



The Official Publication of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery

ORL NEWS

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PSO-HNS 2023 ANNUAL CONVENTION

by Aileen S. Delos Santos-Garcia, MD, MBAH, FPSO-HNS

For 67 years, the society has been working tirelessly to serve you better.

This year, we are pleased to welcome you as the PSO-HNS holds its 67th Annual Convention, centered around the theme of "CMF Surgery Across Specialties." Together with the amazing men and women of the PACMFS, we give special emphasis on cutting-edge techniques in the subspecialty. This event is scheduled to take place from November 29 to December 1, 2023 at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila. Returning to the same venue yet again, we still aim to elevate this year's annual convention and congress, serving as a fitting culmination of the society's year-long commitment of exceptional service and excellence to the nation.

The opening ceremonies, though concise, will carry deep significance and will feature the International faculty of AO CMF as our distinguished guest speakers.

PSO-HNS ANNUAL CONVENTION 2023

"CMF Surgery Across Specialties"



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

We have streamlined on-site registration to ensure a smooth process, and the ample registration area will allow delegates to move freely without overcrowding. Our scientific program is brimming with plenary sessions, symposia, focused learning sessions, & workshops that promise to be intellectually stimulating and captivating for our trainees, diplomates, fellows, as well as our colleagues from the other specialties.

We are also delighted to announce that we will host an exposition featuring booths and exhibits from our healthcare partners, showcasing the latest advancements in diagnostic and therapeutic innovations, which will undoubtedly pique our interest. It will be housed in a newly-renovated ballroom called the M Place. We have also arranged the physical setup to ensure enhanced security and improved accessibility.

We are all set for the 67th Annual Congress at the same venue as last year. However, it's important to note that the registration fees for this year will be higher and will be aligned with the rates charged by the hotel's banquet as well as benchmarked with other specialties. The decision to raise the registration rates for this year's congress was not taken lightly but was deemed necessary.

Lastly, let me acknowledge the dedication and commitment of each and every member of the Organizing

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings to all!

After almost four years, it is my pleasure to present to you the latest edition of our PSO-HNS Newsletter. Our newsletter has always featured the yearly activities of the Board of Trustees, Chapters, Subspecialty groups, and the different accredited training institutions. It was a means for us to connect with each other and remain abreast of the developments in the Society and our colleagues. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has halted many of our activities, immobilized our practices, delayed training, and disconnected us from each other. As we slowly return to normal, our practices and the activities of the Board of Trustees, chapters, academies, and training institutions are starting to flourish again. That is why one of my goals when I started my term was to bring back the PSO-HNS Newsletter.

Producing this newsletter was not an easy task. From its conceptualization to its printing, each page represents the focus and dedication of everyone involved in its publication. Its return would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and tireless effort of our editor-in-chief, Dr. Frederick Hawson, the PSO-HNS Media and Publication Committee, and the new generation of editors of the PSO-HNS newsletter. The time and effort they have invested in bringing back our newsletter is truly commendable.

This issue will include articles from our past presidents as they share the activities and milestones they have achieved during their term. We hope that as you leaf through the pages of the newsletter you will get to know our Chapters and Subspecialty groups better and that it will bring the Society closer to you.

The PSO-HNS newsletter is a testament to our resilience, proof that despite all, we can rise again.

Together, let us continue to uplift the practice of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery to achieve our vision of being recognized as a leading society in our field.

Enjoy reading!

Ricardo L. Ramirez, Jr., MD, FPSO-HNS
PSO-HNS President, 2023

committee. I have indeed been standing on shoulders of giants as their hard-work has been the foundation of the success of this activity. Heartfelt gratitude also goes to our staff members, namely Sharon, Melissa, Che, April, Ally, Kiko and Jun. The recognition here will never surmount for the love and care you have given the society and all its members.

We also welcome during the annual convention our newest fellows. Kudos to all the training institutions who continuously ensure that they are well-prepared to become dedicated Fellows of PSO-HNS, embodying the cherished core values of our organization.

See you all at the convention!

2023 MIDYEAR CONVENTION

CENTRAL LUZON (CELENT) CHAPTER

by Dennis Cristobal S. Mangoba, MD, FPSO-HNS



The first few months of the year were marked by an urgency that served as the wind-up to the ultimate climax that was the highly- successful **Clark 2023 Mid-Year Convention** held at the **Widus Hotel Clark, Pampanga** last **May 18-20**. Our journey towards achieving this amazing finish, as ably led by CELENT President and the Clark MYC Over-all Convention Chair Dr. Dennis Cristobal Mangoba, supported by our Vice-President and MYC Scientific Committee Chair Dr. Jefferson Alamani, MYC Ways and Means Committee Chair Dr. Minnie Yao and the rest of our equally capable officers and organizing committee heads and members, with the help and advice of our PSO-HNS BOT member Dr. Godofredo Hizon and past PSO-HNS President Dr. Wilfredo Batol, crescendoed to what has been often touted as one of the most successful PSO-HNS Mid-year conventions ever. Persevering through all of the many trials and setbacks along the way ushered in a heart-warming sense of unity and family for CELENT.

In an era marked by continuous advancements and rapid information exchange, staying at the forefront of knowledge is crucial for professionals in any field. For our Chapter, this mission is not only a priority but a commitment that has been realized through the organization's Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs and scientific convention. These events have not only empowered our members with the latest insights but have also fostered a sense of community and collaboration.

As we celebrate the success of PSO-HNS - CELENT's Mid- year convention and CMEs, it is incumbent to acknowledge the dedication of the organizing committee, the cooperation of the chapter members, the expertise of the speakers, and the enthusiastic participation of the attendees. These activities have undoubtedly played a pivotal role in driving our society's progress, and they stand as a shining example of our commitment to excellence, unity, collaboration, and growth. Looking ahead, we are excited to continue this tradition of exceptional events that empower professionals and contribute to the advancement of healthcare. With the support and participation of our members, we are confident that the future will be marked by even more remarkable achievements and contributions.

In the months ahead, CELENT stands ready to pioneer positive change, nurture growth, and celebrate community. We are more than excited to share these exciting endeavors with you and work together to shape a brighter future for everyone.

“ Persevering through all of the many trials and setbacks along the way ushered in a heart-warming sense of unity and family for CELENT. ”

PSO-HNS ANNUAL CONVENTION 2023

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MESSAGES >

MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLICITY COM CHAIR

"THE RESONANT RETURN: ORL NEWSLETTER REVIVED AFTER A 4-YEAR HIATUS"

by Aileen S. Delos Santos-Garcia, MD, MBAH, FPSO-HNS

Dearest friends and colleagues welcome to the long-awaited revival of the ORL Newsletter! After a 4-year hiatus, we're back, and we couldn't be more excited to share the vibrant and exciting world of ORL-HNS with you once again.

The Quiet Intermission

For the past half-decade, our beloved newsletter took a brief intermission. It wasn't a lack of enthusiasm or material – it was more like a well-deserved power nap. The world kept spinning, and so did our vibrant society, but we temporarily paused the ink on our pages. But guess what? We're back with a melodious crescendo, ready to harmonize with the brilliant minds of our field.

A Standing Ovation for Our Mentors

As we fire up the printing press and give life to words on paper, we must first take a moment to give a resounding standing ovation to our leaders who had guided our way, especially through the uncertainty of the pandemic. As they were not given their due space for a written valediction before, the PSO-HNS presidents of the past four years report on the projects and activities during their respective terms in the section **"Retrospective Radiance"**. We also have a look back during those lockdown moments in a section **"PSO-HNS goes ONLINE"**.



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PSO-HNS SOX VINTA 2022 HYBRID MIDYEAR CONVENTION

by Mohammad Ariff A. Baguindali, MD, FPSO-HNS



Since the spectacular Davao Experience in 2011, PSO-HNS Midyear Conventions hosted by the Southern Mindanao Chapter (SMC) had always showcased the elements of Davao's best scenic encounters of fire, water, wind and earth. As the carrier of the 2022 PSO-HNS Midyear Convention, vintas have finally docked in the Land of the Generals in Southern Mindanao (SM), embracing the colorful festival spirit of SOCSSARGEN, while continuing to provide doctors of our specialty very timely and relevant updates on challenges and trends in the management of airway diseases.

SMC organized a special hybrid type of Midyear Convention in 2022, as the PSO-HNS transitioned to adjust to the new normal after 2 years of online scientific engagements because of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

This 3-day event was a reunion of colleagues with an interesting and relevant scientific program, as well as exciting evening and daytime fellowship activities showcasing the different festivals of SM, particularly those in the SOX region.

For the first in the history of the PSO-HNS conventions, the SMC gave away a Brand NEW SUZUKI JIMNY to one very lucky fellow registrant. The proceeds raised from the sales of the car raffle tickets was shared among the chapters and the academies for their funds in mobilizing and strengthening advocacies to cement the relevance of our specialty in the community.

In his Welcome Remarks, overall convention chair Dr. Mohd. Ariff Baguindali said that:

“If there is one important virtue we should have learned during the pandemic, it is Kindness.”

This entails sharing and giving. It helps us to interact in a more meaningful and pleasant way to build a united community for a stronger PSO-HNS. Our inspiration in SMC is to create meaningful and sustainable advocacies that can uplift the ORL-HNS specialty in the community.”

(CONTINUED) MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLICITY COM CHAIR

Inspiring the Next Generation
One of the primary goals of the ORL Newsletter is to inspire future generations of Otolaryngologists. This newsletter is a treasure trove of knowledge, stories, and insights. It's a backstage pass to the wonderful world of ORL, so let's take a moment to admire every story, as all **39 Training Institutions, 8 Chapters, and 10 Academies** of our esteemed society come together to share their articles.

The New Movement
In this revived newsletter, we're introducing a **"Spotlight"** section, where we'll showcase the incredible work being done by our present Board of Trustees. I am very proud to announce that through the leadership of 2023 PSO-HNS President, Dr. Ricardo Ramirez, Jr., the present BOT has accomplished its priority projects.

Raise the Curtain!
So, without further ado, let's raise the curtain on the new era of the ORL Newsletter. As we embark on this journey, we invite you to take center stage with us. We are most fortunate to have a stellar cast for our 2023 Editorial Staff led by none other than the pioneer Dr. Fred Hawson as the Editor-in-chief.

Welcome back ORL Newsletter! Here's to reviving our official publication, to our mentors, to the future, and to the beautiful world of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.



66TH PSO-HNS AC HOSTED 2ND APLA CONGRESS

by Frederick Y. Hawson, MD, FPSO-HNS

The 2nd Congress of the Asia-Pacific Laryngology Association (APLA) was held in December 1-3, 2022 at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, held in conjunction with the 66th Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS), with the theme “V.A.S.T. (Voice, Airway, Swallowing, and Therapy) Experience in the Asia-Pacific.” The local organization of the Congress was spearheaded by the Philippine Academy of Laryngobronchoesophagology and Phoniatrics (PALP).

After the opening ceremonies graced by keynote speaker Dr. Peak Woo (USA), the three-day event covered basic to complex laryngeal issues, surgical procedures for vocal cord paralysis, voice feminization and masculinization, laryngeal malignancies, and advances in laryngeal imaging instrumentation. Faculty hailed from Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Turkey, UK, USA and the Philippines.



The grand prize winner of the Paper Presentation contest was senior resident Dr. Jacqueline Cua- Lim from St. Luke’s Medical Center (Philippines) with “Comparison of the Loss of Resistance Syringe to Pilot Balloon Palpation in Achieving the Recommended Endotracheal Cuff Pressure of Filipino Patients in a Tertiary Private Hospital: A Cross-over Randomized Controlled Trial.” The panel of judges included Drs. David Lau (Singapore), Sachin Gandhi (India) and Rohan Bidaye (UK). She was also awarded a generous grant of US\$1000 by APLA Founding Chair Mr. Vasant Oswal (UK).

The winner of the Poster competition was senior resident Dr. Ma. Alyssa S. Bautista from the Veteran’s Memorial Medical Center, with “An Evaluation of Quality of Life and Voice Improvement Among Patients with Spasmodic Dysphonia who Underwent Isshiki Thyroplasty Type II: A Single Center Study.” The panel of judges included Drs. Guri Sandhu (UK), Marina Mat Baki (Malaysia) and Shashank Gupta (India).

The first international Laryngology Quiz, presided over by Quizmaster Dr. Firyal Balushi (Oman) and her co-host Dr. Nilanjan Bhowmick (India), was also held. That saw a tight thrilling contest up to the finish between the last two teams Philippines vs. India. The team of Dr. Gianfranco Velasco and Dr. Catherine Policina, residents from the Rizal Medical Center (Philippines) pulled through with the close victory.

This was the first major face-to-face conference of the PSO-HNS after the 2-year COVID-19 pandemic. It drew over 1300 local and over 50 foreign delegates, making its mark as the most highly-attended annual convention in the history of the PSO-HNS.

by Robert R. Dy, MD, FPSO-HNS



The Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS) made history last December 3-4, 2020, by hosting its first-ever Virtual Annual Meeting with the theme “#resiliENT: Bouncing Back from Adversity, Forging the Way to a Better Normal”. Amid a global pandemic, the society demonstrated exceptional resilience and innovation, adapting to the digital realm to ensure the continuity of their vital work in the field of otolaryngology.

The virtual event brought together leading experts and practitioners from across the nation, fostering an environment of collaborative learning and idea exchange. Despite the physical distance, attendees shared insights on how our fellows continued their practice, in government or private practice, as an otolaryngologist – head and neck surgeon, a medical director, and a mall-based practitioner.

Using the MIMS channel, the free paper presentations and scientific sessions were available synchronously and asynchronously. The Induction of Fellows, Fellows Business Meeting, & Closing Ceremonies were held using

the Zoom platform. It was also the first time that the election for the officers and board of trustees for the society was held online. Attendees from various corners of the country were able to visit the Virtual Exhibitors booths and join the raffle.

The event also underscored the importance of adaptation and innovation in the face of challenges. By embracing virtual technology, PSO-HNS not only ensured the safety of its members but also set a precedent for future conferences, demonstrating that meaningful collaboration and learning can transcend physical boundaries. It showcased the society's commitment to excellence but also highlighted the resilience of the medical community in the face of unprecedented challenges.

By embracing technology, fostering global collaboration, & nurturing a spirit of innovation, PSO - HNS has set a high standard for future conferences, ensuring that the pursuit of excellence in otolaryngology knows no bounds.



PSO-HNS VIRTUAL MIDYEAR CONVENTION

by Samantha Ruth Cainghug-Baillo, MD, FPSO-HNS

“STAYING SHARP WITH OUR SENSES: THE AGEING ENT PATIENT”

History was made on April 29, 2021 when PSO-HNS Fellows and all participants clicked “join,” to the first ever purely virtual Midyear Convention of the Society of Otorhinolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery. The 3-day event, from April 29, 30 - May 1, 2021 was hosted by PSO-HNS Central Eastern Visayas Chapter and conducted online via Zoom. The theme of the convention was “Staying sharp with our senses: the ageing ENT patient.” The host chapter prepared for a face-to-face activity to be held for the first time in the historical place of Tacloban, in the fiesta filled days of May 2020. Then, we had COVID-19. The day after the country was placed on lockdown, the Midyear 2020 was cancelled. The officers of the Central Eastern Visayas Chapter (PSO-HNS CEV Chapter) cancelled all arrangements for the physical event and now planned for Midyear 2021.

The Pandemic isolated all of us, and while grappling with the health crises and learning how to deal with an

unknown and unseen viral foe, we had to upgrade our technical skills as we migrated to online interaction. It was not easy. Online platforms and web pages are costly as well. The number of sponsors also dwindled to the ever reliable few companies, hence we worked on a tight budget. We did tech runs and tried several online platforms, but Zoom still proved easier and most reliable. Fortunately, a company offered to provide the Zoom account and tech support. Another blessing was our very own CEV Fellow, Dr. Janrus Abella, through his tech company, designed and provided the Social Media Platform/webpage for the registration platform. The host chapter is blessed with creative, multitalented and hardworking members who were the backbone in the preparation, creation and execution of the virtual convention. It is but fitting to mention the names of the members of the organizing committee: Dr. Mervin Varona, Dr. Camille Espina, Dr. Ryan Ko, Dr. Mitchie Simtoco, Dr. Colina Colina, Dr. Pamela Masongsong, Dr. Simon Flores, Dr. Gina Serebrica, Dr. Aimee Lim, Dr. Jeumont Cabañesas,

Dr. Janrus Abello, Dr. Marlon Oclarenc, Dr. Mark Guinocor, Dr. Alexis Divinagracia, Dr. Arlene Merton, Dr. Andrie Formanes, Dr. Carlito Dimaano, Jr., Dr. Tracy Chan-Dagus, Dr. Michael Lazaro, Dr. Gerard Doroy, Dr. Dan Dafon, Dr. Marion Acuin, Dr. Emerson Catudio, Dr. Johbert Estanislao, Dr. Jenny Lyn Uy-Chua, Dr. Red Magdayao and Dr. Samantha Ruth Cainghug - Baillo.

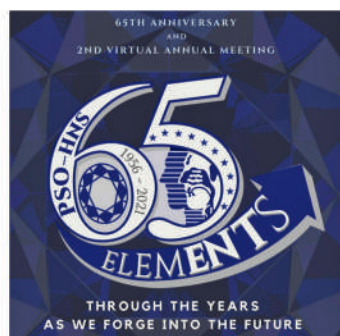
The online platform required virtual presentations and video recordings of lectures from the speakers who all presented outstanding lectures. The renowned speakers included: Dr. Veronica Magnaye, Dr. Amparo T. Florida, Dr. Rosario R. Ricalde, Dr. Benedict M. Anover, Dr. Joel G. Romualdez, Dr. Erasmo Gonzalo Llanes, Dr. Levi John G. Lansangan, Dr. Joseph Amado G. Galvez, Dr. Beverly P. Carbonell, Dr. Melfred L. Hernandez, Dr. Dennis C. Ngo, Dr. Corazon Fortuna Aberin Roldan and Dr. Bel Manuel G. Magallanes. The speakers generously shared their invaluable experiences and insights that would guide us in caring for our older patients. We all recognize that life-spans have increased, hence the topics were timely since we have to be sensitive to the special needs of our ageing ENT patients.



The Midyear convention provided a rich experience in adaptation to technological applications and advances in how we interact and communicate as health professionals. Distance and physical isolation are not barriers anymore to learning and academic growth. The preparation also gave the members of the organizing team memorable moments that strengthened the ties that bind us together, and gave us the confidence that as a team, we can cross barriers and overcome challenges and lockdowns.

PSO-HNS 65TH ANNUAL CONVENTION 2021

by Adrian F. Fernando, MD, FPSO-HNS



The 2nd Virtual Annual Meeting, held from December 1-3, 2021, marked a significant moment in the history of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS) as it coincided with the society's 65th Anniversary Celebration. The theme for this occasion was

"ELEMENTS," representing essential lessons, experiences, milestones, encounters, and tenets that have shaped the society over its 65-year existence. This theme served as a link between the society's rich history, its growth, and its future aspirations in the field of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery in the Philippines. It was a way to revisit the core values that have defined the society while looking forward beyond the pandemic.

The journey to this successful annual event faced challenges due to the ongoing pandemic. Originally planned as an in-person international congress led by the Philippine Academy of Laryngobronchoesophagology and Phoniatics (PALP), it had to shift back online due to restrictions. This shift required a new theme to remain relevant in the second year of the pandemic, despite limited preparation time. Adapting to the online platform demanded creativity to combat virtual event fatigue and provide value to partners accustomed to traditional in-person presentations and exhibits. To meet these challenges, the board and organizing committee tapped both experienced and younger members to ensure a diverse range of perspectives and inspiration.

They collaborated with MIMS Philippines for the online platform and employed simple yet effective strategies



to engage participants during the three-day virtual event. Social media played a key role in spreading awareness and anticipation, with infographics highlighting the society's history, future direction, and contributions from various academies, regional chapters, and accredited training institutions. The virtual lobby created the illusion of an actual venue, interactive halls allowed delegates to connect with speakers, responsive booths enhanced partner interactions, and a virtual photo booth immersed delegates in the event. Hashtags like #PSOHNSat65 and #OnePSOHNS fostered unity and excitement.

However, the standout element of the event was the 65th PSO-HNS Anniversary logo, inspired by the blue sapphire, traditionally associated with 65th anniversaries, symbolizing loyalty, inner peace, dreams, and prosperity. The logo featured a blue sapphire with 8 facets representing the society's 8 chapters and 10 stars for its 10 sub-specialty academies. The 2nd PSO-HNS Virtual Annual Meeting showcased the society's strength, adaptability, and commitment to specialty development and fellowship. Embracing technology and collaboration, it celebrated its history while paving the way for a more connected future. The event left participants inspired, enriched, and eager for new horizons in ORL-HNS practice, with the hope of returning to physical gatherings in the future.

ORL-HNS RECOGNIZED AS THE 17TH SPECIALTY CENTER THIS 2023

by Frederick Mars B. Untalan, MD, FPSO-HNS
Member, DOH TWG for ENT Care Centers

THE SPOTLIGHT: BOT NEWS 2023

In a recent Department of Health (DOH) order, DOH, through department order # 2021-001-A, has updated the establishment of dedicated Specialty Centers across the country, a significant step towards improving the nation's healthcare system. The highlight of this recent initiative is the creation of regional Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) Comprehensive Care Centers.

The DOH's initiative to establish Specialty Centers aims to provide Filipinos with specialized and accessible healthcare services. These centers will house medical specialists and state-of-the-art equipment, vastly upgrading the quality and accessibility of healthcare service delivery in the country.

East Avenue Medical Center, being the designated National reference ENT Care Center, will focus on diagnosing and treating the highly complex medical and surgical conditions related to the ear, nose, and throat, as well as related areas of the head and neck. Together with the other twenty (20) regional ENT Care Comprehensive Centers, they will be equipped with the latest technology by teams of highly competent otolaryngologists and ENT-related allied healthcare professionals.

The ENT Care Center will also be committed to research and further fellowship training and nursing certification programs, aiming to advance the field of otolaryngology care in the country. It will serve as a hub

for aspiring otolaryngologists, providing them with the necessary education and exposure to become proficient in the field. The DOH's initiative has been welcomed by the medical community & the public alike, who see it as a remarkable step in upgrading healthcare access in the Philippines.

The ENT Care Specialty Centers looks forward to be fully operational by the end of 2028. The establishment of these centers will undoubtedly revolutionize the healthcare landscape in the Philippines, bringing it a step closer to achieving the goal of UHC.

The inception of the ENT Care Centers marks a significant step forward in the Philippines' healthcare landscape. These specialized facilities will not only relieve the burden on provincial & general hospitals but also serve as a focal point for research, education, and training, and development of the best practices in ENT care. With the DOH's persistent efforts to establish the specialty centers, the Philippines is set to witness a revolution in ENT healthcare, ensuring that no Filipino is left behind.

The PSOHNS family is forever grateful to the ENT legislators, the members of the DOH TWG and PSOHNS TWG for ENT centers, representatives of all designated ENT comprehensive centers, and the PSOHNS board of trustees for the forward thrust and leadership to make this aspiration real.

List of Regional ENT Centers

National Capital Region (NCR)

1. East Avenue Medical Center (National Specialty Center)
2. Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center (BC)
3. Rizal Medical Center (BC)
4. Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital (BC)

Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)

5. Baguio General Hospital & Medical Center (BC)

Region 1 (Ilocos)

6. Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center (BC)

Region 2 (Cagayan Valley)

7. Cagayan Valley Medical Center (BC)

Region 2 (Cagayan Valley)

8. Cagayan Valley Medical Center (BC)

Region 3 (Central Luzon)

9. Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital (BC)

Region 4-A (CaLaBaRZon)

10. Batangas Medical Center (BC)

Region 5 (Western Visayas)

11. Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital (BC)
12. Western Visayas Medical Center (BC)

Region 7 (Central Visayas)

13. Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (BC)

Region 8 (Eastern Visayas)

14. Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (BC)

Region 9 (Zamboanga Peninsula)

15. Zamboanga City Medical Center (BC)

Region 10 (Northern Mindanao)

16. Northern Mindanao Medical Center (BC)

Region 11 (Davao)

17. Southern Philippines Medical Center (BC)

Region 12 (SOCCSKARGEN)

18. Cotabato Regional Medical Center (BC)

Region 13 (Caraga)

19. Caraga Regional Hospital (BC)

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)

20. Amai Pakpak Medical Center (BC)

LEVEL ALIGNMENT MATRICES FOR THE PSO-HNS

by Christine Joy S. Arquiza, MD, FPSO-HNS

In light of the ASEAN integration, the Philippine Qualifications Framework, and the Universal Health Care law, the PSO-HNS believes that it is time to establish processes for accreditation of subspecialty training programs and certification of subspecialists. This would protect both the welfare of patients who need care in the subspecialty fields of ORL-HNS, and the practice of PSO-HNS fellows.

The primary purpose of the PSO-HNS, as stated in our Articles of Incorporation, is to engage in the promotion of the welfare, training, and scientific advancement of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS) in the Philippines; particularly, to promote public welfare through competent care, and to promote and elevate standards of practice, teaching and training in ORL-HNS. It is therefore the mandate of the PSO-HNS to ensure that the Filipino people receive quality care in the subspecialty fields of ORL-HNS by setting standards in training and practice of their fellows.

This is supportive of the Philippine Qualification Framework, or the PQF, which is a quality assured national system for the development, recognition and award of qualifications based on standards of knowledge, skills and values acquired by people educated and trained in the Philippines. The PQF aims to align local qualification standards with international qualifications defined in the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF). Qualification refers to a formal certification that a person has successfully achieved specific learning outcomes relevant to the identified academic, industry or community requirements. A qualification confers official recognition of value in the world of education, training, and labor.

The PQF has eight Levels of qualifications differentiated by descriptors of expected learning outcomes. The Philippine Qualifications Register (PhQuaR) is the national database of quality assured qualifications authorized under the PQF.

Various government agencies have been designated to oversee the

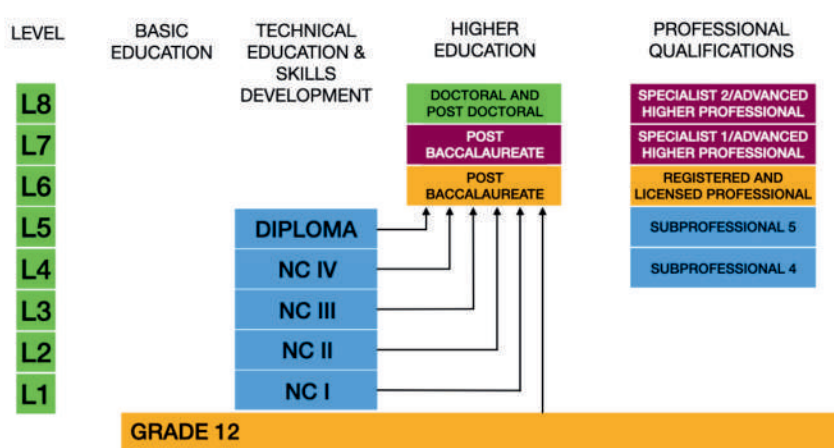


Figure 1. The PHL Qualifications Framework

design and awarding of these qualifications; and to implement quality assurance in relation to this design and awarding. For the profession of medicine, this is the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), through the Professional Regulatory Board of Medicine. Individuals who have completed their medical education and have passed the PRC Physician Licensure Examination are certified to have Level 7 qualification.

The PRC is also mandated to formulate and implement a Career Progression and Specialization Program (CPSP) for every profession. This entails proposing learning and professional practice outcomes for every identified qualification title and coordinating the approved outcomes with Specialty Societies. These outcomes are defined in Level Alignment Matrices (LAM), which are developed by specialty societies and approved by the PRC. The LAM is used to ensure that the qualifications match the PQF & ARQF levels and descriptors; and serves as evidence of the CPSP Quality Assurance system.

In 2021, the PRC requested the PSO-HNS to develop a LAM for otolaryngology – head and neck surgery. These were developed for diplomates and fellows in collaboration with the Philippine Board of ORL-HNS and approved by the CPSP Committee last June 2021. Individuals who have completed residency training in ORL-HNS, have passed the Board examination for ORL-HNS and have achieved all the Professional Practice Outcomes defined in the ORL-HNS LAM are ORL-HNS spe-

cialists and can be certified to have Level 8 qualification.

This 2023, the PRC asked subspecialty groups to develop LAMs for their particular field. The PSO-HNS currently has ten academies, each of which represents a subspecialty field in ORL-HNS. Each academy has members with subspecialty training and experience and therefore has the capacity to determine standards for its subspecialty field. The PSO-HNS requested the academies to develop their subspecialty LAMs, and these were submitted to PRC last August 2023 for review. Once approved, individuals who have achieved all the Professional Practice Outcomes defined in the subspecialty LAM may be deemed specialists in rhinology, laryngology, or head and neck oncology, etc. They would still be certified to have Level 8 qualifications, but there would be unique PhQuaR codes assigned to indicate the specific field.

What does this mean for our society? PSO-HNS is working hard to comply with all PRC requirements, including LAM development, to facilitate the process for accreditation by PRC as a specialty society. Approval of our LAMs assures that our training and practice standards are competitive with international qualifications. The subspecialty LAMs may be used as the starting point for certification of subspecialists and accreditation of subspecialty training programs. This is how we ensure that the Filipino people receive quality care in the subspecialty fields of ORL-HNS – by setting high standards in training and practice of our fellows.

PSO-HNS HELPS HEAL MOTHER EARTH

by Olma C. Carpiso, MD, FPSO-HNS

The Philippine Society of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery recognizes that our responsibilities do not end with taking care of our patients. Doctors or not, everyone has an obligation to keep our planet healthy. Thus, the "Sagip Kalikasan, Sagip Buhay: ENT Manggagamot Kaisa para sa Inang Kalikasan" (Mangrove/ Tree Planting Program) was born last 2021 to show that we are committed to serving beyond the confines of our clinics.

For the year 2023, a glorious year where we are free from the COVID pandemic, the PSO-HNS had 4 collaborations with different chapters and academies to plant trees. In collaboration with the Southern Mindanao Chapter, we were able to plant mangrove seedlings at Sitio Mansud in Talikud Island on July 29, 2023.

On August 26, 2023, we planted indigenous trees at the scenic hills of Barangay Taptap, Cebu City with the Central Eastern Visayas chapter.

PSO-HNS Board of Trustees and the Cranio-facial Surgery specialty academy partnered with ABS-CBN Foundation Bantay Kalikasan for the reforestation of the La Mesa Watershed with indigenous trees which protects our country's largest watershed and water source.

The society once again spearheaded with the Philippine Academy of Rhinology (PAR) the mangrove rehabilitation of the TANZA Marine Tree Park in Navotas, where we also did a beach clean-up last October 22, 2023.



Talikud Island



Talikud Island



Brgy. Taptap, Cebu



La Mesa Watershed



Brgy. Taptap, Cebu



La Mesa Watershed



TANZA Marine Tree Park

“SOLACE CAME AT THE END”

DANILO A. POBLETE, MD, MHA, FPSO-HNS
PSO-HNS PRESIDENT 2019



The year 2019 was rewarding because I was finally mandated to lead the society after several attempts. Bright prospects, doable plans, and initial strategies were all in my pockets at the beginning of my term. After my first visit to the office to check on several legal obligations of the society and enjoyed the delivery meals with the secretariat, all things went well.

Unexpectedly, that fateful second Tuesday of the year revealed an avalanche of problems involving the society and several personalities. A logical mind, heedful strategies, and firm disposition by the Board of Trustees were our armaments to reach the solution of the society's debacle. While some of the trustees were conscientiously monitoring the positive outcomes of our major dilemma, the others continued to deliver the tasks of their committees.

Almost all the specialty societies were excited about the IRR of the Universal Health Care Act which was enacted February 20, 2019. I am one of the minority who were defeatist on the issue when we had a forum.

The Northern Mindanao Chapter successfully hosted the Midyear Convention in Cagayan De Oro amidst budgetary constraints. Since the national officers acknowledged the event was the Society's activity, almost everybody laughed when I requested our exhibitors and pharmaceutical partners to settle their obligations at once, right there at the Opening Ceremonies.

Adherent to its Vision and Mission, the society continued to perform its functions through the various committees with diligent implementation of financial controls on the expenditures incurred.

The 18th ASEAN ORL- HNS Congress was held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel in Singapore last August 23-25, 2019, with an apt theme "Advancing ENT in ASEAN Together". There is no doubt that the plenaries showcased advancements in various fields of the specialty. A formal discussion was done to focus on the dilemma of our colleagues from several ASEAN countries regarding the domain of the head and neck region. I realized that we are more fortunate because we could easily collaborate with other head and neck specialists for the utmost benefit of our patients.

Why wear a badge lanyard when you can wear beads? Truly, an exciting teaser for the AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting and Oto-experience held in New Orleans, Louisiana last September 15-18, 2019. The Philippines was a guest country, and I was invited to deliver a presentation on the Current Status of Otolaryngology -Head and Neck Practice in the country during the global forum with a representative from the United Kingdom who spoke on FREE Cochlear Implants to rehabilitate the silent disabled.

Some members of the board of trustees went to Davao City and met the Southern Mindanao Chapter for some serious talks on the succeeding Mid-year Convention. We had lots of fun over durian and alcoholic brews and seemingly our Mindanaoan Fellows showed interest at the December Business Meeting. The 2019 PSO-HNS Annual Convention, which dealt with Pediatric Otolaryngology, was a success as supported by the well-balanced scientific program and income/donations from our pharmaceutical partners & exhibitors. The convention was organized by passionate and time-tested veterans; hence, their selfless acts were rewarded with a simple token- a personalized watch to remind everyone of the valuable time they shared.

The Presidency of the Society was extremely challenged by the multitude of Fellows who attended and ratified the Acts and Resolutions of the board. Amidst the raising of hands, rebuttals, and explanations, the board remained calm and focused on the resolution which dragged us for seven months, and finally, most of our fellows affirmed our act. Indeed, they voiced their opinion and decision and likewise showed their support to the leadership. Giving each fellow a mandate, they deservedly received a small wooden blue-tooth speaker for them to use and enjoy. All these actions for ONE PSO-HNS!

What a year we had! Solace came at the end...



“THE COVID YEAR: THE YEAR OF THE METAL (W)RAT(H)”

CECILIA GRETCHEN S. NAVARRO-LOCSIN, MD,
MSC, FPSO-HNS
PSO-HNS PRESIDENT 2020



The year 2020 was like no other, in the country and in the world.

During the first month of the year, quakes in Mindanao happened, followed immediately the next month by the eruption of Taal Volcano. PSO-HNS, led by some of its fellows, donated to and assisted with the relief efforts for these disasters.

By the third month of the year, the second week of March to be precise, the board of trustees visited a fellow of the society who had been elected a congressman. The “audiology” bill was discussed and as the trustees headed back to the office for a meeting, the NEWS came. A national lockdown was to be implemented that weekend to deal with the Covid pandemic.

The pandemic, the likes of which had not been seen globally in decades, spurred the PSO-HNS to be truly and creatively responsive to the needs of its fellows. Immediately, a series of advisories on the safe conduct of ORL procedures and surgeries, ventilation and clinic designs, and other matters were issued and posted on the webpage for the safety of otolaryngologists who were among those specialists at greater risk for exposure to the disease. A Southeast Asian country acknowledged the advisories of PSO-HNS as truly encompassing and timely; these were used as a reference by their own otolaryngologists.

The PSO-HNS similarly held talks with two HMO organizations to negotiate increased professional fees for its fellows in the light of the increased risks due to the pandemic. The letter, which one of these HMO organizations sent to PSO-HNS regarding its approval of increased professional fees was used by other societies to support their own call for increased fees for their members.

The gift for fellows, traditionally released in December during the annual convention, was given during the last two weeks of April. The gift was a set of personal protective equipment which consisted of full gowns, aprons, gloves, N95 masks, surgical masks, and goggles. These gift packs were delivered to the fellows through their chapters or institutions. Some were airlifted through the generosity of a fellow who was serving in the Air Force. Others were sent by courier. In a span of three weeks, from the last two weeks of April through the first week of May, the deliveries were completed.



To keep all fellows abreast with developments and to provide a venue to address continuing concerns, during the following months, a series of online town hall meetings was held among chapters, institutions, and academies. With an overwhelming attendance of at least 90% of all fellows, the trustees had a better appreciation of the individual and collective thoughts and feelings of the members on vital issues and current concerns.

Two months before year end, PSO-HNS received a communication from PRC regarding a request by an organization to be recognized and credentialed to perform procedures and surgeries that overlapped those traditionally done by otolaryngologists. A committee from the society produced and submitted, in record time, an extensive paper on the principles governing the safe conduct of these procedures and surgeries and more importantly, the reasons why otolaryngo-logists were the most competent to perform these. Three years after the response of the society, PRC released its final resolution on this matter; their memorandum reflected the governing principles contained in the PSO-HNS paper.

Finally, although the midyear convention was rescheduled for the following year, PSO-HNS held a successful first virtual convention near year end. The elections and business meeting, which were similarly held virtually, had a record attendance. The theme of the convention truly mirrored **PSO-HNS: Resilient**.

The year 2020 which was like no other, in the country and in the world, finally came to a close. PSO-HNS, stronger than ever in the face of formidable challenges, welcomed the New Year with gratitude, optimism, and a renewed sense of purpose and service.



“2021...THE HEIGHT OF THE COVID PANDEMIC”

**JOHN RODOLFO D. SUAN, JR., MD,
MHA, FPSO-HNS, FPCS
PSO-HNS PRESIDENT 2021**



In our country, the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown started on March 15, 2020.. However, the full burden of this pandemic took its heaviest toll several months later, particularly in 2021. I started my Presidency by being sworn in virtually together with the rest of the Board of Trustees (BOT), probably a first in the history of our society. Like all PSO-HNS activities that year, the BOT also conducted all of our meetings online. The BOT was together physically for the first time only in December 2021, during the virtual annual convention.

Our term started with an issue from the PRC regarding the Clinical Practice Outcomes submitted by the Philippine College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (PCOMS), a subspecialty group of the Philippine Dental Association. The PRC was seeking our opinion regarding the procedures that PCOMS want to be approved by the PRC. The PSO-HNS BOT created a special committee to tackle the issue and formulated a position paper that we submitted to the PRC. Several meetings followed which extended until 2023.

We also organized a Town Hall meeting in support of the PMA for the referendum to amend the PMA by-laws. The BOT encouraged our Fellows to participate in the referendum so that our long-time aspiration to be recognized as a separate specialty society outside the umbrella group of PCS will finally be realized. Unfortunately, we were not able to muster enough votes. Only 5,300 PMA members participated in the Referendum which ran from April 5 to May 31, 2021. The PMA needed 21,000 affirmative votes to amend its by-laws.

The first online Leader's Summit was scheduled on April 14, 2021 attended by 94 representatives from the Chapters, Academies, Training Institutions, and the BOT. After being deferred in 2020 due to the Pandemic, the first virtual midyear convention was held on April 29 – May 1, 2021 hosted by the Central-Eastern Visayas chapter with the theme “Staying Sharp with our Senses: The Aging ENT Patient”. A total of 1,062 virtual delegates registered.

Due to the limitations imposed during the Pandemic, we created the PSO-HNS Environmental Advocacy committee which focused on mangrove and tree planting activities. Since almost all of the chapters have access to mangrove planting sites, they were encouraged to schedule mangrove planting projects, which is an outdoor activity allowed during the pandemic. Due to the lack of a suitable mangrove planting site in the NCR, the PSO-HNS in partnership with the ABS-CBN Bantay Kalikasan program, and in cooperation with PAR, adopted a one-hectare parcel of land inside the La Mesa Nature reserve to plant various species of trees. We endeavor to make this an annual activity of the PSO-HNS in cooperation with an Academy.

The second online Leader's summit was held on November 12, 2021 with 55 attendees. Our 2nd virtual annual convention and 65th anniversary celebration was held December 1-3, 2021. The theme was “ELEMENTS of the past 65 years as we forge into the future”. A total of 1,199 virtual delegates registered for the convention. In 2021, faced with various limitations brought by the Pandemic, we realized a different way of doing things... Virtually!



"INITIATIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT FOR FY2022"

FREDERICK MARS B. UNTALAN, MD,
MBAH CESE, FPSO-HNS
PSO-HNS PRESIDENT 2022



I am pleased to present a comprehensive report on the various initiatives, deliverables, and accomplishments of the PSO-HNS during fiscal year 2022. .

1. Presidential Citation:

Under my leadership, the PSO-HNS implemented the Presidential Citation, a prestigious recognition bestowed upon outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to our field.

2. PCOMS issue:

By working closely with the relevant stakeholders, especially the PACMFS, PAFPRS & AHNOP, we have successfully resolved the issues with the PCOMS, resulting in a PRC Board resolution favorable to all ENT Fellows.

3. Committee on Chapters was established to strengthen the relationship between the PSO-HNS and its regional chapters through regular meetings and collaborative efforts.

4. Committee on Subspecialty Academies and the Committee on Subspecialty Training Accreditation and Program Certification were established to promote excellence and specialization within our field.

5. Committee on Advocacy: has been actively engaged in the development and implementation of the PSOHNS: H.E.L.P.S. program to provide comprehensive educational advocacy resources and support to ENT professionals.

6. PRC Level Alignment Matrix

We are aligning PSO-HNS' processes and practices with the Philippine Qualifications Framework with the establishment of a PRC level alignment matrix to guide for assessing and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of our fellows' qualifications. PSO-HNS Fellows are categorized as level 8, the highest level in the standard.

7. Environmental Advocacy:

The PSO-HNS organized several tree planting events, including the Tree Planting at La Mesa Watershed on September 25, 2022, and the Mangrove Planting at Tanza Marine Tree Park on November 6, 2022.

8. Meeting with ENT Legislators: Congressman Jun Gato provided an opportunity to discuss key policy issues and advocate for the advancement of ORL-HNS within the legislative framework. Together with Congressman Peter Miguel, they were instrumental in the inclusion of the ENT Care Center in the DOH's Specialty Centers.

9. The Leader Summit Adhoc Committee was established, responsible for organizing and coordinating the Leader Summit, an important event for PSO-HNS.

10. Hiring of HR Manager

The PSO-HNS hired a highly qualified Human Resources (HR) Manager to handle issues of recruitment, employee relations, performance management, and training and development. The employees participated in the OSH Basic Course and training programs addressing key skills gaps within the organization.

11. 1st Hybrid Midyear Convention & 1st F2F Annual Convention Post-Pandemic

After a prolonged period of virtual meetings and events due to the pandemic, we successfully organized our first hybrid Midyear Convention in General Santos City hosted by the Southern Mindanao Chapter and an international face-to-face (F2F) post-pandemic Annual Convention hosted by the PALP.

12. Recognizing the importance of accessible healthcare services, the PSO-HNS has actively advocated for the inclusion of ENT centers in the Department of Health's Universal Health Care (UHC) strategy. This is further strengthened by the new Regional Center Specialty Act that already includes the ENT Care Centers.

13. We are proud to announce the addition of **48 new ORL-HNS Fellows** to the PSO-HNS family.

14. Financial Report: Disbursement Rate

- 87% of the budget has been disbursed... These represent the utilization of the approved budget that has been used for its intended purposes. A total of PHP2,700,025.85 was retained & and returned to the PSOHNS General Fund. This represents the amount that was not spent on planned expenses.

Together, we have proven that when we believe when we act, and when we stand as one, greatness knows no bounds. Thank you for the honor of serving as your President. The best is yet to come."



EDITORIAL

MESSAGE FROM OUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Frederick Y. Hawson, MD, FPSO-HNS



In 2011, I was assigned by then Publicity Committee Chair Dr. Pilar Mynthia B. Vicente to take over as Editor-in-Chief for ORLNEWS Vol. 13. It was apparently my third time at bat, but I do not recall the previous two times. In those days, we were only a three-man crew. I edited all the articles by myself, while Ms. Melissa Martinez of the PSO-HNS Secretariat did the collecting and collating of submissions, and Ms. Virginia Lichauco of AVLich Graphics and Prints handling the layouts and publishing.

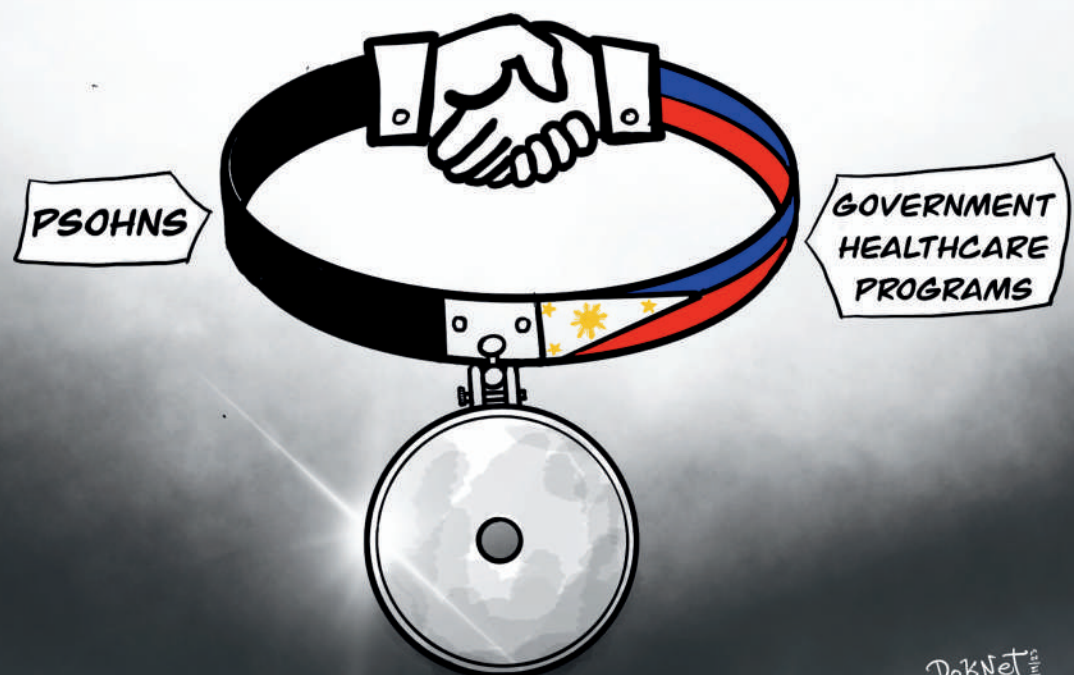
For every year from then on, I had been entrusted by the subsequent BOTs to helm the newsletter for the Society. From 2011 to 2015, we published twice a year, cut to once a year by 2016. Page count went from 16 in 2011, up to 28 in 2017, as we accepted updates from more new academies and training institutions. In the Annual Convention of 2016, the Society surprised me with a glass plaque of "Presidential Citation and Distinction" for my "dedicated work for ORLNEWS."

Unexpectedly, Vol. 19 in 2017 would turn out to be the last printed copy of the ORLNEWS. In 2018, because of ever-tightening budget constraints, ORLNEWS Vol. 20 only existed as a PDF file posted in the PSO-HNS website only by mid-2019. For 2019 itself, for reasons I was not aware of, ORLNEWS was not published at all, neither as a physical copy nor online. During the uncertain pandemic years of 2020 to 2022, there was no news if the newsletter will be revived or not.

In January 2023, the new Publicity Committee Chair Dr. Aileen Delos Santos-Garcia announced that ORLNEWS is pushing through this year, and invited me to resume as Editor-in-Chief, which I humbly accepted. The main difference now is that I had a crew of much-younger Fellows working with me, infusing our newsletter reboot with their youthful vision and ideas. With their bold viewpoints and creative techie inputs, I certainly realized what I had missed in the past decade.

I thank the current Board of Trustees for recognizing the important role of ORLNEWS for documenting "our Society's continuing growth and evolution for posterity" (Editorial, ORLNEWS, Vol 13, No. 2), and being generous with the budget allocation for this special catch-up issue. I am happy to have been able to bridge the transition to this hipper and more energized incarnation. The demographics of our Society are getting younger every year, and this colorfully vibrant 40-page Vol. 21 issue reflects just that!

Collaboration of
PSO-HNS with the
Philippine
government
healthcare policies
and programs



Editorial cartoon by William U. Billones, MD, FPSO-HNS

Bicol Chapter



The Bicol Chapter of the PSO-HNS, led by its steadfast seven founding fathers and the formidable past president, Dr. Melanie Marino-De Leon, continues to grow and evolve with the changing times. On March 11, 2023, Dr. Manuelito Reyes was inducted as the new President, with a very supportive confirmation from the mother society attended by Dr. Ricardo Ramirez, Jr, Dr. Frederick Mars Untalan, and Dr. Eunice Azurin. Dr. Fernando Aninang, from the EAMC and practicing in Masbate, was also inducted as a new member. The rest of the officers are: Vice-president: Dr. Rosebe Nacion- Lauraya; Secretary: Dr. Jose Fernando, III; Treasurer: Dr. Karen Adiel Rances- Bellen; Auditor: Dr. Ma. Theresa Gumban; PIO: Dr. LJ Rosales.

As we address the challenge of geographic limitations despite COVID-19 restrictions easing, our meetings have kept the hybrid platform with much success.

As part of the chapter's advocacy on Newborn Hearing Screening, and the Department of ORL-HNS Bicol Medical Center in Naga City, a lecture series was conducted on May 10 with the theme "Lakbay Serbisyo: Newborn Hearing Screening/Confirmatory Testing and Advocacy Program", in coordination with the Sulong Pinay- Ligtas Buntis Caravan.

The chapter, an adamant advocate of addressing the issues of climate change and food shortages, is launching our first Artificial Reef fabrication and laying, to be held at the coasts of Barangay Igang and Mamangal, Balite in Virac, Catanduanes in August.

On September, in line with the DOH National Thyroid Cancer Awareness Week, the chapter will be conducting a month-long celebration by facilitating free thyroid examination and laboratory work-up every Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Eastern Bicol Medical Center in Virac, Catanduanes culminating in a Surgical Mission on September 27-29.

The award-winning chapter advocacy launched in 2004, the ENT Made Easy Post Graduate Course, in partnership with the Albay Medical Society and the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians, will be held on October 21. This was started with the goal to reach out to all provinces in the Bicol Region and has now come full circle with the course to be held in Legazpi City.

Central Luzon ENT (CELENT) Chapter

The first few months of the year were marked by an urgency that served as the wind-up to the ultimate climax that was the highly- successful Clark 2023 Mid-Year Convention held at the Widus Hotel Clark, Pampanga last May 18-20. Our journey towards achieving this amazing finish, as ably led by CELENT President and the Clark MYC Over-all Convention Chair Dr. Dennis Cristobal Mangoba; supported by our Vice-President and MYC Scientific Committee Chair Dr. Jefferson Alamani, MYC Ways & Means

Committee Chair Dr. Minnie Yao, and the rest of our equally capable officers and organizing committee heads and members; with the help and advice of our PSO-HNS BOT representative Dr. Godofredo Hizon and past PSO-HNS President Dr. Wilfredo Batol; crescendoed to what has been often touted as one of the most successful PSO-HNS Mid-Year conventions. Persevering through the many trials and setbacks along the way ushered in a heart-warming sense of unity and family for CELENT.



Turning to the second half of the year, CELENT is thrilled to unveil a series of impactful projects that exemplify our commitment to making a meaningful difference in the community. Focusing on health, sustainability, professional growth, and festive camaraderie, these initiatives embody our society's core values and our unwavering dedication to fostering positive change.

In the coming months, we will launch our Advocacy Medical Missions in their various iterations, aiming to provide comprehensive healthcare services to underserved communities. These include our CLAP surgical missions as well as hearing and voice advocacy projects.

As advocates for environmental well-being and a sustainable future, CELENT's Tree Planting project sets out to add to and revisit our previous reforestation efforts in Doña Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan later this year.

CELENT is excited to usher in the holiday season with a unique Christmas Party that celebrates not only the spirit of the holidays but also the bonds of camaraderie that define our society.

In the months ahead, CELENT stands ready to pioneer positive change, nurture growth, and celebrate community.

Central Eastern Visayas (CEVENT) Chapter

The recently lifted state of the COVID-19 national health emergency by the government marked the beginning of our journey back to the norm. The Central Eastern Visayas Chapter (CEVENT) of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS), however, had already started to resume some of its usual activities even prior to this order. The chapter's regular midyear meeting was held face-to-face during the PSO-HNS Midyear Convention in Clark, Pampanga, allowing the discussion of its future activities with more ease.



Among the activities the chapter planned is the regular mangrove planting which will be held during the visit of the Board of Trustees to the chapter this August. The chapter will also conduct its team building this time to maximize opportunities for a productive and fruitful gathering.

CEVENT is also preparing a hybrid postgraduate course later this November entitled "Sleep 101", in partnership with the Philippine Academy of Sleep Surgery (PASS) in Cebu. This course aims to educate and enlighten colleagues in the medical field about various sleep disorders and the appropriate interventions.

With the easing of restrictions, it is the hope of the chapter that more face-to-face activities be held, and more participants will be able to attend.

Northern Luzon ENT (NLENT) Chapter



The Northern Luzon ENT (NLENT) Chapter is a rapidly growing community of the fellows of PSO-HNS from the four northern regions of the Luzon peninsula. The chapter has welcomed eight newly-conferred fellows this year, bringing its total membership to 94 strong.

The 2022 Chapter officers have been reappointed for another year of service, with Dr. Romeo Sanchez, Jr. serving as the incumbent President. Other officers include Dr. Jeremy Licudine (Vice President), Dr. Ann Nuelli Acluba-Pauig (Secretary), Dr. Dennis Dominguez (Auditor), Dr. Jaja Diwa (Academics Coordinator), and Dr. Jaime Padre (Socials/Advocacy Coordinator).

The year 2023 kicked off with a postgraduate course titled "All Star C.A.S.T.: Cleft Lip and Palate Allied Specialty Team", organized in collaboration with the Philippine Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgeons (PACMFS) and held at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) on February 17 and 18.

The first quarterly meeting was attended by the PSO-HNS Board of Trustees and its secretariat. Dr. Camille Tolentino was sworn in as the new chapter Treasurer. The event commenced with Head and Neck Case Presentations, and, as part of the chapter's environmental advocacy, a tree planting activity was conducted on February 19.

On June 24-25, the chapter once again convened at Hotel Lapira in Vigan City, Ilocos Sur, where Otology cases were presented and discussed. The weekend concluded with another tree planting activity in Bantay, Ilocos Sur.

An upcoming team-building activity is planned for the next quarter, hosted by the Cagayan cluster. The dedicated members of the chapter aim to continue making significant contributions to the North Luzon ENT healthcare sector.

Northern Mindanao Chapter



The PSO-HNS Northern Mindanao Chapter, in collaboration with the Cagayan de Oro Consortium of ORL-HNS, conducted a number of activities during the first half of 2023. Silip Tenga, in line with the chapter's advocacy of early diagnosis of ear diseases especially in children, was held in City Elementary School in Cagayan de Oro City last March 31. As a part of the chapter's environmental campaign, Mangrove Tree Planting was also done in partnership with Getz Pharma Philippines in the coastal area of Barangay Tubajon, Laguindingan, Misamis Oriental last April 30.

In celebration of the Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month, we conducted a free Cleft Lip and Palate Surgical Mission in collaboration with the Amai Pakpak Medical Center in Marawi City headed by their very supportive Medical Center Chief Dr. Shalimar S. Sani-Rakiin last July 21-23.

The chapter has several other activities planned for the second half of the year. In line with ensuring optimal care for our patients especially in tracheostomized patients and promoting academic excellence, we will conduct a free online postgraduate course open to all healthcare workers to be aired synchronously in different hospitals in the region on August 25. The second round of Silip Tenga will include free ear examinations for grade school students of the Jasaan Elementary School in Jasaan, Misamis Oriental this coming September. A 3D Printing Workshop, an academic activity launched last year, will be continued this coming October.

As mandated by our society, the Northern Mindanao Chapter together with the CDO Consortium of ORL-HNS will continue in service to our community and its members, always in accord with the mission and vision of our society.

Southern Tagalog ENT (STENTS) Chapter



When the COVID-19 pandemic allowed easing of restrictions, STENTS promptly went full throttle with its face-to-face activities, leaving teleconferencing behind (hopefully for good).

2023 began with its First Quarter Meeting. Held last February 11 at the Manila Polo Club, it featured the induction of new officers and members. The two-pronged celebration of International Ear Care Day last March 3 included free ear checks by our MIMAROPA members and a poster (courtesy of Dr. Lian Samio-Visande) launch, promoting NIHL awareness. May 6 featured a triple-header - the Second Quarter Meeting, the FEES workshop in partnership with PALP, and the launch of the Liter of Light (LOL) Advocacy. In the LOL initiative, chapter members (under NGO supervision) assembled rechargeable lamps using recycled materials for distribution to underserved localities. The whole-day affair was held at the De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute (DLSMHSI) in Cavite. STENTS went to Mabini, Batangas last June 17 and 18 to provide ear care lectures to free divers and conduct a beach clean-up.

The rest of 2023 promises to be equally productive. The lamps assembled in Part 1 of LOL will be distributed to residents of Daraitan, Tanay, Rizal on July 8. Come July 27, cancer awareness programs will be conducted at The Medical City-South as part of HANDACOW. The chapter will hold its Team Building/Third Quarter Meeting on August 12. Due in September is a videostroboscopy workshop (a STENTS-DLSMHSI-BatMC collaboration). The 24th anniversary of STENTS on September 16 will be commemorated through a modest yet meaningful celebration. Coming soon is a children's book promoting awareness of ENT diseases, with launching/book reading in selected Region IV schools scheduled in October. The Fourth Quarter Meeting coincides with the society's Annual Convention.

The Membership Committee is finalizing the 3rd edition of its Members' Handbook, and the creation of a Primer for prospective STENTS members due for completion before the leaders' summit.

Southern Mindanao Chapter



The Southern Mindanao Chapter of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery continues to uphold the society's goal to engage in activities for the pursuit of excellence in education, training, service, and health promotion. The year 2023 kicked off with the celebration of World Hearing Day last March 2, at the Mahogany Room of the Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC). In cooperation with the Department of Health Region XI and the SPMC Department of ENT-HNS, chapter fellows with interests in Otology discussed hearing loss, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

As the COVID-19 Pandemic caused a massive pause on the world's wanderlust for several years, the chapter anticipated "revenge travel" among our fellows this year. With this in mind, the chapter distributed custom-made travel luggage and accessories bearing its insigna to all its active fellows last May. This timely venture preceded the 2023 PSO-HNS Midyear Convention held in Clark, Pampanga last May 18-20, which was well-attended by the fellows.

Last July 28, the chapter held its annual General Assembly at MesAnita, Davao City along with the chapter visit by the National Board of Trustees. The fellows and BOT members had a night of learning, fun, and camaraderie as the future directions of the chapter and the society were discussed. As the PSO-HNS continues to uphold its environmental advocacies, the Mangrove Tree Planting Activity was held the following day, July 29 at Sitio Mansud, Talikud Island, Island Garden City of Samal. Together with friends from the pharmaceutical industry, the fellows and officers were able to plant more than 100 mangrove seedlings along the shores of this community. This advocacy activity was followed by the Samal Island Hopping Tour where the attendees were able to appreciate the beauty of the Davao Gulf.

Western Visayas Chapter



In the islands of Panay and Negros, the Western Visayas Chapter of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, under the leadership of Dr. Jenelyn J. Magno, remains steadfast in championing its diverse advocacies.

The year kicked off with the first regular quarterly chapter meeting in Roxas City. Highlighting this gathering was the Interesting Case and Research Presentation delivered by ORL-HNS residents from in-

stitutions like the Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC) and Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital (CLMMRH). In tandem with the meeting, the Linis Tenga Program and a Tree-Planting activity took center stage in a community close to Roxas City, Capiz.

Throughout the year, the PSO-Western Visayas Chapter, in collaboration with WVMC, CLMMRH, and various nonprofit organizations, spearheaded multiple Linis Tenga Programs. These initiatives touched the lives of countless patients spanning various age groups across different communities.

Consistent with its annual tradition, the Western Visayas Chapter fervently observed Hearing Month. The chapter's Information Education Campaign leveraged diverse platforms: lay fora at WVMC and CLMMRH outpatient clinics, a video campaign underscoring the significance of hearing and ear care, and frequent appearances on the Doktor Bombo segment discussing topics like Hearing, Proper Ear Care, Head and Neck Ailments, Voice Care, and Craniomaxillofacial Fractures.

Furthermore, the Chapter is deeply invested in fostering academic growth. A testament to this was the lecture presented by Dr. Charlotte Chiong on the latest updates on Vertigo on June 16, 2023, at the Seda Hotel in Iloilo City.

ACADEMIES

Academy for Head and Neck Oncology of the Philippines (AHNOP)

The Academy for Head and Neck Oncology of the Philippines (AHNOP) was founded by Dr. Eutrapio S. Guevara, Jr., together with Dr. Alfredo Q.Y. Pontejos, Jr. in 2007 as a head and neck study group.

In line with its aim to promote quality care and develop a multidisciplinary approach in the management of head and neck cancer patients, AHNOP hosts annual activities including Interhospital Multidisciplinary Case Conferences, lectures, webinars, post-graduate courses, and head and neck cancer public health awareness campaigns through traditional and social media. This year's activities were mostly held during the National Head and Neck Consciousness Week (4th week of April), International Thyroid Awareness Week (May 21-25), and World Head and Neck Cancer Day (July 27).

Among its notable activities this year was a hybrid activity entitled "Proton Beam Therapy and Advance Modalities for Head and Neck Cancer Treatment", held by Mount Elizabeth Hospitals Singapore, in partnership with PSO-HNS and AHNOP last April 27 at the Luxent Hotel, Quezon City. The first of three Head and Neck Oncology Interhospital Grand Rounds was held last April 28, organized by the St. Luke's Medical Center, with the next two events hosted by the Mindanao and Visayas contingents.

AHNOP routinely participates in international conferences as well. Dr. Alfredo Pontejos, Jr., Dr. Christine Arquiza, Dr. Kirt Delovino, and Dr. Cesar Villafuerte III represented the PSO-HNS and the AHNOP in the recent International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies 7th World Congress in Rome, Italy this June. Dr. Delovino, the current AHNOP President, delivered a lecture during the congress entitled "Reconstructive Options: Development to Current Practice". This July, Dr. Jennifer Alzaga participated as a pa-

nelist in the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery Foundation (AAO-HNSF) Virtual Global Grand Rounds on the Contemporary Management of Salivary Gland Disorders. Recently, Dr. Alfredo Pontejos, Jr., was awarded the prestigious 2023 Nikhil J. Blatt, MD - International Public Service Award.

As it continuously strives to advance the practice of head and neck oncology in the country, the AHNOP plans to hold future lectures in surgical nutrition and wound healing, as well as Residents' Corner discussions later on in the year.

Philippine Academy of Audiology (PAAUD)



The Philippine Academy of Audiology (PAAUD) has been actively involved in various activities throughout the year. PAAUD collaborated with Manila Central University (MCU) Hospital, East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC), and Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center (ARMMC) to celebrate World Hearing Day on March 3, 7, and 17, respectively.

Looking forward, PAAUD has planned several activities for the future. The organization will conduct "PAAUD Audio Sessions," an online lecture series/academy meeting. It will also collaborate with EAMC for Ear Rounds and hold a session on "Emergencies in Audiology" during the upcoming PSO-HNS Annual Convention. The convention symposium will cover topics such as Acoustic Trauma, Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss, and Emergency Preparedness for the Hearing Impaired.

The chapter has several other activities planned for the second half of the year. In line with ensuring optimal care for our patients especially in tracheostomized patients and promoting academic excellence, we will conduct a free online postgraduate course open to all healthcare workers to be aired synchronously in different hospitals in the region on August 25. The second round of Silip Tenga will include free ear examinations for grade school students of the Jasaan Elementary School in Jasaan, Misamis Oriental this coming September. A 3D Printing Workshop, an academic activity launched last year, will be continued this coming October.

PAAUD will continue its efforts to raise awareness about hearing health by conducting hearing screening missions in collaboration with ARMMC. The organization will also conduct otoscopy and hearing screening missions in chosen schools and communities, as well as collaborations with other provincial chapters on hearing screening.

The academy is committed to promoting academic excellence in audiology. To this end, it has established

an academic committee that will develop clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) for audiology. The organization will also provide opportunities for members to learn about new developments in audiology and network with other professionals.

Philippine Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery (PACMFS)



The Philippine Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery (PACMFS) has embarked on a transformative journey in the field of Craniomaxillofacial surgery since its founding year.

One of the cornerstones of the academy's success lies in its comprehensive training programs for fellows and residents. The academy's skilled faculty members, esteemed experts in the field, have been instrumental in shaping the next generation of ENT - Head and Neck Surgeons in craniomaxillofacial surgery. In its dedication to advancing medical knowledge, the Craniomaxillofacial Academy has organized a series of post-graduate courses focused on surgery and 3D printing technology. By integrating 3D printing techniques into the curriculum, the academy ensures that participants are well-prepared to leverage technological innovations for improved patient outcomes.

The academy's commitment to research has driven innovation in the field of craniomaxillofacial surgery. Collaborating with leading research institutions, the academy has contributed to groundbreaking studies that explore new surgical techniques, materials, and technologies.

Beyond its focus on education and research, the academy is deeply committed to giving back to society. Through partnerships with government hospitals, the academy provides essential surgical care to those in need - reflecting the academy's belief in the importance of using medical expertise to make a positive impact on the lives of the less fortunate.

In addition to its medical endeavors, the Craniomaxillofacial Academy has taken a proactive role in advocating for road safety. By addressing the crucial link between road accidents and craniomaxillofacial injuries through awareness campaigns, the academy's advocacy in road safety complements its mission to enhance patient well-being.

In a short span of time, the PACMFS has set a standard of excellence and established itself as a leader in craniomaxillofacial surgery education, research, service, and road safety advocacy. As the academy continues to evolve and grow, its multifaceted impact on patient care, medical education, societal well-being, and road safety is bound to endure and inspire others in the medical community.

nelist in the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery Foundation (AAO-HNSF) Virtual Global Grand Rounds on the Contemporary Management of Salivary Gland Disorders. Recently, Dr. Alfredo Pontejos, Jr., was awarded the prestigious 2023 Nikhil J. Blatt, MD - International Public Service Award.

As it continuously strives to advance the practice of head and neck oncology in the country, the AHNOP plans to hold future lectures in surgical nutrition and wound healing, as well as Residents' Corner discussions later on in the year.

Philippine Academy of Facial Plastic Aesthetic and Reconstructive Surgery (PAFPRS)



The Philippine Academy of Facial Plastic Aesthetic and Reconstructive Surgery (PAFPRS) continues to uphold its vision of becoming the Philippines' forefront organization in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery committed to advancing the specialty in the field of education, training, and research.

Under the leadership of Dr. Philip Fullante, the Academy has several scientific meetings, lectures, workshops and cadaver dissection courses lined up throughout the year in partnership with study groups and training institutions.

Mastering the Basics: Facial Plastic and Craniomaxillofacial Surgery Course and Workshop was held last January 19-21 hosted by UST Hospital in partnership with PAFPRS and PACMFS.

The First PAFPRS Scientific Meeting was held last March 25 at Region 1 Medical Center, with Dr. Mark Fernandez lecturing on Facial Feminization Surgery and Dr. Paula Javier discussing Vocal Feminization.

Before the Cut, a lecture series on the Basics of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, was initiated this year. The first two lectures were held last April 13, with Dr. Diane Atienza lecturing on Skin Anatomy and Physiology, and Dr. Ian Lucero lecturing on Flap Physiology. The second set of lectures were held last May 11, with Dr. Jaysonnel Notario lecturing on Basics of Wound Healing, and Dr. Christopher Batan lecturing on Wound Closure Techniques.

The Second PAFPRS Scientific Meeting was held at East Avenue Medical Center last June 29. Dr. Armando Chiong Jr. lectured on Deltopectoral Flaps while Dr. Samantha Castañeda discussed Free Flaps for Head and Neck Defects.

PAFPRS celebrated Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention month this July. An Inter-hospital Grand Rounds, in partnership with Amang Rodriguez

Memorial Medical Center, was held along with Infomercial and E-poster contests participated by various training institutions. In the coming months, the Academy looks forward to its Third Scientific Meeting and the third leg of the Before The Cut lecture series.

Philippine Academy of Laryngobronchoesophagology and Phoniatics (PALP)



The Philippine Academy of Laryngobronchoesophagology and Phoniatics (PALP) continues to uplift its primary purpose in enhancing the practice of Laryngology by advancement of the subspecialty, with the leadership of our immediate Past President Dr. Frederick Hawson and our current President Dr. Rodel Velasquez.

PALP successfully hosted the 2nd Asia-Pacific Laryngology Association (APLA) Congress in conjunction with the PSO-HNS Annual Convention last December 1-3, 2022 at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel with the theme, "VAST (Voice Airway Swallowing and Therapy) Experience in the Asia Pacific". Multiple esteemed foreign speakers graced the event including Dr. Ahmed Elsobki from Egypt, Dr. Sachin Gandhi from India, Dr. David Lao from Singapore, and Dr. James Thomas, Peak Woo, and Paul Castellanos from the USA. This was the first PALP, APLA, and PSO-HNS face to face convention since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and such was truly a memorable meeting of minds and voices.

With the enthusiasm generated by the APLA congress and new friendships forged among our international community of esteemed laryngologists, the current officers took the opportunity to hold regular high yield scientific sessions. Interesting topics covered so far include Lasers in Laryngology, Modified Barium Swallow, and Serial Steroid Injection for Airway Stenosis.

In line with the vision of being a main liaison organization through which knowledge and ideas shall be disseminated to the PSO-HNS, PALP has been collaborating with different institutions in organizing Laryngology post-graduate courses. Recently, a FEES workshop was conducted in De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute (DLSMHSI) in May, and an LBEN Course was held at the Manila Central University (MCU) in July.

The PALP hosted the first PALP Quiz Bee since the pandemic, held at the Bayanihan Center Ortigas last August 20, in partnership with Unilab. Residents from 27 training institutions joined the competition, a testament to the ever-present interest and enthusiasm in the field.

In the coming months, the Academy looks forward to more high quality Laryngology Sessions and hopes to participate in more International Meetings.

Philippine Academy of Neurotology, Otology & Related Sciences (PANORS)



Since 2015, the World Health Organization has recognized that recreational noise is a rising threat for hearing loss. The Make Listening Safe initiative was launched which recognizes that people are at risk of losing hearing due to prolonged and excessive exposure to loud music, occupational and other recreational sounds which can have negative impact on both physical and mental health. The age group most vulnerable to recreational noise is between 12 to 35, which the Philippine Academy of Neurotology, Otology, and Related Sciences (PANORS) has recently focused on.

Having successfully concluded the Collaboration for Newborn Hearing Screening Advocacy focusing on the pediatric population, the culmination of which was the passing into law of RA 9709, PANORS, being responsive to both local and global issues, was ready for its next initiative. The 1st Collaboration for Hearing Conservation Programs, at the Unilab Bayanihan Hall was held to launch Noise CHcC. The activity's main objective is to form a collaborative effort among stakeholders to refine and shape our public health policies for hearing conservation. This initial congress gave out a call to action to all stakeholders. This was a half-day hybrid event focused mainly on noise in the workplace. The keynote speaker was Honorable Ciriaco Gato, Jr. Representative, Lone District of Batanes, who was formally introduced by Dean Dr. Charlotte M. Chiong of the UP College of Medicine & former Director of the Philippine National Ear Institute.

It is encouraging that young individuals in the community formed a group called PisayEars - a community project initially focused on the topic of noise-induced hearing loss which eventually expanded to increasing awareness on hearing health to Philippine Screening High School Main Campus students. Dr. Christopher Malorre E. Calaquian, PANORS President, was invited by the group to deliver a talk on the topic last March 2, 2023.

PANORS is committed to hold Noise CHcC annually until the long-term goal of crafting a position paper on hearing conservation that will benefit all stakeholders in our country is achieved.

Philippine Academy of Otorhinolaryngic Allergy and Clinical Immunology (PAORLACI)

Enriching Philippine Otorhinolaryngic Allergy and Immunology:
A Year of Progress



The Year of the Rabbit brought positive momentum to PAORLACI with a series of activities planned for 2023.

PAORLACI celebrated Pinoy ENT Allergy Day on January 23, 2023. Different institutions nationwide conducted lay fora and awareness campaigns in their respective Outpatient Departments (OPDs), aiming to improve patient education about ENT Allergy topics.

In line with our environmental advocacy, a Beach and Mangrove Cleanup drive took place on June 12, 2023, in Calatagan, Batangas, under the guidance of Dr. Cecilia Montalban. This initiative promoted environmental conservation and raised awareness about the impact of the environment on allergic conditions.

On June 18, 2023, Professor Analinda Fajardo, PhD from UPLB, conducted a Pollen Seminar-Workshop titled "Palynoecology and Health" at the serene Ayala Greenfield Golf & Leisure Club in Calamba, Laguna. This event facilitated insightful discussions, bridging the knowledge gap between pollen and nasal allergies.

Furthering our commitment to education, PAORLACI organized a Virtual Post-Graduate course, "Otorhinolaryngic Allergy and Clinical Immunology: Basics," led by Dr. Kennard Felix on July 7 and 14. This course equipped healthcare professionals with essential insights into managing allergic conditions related to the ear, nose, and throat through comprehensive lectures and interactive discussions.

Looking ahead, PAORLACI has planned exciting activities for the rest of the year, with engaging topics planned for the annual convention academy symposium, continuation of the small group discussions, as well as an interhospital ORLACI Interesting Case Presentation in the last quarter of 2023. This platform offers healthcare professionals an opportunity to discuss intriguing cases related to Otorhinolaryngic Allergy and Immunology.

With a steadfast dedication to advancing the field, PAORLACI continues to foster progress in Otorhinolaryngic Allergy and Immunology, benefiting healthcare professionals and patients alike.

Philippine Academy of Pediatric Otolaryngology (PAPO)

The Philippine Academy of Pediatric Otolaryngology (PAPO) began the year with pride as our Vice Chair, Dr. Cecilia Gretchen Navarro-Locsin, was awarded the 2022 Outstanding ORL-HNS Specialist in Research by the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS). Dr. Locsin was recognized for her work in the field of Otolaryngology-Allergy research during the Society's Annual Convention in December 2022.

The PAPO was also pleased to include two new members early this year, Dr. James Leslie Rondal and Dr. Ma. Victoria Pascual, and it's a privilege to be working with them.

The PAPO continues to work tirelessly to promote proper otolaryngology care in children as communities continue to open and recover from the effects of the pandemic. From July 13 to 15, 2023, the PAPO, together with the Philippine Academy of Laryngobronchoesophagology and Phoniatics (PALP) held its 2nd Laryngobroncho-esophagology Collaborative Course and Workshop. The course, which originated in 2022, is a PBOHNS-required course that encompasses laryngeal and aerodigestive procedures through both didactic lectures and hands-on workshops conducted at the Manila Central University – Filemon D. Tanchoco Medical Foundation (MCU-FDTMF). The pediatric bronchoesophagology workshop was facilitated by members of the PAPO and served residents of accredited ORL-HNS training institutions. The lectures and workshop provided nuggets of expertise that the trainees will be able to use in caring for children with aerodigestive problems.



The PAPO is dedicated to continuously advocate for the health and safety of all children as we emerge from uncertain times. The group continues to meet quarterly to discuss its plans and protocols for improving pediatric otolaryngology care and has launched various social media platforms to promote advocacies such as preventing foreign body accidents and noise-induced hearing loss.

The PAPO is looking forward to participating in the coming 67th PSO-HNS Annual Convention on November 29-December 1, 2023 with the theme, "CMF Surgery Across Specialties." The event presents a unique opportunity to discuss a variety of both congenital and acquired craniomaxillofacial conditions in childhood with colleagues across ENT subspecialties.

Philippine Academy of Rhinology (PAR)

For many years, the Philippine Academy of Rhinology (PAR) has led the way in developing the rhinology subspecialty in the Philippines. The study group has been instrumental in advancing the subspecialty's excellence through its dedication to education, research, and innovation.

The PAR's monthly meetings, now expanded through online means, promote continuing professional education - serving as a platform for rhinologists, rhinology enthusiasts, and residents-in-training to come together and share knowledge and experience.



The monthly meetings feature interesting case presentations, discussions on different rhinologic topics, the exchange of the latest research findings and development of the field of rhinology in the Philippines.

Another highlight of PAR's recent activities was the 9th Endoscopic Sinus Surgery Course, held last June at The Medical City Center for Advanced Skills, Simulation and Training Innovations (CASSTI). Participants learned the basic techniques in endoscopic sinus surgery (ESS), and also were updated on the latest and more advanced techniques in extended ESS. The hybrid format allowed more participants to access valuable didactic lectures remotely. The course was made more noteworthy as renowned rhinologists from Japan, Prof. Kazuhiro Omura, and Singapore, Prof. Somasundaram Subramaniam, were invited to give lectures, share their insights, and demonstrate their skills on the more challenging aspects of ESS. The hands-on dissection provided a unique and invaluable opportunity for attendees to refine their surgical skills under the guidance of the two previously mentioned professors, as well as local rhinologists.

The academy is committed to excellence in education by continuously organizing world class endoscopic sinus surgery courses, monthly meetings, as well as biennial Practical Rhinology Courses. These efforts of the study group ultimately will allow a nurturing environment for the new generation of rhinologists, contribute to the advancement of rhinology, and ultimately result in excellent rhinologic care for the Filipino.

Philippine Academy of Sleep Surgery (PASS)



Sleep Medicine is a multidisciplinary field aimed at diagnosing and treating sleep disorders and other sleep-related concerns. A relatively young academy within the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS), the Philippine Academy of Sleep Surgery (PASS) strives to uphold and improve the quality of the practice of Sleep Medicine and Surgery in the field of Otorhinolaryngology.

The PASS, throughout the years, has been actively involved in educating physicians and the general public regarding sleep disordered breathing, providing relevant training to resident physicians, conducting relevant sleep-related research, and providing highly specialized clinical services with intellectual and moral integrity.

Last March 17, the PASS, in partnership with the Philippine Society of Sleep Medicine (PSSM), celebrated World Sleep Day with different institutions hosting lay fora as well as lecture series on Special Topics in Sleep and Sleep Disorders. The PSSM held its Annual Convention last March 16 to 18, with the theme "Challenges to Breakthroughs in Sleep Care: Multidisciplinary Perspective" at the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria, where our PASS members served as both panelists and members of the organizing committee. The three-day event provided participants with both a review of important basic knowledge as well as new insights into the ever-evolving field of Sleep Medicine. The PASS will be holding a postgraduate course this November in Cebu, in partnership with the PSO-HNS Central Eastern Visayas Chapter (CEVENT), entitled "Sleep 101". This course aims to introduce physicians to the concepts of sleep medicine and the evaluation and management of sleep disorders. As part of its environmental advocacy, the PASS will also be conducting a beach cleanup during this time.

In line with its vision to be recognized as the leader in the fields of education, training, research, and clinical practice of Sleep Medicine and Surgery in Otorhinolaryngology, the PASS continues to promote awareness of the importance of sleep and further the Otolaryngologist's skill in identifying and managing sleep disorders.

PSO-HNS

8 Chapters



10 Academies



39 Training Institutions

Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center



The department is privileged to welcome three first-year residents: Dr. Angela Jao, Dr. Gytha Kate Valenzuela, and Dr. Danielle Dominique Eduardo. Each of these residents possesses positive qualities and trainability, setting the stage for their growth into exceptional ENT specialists and their potential to contribute significantly to our department's advancement.

In the past year, our clinic has faced space constraints amid a surge in consultations during post-pandemic recovery. The inauguration of the ENT Center Complex at the 'Amang' Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center on February 16, 2023, marked a pivotal moment in the institution's pursuit of healthcare excellence. The complex houses the Outpatient clinic and the Department Office. Within the complex, there are five consultation areas and three rooms that can be used simultaneously for conferences. This new facility provides a conducive environment for medical students to acquire and refine essential clinical skills, making it a hub for collaborative learning. It reinforces the institution's commitment to fostering competent and compassionate healthcare professionals.

In January, one of our graduates, Dr. Ang, and our senior resident, Dr. Sangalang, were invited to present their research papers at the IFOS Dubai ENT World Congress 2023, while Dr. Limbo, our second-year resident, presented her case report at The Chinese University of Hong Kong in May. The opportunity to share their research on an international stage not only contributes to medical knowledge but also fosters cultural exchange and facilitates networking with professionals worldwide.

As the department continues to evolve and mature, it is joined by two exceptional specialists who will undoubtedly enhance the department's capabilities: Dr. Romulus Instrella, a Sleep Specialist, and Dr. Harmony Que, a Head and Neck Reconstructive Surgery Specialist. Their addition creates an enriching and inspiring learning environment for the residents. Their mentorship and guidance will elevate the residents' opportunities for skills development in their respective specialties and contribute to their becoming proficient professionals in the future.

Baguio General Hospital

The Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) embarked on an eventful year, marked by several notable developments and initiatives.

To kick off the year, the department welcomed three new residents into its Training Program, reinforcing its commitment to nurturing future specialists.

A significant highlight of this year was the continued emphasis on Subspecialty Programs, with residents divided into three service teams, each specializing in specific areas of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

Every patient admitted to the ward is assigned to a subspecialty team and may be referred to others as needed. Each subspecialty also conducts clinic days at the Outpatient Department, facilitating comprehensive patient care.

The department actively participated in various subspecialty-related activities, ranging from local to national events (see pictures), enhancing their expertise and knowledge.

One significant achievement was the establishment of a Clinical Pathway for Cleft Lip patients, approved by the hospital, ensuring standardized care for all cleft lip patients. The Craniomaxillofacial Center was also approved.

BGHMC's recognition as a Specialty Cancer Center allows for a Multidisciplinary Team Approach to manage all head and neck malignancies, ensuring comprehensive and coordinated care.

A department research project on Hearing Loss in BGHMC employees gained approval and is now ready for submission to the Hospital Technical Review Board. Notably, the successful management of a large facial schwannoma served as a landmark case for the Otology-Skull Base subspecialty. Additionally, BGHMC expanded its audiology capabilities to include Objective Audiologic Tests, complementing Pure Tone Audiometry and Tympanometry.

A moment of celebration came with the arrival of a new endoscopic tower equipped with a navigation system, eagerly awaited by the department.

Looking ahead, the department is gearing up for accreditation and preparing residents for In-Service Exams and Practical Exams, while continuing to engage in various subspecialty activities.



Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center



On March 25, 2023, the department underwent a visit from the Philippine Board of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, and they were granted a one-year accreditation. The inception of an accredited Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery department in the Province of Bataan began as an undertaking spearheaded by Dr. Jefferson Alamani in early 2014. The Section of ENT-HNS, under the Department of Surgery, commenced operations, offering outpatient consultations and performing minor and major surgical procedures.

Fast forward to 2021, this new department received a significant boost when board-certified specialists joined its ranks. Dr. Al Omar M. Salting, Dr. Thanh Vu De Guzman, Dr. Brian Mae Pimpinio, Dr. Arlex Michael Atanactio, and Dr. Miguel Limbert Ramos, along with general physicians Dr. Diego Rizal Dilig and Dr. Mark Jhervy Villanueva, became part of the team. They underwent comprehensive training encompassing theoretical knowledge, practical skills, regular conferences, case presentations, and research writing, transforming the initial concept of a training program into a thriving reality.

Upon fulfilling the necessary requirements and assembling a consultant staff, the department submitted a request to the administration to become a separate entity. On December 20, 2021, this request was granted, officially establishing the Department of Ear Nose Throat – Head and Neck Surgery. Furthermore, visiting subspecialist consultants joined the ranks, including Dr. Wilfredo Batol (head of Otology and Neurotology), Dr. Joman Laxamana (head of Rhinopharyngology), Dr. John Hector Pagdanganan (head of Laryngobronchoesophagology), Dr. Adrian Adraneda (head of Head and Neck Surgery), Dr. Marvin Tolentino (head of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery), and Dr. Jean Roschelle Alonso (head of Pediatric Otolaryngology).

In August 2022, the Philippine Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery scheduled an accreditation visit for 2023. As part of the recommendations, the department was advised to change its name from Ear, Nose, Throat – Head and Neck Surgery to Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery.

Batangas Medical Center

The Batangas Medical Center (BatMC) stands as one of the newest accredited training programs in Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS). It holds the distinction of being the sole DOH Level III hospital accredited in the region.

The origins of the Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) service at BatMC trace back to its amalgamation with the Eye service under the Section of EENT (Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat) within the Department of Surgery until 1990. Seven years later, a distinct Department of EENT emerged, continuing until 1997 when it was divided into separate Departments of Ophthalmology and ENT. Dr. Edgar Polintan took the helm as Chairman of the Department of ENT-HNS, passing the baton to Dr. Alexander C. Cabungcal in 2015.

Under Dr. Polintan's leadership, there was a persistent aspiration to establish an accredited training program for future ENT-HNS surgeons in the region. During Dr. Cabungcal's tenure, efforts to address the department's needs were initiated, aligning with the hospital's plans to launch and accredit training programs across clinical departments, setting the stage for the journey toward establishing and accrediting the department's residency training program.



As of January 1, 2023, the department obtained accreditation until December 31, 2023. Presently, the department comprises two first-year residents, twelve consultants, two full-time nurses, a nursing aide, and an administrative assistant. The department received substantial support from the hospital administration, securing sets of ENT-HNS instruments for both outpatient and operating room departments. The forthcoming ENT Center, set to be operational by the fourth quarter of the year, will house a Category 4 Hearing Center, Voice and Swallowing Center, and Sinus Center. The hospital also provides the department with annual sets of original books.

With the continuous acquisition of instruments, equipment, and books, coupled with the unwavering dedication of the staff, the department is poised to expand its residency training program in the years to come, ensuring a robust foundation for future ENT-HNS surgeons.

Bicol Medical Center

Under the leadership of Chairman Dr. Neil Aldrine I. Peñaflor, the Bicol Medical Center Department of ENT-Head and Neck Surgery is making remarkable progress in elevating medical care and establishing itself as a comprehensive referral center for the Bicol region. With a highly skilled and dedicated team, including Training Officer Dr. Marifee U. Reyes and esteemed consultant staff consisting of Dr. Diosdado C. Uy, Dr. Archimedes B. Bagnes, Dr. Melanie M. De Leon, and Dr. Lorenzo Juan



Manuel V. Rosales, the department is gaining recognition for its outstanding services and unwavering commitment to patient well-being.

The department has actively engaged in various advocacy efforts, with a focus on addressing critical healthcare needs in the region, particularly in the areas of head and neck conditions and cleft lip and palate repair. In a progressive move, the department has also forged a partnership with the Department of Education Schools Division Office of Camarines Sur to launch a Voice Wellness Program. By proactively promoting vocal health in schools and educational institutions, the department underscores its commitment to a holistic approach to healthcare. Their emphasis on prevention and early diagnosis across all their programs aligns seamlessly with their mission of providing comprehensive, patient-centered care.

The department's recognition as a specialty center and its role as a comprehensive referral center for the Bicol region stand as a testament to their dedication and significant contributions to the field. As they continue to pioneer advancements in healthcare and expand their outreach, their initiatives are poised to have a profound impact on the lives of many in the Bicol region, fostering a healthier and more empowered community.

Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital



Throughout the past year, the Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital has been dedicated to elevating its standards, closely aligned with the vision and objectives of the PBO-HNS and the PSO-HNS.

A series of workshops stands out as a testament to the department's commitment to knowledge enhancement. On March 4, the department hosted a workshop titled "Surgeon-Performed Ultrasound: An Introduction," featuring Drs. Geraldine Luna and Maria Karen Capuz as resource persons. This event drew attendees not only from the department's residents but also from Iloilo and Cebu.

Additionally, an in-house Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation Swallowing (FEES) workshop took place on April 1, featuring Dr. Veronica Magnaye as a guest speaker. On April 15, the department facilitated a Newborn Hearing Screening training in collaboration with the Newborn Hearing Screening Reference Center (NHSRC), benefiting healthcare workers from Western Visayas.

In the pipeline, the Section of Head and Neck Surgery within the department is gearing up for a Head and Neck Caravan in October, in collaboration with the Public Health Unit of CLMMRH. This event will involve Local Government Units and serve as a prime opportunity to raise awareness and provide vital services. November will witness the continuation of the Basic Suturing and Hand-tying Workshop series, catering to the clinical clerks and postgraduate interns of the hospital.

The department eagerly anticipates the challenge posed by CLMMRH's identification by the Department of Health as a specialty center for Ear, Nose, and Throat Care. Preparations are already in motion, encompassing the enhancement of subspecialty capabilities, procurement of new equipment like portable ultrasound for point-of-care ORL applications, and infrastructure upgrades such as the Hearing Center and Outpatient Clinic, all slated for implementation in the coming months. This forward-looking approach underscores the department's unwavering commitment to delivering top-tier healthcare services and education.

Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital & Sanitarium



Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium (DJNRMHS), formerly known as Central Luzon Sanitarium, was established in 1940 to accommodate patients with Hansen's disease throughout Luzon. It is currently located within the Tala district of Caloocan City, Metro Manila, occupying 130 hectares of land.

In 1970, the hospital expanded its services to include general medical cases (non-Hansen patients) and eventually transformed into a Regional DOH-accredited institution with a 200-bed capacity, primarily serving patients from the northern NCR and Bulacan province. The ORL-HNS section under the Department of General Surgery was established in 2001, with Dr. Alfonso Victorino H. Famaran Jr. as the Section Head.

In 2016, Dr. Famaran became the Medical Center Chief of DJNRMHS, and Dr. Ronald V. Arzaga was appointed as the Section Head of ORL-HNS, still under

the Department of General Surgery. Other ENT consultants, namely Dr. Ma. Teresita V. Que, Dr. Anna Victoria D.G. Ramos, Dr. Ardie Frencer V. Dizon, and Dr. Mary Rose Adeline Guinto, joined the subspecialty.

In 2018, the ORL-HNS section became an independent and distinct entity as the Department of ORL-HNS. Additional residents and consultants, namely Dr. Melanie Grace Cruz, Dr. Gerry Luna, and Dr. Reden Aldea, were hired.

During the pandemic, the hospital was designated as a COVID-19 referral institution.

Dr. Gerry M. Luna assumed the department chairmanship in September 2022. Additional subspecialists, Dr. Nino Bernardo Timbungco in Rhinopharyngology and Dr. Sherlyn Timbungco in Laryngobronchoesophagology, were hired, completing the roster of consultant staff in all subspecialties.

The year 2023 has been fruitful for the department, as DJNRMHS was designated as one of the ENT-HNS Comprehensive Centers in NCR. It was also during this year that the training program of the department received accreditation from the Philippine Board of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery.

East Avenue Medical Center



The East Avenue Medical Center Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery is a prominent training institution, currently accommodating 21 residents and 8 fellows. Over the years, it has produced 132 graduates and 126 diplomates. The department offers five fellowship programs: Head and Neck Oncology Surgery, Otology, Neurotology and Audiology, Rhinology, Maxillofacial and Aesthetics, and Pediatric ENT. It received recognition as the National Specialty Center for ENT care from the Department of Health on July 25, 2023, serving as the ultimate referral center.

As part of its annual tradition, the department hosts numerous post-graduate courses in collaboration with the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. These include Rhinoplasty Masterclass Manila, the 32nd Temporal Bone Course, Craniomaxillofacial-Aesthetic Surgery Course, and Point of Care Ultrasonography (POCUS3). To enrich trainees, the department conducts in-house courses throughout the year. These encompass In-house Maxillofacial Prosthetics and Plating Workshop, spearheaded by Dr. Aguila, as well as Basic ENT examination, OR Set Up, and ENT Instrumentation, led by Vice Chairman Dr. Romulus Peter Instrella. These courses not only focus on ENT physical examination exercises but also orient residents on the proper setup of equipment and instruments used in the OR setting, along with other relevant instruments for ENT practice.

Additionally, the department offers a Laryngobronchoesophagology Course and Workshop, as well as Intra-Departmental Interesting Case Presentations. In the upcoming months, the department plans to conduct a vestibular workshop and the annual CMFAS.

Furthermore, the department actively engages in activities endorsed by the PSO-HNS and hosts lay forums for patient and caregiver education. These events, such as World Hearing Day Celebration, World Sleep Day Celebration and Lay Forum, World Voice Day, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness and Consciousness Week, and Goiter Awareness Week, contribute to the holistic care of patients and empower caregivers as essential partners in achieving good ENT health for all individuals under their care.

Far Eastern University – Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation



Since the inauguration of the new FEU-NRMF Ambulatory Care Section and the reopening of the Service Outpatient Department, the Department has experienced a significant increase in patient volume across both outpatient and inpatient settings, as well as a rise in surgical cases. This upswing can be attributed to the decline in COVID-19 cases and strict adherence to COVID-19 protocols, which has instilled greater confidence in patients seeking consultations and in the consultants and residents administering treatments.

This year, the Department has been more interactive in the Service Outpatient Department, organizing Lay Forums and offering Free Screenings for service patients with neck masses, aiming for early detection and treatment of throat disorders, including free consultations at the Outpatient Department. Additionally, we have maximized the use of the FEU-NRMF Foundation's Indigency Fee to enhance the financial assistance provided to service patients, resulting in an increase in service surgeries.

In May 2023, the department successfully hosted the 24th Postgraduate course: 2nd In-House Basic Endoscopic Sinus Surgery Dissection Workshop, in cooperation with PSO-HNS and the FEU-NRMF HSB Department. Building on this achievement, the department is poised to extend its influence to other institutions in Metro Manila, with ambitions of reaching a nationwide scale in the future.

On September 6, 2023, we are proud to announce the upcoming 25th Postgraduate course: Visage 2.0 Revolutionizing the Science of Facial Aesthetics, in collaboration with PSO-HNS. This prestigious event will take place at the esteemed Seda Hotel Vertis North and will serve as an exceptional platform for lectures and updates on Facial Aesthetics delivered by top experts in the field.

Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center



The Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center remains steadfast in its mission to provide exceptional healthcare services, education, and accessible medical care to the residents of the Ilocos Region.

Throughout the year, the department has been actively engaged in various advocacy initiatives. In collaboration with other medical specialties, the department organized a lay forum during 'Goiter Awareness Week' on January 26, emphasizing the importance of identifying thyroid diseases in individuals. Additionally, in celebration of 'World Hearing Day' on March 3, the department conducted a lecture on 'Proper Ear Care' and offered free hearing screenings to employees and their relatives, promoting hearing health awareness.

Fostering a sense of camaraderie and adventure, the department embarked on a challenging cycling ride from San Fernando, La Union to Clark, Pampanga, on July 17-18, to attend the 2023 PSOHNS Midyear Convention. This journey was a mix of adrenaline, physical endurance, and breathtaking scenery, culminating in a triumphant arrival at the convention. It became an unforgettable experience, strengthening the bond among team members.

The department continues to uphold its commitment to providing quality services by resuming Operation Linis Tenga and the SIBUL (Silip Ilong, Bungaga, at Lalamunan) program. Furthermore, the department offers free titanium implants for craniomaxillofacial surgery patients and has initiated the provision of free cochlear implants to selected pediatric patients. These endeavors have been made possible through the unwavering support of the Medical Center Chief.

With these essential tools at their disposal, the department is embarking on the establishment of the Hearing and Dizziness Center and the Craniomaxillofacial Surgery Center, marking a significant step toward enhancing their services and expertise.

Step by step, the department is progressing towards its goal of providing top-quality healthcare, training, research, and innovation to benefit their patients and the community they serve.

Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center

Entering the New Year in 3D: The Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center Department of ENT-HNS welcomed the new year with an in-house course titled "Virtual Planning and 3D Printing Course: Its Application in ENT-HNS Surgeries," held on January 27, 2023. Led by Dr. Isaac De Guzman, residents ventured into the virtual realm of surgical planning to explore innovative applications in CMF



(Cranio-Maxillo-Facial) trauma and reconstruction procedures

Every Day is World Hearing Day: JR-ENTHNS is dedicated to providing inclusive hearing care to all its patients. The department's primary focus is to offer quality hearing care to hard-of-hearing patients through proper screening, diagnosis, and intervention. To date, in addition to offering free hearing tests, the department has provided free digital hearing aids to 48 beneficiaries, both young and old, as part of a program that began over a year ago. Under the leadership of Dr. Elias T. Reala, the theme "Ear and Hearing Care for All! Let's Make It a Reality" has been instilled in the department, one hearing test at a time.

Laser Precision: On July 19, 2023, JR - ENTHNS achieved another milestone in its storied history as it successfully performed its first carbon dioxide laser surgery on a 46-year-old man with a tonsillar mass. Under the guidance of Dr. Milabelle Ligan, the event was a resounding success, and we eagerly anticipate more CO2 laser surgeries in the future.

Carving Excellence: This year's post - graduate course, titled "Silicone Implant: Basic Augmentation Rhinoplasty Workshop for Beginners and Experienced Surgeons," is scheduled for August 12, 2023, at the Department of Health Convention Center in Santa Cruz, Manila. Conceived by Dr. Konrad Aguila, this marks the third time the department will host this activity, which has clearly established its reputation in the ENT-HNS post-graduate world.

These achievements have propelled JR-ENTHNS closer to its vision of becoming a one-stop, world-class, state-of-the-art institution that delivers efficient, compassionate, and high-quality ENT-HNS care.

Manila Central University - Dr. Filemon D. Tanchoco Medical

Led by the incumbent Chair, Dr. Keithley Bryan Perez, Asst. Chair Dr. Ma. Rowena Muñoz, and Program Director Dr. Candice Que-Ansorge, the department started the year with strategic planning on February 11. The activity was marked by productive discussions and a shared sense of purpose. On March 17, the department, in cooperation with PAAUD and led by Dr. Jona Minette Ligon, hosted the "Ear and Hearing Care across Ages" course and workshop. Dr. Clydine MA Barrientos conducted the LBEN course and workshop in collaboration with PALP and PAPO from July 13 to 15, which was a resounding success.

Dr. Princess B. Maristela, RPT IV, won first place in the Case Report Contest with her paper "Synchronous Head & Neck Tumors: Follicular Thyroid Neoplasm and



Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Tonsils" during the PSO-HNS Midyear Convention at the Widus Hotel in Clark City on May 19. Her paper also secured second place in the 42nd MCU-FDTMF Hospital Residents Case Report Contest held on March 23. During the said event, Dr. Norizcelle Pearl A. Bartolome, RPT I, garnered first place with the paper "Benign Hematoma-like Mass of the Maxillary Sinus (HLMMS) with Malignant Features," while Dr. Efraim Jeric T. Eustacio, RPT IV, took third place with the case "High Grade Sarcoma of the Oral Cavity in a Young Adult Female." To top it off, Dr. Maristela received the Most Outstanding RPT award as well.

As part of our mission to promote health and meet local health needs, under the guidance of Dr. Edgardo Lazaro, the department provides free ENT OPD services every Wednesday at Philippines Joseph Clinic in Malabon City. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of the consultant staff, the department will continue to grow in the years to come.

Manila Doctors Hospital



In alignment with its commitment to delivering comprehensive patient care, the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery at Manila Doctors Hospital maintains its dedication to staying at the forefront of medical and surgical advancements. This ensures its status as a service-oriented training and research center.

Under the leadership of Dr. Elmer Dela Cruz and Dr. Edmund Ong, the department consistently aligns its activities with the broader societal healthcare agenda. In recent months, it organized global events, including World Allergy Day, Oral Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week, and World Voice Day, actively involving hospital staff, consultant physicians, and patrons to raise awareness about diseases. The department also celebrated the feast of St. Blaise, led by resident trainees.

Within the hospital, the department's staff & residents not only demonstrate proficiency in skills & theory but also

exhibit compassion, understanding, and patient care. Notably, Dr. Elmer Dela Cruz, Dr. Renz Elmore Caguicla, and Dr. Marlon Isaac Yu have received commendations from MDH patients.

Despite a busy schedule, the department maintains its academic pursuits. In addition to regular subspecialty and academic rounds, post-graduate courses, and Dr. Anne Marie Espiritu's Allergy Clinic for residents, it recently organized an Academic Lecture with guest speaker Dr. Steve Goudy, focusing on Velopharyngeal Insufficiency. The department also hosted a Clinico-pathologic Conference on Tuberculous Laryngitis led by chief resident Dr. Patrick Vincent Desear.

The department's commitment to excellence extends beyond training. Consultants like Dr. Kevin Fernandez and Dr. Veronica Yanga continue to pursue international training to benefit local patients.

In the first half of the year, the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery at Manila Doctors Hospital has achieved numerous milestones. However, more planned activities, including the annual Post-graduate Course in Microbiology and Pharmacology in ENT, are on the horizon.

In its 67th year of existence, the department remains dedicated to its founding principles and vision—a leading center of excellence for holistic patient care in a service-oriented training and research setup, providing compassionate, comprehensive, and excellent ORL care to those in need.

Makati Medical Center



Between January and July 2023, the Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Makati Medical Center (MMC) spearheaded several noteworthy initiatives and events. They forged partnerships with media outlets to promote MMC's Health Service Program and teleconsultation services. MMC also collaborated with the Order of Malta to provide community medical services, enriching the training experiences of its residents.

During this period, the department organized informative lay forums and awareness events on a range of medical topics, including hearing care, head and neck cancer, sleep medicine, and vocal hygiene. They actively engaged in medical missions, both locally and internationally, and dedicated themselves to research endeavors, publishing papers and presenting findings at conferences.

The department prioritized the training of medical professionals by conducting workshops, lectures, and training sessions, further elevating the expertise of their residents and staff.

MMC ORL-HNS continued its commitment to huma-

-nitarian efforts, offering surgical care to under-served communities. Additionally, they played a vital role in raising public health awareness through media appearances and community events.

Looking ahead, the department has exciting plans in store, including the 18th Surgical Histopathology and Cytology of ENT-Head and Neck Diseases and Imaging Studies, which took place on July 6 to 7, 2023. On Aug. 23, 2023, the department will host the 7th Ariston G. Bautista Memorial Lecture, featuring Dr. Francis V. Roasa, who will deliver a lecture entitled, 'Computer - Aided Planning and Surgery: Refining Outcomes in CMF Reconstruction.'

Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center



Over the past two years, our Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery has faced unprecedented challenges in healthcare. Despite these hurdles, we've adapted and evolved to meet the changing landscape.

One significant adaptation has been our embrace of telemedicine, initiated in April 2020, ensuring uninterrupted patient care during these challenging times. We've also harnessed social media platforms to disseminate healthcare education, expanding our reach and promoting health awareness.

In January 2023, during Goiter Awareness Week, we conducted layman lectures and an informative talk by Dr. Jose Orosa III via Bombo Radyo Laoag. Our department gained international recognition that month when Dr. James Leslie Rondal presented at the IFOS ENT World Congress 2023 in Dubai, UAE, receiving the Award of Excellence in Oral Presentation.

In February, we underwent a successful reaccreditation visit by the PBO-HNS, reaffirming our commitment to high standards in residency training. We celebrated Oral Hygiene Month in February and observed World Hearing Day in March, offering free audiometry and hearing evaluations.

Our medical and surgical caravan extended to Cervantes, Ilocos Sur, benefiting 78 patients. Dr. Joy Alvarez led an ear and hearing care initiative in collaboration with UP-PGH and the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines, aiding 150 patients with Down's Syndrome.

During our institution's 55th founding anniversary, coinciding with National Cancer Awareness Month, we organized a Cancer Screening Caravan, supported by the DOH. In April, we held lectures for Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week and World Voice Day 2023, offering free endoscopy services through "Pasilip Ka."

At the Northern Luzon ENT Chapter Quarterly Meeting, Dr. Nester James Bagasin presented a case of tuberculous

otitis media. We also contributed to environmental causes by participating in tree planting activities for Philippine Environment Month and Philippine Arbor Day.

As part of our Performance Governance System efforts, we've focused on raising head and neck cancer awareness through lay lectures and module training for Barangay Health Workers across Ilocos Norte.

Despite pandemic disruptions, the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery remains committed to evolving and innovating in patient care, showcasing our resilience and dedication to healthcare excellence.

Ospital ng Makati



During the first half of 2023, the Ospital ng Makati Department of Otorhinolaryngology, welcomed two first-year residents, Dr. Bea Marie Adajar and Dr. Kyle Artus into its training program. Additionally, the department regained its original 24-bed capacity ward on the 6th floor of the new building as the hospital transitioned back to its pre-pandemic arrangements.

Moreover, the department successfully conducted its first in-house prosthetics workshop series, covering dental impression taking, obturators, splints, and other molds. On May 10, 2023, our senior residents, Dr. Perdon-Chan and Dr. Antonio, passed their practical examinations, expertly facilitated by their examiners, Dr. Henson and Dr. Pascual, respectively.

The department is eagerly anticipating several upcoming events in the latter half of the year. Two courses will be hosted in August, starting with a face-to-face postgraduate course targeting general practitioners for basic ENT complaints and competencies, titled "ENTchanted!: Revisiting common ENT conditions," on August 5, 2023. Following that, on August 19, 2023, a collaborative in-house Temporal Bone Course will take place.

By mid-August, Ospital ng Makati will resume full face-to-face consultations for all clinical departments, transitioning away from the previous combined telemedicine and face-to-face consultations used for the past two years. The department is also preparing for its Accreditation Re-visit by the Philippine Board of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (PBO-HNS) on September 1, 2023.

In September and October 2023, three of our residents are expected to present their respective papers at the American Rhinologic Society Fall Meeting and the 20th ASEAN Congress, respectively. Additionally, this year marks the anticipated retirement of one of the core consultants of the department, Dr. Elmo R. Lago, Jr., who has been with the department since its foundation.

Dr. Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Research and Medical Center



In 2023, the department eagerly anticipates a return to the pre-pandemic era, with hopes of resuming face-to-face consultations, academic activities, and conferences.

On January 24, 2023, first-year resident Dr. John Dulay conducted a lay forum on Allergic Rhinitis. The department actively participated in Goiter Awareness Week at the end of January, launching a broadcast campaign on local radio stations.

Valentine's Day saw the department hosting a post-graduate course titled "Understanding Tracheostomy," attended by ORL-HNS residents, Surgery residents, and allied healthcare workers, including nurses, nursing students, and respiratory therapists. On February 18, Dr. Carra Baring presented the first interhospital case on Craniomaxillofacial Surgery during the quarterly meeting of the North Luzon ENT Chapter of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery.

In March 2023, aligning with the theme "Sleep is Essential for Health," the department shared a social media infographic on Obstructive Sleep Apnea. A social media infomercial was also created for International Ear Care Day. Dr. Franz Alberto conducted another radio campaign in celebration of Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week, and an educational poster on voice and larynx care was released on social media for World Voice Day on April 16.

The first half of the year concluded with Dr. Matthew Fuentes' case series on Laryngeal Foreign Bodies accepted for publication in the Journal of Laryngology and Voice. The latter half of the year will feature the annual visit from the Philippine Board of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, Inc. on August 11. On August 3, 4th-year resident Dr. Alberto will present his research paper for the PSOHNS Descriptive Research Contest.

Planned post-graduate courses include a workshop on Maxillofacial Prosthesis and multidisciplinary management of Vertigo. The residents are also eager to participate in upcoming research contests.

Quezon City General Hospital

The new diplomates and affiliate consultants, Dr. Jeff James Alega and Dr. Anjenneth Bernarte, embarked on their fellowship training in Otology and Head and Neck Surgery, respectively, at Seoul National University Bundang Hospital in Korea in April 2023. The department has produced 24 diplomates who currently practice nationwide.

The department actively participated in a medical mission hosted by the Rotary Club of Timog – Quezon City on April 30, 2023. Additionally, they organized a virtual post

graduate course titled "Imaging in ENT" in collaboration with the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery on May 13, 2023, attracting 103 participants from various accredited institutions. Moreover, the department has been selected as the testing center for the PBO-HNS Oral Examination scheduled for October 22, 2023.



Dr. Ma. Niña Kristine Sison achieved 3rd place for her paper, "Otolaryngologic manifestations of long COVID-19 infection among patients at an urban tertiary hospital," at the PSO-HNS Descriptive Research Contest held on August 3, 2023. Dr. Lena Alethea Cruz presented her paper, "Clinical practice and precautionary measures of Otolaryngologists during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Metro Manila," at the same event. Dr. Norjem Villanueva showcased his paper, "Collet Sicard Syndrome due to a Skull Base Tumor with Nasopharyngeal Extension," during the PSO-HNS Midyear Convention 2023 Interesting Case Contest on May 19, 2023.

The department's consultant staff includes Drs. Maria Cristina Viceral (Chair), Joseph Bernard Lo (Training Officer), Emmanuel Tadeus Cruz (Research), Emmanuel Samson, Antonio Talapian, Francisco Victoria, Arsenio Pascual III, Mark Arjan Fernandez, Ronald Arzaga, Mary Ann Macasaet-Bergado, Melanie Grace Cruz, Galen Clark Perez, Elaine Rose Ferrandiz, Clint Trinchera, Mary Kathleen Bartolome-Juangco, Almia Pazon, Jeff James Alega, and Anjenneth Bernarte. The residents comprise Drs. Ma. Niña Kristine Sison (Chief Resident), Lena Alethea Cruz, Claudette Gloria Plumo, Jericho Agnes, Katrina Nicole Fortuno, Norjem Villanueva, and La Reyna Roshele Salenga.

Quirino Memorial Medical Center

The Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS) of Quirino Memorial Medical Center (QMMC) was founded in 1993, led by Dr. Romeo Villarta, Jr., alongside other specialists - Dr. Wilfredo Dela Cruz, Dr. Jan Eero Lopez, Dr. Nelson Magno, and Dr. Gerardo Cruz. They responded to the national effort for health awareness, disease prevention, and the general improvement of health by providing care to less fortunate Filipinos.

Currently, the department is headed by Dr. Hector Angel Kintanar as Chairman, Dr. Nelson Magno as Vice-Chairman, and Dr. Rowald Rey Malahito as Training Officer. In its 30-year history, the department has graduated 28 board-eligible specialists.

Resident physicians and consultants can now perform specialized procedures such as cochlear device implantation, image-guided surgeries, major head and



neck surgeries with reconstruction using flaps, microlaryngeal surgeries, ORIF of fractures, and plastic surgeries. This aligns with the vision to provide quality, medically-managed care, conduct research, and become a recognized center of excellence by the year 2028.

The department has also organized various activities to expand residents' knowledge and skills in their specialization. It has spearheaded events to promote health among Filipinos, including World Hearing Day Celebrations, the 2nd In-House Temporal Bone Course, and an exhibit highlighting the department's subspecialties in the hospital.

The Department of ORL-HNS at QMMC has come a long way since its creation in 1993, offering quality tertiary healthcare, excellent education, comprehensive training, and research in the field of Otorhinolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery. The department is now ready to fulfill its mission, providing quality and evidence-based tertiary healthcare, producing recognized graduates in ORL-HNS through excellent education and comprehensive training, and conducting relevant research in the field of ORL-HNS for clinical practice and public health promotion.

Region 1 Medical Center



The department kicked off the year with the observance of "Goiter Awareness Week" during the last week of January. Resident physicians from R1MC delivered informative lay lectures at the OPD for service patients.

On March 3rd, in honor of International Ear Care Day, the department organized a "libreng silip ng tenga" event for elementary students in Santa Barbara, Pangasinan.

March 25, 2023, marked the department's inaugural post-graduate course titled "Gender Affirmation Surgery by ENT Surgeons." Renowned specialists, Drs. Mark Fernandez and Paula Sigma Javier, were invited to lecture on facial feminization surgery and vocal feminization surgery. The course included hands-on demonstrations and a workshop on botox injections, as well as a pig larynx dissection for laryngoplasty.

To celebrate International Thyroid Awareness Week & World Thyroid Day, the department hosted a cake raffle and conducted a Regional GMA Awareness Campaign at Region 1 Medical Center during the last week of April.

In-house, a hybrid workshop on ultrasound - guided FNAB for thyroid nodules was held at Tayug Hospital, Pangasinan, led by Dr. Ryan Adan, providing valuable training for the department's residents.

On June 2, the department organized the hospital's professional development conference at the Francisco Q. Duque Hall. Coach Sidney Salazar delivered an insightful lecture on "Leadership in Health and Fitness."

In July, the department welcomed Dr. Heidi Moya-Mendoza as a valuable addition to the consultants' roster.

Looking ahead, the department has exciting plans, including the celebration of National Thyroid Cancer Month in September, ENT Week during the first week of December, and the department's Annual Christmas Party and Strategic Planning.

Rizal Medical Center



The Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Department at Rizal Medical Center has had a productive year, actively participating in various programs and events to enhance training, research, and patient care. The department's focus extends beyond resident training to sharing expertise with healthcare partners, addressing various ear, nose, throat, head, and neck disorders. Notable accomplishments include a successful "ENT sa Barangay" mission in Infanta (January 7, 2023), Catanauan, and Macalelon, Quezon (July 14 and 15, 2023), aimed at empowering local health workers in managing common ENT diseases. Upcoming activities include a Tracheostomy Care Workshop to train nurses in caring for tracheostomized patients.

In 2023, the department prioritized enhancing its residency training program with in-house workshops led by dedicated consultants. These included an In-house IMMF and Basic Plastics Workshop (April 16, 2023) and an In-house Ultrasound-guided Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy of Head and Neck Masses in coordination with the Radiology Department (July 22, 2023). Upcoming workshops for the second half of the year include an in-house Laryngology Course and workshop (August 26-27, 2023), an in-house Temporal Bone Course (August 28, 2023), an in-house Prosthesis workshop (September 2023), and an in-house Microvascular workshop (September 2023).

The department actively engaged in patient education initiatives by organizing special events for patients, aligning with global observances like World Sleep

Day, World Hearing Day, and World Voice Day. These events included free "pasilip" programs and lay fora in the Outpatient Department (OPD), facilitated by dedicated residents. In a significant achievement, the department has been designated as one of the Department of Health (DOH) comprehensive specialty centers for Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (ENT-HNS). This designation reflects the department's dedication and the high-quality care provided to patients. It signifies a bright future marked by progress, innovation, and compassionate care.

St. Luke's Medical Center



In 1987, the medical field recognized the need to restructure the EENT (Eyes, Ears, Nose, and Throat) group. This led to the division of specialties into two distinct branches: ophthalmology and otolaryngology head and neck surgery. The decision was driven by the growing awareness that patients would benefit from more specialized care tailored to the unique requirements of each area.

At St. Luke's Medical Center, Quezon City, Dr. Elvira Colmenar spearheaded the establishment of an independent otolaryngology department. Under her leadership, the residency training program was launched. Over 35 years, it consistently produced competent and highly skilled specialists.

In 2008, St. Luke's Medical Center expanded its services, establishing a new branch of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at St. Luke's Medical Center, Bonifacio Global City. In 2019, the training program unified, fostering stronger collaboration and knowledge-sharing among experts.

The department maintains its reputation as a hub for knowledge-sharing and continuous improvement. Alongside weekly Grand Rounds and Monthly Journal Clubs, they conduct in-house courses, including Plastics Course, Temporal Bone Course, and Trans-nasal Esophagoscopy Workshop. Their dedication to promoting awareness has had a transformative impact on patients and the medical community. In the first half of the year, they celebrated World Voice Day and World Sleep Day through lay forums

and symposiums, and hosted the interhospital Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week Grand Rounds.

As they enter the second half of the year, the department, in collaboration with the University of Santo Tomas, will host a postgraduate course on the evaluation, management, and rehabilitation of balance disorders titled "Resolving Conundrums In Balance."

The dedication and enthusiasm of the department members have made a profound difference in patients' lives and will continue to shape the department's future in the years to come.

Southern Philippines Medical Center



With the easing of pandemic protocols, the Department of ORL-HNS at the Southern Philippines Medical Center seized the opportunity to conduct face-to-face team building and strategic planning sessions, setting a course for the department's development over the next three years. This year's primary focus was on fortifying the existing Outcome-Based Education (OBE) and research programs.

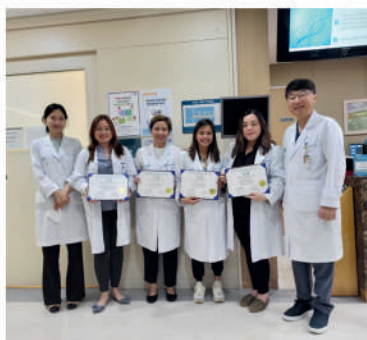
During the first six months of the year, routine activities, including weekly clinic referrals, outpatient consultations, morning teaching rounds, weekly grand rounds, journal reporting, Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE), and daily elective surgeries, continued without interruption. The department also initiated supplemental activities, such as the "liempo" course, designed to enhance residents' surgical skills. Additionally, the department actively participated in multidisciplinary meetings, such as the Pediatric and Adult Tumor Boards, to ensure comprehensive patient care.

The department's outreach efforts extended beyond the hospital's confines. Collaborating with other departments at SPMC, the department celebrated Cancer Awareness Week and National Cancer Month by offering free consultations to patients with masses at Almendras Gym in Davao City. World Sleep Day and World Hearing Day were commemorated through lay forums and lectures, featuring guest speakers from the DOH-Davao Center for Health Development.

In the latter half of the year, the department has two highly anticipated events: "Ngiting 2023 Maguindanao" and "Project Happiness." Both are free surgical missions focused on CLAP surgeries. The former is a partnership with Maguindanao Provincial Hospital, the Integrated Provincial Health Office of Maguindanao, and the Department of Health. The latter is a collaboration with JCI Davaoëña Daba-Daba & Department of Education

The department is committed to upholding high standards in residency training through ongoing academic activities. It remains dedicated to social responsibility by assisting indigent patients through various surgical missions. Furthermore, the department eagerly anticipates participating in various PSO-HNS activities to enrich its contributions to the field of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery.

The Medical City



In 1993, The Medical City's Ear, Nose, Throat, Head, and Neck Institute was established to advance Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery while fostering a hospital-based training and research program.

Under the leadership of the new Director, Dr. Christopher Santos, the Institute maintains its national recognition, now offering Radiofrequency Ablation of Head and Neck Masses. Four consultants, Dr. Ruby Robles, Dr. Ma. Victoria Pascual, Dr. Mary Harmony Florentino, and Dr. Maria Karen Capuz, gained expertise in US-guided core needle biopsy and radiofrequency ablation at the Asan International Radiology Master Course in Seoul, Korea. This certification allows the Institute to pioneer minimally invasive treatments for thyroid neoplasms and other head and neck masses.

The Institute, driven by its service-oriented ethos and TMC support, reintroduced Free Hearing Screenings in March 2023. Additionally, they offer monthly "Pasilip Ka! Free ENT Consultation and Endoscopy" to the Medical City community.

Under the guidance of the new Program Director, Dr. Rodney Ramos, the Residency Training Program continues to offer comprehensive training. Specialized lectures, facilitated by invited specialists from various departments, encourage a multidisciplinary approach to ENT conditions. Topics such as Nutrition in Cancer patients, Basics of Radiation Oncology, and Basics of Head and Neck Radiology were covered in the first half of the year.

The Institute also conducted In-House Otolaryngology Workshops, focusing on essential otolaryngologist skills, including Basic Rhinoplasty, Temporal Bone, and Head and Neck workshops.

Upcoming workshops for the second half of the year include the Pediatric Laryngobronchoesophagology Workshop on August 15, 2023, and the Ultrasound Guided Biopsy Workshop on August 29, 2023.

On November 22-23, the institute will host a PBOHNS recommended Post Graduate Course titled "1st Head and Neck TMC Summit: Managing Thyroids Today and Tomorrow." This two-day course will benefit various spe-

cialties, featuring international speakers to enhance participants' understanding of thyroid management from a multidisciplinary perspective.

University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center Inc.



Greetings from the UERMMMCI Department of ORL-HNS. We're thrilled to share with you the highlights of some of the events we've recently organized. Let's take a journey through our events we have brought to our society this 2023.

We had a Postgraduate Course entitled Head and Neck Surgery: Back To Basics held last July 24-25, 2023 online via Zoom. The event started at 8:00am. A total of 5 lectures were tackled by our esteemed lecturers from different subspecialties. The 2nd day of the Post Graduate Course started also at 8:00am and a total of 6 lectures were tackled. A fruitful discussion during the Q and A portion capped off the post graduate course. A total of 152 participants joined our 2-day event.

The UERMMMCI Department of Rehabilitation in collaboration with Department of ORL-HNS, held a 1-week event in celebration of the National Disability and Rehabilitation Week last July 17-July 21, 2023. It was filled with activities promoting disability awareness and inclusivity. A total of 10 patients were given free hearing aid with free hearing tests and free consultation.

At UERMMMCI, we believe that learning goes beyond the classroom. Our events are designed to inspire, educate, and connect individuals from all walks of life and create avenues that nurture personal and professional development.

University of the Philippines - Philippine General Hospital

With the health needs of the Filipino people as its prime consideration, the Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery of the University of the Philippines - Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH) has been actively involved in service, teaching, training, and research - all aiming to improve the practice of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery.

The department hosted several events - Macquarie University Professor Emeritus Philip Newall's lecture entitled, "Issues for Hearing Impaired Persons in the Workplace" and the first Audiology Conversations series with a lecture on "Children with Sensorineural Hearing Loss and Vestibular Impairment" (February 21), the Inter-hospital Grand Rounds in Otolaryngology-Neurotology (March 22), Dr. Philip Fullante's TVUP webinar on 3D reconstruction and printing innovations for craniomaxillofacial prosthesis (May 5),



and the ENT Roadshow Webinar catered to both lay persons and medical professionals (June 16). March 21 marked the department's first of many transoral robotic surgeries performed on tonsils and oropharyngeal tumors. The department also participated in service activities - the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines' Free Clinic (March 19), and the bi-annual "Thyroid Day" surgical mission last (May 7).

The department also participated in key celebrations - World Hearing Day (March 1-3) via provision of free hearing tests care of the PGH Ear Unit, a Tiktok competition on noise-induced hearing loss prevention, and a children's coloring book launch on the importance of hearing; World Sleep Day (March 24) via a symposium on Special Topics in Sleep Medicine and Obstructive Sleep Apnea; World Voice Day (April 2) via a mini-concert entitled, "Your Voice Matters: Songs of Summer"; and Head and Neck Cancer Detection and Consciousness Week (April 21) via a series of educational materials on Facebook.

Our residents presented posters and research papers - four at the International Federation of ORL Societies World ENT Congress Dubai, UAE, one at the 7th World Congress of the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies, Rome, Italy and one at the PSO-HNS Midyear Convention Interesting Case Contest in Clark, Pampanga.

We will be holding the FESS Skull Base postgraduate course in October, highlighting the department's collaboration with Neurosurgery for endonasal endoscopic anterior skull base surgeries using the intraoperative navigation system and full complement of endoscopic skull base equipment. We will also be holding the 8th Septorhinoplasty Course in November, with lectures and cadaver dissection focusing on principles and proper surgical techniques.

University of Santo Tomas Hospital

The medical staff and residents of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery of the University of Santo Tomas Hospital uphold the institution's core values – teaching, training and treatment. This year, the department has held several noteworthy events for both patients and colleagues in the healthcare community.

Last January 19-21, 2023, the department conducted the PBO-HNS-required course, "Mastering the Basics: Basic Facial Plastic and Craniomaxillofacial Surgery Course and Workshop", composed of plenary lectures with international speakers followed by workshops on basic suturing, local flaps, plating techniques and maxillomandibular fixation.



In February, we held a fundraising program for our surgical patients, "Pre-Loved for the Month of Love", a rummage sale of pre-loved items. The event received support from the hospital staff, even students from the university, and sold used clothes bags and shoes, luxury brands, and gadgets such as a Swatch x Omega collaboration watch, among others.

Annual events of the department include the Feast of St. Blaise Celebration, composed of lay forums on sore throat at the outpatient department and gift-giving to admitted patients, and the World Hearing Day Celebration where our doctors and audiologists conducted ear health missions around Metro Manila.

The newly opened Ears, Nose, Throat, Head & Neck Surgery Center is recognized as the first and largest hospital-based ENT center in the Philippines to offer advanced diagnostic and treatment options for a wide range of ears, nose and throat conditions, where patients will be able to receive personalized and comprehensive care, from initial evaluation and diagnosis to treatment and follow-up care.

Upcoming events include a Point-of-Care Ultrasound of the Head and Neck Webinar and Workshop in July, "Resolving Conundrums in Balance", a lecture and workshop on evaluation, management and rehabilitation of balance disorders in August, and the 14th Annual Cancer Conference in November, in collaboration with the Head and Neck Cancer Unit of the Benavides Cancer Institute.

Victoriano Luna Medical Center



Over the past six months, the Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery has been actively engaged in a range of activities and advocacies, making significant strides in its mission and commitment to quality healthcare.

The department's journey began on January 25, 2023, with the initiation of a series of awareness campaigns. The first event was Goiter Awareness Day, hosted at the V. Luna Medical Center Ambulatory Care De-

partment. This event underlined the department's dedication to supporting various advocacies, including those promoted by the Society and the Department of Health.

On February 4, 2023, the department celebrated the official opening of its renovated ward. This expansion included 5 cubicles, 3 rooms, 1 treatment room, and 1 minor operating room, enabling the department to accommodate a larger number of patients and provide better care.

To ensure academic excellence & the delivery of high-quality healthcare, the department's consultants and residents actively participated in various post-graduate courses and workshops. Their commitment to staying updated and honing their skills in diagnosing and managing cases is unwavering.

As a member of the North Eastern Otorhinolaryngologist (NEO) group, the department continued to foster a sense of camaraderie by actively supporting various activities organized by other member institutions.

In its pursuit of enhancing residency training, the department invested in new books and instruments for laryngobronchoesophagology. Moreover, to strengthen civil-military relations, the department played an active role in different circumcision drives and medical missions.

Looking ahead, the department is committed to its health advocacies. On August 4, 2023, it will host a post-graduate course titled "ENT Conditions in Children 2" via Zoom, with free registration to encourage more residents to attend and learn from experts.

Marking a significant event in October 2023, the department is preparing for its re-accreditation visit from the Philippine Board of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

Throughout its journey, the department remains steadfast in its mission to deliver prompt and efficient Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck care to the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and their dependents. Its unwavering vision is to continue producing more diplomates of the Philippine Board of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, further solidifying its commitment to excellence in healthcare.

Veterans Memorial Medical Center



Since its initial accreditation in 1997, the Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Veterans Memorial Medical Center has consistently upheld the highest standards in producing specialists. In 2022, our dedicated graduate, Dr. Leighnette Geronimo, earned the prestigious title of Diplomate of the PBO-HNS, marking a significant achievement in her career. Additionally, another accomplished alumna, Dr. Karla Sarmiento, was honored as a Fellow of the PSO-HNS.

Dr. Sarmiento has returned to our department as a consultant after completing her fellowship in Rhinology, alongside Dr. Miguel Crisostomo, another distinguished graduate of VMMC, specializing in Otolaryngology. These accomplished

individuals have further enhanced our department's capacity for delivering top-notch healthcare services and nurturing future specialists.

Our department is also committed to advancing ORL - HNS research, exemplified by the achievements of our residents. Dr. Ma. Alyssa Bautista received recognition for her research titled "An Evaluation of Quality of Life and Voice Improvement among Patients with Spasmodic Dysphonia who underwent Isshiki Thyroplasty Type II: A Single Center Study," earning her the Best Poster award at the APLA Poster Presentation Contest during the PSO-HNS 66th Annual Convention and 2nd APLA Congress. Meanwhile, Dr. Sarah Eunice Caluma secured the 3rd Place award for her study on "Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma of the External Auditory Canal" in the Interesting Case Presentation category at the PSO-HNS Midyear Convention.

In our continuous pursuit of excellence, we recently conducted an In-House Basic Suturing Technique workshop led by Dr. Enrico Donato in April 2023. Furthermore, we plan to organize annual in-house workshops focusing on Endoscopic Sinus Surgery, Laryngo-bronchoscopy, and Temporal Bone Dissection in the upcoming third quarter of this year. Additionally, our department is excited to announce the 6th Geriatric Post-Graduate Course, "AN APPROACH TO AGING ENT PATIENTS," scheduled for October 2023.

With these dynamic activities and ongoing developments, the Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery remains steadfast in its commitment to providing exceptional patient care, serving both Filipino veterans and the general public with the utmost dedication and expertise.

Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center



"Quality service is our pride" – this has been the endu-ring motto of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center over the years. From January 2023 to July 2023, our department, led by our dedicated chairman, core training team, consultants, and residents, has been unwavering in its commitment to enhancing patient care. During this period, we also successfully acquired new state-of-the-art instruments, including flexible scopes and a cutting-edge imaging system.

In a significant training initiative, on January 22, 28, and 29, 2023, our department had the privilege of hosting Dr. Frederick Y. Hawson and Dr. Clydine Maria Antonette Guevara-Barrientos for in-hospital training on Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing and Flexible Endoscopic Evaluation of Children. This training proved highly successful, equipping our residents with valuable insights and techniques in the field of endoscopy.

Moreover, our third - year residents, Dr. Manuel Montejo, Zandie Fabella, and Cindy Lao, participated in the 9th PAR Endoscopic Sinus Surgery Dissection Course and the 32nd Temporal Bone Course, both of which are board-required courses.

Continuing this trajectory of growth and excellence, our fourth-year residents, Dr. Daniel Erick Amparado and Jann Louie Tan, attended and presented at the 11th International Conference of Pan Asia Academy of Facial Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery in Singapore and the 10th International Conference on Otolaryngology: ENT Surgery in Madrid, Spain.

Looking ahead, the Department of Otorhino-laryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center has ambitious plans, including the further acquisition and enhance-ment of our instruments and the implementation of additional training programs, such as AOE and hearing tests. Our department is dedicated to ongoing progress and innovation as we strive to provide the highest quality of service to our valued constituents.

Western Visayas Medical Center



The Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Western Visayas Medical Center has achieved international recognition. Chief Resident Dr. Dionila Rose Dumanon represented the department at the 7th World Congress of the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Society in Rome from June 21 to 25, 2023. Her paper, "Aggressive Extra-Nodal Natural Killer T-Cell Lymphoma, Nasal Type," was presented alongside distinguished abstracts from around the world. The department consistently encourages its residents to produce cutting-edge research and provides support for their presentations on both local and international stages.

This year, the department made its debut in the Laryngology Quiz Bee of the Philippine Academy of Laryngobronchoesophagology and Phoniatics. The team, consisting of Dr. Prem Patrick Parcon, Dr. Al Ensomo, Dr. Kayla Gayle Sillo, and Dr. Henry Ganub II, coached by Dr. Abren Santocildes, secured an impressive 9th place.

In alignment with its mission to raise awareness about head and neck diseases, the department collaborated with the Dul-il-lan Foundation to host the 21st Post Graduate Course, titled "ENTwined: Head and Neck Masses, Roots, and Interconnection," at Diversion 21 Hotel in Iloilo City on August 24, 2023. This seminar provided a platform for healthcare professionals to discuss the multifaceted impact of head and neck cancer. Experts from various fields, including Otolaryngology, Cardiology, Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Lifestyle Medicine, Family Medicine, Anesthesiology, Surgery, and Psychiatry, enriched the discourse. The event was further enhanced by international speakers, including neurosurgeon Dr. Chaiyot Siangprasertkit from Thailand and

Mr. Goh Khoo Seng from Singapore, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Platinum Partner, Integra Medica Solutions Company.

Zamboanga City Medical Center



The Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Zamboanga City Medical Center (ZCMC) proudly celebrates the remarkable achievements of its first two graduates, Dr. Rentor Y. Cafino and Dr. Maria Monique Theresita M. Soliven. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, their dedication and hard work have culminated in the successful completion of their training as Otolaryngologists. The department eagerly anticipates their bright future as they continue to make valuable contributions to the field.

Throughout the pandemic, the department remained steadfast in its commitment to providing uninterrupted healthcare services and fostering essential multi-sectoral collaborations. The ENT-HNS Medical Makerspace emerged as a trailblazer in medical 3D printing within the country, offering innovative solutions for healthcare while safeguarding healthcare providers from the virus's deadly effects. The unit's focus on 3D printing spans diverse applications, including surgical simulation, education, and the creation of patient-specific implants and surgical guides. As a result, the unit has been involved in multiple research projects, with several receiving funding from the Department of Science and Technology.

The department's vision includes pioneering innovative 3D printing technology for the development of patient-specific surgical guides and models, ultimately enhancing the precision and success of surgeries. Furthermore, the recently granted 3D printed implant research program aims to design and fabricate custom implants for patients with mandibular defects, holding the potential to significantly advance reconstructive surgery and further improve the quality of life for patients requiring such interventions.

The achievements in the first half of 2023 underscore the department's commitment to excellence, epitomized by the accomplishments of its inaugural graduates and its dedicated pursuit of research projects aimed at enhancing healthcare, particularly in the realm of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. The department's dedication to driving innovation and excellence in patient care is evident, benefiting not only its patients but also fellow Otolaryngologists and the broader medical community.



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◀◀ PRESIDENTIAL CITATION AWARDS



DR. JOSE FLORENCIO F. LAPEÑA, JR.

for his valuable contribution as
Editorial in Chief
of the Philippine Journal of Otolaryngology-
Head and Neck Surgery (PJO-HNS)



DR. ALFREDO QY PONTEJOS, JR.

Recipient of the prestigious
Nikhil J. Bhatt, MD
- International Public Service Award
during the awarding ceremonies in the
AAO-HNS 2023 Annual Meeting
in Nashville, Tennessee.

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