



# Ortho Balita

Official Newsletter of the Philippine Orthopaedic Association, Inc.  
Website: <http://www.philortho.com> e-mail: [poa@i-next.net](mailto:poa@i-next.net)

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## Trauma takes center stage

**T**he Philippine Orthopaedic Association, Inc. (POA) will hold its 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Congress with the theme, "Orthopaedic Trauma Trends in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" on December 5-8, 2001 at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

Despite the uncertainties caused by the September 21 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in the USA, 9 foreign and 4 local speakers have confirmed their participation. Some 500 registrants, composed mostly of orthopedic surgeons, general surgeons with interest in trauma, and allied medical professionals, are expected to attend, according to POA President Dr. Lauro M. Abrahan, Jr. and organizing committee chairman Dr.

Venancio P. Garduce, Jr.

The international faculty is composed of Drs.: Kyle Dickson; Edward V.A. Lim; Rolando Puno; Randy Rosier, George Russel and David Seligson of the USA; Theerachai Apivhat and M. Banchong of Thailand; Khong Kok Sun of Singapore. Drs. Jonathan Asprer of UST, Adrian Catbagan and Juanito Javier of

*(Continued to page 3)*

## POA moving to new home in October

**T**he POA is definitely moving to its new home and office at Suite 810, Future Point Plaza Condominium One, 112 Panay Ave., South Triangle, Quezon City on October 1, 2001. This was confirmed by POA President Dr. Lauro M. Abrahan, Jr.

Renovation work and interior decoration on the new condominium unit are expected to be finished by the end of September. The POA which was founded in 1949 and incorporated in 1972 has been based for so many years at its old office on the mezzanine floor of the Philippine Orthopaedic Center.



DR. EDWARD V.A. LIM stresses a point during his lecture on "Foot and Ankle Trauma"

## POFAS-JRRMMC postgrad course a big success

**T**he Philippine Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (POFAS) in cooperation with the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRRMMC) Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology scored a coup of sorts when it staged a successful postgraduate course last August 31 - September 1 at the Manila Midtown Hotel, Intramuros Ballroom.

With the theme, "Understanding Common Foot and Ankle Problems", the two-day postgraduate course earned 20 CME units for the more than 300 participants, mostly general practitioners who attended.

Main speaker Dr. Edward V.A. Lim discussed injuries to the foot, the mangled foot syndrome and principles of decision making during the foot and ankle trauma session of the

*(Continued to page 7)*

## BONE OF CONTENTION

**RODOLFO L. NITOLLAMA, MD, FPOA**

# Compassion

## (As Mayon Rumbled Gently)

What do Alaiza Nuñez, Roderick Balabis and Rosgal Catampungan have in common? All three are young children, with personal tales of woe and whose lives were somehow interwoven with the Mayon Volcano eruptions last June and July of this year.

\* \* \*

The picture of Alaiza Nuñez and her mother landed on the pages of most national dailies, among them The Philippine Daily Inquirer and The Philippine Star. This happened after Alaiza was noticed by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo on June 27 during his surprise birthday visit to the Mayon evacuees at the Gogon Elementary School evacuation center in Legazpi City. Mike Arroyo noticed Alaiza's frail frame and her apparent malnourished status coupled with multiple congenital anomalies on both of her lower extremities.

\* \* \*

It took sometime before the seven-month old Alaiza eventually got referred to me during one of my rounds/conferences at the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH) in Legazpi City, Albay. I diagnosed her to have, aside from her severe malnutrition, bilateral Talipes Equinovarus (Congenital Clubfeet); Hypopla-

sia of the right knee joint; and Congenital Dislocation of the right hip (CDH). Her left ankle and foot being slightly flexible compared to the right, was amenable for serial manipulation and long leg casting.

\* \* \*

Being residents of Brgy. Bonga, Alaiza did not make it back to me as I had expected. Charo Loilo of PCSO Legazpi City tracked Alaiza down through Charo's DSWD counterpart, and by this time Alaiza's left lower extremity has been manipulated and the first of a series of long leg casts has already been applied. Alaiza's delicate and complicated medical condition however, would benefit from further treatment in a tertiary hospital setting. Knowing that some of the best pediatric orthopaedic surgeons in the country would be in a better position to manage Alaiza's case with the help of topnotch pediatricians and knowledgeable nutrition experts, I have referred her to our pediatric orthopaedic surgeon colleagues either in the Philippine Orthopaedic Center (POC) or at the UP-PGH Department of Orthopaedics. I have convinced Alaiza's mother and grandmother about referring them to UP-PGH or POC, and the PCSO Legazpi office had agreed to help them get transferred

to Manila immediately.

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On June 24, 2001 at the height of Mayon Volcano's steamy eruption, Rosgal Catampungan, a 12-year old boy from Claveria, Masbate climbed the rooftop of their residence to get a better view of the famous volcano's gentle rage, according to his father. By a queer stroke of fate, however, Rosgal slipped and on his way down tried to cling to

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**CONTRASTING PICTURES of Mayon Volcano.** A serene and picturesque scene with silky clouds passionately embracing its near-perfect cone (left), while mushroom-like ash clouds rise through the sky in this June 23, 2001 violent spewing of ash and lava (right).



## AOA - ASEAN OA Traveling Fellowship A Humbling Experience

by Dr. Venancio P. Garduce, Jr.

This year's AOA (American Orthopaedic Association) and ASEAN Orthopaedic Association Traveling Fellowship of which I am the Philippine representative, is a rewarding and humbling experience. It all started in Honolulu, Hawaii where the five ASEAN Traveling Fellows met: Somsar Leechevangsvong, a hand and microvascular specialist at the Lersin Hospital from Bangkok, Thailand; Manoharan "Mano" Krishnan an orthopedic traumatologist from Ipoh, Malaysia; John Chen, a Spine surgeon from Singapore connected with the Singapore General Hospital and was actually the "contact person" in this traveling fellowship both among us and our hosts; and Bambang Nugroho, a musculoskeletal tumor and hip surgeon from Jakarta, Indonesia.

It was the start of a lasting friendship among us. This AOA-ASEAN OA traveling fellowship started on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May up to the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2001. It primarily involved visits to six states around the United States: the West Coast (Honolulu, Los Angeles and Portland); the Midwest (San Antonio and Houston Texas; St. Louis and Missouri); and to the East coast (Florida) involving fourteen orthopedic training institutions and of which

twenty-five papers were presented in their conferences. We also observed and sometimes assisted in their surgical operations. We also experienced knowing and talking to them and their families, exchanging views, opinions and stories both personally and professionally.

The longest stop was in Los Angeles for eight days. The shortest were in Portland and St. Louis (three days) where I think we've gained more mainly because of the organization and personal approach. Each of us was assigned a consultant and I was then with Dr. Robert Pierron where I met his wonderful family. In Portland, I was assigned to Dr. Theodore Vijeland who is into arthroplasty and joint reconstruction.

The fellowship exposed us to different orthopedic institutions. Basically, the residency program is five years; one year of general surgery rotation and four years of orthopedic training. The institutes have well-organized and well funded operating units for hand and microvascular, spine surgery units and so forth. Surgeons attend to their emergency room cases immediately and turnover of patients is fast. Patients who undergo joint replacement are usually discharged after 4-5



days and are taken care of by their support systems like physical and occupational therapy. They don't have any problem with regards to implant procurement. In fact, they have almost all the necessary implants and instrumentations needed for any orthopedic operation. Their researches deal on the importance and relevance to the achievement of an excellent patient care and service.

Orthopedic surgery in the United States is really made easy due to ready access to technology and research. It would be a "dream-come true" if we could be at par with them.

I would like to thank the ASEAN Orthopedic Association and the American Orthopedic Association for giving me this rare opportunity to see and observe how orthopedic surgery in the US is being done both in training as well as in practice. I also would like to thank the Philippine Orthopedic Association for nominating me in this unique traveling fellowship. Lastly, I am grateful to Zimmer Company for being our generous sponsor on this trip.

## Trauma Takes Center Stage

(Continued from page 1)

UP-PGH and Jose Martin Pairo of POC compose the local faculty.

The annual business meeting of the POA fellows will be held on December 5 from 1-4 pm, while the elections for the 2002 POA and PBO Boards of Trustees will be held on the same day from 8 am - 3 pm.

There are 10 lecture sessions spread over 3 days and covering various topics, including basic sciences, the polytrauma patient, osteoporotic fractures, current concepts and controversies on fracture fixations, the pelvis and acetabulum, the Bone and Joint Decade plenary lectures, interactive symposia on trauma complications and neglected trauma, spine trauma and free papers, according to scientific committee chairman Dr. Arturo C. Cañete.

Department of Health Secretary Dr.

Manuel Dayrit will be the guest of honor during the opening ceremonies on December 4, while noted pediatric surgeon and past PCS president Dr. Willie Lagdameo is the Bone and Joint Decade speaker. Another luminary invited is Dr. Gil Fernandez. Dr. Rolando Puno will be conferred a honorary POA fellowship.

Outstanding residents per year level from the different PBO-accredited orthopedic training institutions will be presented awards by PBO Chairman Dr. Mario B. Geronilla. Thirty-two PBO Diplomates comprising Class 2001 will be recognized while 23 new POA Fellows will be inducted into the association.

PCS president Dr. Alberto B. Roxas will be the keynote speaker and inducting officer of the 2002 POA and PBO Boards of Trustees during the congress ban-

quet and closing ceremonies on December 8. The winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> POA Most Outstanding Chapter Award and the winners in the sports competitions will also be announced.

A new system of registration will be implemented for the first time, according to registration committee chairman Dr. Miles T. Dela Rosa. Dress code during the convention should be coat and tie, shirt and tie, or barong Tagalog.

DOH physicians who will be attending on official time and residents in training are advised to bring the proper credentials. An extended program for spouses and accompanying persons has been arranged, while sports activities including golf, tennis and billiards are scheduled.

For registration fees, details and other information, please contact the POA Secretariat: telephone numbers 410-1331 and 410-1339; fax numbers 410-1283; e-mail [poa@j-next.net](mailto:poa@j-next.net)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

LAURO M. ABRAHAN, JR., MD, FPOA



# President's Report

## POA Matters

The POA Cebu – Eastern Visayas chapter finally elected their new set of officers on August 20, 2001. Elected were:

Dr. Pablo J. Ilano III – President  
 Dr. Tyrone Jude M. Mercader - Secretary  
 Dr. Fidencio M. Pañares - Treasurer  
 Trustees: Dr. Jose Z. Flordelis  
 Dr. Manuel I. Lumapas

Hopefully, with the election of this new batch of officers, this chapter will resurrect itself to become one of the most active chapters of the POA.

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We had a series of chapter and subspecialty society activities last July to September

1. Aug. 8 – Tumor workshop at Mimosa Golf and Country Club, Angeles City, Pampanga (3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly meeting of the North Luzon Chapter).

2. Aug. 31 to Sept. 1 – Joint postgraduate course by POFAS and the JRRMMC Department of Orthopedics at the Midtown Ramada Hotel, Manila. This Foot and Ankle Course had about 130-140 attendees.

3. September 8 – South Luzon Chapter meeting with Dr. Danny Caro giving a talk on hand problems.

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Despite the uncertainties of world events after the World Trade Center tragedy, we have finally completed the line-up of our invited faculty for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Congress this December 5-8, 2001 at the Westin Philippine Plaza. A lot of brainstorming between the Scientific Committee and the Board has transpired since September with the backing out of some of our speakers. We were forced by circumstances to prepare 3 sets of the scientific program, in anticipation of what might happen in the next few months. After a few months of corresponding with our invited speakers from North America and the ASEAN region, our final program is now ready for dissemination to our Fellows. The scientific meeting promises to be fruitful and relevant to our current practice of Orthopedic Trauma in the

Philippines

## PCS Matters

Our Board members and fellows have attended a series of seminars sponsored by the PCS namely:

1. PCS Mission-Vision seminar on May 12, 2001 attended by Dr. Edward Sarrosa
2. Workshop on Methodology of the Creation of Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guideline on July 28, 2001 and attended by Dr. Jose Fernando Syquia.
3. Two workshops pertaining to the RVS 2000 in coordination with PHIC were held on July 21 and September 29 with myself, Dr. Arturo Cañete and Dr. Regalado Dela Paz in attendance.
4. The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the PCS on September 12, 2001. Dr. Garduce and I attended this affair at the Edsa Shangri-la Plaza.

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The RVS 2000 hopefully will be out by January 2002 after the final deliberation last September 12. The Antipolo Workshop Values last year were modified by the PHIC and a common agreement was reached after the subspecialty societies submitted their own counter-proposals. The agreed peso value per unit is P40.00 which is P20.00 less than the Antipolo Values but were offset to some extent by the higher values assigned to the specific procedures. Hopefully, this gets a general approval of all concerned parties and will be out and implemented by 2002; as this will also be the basis of HMO fees.

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We have 17 POA fellows to be inducted by the PCS this December 2001 in their fold and they are as follows:

1. Claro G. Cauton
2. Ivan-John P. Concepcion
3. Emmanuel M. Dela Paz
4. Simeon A. Du, Jr.
5. Patrick O. Leh
6. Bettina T. Limjoco
7. Juancho G. Mamaradlo
8. Cesar D. Martin

9. Arnulfo Z. Olivar
10. Antonio A. Pobre
11. Benigno S. Pujalte
12. Delfin G. Rabe
13. Gabriel L. Sembrano
14. Jose Fernando C. Syquia
15. Tirso L. Tabago, Jr.
16. Mariano V. Villarosa
17. Benedict Francis D. Valdecañas

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We also have 2 fellows running for the Board of Regents of the PCS: Drs. Andres D Borromeo (a past POA-AOA President) and Dr. Rodolfo L. Nitollama (current POA treasurer). As one of the biggest subspecialty affiliated organization of PCS, let us all go out and give full support to our two fellows this December.

## AOA Matters

We hosted the AOA Senior Traveling Fellows from July 17-20, 2001. They visited five medical centers and capped their itinerary with a tour to Villa Escudero.

**AOA-AAOS Matters** (American Orthopaedic Association – American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons)

I represented the POA at the AOA Annual Meeting at the Breaker's Hotel, West Palm Beach, Florida last June 13-16, 2001. Together with Dr. Venancio Garduce, Jr., who was the Zimmer-AOA traveling fellow for 2001, we attended the 4-day meeting that touched on: Orthopedic genome, intraarticular fractures, the discrimination and successful training of the African Americans, the orthopedic surgeon's relation to industry, patenting of orthopedic inventions and the relationship of the sports medicine physicians with their respective teams. Professor and Mrs. Jody Buckwalter, the AOA President, hosted all the delegates of the different international organizations worldwide.

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Dr. Garduce has submitted the paper of Dr. Edward Wang as our entry for the

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## President's Report

(Continued from page 4)

poster session of the AAOS Annual Congress in Dallas on February 2002. The title of the paper is "Predictive factors in Osteosarcoma of the Extremity". Hopefully, we will get the nod of the screening committee as there are more than a hundred orthopaedic associations who submitted their entries.

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As I end this report on the third issue of Ortho Balita for the fiscal year 2001, I urge all fellows to actively participate in all POA activities particularly in research where we are quite behind in comparison with our ASEAN counterparts who are making great strides in their particular area. Rest assured that the National Association will support you on these endeavors and let us also share our solidarity by supporting our fellows running for different positions in other specialty fields here and abroad.

## Resource Center at POC Set Up

The Philippine Orthopaedic Center (POC), in partnership with Merck Sharp and Dohme (MSD) Phils., established recently its resource center.

Dr. Jesus M. Dueñas, Medical Center Chief II of the POC, cited this resource center as a big help to the medical center. "The doctors here are quite busy with the number of patients that we have. Once you improve research facilities, you get the latest information and your choice of treatment becomes more extensive. This will eventually benefit the patients, said Dr. Dueñas".

The POC-MSD Resource Center provides literature search services, information tracking and retrieval services, and other facilities for the usage of doctor-members. Similarly, a wealth of information is also available through the internet which is one of the services the MRC offers to members who drop in

# Ortho Balita SPORTS

## Close contests eyed in 4 events

Expect close contests in the four events featured during the POA sponsored-sports activities in the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual convention. This was the forecast made by Dr. Andy Borromeo, Dr. Vidi Lim and Dr. Johnny Villaluz.

Dr. Lim, Philippine Orthopedic Golfers Inc. (POGI) chairman, said that the golf event will be held at the Intramuros golf course. Defending overall champion Dr. James Paggao of POA North Luzon is expected to have his hands full with a lot of competitors hoping to breathe under his neck.

In tennis, Dr. Johnny Villaluz of POA South

Luzon will still be there swinging his racket, together with Dr. Badjun Reyes of POA Mindanao.

In bowling, Dr. Albert Dy is expected to reclaim old glory as he battles the likes of Dr. Gary Sevilla and Dr. Jay Suntay. Nine-ball billiards is also expected to have a resurgence following the renewed popularity of the sport on the heels of Efen Bata Reyes' and Django Bustamante's recent successes abroad.

Westmont and Biomedis are expected to again sponsor the sports activities.

## POSSM holds 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress

The Philippine Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (POSSM), a sub specialty organization affiliated with the POA, will hold its 9<sup>th</sup> annual congress on December 4, 2001 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Visayas Ballroom.

With the theme "Exercise Without Fear: Facts and Myths", this year's faculty is made up of seven knowledgeable experts. Professor Millet Bonoan will talk about exercise in the elderly; Ms. Tina Juan will discuss exercise in pregnant women; Dr. Antonio

Rivera talks on running and walking; Ms. Vanessa Garcia will discuss taebo; Dr. Orson Odulio will talk about the medical aspects of taebo; Mr. Kirk Collier will discuss strength training and Dr. Edward Sarrosa will talk on medical aspects of strength training.

POSSM president Dr. Noel Carilo will lead the POSSM fellows in the taebo and volleyball games in the morning, to be followed by the launching of the POSSM website during the membership lunch.

to use the facilities. The center employs an MRC Officer who assists not only in the research needs of doctor-members but also provides tutorial services on computer literacy and internet use.

The POC-MSD Resource Center

is located on the mezzanine floor of the POC at the corner of Maria Clara and Banawe Sts., Quezon City. There are currently eight MRCs in the Philippines. The others are located at the Philippine General Hospital, Philippine Heart Center, Makati, Cebu, Davao, Batangas, and Bicol Medical Center.

## “WHAT’S UP DOC?” CORNER - ARTURO C. CAÑETE, MD, FPOA



### Relevant registration issues

**A**s a continuation of the views I have discussed in the previous issues, I am presenting more frequently-asked questions about Continuing Medical Education (CME) and related topics.

#### Q - Are all Fellows charged with the same registration fees?

**A** - Majority of the regular Fellows are charged with the same registration fees. There are instances that a different registration fee will be charged. It has been the position of the Board of Trustees that Fellows not in Good Standing will be charged during the convention with a registration fee equivalent to a non-Fellow. There are also Fellows who are given exemption or discounts in paying the registration fees and this will be mentioned below.

#### Q - What happens to the registration fee of a preregistered Fellow, sponsored or not sponsored, if he or she does not attend the convention? Can a refund be possible?

**A** - The registration fee of a preregistered fellow (sponsored or not) who will not be able to attend the convention will be considered forfeited and therefore he or she cannot apply the paid registration fee for future conventions. He or she however, may still be awarded the equivalent CME credits.

#### Q - Can a proxy register a Fellow?

**A** - Yes, a Fellow may be registered by a proxy, however issuance of the registration kits as well as certificate of attendance will only be given directly to the Fellow whose physical presence will be required at the registration booth.

#### Q - Are there Fellows who are exempted from paying the registration fee, and if yes, do they automatically earn the equivalent yearly CME credits?

**A** - Yes, there are Fellows who are exempted from paying the registration fee, however, they are required to register (personally or by proxy) during each convention to earn the

equivalent CME credits. It is preferable that they register personally because their personal assessment will be issued them and accomplishment of personal information data forms will regularly be required to update our directory.

It is also important that since we have adopted a group insurance scheme for all Fellows below 60 years of age, it is imperative that all Fellows below 60 should also pay their annual insurance premium because this is not included in their exemption.

#### Q - Who are exempted from paying the registration fee? Are there discounts available?

**A** - Presently the Fellows who are exempted from paying the registration fees, include; Past-Presidents, Board of Trustees, Speakers, Presidents of Orthopaedic Associations of other countries, other fellows considered by the Board because of their invaluable contribution in the organization of the convention.

Discounts are also available in accordance with our administrative manual, granting Fellows 65 and above 50% discount on the annual registration fee.

#### Q - Can one preregister at the POA website?

**A** - At the moment it is not possible to register through the POA website. This would require that our website will already become fully operational and the required tie-up with involved banks are arranged for credit card accreditation.

#### PHIC UPDATE

The following are the outcomes from the PHIC meeting regarding the adoption of the new RVS, which is referred to as the Antipolo RVS.

1. The new deadline for implementation is on January 1, 2002
2. The PHIC will be adopting the utility (conversion) value of 40 PHP as compared to the proposed 60 PHP in the Antipolo RVS. Apparently this is the highest price

value that they can afford.

3. The proposal of PHIC to group almost similar or related surgeries under one value was trashed because of the difficulty of the different specialties to come up with a desired grouping suitable to PHIC. The rationale behind the grouping was to prevent “upcoding”, meaning that the grouping of surgeries under one value will prevent a surgeon to label his surgery under a higher procedural code thus getting a higher fee.
4. With the new utility (conversion) value 40 and based on the new Antipolo RVS, common surgeries were presented
5. Issues on orthopedic cases that PHIC brought out were the following: that one is allowed to do so however, one should note that the maximum PHIC can pay for one patient is P15, 000.00 or, and beyond this no more claims can be paid for that particular patient.

a. Debridement - has a wide range of value, which becomes a potential problem in terms of upcoding. PHIC’s position is for surgeons to justify or present documentation for surgeons charging for the maximum claim in this procedure.

Question on whether a surgeon can repeatedly claim for repeated debridement on a patient during a single confinement. PHIC responded that one is allowed to do so however, one should note that the maximum PHIC can pay for one patient is P15, 000.00 and beyond this no more claims can be paid for that particular patient.

b. Close reduction procedures will only be allowed in secondary and tertiary hospitals where radiologic evaluation is available.

c. Removal of foreign body - the value for this procedure was noted to be too high and needs to be reduced. For the benefit of the deadline a 50% reduction will be followed by PHIC, and further discussion on the matter may be pursued after Jan. 1, 2001. “What’s Up Doc” can be contacted at [poa@j-next.net](mailto:poa@j-next.net)

## Bone of Contention

# Compassion...

*(Continued from page 2)*

anything to cushion his fall. What he had held on to, however, was a live electric wire, and he suffered third degree electrical burns on both his hands and wrists.

\* \* \*

Without enough money to bring the child to the hospital for treatment, the Catampungan family went around asking for help among Masbateños. Rosgal eventually landed at the BRTTH, where my residents ended up amputating both of Rosgal's upper extremities below the elbow. The PCSO Legazpi office, through its manager Mrs. Lourdes Urbano-Ong and staffer Charo Loilo, has already extended some financial assistance to Rosgal, whose future he has to contend with, minus both of his hands and wrists. If he is lucky enough, he might be able to have for himself mechanized prosthetic hands. Maybe, an anonymous donor might be willing to help him.

\* \* \*

While both of the above patients got through me after having been helped by the PCSO, another patient with an orthopaedic problem did not reach the PCSO's attention – until I informed them about it. Roderick Balabis, an 8-year old boy, found himself and his family at the Gogon Elementary School evacuation center (again), as part of the second wave of evacuees when the Phivolcs expanded the danger zone beyond the usual 6-kilometer permanent danger zone as the alert level was increased to level 5. Although the Balabis family live in Diversion Road, Legazpi City, the family was prudent enough to heed the warning of authorities to evacuate.

\* \* \*

Life at the evacuation centers was certainly an ordeal for most of the evacuees. But Roderick's case turned for the worse, when his left leg was crushed by a passenger jeepney being used by evacuees at the Gogon Elementary School. He sustained open comminuted fractures of the left proximal tibia and fibula, and one of the bone fragments lacerated the popliteal artery. After undergoing two operations on separate occasions, including an unsuccessful attempt by my colleague-plastic surgeon Dr. Edwin del Rosario, FPCS to repair and graft the badly-damaged major artery of the leg, Roderick

eventually had to undergo above knee amputation on the left lower extremity.

\* \* \*

I had brought Roderick's case to the attention of the PCSO Legazpi office. Even after the above knee amputation stump is closed, Roderick has to contend with additional problems in the future. As a pediatric case, he might have a possible overgrowth of the amputated femoral stump. Further, he will need to have a pair of crutches and if a good Samaritan will come to his rescue, he will be lucky to have an artificial leg which will have to be changed as he grows to be an adult.

\* \* \*

These were just three orthopaedic cases that I came across in the wake of Mayor Volcano's recent gentle fury. They may be "regular" or "normal" everyday occurrences in most emergency rooms of tertiary government hospitals. I, however, chose to write about them today, so as to make myself and our other colleagues pause, and ask ourselves if we still remember the word COMPASSION in

our daily life.

\* \* \*

Postscript: Just a few days ago, I got the information that Alaiza was not able to make it back to POC where she was scheduled to be admitted after her initial consultation one month ago. Alaiza is now gone. She expired a few days ago. She probably got overwhelmed by some infection which her frail, malnourished body could not manage. It's a sad farewell for a child that needed a lot of medical attention but unluckily did not get it from our society.

\* \* \*

I wish Fate had been a lot kinder to patients of Alaiza's kind. I wish they didn't have to go through a lot of bureaucratic red tape to get the attention that they so richly deserved from our society.

\* \* \*

*(The foregoing article was excerpted with permission from The Bicol Chronicle July 15 and September 30, 2001 issues)*

## POFAS-JRRMMC postgrad...

*(Continued from page 1)*

course. POFAS president Dr. Emiliano B. Tablante and JRRMMC Orthopaedic Department chairman Dr. Florante P. Calacal were congratulated by POA president Lauro M. Abrahan, Jr. for the well-organized scientific sessions.

The local faculty included Drs. Noel Carilo, Rafael Joson, Jose Syquia, Arturo

Cañete, Jose Raul Canlas, George Winston Estera, Lilian Vllafuerte, Edwin Jerd Siatan, Rafael Claudio, Emmanuel Dela Paz, Reynaldo Ang, Enrico De Jesus, William Lavadia, Josephine Bundoc and Tablante.

The affair was supported by a CME grant from Merck Sharpe and Dohme (MSD) Phils.

## POA TRIVIA

Answer the following questions and win for yourself exciting prizes

1. In the June 2001 issue of the Ortho Balita, who was the POA Fellow shown making funny faces behind Senator Aquilino Pimentel, Jr. during the 12<sup>th</sup> MYC opening ceremonies in CDO?
2. Who is the first president of the newest POA Chapter?
3. Who was the AAOS president in 2000?
4. Who was the 13<sup>th</sup> POA president and founding president of the ASEAN Orthopaedic Association?
5. Who was the founding POA president and at what age did he die?

Send your answers to the:

Ortho Balita c/o The POA Secretariat, Suite 810, Future Point Plaza Condominium One, 112 Panay Ave, South Triangle, Quezon City 1103  
\*\*\*\*Entries must be received before December 31, 2001

# At A Glance

## CONVENTION DATES TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER 2001

**December 1** – Philippine Hip and Knee Society (PHKS) Annual Convention

Theme: Avascular Necrosis of the Femoral Head -  
A Teleconference of Nations

Venue: Makati Medical Center, Makati City

Time: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

**December 2-5** – Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) Annual Congress

Venue: EDSA Shangrila Hotel, Mandaluyong City

**December 4** – 9th Philippine Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (POSSM) Annual Convention

Theme: Exercise Without Fear: Facts and Myths

Venue: Westin Philippine Plaza, Visayas Ballroom

POA Affiliate Society participating in the subspecialty symposium - POFAS

December 4, 2001 9:00-12:00nn

Topic: Foot and Ankle Trauma

**December 5-8** – 52nd Philippine Orthopaedic Association (POA) Annual Congress

Venue: Westin Philippine Plaza

**December 5, 2001**

8:00 am - 5:00 pm - Registration

1:00 pm - Business Meeting

5:00 pm - Opening of Trades and Exhibits

6:30 pm - Fellowship Night

**December 8, 2001** - Congress Banquet and Closing Ceremonies

## ELECTION DATES TO REMEMBER

**December 3, 2001 (Monday)** - PCS Elections for Board of Regents

Time: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Voting Place: Palawan III, EDSA Shangrila Hotel

**POA Fellows Running for PCS Board of Regents 2002:**

1. Dr. Andres Borromeo, FPOA, FPCS

2. Dr. Rodolfo L. Nitollama, FPOA, FPCS

**December 5, 2001 (Wednesday)** - Elections for POA and PBO Boards of Trustees

Time: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Venue: Westin Philippine Plaza

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