

Ortho Ballita

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POA pursues BJD concerns

'Road Safety is No Accident' WHO campaign theme

In cooperation with the Philippine Council for the Bone and Joint Decade (PCBJD), the Philippine Orthopaedic Association will pursue the initiatives of The Bone and Joint Decade 2000 – 2010.

This year, the World Health Organization (WHO) has chosen "Road Safety is No Accident" as the theme of its worldwide celebration. The WHO has developed a Five-Year Strategy for Road Traffic Injury Prevention to ensure a heightened degree of awareness for road traffic safety even after World Health Day 2004, which will be celebrated on April 7.

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Board tackles key issues

The 2004 POA Board of Trustees (BOT) buckled down to work right on its first Board meeting on January 16, 2004. It laid down the calendar of activities for the year, and conducted the first-ever POA Board Strategic Planning Session at the Discovery Suites in Mandaluyong City.

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Know your officers

2004 POA Board of Trustees

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BONE OF CONTENTION RODOLFO L. NITOLLAMA, MD, FPOA



Hectic!

Assuming the position of POA president is no easy task. It is an office with very important responsibilities. And by having taken the oath of office during the 54th annual convention last December 6, 2003 before PCS president Dr. Fernando Lopez with the POA fellows and members of my family in attendance, I have dedicated myself to this arduous responsibility.

Hence, I have prepared myself for this daunting task. The first three months of 2004 were most stressful due to the three main activities to which I had to devote my time to.

The organization of the POA committees and the schedule of POA activities demanded attention to detail. Aside from the executive committee, the composition of the different standing, permanent and adhoc committees, special assignments and the organizing committee of the 55th POA annual convention and the "think tank" of the 56th annual convention, was given priority as this will set into motion the POA's functions. Hence, the Board of Trustees' work will be facilitated with all the committees doing their work.

Next it was likewise very important to iron out the schedules of the visitations and inductions of the POA's six chapters nationwide (see related stories on pages 14-19). This is one of my functions which I relished in doing, for it gave me the opportunity to feel our fellows' pulse and know their problems and suggestions on a first-hand basis right in their own bailiwicks. It was like the visit of a father to his children and relatives "outside of Imperial Manila", as some of our provincial fellows would voice out.

The third activity which made my life very hectic during the first quarter of 2004 was the American Orthopaedic Association – ASEAN Orthopaedic Association – Zimmer Traveling Fellowship which ended at the AAOS annual meeting in San Francisco, March 6-10. (See related stories on page 7, 20-22)

POA Board concerns

The first important activity of the 2004 POA Board of Trustees (BOT) was the holding of the first POA Board Strategic Planning Workshop at the Discovery Suites on January 10, 2004. As a result of this workshop, the calendar of activities of the POA for the next 24 months was not only plotted out, but more importantly, the POA Mission, Vision and Values Statement was drafted and adopted by the Board. It will then be presented to the POA fellows during the 15th POA midyear business meeting in Puerto Princesa, Palawan for their appreciation and approval.

The second important activity of this Board was the first joint meeting of the POA-BOT with the presidents of the nine orthopaedic subspecialty societies, and the chairman of the Philippine Board of Orthopaedics (PBO). It was the first time that this collegial body was convened, and the result was gratifying. The schedules of activities of the different subspecialty societies and the PBO were coordinated to avoid conflict and overlapping. It was also a very cordial gathering, with the POA's thrusts being spelled out vis-à-vis the subspecialty societies and the PBO's roles in training and research. Although it was mentioned, the consensus of the group was it was not yet ripe to form a body like the POA Board of Governors.

I am not yet in the process of writing part of my memoirs. However, I will render to the POA Fellows "The POA President's First 104 Days Report" during the midyear convention in Palawan. ☺



PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL former Senator Raul Roco, looking hale and strong, cuts the ceremonial ribbon during the opening of the Trades and Exhibits last December. He is assisted by Dr. Nelia Cañete and PMA president Dr. Joey Sanchez (far left). Looking approvingly are Drs. Rod Nitollama and Art Cañete, Mrs. Bernie Nitollama, Drs. Ramon Celso, Jr. and Bimbo Garduce, Jr., among others.

PBO Corner

PBO team visits 2 centers in South

The 2004 Philippine Board of Orthopaedics (PBO) trustees headed by chairman Dr. Leonido C. Castillo visited two PBO-accredited orthopedic training programs in Cebu and Cagayan de Oro cities recently.

During its first organizational board meeting, the PBO Trustees chose the following as officers: Drs. Leonido C. Castillo, chairman; Jose Z. Flordelis, vice-chairman; Leslie M. Reyes, secretary; and Camilo V. Te, treasurer; and Andres D. Borromeo, Norberto R. Agcaoili, Mario B. Geronilla, James C. Paggao, Venancio P. Garduce Jr., Ricardo C. Liwag and Noel P. Gloria, trustees; and Luisito R. Maaño, ex-officio.

Named chairmen of the standing committees were Drs. Reyes, examination committee; Agcaoili, accreditation committee; and Te, administrative committee.

Immediately after the organizational meeting, the Board made its first accreditation visit on January 16 in Cebu City. At the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (VSMC), the Board examined the facilities, reviewed the cases and the competency of the residents. After the accreditation visit, the group went to nearby Bohol.

In a scientific meeting sponsored by the Bohol Medical



IN SESSION PBO Trustees deliberate on the results of the accreditation visits conducted recently. Seated (from left) are PBO trustees Drs. Norberto Agcaoili, Camilo Te, Leonido Castillo (PBO chairman), Ricardo Liwag, Mario Geronilla and Noel Gloria.



CEBUANO HOSPITALITY PBO chairman Dr. Leonido C. Castillo (4th from left) and the PBO accreditation team were welcomed by Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center Department of Orthopedics chairman Dr. Fidencio M. Pañares (rightmost). The trustees who made the trip were (from left) Drs. Noel Gloria, Leslie Reyes, Andres Borromeo, James Paggao, Ricardo Liwag, Mario Geronilla, Norberto Agcaoili, Camilo Te and Jojo Flordeliz.

Society, Dr. Borromeo spoke on Low Back Pain and Dr. Reyes on Pain Management.

The next two days were spent by the group sight seeing. They visited the famous Chocolate Hills, and saw the Philippines' oldest

church in Bohol, and the Sinulog Festival of Cebu the next day.

Last February 7, the Accreditation Committee went to Cagayan de Oro City for the inspection of the Northern Mindanao Medical Center (NMMC) orthopedic program. ☺

Singaporean hand experts invited to 3rd JRRMMC-PSSH postgrad course

Singaporean hand experts Prof. Lim Beng Hai and Prof. Looi Koi Poh have been invited to share their experiences as foreign resource persons during the 3rd post graduate course sponsored by the Department of Orthopaedics of Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRRMMC) in cooperation with the

Philippine Society for Surgery of the Hand (PSSH) on August 27-28, 2003 at the Pan Pacific Hotel. The theme of the course is "Basics of Hand Conditions and Management: *Wala ba kayong mga Kamay?*".

This two-day course will feature lectures and workshops with topics for both the younger residents

and seasoned fellows. Aside from the two Singaporean resource speakers, prominent members of the PSSH will form part of the local faculty.

For early registration and further particulars, please contact Ms. Ruby Lucy: Tel. (02) 743-1088 or the JRRMMC Orthopedic Department at local 221.

POA gets 2nd EDSA Shangri-la Hotel award



The Philippine Orthopaedic Association was presented by EDSA Shangri-la Hotel with the 2003 Top Producer Award for Group Conventions and Associations last March 25 at the hotel's Garden Ballroom.

The award was received on behalf of the POA by 2003 president Dr. Arturo C. Cañete. It was the second award of a similar nature given to the POA. The first award was given to the POA during the term of 2002 president Dr. Venancio P. Garduce, Jr. ☺



IMMEDIATE Past POA president Dr. Arturo C. Cañete receives the award on behalf of the POA from Maritess Valderama, the hotel's financial controller.

Borromeo elected PCS regent, named UERMMMC surgery chairman

Dr. Andres D. Borromeo was elected as one of the fifteen members comprising the 2004 Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) Board of Regents. He was inducted during the congress banquet of the PCS annual congress last December 2003.

He succeeded POA president Dr. Rodolfo L. Nitollama and Dr. Vedasto B. Lim who were the POA fellows in the PCS Board of Regents in 2003.



Dr. Borromeo was also appointed chairman of the Department of surgery of the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Hospital (UERMMH) beginning this year.

Dr. Borromeo was POA president in 1992, PBO chairman in 1999 and ASEAN Orthopaedic Association president in 1993. Dr. Borromeo is married to Annabelle Borromeo, a nurse. He is also a PBO trustee again this year. ☺

2004 POA Chapter Presidents



DR. VIRGINIA C. CABLING
North Luzon Chapter



DR. EDWIN M. MERCADO
South Luzon Chapter



DR. MARCELO N. JAEN
Western Visayas Chapter



DR. PABLO J. ILANO III
Central Eastern Visayas Chapter



DR. MANUEL Z. SISON
North Mindanao Chapter



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South Mindanao Chapter

2004 Presidents of POA Subspecialty Societies



DR. ALBERT U. DY, JR.
Philippine Hip and Knee Society (PHKS)



DR. MARIO B. GERONILLA
Philippine Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (POSSM)



DR. ANTONIO B. SISON
Philippine Spine Society (PSS)



DR. EMILIANO B. TABLANTE
Philippine Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (POFAS)



DR. JOSE ANTHONY Q. JOCSON
Philippine Shoulder Society (PShS)



DR. TERESITA L. ALTRE
Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of the Philippines (POSP)



DR. LEO DANIEL D. CARO
Philippine Society for the Surgery of the Hand (PSSH)



DR. JUANITO S. JAVIER
Association for the Study and Applications of the Methods of Ilizarov (ASAMI)



DR. LAURO M. ABRAHAN, JR.
Philippine Orthopaedic Trauma Society (POTS)

GALEN

JOSE S. PUJALTE, JR., MD, FPOA



Whiplash, Koro, and other mythical conditions

Mention 'whiplash' and what comes to mind to most locals is a defunct 1980s dance group by that name. "Whiplash" was raved about in the short time that it existed. Dr. Andrew Malleon raves about whiplash too, but he talks about the injury that is a "largely fabricated psychosocial" illness. This is the kind of worldwide chronic epidemic that allows "some medical and legal professionals [to] prey on the anxieties and greed of patients." In the United States, whiplash is estimated to cost from \$13 to \$18 billion dollars a year.

Dr. Malleon knows from whereof he speaks. He is a psychiatric consultant to the Canadian Government's Occupational Health and Safety Agency. He is also a specialist in internal medicine and a psychiatrist with Toronto's University Health Network. He must be the proverbial "good man" who did something for evil not to succeed, or in the case of whiplash, for evil not to keep on succeeding. He must be a man with a mission too for he has thick, 527-page book to prove it.

What is Whiplash? This is a subject that "remains clouded in confusion." It was an American orthopedic surgeon, Harold Crowe, who first described whiplash to relate to neck injury in 1928. As it is generally understood, whiplash is the result of the head being violently jerked backwards and forwards by forces that can sufficiently damage the neck and brain, even without any direct blow. This mechanism is commonly satisfied in a rear-end car

collision in which the driver or passengers emerge with painful necks. A list of whiplash neck injuries appear endless in the literature: "fracture of the vertebrae, rupture of the intervertebral discs, painful separation of the intervertebral discs from the vertebral end plate" and so on. The problem, Dr. Malleon notes however, is that such injuries cannot be demonstrated. The symptoms of whiplash are, in fact, attributable only to "a musculoligamentary sprain or strain of the neck." A sprain is a sprain, in whatever part of the body. People sprain ankles and knees, shoulders, elbows, even wrists. A sprain is painful at the beginning but over time, muscles and ligaments recover and heal. The neck shouldn't be any different.

Whiplash has also mutated, much to new claimants' delight, to "chronic whiplash" which is more than six months of this presentation: "neck pain, headaches, memory and thinking problems, fatigue, anxiety, and depression." These are the kind of symptoms, one would say, that would delight lawyers or at least, the shysters among them, too.

WADS. To objectify whiplash, a Quebec Task Force on Whiplash-Associated Disorders was established. In 1995, the four-year study ended and whiplash was divided into the following grades:

0 = no complaints about neck; no physical signs
I = neck complaints of pain, stiffness, or tenderness only; no physical signs

II = neck complaints and musculoskeletal signs (limitation of movement and point tenderness)

III = neck complaints and neurological signs

IV = fracture and dislocation

The task force noted that majority of injuries were only Grades I to III. *These were the injuries that required little treatment and recovered within days to weeks only.*

Koro. This brings us to "koro," an imagined illness that struck Singapore in October of 1967. *Koro* is the imagined conviction that the penis is disappearing into the abdominal cavity. An alarm was raised after a newspaper reported that eating pork from pigs inoculated with anti-swine fever vaccine caused *koro*. Immediately, the Singapore General Hospital listed 97 cases of *koro*. The government countered. An expert medical panel publicly announced that *koro* was "the result of fear and not physical disease and that none of the victims seen then had come to any harm." Within a month, cases of *koro* disappeared.

To Dr. Malleon, *koro* fizzled out because "there was nothing in it for the professions." Unscrupulous doctors and lawyers could not make a killing. No insurance company or health maintenance organization (HMO) would have found anything lucrative in it. This would be the complete opposite of whiplash where clinic visits and litigation can take years. What could be the price of one paid vacation can even balloon to the price of an early retirement, for plaintiffs, that is.

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AOA-AOA-ZIMMER

A traveling fellowship to remember

A traveling fellowship is a truly memorable and humbling experience an orthopedic surgeon can look forward to. Such was my impression of the AOA-AOA-Zimmer Traveling Fellowship which I participated in from February 10-March 9, 2004.

This fellowship should have materialized in May-June, 2003, but due to the devastating effects of the SARS virus outbreak and the uncertain global condition obtaining from the US-Iraq war, it was cancelled last year.

Luckily, through vigorous intervention of ASEAN Orthopaedic Association (AOA) permanent secretary-general Dr. Ong Leong Boon, the American Orthopaedic Association acceded to the ASEAN OA's request to push through with the two traveling fellowship for 2004, with one postponed last year to start in February and to end at the AAOS meeting, and the regular 2004 treat to start in May then end at the AOA meeting in Boston in June.



ZIMMER PLANT TOUR ASEAN Traveling Fellows Drs. Rod Nitollama (Philippines), Vasan Sinnaduri (Malaysia) and Surachai Sae-Jung (Thailand) during their visit to the ultra-modern Zimmer plant and factory in Warsaw, Indiana.

My group traveling fellows was composed of Drs. Ang Kian Chuang or KC (Singapore), Vasan Sinnaduri or Vasan (Malaysia), Surachai Sae-Jung or Surachai(Thailand) and myself. Unable to make the trip due to US visa a problem was Dr. Bambang Gunawan of Indonesia.

After a series of emails among the four of us, Ms. Vivian Low of Zimmer Singapore, Kristine Dube of AOA and Dr. OLB, the treat was on.

We decided to meet each other (without having any idea of how each other looked like) in a San Francisco Hotel - which unknown to us, has to two branches on opposite ends of the city. Hence, the first mild confusion occurred.

All three others, except me, were first time travelers to America. They had not experienced the American way of life, in particular the manner of driving on US roads. Aside from the differences in cultural backgrounds and experience, we all had to fight off "jet lag". More so, there was the constant strain of having to travel and live on a "suit case", since we had to travel from one center to another every three to four days either by land or by plane.

Due to the very strict immigration and airline security measures, we had to be early in all our airport trips, aside from enduring



BENEATH THE FLAGS ASEAN Traveling Fellows Drs. Vasan Sinnaduri (Malaysia), Ang Kian Chuang (Singapore), Rod Nitollama (Philippines), and Surachai Sae-Jung (Thailand) were welcomed by the Zimmer staff and had their picture beneath their countries' flags.

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Exemption from the Value Added Tax

Atty. Leo O. Olarte, MD, FPOA



The Bill amending the EVAT law, principally authored and sponsored by Senator Ralph Recto in the Senate and Congressman Jules Ledesma in the House of Representatives (the better half of actress Assunta de Rossi), exempting physicians from coverage of the EVAT, has finally been enacted into law February 5, 2004, by virtue of Republic Act No. 9238. This will become binding and enforceable law fifteen (15) days after its publication in the official Philippine Gazette. We salute our able and gallant Commission on Legislation fellows of the Philippine Medical Association our mother if not our father umbrella association, for doing a great job in lobbying and convincing our lawmakers to exempt us physicians from this enforced vexatious and burdensome taxation which ultimately are shouldered by our patients. Lawyers too, are exempted from this EVAT, because like doctors, they alleged to also render service to the people.

Taxes are the life blood of the government and its prompt and certain availability is of imperious need. The power of taxation proceeds upon the theory that the existence of government is a necessary evil; that it cannot continue without means to pay its expenses; and that for these reasons it has a right to compel all its citizens and property within its jurisdiction or territory to contribute. Further the power to tax is an attribute of sovereignty emanating from necessity. It is a necessary burden to preserve the state's sovereignty and a means to give the citizenry an army to resist an aggression, a navy to defend its shores from invasion, a corps of civil servants to serve, provide public improvements and facilities designed for the enjoyment of the citizenry and those who come within the state's territory, maintain peace and order, so that its citizens can enjoy the blessings of independence and democracy.

The power to impose taxes has been aptly described as "one so unlimited in force and so searching in extent that the courts scarcely venture to declare that it is subject to any restrictions whatever, except such as rest in the discretion of the authority which exercises it." Nevertheless, the power is not without limitation and these limitations maybe classified into:

1. Constitutional limitations or those expressly found in the Constitution which is the Supreme Law of the land.
2. Inherent limitations or those which restrict the power to tax although not found in the constitution.

An important doctrine of Constitutional basis, is the rule of uniformity and equity in the imposition of taxes which proceeds from the provision of the CONSTITUTION that Congress shall evolve a progressive system of taxation. This means that tax laws shall place emphasis on direct rather than indirect taxation, with ability to pay as the principal criterion. Its cornerstone is the ability to pay. EVAT is clearly an aberration, because it is a form of an indirect taxation, where it is the patient or client or the buyer who pays the taxes. Indirect taxation burdens the poor who does not have the capacity to pay. Since the low income sector of the population as a whole buys more consumption goods on which indirect taxes are collected, the burden of taxation has rested more on them than on the affluent groups. There should be no objection, if indirect taxes are raised on luxury items consumed mainly by the higher income groups and reduced on basic commodities by the lower income segments of society.

Republic Act 7716 is the Expanded Value Added Tax Law (EVAT) which has

been passed by the Congress of the Philippines in 1994. Although by edict of law, a law generally becomes effective after fifteen days from its required publication in the Official Gazette, RA 7716 has not been fully implemented, after its publication in the official gazette. Its full implementation has been suspended many times by subsequent laws, the last of which suspended it until December 31, 2002. RA 7716, requires the payment of taxes to the government by patients who receive the professional services of their doctors and who pays the doctors for the said professional services. Some of our lawmakers have come to realize the injustice and impracticability of the EVAT law. Why? Because they found out only lately, that the burden of taxation in this RA 7716 has been unjustly imposed on the wrong persons, who are the patients or the clients of the professionals instead of the latter themselves who are the ones who have clearly the capacity to pay the EVAT. Other Lawmakers have also realized that a fundamental principle of the EVAT is that, the tax is imposed on the ***sale of goods or services in the ordinary course of trade or business.*** ***On the other hand, the exercise of a profession or calling and the rendering of professional services is not a trade or business.***

Senator Robert Z. Barbers, propounds that "A profession is not a money getting business. It has no elements of commercialism in it. True the professional man seeks to live by what he earns, but his main purpose and desire is to be of service to those who seek his aid and to the community of which he is a necessary part. In some instances, where the recipient is able to respond, seemingly large fees may be paid, but to others unable to pay adequately or at all, the professional service is usually cheerfully rendered." He continues that "a profession

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Exemption from the EVAT

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involves the pursuit of public service where the gaining of a livelihood is not the principal consideration. On the other hand, business and trade involves the regular pursuit of a commercial or an economic activity and of financial gain. It includes in this sense any employment or business embarked in for gain or profit." Senator Barbers has sponsored in the senate, Senate Bill No. 2466, on January 16, 2003 which is **"An act to further amend Section 1 of RA 9010 entitled an act to further defer the imposition of the value added tax on certain services, amending for the purpose section 5 of RA 8424 as amended by RA 8761."** This bill authored by the good Senator Barbers does not seek to further defer or suspend the imposition of the EVAT on services of professionals, but instead it seeks to permanently delete or remove these professionals from the coverage of the VAT, because those in the exercise of their profession are already taxed for the income they derive therein. To charge then additional VAT will not only be too burdensome but could also be classified as discriminatory and confiscatory.

Senator Vicente C. Sotto in his Senate Resolution said that "WHEREAS unlike business establishments where the VAT was imposed in substitution of a Sales Tax and other taxes then imposed, the VAT as far as professionals and certain artists are concerned is an additional tax burden as they were not subjected to a similar tax prior to the expansion of the VAT's coverage." Further "WHEREAS, business establishments have ways to soften the impact of the VAT

they may pass on their customers by way of deducting the input VAT on their raw materials, supplies and other expenses to their output VAT, professionals owing to the fact that what they sell is their personal talents, knowledge and skills, have nothing much if at all to deduct from the output VAT that they are now required to pay." Furthermore he points out saying that, "the application of the VAT on professionals specially medical doctors and legal practitioners whose services are basically indispensable to the marginalized sector of the society would definitely result in higher professional fees that ultimately would be shouldered by their clients further making their much needed services beyond the reach of the majority of our people." Senator Sotto is in favor of the permanent suspension and repeal of the implementation of VAT on professionals.

While Senators Barbers, and Recto have already authored a Bill in the Senate to permanently remove the professionals from the coverage of EVAT, The two ABS CBN Senators, Noli De Castro and Loren Legarda have merely sponsored a Senate Resolution directing the Committee on Ways and Means to inquire in aid of Legislation the imposition of the Value Added Tax on certain services pursuant to RA# 7716, as amended, with an end in view of Enacting Legislation to address the same, most probably the mere temporary suspension of the implementation of VAT because of the "ballooning government budget deficit in the amount of 200.6 billion pesos as of November 2002" said, Noli De Castro, who is also

sponsoring a bill for mandatory medical malpractice insurance.

Surgeons among other professionals are more than willing to assist the government in any way they can, as long as they can see and perceive that the government is sincere and honest in the expenditure of the people's money. But if legislators continue to sponsor and enact anti doctor and anti patient bills in congress, or continue to fatten their pork barrel, or continue to grandstand or travel abroad at the expense of the people's money, then there is abundant justification that doctors must be in the forefront in opposing the additional levying of taxes. An old saying keeps ringing in our ears that "Congress warns against robbers of peoples money, because it does not want competition." Only when our high government public officials act and appear by example that they are honest by showing that our taxes are spent rightfully only for the peoples welfare to promote the public weal, will the citizens of this country, especially the fellows of the Philippine College of Surgeons, pay their taxes cheerfully and voluntarily. 😊

For any comments or questions about this article, please email:

attyleo@tri-isys.com

(Atty. Olarte is the PMA's assistant secretary-general)

PMA letter re: Enactment of the new VAT law

February 5, 2004

Memorandum to: All presidents of component, specialty and affiliate societies

Re: Enactment of the new VAT law

We hasten to relay to you this important communication with reference to the VAT Law that all of us stood to oppose.

The Bill amending the VAT Law, principally authorized and sponsored by Sen Ralph G. Recto, exempting physicians from has finally been enacted into law today, February 5, 2004, by virtue of RA No. 9238. This will be implemented fifteen (15) days after its official publication in the official gazette.

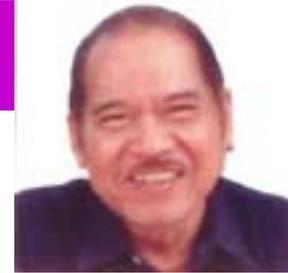
It can now be said that the fight was long but the fruit is sweet. Please

disseminate this wonderful news to all members.

Thank you very much. *Mabuhay ang mga manggagamot!*

Signed:
JOSE ASA SABILI, MD (Secretary General)

JOSE T. SANCHEZ, MD (President)

AIM TO HEAL**JOSE M. PUJALTE, MD, FPOA**

What is a good surgeon?

As a medical student years ago, our first lecturer in surgery was a very famous surgeon in his time. He said that surgery is derived from the Latin word, **chirurgia**, or from the Greek words, cheir (hand) and ergon (work). It's that branch of medicine which treats diseases, wholly, or in part, by manual or operative procedures. Perhaps tired from an operation that day, or simply bored from repetition of the same lecture year-in and year-out, his voice trailing and almost inaudible, he then mentioned a few physical attributes that a good surgeon must have. He must have an eagle's eyes (keen eyesight), a lady's fingers (steady, graceful hands), and a lion's heart (courage under stress).

But in essence, **nowadays**, more sterling qualities and some other esoteric traits which I would call **the imponderables**, should describe and personify what a good surgeon really is!

A short scenario may explain this curious statement. When the victim of a car accident is rushed to the E.R. of a hospital, which of the many injuries he sustained should the surgeon deal with first? At that very moment, good decision-making is paramount. One problem to be resolved quickly but carefully is, whether to operate, or sometimes more difficult is, not to operate! One other dilemma is the factor of **timing**. For instance, does the patient need surgery immediately, later, or not anymore? If the attending surgeon has had a good grounding in surgery, then expectedly he should be able to decide correctly and save the patient's life.

Interestingly, open to argument is the question of whether to select only the brighter of the lot for residency training. The answer is: **Yes and No!** Yes, because, ostensibly, the brighter ones can pick up and absorb more data and information faster, and in their brain, process and interpret the acquired facts better and clearer, thereby increasing their decision-making accuracy.

And No, because other criteria usually come into play, like physical stamina and staying power, especially during long and difficult operations, and maybe, on certain gruelling 24-hour duties. This gives the surgical beginner the unique chance of honing his manual ability.

Let us not forget, however, such inner characteristics as the Surgical resident may manifest, like patience and perseverance, a wrenching desire to learn and excel, honesty and integrity, civility, or even that rare and uncommon custom of deferring to his surgical teachers – human values that may make the difference.

These and other mystical traits which I personally call and identify as **the imponderables** (because they cannot be weighed and evaluated with exactness), may break the tie in the selection process.

I confess that superior mental ability is a big asset in surgery, as in any other specialty, as shown by the record and performance of bright graduates, and who are now considered among the **crème de la crème** of contemporary Philippine surgery. But I also know and respect many of our good and

successful surgeons who were just average academic mortals.

Personally, I think that the surgical novice must first go into general surgical training before he gets into the specialties. This opens to him a wider vista of the human body, and the general surgical conditions that he is plagued with. A good example is thyroid cancer, which, in syndromes of multiple endocrine neoplasia (MEN), may also affect the bones, the kidneys, the adrenals and the pituitary.

In medicine and surgery, one never stops learning and studying. Reading, listening to lectures and sharing in discussions, supplemented by clinical rounds and tutorials – are of utmost benefit. Once the budding surgeon has finished residency and/or fellowship, he should be able to depend more on his own resources. Although new and advanced textbooks are available, referring to current treatises and articles appearing in more prestigious journals, should form an integral part of his academic and surgical growth. He should also be in constant touch with what's new in general medicine to maintain his professional balance.

At the risk of being labeled old-fashioned and archaic, I still believe in the dictum enunciated by Halsted regarding basic surgical training. He emphasized the fancied cliché, See one, Do one, Teach one. In the E.R. and in the O.R., it would do well for the kind preceptor to encourage the hands-on approach to enhance the manual dexterity of the

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Whiplash... What is a...

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Other Illnesses. The author includes “useful illnesses” such as chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, repetitive injury strain, and post-traumatic stress syndrome. Indeed, some health professionals would call these “wastebasket diagnoses.” With the lack of concrete clinical findings, some doctors obfuscate. What better way than say something that he too doesn’t understand?

In the end, Dr. Malleson comes across as a refreshing voice in the medical (and legal) wilderness. Some may read into him a necessary activism that positions him and his views as anti-establishment. However, he is a medical sleuth first and only a whistle-blower second. It’s just too bad that whiplash may not go the way of *koro*. It might as well be that it is the good psychiatrist’s advocacy that is mythical. Go ahead, ask your ambulance lawyer. 😊

Surgical neophyte. I also support the old and controversial practice of short but substantial periods of preceptorship or apprenticeship under topnotch surgeons.

It may seem superfluous, but a good surgeon must embrace the highest ideals of the medical profession, avoiding the pitfalls of arrogance, greed, and unethical practice. He should not forget his surgical beginnings: his school, his hospital/s, and especially his surgical mentors.

In our country today, many patients are poor and destitute. In his ancient but venerated Oath, Hippocrates admonishes the

surgeon to extend full assistance and free services to these unfortunate people. Clearly, this admonition is about charity and kindness. In this regard, allow me, therefore, to quote Seneca, the Roman writer on rhetoric, (who lived from 55 B.C. to 39 A.D.). He said that “Kindness is a language the deaf can hear and the dumb can understand”. Billy Graham, the famous American traveling evangelist said about this virtue. “Kindness always pays, but it pays most when you don’t do it for pay”. 😊

The contributor is Chairman of Surgery, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Sta. Mesa, Manila and POA and PCS past president.

AAOS corner



POSSM officers Drs. Bimboy Garduce (secretary) and Art Cañete (vice-president) with POA vice-president Miles Dela Rosa sport the colorful POSSM necktie.



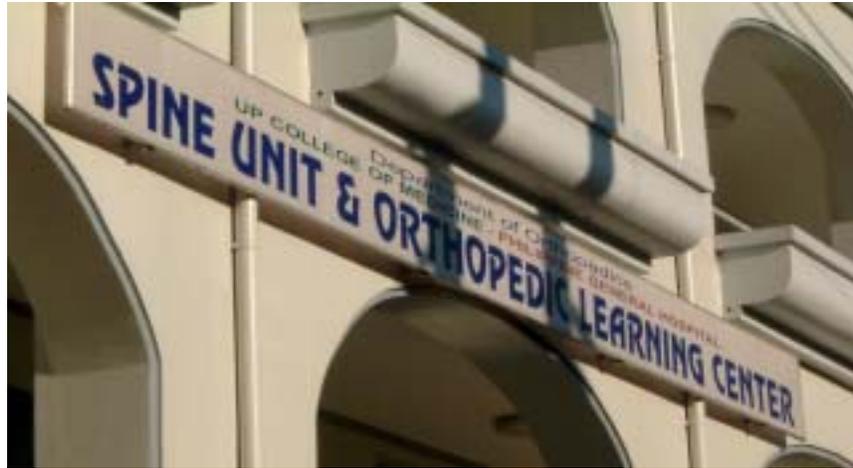
AAOS Pictures: POA Fellows attended the AAOS convention last March 9-14, 2004 in San Francisco. They shared fun with Alice Dela Paz, wife of Dr. Reggie Dela Paz and with Dr. Jess Cabrera, aUP alumnus who is now a psychiatrist based in San Francisco



UP-PGH opens new Spine Unit and Orthopaedic Learning Center

Last Dec. 17 2003 the new four-storey building which is the Spine Unit and the Orthopedic Learning Center was finally inaugurated. After 4 years of stop and starts due to budgetary constraints, the building was finally turned over and the occupants eagerly moved in to this new complex. The Spine Unit is a multi-disciplinary ward with the aim of housing spinal cord injuries with rehabilitation and neurosurgical, pulmonary and cardiac services available should it be necessary. It has 12 beds and 2 isolation rooms. Because of lack of hospital budgetary support, plans of having a separate OR in this area had to be shelved.

Since 1971 when the department opened, it had to cope with lack of beds and this unit is welcome addition. The second floor has a conference room which can accommodate 50-60 people easily. The weekly orthopedic conferences are conducted here. This conference facility can be used for post-graduate courses that the department is planning to offer this year. The 3rd floor now is the department nerve center. The chairman's complex is located here and should one look into it you will find a roster of the people who trained there since its birth to the present. It is a tribute to



SPINE UNIT Facade of the UP-PGH Spine Unit and Orthopedic Learning Center

the past chairman's tenacity of the former chairman Dr. Ellewellyn G. Pasion who tirelessly saw the project to its fruition that this splendid complex is now a reality. The chairman's complex have offices for the chief resident and vice-chairman and at the end of the hall, there is a room for our provincial alumni to stay should the need arises. The other rooms in the third and fourth floors are offices for the different subsections of the department. Thus weekly rounds and subspecialty activities have their separate venues in the offices of: Trauma; Adult; Spine; Hand; Ilizarov; Tumor; and Pediatric services. The old chairman's complex in ward 8 has also been renovated to house the new subspecialty services and they

are Arthroplasty and Sports Medicine Units.

All these offices have their own dedicated computer terminals linking the whole department. In the service of furthering research, this complex houses the Biomechanics Testing Laboratory with a new Instron testing machine. Several winning papers in the past two years are outputs from this young laboratory facility headed by Dr. Pipo

(Continued to page 13)



THE SPINE UNIT patients are sure to benefit from the upgraded facilities and additional services



DEDICATION Marker of the new building

Chapter News

POA-SLC: The tradition lives on

Not wanting to rest on its laurel; and having been recognized as the POA

Best Chapter for the last four years, the South Luzon POA chapter started the current year with a

Strategic Planning Seminar to lay down the road map for the chapter's direction in the next few years.

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PUERTO PRINCESA Mayor Edward Hagedorn (above) and Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes with POA officers prior to the 15th POA midyear convention



OCULAR INSPECTION: (above) POA president Dr. Rod Nitollama together with POA-SLC president Dr. Edwin Mercado, immediate past president Dr. Ric Liwag POA-SL Palawan pointman Dr. Gerard Catacutan paid a courtesy call to the military officials in Puereto Princesa last February, to ensure the security of the 15th MYC.



OUTGOING POA SL chapter president Dr. Ric Liwag delivers valedictory address.



UP-PGH opens Spine Unit ...

(Continued from page 12)

Bundoc. Another very useful facility in this complex is our Tissue Bank. Bones are processed here with more regularity now that it is opened to be used by surgeons who may need allografts.

Lastly, a library for our residents in training as well as all those who need it for research is housed in the Osawa- Tangco Orthopedic Library. It has extensive local and foreign journal collections, books as well as electronic linkages to facilitate research. Dr. Copernico Villaruel envisions this area as a coffee shop for learning (come visit for coffee chat). If you must know, Mr. Osawa was a Japanese soldier wounded in World War II treated in PGH by Dr. Ambrosio Tangco. He became a philanthropist, donating to several governmental projects but he never



ALL OFFICES have their own computers connecting them with each other

forgot PGH. Thus, as a token of gratitude to Dr. Tangco, Mr. Osawa donated to UP-PGH. He died last year knowing that his legacy will live on forever in the form of providing better orthopedic care for

generations to come. Thus the next ten years of the department will be an exciting one. With the birth of this new baby, it is hoped that it will grow robust and strong and spread its wings far and wide. ☺

Chapter News

POA-NLC sets foot at Mimosa



Last January 24-25, 2004, the POA-North Luzon Chapter (POA-NLC) held its first quarterly meeting at Holiday Inn Resort at Mimosa, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga. The day started with a lunch symposium where Dr. Ludivino de Guzman discussed extensively the efficacy and safety of Valdecobix and Parecoxib.

Through the efforts of the Philippine Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Society (POFAS), the POA-NLC conducted an ankle and foot seminar. It gave its members an additional knowledge on traumatic and diabetic complication of the foot and ankle. Dr. William T. Lavadia talked on General Principles of Foot and Ankle Trauma while Dr. Emil Tablante discussed Lisfranc's Fracture Dislocation and Diabetic Neuroarthropathy. It was followed by a workshop seminar on Total Contact Casting on Diabetic Foot. With the generosity of Longbone, headed by Dr. Jun Tranquilino; materials were provided for the workshop.

A business meeting was also held that evening where issues concerning the plans of the newly inducted President, Dr. Cabling, were discussed. Among the topics discussed were quarter meetings, provincial Ortho Club, community services, newsletter and research. The POA-NLC members took advantaged of the presence of the POA president Dr. Nitollama, taking up issues concerning POA/PCS membership, PHIC accreditation, malpractice laws, POA national projects, VAT exemptions, PAMS issues, and future plans of POA. It is the aim of the chapter to guide each member in updating and refreshing their orthopedic knowledge through seminars and workshops. In line with this, lectures from previous meetings were compiled in CDs that were

distributed to the members during registration. These CDs will serve as a constant guide in their practice. Of course, the night will not be complete without the Fellowship Night where all members enjoyed.

A dinner symposium was provided by Pfizer, Inc., where Dr. Antonio Tanchuling talked on COPE. The evening program was highlighted by a speech delivered by the President of the POA, Dr. Rodolfo Nitollama. It was followed by the induction of the new sets of officers of the chapter for the year 2004. Dr. Nitollama inducted the following officers:

Dr. Virginia C. Cabling -President
Dr. Gualberto T. Basco- V.President
Dr. Paul Ruel C. Camiña - Secretary
Dr. Jean Pierre F. Leung -Treasurer
Dr. Godofredo V. Dungca III - Auditor

Provincial Coordinators:

Dr. Arnulfo L. Olivar - Pangasinan
Dr. Edward L. Chiu - Abra/La Union
Dr. Jose Manuel Vicente C. Bello Jr.
- Ilocos

Dr. Marciano A. Foronda -Cagayan
Dr. Jean Pierre F. Leung -Baguio
Dr. Edwin Paul C. Cabling-Bulacan
Dr. Rolando F. Dela Cruz-Nueva Ecija
Dr. Reynaldo V. Lopez- Pampanga
Dr. Oliver M. Atanacio - Tarlac
Dr. Jessie Jewel E. Manuel
- Bataan/Olongapo



DR. WILLIAM LAVADIA during the total contact casting workshop.

POA-NLC goes to Baguio

The 2nd quarterly meeting of the POA North Luzon Chapter (POA-NLC) was held at the Concorde Hotel in Baguio last March 27-28, 2004 in cooperation MSD.

As expected, it was well attended by the delegates and friends along with their families. The program started after a sumptuous lunch. There were 4 speakers from PGH who talked on Pediatric Trauma and Sports Injuries in Children. Dr. Joseph Lai lectured on Orthopedic Perspective in Multiply Injured Pediatric Patient and Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis, Dr. Edgar Michael Eufemio talked about Sports Readiness in Children, Dr. Ian Noel



Tadeo Don Panuncialman discussed Sports Injuries in Children and Dr. Daniel Dungca talked about Common Complications in Pediatric Trauma. All lectures were indeed very informative and interesting that stimulate the minds of the audience prompting them to ask more questions. It gave guidance in

(Continued to page 15)

Chapter News

POA-NLC goes to Baguio

handling pediatric cases and preparing children in sports to avoid future sports injuries.

Jonathan V. Estrada, Emmanuel G. Racho, and Alexander A. Jarata. All pledged to uphold the principles and by-laws of the chapter.

After the lectures that afternoon, the President of the POA-NLC, Dr. Virginia Cabling, inducted the 5 new members of the chapter. They are Drs. Mario C. Castro,

The evening program involved fireside lectures and cases brought by some of the members for discussion. Members and speakers

(Continued from page 14)

shared valuable advises and inputs during the discussion.

The entire event ended with a fellowship night where all members and guests enjoyed the food and drinks. 😊



THE POA-NLC GROUP. The POA-NLC group led by their newly-inducted president Dr. Virginia Cabling (seated, center) with POA president Dr. Rod Nitollama



Drs. Bill Lavadia and Emil Tablante presenting the outcome of the total contact casting procedure.



INDUCTION. Dr. Rodolfo L. Nitollama, POA president inducts into office the 2004 officers, members and regional coordinators of the POA-North Luzon Chapter.



POA-NLC president Dr. Virginia Cabling inducts the new members of the chapter.



The 4 speakers who talked on Pediatric Trauma and Sports Injuries in Children, (from left) Dr. Joseph Lai, Dr. Daniel Dungca, Dr. Ian Noel Tadeo Don Panuncialman, and Dr. Edgar Michael Eufemio



POA-NLC President Dr. Virginia Cabling presents a plaque of appreciation to Dr. Antonio Tanchuling while POANLC Vice President Dr. Bert Basco and Secretary Dr. Paul Camiña look.



(Left) Dr. Ludivino de Guzman stresses a point during his lecture.



POA president Dr. Rodolfo Nitollama delivers his inspirational message to the chapter

Chapter News

POA-SMC's gift giving: loving the children thru sharing



Fulfilling its commitment to be of service to society, the Philippine Orthopaedic Association-South Mindanao chapter held a gift-giving last December 2003 in time for Christmas and another one last February 2004 this time in time for Valentine's Day.

The December gift-giving was a sole effort of the POA-South Mindanao fellows who wholeheartedly donated old and new toys for the activity and played Santa Claus for one day. The toys were then donated to two street-children institutions in Davao City namely Balay Paginhawaan which is run by the DSWD and Balay Pasilungan run by a sister congregation. Roughly 75 boys and girls were made happy during the said activity. We also donated educational toys and books for the two institutions.

In time for the "month of hearts", POA-South Mindanao chapter held another gift giving activity last February 2004. This time it was in coordination with a mission group based in General Santos City called Christian Light Foundation where one of our fellows Dr. Pipit Rabang is a member. The gifts were donated by children from other countries and was provided for by the Samaritan's Purse. POA South Mindanao chapter in turn identified institutions and places where the gifts are to be donated and also helped during the distribution of the gifts. The following institutions were the recipients of the gift-giving, Department of Orthopedics-Davao Medical Center, Balay Pasilungan, Balay Paginhawaan all in Davao City and the Department of Pediatrics-Davao Regional Hospital in Tagum City. At least 200 children were made happy during the gift-giving and the rest of the group from the POA-

South Mindanao chapter and Christian Light Foundation were elated as well for having a part in

making the life of these children an enjoyable one even for a day. ☺



POA president Dr. Rodolfo Nitollama inducts POA-SMC officers headed by Dr. Larry Diaz

Chapter News

POA-NMC's induction and first quarterly meeting at CDO



Last March 20, 2004, Cagayan de Oro was once again honored by the presence of Dr. Rod Nitollama. He flew into town to induct into office the very first set of officers of the POA North Mindanao Chapter. The affair brought 18 orthopods from all over the Mindanao Northshore. Dr. Ed Luy came from Pagadian City in Zamboanga del Sur, Dr. Emmanuel Coletto from Butuan City in Agusan del Norte, and Drs. Nelson Sese and Manuel Roxas from Bukidnon. Fourteen orthopods from Cagayan de Oro were in attendance. Drs. Adrian Catbagan and Greg Azores who happened to be in town to perform surgeries were special guests.

Inducted into office as Chapter Officers were Dr. Manuel Z. Sison as President, Dr. Ramon Y. Te, Jr. as Vice President, Dr. Renan B. Abellera as Treasurer, Dr. Ma. Geneva S. Khu as Secretary, and Dr. Jovito C. Lao as PRO. Dr. Emmanuel Coletto was also inducted as the newest member of the Chapter. Dr. Sison also led the members in renewing their pledge of fellowship.

Before the induction, the membership was treated to a



Dr. Rod Nitollama administers the oath of induction to the officers of the POA North Mindanao Chapter

simple, wisdom-filled lecture on Osteoporosis in Men delivered by Dr. Kups Villaruel.

The POA's newest chapter had launched a bid to host the 16th POA midyear convention. They however lost out to sister chapter POA-South Mindanao's Davao bid. Dr. Manuel Sison is unfazed and plans to strengthen his chapter's activities. 😊

THE POA-NMC officers and members with POA president Dr. Rod Nitollama during the induction and chapter visit



Dr. Emmanuel Coletto being inducted by Dr. Rod Nitollama



Chapter News

POA-SLC inducts new officers



With the enormous task of hosting the 15th POA Midyear Convention, the POA South Luzon Chapter started the year running as the first chapter to hold its induction on January 17, 2004 at the Vivere Suites in Alabang, Muntinlupa, Metro Manila.

Fifteen new fellows, nine diplomates and three associate members were added to the roster of the chapter bringing its total membership to 55 fellows, ten diplomates, fifteen associate members and six honorary fellows. The new set of officers, guided by a medium term plan as a result of a strategic planning workshop, was also inducted. They were Dr. Edwin Mercado, president; Dr. Jay Suntay, vice president; Dr. Joseph Rebulado, secretary; Dr. Joy Hipol treasurer; Drs. Joseph Chan, Jensy Ong, Rannie Aguilar, Larry Manaligod, Romy Sy, Jun Celera and Bong Guloy as Board Members. Dr. Ricardo Liwag, ex-officio and outgoing president was awarded a citation for exemplary work as POASL president for 2003, earning

for the chapter its second Best Chapter Award.

POA National President, Dr. Rod Nitollama was the guest speaker and inducting officer. Having been the founding president of the chapter in 1991, he intimated to always have a special place for the SLPOA in his heart. The Chapter is likewise very proud to have an active member and former president to be the POA national president. He is only the second provincial based fellow to head the National POA.

Two lectures were also delivered, an orthopedic topic by Dr.

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DR. BANZON of *PhilHealth* discussing *PhilHealth* issues with the *POA-SLC* officers and members.

(Below) Chapter officers and members during the induction rites



POA-SLC: The tradition lives on

(Continued from page 13)

The exercise was held last November 22, 2003 at the Microtel Inn and Suites in Sto. Tomas, Batangas attended by the incoming set of officers headed by Dr. Edwin M. Mercado, the POA SL 2004 President and the 15th POA Midyear Convention committee members headed by its chairman Dr. Ricardo Liwag; Dr. Rod Nitollama, incoming National President was also in attendance to provide guidance and align the chapter's missions with national directives. This workshop was generously supported by Pfizer Inc.

Five key points were tackled and answers were provided. The

chapter's past and present were reviewed on the question of where we are now: A chapter mission and vision statement was formulated on the question of where we want to be. Different committees were established and objectives/strategies based on key result areas were lengthily discussed on the question of how do we want to get to our end objectives and how do we know we are getting there. And of course the issue of budget and funding on the question of how we will pay our way was also elaborated.

Some key resolutions that came out of the workshop were: the move to revise the chapter's constitution to reflect current needs; chapter SEC registration; CME

activities that would include in-service exams for fellows; CD roms and journals to be provided to members of goodstanding, data base for multi-center research; standardization of fees, ethical issues among members and corresponding rules of engagement; transparency through regular and timely presentation of chapter financial statements; and community outreach favoring environmental concerns.

The chapter officers are very upbeat with the output of the workshop and have pledged full commitment to the eventual realization of the chapter's mission and vision. ☺

Chapter News

POA-WVC induction ceremonies



POA president Dr. Rod Nitollama delivers inspirational messages and inducts officers and members of the POA-West Visayas Chapter led by president Dr. Marcelo Jaen.



POA-WVC OFFICERS Drs. Doy Jaen and Ronnie Payba award a plaque of appreciation to POA president Dr. Nitollama as inducting officer.

POA-WVC president Dr. Marcelo Jaen with the officers and members after the induction rites.



POA-CEVC

OSTEOPOROSIS CASCADE: Dr. Arturo Cañete delivers his lecture

POA-CEVC induction of officers led by Dr. Pablo Ilano



POA president Dr. Rod Nitollama and past presidents Drs. Art Cañete and Boy Abrahan with the officers and members of the POA-CEVC led by their president Dr. Pablo Ilano after the induction rites.

A traveling fellowship to remember



UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas orthopaedic chairman Prof. E. Burke Evans (in circle) and his consultant and resident staffs with the ASEAN Travelling Fellows after the case presentation and conference.

(Continued from page 7)

the extra tight security procedures for all airline passengers.

The POA President's medallion, which is made up of x-ray detectable metal, always presented a special security inspection problem. But after seeing the thing personally, all the security inspectors were amazed and were highly impressed with it.

We arrived in San Francisco on February 11 and the next day, we drove to Sacramento, the capital of California, on a rented SUV. The kindness and understanding of Dr. George Rab was disarming, he made us feel very informal, especially after treating us to a Japanese Restaurant together with his staff.

At the Shriners Hospital for Children, which is apart of the UC-Davis Medical Center complex, Dr. Ed Damir, and orthopedic volunteer in his seventies, guided us on a tour of the facility. I was proud that there were four Filipinos doing outstanding work as orthotists and prosthetists.

The splendor of Valentines Day February 14 was almost non-existent as we traveled back to San

Francisco via the famous Napa Valley, where my companions wanted to have a taste of the famous American wines. Of course, we were envious of families and lovers out on dates that night, while missing our own back home.

The next day we flew from San Francisco to Omaha via Denver. We arrived close to midnight and were met at the airport by Dr. Edward Fehringer, on behalf of Dr. Kevin Garvin, who was out of state at that time. Despite the knee-high thick snow, we were off to the hospital orthopedic conference at the University of Nebraska in Omaha at 6 am. Foot and ankle specialists Drs. Matthew Mormino and Michael Clare, both AOFAS members entertained us. Dr. Mormino conducted discussion and showed us some of his cases.

This Center also has a very active research facility. Dr. Fereydoon Namanvar from Iraq is the director of the Division of Nano-Biotechnology at this center. We first came face to face with the extent of their research funding and glimpses of experiments on cadaveric human parts, like knees and ankles. Again,

we came across two Filipino research assistants in these facilities.

From there we went to Loyola University in Maywood, IL via Chicago, where our host was Dr. Terry Light and his wife Holly. They tendered a wonderful reception for us at their residence. This visit was rich in orthopedic learning experience, culture and arts. Aside from presenting our papers, we were treated to a chance to sit in a medical classroom where the Loyola orthopedic consultant staff delivered their lectures on the musculoskeletal system to third year medical students, evoking memories of our faculty work back home.

Ms. Irina Khmel'nitsky, manager of educational programs at Loyola and a former Russian (Ukrainian) émigré, was very gracious in giving us a tour of Chicago's north suburbs, to emphasize the danger of that part of the city.

At Chicago where the AAOS and AOA headquarters are situated at different floors in the same

(Continued to page 21)

A traveling fellowship to remember

(Continued from page 20)

building along Lakeshore Boulevard. Accompanied by Dr. Pietro Tonino, an elbow and shoulder specialist of Italian descent, we were given a chance without having to pay the fees, to participate in the Arthroscopy Association of North America (AANA) post graduate course at the ground floor of the building. Luckily, I was in the group personally mentored by Dr. Howard Sweeney, president of the AANA in 1998-1999. We all had a good feel of knee arthroscopy on human cadaver knees.

On a lighter note, we also tasted famous Chicago hotdogs with

Dr. Tonino, and had a night out listening to Chicago blues at Kingston Mines with Dr. Light.

This facility also has an extensive research facility which Dr. Avinash G. Patwardhan showed us. They were currently testing biomechanically an ankle screw versus fiber optic cable on frozen cadaver ankles.

Visiting the AAOS gave us the opportunity to meet with Ms. Lynne Dowling, who was in-charge of overseas programs. She was sympathetic enough to listen to some of the problems of AAOS convention participants. I gave her a

glimpse of problem like the cost of registration by our young orthopedic residents who are not entitled to the usual discounts accorded to international AAOS members.

It also gave me an opportunity to meet and thank the AOA staff headed by Mr. Thomas Stuntzenbach, Debra Whalen and Kristine Dube who was in constant communication with the group. A night sight seeing tour of Chicago by the bay, and attending a Chicago Symphony Orchestra presentation courtesy of Dr. Light and his wife was a luxury. *(To be continued in the next issue)* 😊



ASEAN TRAVELING FELLOWS (above) gather around Dr. Matthew Mormino of University of Nebraska Medical Center, Department of Orthopedic Surgery in Omaha, Nebraska while he discusses his cases and conducts a teaching rounds. (Below) They share a picture at the department's library with Drs. Mormino (2nd from left) and Michael Clare (3rd from left), both AOFAS fellows; and Dr. Edward V. Fehringer (3rd from right), who entertained the group in the absence of Dr. Kevin Garvin, who was out of state at the time of their visit.



ASEAN TRAVELING FELLOWS with Dr. E. Burke Evans, a sweet, witty, gentleman in his seventies. He was the only host who wrote letters to the fellows in his own handwriting.



DR. CARL NELSON (left), chairman of the University of Arkansas Medical School Orthopedic Department in Little Rock, Arkansas demonstrates his surgical skills in doing a unicompartamental knee arthroplasty while the ASEAN traveling fellows observe from the foreground, anteroom.



SHRINERS HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN orthopedic volunteer Dr. Ed Damir (center) with the ASEAN travelling fellows at the University of California-Davis Health Complex in Sacramento, California. At the background were the badges honoring the Shriners generous donors.

(More pictures on page 22)

A traveling fellowship to remember



DR. ROBERT BUCHHOLZ, chair of the University of Texas-Southwestern Orthopaedics in Dallas, Texas towers above POA president Dr. Rod Nitollama. Dr. Buchholz is the 2004 AAOS president. He and his wife Marybeth, an accomplished hand surgeon and former president of the American Orthopaedic Hand Society, personally entertained the ASEAN traveling fellows in their lovely home. Dr.s. Marybeth even volunteered to accompany the fellows to shopping and drove them personally to the airport while Dr. Robert had been busy with his AAOS chores.

POA-SLC inducts...

(Continued from page 18)

Emil Tablante on the Treatment of Cavus Foot and a non orthopedic topic on Philhealth Policies on Medical Certifications and Updates on Guidelines for Medical Coverage by Dr. Eduardo P. Banzon, Philhealth Vice President for Medical Affairs. A lengthy discussion ensued after the lectures and Dr. Banzon promised to answer some unresolved issues during the Midyear Convention where he will also be a speaker.

The main induction program was followed by a fellowship at the



IRINA KHMELNITSKI (2nd from left) manager of educational programs at Loyola University of Chicago and a former Russian emigre, with ASEAN traveling Fellows



DR. FERAYDOON NAMANVAR, (3rd from left) an Iraqi-American heads the Division of Nano-biotechnology at University of Nebraska Medical Center.



DR. GEORGE RAB, (center) of the University of California-Davis in Sacramento, California treated the ASEAN traveling fellows to a sumptuous Japanese dinner at the start of the tour.

rooftop restaurant of Vivere where members partied till the wee hours of the day with a breathtaking view

of the city. This activity was generously supported by Merck, Shape & Dohme. 😊



POA SLC Fellows members after the induction ceremonies

Board tackles key issues

(Continued from page 1)

Led by POA president Dr. Rodolfo L. Nitollama and the executive officers, the Board discussed key issues affecting the association.

Foremost among the issues tackled was the Mission and Vision and Values Statement of the POA, which was formally drafted by the trustees after a long deliberation. Their inputs will be submitted to the POA fellows during the business meeting portion of the 15th POA

Midyear Convention in Puerto Princesa City on April 22-24, 2004.

Also high on the trustees' list of key issues were the formation of the POA Foundation, Inc., short term and long term investments of the association, CME and outreach projects, POA secretariat staff concerns, POA Hymn, and the two forthcoming international congresses to be hosted by the POA this year and in 2005. ☺

POA pursues BJD concerns

(Continued from page 1)

In the Philippines, the PCBBD, with the Philippine Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine (PARM) as the lead agency of the four-member aggragation, will launch "Project: *Banat Buto*" on April 16, 2004 at the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila (formerly Robinson's Galleria Suites). The POA, which has been tasked by the PCBBD to pursue the WHO theme, will launch its version of the "Road Safety is No Accident" project.

As envisioned by PARM's Dr. Bee Giok Tan-Sales, who is the current chair of the PCBBD for this year, the twin *Banat Buto* and Road Traffic Safety projects will be launched in a press conference wherein representatives of the tri-media will be invited.

Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chairman Bayani Fernando and Department of Health (DOH) secretary Dr. Manuel Dayrit have been invited to grace the affair. A plan to invite President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the affair was shelved after encountering scheduling problems with GMA who was busy with her campaign sorties and other official functions.

POA president Dr. Rodolfo L. Nitollama will present the POA Road Traffic Safety lecture. The POA has also conceptualized a 10 Useful Tips To Avoid Road Accidents poster.

It will be recalled that in 2002 when the POA, under then president Dr. Venancio P. Garduce, Jr. and secretary Dr. Nitollama, as the lead agency of the PCBBD also conceptualized a Bone and Joint Decade poster, its first contribution to the BJD projects. That year, the POA has chosen Road Traffic Safety and Trauma Prevention as one of the major BJD concerns. The same theme two years later was chosen by the WHO as its world theme.

The *Banat Buto* project essentially involves an exercise video that runs for about fifteen minutes. It features exercise specialist Anne Bouffard.

Dr. Nitollama will present data culled from WHO figures, the POA Trauma Registry and whatever available local data on road traffic accidents. The highlight of the presentation is the 10 Useful Tips to Avoid Road Traffic Accidents Poster, which he and POA artist Mike Villanueva conceptualized. The plan is to come out with a poster which will be mass-produced and distributed to hospitals, doctors' clinics and schools nationwide. The information will be disseminated through the POA chapters and the four other PCBBD allied organizations. ☺

POA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 10 - 14, 2004

AAOS Convention
San Francisco, California

April 21-24, 2004

15th POA Midyear Meeting
Puerto Princesa City, Palawan,
Philippines
Host: POA-SL Chapter

June 4-6, 2004

Malaysian Orthopaedic Association
Annual Meeting
Penang, Malaysia

June 23-26, 2004

American Orthopaedic Association
Annual Meeting
Boston Massachusetts, USA

September 5-10, 2004

Asia-Pacific Orthopaedic
Association Triennial Congress
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

September 15-17, 2004

British Orthopaedic Association
Annual Meeting
G-MEX Center, Manchester, UK

October 13-17, 2004

2nd ASEAN Orthopaedic Association-
AAOS Instructional Course & the
combined meeting of the AOA
and RCOST Annual Meetings
Pattaya, Thailand

October 24-29, 2004

Combined Meeting of the Australian and
New Zealand Orthopaedic Associations
Sydney, Australia

November 30 - December 4, 2004

55th POA Annual Convention Combined
with International Federation of Foot
and Ankle Societies (IFFAS) Meeting
Theme: A Leap Towards Globalization
EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong
City, Philippines

November 9-13, 2005

56th POA Annual Convention Combined
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