's opinions. I got twenty (verbal) lashes with a wet noodle but never got a written OpEd reply, so you will just have to speculate on their (the NYC organizers) rationale. If you go to the Waldorf in July, you can discover what the fuss was all about. Plus, think of all the fun you'll enjoy reliving the good old times with your buddies.

Consider yourselves fortunate to have an alumni association organized to flex your collective muscle. I interact with graduates of St Elsewhere Pinoy Medical School(s), and none of them have any sizeable alumni assemblies. At our Annual Reunions, I schmooze with colleagues from the Paleolithic (excuse me, the Swinging Sixties) to milk-mustachioed fresh grads- the networking is tremendous and paralleled only by that other medical school in Padre Faura. USTeers, CIMers, MCUers, Fatimers, FEUers atbp reunite by Year or Section only- never en masse like yon Aurora Boulevardiers. So this is an appeal, an entreaty: please, please get involved, contribute, and stay in touch...

Which brings us to this newsletter. Ostensibly, it was released trice a year, then biannually. Now it is PRN, i.e., whenever I can get around to doing it. It costs \$1300 to print, and ship out the 1800 copies of this leaflet (72 cents per). Am I sounding like the NPR pledge drive yet? Get on the email list maintained by our indefatigable director Benching Tan, and you get the digital version in nanoseconds. Better yet, just click on the alumni website: HYPER-LINK "<http://www.uermalumni.org>" www.uermalumni.org and you can find this issue in pure unadulterated hypertext glory.

Congratulations to the '09 Phil Med Board topnotchers -who sez the ol' alma mata's going downhill? Regards too, to Dr. Talangbayan- New APPA prexy- itaas ang bandila ng Republika de Sta Mesa! The Association of Philippine Physicians in America is the largest alliance of Pinoy Docs in the US, consisting of some 3000 members- its governance will be a daunting task, so we wish him well.

The article on Medical Education (downloaded from the New York Times, and forwarded to us by Christa Ohana San Juan-Nobleza, '07) is relevant to how we were trained in our august institution

And in conclusion, the onus of coming out with this bulletin is taking a toll on my psyche. Dredging up the inspiration and overcoming writer's block is now a Sisyphean task. Beloved fellow alumni- ya gotta help me out here...

Letters

Dear Friends & Fellow Alumni -

In my current medical management business, I was contacted and have had meetings with a management service placement company who are very interested in hiring and placing MD's and nurses in the rural areas of Texas and other states in the USA due to shortage.

I am still engaged in negotiations with this one reputable company and have discussed the possibilities of using MDs on J-1 or visitors visas and will be converting them to permanent residency visas once hired or employment contracts are signed. Or, using US citizens or green card holders "retired MDs" who are bored and would like to work "full or part-time" again. The same for nurses, Physical & Occupational Therapists, etc. including unskilled & skilled labor contracts. One of their labor supply

contract is with Dole company.

How can you help? If you know anyone who would like this job opportunity, kindly refer them to me and email me at: spsuntaymd@gmail.com or call or text my cell# (312)523-6824 . Future arrangements are in process.

Thanks in advance for your anticipated replies.

Susan P. Suntay, M.D.

President-Elect & NC Commissioner

UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc.

125 East 13th Street # 1407

Chicago, IL 60605-2685

Tel.#(312)846- 7543

Email: spsuntay@yahoo.com



Dear Irene,

Please extend my warmest congratulations to your brother, Dr. Rudy Ibanez as recipient of the coveted 2008 Jaime Cardinal Sin Catholic Book Award. He really deserves the award because of his vision of creating a "nurturing environment" by an institution to make it conducive for learning.

This is also the thrust of all medical schools as discussed in the last Convention of the Association of Philippine Medical Colleges Foundation, Inc. (APMCFI) of which I am currently the Vice-President, held in January 2008.

UERM College of Medicine has started this enriching environment as early as 1997 when curricular changes were installed. Faculty were trained when the Advisory Committee was formed. This year, we set up the Mentoring Committee. We have a Mentoring Program and the faculty will be retrained. Lately, some faculty have undergone the Enchanting Personal and Professional Effectiveness Program. With the funds donated by the alumni (Class '81) we will be training approximately 20-25 faculty again.

The students and faculty are also undergoing Values Formation seminar-workshops.

I would like to share with you that some students from another medical school decided to transfer because from what they've learned. In spite of the rigors of the admission requirements, they did their best just to get admitted. Our school fosters a "nurturing environment", faculty are approachable, fair and "listen" to

students.

To encourage our faculty and residents to make their learning conducive, it must be nurturing. This is the reason why I revived the Best Teachers Award in the Basic and Clinical Sciences. For this year, I also pushed for the implementation of the 10 Outstanding Residents' Award. Attitudes are part of the criteria in these award categories.

Our medical school is probably among the few schools who are implementing and funding programs related to Values Formation. This is one of the thrusts of the dean's office now.

In behalf of the faculty and students of the College of Medicine, I wish you, your family and all alumni a joyous celebration of the holiday season which starts now. Happy Thanksgiving Day.

I express my heartfelt thanks for all the endless efforts and valuable contributions of our benevolent alumni and friends in supporting the various programs of the College of Medicine.

Maraming salamat po.

Retta

Alfaretta Luisa T. Reyes, M.D.

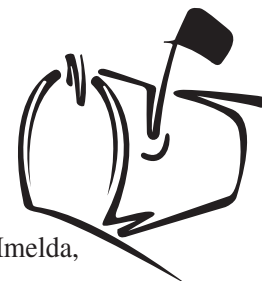
Dean, College of Medicine and

Professor of Pharmacology

UERM Memorial Medical Center, Inc.

#64 Aurora Boulevard, Barangay Dona Imelda,

Quezon City 1113 Philippines



Never Give Up - An Alumnae's Story

by Tessie Garcia-Torre, MD '73

My name is Teresita Garcia-Torres, a '73 graduate of the UERMMMMC. I have been reading most of the exchanges going on especially about the PBL. I'm sure some of us have had experiences attending school here in the US. When I came here in '83 I passed the ECFMG and FLEX the same year. I thought those two exams were enough to get me a residency position. I mailed around two hundred applications and only few responded and most of them did not consider FMGs.

I got disappointed so I started working till I encountered a dialysis center that took me and trained me as a dialysis technician. I learned that the nurses working there did the same thing I was doing but the nurses were earning \$10 more than I was earning. I decided to call different universities in Chicago that would allow me to challenge the nursing licensure exam but nobody allowed me unless I attended the 3 year nursing bachelor program. One school, Northwestern University in Chicago, listened to my story and waved a lot of requirements but asked me to attend their accelerated Bachelor of Nursing program which was an 18 month program.

At the very beginning of the program we had an orientation, all expectations were explained to the students, books and schedules of lectures and exam dates were given. Nobody was required to attend on a daily basis. One thing that stood out for me was the availability of the faculty on a daily basis even their telephone numbers where they could be reached by the students. The faculty entertained students, even on a one to one basis. No question was considered stupid. All questions were considered and answered

until the faculty knew the student understood the answer. One expectation was that the student had to know the subject matter before attending any session because the teacher did not give lecture. He was there to entertain questions from the student. At the end of the program we attended a review session for the board exam and given an examination to assess our ability to pass the board exam. The class that I attended had 100% passing during the Nursing Board Exam. I know this is different from the medical exam but the technique used was the same. When I took the Nursing board exam I knew right away that I will pass the exam because most of the questions I encountered were discussed during the program and I did not feel that the questions were alien to me.

I have been working for 15 years now as a Family Practice physician. I practiced nursing only for a few months because right before my Nursing Board exam I was accepted in a Family Practice residency program in Chicago. In fact during my interview the Medical Director of the program gave me a choice whether to do the residency program or accept a position in the hospital as the Nursing Director of their Critical Care Department. You know the answer. He did not even asked any medical question. He said it was enough for him to know that I attended Northwestern University. At first he accepted me as an extern for six months doing history and physicals and presenting during the morning rounds. After three months he changed my status to regular resident physician. Sorry for the long letter. I hope this will help those who are disappointed after their first try.

Passages

Dr. Renato Dantes: dying in line of duty

By Rafael Castillo, MD



Dr. Renato Dantes, one of the Philippines top lung specialists (UERM '79), died with his boots on. "If it's any consolation to me and our children," his wife Dr. Mayette told friends during the wake, "he died in the line of duty." Tato, as friends and family fondly call him, was always known by friends and colleagues for his selfless commitment in his various advocacies. Although Tato was a good leader and was able to motivate many colleagues in the advocacies he supported, he patiently did many things on his own without much fanfare. All pro bono. Out of his sincere desire to

help. And make a difference in people who would never be able to pay him back for his kindness.

As a past president of the Philippine College of Chest Physicians and a prime mover of the Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis (Philcat), he was instrumental in forging tighter and more effective collaboration between the private and public sectors to curb what they called the major pulmonary "Pinoy Big Burdens." In one of their joint conventions, they jubilantly declared the gains they have achieved against tuberculosis, pneumonia, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, which are the country's four major respiratory health problems.

Philippine Daily Inquirer
November 29, 2008

Also, Class '73 announced the demise in early February of their classmate, Amelita Aban-Antonio. Amy, as she is fondly remembered, practiced in the New York City suburb of

Westchester.

continued from page 12

So the next time you think your contributions, your acts of charity, your works for the poor and indigent, your gifts of love and money, and your talents are nothing, or that they are small in comparison to those of others, remember that when one is added to another, and then to another and so forth, great things can happen from nothing. In the same way, what seems to be ordinary can be

transformed into something extraordinary with just a little extra nothing. This is not a grand effort like the United Way, Red Cross and other larger operations but the WBA, in our own way is making a difference, creating good things from nothing and transforming ordinary things into the extraordinary, just like what transpired at Candaping HS. Mabuhay ang UERMMMMC!!!

A Positive Approach to Doctors-in-Training

By PAULINE W. CHEN, M.D.

At the core of every doctor's training is the internship, that first year of residency that begins just a few weeks after all the pomp and circumstance and lighthearted celebration of medical school graduation. Sometimes referred to as simply the first year of residency, internship is the first step in a professional journey that could include several more years of residency training, a year or two of subspecialty fellowship, and another year or two of research before one ever reaches the goal of becoming a fully trained doctor, an attending physician.

I began my internship as part of a class of five, two women and three men who had all done reasonably well in medical school. By the end of our second year, however, three had left. None of us had ever expected such an attrition rate; our teachers, the attending surgeons, had not intended, as some residency programs did at the time, to fire two of my peers. None guessed that a third would simply up and quit.

The two of us left standing knew that the official reasons were poor judgment and "unprofessional behavior" — we had heard that one of our classmates had repeatedly violated patient confidentiality, and the other had made a decision that put a young child's life in danger. But after their departure, the two of us remaining became fast friends.

We had to be, given the stark facts: we were working well over 100 hours a week with the possibility — the sheer fear, really — that we could be next in line to be fired and would lose all we had worked for until that point. Our dismissed classmates had struggled to find work after leaving; one had begun training all over again in a different specialty, and the other eventually left medicine altogether. Without the support of the other remaining intern, my best friend, I could not have survived.

We did make it through residency, and we learned during our internship and our second year to stay as far away from trouble as we could. "Remember," the two of us often warned one another, "you're only one slip-up away from one of those guys."

Negative reinforcement during those early years taught me to be a cautious and conscientious doctor. Our teachers rarely praised us for good work and never allowed us to forget our errors. But sometimes the lessons had little to do with learning how to care for patients.

One night during my internship, for example, a powerful senior attending called to chew me out for putting his V.I.P. patient in a double room. His voice was so loud I can still remember holding the phone away from my ear. "Do you know I can get you fired for this?" he roared.

"Yes, sir," I responded meekly. I was too scared to tell him the truth, which was that the head nurse, not the intern, assigned patient rooms.

Those early lessons were so effective that even today whenever I hear anyone say the words, "I need to talk to you," my first response is: Did I do something wrong?

I believe strongly that we need to train young doctors to be competent, caring and conscientious. And I would also say that most individuals in my profession feel the same way, judging by the degree of interest in journals and professional societies in cultivating "professionalism," the buzzword used to encompass all those desired qualities. "Placing the interests of patients above those of the physician, setting and maintaining expert standards of competence and integrity, and providing expert advice to society on matters of health" is how one international gathering of medical groups summed up the goals of "professionalism."

I just wonder, though, if emphasizing the negatives — what not to do and the terrible personal repercussions — is necessarily the best way to go about teaching professionalism.

Recently while reading *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, I came across a study on professionalism that addresses positive reinforcement. Using observation-based evaluations, Dr. Darcy A. Reed and her colleagues at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., assessed aspects of professionalism like compassion, competence and integrity among 148 residents and then examined the specific behaviors of the most outstanding among them.

I read through Dr. Reed's paper once and had difficulty understanding her premise; there was little mention of the negative behaviors young doctors needed to avoid. I read through the paper again and this time noticed that even the so-called "average" residents in her study behaved in a very "professional" way. The differences in professionalism between the outstanding residents and those who were average were not that disparate.

In other words, most residents were trying their best to be good doctors.

I called Dr. Reed.

"People have a natural desire to do good, physicians especially," she said. "But the problem," she continued, "may be a training system that encourages not how I can improve but how I can survive."

Doctors-in-training, Dr. Reed maintained, want to know how to improve. But many of their teachers, individuals like myself who were exposed early on in their training to negative reinforcement, might not necessarily understand how encouraging rather than ignoring or discouraging might work in residency. Moreover, even for those educators who are comfortable with positive reinforcement, it is still not entirely clear which behaviors correlate best with professionalism and are thus most important to encourage.

Which is the reason why Dr. Reed and her colleagues chose to focus on only the most highly-rated residents in their study. "What is it about outstanding residents? And how can we all emulate and encourage that behavior?" she asked me on the phone. "We want to encourage residents and the behaviors that we know are associated with outstanding professionalism."

Dr. Reed paused and then added, "Negative reinforcement is so defeating. There are far fewer people who need negative reinforcement than those who need the positive."

I got off the phone that morning feeling a little unbalanced, as if I had been handed a new pair of glasses to wear. Maybe I did not need all that early negative reinforcement to have become a conscientious doctor. Maybe all those fears my best friend and I shouldered during our internship and second year of training were unnecessary.

I read Dr. Reed's paper yet again and suddenly remembered her answer to a question I include in all my interviews: What was it personally that got you interested in this topic?

Dr. Reed had, I noticed, answered without a moment's hesitation. "I became interested in educational research through interest in teaching. I was impressed by excellent teachers and wanted to emulate them."

She had learned, I now understood, through positive reinforcement.

This article appeared in the New York Times. Nov 6, 2008 issue

More Alumni Achievements

FRANCIS TALANGBAYAN, MD

Penn Valley, Pennsylvania
Incoming President
ASSOCIATION OF PHILIPPINE
PHYSICIANS IN AMERICA (APPA)



Francis Talangbayan, incoming president of the Association of Philippine Physicians in America (APPA), the largest Filipino professional organization outside of the Philippines, was unanimously selected as one of the 2008 Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA) by the TOFA Panel Board of Judges headed by Nonoy and Aida Mendoza of the FILIPINO IMAGE MAGAZINE and the PINOY GLOBAL ONLINE NEWS, and the ROXANNE ANDREA MENDOZA (RAM) MEMORIAL FOUNDATION.

The TOFA project was initiated in 1990 and has been commended by many government officials of the United States and the Philippines. Biodata and photographs of the 300 Past TOFA Awardees are found in the PINOY GLOBAL ONLINE NEWS: WWW. FILAMIMAGE.COM, a 24/7 global web site. The Selection criteria, history and other TOFA information are found in the popular web site. A complete copy issue of FILIPINO IMAGE Magazine's 2007 Souvenir Journal, detailing 116 pages of bio-data of the 2007 TOFA awardees and photographs; VIP Special Messages and including all the Congratulatory Messages and Ads, in full color, are in the website and free for all to read globally.

The 3-day 14th annual event began on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008 with an informal get-together for the 2008 awardees and their special guests. Followed on Friday, Sept. 12 with a sight-seeing tour around the Capital and the VIP Dimsum Luncheon. There was a "Barong Tagalog" dinner reception that evening at the JW Marriott Hotel. The following day Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008, featured a formal Banquet/Ball/Award Ceremony. After the gala, a traditional Filipino breakfast capped the

whirlwind social functions. Guests wishing to attend all functions were asked to donate an entrance fee to the activities. Proceeds were donated to several charitable Filipino organizations.

Dr. Talangbayan is the son of Isidro Talangbayan of Laguna and Martha Vergara of Cavite. Francis, as he wants friends to call him, graduated from the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center in 1968, first honor in his class. A scholar for most of his school days, Francis came to the United States in June 1969. He married Cristina "Cristy" Estrada of Davao City, a Medical Technology graduate. He is a solo practitioner in Philadelphia, PA. They have three daughters: Kristine T. Barco; Leizle T. Gabison, MD; and April.

Other 2008 TOFA Awardees were announced Monday, April 21, 2008.

The 2007 TOFA awardees were former Philippine Ambassador Albert del Rosario of Manila, Philippines; Dr. Wilhelmina Gardose Camina of Bethesda, Maryland; Dr. Emmanuel Y. Angeles of Angeles City, Pampanga, Philippines; Mr. Josef "Jojo" Quiroz of Chicago, Illinois; Dr. Marcos R. Fojas of Athens, Greece; Dr. Laurel "Larry" G. Yap of Ellicott City, Maryland; Ms. Carmelita "Litz" Tapia of New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada; Dr. Herminia P. Festin-Navato of Lexington, Massachusetts; Dr. Napoleon S. Maminta of St. Louis, Missouri; Dr. Lauro "SJ" San Jose of Baguio City, Philippines; Dr. Patricio Reyes of Phoenix, Arizona; Dr. Jocelyn Bruce of Lauderdale Lakes, Florida; Atty. Alfonso P. Fallarme of Rochester, Minneapolis; Dr. Ceferina Ruiz of San Diego, California; Mr. Guillermo "Gerry" Austria of Jersey City, New Jersey; Mr. Philip Carreon of New York City, New York; Atty. Arlene Machetta of Houston, Texas; Dr. Aida Ramiscal - Martin, of Honolulu, Hawaii; Ms. Marlene Birao-Schachter of Pierrefonds, Quebec, Canada; and Mr. Romeo San Antonio of Norfolk, Virginia.

Corazon Loteyro, MD, '76 is the President-Elect of the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians (WAFP). She was inducted into office November, 2008 at the Wilderness Resort Glacier Canyon Lodge in the Wisconsin Dells and will assume the presidency of the group in 2010.

The WAFP is the major association of family practitioners in the state. Dr Loteyro is affiliated with the Ministry Medical Group in Plover, Wisconsin.





TaDa, your new officers are: Executive Committee 2008-2010

President: Irene Ibanez-Manlapaz, M.D., EJD, MBA
 Executive Director: Lamberto 'Benching' Tan, M.D.
 President-elect: Susan Perez-Suntay, M.D. (Phil.)
 Executive Vice-President: Perla Castor, M.D.

Executive Secretary: Flocerfida de Jesus, M.D.
 Treasurer: Josephine Pobre-So, M.D.
 Auditor: Teresita Lu-Melocoton, M.D.

Executive Council

The following have voting rights:

President: Irene Ibanez-Manlapaz
 Executive Director: Benching Tan
 President-elect: Susan Perez-Suntay
 Executive Vice-President: Perla Castor
 Executive Secretary: Flocerfida de Jesus
 Treasurer: Josephine Pobre-So
 Auditor: Teresita Lu-Melocoton
 Ex-Officio Vice-presidents: NEC- Amie Malihan, M.D.
 MARVaDC- Ana Maria Pasatiempo, M.D.
 Midwest- Zomie Herrera, M.D. (Phil.)
 Michigan – Jacqueline F. Gamiao, M.D.
 Northern Cal- Clementina P. Manio, M.D.
 Southern Cal- Neda Ballon-Reyes, M.D.
 Southeast: Rolando Mendoza, M.D.

The following do not have voting rights:

Advisers: Ed Banez, M.D., Manuel Blas, M.D.,
 Joseph Rastrollo, M.D.

Standing Committees. and their chairpersons:

- a. Nomination and Election –
 Nomination: Ed Banez, M.D.
 Election: Susan Suntay, M.D.
 - b. Membership & Directory – Josephine Pobre-So, M.D.
 - c. Scientific Program & Continuing Education – Rita P. Guiamelon, M.D.
 - d. Constitution and By-Laws – Flocerfida De Jesus, M.D.
 - e. Media & Communications – Senen Siasoco, M.D.
 - f. Circulation – Benching Tan, M.D.
 - g. National Convention Commission – Amie Malihan, M.D. (2008-2009)
 - h. Finance & Investment - Susan Suntay, M.D.
 - i. Audit -Rene Querubin, M.D. & Teresita Lu-Melocoton, M.D.
 - j. Fund Raising - Debbie Bobila, M.D.
- AD HOC Committees
- Grants - Nely Recano, M.D.
- Speakers Bureau- Mari Escay, M.D. & Fil Riego, M.D

Lifetime Membership Drive

Let's all be lifetime members...send your \$500 to our Treasurer: Dr. Josephine Pobre-So.

All alumni who want to become lifetime members, and who paid \$50 annual dues in San Francisco can become a lifetime member for an additional \$450 only. Or, he/she could also choose the 'half-lifetime' plan and pay \$200 no later than December 31, 2008 (this date may be extended-Attn. Dr Tan) and then pay the \$250 in New York in July.

Make your check payable to UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc., memo 'For - Lifetime membership' and mail to:

UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc.
 C/O Dr. Josephine Pobre-So
 P.O. Box 2170
 Bedford Park, IL 60400-2170
 doctor_poor@yahoo.com



Dr. Marcky Jod Abay Pandes

We're No. 1...And...Not Just One But Two

Not just one but two UERM graduates led the pack of 1,685 hopeful doctors who took the February 2009 Physician Licensure Exam given by the Board of Medicine.

Dr. Marcky Jod Abay Pandes, UERM Medicine Class 2007 Valedictorian landed **FIRST (1st)** among the 1,087 board passers with an over-all rating of 87.25%.

Class Salutatorian Dr. Don Leo Sullano Pepito placed **FIFTH (5th)** with an over-all rating of 86.25%.

Over-all passing percentage of UERM graduates is 90% against the National Passing of 64.5%. The oath-taking ceremony of successful examinees will be held on March 10, 2009 at the Tent City of the Manila Hotel, One Rizal Park, Manila



Dr. Don Leo Sullano Pepito

2008 Outstanding RP Grads are Alums

Congratulations to the UERM alumni-recipients of the 2008 Outstanding Filipino Physicians recognition award! The UERM awardees were: Dr. Victor Romulo G. Dumaguing '77, Dr. Blesilda Dela Rosa-Salvador '80, and Dr. Elvira Henares-Esquerro '86.

Posted on the UERMMMCC Website November 7, 2008



UERM Grad to head Yahoo! Philippine Office

A well-known internet icon, Yahoo, has recently named its top executives who will be managing its new Philippine office. One of them is a UERM alumnus, Dr. Crisanto M. Concepcion. Dr. Concepcion was appointed as the strategic consultant for the company's operations in the Philippines. He is a Doctor of Medicine graduate of the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center (UERMMMCC). A truly versatile person, Cris Concepcion, is not only a physician but also a New York-based executive of a multi-market media company.

Now that the Yahoo! Philippines offices and web-domain have been online, the popular Internet portal is looking at hiring local staff and providing localized services and content for Philippine-based Yahoo! users, Yahoo! Southeast Asia strategic consultant Cris Concepcion told the Business Mirror in an interview. Concepcion said Yahoo! Philippines "is here and we are open for business. We are investing in more things that Yahoo! needs as a company. We are investing in human capital and we are trying to generate jobs" in the Philippines. He said they want to have at least 10 to 15 local hires "by year-end before moving to a bigger [office]," adding that they are seeking workers trained in marketing, human resource develop-

ment and support staff. "This number could grow bigger," Concepcion added, "depending on the demand for our services." Yahoo!'s Philippine office is currently located at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig. (Business Mirror, 26 June 2008)

Concepcion said that he is going to be the "eyes and ears" of Yahoo in the Philippines and that Yahoo will keep on pushing its program for local Internet shops, but at the same time, target game publishers for potential partnerships. Both he and his colleague Mr. Anonuevo, appointed Yahoo general manager, are also tasked with generating more content for the yahoo.com.ph website, Concepcion said. (Daily Inquirer, 26 Feb. 2008)

Yahoo! said the appointment would enable them to be "more relevant" in the local market by employing a "Pinoy-centric" business strategy. The company claims to have an 85% market reach in the Philippines and said it wants to be more relevant to both mature and local Internet users. Yahoo! was previously running its Philippine operations out of Singapore. (Business World, 21 Feb. 2008)

In The Shadow of the LRT

Dr Albert Chua '83

Chairman, UERM Dept of Medicine



These photos were taken September 22, 2008 during the launching of the UERM Honor Society, induction of members and launching of projects in the Medical Library. There is a section reserved for Medical Review books and study area. There is a dedicated computer with a PRC simulated program and databank of Medicine Board questions where reviewers can take practice exams. The Honor Society aims to serve as role models and to highlight academic excellence.



NY Schedule of Events

JULY 1, 2009 - WEDNESDAY:

7 am – 4:00 pm - Golf Tournament (Bethpage)

JULY 2, 2009 - THURSDAY:

7 am – 4:00 pm Golf Tournament (TBA)
 7 am – 5:00 pm Registration
 12 noon – 5 pm UERMMMC-AFUSA Inc. Meeting
 10 am – 5:00 pm EXHIBITS & Alliance Silent Auction
 6:30 pm – 12 am WELCOME and FELLOWSHIP NIGHT (“Back to the 60’s”)
 Dinner/Dance & "UERM's GOT Talent Dance/Singing Contests"
 (Dinner tickets required)

JULY 3, 2009 - FRIDAY:

7 am - 5:00 pm REGISTRATION/ EXHIBITS & Alliance Silent Auction
 7 am - 9:00 am Continental Breakfast (For CME Attendees – tickets required)
 7:50 am - Noon CME – Day 1 “Quality of Life Issues: Disease Prevention and Health and Wellness Maintenance”
 12 noon - 1:30 pm Dr. Jose Cuyegkeng Memorial Luncheon “The Science and Art of Medicine”
 Keynote Speakers: Dr. Angelina Tantengco and Dr. Eliezer O. Sarmiento ‘64
 Moderator: Dr Benjamin Rigor ‘62 –Professor Emeritus, University of Louisville, KY
 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm General Meeting (Reports of MAAA, Inc. President, AFUSA Chairman, Dean and UERM Hospital President, Wish List Auction)
 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm FREE TIME
 6:30 pm– 12 am “JUBILARIAN NITE Dinner/Dance”
 (Celebrating Jubilarians: Class ‘84, ‘64, ‘69, ‘74, ‘79, ‘89, ‘94, ‘99 & 2004)
 ALL CLASSES WELCOME (Pre-registration/tickets required) THEME & ATTIRE: “Rock n Roll”

JULY 4, 2009 - SATURDAY:

7 am - 10:00 am REGISTRATION
 7 am- 8:30 am Continental Breakfast (For CME Attendees – tickets required)
 8 am-1:00 pm EXHIBITS and Alliance Auction
 8 am – 10:00 am REFERENDUM
 8:00 am - Noon CME – Day 2
 12 noon- 1:00p.m. Medical School Forum “Why & How to Enroll at UERM College of Medicine”(Moderator: Dr. Sam Piga) Open to public.
 1:00 p.m. Announcement of result of referendum (CBL Chairperson)
 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. FREE TIME
 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc. Executive Council Meeting
 6:30 pm –12 am GALA DINNER/DANCE (The Waldorf=Astoria Grand Ballroom)
 ATTIRE: BLACK TIE (Barong Tagalog - Optional) Tickets required.
 12:00 am – Midnight Snacks (Filipino delicacies)

JULY 5, 2009 - SUNDAY:

Churches/Places of Worship - St. Patrick's Cathedral-5th Ave & Madison (one block from Waldorf=Astoria).
 For other places of worship for most denominations please call the concierge for assistance at 212-872-4790.
12 Noon CHECK-OUT TIME (THANKS & Have a safe trip and see you all in Newport Beach, California, June 30- July 4, 2010)

CME PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Friday, July 3, 2009:

Moderator: Rogelio F. Lucas, M.D.

7:00 – 7:45 a.m. Registration, Continental Breakfast and Viewing of Exhibits

7:50 - 8:00 a.m. Welcome & Opening Remarks: **Amie Malihan, M.D.**

Overall Chairman 2009 New York Convention

Introduction of Alumni Poster Presenters.

8:00 - 8:40 a.m. Overactive Bladder **Michael Manyak, M.D.**

8:40 – 9:20 a.m. Maintaining Brain Plasticity, Boosting Your Memory and Preventing Pre-clinical Alzheimer's disease **Dennis**

Aumentado, M.D.

9:20 – 10:00 a.m. Prevention of TIA and Stroke **Amado San Luis, MD**

10:00 - 10:20 a.m. Coffee Break/Visit the Exhibits & Posters

10:20 – 11:00 a.m. Dyslipidemia and Prevention of Atherosclerosis **Benjamin**

Lumicao, M.D.

11:00 –11:40 a.m. Creating Health and Beauty from Inside Out **Randall C.**

Latorre, M.D.

11:40 –12 noon Q & A

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Dr. Jose Cuyegkeng Memorial Luncheon Lecture

“The Science and Art of Medicine”

Keynote Speakers: Angelina Tantengco, M.D.

Eliezer O. Sarmiento, M.D.

Moderator: **Dr. Benjamin Rigor**, Emeritus Professor & Chairman, Department of Anesthesia, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky

Dennis J. Aumentado, M.D.

Neurologist, R.I. Neurology Group, Inc.

1065 Mendon Road, Woonsocket, RI 02895

Amado San Luis, M.D.

Head, Neuroscience Research Section of Neurology

Department of Clinical Neurosciences

UERMMMC College of Medicine

Benjamin G. Lumicao, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine

251 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611

Randall C. Latorre, M.D. PA

Diplomate, American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

Private Practice, 13909 North Dale Mabry Highway

Tampa, Florida 33618

Angelina Tantengco, M.D.

Former Professor, Department of Pathology

UERMMMC College of Medicine

Eliezer O. Sarmiento, M.D.

Adviser, Health Development International

4623 Forest Lane, Holland, MI 49423

Floerfida De Jesus, M.D.

Psychiatrist, Riverside County Dept. of Mental Health

Hemet Mental Health Services

650 N. State Street, Hemet, CA 92543

Nestor C. Alabarca, M.D.

Internist and Pulmonologist,

Aurora Health Center

146 E. Geneva Square, Lake Geneva, WI 53147

Jacqueline Fabello-Gamiao, M.D.

Private Practice, Diabetes, Endocrinology & Metabolism

37650 Professional Center Drive, Livonia, MI 48154

Homer A. Macapinlac, M.D.

Professor & Chairman, Department of Nuclear Medicine

The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

1515 Holcomb Boulevard, Houston TX 77033

(For more information: Dr. Irene I. Manlapaz – (318) 623-0088 , imanlapaz@hotmail.com,

Dr. Lamberto ‘Benching’ Tan- (908)-770-2922, benching123@yahoo.com)

Website: www.uermalumni.org

Saturday, July 4, 2009:

Moderator: Tomas Lumicao, Jr. M.D.

Assistant Professor, Family and Community Medicine

Baylor School of Medicine, Houston, Texas

7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Registration, Continental Breakfast and Viewing of Exhibits

8:00 - 8:40 a.m. The 3 D's in the Elderly - **Floerfida B. De Jesus, M.D.**

8:40 - 9:20 a.m. COPD: Diagnosis & Management Update **Nestor C.**

Alabarca, M.D.

9:20 - 10:00 a.m. Obesity, its Consequences and Comorbidities **Jacqueline**

Fabello-Gamiao, MD

10:00 - 10:30 a.m. Coffee Break/Visit the Exhibits & Posters

10:30 - 11:20 a.m. Applications of PET Imaging in Neurological Disorders

Homer A. Macapinlac, MD

11:20 - 11:40 a.m. Q & A

11:40 - 12:00 Noon Evaluation/ Special Raffle (2 raffle tickets, 1 per session)

Prizes: Medical Instruments & Textbooks

12:00 Noon Adjournment

FACULTY

Michael J. Manyak, M.D.

Professor and Interim Chairman of the Department of Urology

The George Washington University Medical Center

2150 Pennsylvania Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. 2003

NY Waldorf Reservations

UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc. & Alumni Foundation USA, Inc.

21st Annual Convention and Reunion

Co- Hosted by: The UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc. - NORTHEAST CHAPTER

Tuesday, June 30, 2009 – Monday, July 6, 2009

Hotel Reservations ~ The Waldorf Astoria Hotel

301 Park Avenue New York, NY 10022-6897 USA

Tel: (800) 925-3673 / (212) 355-3000

Group Code- UER Group Rate: \$249/ night+ tax *(single/double occupancy)

Group rates are honored 2 days before and after the event dates.

Hotel Reservation by Phone: 1-(800) 925-3673 / (212) 355-3000

Group Code: UER; 1 night + tax deposit required.

Hotel rooms are limited and those with packages or Gala Night plus another event (CME or Thursday or Friday Dinner/Dance) will be given priority.

All reservations are available on a first come, first serve basis. A 13.38% occupancy tax/ night will be added to hotel room rate. For suites reservation: Call Dr. Debbie Bobila at 201-248-5257.

Reservation deadline for Hotel Group Rate: June 11, 2009 (NO EXTENSION).

Cancellation Policy: Cancellation after 72 hours prior to start of reservation forfeits 1 night deposit. Early check-out fee applies unless hotel is advised of change of length of stay at check-in.

An Appeal

By Lamberto Tan and Vic Carbonell, '72

Every now and then, gestures of goodwill and its development pops up in our email circuit. I just want to put a little spin into it and recognize those involved. We are all Doctors. Serving people every day is what we do.....that's the nature of our job. Like the scorpion in that Chuck's classic "Tale of the scorpion and the frog".....We couldn't help it, it's our nature.....But there are among the WBA, committed individuals going beyond what they do in their dally lives.....You know who you are.

I remember when we first got interviewed for entrance to Med School, one of the most common questions was " Why do you want to become a Doctor?" I was following Rey Caballero and when he came out of the interview room, I asked him what the questions were. He told me, he was asked "why do you want to become a doctor?" He told me his answer was "I want to serve the community". Indeed, whether we meant it or not, this was absolutely the better answer and politically correct one than "I want to make more money" or "I want to follow the footsteps of my dad or granddad who were Doctors." This was the patok guided answer everybody agreed on. And so I followed that same sentiment of community service in my answer and I presumably shared with Jhun Chua and any Tom, Dick and Harry among the WBA that followed during the interview proceedings. . We must have done very well in that interview process that the interviewer must be so impressed with all

these Service-oriented and philanthropic young men and women that we all got in, at least in our group. And so you know the rest of the story. My friend Rey Caballero thus became a Doctor and ended up serving among other things, the Military community.

And the WBA through its Candaping HS project and its UERM scholarship programs , the various annual Medical Missions, volunteer services and other unheralded individual efforts have tried to live up to that hope, vision and mission of service that was rooted during the early years of our training. Like the story below, we can be a snowflake in our own way, continuing to support those less fortunate in kind or being there in spirit.

The Weight of a snowflake

Not too long ago in a place not too far away, a field mouse asked a wise old owl what is the weight of a snowflake. "Why nothing more than nothing," answered the owl.

The mouse went on to tell the owl... about the time he was resting on a branch in a fir tree, counting each snowflake until the number was exactly 3 million, 471 thousand, 952. Then with the settling of the very next flake—crack. The branch suddenly snapped, tumbling the mouse and the snow to the ground. "Humph ...Such was the weight of nothing," said the mouse.

continued on page 4

Presorted Standard
US Postage
PAID
Permit #1
Marshfield, WI

the Alumni Newsletter
1414 N. Broadway • Marshfield, WI 54449
Email: uermalumnnewsletter@yahoo.com

