



# Ortho Balita

Official Newsletter of the Philippine Orthopaedic Association, Inc.

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Volume 3 Issue No. 12

Quezon City, Philippines

December 2001

## Another milestone *New POA Home blessed, inaugurated*



**BLESSING.** Father Andrew (right) blesses the image of the Sto. Niño during the inauguration and blessing of the new POA Office last October 1, 2001, as (from left to right) POA Treasurer Dr. Rodolfo L. Nitollama, Immediate Past POA Pres. Dr. Regalado L. Dela Paz, POA Pres. Dr. Lauro M. Abrahan, Jr. and PCS Pres. Dr. Alberto B. Roxas watch and hold lighted candles.

**F**inally, the Philippine Orthopaedic Association, Inc. moved to its new home on October 1, 2001.

It was another milestone achieved by the POA 52 years after its inception in 1949. Having stayed at the mezzanine floor of the Philippine Orthopedic Center (POC) for so many years, in the process being mistaken for as a part of the POC  
*(Continued to page 23)*

## All that fuzz, and more

**D**eposed former president Joseph "Erap" Estrada hugged the limelight once more when his lawyers and his political party, the

Partido ng Masang Pilipino, petitioned the Sandiganbayan to allow the former president to undergo sur-

*(Continued to page 9)*

## BONE OF CONTENTION

RODOLFO L. NITOLLAMA, MD, FPOA



# Top Stories of 2001

**B**efore I proceed with the main menu of this issue's column, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all POA fellows for their kind support during the Philippine College of Surgeons Board of Regents elections last December 3, 2001. I shall cherish this second stint of mine in the PCS BOR (the first was in 1994), and I shall always work with the welfare of all PCS and POA fellows in mind and in my heart. With my twin functions in both the POA and PCS, I shall double my efforts to be able to serve you better.

\* \* \*

2001 was such a hectic year for the POA (especially for president Boy Abrahan who had to look after the POA and the UERM '76 alumni homecoming almost at the same time). I consider the transfer to the new POA office as this year's top story for the POA. Close behind were developments on which we hardly had any control at all, but were shaped and dictated by memorable political events in the country. I refer to the so-called "EDSA II" in January 2001 and "EDSA III - The Siege of Malacañang" in May 2001 and the controversy generated by former President Estrada's knees. Internationally, the World Trade Center and Pentagon bombings on September 11, 2001 likewise marginally affected the POA in a way.

\* \* \*

2001 was also the year when the POA Board of Trustees set forth the path for a kinder, more humane POA. It all started with an initial visit on April 7, 2001 to the Cottolengo Filipino Inc. (Bahay Para

Sa May Kapansanan). The sight of 34 children with various physical and mental abnormalities pricked the POA social conscience. Fulfilling a promise, the POA Board of Trustees and their families and friends returned on November 23, 2001 and played Santa to the kids. It was like Christmas in November for the grateful kids and their caretakers. And the POA has just begun what could yet turn out as an annual pilgrimage and a mission to disabled kids.

\* \* \*

2001 also saw significant developments insofar as the POA chapters are concerned. The POA Western Visayas Chapter became the POA's 5<sup>th</sup> and newest chapter when 14 active fellows from the Western Visayas region signed on January 9, 2001 a petition to the POA Board of Trustees for the formation of a new chapter. It was formalized when Dr. Jose Maria Coruña and his set of officers were formally inducted by Dr. Abrahan on March 27, 2001. The formation of the POA Western Visayas Chapter came 52 years after the POA was founded, 29 years after it was incorporated and 10 years after its first four regional chapters were created.

Two other significant events happened in the chapter front. The POA South Luzon Chapter won the first Best POA Chapter Award. Its president at that time is Dr. Geronimo B. Sales. Meanwhile, the POA Mindanao Chapter made history of sorts when it earned for the POA an amount unprecedented in POA midyear convention history with its successful hosting of the 12th POA midyear convention in Cagayan

De Oro in May 2001.

Other events worth mentioning in 2001 are the following: The UP-PGH department of orthopaedics celebrated last December 8, 2001 its Pearl (30th) Anniversary at The Pearl Hotel in Manila; The 2001 POA Directory of Fellows was published; a computerized system of registration was implemented for the first time during the 52nd POA annual convention.

\* \* \*

The political turmoil that swept the nation in 2001 saw the passing of the political torch from former President Estrada to new President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. And as we were about to take off at NAIA II for Cagayan De Oro City for the 12th POA midyear convention, Malacañang was under siege by forces sympathetic to Erap. And what a controversy ( or fuzz) the former President through his lawyers and physicians stirred with the petition they filed at the Sandiganbayan to allow Erap to have his total knee replacement surgery done in the US. Bin Laden's handiwork of bombing the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on 9-11 (isn't this the emergency number 911 for the USA?) caused the cancellation of the trips to the Philippines of some of our foreign speakers for the 52nd annual convention. But as it turned out, the show went on and the affair was a success. Here's wishing that 2002 would bring more significant, more beneficial, and more prosperous news events for us.

## PBO Corner

# 32 pass PBO Diplomate exams

**T**hirty-two graduates of accredited orthopedic residency training programs are now diplomates of the Philippine Board of Orthopaedics (PBO) after passing the PBO written, oral and practical examinations. They were recognized during the opening ceremonies of the 52<sup>nd</sup> POA Annual Convention last Dec. 5, 2001.

PBO chairman Dr. Mario B.

Geronilla announced the top ten examinees in the diplomate examinations. They are Drs. Francisco H. Roura (POC); Alvin A. Amador (POC); Miguel Enrique G. Valencia (POC); Rolando Angelo T. Ochoa (POC); Wilson C. Dela Calzada (UP-PGH); Misael Jonathan A. Ticman (EAMC), Emmanuel P. Estrella (UP-PGH); Jose Marcelino S. Cayton (JRRMMC); Gerard A. Catacutan

(AFPMC) and Daniel V. Dungca (UP-PGH). Nine of the 41 examinees did not make it.

Beginning this year, the PBO has implemented computerized correction of the written examinations. This has resulted in more efficient and more accurate determination of the examinees' written exam performance.

## EAMC: Young but dynamic training program

**A**n accredited program since 1995, the East Avenue Medical Center Section of Orthopedics has gone a long way in its pursuit for excellence in training and providing high quality health care among its patients.

It celebrated the inauguration of its new office located at the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the west wing of the EAMC last May 24, 2001. The inauguration coincided with the annual visit of the Philippine Board of Orthopaedics which had recently approved four years of accreditation.

The new office serves as venue for the weekly conferences held by the Diliman Orthopedic Linkage composed of East Avenue Medical Center, AFPMC and Veterans Memorial Medical Center. It can seat up to 40 persons. The section also upgraded its audio-visual facilities by acquiring its own overhead projector, a scanner, printers, opaque projector and sound system. Moreover, the office contains a

library which is equipped with the latest collection of orthopedic textbooks and CDs and has the internet.

The section, started two major outreach projects. First was the blood letting program which was held at Camp Aguinaldo last September. This was in cooperation with the Armed Forces Reserved Command (AFRESCOM) thru Col. Cruz. The AFRESCOM often has been tapped for blood donations and had always responded with generosity. Twenty bags of blood were collected from donors.

The second major project was the tie-up between the section and the Bantay Bata Foundation of ABS-CBN, a project which is aimed at helping abused children. Commonly referred cases are children with fractures from physical assaults. However, a number of clubfoot cases are now starting to come in. The residents also visited the Chosen Children in Silang, Cavite which houses around 135 special children.

The section has been holding the biennial orthopedic week with the theme "I was Lumpo". Exhibits were held at the EAMC lobby featuring the section's activities. Special lectures on accident prevention for children and scientific symposia were given. This year, the orthopedic week was observed from Nov. 12 – 17. Lectures were scheduled on osteoporosis and osteoarthritis. Workshops on spinal instrumentation and microvascular surgery were conducted.

This year's results of the ITE exam, conducted by the PBO, saw one of our residents Dr. Romel Estillore, topping the 1<sup>st</sup> year level. The rest of our residents are in the top ten in all other year levels, including the qualifying exam.

Through the leadership of the present head of section, Dr. Mario B. Geronilla, expect more activities in the following months.



**IWAS LUMPO:** EAMC orthopedic section chief and PBO Chairman Dr. Mario B. Geronilla (3rd from left) with Drs. Joeffrey Battad, Jose Manuel F. Ignacio, Emily Tanchuling, Ruben Arafles, Albert Dy and Edwin Jerd Statan during the "Iwas Lumpo" celebration Sept. 6-10, 1999

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

LAURO M. ABRAHAN, JR., MD, FPOA

# President's Annual Report



## I. POA MATTERS

**I.1.** The Mindanao Chapter through its Cagayan de Oro Fellows headed by Dr. Wewel Sison and trustee Renan Abellera hosted the very successful 13<sup>th</sup> POA Midyear Convention at the Xavier Estates last May 3-5, 2001.

*-Despite the trouble in Manila there were about 310 attendees in this event.*

*-The Pre-congress meetings by the Philippine Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Society and the Philippine Spine Society were well attended also.*

*-The POA Research Paper Contest was moved from July to the POA midyear to enable our fellows to participate actively.*

*-The 1<sup>st</sup> Resident's Quiz Contest was likewise held during this meeting and will therefore be an annual affair that will coincide with our mid-year meetings.*

**I.2.** The Cebu Eastern Visayas Chapter elected its set of officers last September 2001 in Cebu.  
*Dr. Pablo Ilano III - President*  
*Dr. Manuel A. Lumapas -*

*Vice-President*

*Dr. Tyrone Jude Mercader -*

*Secretary*

*Dr. Fidencio Pañares - Treasurer*

*Dr. Jose Z. Flordelis - Trustee*

**I.3.** The new office of the POA at Futurepoint Condominium was inaugurated last October 1, 2001, with about 90 guests gracing the occasion.

*-Office needs have been identified and prioritized as to which ones need immediate purchasing.*

*-This is now the official home of the POA, as we own the place and its fixtures.*

*-All fellows are invited and welcome to visit our new office.*

**I.4.** The POA partici-

pated in the Bone and Joint Decade week last October 14-20, 2001.

*-Dr. dela Paz led the POA delegation during the opening ceremonies on Sunday, October 14 at the Quirino Grandstand. The assigned day for the POA was Wednesday, October 17. A series of activities transpired during the day and was capped by a dinner symposium jointly hosted with the Philippine Hip and Knee Society on Osteoarthritis/ Osteoporosis. There were 4 speakers for the occasion: Dr. Ramon Gustilo, Dr. Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan, Dr. Sandra Navarra and Dr. Sandra Tankeh-Torres.*

*-The weeklong festivities culminated on Saturday Dec 20 with a dinner for a cause: Christmas in October at the Davao Room of the Westin Philippine Plaza.*

*-The POA has been tasked to be the lead organization for the year 2002.*

**I.5.** The POA Board of Trustees with their families visited again the Cottolengo Filipino to bring Christmas cheers to the handicapped children last November 24, 2001.

*-The Association donated diapers, books, toys, and other materials and bought lunch for the 38 children and about 15 volunteer workers manning the place.*

*-Our sincere appreciation to our donor companies:*

*= Pfizer Philippines for the 4 vans that we used.*

*= Biomedis/ Westmont, for medicines (vitamins, antipyretics, antibiotics, cough and cold preparations).*

*= Bristol Myers Squibb for the assorted medicines (vitamins, antipyretics)*

*= Nestle Philippines for the 2 big boxes of milk (Bear Brand)*

*- The POA is committed*

*to set up a playground for next year (2002).*

**1.6.** The POA will be inducting 24 fellows for this year. A briefing with the Vice-President and Secretary will take place before the Opening Ceremonies to stress the importance of our roles as fellows of the Association and to explain in brief the constitution and by-laws of the Association.

**1.7.** The POA website will be fully operational after the launch during the business meeting of the POA on December 5, 2001. The different activities of the mother association, the chapters and subspecialty societies can be accessed in this website: <http://www.philortho.org> This website was made possible with the assistance of Pfizer Philippines, Inc.

## II. PCS MATTERS:

**II.1.** The Board of Trustees attended the following PCS seminars/ workshops:

*-PCS Mission-Vision seminar May 12, 2001*

*-RVS workshops on July 21 and September 29. The RVS Manual will come out on January 2002 tentatively. The agreed amount per unit value is P40.*

*-The signing of the final MOA with AHMOPI took place at the PCS office on July 1, 2001.*

*-Workshop on the Creation of Evidence Based Clinical Practice Guidelines on July 28, 2001 at the Bonaventure Plaza, Greenhills.*

*-68<sup>th</sup> PCS Foundation day Anniversary Ball on September 12, 2001 at the EDSA Shangri-la.*

**II.2.** The PCS approved the application for membership of 17 POA fellows and induction was scheduled on December 2, 2001 dur-

*(Continued to page 5)*

## President's ...

(Continued from page 4)

ing the Opening Ceremonies of their Annual Congress.

**II.3.** We nominated Dr. Andres Borromeo for the position of regent in the PCS and this was approved by the nominations committee and added the name of Dr. Rodolfo Nitollama in the list of nominees, which totaled 19 for 15 regent positions.

**II.4.A** planned joint congress was proposed for 2003 involving all subspecialty societies and technical details will be discussed in 2002.

### III.AOA MATTERS:

**III.1.** The AOA fellowships

-The AOA-Zimmer travelling fellow was Dr. Venancio P. Garduce, Jr. and his program covered the period May 21- June 17, 2001 culminating in the AOA (American Orthopaedic Association) Annual Congress at West Palm Beach, Florida, USA

-The AOA Senior Travelling fellow was Dr. Antonio Montalban whose sojourn started on July 14 and ended on July 29, 2001. They were hosted by the POA from July 17-20, 2001.

-The J&J EFORT travelling fellow was Dr. Jean Pierre Leung and his fellowship commenced on September 2 and ended on September 11 in time for the British Orthopaedic Association's Annual Congress in Birmingham, UK.

-The last of the AOA fellowships was the 19<sup>th</sup> Junior Travelling fellowship, which ran from September 9 till October 14, 2001 ending in Bali, Indonesia for the 21<sup>st</sup> AOA Congress. The POA representative was Dr. Edmund Oreta of UP-PGH and they were hosted by the POA from September 30- October 7, 2001.

**III.2.** The 21<sup>st</sup> AOA Congress was held in Bali, Indonesia on October 10-13, 2001 at the Discovery Kartika Plaza Hotel.

**III.2.1.** Eight Filipino Orthopods attended this meeting and were the biggest international delega-

tion.

**III.2.2.** In the Council Meeting several important issues were addressed:

= *The POA was able to bid for the 2005 AOA meeting which is its silver jubilee anniversary thru the kindness of Dr. Suthorn.*

= *The 5-year schedule of AOA is as follows:*

2002- Singapore

2003- Malaysia

2004- Thailand

2005- Philippines

2006- Indonesia

-*The Singapore Orthopaedic Association will be hosting the 22<sup>nd</sup> AOA Congress on October 13-16, 2002 at the Westin Stamford Hotel. This will coincide also with the APOSSM meeting.*

-*The AOA-AAOS Instructional course will be held in Bangkok Thailand on October 18-19, 2002. The regional topics will cover the shoulder and elbow.*

-*Problems with funding of AOA Junior Travelling Fellowship were addressed due to withdrawal of support of Stryker-Howmedica. A proposal to make it on alternate year with the Senior Travelling fellowship was made.*

=*Barring complications the next schedule for the Junior Travelling Fellowship is on September 15 to October 20, 2002.*

*The Senior Travelling fellowship will commence 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July 2002*

-*The Zimmer-AOA travelling fellowship will push thru and we will be represented by Dr. Arturo C. Cañete.*

-*The J&J EFFORT Travelling Fellowship will be hosted by Professor Voila from Austria. The 2002 fellows will come from Thailand and Indonesia.*

-*On the AOA Journal, the issues raised were lack of good articles for publication. One problem is that the journal is not indexed.*

-*As an incentive the registration fee for the AOA Convention will be waived if the paper has been approved for presentation by the scientific meeting committee which includes publication rights in the AOA Jour-*

## Ucok new prexy of ASEAN OA

**D**r. Ucok P. Siregar of Indonesia is the new president of the ASEAN Orthopaedic Association after he was elected during the 21st Annual Council Meeting of the ASEAN OA on October 2001 at Discovery Cartica Plaza Hotel in Bali, Indonesia. He succeeded Dr. Prasit Gonggetyai.

Dr. Ucok is the head of the pediatric division and clinical senior consultant of the department of orthopedic surgery of the school of medicine, University of Indonesia.

nal.

= *At least 3 papers from the 5 National Orthopaedic Association Member countries will be submitted for publication.*

-*There was a proposal for an exchange residency program among residents of different accredited training institutions within the AOA member countries for a period of 2-4 weeks.*

### IV. AOA/AAOS MATTERS:

(American Orthopaedic Association/ American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons)

**IV.1.** The Annual Congress of the American Orthopaedic Association was held at the Breaker's Beach Hotel, West Palm Beach, Florida on June 13-16, 2001. In Attendance were about 600 members including international Presidents of the different Orthopaedic Associations worldwide, the Orthopaedic Subspecialty Presidents of North America, and the travelling fellows.

**IV.2.** The POA submitted the paper of Dr. Edward Wang as our entry for the poster session at the AAOS 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress in Dallas, Texas. The title of the paper is "Predictive Factors in Osteosarcoma of the Extremity".

## WHAT'S UP DOC? CORNER

### ARTURO C. CAÑETE, MD, FPOA



# Proposed amendments: my views

**W**e are aware that in the growth process of any organization, one can expect that the molting that it undergoes will inherently require changes in its policies to make it more relevant to the times. It is in this light that we once again subject our constitution under the magnifying glass basically for posterity's sake. With this in mind, close scrutiny of the different articles of our constitution, revealed certain articles that we believe should be presented to the membership for possible amendment. These include the following:

#### 1. SECTION 4.5 - 1. A Fellow in Good Standing

1.1 A Fellow is considered in good standing if:

a. He has complied with the attendance requirements of the Association

b. He is not suspended from any membership privileges or from the practice of medicine.

c. He is not delinquent in the payment of his financial obligations.

**\*Proposed Amendment: - SECTION 4.5 (Add)**

**1.2 A Fellow in good standing shall also be referred to as an Active Fellow.**

**RATIONALE:** There have been several instances where the term "active fellow" has been used in the articles of this constitution, and yet no definition of said term has been explicitly made within any of the articles. Every time the term "active fellow" is used there seems to be reference to a fellow of good standing, hence it is our proposal that fellows in good standing be also referred to as "active fellow".

**USE OF THE TERM "ACTIVE FELLOW" ARE NOTED IN THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES:**

a. Quorum - Except in cases where the law provides otherwise, 20% of

active Fellows shall constitute quorum for the transaction of business. The decision of the majority of the quorum shall constitute a valid corporate act.

b. SECTION 3.6 - i. Such right as may be conferred upon every active member from time to time.

#### 2. SECTION 5.3 Accreditation of Training Programs:

a. The Philippine Orthopaedic Association, shall be responsible for accreditation of the different orthopaedic training programs in the country.

b. An Accreditation Committee shall be formed by the Board of Trustees of the Association. It shall be tasked with the following...

**\*Proposed Amendment:**

**b. An Accreditation Body shall be formed by the Board of Trustees of the Association through an election of its' members and It shall be referred to as the Philippine Board of Orthopaedics. The body shall be tasked with the following...**

**RATIONALE:** The Philippine Board of Orthopaedics has already been existent for the past years, and yet, the pertinent provision in the POA constitution has not yet been changed.

#### 3. (ARTICLE - on Automatic Termination) SECTION 4.2

**Automatic Termination- The Board shall automatically terminate:**

A Fellow who fails to pay his dues for three (3) consecutive years after proper notification, and a Fellow who fails to achieve the yearly OCME credit requirements for three (3) consecutive years.

**\*Proposal:**

**•Modification of the Article on Automatic Termination by remov-**

**ing the phrase "proper notification"**

•One can also increase 3 years to 4 or 5 years for both deficiencies.

**RATIONALE:** First we would like to state that we are cognizant of the sensitivity of this issue considering that at stake here is the membership of a Fellow of the POA. It is however my belief as previous Chairman of the Membership Committee that we should look more closely into this very important article and try to decide if it should remain as is, or should we try to modify and improve it. Suggestions or comments as to how it should be modified would be most welcome. Just send your proposal to the secretariat.

•It has been the experience of the Board that those Fellows who are in the list for Termination do not have updated addresses, thus creating a problem in correspondence which in turn would now preclude "proper notification" of the involved Fellow.

•There is also the problem regarding what the legal definition of "proper notification" is. Should it be considered as similar to a subpoena, considering the gravity of the consequence? Or will a newspaper announcement or registered letter be adequate? When can we legally say that proper notification has been achieved? Again let me reiterate that communication is a problem.

•The word Automatic Termination literally construed would simply mean "automatic", just like the article on Automatic Termination in the By-Laws of the AOSSM where there is no mention of properly notifying a member.

•Considering all the factors mentioned above, it is now being proposed that we remove from the Board the

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# PHKS Teleconferencing: a first

**T**he Philippine Hip and Knee Society (PHKS) achieved another first in Philippine scientific meeting history when it held its Teleconference of Nations at the Makati Medical Center (MMC) Doctors' Lounge last December 1, 2001.

The topic of the teleconference is "Avascular Necrosis of the Femoral Head". Basically, the teleconference involved two medical centers in the United States, one in South Korea, another in Singapore and the MMC in the Philippines. Due to the advanced technology that we now have and thanks to the teleconferencing facilities of the MMC, the main resource persons in the panels in the four countries were lecturing and discussing important issues on the topic as if they were face to face. (Even the speakers in San Francisco and in Singapore noticed how younger-looking Prof. Gustilo is nowadays) With their faces flashed across the big TV screens and monitors, and their voices loud and clear (even the background noise can be heard) the speakers and the audience learned a lot during the three-hour conference.

The main reactors were Prof. Ramon B. Gustilo, Prof. Myung Yoo of the Department of Orthopedics at Kyung Hee University Hospital, Korea, Dr. Ellewelyn G. Pasion of UP-PGH and POA President Dr. Lauro M. Abrahan, Jr.

The overseas speakers were Dr. David Schurman of Stanford University Hospital in California, Dr. Guy



**PANELISTS** POA President Dr. Lauro M. Abrahan, Jr. and UP-PGH Orthopedic Chairman Dr. Ellewelyn G. Pasion listen intently with Prof. Myung Yoo and Prof. Ramon B. Gustilo as the teleconference was in progress (top photo). Attendees (middle photo) watch the TV monitors and listen to the Singaporean and American speakers. (Above) A youthful-looking Prof. Gustilo and Prof. Myung Yoo flank Dr. Myung's fellow.

Paimenti of University of California in San Francisco, Prof. Lo Ngai Nung of Singapore General Hospital, Prof SM Kumta of Chinese University of Hong Kong and Prof. Myung Yoo.

The teleconference moderator is Dr. Jose Eduardo Rondain,

Telemedicine Director of MMC, while the program moderator is Dr. Emilia P. Halili-Tanchuling. It was a successful 6th annual meeting of the PHKS, and it turned around the fortunes of the PHKS after very few attended its 5th annual meeting last year.

## What's up Doc?...

(Continued from page 6)

burden of proving that the delinquent member involved, has been properly notified, and instead let it be explicitly stated in the constitution that it is the responsibility of the fellow to show just cause why he has not paid

his annual dues and simultaneously not attended the required meetings of the organization for the past 3 consecutive years.

If you really think about it, it is really quiet easy to circumvent the consequences of this article, because one needs only to pay one annual due every 3 years and not at-

tend any meeting or attend an annual meeting once in every 3 years without paying your annual membership dues. Doing this however, will make it difficult to get a certificate of good standing, and currently we demand what the constitution requires for one to qualify for a status of good standing.

# PHKS reacts to Erap issue

## *Dr. A. Dy's letter to PDI editors*

Nov. 10, 2001

Dear Editor,

The past weeks saw several articles, opinions and comments regarding the ex-president's arthritic knees, with statements from a US-based doctor that equipment and facilities are not available in the Philippines so that Erap will need to go to the US for his treatment.

As a practicing orthopedic surgeon, I felt I should react and clarify to the public that the treatment being referred to is a total knee replacement. This procedure has been done in our country since the late 70's. Several government as well as private institutions are equipped to do it. There exists an organization of subspecialist orthopedic doctors interested in the treatment of arthritic hip and knees. Our registry show 300 cases of total joint replacements are being done on a yearly basis as far north as Baguio and as far south as Davao. In Metro Manila where this procedure is more commonly done, there is no lack of equipment nor implants needed to do this procedure. Rehabilitation protocols closely follow US models, so that success rates are comparable to centers abroad. As to doctors, the Philippine Orthopaedic Association has a roster of very qualified hip and knee surgeons who will be more than willing to take on his case.

I hope this issue can be put to rest. Like cataract surgery, it is commonplace and can be done here without a doubt. It is rather, an issue of personal choice, and I cite Sen. Loi Estrada who said, "We may have the best doctors but if the patient is not at ease with them or does not have faith in them, the treatment would not be effective". (PDI, 11/10/01)

The central issue therefore is: Why does Estrada not trust the doctors here?

Albert U. Dy, Jr., MD, FPOA  
Vice President  
Phil. Hip & Knee Society

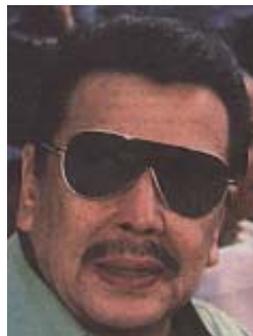
## *Dr. Leagogo's letter to the Sandiganbayan*

November 22, 2001

*Dear Sir: (Justice Francis Garchitorea)*

Please allow me to react on the issue of the former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada's appeal of having his osteoarthritic knees to be operated by Dr. Christopher Mow in Stanford University in California, USA. The reason for the operation in America is for the lack of proper equipment for surgeries of this nature in our country. The surgery that would be performed on the former president is that of a total knee replacement.

I would like to state that total knee replacement is being done in the Philippines by orthopedic surgeons since the 1980s. It is neither an uncommon nor a rare surgery. As for the competence of the local orthopedic surgeons, the Philippines has more than



fifteen Filipino orthopedic surgeons who have taken fellowships in total joint replacements in the US, Europe, Australia and Japan and who I

assure can do this surgery successfully. A society of orthopedic surgeons who are into joint surgery, The Philippine Hip and Knee Society, was established in 1991 to promote and develop this specialty. The society regularly holds convention, meetings and workshops to ensure that the knowledge and skills of its members are always at par with that of the advanced countries. Dr. Ramon B. Gustilo, a world renowned orthopedic surgeon, whose specialty is in total knee replacement in the US (one of the top twenty there) and who I am sure Dr. Mow also knows, comes to the Philippines frequently and does this surgery here too.

As for the lack of the proper equipment for the operation, may I say

## *Dr. Mow's e-mail to the POA Fellows*

To my Colleagues of the Philippine Orthopaedic Association,

Dr. Lauro Abrahan asked me to write to all of you concerning the press coverage of the past two weeks concerning my patient, former President Joseph Estrada. At the patient's request, a medical report was prepared last July, detailing his condition and recommended treatment, bilateral total kneereplacement.

In the report, there was no reference to the reknown expertise of the Philippine Orthopaedic Community, nor was it stated anywhere that there is an "immediate" need for the surgery, or that it could "only" be done in the US. The quotation of "specialized equipment" referred to the possible need for revision/constrained type implants, which were not available in the Philippines when I checked with the three major international manufacturers in July.

I have enjoyed and benefited from over 3 years of active academic exchange with the fellows of the Philippine Orthopaedic Association, through your excellent annual meeting and visits to the hospitals. I have the utmost respect for your expertise, and consider several of you my teachers. I look forward to continuing the strong tradition of the POA of international exchange with all of you.

Sincerely,  
Christopher S. Mow, MD

that there are at least three companies here in the Philippines that adequately provide the implant and the instrumentation for the total knee replacement. As a matter of fact, one of the companies, Orthopaedic International which is based in Cabuyao, Laguna, after making a study on Asian joints and has come out with a total knee prosthesis that is most appropriate for Orientals. This has been tried and tested in the Philippines, Japan and Thailand.

I therefore think that the former president can safely have his total knee replacement be done here in the country.

Liberato Antonio C. Leagogo, jr., MD  
President, PHKS

# All that fuzz, and more

(Continued from page 1)

geries for his knees and his eyes in the United States.

Erap's allies quoted a supposed letter from his orthopedic surgeon in the US, Dr. Christopher Mow, regarding the need to have the surgery on his knees done in the US supposedly for lack of available equipment and expertise in the Philippines. This drew sharp reactions from the POA Board of Trustees and the Philippine Hip and Knee Society (PHKS), among others.

Through POA President Dr. Lauro M. Abrahan, Jr., the POA assured the public of the capability and expertise of many Filipino orthopedic surgeons to deal with conditions such as Erap's illness. Likewise, PHKS President Dr. Liberato Antonio C. Leagogo, Jr. and PHKS Vice-President Dr. Albert U. Dy wrote separate letters to Sandiganbayan presiding justice Francis Garchitorena and to the Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) editors, respectively.

In a related development, Dr. Mow, who was invited and hosted by the POA as one of its speakers during the POA Golden Anniversary celebration, sent an e-mail to POA Fellows thru Dr. Abrahan last November 15, 2001 to explain his side.

Erap's predicament appear to be related to the degenerative osteoarthritis of his knees, which will require total knee replacement and rehabilitation post-operatively. Meanwhile, under heavy guard and intense security, former president Estrada underwent cataract surgery at the Rockwell Center in Makati this month as an outpatient. After the operation, he was quoted by newspapermen to have sarcastically remarked, "*Oo ngayon, mas malinaw na malinaw na nakikita ko ang mga katiwalian sa ating gobyerno*".

## Position Paper of the POA

The Philippine Orthopaedic Association, the national association of orthopaedic surgeons in the Philippines through its Board of Trustees would like to clarify some issues printed in the newspapers on November 7, 2001. This pertains to the capabilities and expertise of the Filipino orthopaedic surgeon and the availability of equipments in our major medical centers for the surgical treatment of Degenerative Osteoarthritis.

We would like to assure the public that our organization with 358 active fellows has the capability and expertise to treat all kinds of Orthopaedic problems. Most of our fellows after their 4-year residency-training program go for subspecialty fellowship training in prestigious medical centers in America, Europe, and the Asia Pacific rim. They have established links internationally and have constantly exchanged ideas, knowledge and expertise in the different fields such as joint replacement, spine, pediatric orthopaedics, orthopaedic trauma, sports injuries, hand and microvascular surgery, and adult orthopaedics.

Our Association has 7 subspecialty affiliate societies, one of which is the Philippine Hip and Knee Society founded in 1991 by a group of renowned specialists headed by Prof. Ramon Gustilo, former chairman of the Department of Orthopaedics, Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota. This organization started the evolution of excellent orthopaedic care of patients suffering from Degenerative Osteoarthritis, Rheumatoid Arthritis and other related Arthritic conditions.

A number of medical centers and some government institutions have procured equipment appropriate for these problems including pre and postoperative rehabilitation care by trained rehabilitation medical specialists and medical management by competent Filipino rheumatologists.

Because of this improvement in the care of arthritic patients, an increasing number of our Filipino patients who can afford to go abroad for treatment have now availed of these excellent care by these multi specialty group of orthopaedic surgeons, rheumatologists and rehabilitation medical specialists.

The answer is clear therefore, that total care of the arthritic patient is readily available in the Philippines. This includes availability of implants and instrumentations for total joint replacements, as marketed by one local manufacturer and 3 other big international orthopaedic companies through their distributors.

We hope that this clears the air of doubt about the capability of the Filipino orthopaedic surgeons and their allied specialties to deliver excellent Total Care of our patient population suffering from arthritis and related disorders. We however, do not take out the privilege and preferences of individual patients to choose their own physician and seek treatment here or abroad.

**LAURO M. ABRAHAN, JR., MD, FPOA, FPCS**  
President

# A promise kept and fulfilled

## Cottolengo revisited

After the POA Board of Trustees visited the Cottolengo Filipino for the first time last April, it made a promise that it will come back before the year is over.

True enough, they kept the promise and came back on Nov. 24, 2001 and played Santa to the disabled kids. It was like Christmas in November.

In the following series of pictures, Ortho Balita tries to capture the heartwarming details of the POA Board of Trustees' visit. They came with their families and the POA secretariat. They hosted lunch for the kids and distributed toys, gifts, and other essentials. They left behind boxes of medicines, nappies, and

food, and went home with the feeling that somehow, they gave the disabled children something to cheer about.

It won't be the last visit yet - plans are afoot to construct a playground for the children in the near future.

### CAPTIONS:

1) Rap-rap Dela Rosa, youngest son of POA trustee Dr. Miles Dela Rosa and wife Lorna, tries the mask of POA Santa Claus Dr. Rod Nitollama as Alice Dela Paz and Dr. Nel Cañete look on. 2) Preparing to go to Cottolengo (from left) Drs. Reggie Dela Paz, Ed Sarrosa, Rod Nitollama, Bimboy Garduce and Johnny Villaluz with Alice Dela Paz.

3) Santa Claus mask "poses" with boxes of medicines and other goodies. 4) POA Santa helps feed a disabled kid. 5) POA Secretary, Dr. Art Cañete helps feed another disabled kid. 5) POA vice president Dr. Bimboy Garduce and POA Santa embrace a Cottolengo kid. 7) POA trustee Dr. Miles Dela Rosa cuddles another disabled kid. 8) Cottolengo marker recalls dedication of the building with then vice president and DSWD secretary Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Most Rev. Antonio Franco as guests of honor.



# And POA played Santa



## MORE CAPTIONS:

9) Original Santa Claus couldn't hold a candle to POA Santas. 10) Fr. Tae receives the donation of medicines, food and supplies from Dr. Boy Abrahan and the POA Board of Trustees. 11) POA Extended committee members led by Nel Cañete, Lorna Dela Rosa, Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan and Alice Dela Paz and their children with Fr. Tae and his staff. 12) POA

First Family: Drs. Boy and Mary Anne Abrahan and their 3 children, Sonny, Ces and Edward. 13) Upon arrival at Cottolengo: Drs. Ed Sarrosa, Boy Abrahan, Rod Nitollama with Sol De Jesus, Michael Dela Rosa, Ces Abrahan and Mike Villanueva. 14) "Youngest" POA Santa Dr. Johnny Villaluz. 15) POA Santa Rod Nitollama with Michael Dela Rosa holding the gifts before they were distributed to the disabled

kids. 16) POA trustees and secretariat staff serving food and assisting the disabled Cottolengo kids.

## POSTSCRIPT

*Playing Santa to the disabled kids was a memorable and unforgettable experience. The joy that one felt inside the heart more than compensated for all the troubles one had to go through in wearing a rubberized mask and a red Santa outfit.*

# UP-PGH Pearl Anniversary

By Dr. Danny Caro

**D**ecember 8, 1941 is a day that will forever live in in famy..." in more ways than one. On that day, Pearl Harbor was attacked. Thirty years later on Dec. 8, 1971, the UP-PGH Department of Orthopedics was born. And it has been thirty years since, paving the way for the Pearl Anniversary celebration at "the Pearl, Manila". Uncanny coincidences perhaps, but events do have a way of coming together for a purpose, as did sixty-seven bona fide alumni/ae, plus their partners and special friends of the department. The record 80+% attendance makes this the best attended homecoming to date. With all these, it was expected that the affair would turn out to be no less than an unforgettable one.

The theme: "Iba ang may pinagsamahan... Let's go! (back to the 70's)" – was chosen to celebrate the humanity, camaraderie and the sense of belonging to what is known as the "Ortho Family". Upon entering the ambience of a disco greets you with the dancing lights, the familiar music and the stage occupied by the homegrown "Ortho Band". Overall chair Lewy Pasion led the welcome, with no less than the POA President Boy Abraham present to greet the alumni and guests.



**CHEERS!** UP-PGH Orthopedics top honcho Dr. Lewy Pasion raises a mug of San Miguel Beer while proposing a toast to the Alumni. "Let's Go!"... in the lower part of backdrop refers partly to first department chairman Dr. Jose V. Silao's favorite slogan everytime he invites his boys in the 70's to jump out for action in any activity - academic or otherwise.

Many came in period costumes as requested, shiny shirts with pointed collars and bell-bottom knit pants. Wewel Sison and Nonen would have won the award for best costume, with their Tie-dye shirts, denim flares and clogs (complete with "juts"), had it not been for the coup pulled by Ted Tacata, who came in the room sporting a crop of long hair, with pony-tail tied neatly behind (a la April "Boy" Regino) – a miracle, no less.

Over cocktails and ever-flowing beer, the pandemonium built up, with three decades of alumni renewing ties and exchanging stories. The program prepared was not to be outdone either. Kups Villaruel's slide show – "An Irreverent History of the Department..." (indeed!) brought the house down with his usual wit and the unusual, albeit embarrassing, pictures from the past (tThanks to Randy Puno and Danny Dungca). As the reminiscing and teasing continued, the traditional "tribute" (a.k.a. "roasting") to the retiree-honoree was held. Dr. Nap Apolinario, his wife, Dola and the rest were treated to an equally irreverent but nonetheless loving testimonial video production prepared by kups, Junji Lansang and Edith Catbagan, among others. The footsteps of the great man were followed throughout his "three families", i.e., his ancestral family at Los Baños, his nuclear family at Tierra Pura, and his other beloved family – the Department of Orthopedics – where he continues to spend the best years of his life, also.

Perhaps one of the highlights of the evening was the "Ortho Trivia" game show, named "The Weakest

(Continued to page 13)



**THE PEARL ANNIVERSARY ORGANIZING COMMITTEE & friends** strike a pose with the beer bottle mascot and backdrop: Jonj, Junji, Jet, Jay & Mark, Wewel, Lewy, Nap, Kups, Nelson, Kiko, Judith, Karl & Nap (of the 70s), Rommel, Dave, Gary, Danny, Jovy, Maxi, Boni, Ian, Paolo, Steve, and Ramses

## UP-PGH Pearl...

(Continued from page 12)

Link", in keeping with the latest craze on TV. But this time it was it was hosted not by Edu Manzano but by Jay Suntay; someone who might just replace him, judging from his natural gift for insulting people, regardless of rank and stature. Just ask his victims: Ted Tacata, Nap Apolinario, Bert Velasco, Boni Tanbonliong, Ed Wang, Wewel Sison, Mickey Morales, Nick Nicomedez, among others. This game served as the transition to the other game of the night: the "Vice Relay". Here the best of the batches came forth and fought for the honor of being from the "best decade" of all. Such a rare sight to see: grown men from the 70s the 80s, the 90s and the present batch of residents trying to outdo each other at ridiculous acts. We will always remember how quickly Gar Eufemio downed the hot beer, or how fast Minyong Valenzuela

sucked out the cigarette, or how skillful Nick Nicomedez was the condom, or how will Bert Velasco savored the siopao.

But the night was not yet to end at that point. By this time, the infamous raucousness characteristic of the "Ortho Friday Club" was getting to its noisiest level. Undaunted, JP Leung, Emman dela Paz, Jovy Angeles, Bufo Gatchalian, Paolo Punzalan, Junji Lansang, Gee Asis, Mark Lopez, and later on, Ric Liwag. Gary Sevilla and Minyong Valenzuela took up the instruments and provided the back-up rock music for Lewy Pasion, Wewel Sison, Peter Bernardo, Bimboy Garduce, Mario Geronilla, Rod Nitollama and the rest, chanting the favorite anthems, theme songs and sentimental hits of the 70s to the top of their lungs, Lewy's pharyngitis notwithstanding. Rock music will never be the same again.

Although mostly for fun, early on, an important part of the program

involved the recognition of the special friends and groups that had helped the department thus far, especially Aventus through Flo Uy, who have always supported the alumni all these years. Indeed, it was a night to remember, thanks to the alumni/ae, who came, and to those who helped organize the affair, i.e., Estee, Judith, Paolo, Ian, Nick, and Lyn, Karl, Gee, Gaugin, Mark, Jet, Junji, Dave, Jonj, Dalo, Edith, and all the men and women who make up what we proudly call "the Ortho family". By the time it ended, early in the morning, most had gone home or back to their hotels carrying souvenirs like beer mugs, espresso cups, coffee mugs or the signature commemorative T-shirts, but all with rekindled memories of happy days at the department and a renewed sense of togetherness and belonging which is uniquely UP-PGH Orthopedics. We are looking forward to the next alumni homecoming. See you there!



**UP PGH ORTHOPEDICS THROUGH THE YEARS:** (from left) Drs. Rod Nitollama, Danny Caro, Jing Aliling, Rex Mendoza, Badjun Reyes, Boni Tanbonliong, Bert Velasco, Ruben Arafiles, Ted Tacata, Kiko Turalba, Mario Geronilla, Randy Puno, Ida Tacata and Mario Ver.



**SIGNS OF THE TIMES:** Giant SMB look-alike bottle with irreverent name inscription stands alongside UP-PGH logo

## Dr. Nap Apolinario feted

**H**onor them while they can still savor it. Or so the saying goes.

POA Honorary Fellow Dr. Napoleon Apolinario was honored



**Nap Apolinario** this year's honoree/retiree, delivers his response to the "tribute", with his lifesize effigy from the 70s beside him

(read: "roasted") by the UP-PGH Dept. of Orthopedics Alumni, who paid tribute to the man who started as consultant, then executive officer of the department in the 70's.

Among his achievements: Chairman, UP-PGH Dept. of Orthopedics; Associate Dean, UP-College of Medicine; Medical Center Chief, UP-PGH; Vice Chancellor, UP Manila; and now, Medical Director of Medical Center Manila. He presently heads the UP-PGH Orthopedic Spine Section.

(Milestones of Nap Apolinario will appear in Ortho Balita Issue No. 13)

## Inaugural Speech

# Garduce outlines 3 major goals

**I**t was 8 years ago when I started my work with the POA Board of Trustees and since then, I have witnessed the growth and progress of the association not only in terms of the numbers of membership, but also its activities. At the outset, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the fellows for entrusting me this huge responsibility and the rare privilege to serve you as your president. Indeed, I consider this as a significant milestone in my career.

The accomplishments of the 2001 Board of Trustees headed By Dr. Lauro M. Abrahan, Jr. are difficult to surpass, but I think with the support of the present Board of Trustees and our Administrative Staff headed by Ms. Sol De Jesus plus the cooperation of every member of the association and our friends from the pharmaceutical and orthopedic implant industries, no task will be insurmountable and no dreams will be unrealizable. I would like to inform you about the thrusts of my administration which are aimed at making our association relevant not only to our members but also to our community and country.

I have three major goals. The 1<sup>st</sup> is the promotion of the welfare of our fellows and our administrative staff. I intend to establish a POA mutual fund, which would provide financial assistance to you, our fellows, especially our non-fellows. It is a known fact that starting an orthopedic practice demands some financial resources to put up a clinic and to purchase equipment and instruments specially so if you practice outside major medical centers. Through the association's mutual fund, fellows can avail of soft loans to partially finance initial capital outlays and requirements.

The association shall support a manpower survey including demographic and social characteristics of every region, province and city to serve as the basis for identifying areas needing orthopaedic care yet financially sustainable and practical for our young fellows. Hopefully, this will solve the maldistribution of orthopedic surgeons and help our national government in its healthcare delivery system.

For our fellows who are academically inclined and who want to

pursue further professional growth, the association intends to seek and facilitate post-residency training fellowships and scholarship grants, utilizing the strong and harmonious relationship we have established with both local and international training institutions. I intend to form an ad hoc committee on training and professional development in close cooperation with the Philippine Board of Orthopaedics.

The Board shall initiate concrete steps to implement its mandate and responsibility in providing free legal assistance to our fellows in case



the need arises. I have started initial talks with one of our colleagues who is also a lawyer by profession and he has favorably accepted the idea.

The present Board will continue to support the membership and its staff in giving health and insurance benefits with very nominal fee. Hope that this program shall help promote the welfare of everyone.

My 2<sup>nd</sup> goal is to make the association relevant to the community and the country. We have reached the stage where we have undertaken plenty of scientific meetings for our fellows and now is the time to look beyond the confine of our members' welfare and reach out to our underprivileged and underserved members of our society. We will continue to support outreach programs such as the Cottolengo project in which we committed in putting up a playground for the disabled children of this institution.

Considering the lack of awareness by the public on issues regarding road safety and occupational hazards, the present board shall commit to pursue in information dissemi-

nation and work with concerned government agencies. A concrete example of this undertaking is to tie up with tri-media namely print, broadcast and television by conducting regular programs related to this objective. This will ultimately help prevent accidents happening in our streets and in our workplace.

The present board will continue to perform as the lead organization in the observance of the Bone and Joint Decade which aims at increasing awareness among the public about the prevention and treatment of disabling bone and joint conditions. We shall be coordinating with the various specialty societies such as the Philippine Academy of Rehabilitation medicine, the Philippine Rheumatological Association, Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines, Arthritis Foundation of the Philippines, various sports medicine associations and other related societies to carry out the objective of the Bone and Joint Decade.

The realization of these objectives will promote the relevance of our association in its commitment to and responsibility for social action.

Thirdly, it is the goal of our association to help in the promotion of research among our members and the future members of our association. I will support the full implementation of the POA Research Council in assisting our fellows to produce relevant, meaningful and quality researches. These researches can then lead to the enhancement of better standard of orthopedic care. These quality researches maybe submitted and published in both local and international journals and thus will help in improving our image in the international orthopedic community. With this, I would like to invite and encourage our chapters and subspecialty societies to utilize the services of the POA Research Council in their conduct of research. Also in line with this goal, we will promote post-residency training in coordination with the Philippine Board of Orthopaedics, local fellowship programs in major teaching institutions which could offer such fellowship programs.

*(Continued to page 15)*

## *POC Alumni... cruising together*

**R**emiscing. Nostalgia. Fun and laughter. That's what the Philippine Orthopedic Center (POC) alumni night was all about. This years' alumni fellowship of the Philippine Orthopaedic Center was held at the Pan Pacific Hotel upon the initiative of the Association of Residents in the Medical Staff (ARMS) under the able leadership of Dr. Larry Acuña.

A significant increase was noted in attendance mustering a total combined resident and graduate body count of 147. The most senior graduate to register for this fellowship night was Dr. Rene Santos. It was a night of recall with likes of senior alumnae

Tony Sison, Tess Altre, Jess Dueñas, VD Lim, Ted Castro, and Mandy Saguin recounting the old days at the National Orthopaedic Hospital.

Not to be outdone, the younger batches proudly declared the most recent achievements of the latest alumni members in the person of Coco Roura who topped the Diplomat exams for the year 2001, with Gello Ochoa, Alvin Amador and Kit Valencia, garnering positions in the top 5 examinees. Lighter moments were provided by Ed Salud with his comic antiques and Mario Dideles showing off his body language to the sexy Mild Seven promo girls. The "political" achievements of other

alumni was also given due recognition like incumbent Biliran governor Ojie Espina; Mayor Nene Nava of Jordan, Guimaras; Mayor Say Yabut of Minalin, Pampanga, among others. The fellowship turned to a more serious note as Mar Villarosa, the founding president of the ARMS and first President of the POC Alumni Association, gave an inspirational speech challenging a more vigorous, united alumni association which was taken up by the alumni in attendance, as initial seed money was generated to organize a more formal organization to meet the needs of the ever growing POC graduates. Kudos, and more power . . . looking forward to 2002 and beyond.

### **Garduce outlines ...**

*(Continued from page 14)*

I intend to start the formation of an organizing committee to oversee the preparation for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ASEAN Orthopaedic Association in the year 2005 to insure a successful and fruitful congress.

Now that we have already a home for the POA, it will no longer be a dream to envision having our own POA building. For this purpose, I intend to put up a POA building committee to oversee this future endeavor.

Lastly, I would like to thank my wife Elaine and my children Jayvee, Vincent and Ajay for their support and understanding. In closing, I recall a story about a boy on the seashore who throws back to the sea stranded starfishes and when asked by a man why is he doing these? He replied. "In my own little way, I want to preserve the lives of these starfishes and if everyone does the same, then many more starfishes shall survive". So let us be like this little boy and I enjoin you all to share in your own way, the enormous responsibility of promoting the quality of life of our people.

(Speech delivered by incoming POA President during the POA Annual Convention last Dec. 8, 2001)



**SILVERSMITHS AND FABRIC MAKERS:** Tourists are often treated to the spectacular sight of indigenous workers (top photo) finetuning their art of making jewelry and other ornaments made of silver. (Above) Handwoven fabric, mainly "batik", meticulously handprinted and designed with various colors and ornaments. The scenes are reminiscent of local workers doing their work as witnessed by POA wives and families during a tour of outlying provinces near Cagayan De Oro last May. Above pictures show our ASEAN neighbors doing handicraft and silverware artworks in villages just outside Bali, Indonesia. (taken by POA delegates to the ASEAN Orthopaedic Assn. convention in Bali.)

# *South Luzon wins first POA Best Chapter Award*

**T**he highly coveted Best POA Chapter Award was won by the POA South Luzon Chapter. It was the first such award given in the history of the POA.

It took a perfect combination of scientific meetings (of which the chapter had plenty) and socio-civic activities, plus an artistic presentation (it was like a wedding album, according to Dr. Lewy Pasion) that clinched it for the chapter.

POA SL President Dr. Geronimo B. Sales and his board, together with POA SL past presidents Drs. Rod Nitollama, Ernie Reyes, Leslie Reyes and Sam Reyes worked hand in hand to produce the desired result. The De La Salle University Department of Orthopedics chaired by Dr. Leonido C. Castillo and its consultant and resident staffs likewise contributed to the effort.

Socio-civic activities included a tree planting activity in which the families of the POA SL fellows were also involved, blood letting, Iwas Dengue program, and public information activities on orthopedic infections and their prevention.

Dr. Sales also thanked all the members of the chapter for their cooperation, and he likewise noted the help extended by the different pharmaceutical compa-

nies who sponsored the various scientific activities of the chapter.

A landmark tradition that will be maintained is the POA SL fellowship activity immediately following the scientific meetings. This has obviously contributed to the camaraderie to the POA SL chapter fellows.



*POA SL President Dr. Geronimo B. Sales: Hard work bears fruit (he endured even the severe physical stresses of his responsibilities)*



**TREE PLANTING AND FAMILY DAY** was conducted by POA SL Chapter on Oct. 20, 2001 in Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna (upper photo). In lower photo, POA SL members in caucus at the Westin Phil. Plaza prior to the distribution of the POA SL Fellows Directory 2001..



**PLANTING MAHOGANY TREES:** (Standing) POA trustee Dr. Johnny Villaluz and PBO trustee Dr. Leslie Reyes with (foreground) POA SL vice pres. Dr. Cez Grey and POA treasurer Dr. Rod Nitollama



**POA SL FELLOWS AND MEMBERS** (including past presidents) Drs. Rod Nitollama, Ernie Reyes and Sam Reyes after the launching of the 2001 POA SL Fellows Directory and a few days prior to the announcement of the Best POA Chapter Award. (above)

## OSPFI holds 3rd annual convention

The Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines Foundation, Inc. (OSPFI) held its third annual scientific meeting last Oct. 25 to 26, 2001 at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel, with the theme, "Invest in Your Bones".

OSPFI President Dr. Tito P. Torralba led the society in the celebration of the 4th National Osteoporosis Awareness Week (Oct. 8-14, 2001), World Osteoporosis Day (Oct. 20, 2001) and the International Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010. Other OSPFI officers are: Drs. Florante P. Gonzaga, vice president; Leilani B. Mercado-Asis, secretary-treasurer; Lyndon John Llamado, PRO and board members Mary Anne Lim-Abraham, Rodolfo P. Florentino, Mary Jean V. Guno, Alejandro V. Pineda, Jr., Miles Francis T. Dela Rosa and Vania L. Yu.

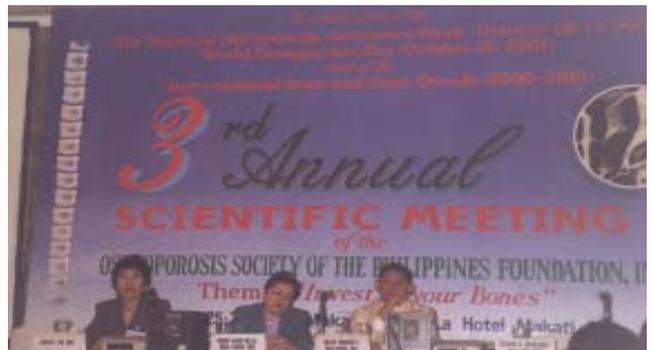
The main speakers in the convention were Prof. Pierre D. Delmas and Prof. Peter Ebeling, while PMA President Dr. Gil C. Fernandez and DOH Asec Dr. Rolando Enrique Domingo also delivered messages. Dr. Dela Rosa was one of the lecturers on osteoporosis.



**CHILDREN AND THE FUTURE:** If you plan for one year, write a book; If you plan for ten years, plant trees; if you plan for 100 years, educate children... so says a popular proverb. POA SL vice president Dr. Cez Grey and Dr. Kiko Turalba share a memorable moment with children after planting trees in Los Baños, Laguna. (above)



**POA TRUSTEE** Dr. Miles Dela Rosa (above, 3rd from left) with Drs. Lewy Pasion, Tess Altre and Johnny Villaluz during the opening ceremonies of the OSPFI convention. At right, Dr. Dela Rosa, together with other speakers, answers questions in the open forum.



# 2001 ASEAN Junior Travelling Fellows

This year, despite the events and air disasters in New York and Washington and the current regional economic showdown, the 19<sup>th</sup> Junior ASEAN Orthopaedic Traveling Fellowship commenced under the auspices of the ASEAN Orthopaedic Association. Thus maintaining the close relationship between the orthopedic communities of the original five ASEAN countries. The five fellows who were selected were Drs. Wahyu Eko Widiarso (Indonesia), Vijaya Kumar (Malaysia), Edmund Oreta (Philippines), Pariyut Chiarapattanakorn (Thailand) and Yue Wai Mun (Singapore). Singapore was chosen as the first stop.

## SINGAPORE

It was on the early morning of 9 September 2001 that five strangers met in the lobby of the Apollo Hotel in Singapore. Unsure of what to expect, Drs. Wahyu Eko Widiarso (from Indonesia), Vijaya Kumar (from Malaysia), Edmund Oreta (from Philippines), Pariyut Chiarapattanakorn (from Thailand) and Yue Wai Mun (from Singapore) took the first tentative steps in the beginning of the Junior Traveling Fellowship 2001. Armed with only superficial knowledge of each other's culture and healthcare system, the five made their way to the National University Hospital, the first of many hospitals that will be visited in the next five weeks. While there were differences in the setup and technologies employed, we could feel that each country has developed a system suited for the needs of its own population.

The other hospitals we visited in Singapore were Singapore General Hospital, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Alexandra Hospital, Changi General Hospital and Kandang Kerbau Women and Children Hospital. Everywhere we went, we were treated to great hospitality, interesting discussions on clinical cases as well as fantastic food. Among the most memorable were the incredibly lifelike hand prosthesis made in the National University Hospital, the cavernous operating theatres of the Singapore General Hospital, the historical museum of Tan Tock Seng Hospital, the vast colonial buildings of Alexandra Hospital, the well-equipped physiotherapy and occupational therapy departments of Changi General Hospital and the children-friendliness of the facilities in Kandang Kerbau Women and Children Hospital. Senior doctors, former Junior and Senior ASEAN Traveling Fellows played hosts. Many took time off from their busy schedules to show us the facilities of their hospitals and led discussions on the papers that we have prepared and on other clinical problems. Special thanks are due to Drs. Tay Boon Keng, Yu Choon Seng, Shamal Das De, Lim Beng Hai, Lim Swee Lian, See

Hung Foo, Low Boon Yong, Tan Seang Beng and not least the Secretary-General of the ASEAN Orthopaedic Association, Dr. Ong Leong Boon, for making the five of us feel at home. Finally we attended the Saturday conference of the Singapore Orthopaedic Association and the Singapore Hand Society, which was hosted by Dr. Teoh Lam Chuan on 15 September 2001.

Of course it was not all work and no play in our stay in Singapore. We did manage to do some sightseeing as well and shopping in the time between visits to hospitals. What would a visit to Singapore be without visits to Sentosa, Jurong Bird Park and the Night Safari? A cable car ride in a glass-bottom cable car from Mount Faber to Sentosa provided a bird's eye view of the Singapore harbor. The Undersea World on Sentosa was such a refreshing experience that we went around it twice. He singing macaws in the Jurong Bird Park belted our English, Chinese, Japanese and Malay numbers to our delight. The Night Safari provided a unique opportunity for us to observe the habits of nocturnal animals. Especially memorable was the walk through the bat enclosure where we came within inches of numerous bats. No one received a phlebotomy of course but it was nonetheless quite a harrowing experience.

Before we knew it, it was time to move on to Malaysia where more adventures awaited us.

## MALAYSIA

We arrived in Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of Malaysia on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September. The multiracial communities living harmoniously in this country was clearly evident on day one of our visit. In Malaysia, we managed to visit seven major hospitals and what amazed us was that the healthcare cost is still being heavily subsidized by the government. Although just like most other ASEAN countries, patients have to bear the cost of implants used, the daily admission charges of the 3<sup>rd</sup> class ward is only RM 3/=. The University Hospital (Assoc. Prof. David Choon) and UKM Hospital (Assoc. Profs. Mohamad Razak and Sharaf Ibrahim) were the first two hospitals we visited. These hospitals are the training centers for orthopedics, equipped with good training and research facilities. We proceeded to visit Kuala Lumpur Hospital (Dato' Borhan Tan) and Selayang Hospital (Dr. Ramli Babi) the next day. The latter hospital is reputed as a "paperless hospital" and what we saw certainly justifies its reputation as the hallmark achievement of healthcare and information technology in this country.

Midweek plans to take a coach to the northern region certainly added more color to the visit to Malaysia. Apart from some of us struggling with our heavy luggage at the respective bus stations, it also gave us an opportunity to see the picturesque scenery of the mountains and reservoirs along

the highways. Once again we actively participated in clinical discussions at Penang Hospital (Dr. Se To Boon Chong), Ipoh Hospital (Dato' Ramanathan) and Fatimah Hospital (dato' K.S. Siva). Our traveling program was further enhanced by a brief visit to the B. Braun Medical Industries where we were given a guided tour of how general surgical instruments were made from raw steel material.

One of the greatest pleasures of exploring Malaysia was the sampling of the typical Malaysian food variety as "nasi lemak, laksa penang, satay" and many others. Needless to say, we also enjoyed very much visiting the golden Triangle district skyline (Petronas Twin Towers and KL Tower), Putrajaya, Penang Hill, Penang Bridge and the Gurney Drive. With all those lingering good memories we departed to Bangkok on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September with great expectations.

## THAILAND

We arrived in the Land of Smiles on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. Very quickly, we came to realize that the main medical provider in Thailand is the government. The government hospitals are the undisputed leaders in advanced medical technology. As a result, western medicine is slowly but surely gaining the trust of the population and fewer complications resulting from the treatment of traditional bonesetters are being seen nowadays. The ratio of orthopedic surgeons to population is around 1:60,000 but mainly concentrated in the big cities. To alleviate the problems due to the maldistribution of orthopedic surgeons in the country, 70 – 80 orthopedic surgeons are trained from training centers all over the country each year. Most of the orthopedic surgeons are working as general orthopedic surgeons. Orthopedic surgeon who works in a specific field is confined to training centers but the subspecialty training is gaining in popularity in recent years.

Five hospitals were visited during our stay in Thailand. Ramathibodi hospital is well known for the Ramathibodi Spine System, which is a set of locally made spine instrumentation system. He head of the department is Dr. Pornchai Mulapruk. We also had the opportunity to observe spine surgery using the Ramathibodi plate performed by Dr. Vichian Laohacharoensombat who is the main surgeon in the invention of the system.

Sisiraj Hospital is the largest and oldest hospital in Thailand. The head of the department is Dr. Prasit Gonggetyai. Dr. Prasit is also the president of AOA at this time. Apart from the department tour, we had an unforgettable experience at Condon Anatomy Museum, where we saw many impressive dissected specimens, cadavers, and skeletons, including those of past pro-

*(Continued to page 19)*

## 2001 ASEAN...

(Continued from page 18)

fessors of the hospital. We were kindly guided by Dr. Banchong Mahaisawiriya.

Nakorn Pathorn Hospital is a regional hospital in Thailand. The patients mainly have severe injuries from traffic accidents. Dr. Wiwat Surangsrirat, head of the department, his staff as well as staff from Rajchaburi Hospital demonstrated their innovative spirit by applying simple ideas to solve complex problems. Among the innovations we saw was instrumentation set for endoscopic carpal tunnel release, modified from an old knee arthroscope.

The Institute of Orthopedics, Lerdsin General Hospital was well known as a trauma center. Nowadays, it has expanded its expertise to cover all the orthopedic subspecialties. The head of the department is Dr. Phairat Thuvasethakul. The ASEAN junior traveling fellow is from this hospital.

Chulalongkorn Hospital is the largest Red Cross Society hospital in the world. The head of the department is Dr. Pibul Itirawong. It is also the home of the Royal College of the Thai Orthopaedic Surgeons, Dr. Chaithavat Ngamurkos.

Thailand is a country of arts and cultures. We spent our free time traveling around Bangkok and its vicinity, visiting such famous landmarks as the Grand Palace, Wat Po, Nakorn Pathorn, Budda Monthon and Ayutthaya. The Chatuchak Weekend Market as well as the boat trip along the Chao Phraya River was also part of our journey during the week. Very soon, we were bound for the Philippines, taking with us unforgettable memories of Bangkok.

### PHILIPPINES

Manila, Philippines was the fourth leg of our ASEAN traveling fellowship. We were welcomed by the entire staff of the POA at the cocktail party for the opening of the new POA office. We also attended the birthday party of the incumbent POA President, Dr. Lauro M. Abrahan, Jr. Among all the ASEAN countries, it was in Manila where we visited the most number of hospitals. We went to the Department of Orthopedics of the Philippine General Hospital, the biggest tertiary hospital in the Philippines; the Philippine Orthopedic Center, the largest orthopedic hospital in the ASEAN region; Makati Medical Center, one of the most modern and biggest private hospitals, where we also got to meet Dr. Ramon Gustilo; the UST Hospital, one of the oldest university-based hospitals; the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center, AFP Medical Center, East Avenue Medical Center and the Veteran's Memorial Hospital.

However, it was not all work in Manila. We also had the opportunity to visit historical and cultural spots like the Intramuros, Rizal Park, the National Museum, and Malacañang Palace among others. The last day was spent on a work-free, fun-

filled whole day trip to Tagaytay, one of the most popular vacation spots south of Manila. We were accompanied by Sol De Jesus, the indefatigable and ever helpful secretary of the POA, and her lovely daughter Kim. We made a short stop at the People's Palace, formerly known as Palace in the Sky, where we saw a panoramic view of the Taal Lake and the nearby provinces of Batangas and Laguna. We then proceeded to the Tagaytay Highlands, a country club and resort facility, through the generosity of Dr. Lauro Abrahan, Jr., where we enjoyed ourselves tremendously. After a sumptuous buffet lunch, we went to the top of Taal Volcano. We first took a boat ride thru the Taal Lake, and then rode on a horseback to the crater of the volcano. Finally, on our way

ceremony we met the leaders of the ASEAN orthopedic community, who were all eager to share with us their experiences as Junior Traveling Fellows. Though many of overseas speakers withdrew from attending the meeting, we were still fortunate to be able to listen to the informative talks given by eminent experts from around the ASEAN region, such as Drs. Chen Po-Guang, Subroto Sapardan, Wong Hee Kit, Antonio A. Rivera, Chehab Rukni Hilmy, Ucok P. Siregar, David Choon, Kamal Bose, Lee Eng Hin, and Suthorn B. After 4 days of academic discussion and renewal of old ties, the closing ceremony was held in Garuda Widnu Kencana cultural park, with the Nusantara and Bali Dances as the Backdrop.



**TRAVELING FELLOWS:** (Standing from left) Drs. Edmund Oreta (Philippines), Yue Wai Mun (Singapore), Vijaya Kumar (Malaysia), Pariyut Chiarapattanakorn (Thailand) (not in picture is Dr. Eko Widiarso from Indonesia) with POA and PBO trustees.

back to Manila, we were treated to a farewell dinner by the entire staff of the POA at Anabel's Restaurant.

The next day we proceeded to our final destination, Bali, Indonesia.

### INDONESIA

We arrived in Bali, Indonesia on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> of October from Manila via Singapore. The Junior Traveling Fellow from Indonesia had arrived slightly earlier via Jakarta. We met in Bali International Airport and proceeded to Bali Dynasty Hotel, our home for the next 7 days. Before the initial programme began, we took the opportunity to enjoy Kuta Beach, which was just behind the hotel and the Cultural Park of Garuda Wisnu Kencana in the East of Bali.

The next day we visited Sanglah Hospital, the province hospital in Denpasar Bali, which was 20 kilometers from the hotel. We were given a guided tour of the wards, operating theatres, and had interesting discussions about the management of the patients in the wards. The consultants of the orthopedic department are Drs. Ketut Siki Kawiyan, Putu Astawa, Mulyadi and Nyoman Dusak. On a separate day, some of us had the opportunity to share our research papers with the staff of Sanglah Hospital.

The Combined Meeting of the Indonesian Orthopaedic Association and the ASEAN Orthopaedic Association began on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October. At the opening

In between attending the meeting, we found time to visit the most popular attractions of Bali and sampled the best of Bali in terms of art, temples, mountains and lakes. Among the places we visited were Sukawati, Ubud, Kintamani, Tampak Siring (President Indonesian Palace), Tanah Lot, Monkey Forest, Bedugul and the Trunyan Grave in Lake Batur. We also indulged in some handicraft shopping in the Ubud, Sukawati and Bali Galleria.

Soon it was time to bid farewell and go our separate ways. We left on separate flights over the weekend of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of October with conflicting emotions. Happy that we are going to see our families again after so long but sad that we are leaving our new found friends. We did agree that the traveling fellowship had left us with the sweetest of memories.

### CONCLUSION

Five weeks of journeying through five countries was not as long as we expected. At the end of the trip, we could not believe we were going back to our real lives. We had come to realize the tremendous potential of the ASEAN countries and hopefully will bring our experience to improve our own communities. However, what had been most important is that the friendship and the spirit of the ASEAN Junior Traveling Fellowship will never fade from our hearts and minds.

## *Making a difficult choice*

# Three Applicants, One Position

*Anonymous*

Recently, I was requested to be one of 12 consultants to interview three doctor applicants finally screened for 1 orthopedic residency position in a training hospital in MetroManila. Before commencing, we were given the curriculum vitae of each applicant as well as their scores in the written examination. During the interview proper, each applicant was instructed to tell the group about himself and his intentions for his orthopedic career. This was followed by a question and answer session with the staff. The last part of the interview was an evaluation of the applicant's manual skills using a sawbones model of the tibia, which the applicant had to piece together by using any means possible within three minutes. After the interview, each consultant was required to rank each applicant. My experience during this, seemingly routine process will strongly influence my decision making in future applicant selection:

The first candidate was from a well to do family who scored the highest in the written exam. He had an impressive and accomplished past, which included various awards and outstanding achievements at every level of education, from grade school to Medicine. In fact, he was already working as a resident in an Internal Medicine program of a famous institution in the United States but came back to the Philippines for the interview. Upon introducing himself and declaring his intentions, one consultant simply asked him why he wanted to go into Orthopedic Surgery. His indecisive response impressed on me that it was just one of several career options available to him at the time and I was left to wonder whether Orthopedic Surgery was something he would live for. After

completing the question and answer period, his dexterity was put to the test however he failed to reduce the fragmented sawbones in the given time period. He was excused and told that he would be informed later if he was chosen. The next doctor was called in.

The second candidate was also from a family of status. He scored the second highest grade in the written exam and had work experience with the consultant and resident staff of the department and was active in both academic and extracurricular activities during his scholastic education. He completed pre-residency in another institution. In the meantime, kept himself preoccupied by helping in his family business. He introduced himself quite cordially and answered questions confidently. It was obvious, that the staff was fondly familiar with the applicant to the point of jocularity. Based on this rapport, I presumed that he would be chosen. His hand-eye coordination was good enough for him to complete the task with the same sawbones, although with seconds to spare. Just like the first applicant, he was excused and would be informed later.

Thereafter, a lot of discussions followed, which made me feel that the interview was over and that the third applicant would be just a formality. The third applicant barely made the grade to pass the written exam. Upon looking at his curriculum vitae, one would think that the same was true of his education. I considered significant his experience as a resident for a year in an unaccredited orthopedic residency program in Manila. He was also accepted to start pre-residency in a government institution at a later date. After introducing himself, he was

asked why he had particularly applied in this institution. He informed us that this would be his third year of applying for an orthopedic residency in MetroManila. Most of the time, he would be told that someone else was taken or there is no opening. It so happened that he when he called up the institution to inquire, he was told that there was an opening so he applied. He was asked about his scholastic 'mediocrity'. He admitted that he was a son of a farmer and during the times when they were not well off, he had to work, sacrificing a bit of his education. During his medical student years, he even managed to work after 7pm driving taxis, but added that he also found time to socialize. After graduation and during his residency, he would go back to his father's town and do general medical practice during weekends. Now during this time, the room was deadly silent and he was asked why he wanted to specialize in orthopedic surgery. He replied that during his practice, a number of patients consulted him with orthopedic problems but he could not manage them and he was forced to refer them. He added that after training, he would go back there to practice and take care of his constituents. After the question and answer period was over, he pieced up the tibial fragments within 2 minutes. Just like the others, he was excused and told that he would be notified. Before leaving, he thanked the panel and requested that if he was not chosen this year, he might be chosen next year.

Residency training is sometimes likened to a 'furnace' through which qualities of different metals are forged and hammered to usefulness,

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# Legal Orthopedics

by Atty. Leo O. Olarte, MD



**L**EGAL ORTHOPEDICS, as a subspecialty of general orthopedics has been *in pais* existence (without legal proceedings) for quite a respectable period of time now. Although it has not been officially given due recognition as a subspecialty of orthopedics by the proper orthopedic luminaries, it has effectively in low profile, sprucely penetrated like a beached sperm whale our practice in any branch of orthopedics, so that many of us fellows are now aware of its legal consequences if we did not give it proper consideration. Of course, because of the very limited number of fellows actually interested in this alleged new subspecialty of orthopedics and probably because of the inconvenient long and strenuous academic years of sacrificial study and burning of the midnight candle in the complexities and weald of the LAW plus the hurdling of the bar exams after passing the orthopedic diplomate marathon, it is understandable with regrets, notwithstanding preferably, that this subspecialty has not grown in membership as a group to be granted juridical existence and recognition as a separate and distinct specialty yet. Be it as may be and in fine, allow me and my distinguished colleagues, to introduce to you the subspecialty of Legal Orthopedics and its importance to our association and supremely to the public weal.

Legal orthopedics as a subspecialty of orthopedics if ever, deals with the application of orthopedic

knowledge and skills to the purpose of law, and more importantly to the administration of justice. (Justice is the perpetual disposition to render to every man his due) It is the application of basic and clinical orthopedic knowledge to elucidate legal matters. Furthermore with ineluctable conclusion, it includes also substantial knowledge of the principles of law and jurisprudence in relation to orthopedic practice, so that the legal orthopedic practitioner is a medical expert in the rights, duties and obligations arising from a doctor-patient relationship. The scope of legal orthopedics then is broad and encompassing like all other subspecialties, for it embraces not only life and limb itself, but also and more important to others, his property, liberty and human rights as a person and as a patient. It is essential then, that the professions of Law and Orthopedics compliment each other to better serve the best interest of our patients and the public weal. A connecting nexus must be strongly built to bring these two great professions together. Legal orthopedics then is the proper venue or department that will both harmonize and serve the good faith intentions of the two disciplines.

The recognition of legal orthopedics as a separate and distinct subspecialty today is even more timely than before because of the real and imminent need of an orthopedic esquire, where a fellow colleague is maliciously hailed in court for a criminal or civil malpractice suit or before

the Professional Regulation Commission Board of Medicine or the Philippine Medical Association Commission on Ethics for an administrative charge of medical malpractice or unprofessional conduct, for censure, suspension or revocation of his license to practice his medical and orthopedic profession. Inadequate or sheer lack of knowledge or plain ignorance of Legal Orthopedics that governs the legal activities of the practice of orthopedics may result into a non-recognition of the fact, that a particular course of action is contrary to law or public policy until it is too late to remedy the situation, resulting into irreversible injury and damages, or it may result to an egregious erroneous judgment of the acts of the another colleague or physician, because of the application of a non-legal standard to the doctor's professional's acts.

Thus unto this very date and time, the knowledge and jurisprudence of legal orthopedics can be a saving grace or remedy to the ever increasing fad and fashion of the times of medical malpractice litigations, which has worked either to the betterment of orthopedic practice or to the detriment of the same. You are the best judge.

*For any comments or legal questions to this article, write to Atty. Leo O. Olarte, MD at the St. Luke's Medical Center, CHBC Suite S-603, E. Rodriguez Ave., QC.*

## Three Applicants...

(Continued from page 20)

all for the betterment of humanity. The blacksmiths must also be capable of skillfully identifying these individual

qualities lest the material will be wasted in the fire. Oftentimes the choice is difficult to make; however once made, difficult also to regret.

In this case, ten of the twelve consultants ranked the third

applicant as the 'chosen one'. One consultant, who was also involved in training in another institution, admittedly did not choose him because he wanted him to apply in the other institution."

## 13th Mid Year Convention

# POA North Luzon hosts in Baguio City

The POA Northern Luzon Chapter, through the Organizing Committee for the 13th Mid-year Convention is inviting all POA fellows and orthopedic training residents to attend and be part of the fun in the 13th POA Mid-year Conference in Baguio City this May. Organizing Committee chairman, Dr. Reynaldo Cariaga, honorary chairman Dr. James Paggao and POA NL chapter president Dr. Glorofino Juan, Jr. are

preparing full blast for the convention to be held at the Baguio Country Club. The theme for the mid-year conference is "Aksyon sa Komplikasyon: Strategies for Orthopedic Complications". Featured guest speakers are Drs. Ramon Gustilo and Edward VA Lim.

Other activities include the Annual POA Research Forum and Residents' Quiz Show, as well as tie-ups with several subspecialty soci-

eties, like the POFAS and the Philippine Spine Society, conducting their meetings. The convention also offers the chance to visit cool and sunny Baguio during the hot summer months, with opportunities to play golf and tennis for sports aficionados, an alternative art camp for spouses and children, and the best excuse to escape the heat. Register early! Bring your families, and we'll see you there! Final date of the convention will be announced soon.

## SPORTS

### Bowling, golf and tennis winners bared

The winners in the annual POA sports tournaments held during the annual convention were announced.

In tennis, the tandem of Drs. Fernando Lucero and Paul Camiña emerged champions, while the pair of Drs. Samuel Reyes and Catalino Calimbas were the runners up. Pharmacia sponsored the event.

In bowling, Dr. Camilo Te scored 1,060 pinfalls to capture the crown. Runners up were Drs. Albert Dy (1,003) and Jay Suntay (992). The highest game score in the tournament, sponsored by Bristol Myers Squibb, was 221 by Dr. Nelia Cañete, wife of POA secretary Dr. Art Cañete.

In golf, Dr. Antonio Tactay emerged overall champion. Other prominent scorers were: Drs. Gerundio Ellacer (champion, Class A); POA vice president Venancio P. Garduce, Jr. (runner up, Class A); Antonio A. Rivera (champion, Class B); Regalado Dela Paz (runner up, Class B); Vedasto D. Lim (champion Class C); Angel Gozum (runner up, Class C).

The golf tournament was sponsored by Westmont Pharmaceuti-

cals, under the auspices of the Philippine Orthopaedic Golf, Incorporated (POGI) headed by Dr. VD Lim. It was held last December 7, 2001 at the Intramuros Golf Club.

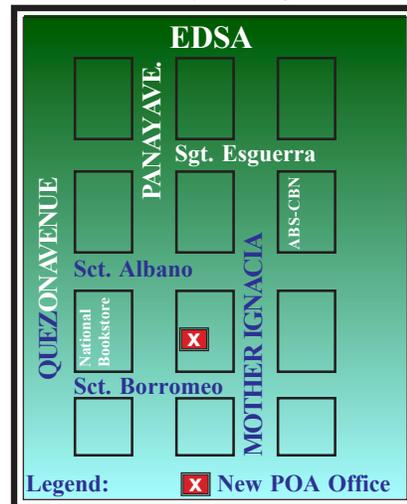
Here are the scores:

	Gross	Net
A. Tactay	86	65
G. Ellacer	91	66
V. Garduce, Jr	87	66
A. Rivera	92	68 (2 pars)
R. Dela Paz	92	68 (1 par)
VD Lim	99	74 (2 pars)
A. Gozum	100	74 (1 par)

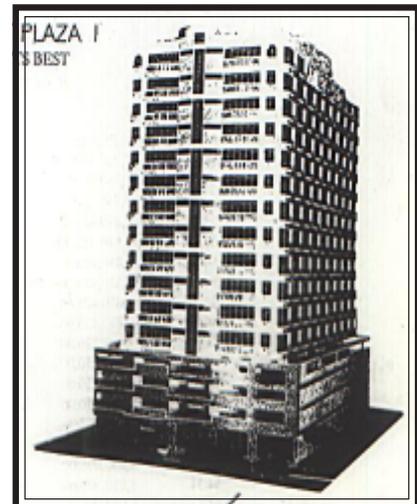
## POSSM conducts 9th congress

"Exercise without Fear: Facts and Myths" was the theme of the Philippine Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine's 9th Annual Congress held last Dec. 4, 2001 at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

POSSM president Dr. Noel B. Carilo said the faculty included: Ms. Milette Bonoan; Mr. Kirk Collier; Ms. Vanessa Garcia; Ms. Tina Juan; Dr. Orson Odulio; Dr. Antonio A. Rivera and Dr. Edward Sarrosa



**NEW POA ADDRESS: Suite 810, Future Point Plaza 1 Condominium, 112 Panay Avenue, Bgy. South Triangle, Quezon City 1103**



# *New POA Home blessed, inaugurated*

*(Continued from page 1)*

complex itself, the POA finally acquired a new corporate identity with the transfer of its offices and secretariat to Suite 810, Future Point Plaza 1 Condominium, 112 Panay Avenue, Bgy. South Triangle, Quezon City. Its next door neighbor is the office of the Philippine Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine (PARM). A few blocks away are the corporate headquarters of media giants ABS-CBN and GMA.

POA President Dr. Lauro M. Abrahan, Jr. led the POA Board of Trustees in the blessing and inauguration of the new POA headquarters. Father Andrew officiated in the blessing ceremonies. This was followed by the throwing of good luck coins and a cocktail party at the penthouse of the same building. Among the guests were Phil. Medical Association (PMA) President Dr. Gil C. Fernandez, Phil. College of Surgeons (PCS) President Dr. Alberto B. Roxas, past POA Presidents, past PBO Chairmen, the POA and PBO Boards of Trustees, friends and representatives from the different pharmaceutical and orthopedic implant companies, POA Fellows and their families, PBO Diplomates and orthopedic residents.

The new POA office was purchased last year by the POA Board of Trustees during the incumbency of Past Pres. Dr. Regalado L. Dela Paz. Funds for its purchase were sourced from the proceeds of the last three POA Car Raffle projects and from the POA Golden Anniversary celebration. With a floor area of 54.31 sq. m., it was renovated and interiorly decorated early this year. It houses the POA secretariat, Board of Trustees conference room, a library and memorabilia corner and the POA President's office.

Plans for completion of the office's equipment are in the offing.



**RIBBON & GONG:** (Top) POA First Lady Dr. Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan, wife of POA President Dr. Lauro M. Abrahan, Jr. cuts the ceremonial ribbon together with PMA President Dr. Gil C. Fernandez and PCS President Dr. Alberto B. Roxas. (Above) Dr. Abrahan prepares to strike the POA gong, a gift from the Indonesian Orthopaedic Association, as POA Treasurer Dr. Rodolfo L. Nitollama looks on. (Below) The facade of the new POA office.



# <http://www.philortho.org> is new POA website

The Philippine Orthopaedic Association entered the internet world when the new POA Website was successfully launched during the business meeting portion of POA fellows at the 52nd Annual Convention last December 5, 2001 at the Westin Philippine Plaza. The new POA website is: [www.philortho.org](http://www.philortho.org)

POA president Dr. Lauro M. Abrahan, Jr. did the honors in launching the new POA website.

## MEMBERS REGISTRATION

1. Click "sign up" on the main page.
2. Fill up information on the pop-up form. 6-10 Characters only which is either alphabet, digit or both. After fill-

ing up all the blanks, click the "Submit Registration" button.

3. An e-mail will be sent back to confirm your registration.

## USING THE DISCUSSION BOARD

1. At the main page, go to the Member's Login, type your username and password on the spaces provided for.
2. From the Member's Area page, click "Discussion Board" icon.
3. To join discussion board, click on any subject under General Topic.
4. To create a new topic, click "New Topic".
5. Fill out "Subject" box as the subject header. Type message to be posted then click "Post New Topic".

## CELECOXIB (COXID) BOOTH at the 52nd Annual Convention (below)



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