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Colorful masskara dancers during the 2024 Midyear Convention entitled "Unmasked: Exploring Perspectives in Otolaryngology" held in Bacolod City. (Photo credit: Dr. Xirxiz Parilla)

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The PSO-HNS Midyear Convention in the City of Smiles

by Michael Joseph C. David, MD, FPSO-HNS

The 2024 PSO-HNS Midyear Convention was successfully held from May 8 to 10, 2024 in Bacolod City, with the theme "Unmasked: Exploring Perspectives in Otolaryngology." Organized by the Western Visayas Chapter, this was the first PSO-HNS convention to be staged in an SMX Convention Center, and the first time to be hosted again in the City of Smiles after 20 years. This much-anticipated event had a total of 627 registered delegates, and was supported by more than 60 sponsors and partners, including the local governments of Negros Occidental, and Bacolod City.

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... PSO-HNS Midyear Convention

The Convention Logo

The symbolism of the Masskara Festival was adopted in creating the logo, as it beautifully captured the essence of the convention, and of the organization. The logo incorporated elements representing the specialty, including the paranasal sinuses and a stylized head mirror. The mask was adorned with eight feathers in the front symbolizing the Chapters of the PSO-HNS, and ten feathers at the back the subspecialty academies: symbolizing unity among Filipino Otolaryngologists amidst diversity, and cooperation and collaboration among disciplines and specialties in general.

The Convention Programme

The midyear convention delivered a dynamic scientific program featuring lectures by renowned and up-and-coming resource speakers, and discussions looking into different points-of-views in Otolaryngology. Furthermore, there were sessions that featured subspecialty training, and collaborations with Dentistry, Ophthalmology, Internal Medicine, Interventional Radiology, and Medical and Radiation Oncology.

For a balanced mix of scientific knowledge and fun that delegates expect of a midyear convention, the programme was kept light, with ample time in between scientific sessions to explore the sights, sounds and flavors that Bacolod City and Negros Occidental had to offer. The convention was held during weekdays to allow those who wished to explore more distant tourist destinations during the post-convention weekend. The program allowed delegates to give full attention to the lectures, and still appreciate their free-time experiences. Contests were on-the-spot so participants only needed to bring their A-game, their creativity, and their appetites. Curated food, nature and cultural tours were offered so there was something for everyone to enjoy.

The Western Visayas Chapter and the organizing committee are truly thankful for the support and appreciation of the Society and of the membership. The enthusiasm, energy and engagement throughout the convention have been truly inspiring.

Salamat gid sa inyo tanan! ■



AC2024: Expanding Horizons in Hearing and Balance Care!

by Archie Brian C. Ramos, MD, FPSO-HNS, MMHoA
Over-all Convention Chair

The annual gathering of ORL-HNS specialists in the Philippines will be held from December 6 - 8, 2024. The 68th Philippine Society of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS) Annual Convention is being held in collaboration with the 25th Hearing International (HI) and the 9th ASEAN Academy of Neurotology, Otology, and Audiology Congress (AANOAC) Congress. This year's host is the Philippine Academy of Neurotology, Otology and Related Sciences (PANORS), and the convention theme is "Expanding Horizons Together in Hearing and Balance Care."

The scientific program has been carefully curated to feature an exceptional lineup of international speakers and experts who will share their invaluable knowledge, insights, and research. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in various workshops through clinical encounter sessions that cover different subspecialties within our field. Additionally, there will be opportunities for scientific paper presentations, allowing delegates to showcase research and studies that could shape future management practices.

Special meetings have been arranged to connect trainees with esteemed mentors who can guide them in their future careers. All delegates are encouraged to make the most of this conference: engage in discussions, challenge curiosities, and broaden understanding of this dynamic field.

To celebrate achievements and foster camaraderie, there will also be the gala and fellowship nights, where colleagues who have made extraordinary contributions to the specialty will be honored. They will also be a showcase for the diverse talents of fellow otolaryngologists. This event will surely be a successful and a memorable experience for all. ■

PSO-HNS Annual Convention 2024 Organizing Committee



The Philippine Board of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery: 50 YEARS OF SERVICE & EXCELLENCE

by Virgilio R. de Gracia, MD, FPSO-HNS



In 1971, the Philippine Board of Otolaryngology (PBO), under the aegis of, but independent from, the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS), was established to standardize, professionalize, and promote the practice of Otorhinolaryngology (ORL) in the Philippines.

The first set of officers were all certified specialists by the American Board of Otolaryngology (ABO). They were: Dr. Napoleon C. Ejercito as President, Dr. Ariston G. Bautista as Vice-President, Dr. Manuel G. Lim as Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. Armando T. Chiong, Sr. and Dr. Abelardo B. Perez as Directors. It was formally registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 1, 1973. The "Head and Neck Surgery, Inc." part was added in 1981.

Membership in the Board was drawn initially from ABO-certified members of the PSO-HNS. With the growing number of competent locally-certified ORL-HNS specialists, the Board was eventually able to add them to its roster of Directors.

The Past Presidents of the PBO-HNS were: Dr. Napoleon C. Ejercito (1973-1988), Dr. Angel E. Enriquez (1989-1995), Dr. Siu Chuan Leh (1996-1999), Dr. Abelardo B. Perez (2000-2006), Dr. Remigio I. Jarin (2007-2008), Dr. Teodoro P. Llamanzares (2009), Dr. Vicente T. Chiong (2010-2011), Dr. Edilberto M. Jose (2012), Dr. Edgardo C. Rodriguez, Jr. (2013), Dr. Rodolfo P. Nonato (2014-2016) Dr. Francisco A. Victoria (2017), Dr. Cesar V. Villafuerte, Jr. (2018), Dr. Alfredo Q.Y. Pontejos, Jr. (2019), Dr. Felix P. Nolasco (2020), Dr. Jacob S. Matubis (2021), Dr. Natividad A. Almazan (2022), and Dr. William L. Lim (2023).

Former Board Members of the PBO-HNS include: Dr. Mariano B. Caparas, Dr. Milagros S. Lopez, Dr. Tierry F. Garcia, Dr. Eusebio E. Llamas, Dr. Jesus T. Co, Dr. Dominador M. Almeda and Dr. Benjamin S.A. Campomanes, Jr.

From only 5 members in 1973, the Board of Directors now has 15 members. The present Board is composed of: Dr. Virgilio R. de Gracia (President), Dr. Agnes T. Remulla (Secretary), Dr. Francis V. Roasa (Treasurer), Dr. Alberto F. Calderon (Assistant Treasurer), Dr. Armand M. Chiong, Jr.

(Auditor), Dr. Rodolfo P. Nonato, Dr. Alfredo Q.Y. Pontejos, Jr., Dr. Francisco A. Victoria, Dr. Felix P. Nolasco, Dr. Natividad A. Almazan, Dr. William L. Lim, Dr. Edwin M. Cosalan, Dr. Victoria C. Sarmiento, Dr. Karen A. Capuz, Dr. Cesar Anthony P. Yabut as Directors, with the PSO-HNS president Dr. Christine Joy S. Arquiza as Ex-Officio Member.

Key Events in the Existence of the PBO-HNS

1. Accreditation and re-accreditation of ORL-HNS training institutions in the NCR, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. There are now 39 accredited training institutions, broken down as follows: 22 from NCR, 10 from Luzon (8 from North Luzon, 2 from South Luzon), 4 from Visayas, and 3 from Mindanao.
2. Annual In-Service Written Examination of the first, second and third year residents, and practical examination of the fourth year residents. Initiated in 1994, the In-Service examination is conducted to assess progression of learning of the residents. Contents of the examinations are now congruent with the Outcome-Based Education (OBE) Curriculum. The OBE Curriculum for residency training in ORL-HNS was jointly formulated and published by the PBO-HNS and PSO-HNS in 2016. This curriculum revision was driven by the government's efforts to respond to the need for globalization and align the Philippine Qualifications Framework to ASEAN industry standards. Presently, the OBE curriculum is being integrated with the surgical requirements.
3. Certifying Board Examinations for the eligible graduates of the accredited training institutions. The way the certifying examinations are constructed and conducted are constantly evaluated for an impartial and equitable certification. The COVID 19 pandemic in 2020 and resulting lockdown obligated the directors to embrace technology to ensure that the board activities would continue via online means.
4. Conferment of Diplomates in ORL-HNS. As of 2023, there are now 1,087 Diplomates certified by the PBO-HNS.

Accredited Training Institutions

In the late 1970's and early 1980's, there were only four accredited training institutions for Otolaryngology. They were: University of the Philippines- Philippine General Hospital, Manila Central University, Ospital ng Maynila Medical Center and the University of Sto. Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. As the years went by, more hospitals were accredited - all located in the National Capital Region.

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...The Philippine Board of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery:



In the 1990's, Davao Regional Hospital (now the Southern Philippines Medical Center) was the first institution outside Metro Manila that was accredited. At present, there are 39 accredited training institutions all over the country.

Associate Board Examiners

As the number of accredited institutions and diploma candidates continued to increase, the Board saw the need to invite qualified Associate Board Examiners (ABEs). Their roles include: contributing to the written examinations, conducting practical examinations to the graduating residents, and assisting in the accreditation visits of training institutions. Membership is renewed every three years. The Board has set the number to 80 ABEs.

Now celebrating its 50th year of existence, the PBO-HNS Golden Anniversary Committee is headed by Dr. Francisco A. Victoria as chair, with Dr. Victoria C. Sarmiento and Dr. Francis V. Roasa as members. They have exerted much effort to update all the details of the Board's colorful history, remarkable milestones, and fond aspirations. Like pure gold, the PBO-HNS will forever shine on its successful existence.

Mabuhay! ■

MESSAGES >

Message from THE PRESIDENT



Greetings to my beloved colleagues!

Warm congratulations and much appreciation to the team behind this newsletter led by the Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Frederick Hawson and the Chair of the Media and Publications Committee, our trustee, Dr. Ays Delos Santos-Garcia. We are blessed that we will now regularly receive this newsletter, which was revived by Dr. Ricky Ramirez during his presidency last year.

Through this newsletter, we are able to inform the Fellows about the activities of the many elements which make up the network of our Society – the Board of Trustees, the chapters, the academies, and the accredited training institutions. The past year has seen many collaborations among these groups, and this can only make our organization stronger. The primary purpose of the PSO-HNS is to engage in the promotion of the welfare, training, and scientific advancement of ORL-HNS in the Philippines – this is a gargantuan task, and it is only when we all work together that we can achieve this goal.

This year, we will be proposing a new Vision for the PSO-HNS: To be a globally recognized society in ORL-HNS, driving innovation, collaboration, and excellence through an engaged community of fellows and stakeholders by 2027. Part of the reason for the change was to facilitate recall of the vision statement. We want every Fellow of the Society to remember the vision so that individually and corporately, we can put this vision at the forefront of our plans and projects, ensuring success. Part of the proposed Mission of the PSO-HNS is to enhance inclusive participation, and to foster partnerships with stakeholders. This newsletter enables us to learn about what other groups are doing, share best practices, and identify possible partnerships.

Knowing our Vision and Mission is but the start of continuing our growth as a Society. In order to be truly relevant, we must look at the current situation of our nation and identify ways to improve the lot of the Filipino people, not just in terms of ENT care, but in all aspects of life that we can touch. The Society has increasingly focused on advocacies like care for the environment, cancer consciousness, hearing health, road safety and the like. We have supported movements and statements for social justice, government accountability and PhilHealth reform. Let us continue to use our strength as a Society towards a better Philippines.

I would like to close by sharing with you my life verse for this year. From the letter of Paul to the Galatians: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Let us continue doing good for each Fellow, for the PSO-HNS as a whole, and for the Filipino people who need our care.

His Blessings!

Christine Joy S. Arquiza, MD, FPSO-HNS



A Visual Symbol of ORL-HNS in the Philippines: The PSO-HNS Logo

by Reinzi Luz S. Bautista, MD, FPSO-HNS, FPSSM

The landscape of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery practice in the country has gone through a remarkable phase of accelerated growth over recent years, with continued expansions in training programs and coverage of services.

The Philippine Society of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS) of today has come a long way from its roots in 1956, pioneered by Drs. Thierry Garcia, Napoleon Ejercito, Angel Enriquez, Cesar Villafuerte, Sr., Antonio Roxas, Sr., Vicente Songco, Antonio Vicencio, Macario Tan, and Ariston Bautista. The original group of the “Heroic Nine” has now morphed into an ever-growing society of over 1000 fellows and counting.

Perhaps the most recognizable symbol of the PSO-HNS is its logo, unassuming at first glance but representative of myriad interrelated specialties. Originally a winning design by Dr. Voltaire Maniquis in the PSO-HNS Logo Contest in 1991, the logo has since then been copyrighted and serves as the official symbol by which the PSO-HNS is identified. The ear, nose, paranasal sinuses, oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, thyroid gland, and neck, are equally

highlighted in importance. Officially set in midnight blue, the logo comes together with the PSO-HNS name and founding year.

More than an identifier of the society in letter-heads and posters, the PSO-HNS logo serves as a visual reminder of how connected the practice of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery remains despite its rapid development. Much like in how the design merges all otolaryngology subsites into a striped shadow, the specialized practices in our profession are linked by a core standard to which the society adheres.

To quote our founding president Dr. Thierry F. Garcia, the members of the society carry “the challenge of spreading the fire, to be ever better exemplars”. And thus perhaps this symbol does truly demonstrate a fellowship diverged by geography and subspecialty but invariably united by a common purpose - **providing excellent and patient-oriented Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery care for all.** ■

MESSAGES >

Message from the Publicity Com Chair

“THE POWER OF MEDIA: ADVANCING PUBLIC AWARENESS FOR PSO-HNS”

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

In a world where everyone is just a click, scroll, or swipe away, media has become the megaphone that can amplify any message—and at the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS), we’ve got plenty to shout about!

As the Chair of the Committee on Media and Public Relations, I’ve come to fully appreciate the unique role that media plays in bridging the gap between medical expertise and public awareness.

From Silence to Sound

At PSO-HNS, we specialize in a wide range of ENT concerns that most people may not even know we handle. While we quietly work to ensure the health of your ear, nose, throat, and neck, our media platforms have become our powerful voice to reach those who need us most. Whether through TV, radio, or the internet, we’re always seeking new ways to break through the noise—and it’s working!



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MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLICITY COM CHAIR

With engaging online campaigns, insightful and educational posts, we can reach Filipinos from Batanes to Tawi-Tawi (*and beyond!*). Who knew that a little awareness about ear hygiene or a quick snippet on head and neck cancer symptoms could spark such an interest and who better to teach the public than fellows of PSO-HNS.

Knowledge Is Power

But our mission isn't just about making PSO-HNS famous (although, hey, wouldn't that be cool?). It's about using our platforms to share life-saving information. Whether it's about the importance of early detection, preventive care, or knowing when to see an ORL-HNS specialist, our media presence serves as an essential public service. We want people to understand that taking care of their ENT health is crucial—and that they're not alone in this journey.

Future Focused

As we continue to navigate the ever-evolving digital world, the PSO-HNS is committed to making waves in new ways. We have revamped and are continuously improving our official society website and we've also expanded our efforts on social media to engage younger audiences—after all, these digital natives need to be aware of how blasting music in their headphones today could lead to hearing loss tomorrow. By making information fun, accessible, and shareable, we're creating a ripple effect of awareness that extends beyond clinic walls.

PSO-HNS is making waves—and not just sound waves. Through the strategic use of media, we're amplifying our message of health and wellness, one click, one share, one ear, nose, and throat at a time. ■

THE SPOTLIGHT: BOT NEWS 2024 >

PSO-HNS HOLDS STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2027, ALIGNS VISION-MISSION AND INITIATIVES

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



In August 24, 2024, the PSO-HNS officials and representatives from the different arms of the society – the trustees, president of the PBO-HNS, presidents of the eight (8) component chapters, chairs of the ten(10) academies, and the chairs of the thirty-nine (39) training institutions across the country gathered together at Ace Hotel and Suites, Pasig City for a day-long strategic planning workshop with the theme **“Aligning vision to a more sustainable and unified PSO-HNS.”** The high-level activity was held with a transformative agenda reflected on four (4) guide questions such as: *Where are we now? Where do we want to be? How do we plan to get there? How do we monitor progress?*

Dr. Christine Arquiza, PSO-HNS president opened the program by welcoming the participants with high hopes and expectations. She also continued her discussions with the direction settings, priorities and targets of the present board.

Dr. Mohammad Ariff A. Baguindali, PSO-HNS vice-president and the course coordinator, presented the summary and 5 year review of key accomplishment, situational assessment, and the existing PSO-HNS committees.

Dr. Frederick Mars Untalan, the in-house resource speaker, started the workshop proper by introduction to strategic planning by brainstorming. He continued to SWOT analysis, PESTEL Analysis, TOWS Matrix by consolidating the SWOT output and proceeded to identification of priorities to get into the Mission - Vision Output. The activity was very interactive as the group get to finalize action planning and risk assessment.

The working vision states as “To be a globally recognized society in ORL-HNS driving innovation, collaboration, and excellence through an engaged community of fellows and stakeholders by 2027.”

...PSO-HNS Holds Strategic Plan 2025-2027

The working mission are the following:

- Advancing innovation in ENT care by promoting research and development.
- Enhancing inclusive participation, and fostering partnerships with stakeholders.
- Maintaining good governance by aligning with standard policies and guidelines.
- Focusing on global recognition by collaborating with international societies.
- Committing to professional excellence by leveraging on technology to improve care while maintaining high standards and updates in clinical practices.
- Ensuring the financial sustainability of the society.
- Highlighting the importance of growth and productivity, enhancing the society's public image, and contributing to nation-building.
- Fostering a work environment conducive to the development of our employees' welfare.

The collective output will be presented during the townhall meeting in October 18,19, 21,22, 2024 with the general membership as a consultative forum and eventually during the general assembly in December 2024 for ratification as amendment. ■

Reinforcing Dysphagia Knowledge by Pursuing a Master's Degree on Swallowing Disorders

by Daryl Anne del Mundo Madrid, MD, FPSO-HNS



On the 5th day of June 2024 at 2:09 in the morning, I finished the online oral presentation as final examination of the Master's Degree in Swallowing Disorders. I courageously started last quarter of 2023 under the Autonomous University of Barcelona. It was the culmination of 7 modules from the introduction to dysphagia, to diagnostic modalities, to appraising research studies, and to multidisciplinary approaches in its management. As of this writing, I am still working on my final research on the Prevalence and Management Strategies of Accumulated Secretions in Adult Patients with Oropharyngeal Dysphagia which is due for thesis presentation at the end of the year, as final requirement of the program.

I recently came back from a hiatus to personal academic progression due to changing life priorities focusing on raising a family, and this master's degree undertaking was a leap of faith. I felt the urge to gain additional knowledge on dysphagia to be able to contribute fully to the academic institutions I belong to. I consider gaining dysphagia knowledge still as a progressing endeavor in our country, especially to otorhinolaryngologists. I was the only medical doctor in our batch, and one of the few coming from a third world country. My classmates were mostly

speech language pathologists from Morocco, Hungary, Brazil, Germany, India, and Mexico. During our group activities, it was enlightening to hear them share the experiences they had with managing dysphagia in their medical practice. Similarly, I was elated to share mine despite lack of resources in a third world setting. There was a module focusing on evidence-based medicine, and I was able to hone my skills on critical appraisal of published articles on oropharyngeal dysphagia. The once a month journal club sessions were particularly memorable and high yield as we discussed and appraised recently published journals on dysphagia with the primary author in actual attendance to address queries during the Zoom sessions. The Moodle platform where we access readings, lectures, and written exams asynchronously was also efficiently and meticulously prepared. The modules had a fair mix of asynchronous and synchronous sessions which made the master's degree doable despite the 6-hr time difference (*European Standard Time*) and having a full-time job inside and outside home.

The scholarship grant provided by the society has helped a lot in making this possible, since the tuition for this program was of European standards and did not come cheap. After defending my thesis in a few months' time, I hope to give back and share the additional expertise I gained through the training of our residents, publishing research, and contributing to forming multidisciplinary collaboration of dysphagia in our country. ■

Embracing Cultural Exchange: My Journey as a Foreign Doctor Training for Head & Neck Surgery in Korea University Medical Center (KUMC), Anam Hospital, South Korea

by Myron Jeffrey B. Uy, MD, FPSOHNS

In today's globalized world, the pursuit of knowledge often knows no boundaries. As a PSO-HNS fellow aspiring to specialize in Laryngology and Head & Neck surgery, I aim to provide an overview of my experiences as a Filipino Otolaryngologist training for Head and Neck surgery in KUMC Anam Hospital, South Korea.

South Korea's medical prowess:

South Korea has been globally acknowledged for its cutting-edge medical technology and exceptional healthcare system. In our hospital, the endocrine surgeon performs robotic thyroidectomy almost weekly, while my professor performs transoral robotic surgery almost every other week. Additionally, nerve monitoring during head and neck surgery is the norm. Overall, we had a good mix of open, robotic, and laser surgeries.

Cultural immersion & language challenges:

In our hospital, we are required to complete an online Basic Korean Language course as part of the requirement to apply for a Korean medical license. Over-coming the language barrier requires patience and dedication to bridge the gap between cultures. Fortunately, making it convenient for foreign fellows, the doctors, especially the professors and residents, were able to fully communicate with me in English.

Blending education & practice:

The focus of my training was in the operating room, where we do between 6 - 10 cases a day. The hands-on experience allowed me to: observe; then assist; then perform in complex surgeries.

On top of that, we are required to see patients beside our professors as they conduct their clinics. Our boss also encouraged me to attend



several workshops (eg: Thyroid Neuro-monitoring, Ultrasound) and international conferences (International Academy Of Oral Oncology 2023), which were sponsored by my university hospital.

Embracing diversity in healthcare:

One of the most fulfilling aspects of training in South Korea was the opportunity to engage with fellow foreign doctors. We had international fellows from all across the globe: from Jordan, Spain, Hong Kong, and of course, fellow Filipinos. It was great exchanging ideas with the fellows, and just engaging with them on a daily basis, in and out of the hospital, was what made the entire experience more extraordinary.

Forging lifelong connections:

Beyond the hospital, my time in South Korea allowed me to forge profound connections with fellow trainees and professionals. Since completing my fellowship, I've been accepted as a member of the Korea ORL-HNS Society, and have attended this year's conference with Prof. Baek. At the time of this writing, I am rotating in Taichung Veterans General Hospital to learn about Laryngeal EMG because my professor introduced me personally to the program director here.

Thank you to the PSO-HNS for giving me this opportunity to train at KUMC Anam Hospital, South Korea. ■

Green Advocacy: The Best time to act was Yesterday, the next Best is **Today**

by Jefferson A. Alamani, MD, MHA, FPSO-HNS



I remember back in our primary education in Araling Panlipunan, the students are taught on how to help Mother Earth. This includes turning off the lights when not in use, making sure the refrigerator was properly sealed, and turning off faucets. It was relevant then and it still is up to this day. The term El Niño meaning dry spells and La Niña was increased rainfall started to be popular. Climate change gave us the extreme temperature last March when schools had to suspend classes because of the risk of extreme effects of the weather.

Because of this urgency, with the Philippines Republic Act 9729, also known as the Climate Act of 2009, and created a plan from 2011 to 2028 that enjoin the participation of national & local governments, business, non government organizations, local communities and the public to prevent and reduce the adverse impacts of climate change and at the same time, maximize its benefits. It promotes to have food and clean water security, encourage biodiversity, and decreasing fossil fuels. This is where our society can participate in the Green Advocacy Projects.



...GREEN ADVOCACY:

PSO-HNS is not just a social organization, we take pride in Advocacy projects that adapt to the needs of the community.

Three years ago, with the leadership of Dr Rodolfo Suan Jr., he started the Advocacy with a theme "Sagip Kalikasan, Sagip Buhay: ENT manggagamot kaisa para sa inang kalikasan," in La Mesa Eco Park, wherein a hectare of land was entrusted to the PSO-HNS for planting trees and regularly visiting it for 3 years.. This coincides with a partnership with Environmental and National Resources Office of Tanza Marine Park Malabon for coastal clean-up planting mangroove tree planting.

This year, with the Leadership of Dr. Christine Joy Arquiza, the Environmental Advocacy tags the Green Advocacy introduces a new logo that will encompass the efforts of the Society and the Chapters. At the center is our logo, behind is the mangrove and the tree. On each side is the addition advocacy in marine care, Pawikan conservation & strengthening Reef care. The Hexagons behind the marine animals represents the 8 Chapters and 10 Academies of the PSO-HNS.

Additional Commitment of the Advocacy Committee: March 3 is World Hearing Day and this year some of the Chapter, and Training Institution and Individual Fellows Celebrated it with Lay Fora, Free Ear Check up and Ear Cleaning Mission for Children, Awarding of a Free Hearing Aid to a Child, With the help of Dr. Archie Brian Ramos, we were able to submit an article to United Nation with our participation is the celebration of World Hearing Day.

Some of the projects this year:

April 28, 2024 - Southern Tagalog Chapter STENTS, Coastal Clean up and Pawikan Conservation Effort in Municipality of San Juan, Batangas.

May 30, 2024 - Bicol Chapter BEST Operation Gasang



(Artificial Reef) Installation in Sitio Mamangal in Balite, Municipality of Virac, Catanduanes.

July 20, 2024 - Central Luzon Chapter CELENT, Tree planting Activity in Mt. Samat, Municipality of Pilar, Bataan

July 21, 2024 - Northern Luzon Chapter NLENT, Coastal Clean up in Lingayen Beach Baywalk, Municipality of Lingayen, Pangasinan

July 28, 2024 - Southern Mindanao Chapter Green Advocacy tagged as save NaTure, Save LIVES. They had a tree planting project at Municipality of Sto.Tomas, Davao de Norte.

Green Advocacy will also cover the use of green energy. This will entail checking our clinic and homes to reduce or eliminate the use of single use plastics (Philippines is the highest contributory of Plastic waste in the ocean), using energy efficient gadgets and appliances, using less carbon consuming machines. ■

FELLOWSHIP GRANTS >

SEASONS IN SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL (SNUH)

by Hycel S. More, MD, FPSO-HNS

I flew in during one of the coldest winters in Bundang, South Korea, with snowy temperatures in January dropping to -15°C and below. Fortunately, the warm welcome from SNUH staff made the first freezing months pleasant and comfortable. It took me a while to find my way around the huge hospital grounds, but our busy days in the OPD, conference rooms and OR eventually became a familiar routine. Monday and Wednesday mornings were always off to an early start - 7am lectures, research updates and department meetings. Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons were spent seeing 70-100 patients a day in the OPD.

Together with other fellows from Mongolia, Turkey, Indonesia, and Saudi Arabia, we clock in daily wearing our blue hospital-issued scrub suits and attend four to six OR cases a day. Thanks to our skilled Rhinology professors, I was able to observe and assist a lot of interesting cases and even perform some of them under the expert guidance of Professor Jeongwhun Kim.

When cherry blossom season arrived, I attended a number of high-yield courses and conferences: the Hands-on Rhinoplasty course & 25th International Conference by the Korean Academy of Facial and Plastic Reconstructive Surgery at Samsung Medical Center, the 30th International Course on Endoscopic Sinus Surgery by the Korean Rhinologic Society at SNUH, and the Spring Conference or International Congress of ORL (ICORL 2023) in Ilsan. ICORL is a three-day event filled with engaging lectures and updates from experts in various fields of ORL - HNS.

Over 2,000 delegates from 34 countries attended this annual international congress - the first one held face-to-face in the last four years.

I was also fortunate enough to spend my final month of clinical fellowship in the main branch of SNUH in Seoul. There are four teaching hospitals within the SNU healthcare system and the newer hospital in Bundang, a city outside Seoul, is just one of them. Our daily rush hour commute was a bit of a challenge due to the warm summer weather in June, but our learning experience in the OR was more than worth it. We had the pleasure of meeting other Rhinology professors in SNUH main, headed by Prof. Chae-Seo Rhee, where they perform an average of five to ten OR cases per day. Due to the high volume of cases, surgeries were being done in different rooms simultaneously in the huge two-storey OR complex. Our professors would always take time to share their expertise with newbie Rhinologists like ourselves, welcoming questions and patiently answering them despite their full schedules.

Living in a foreign country, adapting to a new culture and learning their language proved to be difficult at times, yet the experience was truly worthwhile. The days were long but the months were short. Looking back, I can say what a joy and privilege it was to be part of a world-class institution like SNUH. It was a humbling yet rewarding experience to learn closely from leaders and fore-runners in the field of Rhinology, realizing that I still have a long way to go. But I hope my season of learning encourages at least one person to keep honing their craft, pursue subspecialty training, and give back to their home country through one patient at a time.

Thanks to PSO-HNS and their generosity for helping make this journey possible. **Kamsahamnida!** ■



THE SPOTLIGHT: BOT NEWS 2024 >



PSO-HNS Collaborates with PRC on Subspecialty Certification

by Eduard M. Alfanta, MD, MPH, FPSO-HNS

Our Philippine Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery is actively supporting the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) in establishing the framework for Subspecialty Certification. Through various endeavors of PSO-HNS, our Society is contributing in laying the groundwork for establishing Subspecialty Certification in our specialty.

One of the activities where PSO-HNS is ensuring that our different subspecialties are recognized by the PRC is through the submission of our Level Alignment Matrix (LAM). The LAM is a curriculum document that outlines the subspecialties of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. This serves to document that our specialty has under it the different subspecialties as a path towards subspecialization. We are proud that all of our Subspecialty Academies have made their invaluable contribution in the creation of the different LAMs which we have submitted to the PRC for their review and approval. Once the different subspecialty LAMs have been approved, we will have official recognition by the PRC of our subspecialties.

Our subspecialty LAMs would not have been crafted in such detail without the guidance of PSO-HNS Past President Dr. Cecilia Gretchen S. Navarro-Locsin. Dr. Locsin, who had carefully guided our different subspecialty academies in crafting their respective LAMs prior to submission to PRC.

Another initiative of PRC that PSO-HNS has actively supported is on the accreditation of Specialty and Subspecialty Societies providing structured training programs. PSO-HNS, as the PRC-recognized professional organization in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, has attended consultative meetings in preparation for the soon to be released Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of PRC Resolution 1591 which is the “Guidelines on the Accreditation of Specialty Society/Organization and other Specialty Categories Providing Structured Training Programs for Professionals.” The IRR of PRC Resolution 1591 will provide additional details not only in training in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, but also in its recognized subspecialties as outlined in the different subspecialty LAMs.

PSO-HNS has attended the consultative meeting hosted by PRC with regards to the draft IRR. PSO-HNS was represented by current President Dr. Christine Joy S. Arquiza, past President Dr. Ricardo L. Ramirez, Jr., and yours truly.

The PRC initiatives previously mentioned are part of the Career Progression and Specialization Program and Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CPSP-CATS) which aims to provide structure and ensure comparability of our educational and training programs with other countries. ■

EDITORIAL: Ever Expanding and Evolving

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Frederick Y. Hawson, MD, FPSO-HNS



You now hold in your hand the latest copy of the new and much-improved of our beloved ORL-NEWS. Yes, the “official publication of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery” has certainly expanded to more than 5 times the number of pages of the earlier editions. As the brighter color schemes reflects the younger mean age of Society members, the expanding thickness of this newsletter reflects the continual growth and development of our Society every year.

At the end of the 1990s, there were only 16 training institutions. Now, there are already a whopping 39 training institutions to report about. Since the early 2000s, the Society also organized 8 regional chapters to stimulate active member participation outside the NCR, and established 10 academies to foster interest in the various ENT subspecialties. Of course, the newsletter expanded accordingly to include news and updates from each of these groups as well.

On top of these traditional contents, and the usual news about the previous midyear and the coming annual convention, our new newsletter dedicates space for the thrusts and advocacies of the current Board of Trustees, so that the members are kept abreast of what the BOT was up to for the whole year. I personally enjoyed reading about the experiences of our young colleagues who availed of the grants for international subspecialty training – inspirational wherever you are in your career.

A cursory review of old newsletters revealed that they used to publish the full list of all fellows and new diplomates, the organizational chart of the standing committees, the list of resolutions passed by the Board of Trustees, and even ENT-themed jokes. There were even full-page ads from pharmaceutical partners in some issues. We do not see these things now, but who knows if they make a comeback in the future? We welcome your suggestions on how to keep our newsletter engaging and vital for you. ■

EDITORIAL CARTOON:

Aileen S. Delos Santos-Garcia, MD

“Driving I.C.E.”

PSO-HNS driving innovation, collaboration, and excellence through an engaged community of fellows and stakeholders



Bicol Chapter



Led by President Dr. Noel Reyes, the chapter has been dedicated to continuing its projects and launching new advocacies. The year started with an impactful team building and chapter meeting from February 16-20, 2024, in Seoul, Korea, a unique "out of the country" experience.

In celebration of World Hearing Day on March 6, the Bicol Medical Center organized a fun run and free ENT consultation. Additionally, on March 9, the Board of Trustees, led by Dr. Christine Joy Arquiza, visited Legazpi City, inducting new members Dr. Al Santiago and Dr. Adrian Alvarez.

To support the Caloco Community Outreach program from November 2022, BEST members from Naga City returned to Tinambac, Camarines Sur, on March 29 to provide additional solar lamps to community members caring for previously planted mangroves.

Under the leadership of Dr. Al Santiago and the Bicol Medical Center, a hybrid lecture series and blue laser workshop titled "LASER in Focus: Advanced Techniques in Laryngology" was held on April 13-14, attended by ENT practitioners, residents, and anesthesiologists.

BEST also led "Project Gasang" on May 30-31, an artificial reef-laying initiative in partnership with BFAR, MAO, Bantay Dagat, and LGU Virac. The event included the Lakbay Serbisyo project, organized by NBHS with the Bicol Medical Center and Eastern Bicol Medical Center. Additionally, the 9th ENT Made Easy lecture series was held for Bicolano healthcare workers, alongside the Catanduanes Medical Society.

From July 5-6, the PACMFS, led by Drs. Jehan Maglaya, Francis Roasa, Enrico Donato, and Joselito David, visited Bicol Medical Center to conduct a lecture series and in-house workshop on CMF and prosthetics, attended by residents, BEST members, and dentists.

Looking forward, Catanduanes will host a surgical mission on September 2-6 to mark Thyroid Awareness Month. BEST is also preparing for the PSOHNS midyear convention scheduled for May 28-30, 2025, in Legazpi City.

Central Luzon ENT (CELENT) Chapter

The past months have been a period of significant activity and achievement for our CELENT family, marked by impactful events and initiatives aimed at community health and environmental sustainability.

Our journey began with the induction of new officers and members on February 17, 2024, led by Chapter President Dr. Minnie H. Uy and Vice President Dr. Jefferson A. Alamani. The ceremony in Angeles City marked the beginning of a year of dedicated service and growth with new officers and members driving our initiatives forward.

On April 13, 2024, our society organized a medical mission in Candaba, Pampanga. Our team worked tirelessly to ensure every patient received quality care. The mission was a success, with around 400 individuals benefiting from free medical consultations, treatments, and medications.

In collaboration with the Jose B. Lingad Memorial General Hospital, we conducted a cleft lip surgical mission on July 12, 2024. This initiative provided life-changing surgeries to children and adults with cleft lip conditions. The surgical team, comprising skilled professionals, performed numerous surgeries, transforming lives and bringing smiles to many faces.

Recognizing the importance of environmental stewardship, our society, in partnership with the Bataan Medical Society and CENRO Bataan, organized a tree-planting activity in Pilar, Bataan, on July 20, 2024. Members and volunteers planted hundreds of fruit-bearing trees, aiding reforestation, combating climate change, restoring the ecosystem, and fostering community responsibility toward nature.

In addition to these events, our academy remains committed to professional development through CME sessions. Integrated into our quarterly meetings, these sessions provide members with updates in medical science, best practices, and emerging healthcare trends, ensuring they are well-equipped to deliver high-quality healthcare.

The accomplishments of our society reflect our unwavering dedication to community service, healthcare excellence, and environmental conservation. As we look ahead, we remain committed to making a positive impact on society, one initiative at a time.



Central Eastern Visayas (CEVENT) Chapter

Emerging from a global pandemic, 2023 was quite a challenge, with most of us still trying to regain our footing. The Central-Eastern Visayas (CEV) Chapter gradually embraced the "new normal" by reintroducing face-to-face activities for its members. This was a refreshing change after a two-year hiatus. Activities included lectures on financial literacy, our annual tree-planting advocacy, and a post-graduate course on sleep and sleep disorders.

The first half of 2024, however, has been especially fruitful. The CEV Chapter jump-started the year with a formal induction of its newly elected officers, led by PSO-HNS President Dr. Christine Joy Arquiza. This was followed by various activities and advocacies in collaboration with the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical



Center (VSMMC) Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery.

In celebration of World Sleep Day, a lay forum was held with lectures on Allergic Rhinitis, Foreign Bodies in ENT, and Sleep Apnea. Shortly after, an Interhospital Grand Rounds was held, featuring Head and Neck cases from the two training institutions within our Chapter. As part of our advocacy for World Thyroid Day, a three-day thyroid mission was held at VSMMC. Additionally, our members participated in a medical and dental mission hosted by the Sacred Heart School – Ateneo de Cebu Batch 1999.

Although more could always be done, the journey from the pandemic to where we are now shows how the Chapter has demonstrated resilience in the face of adversity. As we continue to recover and make up for time lost, we look forward to more opportunities for the Chapter to express its unwavering support for the Mother Society. Cheers!

Northern Luzon ENT (NLENT) Chapter

The NLENT Chapter inducted its new set of officers last January 20, 2024 at the Ion Hotel in Baguio City, headed by its new President, Dr. Sherwin Biasura (Baguio). Completing the roster are Drs. Eduardo Dizon Jr. (Nueva Ecija - VP), Marieflor Garcia-Elgincolin (Cagayan - Secretary), Kathleen Joy Santiago (Isabela - Treasurer), Irlan Altura (La Union - Auditor), Johann Wi (Pangasinan - Academics) and Jennilyn Bancifra (Ilocos - Advocacy). The event was attended by PSOHNS Trustees: Doctors Archie Brian Ramos, Eunice Azurin and Frederick Mars Untalan—who is also a past president and a steadfast advisor of NLENT.

The first quarterly meeting took place in Cabanatuan City on March 9-10, hosted by the Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Research and Medical Center chaired by Dr. Lester Baga. This meeting featured a Residents' Free Paper Presentation, reviewed by guest experts Drs. Ronaldo Soriano, Jaclyn Leigh Vidal, and Christian Neil Romero. Following the presentation, a Cummings Quiz Bee was held, with PJGMRC taking first place, followed by two teams from Baguio General Hospital at second and third places. Dr. Elbert Digger Baloco of Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital received top honors in the qualifier round. Dr. Leonardo Mangahas, an NLENT founding member, also kicked off an Allergic Rhinitis lecture series, which he will continue at future chapter meetings. The event concluded with a lively sportsfest.

The second quarterly meeting, hosted by Region 1 Medical Center at the Monarch Hotel in Calasiao, Pangasinan, included a Basic Laryngobronchoesophagology Course and Workshop. Lectures and facilitation were provided

by Drs. Antonio Chua, James Rondal, Janice Ancheta - Presetes, Frederick Enrile, Ronaldo Soriano, and Carlo Paolo Pagalilauan. The meeting wrapped up with a beach cleanup at Lingayen Baywalk, led by Dr. Jefferson Alamani, PSO-HNS Advocacy Committee Chair.

The third quarterly meeting in September will include a Craniomaxillary course, scheduled to be held in La Union.



Northern Mindanao Chapter

The PSO - HNS Northern Mindanao Chapter has had a productive year, marked by activities and initiatives promoting ENT health and community service.

In March, the chapter celebrated World Hearing Day by partnering with MENTOR Hearing Center and Northern Mindanao Medical Center CDO Consortium. The event featured lectures, free ear check-ups, hearing tests, and discounted hearing aids, highlighting a commitment to hearing health in the region.



April saw the chapter's first general assembly of the year, along with the induction of new officers: Monique Lucia A. Jardin-Quing (President), Dr. Mary Kathy Lynn B. Luceno (VP), Dr. Nathalie P. Mundo (Secretary), Dr. Gemarie T. Racmat (Treasurer), Dr. Philip Dennis C. Sy, Jr. (Auditor), and Dr. Deziree R. Caayupan (PRO). PSO-HNS President Dr. Christine Joy Arquiza attended the ceremony.

In May, chapter members attended a midyear convention in Bacolod. July marked a busy month with the advocacy program "Protecting Your Voice: A

Sound Investment for Teachers.” Held at REVER Medical Center, Jasaan, Misamis Oriental, the program provided teachers with vocal health education, free laryngoscopy, and otoscopy screenings. Experienced otolaryngologists delivered lectures on common vocal issues, including nodules, polyps, and laryngitis, with practical tips for prevention and management. Teachers expressed gratitude for the consultations, underscoring the importance of educator well-being.

In addition, chapter representatives visited Pagadian and Zamboanga Margosatubig Regional Hospital to connect with colleagues and finalize the chapter handbook.

Looking ahead, planned activities include:

August: Third annual Tracheostomy Care Workshop
 September: Parliamentary Procedure Workshop, Board of Trustees Visit, and Intermindanao Case Presentation (with SPMC, ZMC, and CDO Consortium)
 October: Tree Planting in Butuan, (PSO-HNS-Northern Mindanao Chapter Strategic Planning, and Second General Assembly
 November: 3D Printing Retraining (with MSU-IIT) and Year-End Party with Election of New Officers

The PSO-HNS Northern Mindanao Chapter remains dedicated to advancing ENT health and supporting its community.

Southern Mindanao Chapter



The PSO-HNS Southern Mindanao Chapter remains committed to upholding the society’s mission and vision through impactful initiatives.

The year began with the celebration of International Ear Care Day/World Hearing Day on March 5, 2024, at the Apo View Hotel in Davao City. In partnership with the Department of Health Region XI and the Southern Philippines Medical Center Department of ENT-HNS, discussions with stakeholders focused on shifting mindsets to make ear and hearing care accessible to all Filipinos.

Continuing its commitment to environmental advocacy, chapter fellows and residents revisited the site of a 2022 tree planting in Espacio de Cachuela, Sto. Tomas, Davao Del Norte, on July 28, 2024. Seeing the growth of previously planted trees was a rewarding experience, and participants planted additional fruit-bearing and hardwood Philippine native trees to protect and preserve the slopes.

In September, the chapter will revive the Mindanao-wide PSO-HNS & PBO-HNS Accredited Training Institutions CPC Presentation Contest. In collaboration with the Northern Mindanao Chapter, this in-person event will be hosted by the Northern Mindanao Medical Center on September 24, 2024.

Other upcoming activities include an Adopt-an-Orphanage Program within Davao City and the Year-End General Assembly and Oath-Taking of incoming officers and fellows in November.

Southern Tagalog ENT (STENTS) Chapter



The Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Southern Tagalog Chapter (STENTS) has actively promoted ENT health through numerous initiatives in 2024. On February 17, STENTS inducted new officers, led by President Dr. Angelo Ian Sampelo, at the SEDA Nuvali Hotel in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, marking a fresh commitment to advancing ENT care.

On March 2, STENTS organized the "Little Ear Post Grad" event at DeLaSalle-UMC VHall, focusing on pediatric hearing loss management for 40 ENT specialists, pediatricians, and audiologists. This was followed by a lay forum on March 5, titled "Ano Kamo? Tenga mo, Pasilip mo!" in collaboration with the Quezon Provincial Hospital Network and Quezon Medical Center. The forum, led by Quezon ENT specialists, addressed hearing loss misconceptions and provided ear care education, including free video otoscopy screenings for 105 participants.

On April 27, 2024, STENTS held its second-quarter advocacy event in Barangay Barualte, San Juan, Batangas, supporting the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary’s “Pawikan Conservation Project.” Activities included a donation drive, coastal clean-up, and lay forums on ear care and sun safety. The highlight was the turnover of Php 52,795.95 to the conservation project, with volunteers collecting 30 sacks of waste.

On July 27, STENTS and DLSU launched an Oral Cavity and Neck Self-Examination Campaign, featuring a video on self-examination for head and neck cancer, shared on social media. The campaign included lay forums on early detection and prevention.

Looking forward, STENTS has several impactful projects planned. On August 16, the chapter will continue the "Liter of Light" project, bringing sustainable lighting solutions to communities in Rizal.

In September, STENTS will release the second part of the Children's ENT Book to raise awareness of ENT diseases among children and will celebrate its silver anniversary on September 14, marking 25 years of dedicated service. In November, STENTS will hold "Sipon Lubog ATBP: Lay fora on ENT misconceptions," targeting barangay health workers to correct misconceptions and promote proper ENT health.

These initiatives reflect STENTS' values of respect, resourcefulness, resilience, and social awareness, demonstrating their ongoing commitment to public health and community service.

Western Visayas Chapter



The PSO-HNS Western Visayas Chapter has enjoyed a productive and eventful year, marked by significant accomplishments and a steadfast commitment to its mission. The year began with preparations for the 2024 PSO-HNS Midyear Convention held in May, a culmination of nearly three years of meticulous planning. This event marked a milestone, bringing the convention back to the City of Smiles after 20 years; the chapter last hosted the midyear convention in Iloilo City in 2012.

Beyond the convention, the chapter remained dedicated to community outreach and promoting PSO-HNS health advocacies. Activities included chapter meetings, Linis Tenga missions, radio talk show guesting, and lectures on Head and Neck Cancer Awareness, Hearing and Ear Health, and other ENT-related advocacies. These were held at select barangays and the Outpatient Departments of Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital and West Visayas Medical Center. Additionally, the chapter organized a simultaneous Mangrove Tree Planting across Panay and Negros islands and hosted a year-end team-building and strategic planning session. The Chapter's new gun safety advocacy was also launched as one of the activities of the midyear convention.

In 2024, the chapter comprises 48 fellows based across Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Roxas, Antique, and Aklan, including Boracay Island. Despite Negros Occidental's separation from Region 6 to join the newly legislated Negros Island Region with Negros Oriental and Siquijor, the PSO-HNS Western Visayas Chapter remains united. The Western Visayas Chapter extends its gratitude to its members and partners for their unwavering support as it continues to advance ENT healthcare and serve the community.

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



In 2007, driven by a passion for forming a head and neck study group, Dr. Eutrapio S. Guevara, Jr., and Dr. Alfredo Q.Y. Pontejos, Jr. founded the Academy for Head and Neck Oncology of the Philippines (AHNOP). Its mission is to continually endeavor to uplift head and neck cancer patient care through research, training, and continuing education of its members, emphasizing a multi-disciplinary approach. Its vision is to become an internationally recognized academic and research group advancing knowledge in Head and Neck Oncology.

The academy strives to uphold its vision by hosting activities that promote awareness and education on head and neck cancer management. Annual activities include Interhospital Multidisciplinary Case Conferences, lectures, webinars, post-graduate courses, and public health campaigns through TV and radio. These activities occur during 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).

The year began with a virtual Inter-Hospital Grand Rounds, hosted by Visayas members on January 26, 2024. The second IHGR was held on April 24, hosted by St. Luke's Medical Center. To support resident training, AHNOP, in collaboration with Quezon City General Hospital's Department of ORL-HNS, organized a Basic Head and Neck Course on April 12-13, 2024. The 53rd Head and Neck Cancer Tumor Board was held on April 18, in partnership with the Philippine Academy for Head and Neck Cancer Surgery, Inc.

Aligned with its multi-disciplinary approach, AHNOP, in collaboration with St. Luke's Medical Center, conducted a clinical conference titled "Fueling Recovery: Impact of Nutrition on Surgical Wound Healing" from July 25-27, 2024. Experts in general surgery and speech and language pathology discussed topics like surgical nutrition, swallowing therapy in head and neck cancer, and wound healing.

Philippine Academy of Audiology (PAAUD)

The Philippine Academy of Audiology (PAAud) is committed to advancing audiology and improving hearing health in the Philippines. In early 2024, PAAud led initiatives to raise public awareness, expand clinical knowledge, and support early detection of hearing issues.



From January to June, PAAud's Advocacy Project: Ear and Hearing Screening Mission focused on identifying hearing issues among school-age children, ensuring timely intervention to aid their development. In January, the Academy's first-quarter meeting included sessions on "Diagnosing Eustachian Tube Dysfunction," enhancing audiologists' diagnostic skills.

In February, PAAud collaborated with East Avenue Medical Center for 2 activities: a lay forum for Tinnitus Awareness Week, aiming to educate the public about tinnitus. And the celebration of International Cochlear Implant Day highlighting advancements and success stories in cochlear implantation.

March included collaborative events for World Hearing Day, starting with "Little Ears: A Multispecialty Approach to Pediatric Hearing Loss" at DLSUMC and BMC. Other activities took place across several hospitals, including EAMC, ARMMC, MCU Hospital, JRMMC, MMMH, BGHMC, and BMC. In partnership with Tzu Chi Foundation, Hearbuzz, and UST Audiology, the academy also hosted "Harmony of Senses: Bridging Ear and Eye Care," which received the WHO Coalition for Global Hearing Health's sole grant in the Philippines.

In April, PAAud's second members meeting included a session on Bone Conduction Hearing Aids, and in June, East Avenue Medical Center hosted the annual Temporal Bone Dissection and Basic Audiology Course, providing hands-on learning experiences.

Looking ahead, PAAud plans to continue regular members meetings and lectures and the revival of the EAMC Interhospital Ear Rounds. November will be dedicated to Deaf Awareness Week, while December will culminate in the Annual Conventions of both the Philippine Society of Audiology and the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology, celebrating a year of collaboration and progress in audiology.

Philippine Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery (PACMFS)

The Philippine Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery, since its founding in 2004, has consistently demonstrated excellence in training, innovation, research, and community service. With a mission to advance education and surgical expertise, the academy plays a vital role in shaping future ENT-Head and Neck surgeons, particularly in craniomaxillofacial surgery, through comprehensive training led by distinguished faculty.

The academy's monthly lecture series, conducted online and open to all, serves as a platform to assess trainees' knowledge, provide education to residents and consultants, and foster interaction with experienced surgeons who share their insights on key topics. In May



2024, the academy organized a Craniomaxillofacial Interhospital Grand Rounds at St. Luke's Medical Center, where five complex trauma cases were discussed. This event offered valuable learning for residents and allowed them to engage with field experts.

For 2024, the academy collaborated with eight institutions on post-graduate courses that emphasize surgical skills and 3D printing technology, hosted by institutions such as Manila Central University, Southern Philippines Medical Center, Bicol Medical Center, Batangas Medical Center, De La Salle University Medical Center, and Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology. These workshops not only enhance residents' technical abilities but also keep them informed on innovations in craniomaxillofacial surgery, promoting knowledge exchange.

In addition to training, the academy has a strong commitment to research, partnering with leading institutions on studies that explore new surgical techniques and technologies. This dedication to research fosters continuous improvements that benefit both patients and the broader medical community.

The academy is also proactive in road safety advocacy. Through an awareness contest among residents, shared on social media, the academy aims to educate the public on the importance of road safety and its impact on physical trauma.

Beyond its medical initiatives, the academy extends its surgical education efforts nationwide, reaching communities from Ilocos in the north to Davao in the south, ensuring that advanced care is accessible.

Through these initiatives, the PACMFS has established itself as a leader in craniomaxillofacial surgery education, research, service, and road safety advocacy, setting a benchmark for excellence in the field in the Philippines and beyond.

Philippine Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (PAFPRS)

PAFPRS started 2024 with an executive committee meeting to re-calibrate the academy's dynamic plans for the year, joined by the Vice-Chair, Dr. Tanlapco, and Secretary, Dr. Dumlao, at the PSO-HNS 1st Leadership Summit 2024. With the optimistic initiative of our Chair, Dr. Fullante, the nomination for the CPG of Cleft Lip and Palate Management was submitted for consideration in the 2025-2028 Medium-term Clinical Practice Guidelines by DOH-UP-NIH.

PAFPRS' monthly webinar lecture series entitled "Before The Cut" provides trainee fellows an opportunity to solidify their theoretical knowledge and critical thinking skills as speakers. This year, PAFPRS has already conducted five webinars, ranging from basic to complex



case-based discussions. PAFPRS' first Scientific Meeting, led by Academic Officer Dr. Batan entitled "The Art and Science of Eye Aesthetics," was attended by 250 virtual participants. The second Scientific Meeting, "Bridging the Gap: Comprehensive Approaches to Cleft Lip and Palate Rehabilitation," took place on July 30, 2024.

PAFPRS also celebrated July as the National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month, hosting an annual infomercial and e-poster contest with PBO-accredited training institutions. Aligned with PAFPRS' commitment, Dr. Aguila spearheaded a successful two-day surgical mission, "Handog na Ngiti Cleft Lip and Palate Repair Surgical Mission," at San Pablo District Hospital. To further the advocacy, Dr. Mendez had an interview with DWIZ 882's Ms. Marou Sarne, discussing CLAP awareness and prevention.

The 2024 Basic Facial Plastics and Craniomaxillofacial Surgery Course "Precision in Healing," took place on March 6-7, 2024, in collaboration with PSO-HNS and the MCU-FDTMF Department of ORL-HNS. The first day featured lectures on facial plastic surgery, followed by a facial plastics workshop on the second day, overseen by PAFPRS trainee fellows and graduates. The 9th Septorhinoplasty Course and Live Surgical Demonstration, in partnership with PSO-HNS and the UP-PGH Department of ORL-HNS, was held last September 10-11, 2024.

Philippine Academy of Laryngobroncho-esophagology and Phoniatics (PALP)

In its second year since the COVID-19 pandemic, the Philippine Academy of Laryngobronchoesophagology and Phoniatics (PALP) continues advancing the subspecialty with regular, high-yield scientific activities. To benefit all members, sessions covered topics from basic to advanced.

Key sessions included one on Dysphagia and Retrograde Cricopharyngeus Dysfunction in February 2024, featuring international guest Dr. Robert Bastian from Chicago, USA. This was followed in April by a session on the innovative VOIS thyroplasty implant, presented by Dr. Floyd Guan Ming Ho from Taiwan. The most recent session, held in July, was a "Laryngology Grand Rounds on Airway" panel discussion with renowned international laryngologists Dr. Ahmed Elsobky from Egypt and Dr. Ramon Franco from the USA.

PALP also collaborated with various institutions. In celebration of World Voice Day, it conducted educational forums with the USTH ENT-HNS Department titled "I Could See Your Voicebox 2." Together with MCU's Department of ORL-HNS and PAPO, PALP held an LBEN workshop from August 1-3 at Karl Storz BGC, with active members as resource persons.



For the first time, as a break from its usual activities, PALP, along with the VLMC ENT-HNS department, held a fundraising event called "Summer Funshoot" at the HPA Firing Range in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, sponsored by RGBM.

The 4th National Laryngology Quiz Bee was held on August 18, 2024, at Unilab's Bayanihan Center, sponsored by Unilab Inc. Twenty-six teams of residents in training from accredited institutions nationwide participated, answering challenging questions in a lively and educational contest enjoyed by both residents and attending consultants.

In the coming months, PALP looks forward to organizing more educational activities to elevate the standards of practice in Laryngology and Bronchoesophagology.

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

The global otolaryngology community was thrilled to gather for the 20th ASEAN ORL-HNS Congress in Ha Noi, Vietnam, marking the first fully in-person event since the COVID-19 pandemic. The event took place at Vietnam's impressive National Convention Center, with a strong PANORS presence, led by Dr. Charlotte Chiong, who was invited to moderate and lecture on the National Cochlear Implant Program in the Philippines.

Dr. Rosario Ricalde, PANORS secretary, coordinated the ASEAN Academy of Neurology, Otology, and Audiology (AANO) meeting on October 14, 2023, to strengthen PANORS' position and secure Manila as the host for the upcoming AANO Congress. Among the Filipino attendees were Dr. Ricardo Ramirez, 2023 PSO-HNS President, and Dr. Charlotte Chiong, an AANO Advisory Board Member. The meeting was led by Dr. Barrie Tan, ASEAN ORL-HNS Federation President and AANO Advisory Board Member. During the event, Dr. Erasmo Gonzalo Llanes, the immediate past president of PANORS, was elected as the next AANO President, marking a significant achievement as the first Filipino in this role. His leadership secured Manila as the location for the 9th AANO Congress, which will coincide with the 2024 PSO-HNS Annual Convention in December.



Through the efforts of Dr. Kimberly Ong from PANORS and the Philippine National Ear Institute, PANORS also secured the 2024 Hearing International (HI) Meeting, which will follow the ASEAN ORL Congress in Ha Noi. The Philippines is proud to host two HI centers, one at the Philippine National Ear Institute and the other at the University of Santo Tomas.

We eagerly anticipate the joint 2024 Annual PSO-HNS Convention, AANO Congress, and HI Meeting, hosted by PANORS.

Philippine Academy of Otorhinolaryngic Allergy and Clinical Immunology (PAORLACI)

The Philippine Otorhinolaryngic Allergy and Clinical Immunology (PAORLACI) remains committed to advancing Otorhinolaryngic Allergy through impactful activities in 2024. The year began with the 1st ENT Pinoy Allergy Week, January 23-29, 2024. This event featured lay forums and free clinics at various training institutions to raise public awareness about ENT allergies. A highlight of the week was the 1st ORLACI Interhospital Grand Rounds for ENTs, held at The Medical City South Luzon on January 25, where five training institutions participated. A multispecialty panel of reactors, including an ENT allergologist, rheumatologist, pediatric allergologist, and pathologist, contributed their insights. Enhancing educational efforts, a Small Group Discussion on January 27 provided in-depth insights into diagnostic tests for allergic rhinitis, led by Dr. Anne Marie Espiritu, followed by an introduction to the Phadia 200 by Ms. Dorothy Caldo.

In February, PAORLACI members attended the ASEAN-Rhino Regional Scientific Congress, held February 16-20, where Dr. Espiritu lectured, while Dr. Roldan moderated the discussion in one of the symposiums. PAORLACI, in collaboration with the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and the Pasay-Paranaque Medical Society, held its 3rd online Post-Graduate Course on Allergy and Immunology of Oral Cavity Diseases, featuring distinguished multispecialty lecturers.

The Academy is also developing an ORLACI & OCAD Section at Manila Doctors Hospital, a comprehensive 4-year program aimed at advancing ORL Allergy education for residents and consultants. Currently, weekly small group discussions are done on various ORL Allergy topics with several training institutions participating actively.

PAORLACI also acknowledges the influence of the environment on allergic conditions. The Academy shares monthly posts to support this initiative, offering insights and resources to the members Viber group, intending to

increase awareness and good environmental practice.

Through these initiatives, PAORLACI continues to advance knowledge, foster collaboration, and enhance patient care in Otorhinolaryngic Allergy and Clinical Immunology.

Philippine Academy of Pediatric Otolaryngology (PAPO)



The Philippine Academy of Pediatric Otolaryngology (PAPO) continues its mission to promote activities with children as the focus of care. In 2024, PAPO participated in workshops for ORLHNS institutions and courses for pediatric specialists, aimed at sharing pediatric aerodigestive principles.

Tracheostomy is frequently performed by pediatric otolaryngologists for prolonged stays and ventilation needs. On March 9, 2024, PAPO members conducted a course on the Care of the Tracheotomized Pediatric Patient to address the increasing complexity of tracheostomy care for pediatric intensive care patients. The course, introduced in 2023, was attended by colleagues from pediatric specialties, nursing, and respiratory care groups.

PAPO collaborated with the ORL-HNS Department of Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital to organize the Basic Laryngobronchoesophagology Course and Workshop in Bacolod on May 7, 2024. Participants from Visayas and Mindanao learned aerodigestive endoscopy techniques. PAPO members covered topics like pediatric aerodigestive anatomy, endoscopy, and foreign body removal, followed by instrument demonstrations and hands-on simulations using life-sized infant mannequins.

PAPO, along with the Philippine Academy of Laryngobronchoesophagology and Phoniatics (PALP) and the Manila Central University-Filemon D. Tanchoco Medical Foundation (MCU-FDTMF), held the 3rd Basic Laryngology and Bronchoesophagology Course from August 1-3, 2024. This PBOHNS-required course covered laryngeal and aerodigestive topics with lectures and hands-on workshops by PAPO and PALP members, benefiting residents of accredited ORL-HNS training institutions.

Pediatric Otolaryngology fellows Dr. Allan Labotan and Dr. Allen Cypress Elegado attended the 8th Asia-Pacific Pediatric Airway Conference (APPAC) from July 19-21 in Jakarta, organized by Universitas Indonesia. The event included expert lectures on pediatric airway topics and hands-on courses in tracheostomy, bronchoscopy, laryngotracheal reconstruction, cricotracheal resection, and slide tracheoplasty.



PAPO is committed to education and leading training efforts to ensure pediatric airway care and safety. In 2024, it achieved its goal of equipping future otolaryngologists and pediatric specialists with the skills necessary for successful airway management and improved patient outcomes.

Philippine Academy of Rhinology (PAR)



The annual Endoscopic Sinus Surgery Basic Course by the Philippine Academy of Rhinology was again a success. Organized by Dr. Gianelle Sugcang at The Medical City from June 5 to 8, 2024, the symposium focused on advancements, techniques, and patient care in endoscopic sinus surgery.

The event started with a two-day lecture series at the Augusto Barcelon Auditorium, followed by workshops and live surgical demonstrations at the Medical City Center for Advanced Skills, Simulation and Training Innovation (CASSTI), highlighting the latest sinus treatment techniques. Renowned rhinologists shared insights, enriching participants' knowledge.

Over 100 participants attended the didactic part, including residents, ENT specialists, rhinologists, clerks, and interns from various institutions. Forty participants joined the hands-on dissection segment.

The academy also actively participated in international rhinology conferences, advancing sinus and nasal care. Notable events include the ASEANRhino Scientific Congress in Singapore (February 16-20), the ISIAN/IRS Meeting in Tokyo (April 4-6), and the ENDO-KL Meeting in Kuala Lumpur (April 25-27), and the IRCAD Advanced Sinus Dissection Cadaver Course in Lugang, Taiwan (Sep 21-22).

PAR members collaborated with experts from Southeast Asia, exchanging the latest techniques and research in rhinology. These congresses fostered insights into regional practices and innovations.

The academy also joined the Runny Nose Charity Fun Run, organized by ARMMC and USTH Department of ORL-HNS on September 22, 2024, at UP Diliman for indigent patients with nasal issues. This partnership promoted nasal and sinus health through its biennial Practical Rhinology Symposium. This year's Practical Rhinology 4: Must Nose! Nasal and Sinus Health Explained, led by Dr. Lemuel Guevara, was held on September 25 and streamed on Facebook, with discussions on allergic rhinitis, chronic rhinosinusitis, nasal tumors, and smell by leading experts. Overall, the events were well-attended, with over a thousand runners for Runny Nose and 2,700 online attendees.

Through active conference participation and organizing local ESS courses, the Philippine Academy of Rhinology continues promoting knowledge exchange, professional development, and collaboration, enhancing nasal and sinus care quality in the Philippines and beyond.

Philippine Academy of Sleep Surgery (PASS)



Within the multidisciplinary field of Sleep Medicine, the Philippine Academy of Sleep Surgery (PASS) continues to advocate for the key role of otolaryngologists in the management of obstructive sleep apnea. Our members in their respective institutions took active roles in organizing activities in celebration of World Sleep Day last March 15, 2024. All in line with the theme "Sleep Equity for Global Health", these included various lay-fora, training workshops for in-office surgical procedures and academic conferences focusing on the proper diagnosis and treatment of OSA.

The tail-end of March brought the Philippine Society of Sleep Medicine (PSSM) Annual Convention. As this year's theme was "Sleep Across the Ages: A Personalized Approach", the academy saw it fit for both the new blood and seasoned seniors to deliver lectures on select topics, which included assessment tools for measuring sleep, the role of actigraphy, updates on sleep-surgery techniques and drug-induced sleep surgery (DISE). It's likely that some sleep was lost over all the hard work; however, PASS members are always more than willing to put in the effort if only to see our vision come to pass - otolaryngologists, masters of the upper airway, at the very forefront of treating sleep-disordered breathing.

As the cutting-field physicians among sleep specialists from other disciplines, what we really bring to the table is what we can do on the table. So, to level-up their surgical skills and keep up to date with the latest innovations in our trade, some core members of PASS attended the Combined Intra-Extra-Pharyngeal Surgery for Obstructive Sleep Apnea (CISS-OSA) workshop in Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan last June. Headed by the esteemed Professor Hsueh-Yu Li, the course elaborated on key concepts in multi-level sleep surgery and introduced new techniques including soft palate omni-suspension, endoscopic-guided and coblation-assisted hypopharyngeal surgeries, minimally-invasive approaches to the tongue base, and framework surgery such as genioglossus advancement. Of course, any surgical experience gained must be topped-off with gains from a gastronomic experience as well, and far be it from any PASS member to pass on a good Taiwanese food trip!

Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center



The Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center (ARMMC) has grown significantly from its early days as a section within the larger Dept. of EENT to a distinguished ORL-HNS department under Dr. Rene Lacanilao's leadership. Despite challenges like the 1999 fire and flooding from typhoon Ondoy in 2009, the department steadily expanded, attracted more consultants and achieving accreditation. Recently, it celebrated the success of three new diplomates: Dr. Ruben Chua, Dr. Kathleen Criscel Ang-Capuno, and Dr. Mark Edilberto Lopez. The department also welcomes new leadership, including Dr. Terence Jason Flores as Chairman and Dr. January Gelera as Assistant Chairman.

Significant strides in medical research have been made, with studies presented internationally. Notable contributions include Dr. Margaux Ysabel Abaya's work on olfactory dysfunction in Singapore and Dr. Gytha Kate Torres-Valenzuela's research on progressive hearing loss. Dr. Angela Marie Jao reported on Van Der Woude Syndrome in Vietnam, while Dr. Danielle Dominique Eduardo focused on granulomatous disease in Korea.

Community service remains a priority. In April 2024, the department conducted a medical mission with Manila Hearing Aid, offering free hearing tests to underserved populations. Additionally, organized events like the "Harmonizing Sound Features" symposium and an in-house maxillofacial workshop enhance professional skills.

The team welcomes two first-year residents, Dr. Allen Bundoc and Dr. Patricia Daganta, along with new consultants Dr. Rodel Velasquez for laryngology and Dr. John Faustine Gutierrez for otology and Dr. Fao Gansatao for rhinology. Looking ahead, ARMMC plans to strengthen its training programs with more workshops and postgraduate courses. Upcoming events include the "Runny Nose Fun Run 2024" and a forum on "Practical Rhinology 4," along with an advanced Larynx In-House Workshop on blue laser technology. These initiatives underscore the department's commitment to excellence in healthcare.

Asian Hospital and Medical Center



The Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery of the Asian Hospital and Medical Center has, through the years, continuously worked towards its vision of becoming a center of excellence in Otolaryngology - Health and Neck Surgery healthcare delivery.

Fulfilling its commitment to partnership with the medical community, the Department annually hosts its annual signature post-graduate course, "ENT EssENTIALS", tailored specifically for general practitioners and allied health professionals. The goal of the course is to empower generalists, young residents, and allied health workers with both theoretical and practical knowledge, initial management of cases, and decision-making and referral to specialists.

The Department hopes to continue its advocacy of supporting the medical community with timely knowledge regarding facial plastic surgery and related procedures for ENT EssENTIALS' 18th iteration. In addition, the Department also hosts regular Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) and Stroboscopy workshops and a workshop on Surgeon-Performed Ultrasound Skills and Beyond with the last iteration Focusing on Radiofrequency Ablation of benign thyroid nodules.

True to its mission, the Department continues to provide highest quality Ear, Nose, and Throat care. We invite the whole ORL-HNS Community to join and participate in our future events.

Baguio General Hospital



The Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery is committed to delivering exceptional medical and surgical care, serving our local community, and extending our services to patients from other regions.

The department is proud to have on its roster consultants who are trained in general ENT and in the subspecialties. This allows the department to expand its services and decrease referrals to larger institutions in Metro Manila. This is also advantageous to the training program since the residents are able to have greater exposure to subspecialty cases. The residency training program uses the Outcome-Based Education learning and is structured around the subspecialties, which includes weekly subspecialty discussion and quizzes.

In line with its mission and vision, the department participates and hosts various local events. This year, we conducted a Feeding Program and Medical Mission at Itogon, Benguet. Ear Screening and Ear Cleaning services were also done for daycare students at Bakakeng Central Barangay, and a Hearing Screening Mission at the Senior Citizens' Center and Luis Hora Memorial Regional Hospital at Bauko, Mt. Province was conducted. The department also joined the Serbisyo Fair in Benguet State University, La Trinidad, Benguet. The department is slated to continue with its different outreach programs throughout the year through varied private and government activities.

As the identified ENT Apex Hospital in Northern Luzon, the department has been identifying and procuring facilities and equipment for the subspecialty center. Representatives from the department visited the East Avenue Medical Center ENT Specialty Center to use as a benchmark for the BGHMC ENT Specialty Center. In the coming years, the department aims to have set up the ENT Specialty Center along with different fellowship programs to better serve the Cordillera Administrative Region and neighboring provinces.

Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center



Bataan General Hospital & Medical Center (BGHMC) Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (OHNS) celebrated the World Ear Care Day through an Ear and Hearing Care Lay Forum and Medical Mission for the pupils of Capitangan Elementary School, Capitangan, Abucay Bataan last March 1, 2024.

The BGHMC Department of OHNS team, led by its chair, Dr. Jefferson A. Alamani, a fellow of PSO-HNS, delivered a lecture on basic ear cleaning, common misconceptions of ear hygiene, and common ear diseases, and highlighted when to seek consultation from a trained health care worker or ENT specialist for ear problems.

Together with Dr. Alamani, the BGHMC Department of OHNS team composed of Dr. Miguel Limbert Q. Ramos, another fellow of PSO-HNS, and the department's residents: Dr. Mark Jhermy S. Villanueva, Dr.

Jem Marie S. Barruga and Dr. Marlon Greg Y. Padua, catered on the ear care and health needs of 120 pupils and staff of the elementary school in an otology medical mission, following the lay forum. Free medicines and snacks for all participants and patients were sponsored by BGHMC.

This event was made possible in coordination with the school management of Capitangan Elementary School, led by Mrs. Merlina R. Tinao, School Principal.

Batangas Medical Center



The Batangas Medical Center (BatMC) ORL-HNS is the second institution to be accredited in the Southern Tagalog Region and the only DOH Level III hospital to be accredited in Region IV.

The Department was established in 1997 after its separation from the Department of Ophthalmology. Its ORL-HNS Residency Training program was initially accredited on January 1, 2023, and by the following year, it was granted a full four-year accreditation. Presently, the department has two first year residents and two second year residents. The department boasts complete sets of all basic ENT-HNS equipment and instruments in both outpatient and operating room departments. The department also has a vast collection of original reference books as hard and electronic copies.

The department was awarded second place in the Best Practices Poster Presentation during the Gawad Balaraw Awarding Ceremony last December 2003 for "The Catalogue System". As a result, this system was recommended by the Medical Center Chief to be adopted by all units of the Medical Center. The department co-hosted "Little Ears: A Multispecialty Approach To Pediatric Hearing Loss: Screening, Diagnosis, Management and Rehabilitation with the DLSUMC ORL-HNS, DLSUMC Pediatrics, Philippine Academy of Audiology, The Southern Tagalog ENT Specialists as well as The Philippine Society of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery during the first quarter.

The annual department Strategic Planning was held at Nayomi Sanctuary Resort in Balete, Batangas last June 22-23, 2004. It recently concluded its first in-house seminar-workshop last July 26, 2024, entitled "Breaking Bad: Basics of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery in cooperation with the Philippine Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery and DLSU ENT-HNS.

The department plans to cap the year with the training of trainors for its ENT-HNS Nursing Program in collaboration with the nursing service as well as the formal opening of the ENT-HNS Specialty Center.

Bicol Medical Center



In the first half of 2024, as the designated ENT Referral Center in Region 5, the Bicol Medical Center Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery was at the forefront of medical education and advancements, showcasing a series of impactful initiatives.

One of the highlights was the successful organization of the first Hybrid Blue Laser Workshop, which brought together experts and participants both in-person and virtually. Esteemed guest speakers Dr. William Lim and Professor Markus Hess, both renowned for their contributions in laryngeal and laser surgery, provided invaluable insights and hands-on training, enhancing the participants' proficiency in cutting-edge laser technologies.

Additionally, the department celebrated several achievements in its dedication to enhancing healthcare accessibility and outcomes in remote communities, such as the successful implementation of free consultation services, neck ultrasound and guided biopsies in Ocampo, Camarines Sur in celebration of HANDACOW 2024 and its active participation in the ENT Made Easy Annual Series in Catanduanes. These outreach efforts not only significantly improved local access to specialized diagnostics and care, but also promoted best ENT practices to healthcare professionals in remote areas, enhancing ENT patient care in underserved areas of the region.

The department also hosted an In-house Cranio-maxillofacial workshop, featuring members of the Bicol ENT Specialists and distinguished guests from the Philippine Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery (PACMFS). This workshop focused on complex reconstructive techniques and interdisciplinary collaboration, fostering a deeper understanding of CMF disorders and surgical approaches among attendees. The event not only enriched the skill set of the department's surgeons but also strengthened collaborations with the guest experts, paving the way for future advancements in CMF services.

Overall, the Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery's activities in the first half of 2024 reflect its commitment to excellence, innovation, and community engagement. Through pioneering workshops, educational outreach, and groundbreaking healthcare initiatives, the department continues to set benchmarks in ENT care and surgical expertise, ensuring optimal patient outcomes and professional development across the region.

Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital



The Department of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery of the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital kicked off the year 2024 with preparations for the PSO-HNS Midyear Convention. A pre-congress Basic Laryngobronchoesophagology Course and Workshop was organized by the Department, with the Philippine Academy of Pediatric Otolaryngology, and the Philippine Academy of Laryngobronchoesophagology & Phoniatrics. This was attended by ORL-HNS residents from the provinces.

Following the separation of Negros Occidental from Region 6 to join Negros Oriental and Siquior as the Negros Island Region (NIR), CLMMRH became NIR's only DOH Specialty Center, and the Department, the sole ORL-HNS training program.

Concurrently, its ORL-HNS Outpatient Clinic received upgrades, including a treatment unit with an integrated video endoscopy system. Additionally, a mobile modular endoscopy system has been acquired for the OPD and the Operating Room. The Insighters Workstation and endoscopy system included flexible nasolaryngoscopes, and attachments for airway management such as video laryngoscopes, and a rigid video stylet.

The Hearing Center has also been renovated to offer comprehensive audiologic services including Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR), and Pediatric Visual Reinforcement Audiometry (VRA), in addition to the standard Pure Tone Audiometry (PTA), Tympanometry, and Otoacoustic Emission (OAE) testing. The new equipment was donated by the Philippine National Ear Institute as part of their capacity building initiative for the National Cochlear Implant Program.

Embodying CLMMRH's Mission and Vision to become a patient-centered and up-to-date training and research facility, the Department pursues research, with active consultant involvement in the Hospital Research and Development Unit, and the institutional review board, as well as taking part in securing a grant from the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Health Research and Development to establish an Innovation and Research Hub, particularly in ORL-HNS-related 3D technology applications. This grant will enable the department to pursue patient care-centered research.

Cagayan de Oro Consortium of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery



The Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery of the Cagayan Valley Medical Center is committed not only in providing high-quality patient care, but also in engaging in activities and strategies that raise awareness of the diseases within our scope in the community.

Last February 2, a lay forum on goiter prevention and early detection was held, featuring free consultations at Public Health Unit of Gattaran, Solana Cagayan and CVMC OPD triage for Goiter Awareness Week.

Last March 3, health education about proper ear care and hearing loss prevention was emphasized among the employees of CVMC exposed to loud environments, particularly the Carpentry, Biomed and Engineering Department. To ensure that hearing loss is detected as early as possible, the HearWho Hearing Screening App, developed by WHO, was used to screen the employees.

A second annual in-house Basic Facial Plastic Course (Pig’s Foot Workshop) was successfully hosted by the department last March 16, imparting valuable skills to the residents, clerks and interns headed by our Fellow in Facial Plastics, Dr. Arnie David.

In observance of Head and Neck Cancer Awareness and Consciousness Week (HANDACAW) on April 26, a lay forum was conducted at the CVMC Cancer Center covering cancer risk factors, signs, symptoms, prevention, and treatment.

As the department aims to continuously enlighten the public with wellness advocacy, society events have been strategically planned for the remainder of the year. For the month of September, as part of the National Thyroid Cancer Awareness Week, a lay forum and medical mission will be conducted in the thyroid endemic areas of Cagayan such as in Amulung and Peñablanca.

Lastly, for the Ear, Nose and Throat consciousness week, health promotion among primary and secondary schools of Cagayan in the first week of December will be executed, emphasizing the importance of proper ear, nose, and throat care.

Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital & Sanitarium

Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium (DJNRMHS) has proudly emerged as one of the four ENT-HNS comprehensive centers in the NCR. This year, DJNRMHS achieved another significant milestone by earning a four - year accreditation from the Philippine Board of Otorhinolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery, making it one of the youngest training institutions in the country. Although new and upcoming, he institution's commitment to fulfilling its mission in de-



living topnotch healthcare services and comprehensive specialty training remains unwavering.

On February 17, 2024, DJNRMHS hosted the very first in-house postgraduate course on Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS) Nursing Care at the DJNRMHS auditorium. This program, attended by 60 participants composed of nurses, midwives and nursing attendants, blended lectures with hands-on skills application mentored by experienced consultant staff and facilitated by a dynamic team of residents. Focused on addressing the unique challenges in nursing care for patients with ear, nose, throat, and head and neck disorders, this event provided attendees with 4 CPD units and specialized education to enhance their care for ORL-HNS patients. Plans of making this course available to other institutions are underway.

In collaboration with Korean missionaries and members of Sarang Village Church and Saranghaeng Juwon Center, DJNRMHS successfully conducted its 2nd annual cleft lip and palate surgical mission on May 5, 2024, in the DJNRMHS operating room. These life-changing surgeries not only enhance the aesthetic and functional outcomes of these children but also significantly improve their psychosocial well-being. As DJNRMHS nears its 3rd successful run, plans are being formalized to make this mission a biannual event, extending their reach and transforming more lives.

De La Salle University Medical Center

The De La Salle University Medical Center (DLSUMC) ORL-HNS Department takes pride in offering several postgraduate courses, lay forums, and workshops to uphold the Lasallian Mission of providing quality Christian education through teaching minds, touching hearts, and transforming lives. The department aims to broaden these ideals by collaborating with various subspecialties and training institutions.

Our 2nd In-house ESS Course featured esteemed speakers Dr. Benjamin Campomanes, Dr. Ma. Lourdes Encilla, and Dr. January Gelera, extending learning opportunities to two residents from Batangas Medical Center and two from Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital. We also hosted two postgraduate courses: “The Little Ears (Hearing Loss Among Pediatric Patients)” in collaboration with the Philippine Academy of Audiology, featuring Dr. Joel Romualdez and Dr. Rosario Ricalde, and “Reading Between the Lights: Lectures on Disease and Disorders of the Larynx and Videostroboscopy Workshop” in collaboration with the Philippine Association of Laryngology and Southern Tagalog ENTS (STENTS). These courses attracted general practitioners, speech-language pathologists, neurologists, family and community medicine physicians, students, and fellow ENTs all over the South Luzon and Metro Manila.

As a premier medical school and training institution in South Luzon, we organized lay fora on Obstructive Sleep Apnea, Thyroid Diseases, and Head and Neck Self-exam.

We take pride in our new Diplomate, Dr. Gian Gutierrez, whose research won 1st place in the PSO-HNS Descriptive research contest, and graduates, Dr. Gato and Dr. Yap, both alumni of the DLSHSI College of Medicine.

As we move forward under the leadership of Dr. Angeline Niñal-Vilog (Hospital Chair) and Dr. Julie Ann Regalado (Academic Chair), both graduates of DLSUMC residency training, we streamline our aspiration with the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery's mission in the relentless pursuit of excellence and relevance. We can and we will, strongly as one.

Animo La Salle!



Our department has engaged in successful international collaborations, including a notable project with the AAO-HNSF Humanitarian Efforts Committee on "Low-Cost Phantom Models for Medical Education." This project highlights our local innovations and cost-effective solutions in medical training on an international platform.

Since 2017, we have performed numerous cochlear implant procedures, advancing auditory capabilities and enhancing the quality of life for our patients. This achievement highlights our commitment to leading-edge hearing restoration technologies.

Far Eastern University - Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation

The FEU-NRMF ORL HNS department has maintained its Residency Training Program accreditation since it was established in 1988. This year, we are focused on securing another 4-year accreditation. In addition to our academic endeavour, the Service Outpatient Department has been actively involved in community engagement through lay forums, such as Head and Neck Cancer Awareness focusing on thyroid diseases. We offer free screenings for neck masses and throat disorders, along with free consultations. Our enhanced utilization of the FEU-NRMF Foundation's Indigency Fund has also significantly supported our charity patients through financial assistance, thereby contributing to an increase in the census of surgical cases.

The FEU-NRMF Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery maintains its commitment to fostering the development of skilled and knowledgeable physicians through its accredited residency program by providing a structured and intensive learning environment. This commitment continues as we are preparing for the upcoming 26th Post Graduate Course entitled "1st In-House Otolaryngology and Temporal Bone Dissection Course" on August 20, 2024 at the FEU-NRMF Human Structural Biology Laboratory. This is a valuable educational opportunity for the residents in training with a mission of advancing both their medical knowledge and surgical skills.



East Avenue Medical Center

The Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS) at East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC) stands as a premier institution in ENT (ear, nose, and throat) care in the Philippines. As the APEX end referral hospital and National Specialty Center for ENT, our department epitomizes its vision of becoming the leading referral center for the Department of Health in Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. Our dedication to advancing medical care, education, and research continues to define our critical role within the hospital and the broader healthcare community.

EAMC's ORL-HNS department is honored as the APEX end referral hospital and National Specialty Center for ENT. This recognition underscores our commitment to delivering specialized, high-quality care and highlights our leadership in ENT medicine.

We offer five advanced ENT Fellowship programs—Otology, Head and Neck, Rhinology, Maxillofacial, and Pediatric ORL. Notably, EAMC and the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) are the only institutions in the country providing a Pediatric ENT Fellowship program, emphasizing our unique capability to train specialists in this vital field.

EAMC ORL-HNS annually hosts a range of prestigious post-graduate courses recognized internationally, including the Rhinoplasty Masterclass Manila (RhinoMaMa), the Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) in Head and Neck, and Temporal Bone Course, which has been running for 33 years. These courses attract participants from around the world and emphasize our role in global ENT education.



Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center

Congenital hearing loss is one of the most prevalent chronic conditions in children significantly affecting speech and language development. Early diagnosis and medical intervention for congenital hearing loss can be effectively accomplished through newborn hearing screening. The prevalence of congenital hearing loss is recorded at 1.62 in 1000 newborns.

Due to the growing number of patients with congenital hearing loss, the Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery of the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center has dedicated itself to promoting early diagnosis, preventing hearing loss in children, and educating parents about treatment options.

Driven by our commitment to assisting patients with congenital hearing loss and supported by our institution, we proudly performed the first cochlear implant in Northern Luzon in December 2019. Since then, we have successfully completed a total of seven cochlear implant procedures.

Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center has been a strong advocate for the early diagnosis and treatment of congenital hearing loss. Our institution is dedicated to providing free cochlear implant surgeries for qualified patients. We successfully conducted our first free surgery in August 2023 and are committed to offering at least 10 free cochlear implants annually.

This year, we have already scheduled a free cochlear implantation case for August 2024. We are grateful for the opportunity to support patients with congenital hearing loss and remain committed to advancing our advocacy efforts. Our goal is to continue helping patients “Unlock Their Hearing” and improve their quality of life.



experience with play audiometry and auditory brainstem response through live demonstrations, enhancing their practical skills and understanding.

Our department proudly participated in the AO CMF Face Ahead 2024 conference in the Czech Republic, presenting two significant cases: Dr. Faith Bacalla discussed "Combined Cartilage Graft Reconstruction of the Nasal Tip and Complex after Resection of Nasal Tip Schwannoma," while Dr. Benedick Borbe presented "Nasoschisis: A Case of the Missing Left Nose." Additionally, Dr. Camille Cruz-Pantig presented "Restoring Facial Form: The Role of 3D Printing in an Old Zygomaticomaxillary Complex Fracture" at the interhospital grand rounds at St. Luke’s Medical Center, showcasing innovative reconstructive surgery techniques.

In June, the department held a team-building activity to strengthen the camaraderie and collaboration between consultants and residents. This month, we successfully completed our 4th Cleft Lip and Palate Mission, led by Dr. Galen Clark Perez, which included multidisciplinary lectures in partnership with the pediatrics, psychiatry, and dentistry departments. Distinguished speakers, Dr. Levi Lansangan and Dr. Dennis Mangoba, enriched the event with their contributions.

We aim to fully equip our facilities, conduct various workshops, and build the necessary workforce to function as a specialty center by 2028. For the rest of the year, we plan to hold our first in-house endoscopic sinus surgery workshop and establish a partnership with a local barangay to educate healthcare workers on basic ENT emergency procedures through a community forum.

The department remains committed to excellence in education, research, and patient care, continually advancing the expertise and growth of our residents.

Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center



Jose B. Lingad Memorial General Hospital

The Jose B. Lingad Memorial General Hospital, serving as the leading center north of Manila, has been designated as a special ENT center by the Department of Health. The department began the year with a successful Temporal Bone Dissection Course, led by our department chair and Otology section head, providing residents with essential knowledge on temporal bone anatomy, dissection techniques, and CT scan interpretation, with valuable input from a radiology consultant.

In February, Dr. Roannie Castañeda, the Audiology section head, conducted our first in-house audiology workshop. Residents benefited from hands - on expe-

The Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRRMMC) ORL-HNS residents once again delved into the 3D space with the in-house course, "3D Planning and Printing course: Its application in ENT-HNS surgeries" held last March 21. led by Dr. Karen Mae Ty, the ORL-HNS residents entered the virtual space of surgical planning to innovate the applications in CMF procedures and reconstruction.

The department in coordination with the Philippine Academy of Audiology seized the celebration of World Hearing Day last March 04, 2024. A total of 89 patients received free hearing screening. The week culminated with free ABR, ASSR, and hearing aid assessment done to pre-screened patients.

On April 20, 2024, we embarked on a one-day mission in participation of the Head and Neck Cancer Awareness and Consciousness (HANDACOW) Week. Supervised by Dr. Elias Realá and Dr. Cristina Nieves, a total of 80 patients from Barangay 220, Zone 20, Tondo, Manila were screened for various head and neck diseases. Free consultation and endoscopy procedures were performed to further the advocacy.

The Plastic Surgery subspecialty, led by Dr. Konrad Aguila, took the extra mile to repair smiles in the Cleft and Aesthetic Surgery Mission held at San Pablo District Hospital, Laguna last May 23 to 24, 2024. Residents, fellows, and consultants joined forces in the surgical mission to serve patients in need for palatoplasty and cheiloplasty; and augmentation rhinoplasty.

The Department is scheduled to have its annual postgraduate course entitled "Bridging the gap: Essentials of mandibular reconstruction", on

September 14, 2024, at the DOH Auditorium, Santa Cruz, Manila. This event will cover current practices and innovations to aid the fellow ORL-HNS surgeons in providing better quality of life for the patients.

Manila Central University - Dr. Filemon D. Tanchoco Medical



Aligned with its commitment to developing excellent and compassionate surgeons, the MCU-FDTMF Hospital Dept. of ORL - HNS consistently organizes activities to enhance the growth of its trainees and serve the community. The year began with a strategic planning meeting on January 27, 2024, led by Chair Dr. Keithley Bryan

Perez, Assistant Chair Dr. Ma. Rowena Muñoz, and Program Director Dr. Candice Que-Ansorge.

Dr. Jona Minette Ligon celebrated World Hearing Day by hosting the WHO-registered event titled "Changing Mindsets: Believe Your Ears Matter!" in partnership with AMEARCO and PAAud on March 4 and 5. This event offered free hearing screenings to patients and hospital employees. From March 6 to 9, the department collaborated with PAFPRS and PACMFS to conduct the

Basic Facial Plastic and Craniomaxillofacial Surgery Course and Workshop, under the leadership of Dr. Que-Ansorge and Dr. Muñoz. Dr. Clydine MA Barrientos headed the Third Basic Laryngology and Bronchoesophagology Course and Workshop on August 1-3, in collaboration with PALP and PAPO.

Dr. Ma. Alexis Kleanthe D. Suñer, RPT IV, won third place in the Interesting Case Report Contest at the PSO-HNS Midyear Convention 2024 in Bacolod City with her paper titled "Excision of a Large Lingual Thyroglossal Duct Cyst via Median Labiomandibular Glossectomy (Trotter Procedure) and Hyoid Osteotomy." Her paper also secured second place at the 43rd MCU-FDTMF Hospital Residents Case Report Contest held on March 21, 2024.

As part of its mission to address local health needs, Dr. Edgardo Lazaro supervises free ENT outpatient services every Wednesday at the Philippines Joseph Clinic in Malabon City. These milestones reflect the department's commitment to becoming a pioneering institution dedicated to training physicians in the diagnosis and management of ear, nose, throat, and head and neck conditions. The department strives to produce compassionate, socially responsible clinicians with a deep respect for ethical and moral standards.

Manila Doctors Hospital



At Manila Doctors Hospital, we are dedicated to advancing healthcare excellence through patient-centered care, education and community outreach. This year, we achieved a milestone with our successful re-accreditation by the Philippine Board of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Inc. (PBO-HNS) on April 2024, being accredited for 4 years without annual visits. This reaffirms our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of medical care and ensuring quality training for the future ORL-HNS physicians.

In addition, our department also participated in the Capiz Surgical Mission hosted by the Corporate Sustainability Initiatives Office (CSIO), catering to patients in need of thyroid surgeries, cleft repair and other head and neck surgeries. This mission exemplified our dedication to extending specialized medical services to communities in need, underscoring our mission to serve beyond the hospital walls.

We are excited to share our other events to further solidify our mission and vision. The 17th Microbiology and Pharmacology in ENT Post-Graduate Course is an annual course offering an opportunity to deepen the knowledge of healthcare professionals in Microbiology and Pharmacology through expert-led lectures. This was held face-to-face on July 26-27, 2024 at the Manila Doctors Hospital.

Our annual “Bridging the Gap” Cleft Lip and Palate Surgical mission aims to promote and implement a comprehensive program for patients with cleft lip and palate deformities. Not only will this provide free quality surgical services and management but will also enhance the surgical skills and competence of our residents in cleft repair.

These endeavors emphasize our dedication to advancement. Our department looks forward to the future with optimism and determination and remains steadfast in our mission to provide top-tier medical services, foster professional growth and extend our reach to those in need.

Makati Medical Center



In 2024, the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Makati Medical Center demonstrated its commitment to excellence, education, and community service. A comprehensive array of initiatives was undertaken to advance medical knowledge and enhance patient care.

The year began with health awareness forums focused on goiter and allergic rhinitis. In February, a neurotoxin therapy workshop led by Dr. Jesster Navarro marked a shift toward advanced training. Collaborations with key organizations, such as PSO-HNS, WHO, and the Association of Clinical Audiologists of the Philippines, resulted in a successful scientific forum on World Hearing Day in March, featuring lectures by Dr. Franco Louie Abes and Dr. Gerard Lapiña.

Additionally, the department organized forums on hearing loss and sleep health for the elderly. April highlighted the department's international presence through Dr. Alyanna Abalos' research presentation at the AO CMF Face Ahead 2024 Conference in Prague. A dedicated World Voice Day forum and Head and Neck Consciousness Week underscored the commitment to patient care and public education. May featured a forum on World Thyroid Day, raising awareness about thyroid health.

In June, the department hosted the 19th Surgical Histopathology and Cytology of ENT-Head and Neck Diseases and Imaging Studies conference, featuring renowned experts providing invaluable insights to attendees. The department maintained its momentum in July with new leadership and a medical mission in Biñan, Laguna, serving over 50 ENT cases.

Upcoming events include the Ariston Bautista Memorial Lecture, subspecialty workshops, and the Annual Medical and Surgical Mission of the MMC Foundation in Bacolod. Through dedication to education, collaboration and strategic planning, the department continues to embrace new challenges in medical excellence and community health.

Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center



Igniting the start of the year of the ORL Department of MMMHMC was its active drive in posting ENThings, an infomercial video of different ENT topics. The redirection towards video infomercials was made to adapt to the changing landscape and bigger role of social media in information dissemination with short, concise videos being more consumed in this contemporary time. Covered also in ENThings are its Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Lay Lectures to the BHWs of the different municipalities of Ilocos Norte. This initiative garnered the year end Performance Governance System Bigkis Award 2023 as one of the top prizes given by MMMHMC during the Year End Fellowship Celebration of the hospital.

Other events included the ENT Midyear Convention in Bacolod City, with attendees gaining new knowledge from the diverse lectures presented during the convention. Another highlight of the first half of the year was Dr. Jose B Orosa III being awarded the Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award (Filipino Physician of Distinction) in the Clinical Practice Category.

March was a busy month for the department as major events related to World Hearing Celebration were initiated - an ENThings info drive with guest Dr. Jennilyn Bancifra, and Ear Care Missions catering to more than 300 pupils and students in Pagudpud Central Elementary School, Adams Central School, Solsona National High School in support of the PASILIP KA advocacy of the PSO-HNS. These efforts culminated with the awarding of five hearing aids to two Solsona HS students, two deserving patients from the ENT OPD clinic and one employee of MMMHMC. These efforts of the department of amplifying ear health through community outreach and hearing screenings was awarded by the International Hospital Federation the Excellence Award

for Social and Environmental Responsibility during the 47th World Hospital Congress in Rio de Janeiro - a feat only achieved by the ORL department of MMMHC for this year out of the hundreds of submissions screened.

Ospital ng Makati



The Ospital ng Makati (OsMak) Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery has been an accredited residency training program by the Philippine Board of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery since 1996, consistently producing diplomates through the PBO-HNS examination.

Today, the OsMak ENT department is an adaptive and evolving group of dedicated specialists engaged in the rapidly changing landscape of ENT practice. It is part of the Head and Neck Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship Consortium, serving as a training ground for emerging microvascular reconstructive head and neck specialists. The department hosted an In-house Microvascular Workshop on March 23, 2024.

On April 11, 2024, third-year resident Dr. Thomase Jamilla Chiong presented at the 2024 Face Ahead Conference in Prague, Czech Republic. Recent residents have also excelled in various local and international research competitions: Dr. Ivan Magpantay secured 1st runner-up at the 2023 20th ASEAN ORL-HNS Congress in Vietnam, while Dr. Liza Perdon-Chan won the championship at the OsMak 8th Interdepartmental Residents' Research Contest.

In keeping with the vision of its founding chairman, Dr. Eduardo Yap, OsMak ENT hosted an open-to-all Basic Rhinoplasty Course on September 14, 2024. This program aims to provide a strong foundation in the principles of rhinoplasty for aspiring facial plastic and aesthetic surgeons.

While the department embraces the advancements in otolaryngology, it also prioritizes foundational skills. Its second event for the latter half of 2024 is the third In-house Temporal Bone Dissection Course on October 11, 2024, designed to strengthen the didactic and surgical skills established in the previous year's course. OsMak ENT remains dedicated to its mission of being a leading provider of specialized ENT care in Makati City.

Ospital ng Maynila

Continuing its mission of excellence in training, the Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Ospital ng Maynila Medical Center has planned another year of impactful programs.

The department will provide skills - acquisition courses, including fresh frozen cadaver dissections throughout the year. With an expert faculty lineup, these courses and workshops promise the same high academic quality as their predecessors. January kicked off with the Annual Ear Masterclass, followed by the Rhinoplasty Masterclass-Manila, held in collaboration with the Department of ORL-HNS at East Avenue Medical Center. The Annual Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery Course is scheduled for July, and in August, the Minimally-Invasive Facial Aesthetic Surgery Course—now the leading aesthetic cadaver dissection course in the Asia-Pacific Region—will take place.



Research remains a key focus for the department. The OMMC held its Annual Interdepartmental Case Report Contest, where Dr. Mark Jacob M. Dela Rosa placed third for his entry. In April, Drs. Franz Laurence L. Alvarez and Don Christopher T. Macario presented their research at the International Congress of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery in South Korea. In May, Dr. Michael Robert Q. Monteverde presented his paper at the International Conference in ENT-Head and Neck Surgery, which was subsequently published in the Philippine Journal of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

As its fellowship program in Facial Plastic, Reconstructive, and Maxillofacial Surgery concludes its second year, the department is excited to open its long-awaited fellowship program in Otology.

As the year unfolds, the department remains committed to its proud tradition of teaching, skills development, and knowledge acquisition, promising another fruitful year ahead.

Dr. Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Research and Medical Center



The ORL-HNS Department of the Paulino Garcia Memorial Research & Medical Center, a DOH tertiary hospital in Central Luzon, was established last 2017 under the North Luzon ENT Chapter. Our department aims to maintain an accredited training program & to provide quality, compassionate and appropriate management for patients with ears, nose, throat, and head and neck disorders in Luzon.

This 2024 has been a busy year for the department, as it continues to expand its patient services and attendance in scientific conferences.

Last March 9, our colleagues Drs. Matthew Elyss Fuentes and Carlo Tibayan were crowned as champions in the “essENTials Cummings Quiz Bee” during the NLENT 1st quarterly meeting. Last April 20, the case report of our first year resident, Dr. Maria Almira Carra Baring, together with Dr. Jaclyn Leigh Vidal as the co-author, entitled “A rare case of Drug-Resistant Tuberculous Otomastoiditis with Bezold’s Abscess in a 20-year-old male” was presented in the International Congress of ORL-HNS 2024 in South Korea. Our department also held a Head and Neck Surgical Mission last May 20-24, providing successful surgeries in which 30 patients. Our new graduate Dr. Arjay Franz Joseph Alberto published his research in the Philippine Journal of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery entitled, “Periocular Measurements Among Filipino Adult Employees of Dr. Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Research and Medical Center”. As we strive to be an excellent ENT Center in Central Luzon, we are hopeful in our Training Program re-accreditation this coming October 2024.

Quezon City General Hospital



Last January, Dr. La Reyna Salenga presented a paper entitled “Laryngeal Amyloidosis” at the 1st Philippine Academy of Otorhinolaryngic Allergy and Clinical Immunology Interhospital Grand Rounds held at The Medical City South Luzon. Dr. Katrina Nicole Fortuno presented her interesting case at the 2nd International Conference on ENT: Head and Neck Surgery in Bangkok, Thailand last May 16-17, 2024. Dr. Claudette Gloria Plumo presented her research paper virtually at the same event in Bangkok last May 24, 2024.

The department hosted a PBOHNS required postgraduate course entitled “Basic Head and Neck Course 2024” in partnership with Academy for Head & Neck Oncology of the Philippines and in cooperation with the PSOHNS last April 12-13, 2024 with 131 participants from different accredited institutions.

Our new diplomates and affiliate consultants, Dr. Ma. Nina Kristine Sison and Dr. Lena Alethea A. Cruz were accepted by the Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University in Thailand to undertake the Clinical Observership training program in Laryngology and Swallowing from June 3 to August 30, 2024 and in Head and Neck Surgery from June 4 to September 6, 2024. Dr. Almia Pazon successfully completed the board exam of The Philippine Academy of Aesthetic Surgery on April 11, 2024 and inducted as a new fellow of PAAS.

The department consultant staff is composed of: Drs. Maria Cristina Vical (Chair), Joseph Bernard Lo (Training Officer), Emmanuel Tadeus Cruz (Research), Emmanuel Samson, Antonio Talapian, Francsico 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, Anjenneth Bernarte, Ma. Niña Kristine Sison, Lena Alethea Cruz. The residents are composed of Drs. Claudette Gloria Plumo (Chief Resident), Jericho Agnes, Katrina Nicole Fortuno, Norjem Villanueva, La Reyna Roshele Salenga, Mercedes Josefa Arroyo and Adriano Torres.

Quirino Memorial Medical Center



The Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS) at Quirino Memorial Medical Center (QMMC) was founded in 1993, initially headed by Dr. Romeo Villarta, Jr. alongside specialists Dr. Wilfredo Dela Cruz, Dr. Jan Eero Lopez, Dr. Nelson Magno, and Dr. Gerardo Cruz. Currently, the department is led by Dr. Hector Angel Kintanar as Chairman, Dr. Nelson Magno as Vice-Chairman, and Dr. Rowald Rey Malahito as Training Officer. The training program now includes subspecialty services such as Neuro-Otology and Audiology; Rhinopharyngology, Allergy, Oral Cavity, and Sleep Surgery; Laryngobronchoesophagology; Head and Neck Surgery; and Craniomaxillofacial, Facial Plastic, and Reconstructive Surgery.

With several technological advancements, the department can perform highly specialized procedures, including cochlear device implantation, anterior and lateral skull base surgeries, image-guided surgeries, major head and neck surgeries with reconstruction using flaps, microlaryngeal surgeries, open reduction internal fixation of fractures, rhinoplasty, blepharoplasty, & rhytidectomy. The department has also actively organized lec-

tures and courses for specialists and lay fora for healthcare personnel, reinforcing our commitment to advancing the field and positively impacting the healthcare landscape.

This year, the department has hosted events and postgraduate courses, including a lay forum on epistaxis, a Temporal Bone Dissection Course, a WHO-certified World Hearing Day celebration featuring hearing screenings for employees and the local community, a Newborn Hearing Screening Personnel Certifying Course, and a Postgraduate Audiology Course attended by delegates from across the Philippines. Future plans include hosting these courses annually and expanding into other subspecialties to fulfill our mission of providing excellent education and comprehensive training for clinical practice and public health promotion.

Region 1 Medical Center



The Department of Otorhinolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery of Region 1 Medical Center continuously aims to provide patient-centered and high-quality ENT care in the province of Pangasinan.

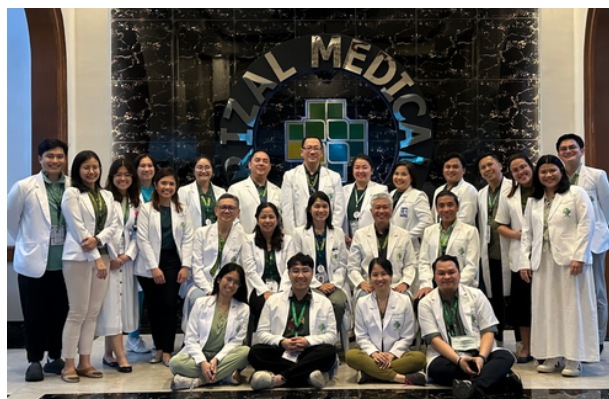
The department started off 2024 celebrating Goiter Awareness Week last January 22-26, wherein the residents gave a layman's forum at our ORL-HNS OPD Clinic attended by our OPD patients. Last March 1, a hospital-wide conference entitled, "Make Listening Safe" was held at the FQD Hall lectured by our Department Otologist Dr. Emmanuel R. Dela Cruz. The World Hearing Day week-long celebration was succeeded by providing Free Pure Tone Audiometry and Free Hearing Aid Fitting to OPD patients. The Head & Neck Consciousness Week last April 22-24 was also a success with many attendees during the layman's forum at the ORL-HNS OPD clinic. Another informative conference was held during our World Thyroid Day and International Thyroid Cancer Awareness Week last May 17, with lectures given by Dr. Ryan Adan and our hospital radiology specialist Dr. Niko Mendoza on the topic of Ultrasound-Guided Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy.

Last May 21 was monumental for the successful performance of its first laryngectomy as an accredited department assisted by one of our Head & Neck specialists in North Luzon, Dr. Dennis Remigio. The first successful practical examination of the department's fourth year resident also took place last May 31, 2024, with Dr. Victoria Sarmiento as the examiner.

For the first time, the department hosted a free in-house postgraduate course and workshop entitled "Basic Laryngobronchoesophagology" on July 20 at the Monarch Hotel, Calasiao, Pangasinan attended by 87 participants from PSO-HNS North Luzon Chapter.

Another celebration for Thyroid Cancer patients will be held in September followed by the annual year-ender ORL-HNS Week Celebration in December.

Rizal Medical Center



The Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS) Department of Rizal Medical Center has embarked on an impactful journey in 2024, focusing on enhancing awareness and knowledge in the community through various events. Throughout the first half of the year, the department has successfully hosted initiatives aimed at educating patients. In March, coinciding with World Hearing Day, the department organized a lay forum addressing common myths surrounding ear diseases. Our residents took the opportunity to share tips on ear care and hearing preservation, while also providing free ear examinations to participants in the outpatient department (OPD). Later that month, in celebration of World Sleep Day, another lay forum on sleep hygiene and obstructive sleep apnea was held. Residents provided consultations and screenings, contributing to a better understanding of sleep health. April was marked by World Voice Day, where a lay forum on voice hygiene was conducted, accompanied by free laryngoscopy services for patients in the OPD. The month of May continued this trend with lay forums dedicated to Road Safety Awareness, Chronic Rhinosinusitis, and Cleft Lip and Palate awareness.

Additionally, our department, in collaboration with the local government of Quezon Province, has participated in medical missions providing ENT consultations to their underserved constituents, thus improving their access to healthcare.

Looking ahead, we are excited about our upcoming "ENT sa Barangay" event scheduled for September in Bislig City, Surigao Del Sur. This yearly initiative features a lay forum for barangay health workers, focusing on common ENT diseases and their management, with a medical mission on the side. Our goal is to empower local health workers with essential ENT knowledge, enabling them to manage common ENT conditions within their communities.

Through these efforts, our department hopes to enhance ENT health education and improve patient outcomes to communities within our reach.

St. Luke's Medical Center

St. Luke's Medical Center Otorhinolaryngology department began venturing beyond its institution and into remote areas to carry out medical missions. A surgical mission catering to cleft patients was held last January 21, in St. Cabrini Medical Center, Sto. Tomas, Batangas.



SLMC has held the mission of cultivating the culture of care which extends towards the marginalized and underserved. St. Luke's Medical Center Foundation Inc, headed by Dr. Benjamin Campomanes, journeyed to Samar for two consecutive months. A total of 33 major surgeries were completed in St. Scholastica Hospital, Northern Samar from April 10-14, 2024. A trip to Borongan, Eastern Samar, brought a different take, where the mission was loaded with outpatient consultations. A total of 473 consults and 31 surgeries were done from May 13-17, 2024.

The department held World Voice Day last April 16, through a live concert, coupled with free stroboscopy consults and a lay forum for the global campaign spreading awareness on the importance of the human voice,

The department also spearheaded this year's Craniomaxillofacial Interhospital Grandrounds, together with the Philippine Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery.

The department in conjunction with the Academy of Head and Neck Oncology of the Philippines embarked on multiple endeavors, with the aim to spread the word of cancer awareness. To celebrate head and neck cancer awareness month last April 24, a free clinic was held in Kamuning Elementary School with 15 patients successfully referred to the charity department for definitive surgical intervention. The day was concluded with a Head and Neck Surgery Interhospital Grand rounds, joined by SLMC and East Avenue Medical Center.

As part of the advocacies this year, Dr Kirt Delovino, President of AHNOP and Head of Head and Neck Surgery Section organized a webinar entitled, Fueling Recovery: Impact of Surgical Nutrition on Wound Healing, held last July 24. These medical missions and campaigns transcend mere humanitarian aid, they embody the profound commitment to bridging health disparities and fostering global solidarity. By addressing immediate medical needs while also strengthening local health systems and empowering communities, these missions pave the way for a more equitable and healthier world.

Southern Philippines Medical Center

The year 2024 was a transformative one for the Department of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS) of the Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC). The department kicked off the year with an engaging team-building activity, fostering a sense of camaraderie and unity among its members.

One of the department's most significant accomplishments was the re-opening of the ORL HNS ward, a dedicated space designed to provide comprehensive care for patients with ear, nose, and throat-related conditions. This milestone marked a new era of enhanced patient experience and improved service delivery.

In a collaborative effort, the department joined forces with the PSO-HNS Southern Mindanao Chapter to organize a tree-planting activity. Together, they aimed to contribute to environmental preservation and raise awareness about the importance of sustainable practices.



The department's engagement with the Southern Mindanao Chapter continued with the hosting of the chapter's General Assembly. This event provided a platform for members to come together, share insights, and strategize for the betterment of the ORL-HNS field in the region.

Recognizing the significance of World Hearing Day, the department took the lead in organizing a special event to educate the community about the importance of hearing health. This initiative showcased the department's commitment to preventive care and promoting audiological well-being.

Furthering their involvement in the SPMC community, the Department of ORL-HNS proudly sponsored the institution's Flag Ceremony. This demonstration of support and camaraderie solidified the department's position as an integral part of the larger SPMC family.

Through these diverse initiatives, the Department of ORL-HNS of SPMC has established itself as a beacon of collaboration, innovation, and community engagement.

The year 2024 has undoubtedly been a testament to the department's unwavering dedication to providing exceptional medical care and fostering a connection with the people it serves.

The Medical City

The Medical City Ear Nose Throat, Head and Neck Institute hosted a pivotal webinar last June 7, 2024, titled "Thyroid Radiofrequency Ablation: Revolutionizing the Management of Thyroid Nodules." A successful implementation of over ten RFA procedures by Otolaryngologist-Head & Neck Surgeons trained by Professor Jung Hwan Baek from South Korea, a pioneer in this technique.

The Medical City's Section of Head and Neck and Reconstructive Surgery recently observed Oral, Head, Neck, Cancer Awareness Week (OHANCAW) with a week-long initiative from June 17-19, 2024. This program offered



free consultations, physical examination and rigid endoscopies to enhance awareness of head and neck cancers and promote early management.

World Voice Day 2024, the Ear Nose Throat Head & Neck Institute's Center for Voice and Swallowing organized "The Voice TMC: A Harmony Challenge," a hospital-wide singing competition. Ten finalists, including doctors, nurses, and administrative staff, competed before judges Anton Antenocruz, Denise Laurel, and Kaye Tiuseco. This event aimed to emphasize the importance of proper vocal techniques and vocal health within the hospital community.

The institute held its annual In-House Workshop focusing on surgical techniques across Facial Plastics, Maxillofacial, and Head and Neck specialties. This two-day workshop provided residents with hands-on experience using Fresh Frozen Cadavers, highlighting the institute's dedication to enhancing surgical skills and fostering continuous learning.

The Medical City Institute of Ear Nose and Throat, in collaboration with the Head and Neck Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship Consortium Program, conducted the "2nd TMC Head and Neck Summit: Microvascular Reconstructive Surgery Workshop" on August 16-17, 2024. This PSO-HNS recommended course featured face-to-face and online lectures, as well as a hands-on workshop led by Dr. Samantha S. Castañeda, with Dr. Mary Harmony Que-Florentino. Renowned international surgeons Professors Soon-Hyun Ahn and Eun-Jae Chung from South Korea also shared their expertise in microvascular reconstructive surgery techniques and special flaps.

University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center Inc.



The University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Medical Center Department of Otorhinolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery is an institution built upon the ideals of a five star physician. From a humble section, it has grown into a leading institution under visionary leaders like Dr. Macario G. Tan, Dr. Remigio Jarin, Dr. Teodoro Llamanzares, Dr. Lily Sia-Vargas, Dr. Alejandro P. Opulencia. and Dr. Virgilio De Gracia. With state-of-the-art equipment and dedicated specialists, the UERM Department of ORL-HNS remains committed to delivering top-notch patient care and advancing medical knowledge. Dr. Elmo R. Lago, Jr., the current chairman, continues the department's tradition of innovation, driving it towards a brighter future of cutting-edge medical advancements.

This December, the UERM ORL-HNS Department will be collaborating with the Philippine Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery to host an international post-graduate course entitled "Biomaterials and Autografts". This event will consist of esteemed speakers specializing in their own fields in the numerous practices of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery. This momentous activity and its collaboration with the academy as well as the department will showcase the ever growing development in learning advanced techniques in managing patients as well as gearing towards innovation and camaraderie among international partners.

University of the Philippines - Philippine General Hospital



The University of the Philippines - Philippine General Hospital Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (UP-PGH ORL-HNS) has been bustling with activity, showcasing a blend of innovative developments and community initiatives for the first half of 2024.

Clinical Care and Innovations:

Our department has been proactive in raising awareness and educating the public on essential ORL-HNS advocacies. Key initiatives included Goiter Awareness Week, World Hearing Day, World Sleep Day, and World Voice Day. These programs have significantly enhanced public knowledge and engagement, underscoring our commitment to promoting health and well-being.

Community and Social Initiatives:

Beyond clinical care, we have engaged in numerous community programs aimed at promoting public knowledge about critical ORLHNS issues. These initiatives have

not only raised awareness but have also fostered a sense of community and solidarity. Public Health Lectures and demonstrations are targeted towards goiter awareness, proper ear and voice care. Our efforts in these areas highlight the department's dedication to public health education and community service.

Education and Training:

At UP-PGH ORL-HNS, we place a strong emphasis on continuous growth and learning. The department offers numerous opportunities for professional development, starting with the Philippine National Ear Institute (PNEI) Strategic Planning, followed by a series of other strategic planning sessions, including our own. Academic activities have included Morbidity and Mortality Conferences, an Interesting Case Research Contest, and a Descriptive Research Contest. Additionally, collaborative efforts with the Philippine Society of Ultrasound for Surgeons led to a Basic Ultrasound Guided Biopsy Workshop, as well as a partnership with the Department of Psychiatry to conduct a workshop on Cancer Disclosure. The in-house Laryngobronchoesophagology and Neck (LBEN) Course for residents and faculty was another highlight. These educational initiatives ensure that our team remains at the forefront of medical advancements and best practices.

University of Santo Tomas Hospital



Resilience and Renewal: Celebrating 40 Years of the USTH Department of ORL-HNS

For four decades, the Department of Otorhinolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery at the University of Santo Tomas Hospital has been a beacon of excellence in the field. From its humble beginnings to its current stature, this department has consistently nurtured and shaped exceptional ENT professionals who have become pillars in the practice of otorhinolaryngology across the country.

Our alumni generously share their wisdom with the next generation. Through this mentorship, they cultivate new pillars—Thomasian ENT specialists who will carry forward the legacy, ensuring that our ears continue to hear, our noses to smell, and our throats to resonate with health.

The Department has hosted numerous activities as a testament to its constant strive for excellence. In honoring the Feast of St. Blaise, the Department offered the “Libreng Silip,” where patients with throat-related problems signed up for free flexible laryngoscopies. Along with the Master in Clinical Audiology Program and

the Department of Preventive, Family, and Community Medicine, collaborated to celebrate World Hearing Day 2024. The event spanned three days over two weeks, focusing on dismantling barriers and promoting change in line with the World Health Organization’s objectives. Activities included comprehensive ear check-ups and hearing screenings, a public health lecture, and a large-scale hearing screening program across the university. We also celebrated World Voice Day, with the theme, “Resonate. Educate. Celebrate!”, with a lay forum, a lecture series, and a laryngoscopy and stroboscopy demo. The Department’s Strategic Planning was also conducted with the goal of upholding excellence and its distinguished residency training program. Our medical and surgical missions held throughout the year covering a wide range of locations continue to provide accessible healthcare and bring hope to individuals and communities.

As we commemorate this milestone, the Department has planned many activities as part of its 40th anniversary. We look forward to celebrating the Department's success this year.

Victoriano Luna Medical Center



The Victoriano Luna Medical Center Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery has been involved in various activities and advocacies this 2024.

Last February 2024, the resident trainees participated in the weekly research and ear mission led by the Philippine Academy of Audiology to test the hearing of public school children.

Last 14 June 2024, the department received its new state-of-the-art treatment unit, allowing improvement to the delivery of quality care towards its patients.

In order to foster civil-military relations, the department had actively participated in different medical and surgical missions spearheaded by the Armed Forces of the Philippines Health Service Command around the National Capital Region and as far as Nueva Ecija.

Last 18 July 2024, the department welcomed its newest active consultant, Dr. Rodel Velasquez, who as incumbent president of the Philippine Academy of Laryngobronchoesophagology and Phoniatics, has given his dedication to the management of LBEN-related cases of the military personnel and their dependents.

The department will conduct its post-graduate course entitled, ENT Conditions in Children 3: Expert Answers to Pediatric ENT Dilemmas on 13 September 2024 to help ORL-HNS Surgeons, Pediatricians and General Practitioners manage complicated ORL-HNS-related concerns of pediatric patients.

On 13 September 2024, the PBO-HNS will be visiting this institution to evaluate its progress based on the board's recommendations during the renewal of the department's 4-year training program accreditation last 25 October 2023.

To date, the department remains committed to its mission to provide prompt and efficient Otorhinolaryngology- Head and Neck care to the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and their dependents and will continue with its vision of producing more diplomates of the Philippine Board of Otorhinolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery.

Veterans Memorial Medical Center



The Department of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery of Veterans Memorial Medical Center has been accredited by the PBO-HNS since 1998. Through the years, the department continues to provide quality care to patients and improve training to produce well-rounded and competent specialists.

In February 24, 2024, the Department held its Strategic Planning where immediate and long-term subspecialty plans were discussed. In May 8-10, 2024, the Department attended the PSO-HNS Midyear Convention in Bacolod City. Our 2nd year resident, Dr. AR John Paul Roxas, presented his research paper entitled "Triple Primary Malignancy on a Single Patient (Synchronous Papillary and Follicular Thyroid Carcinomas and Diffuse B-Cell Lymphoma of the Submandibular Gland): A Case Report" in the PSO-HNS Interesting Case Contest.

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In August, the Department conducted its 12th Laryngeal Post Graduate Course entitled "3rd International Symposium on Dysphonia, Phonosurgery, and Advanced Laryngeal Workshop" at Veterans Memorial Medical Center and Karl Storz Endoscopy Philippines, Inc. Dr. Shinya Hiroshiba, the President of Isshiki Memorial Voice Center in Kyoto, Japan, served as guest speaker.

For the month of September, there will be an In-House Basic Suturing Workshop to be headed by the consultants of Facial Plastics, Reconstructive and Maxillofacial and Trauma Surgery subspecialty service

On September 18, 2024, the Department is scheduled for its Annual Visit by the Philippine Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. On December 8, 2024, the Department will celebrate its 27th Anniversary, continuing its mission to provide comprehensive patient care, provide a dynamic training program, and sustain efforts to become a center for ORL-HNS research.

Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center



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Western Visayas Medical Center

The Western Visayas Medical Center Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery once again has gained international recognition in the field of research as graduates Dr. Gabriel Gibran Tecson and Dr. Ria Sophia Perales presented their research papers in Japan and South Korea, respectively. Dr. Tecson present-



ted his notable research, "Correlation of Eosinophil Levels with Lund-Mackay CT Scan scores in Chronic Rhinosininitis with Nasal Polyposis Patients who underwent Endoscopic Sinus Surgery in Western Visayas Medical Center, Philippines" during the 42nd Congress of the International Society of Inflammation and Allergy of the Nose (ISIAN) and 24th Congress of the International Rhinologic Society (IRS) 2024 held last

April 4-6, 2024 in Tokyo, Japan. Dr Perales on the other hand, represented the department during the International Congress of ORL-HNS 2024 held in Seoul, South Korea with her research paper entitled "Obstructive Sleep Apnea and Excessive Daytime Sleepiness Among Long Distance Drivers in Iloilo Province". The department consistently encourages its residents to produce cutting-edge research and supports their presentations locally and internationally.

To uphold its mission to provide continuing medical education to our fellow health workers and future colleagues, the department collaborated with the Dulilan Foundation to host the Post Graduate Course, "Tip of the Scalpel: Basics of Wound Repair Lecture and Workshop". It was the first post graduate course to be held at Western Visayas Medical Center, Conference Room last August 13, 2024. The course discussed the intricacies of wound healing and repair together with invited experts from fields of Dermatology, Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Orthopedics and Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. The seminar was a platform for medical students, general practitioners, surgical and non-surgical residents and other health care workers to practice and perform basic suturing techniques to enlighten and provide betterment in patient care.

Throughout the year, the department continues to spearhead multiple activities such as Linis Tenga Programs and joining the Pinoy Allergy week and conducting lectures in the outpatient department. These initiatives touched the lives of countless patients spanning various age groups across different communities and people.

Zamboanga City Medical Center

The Zamboanga City Medical Center Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery celebrates recent advancements in patient care through new equipment and significant surgical milestones.

Over the past year, we have expanded our capabilities with the addition of new medical equipment. Our recent acquisition of a stroboscopy unit makes us the only hospital in Zamboanga Peninsula to offer this diagnostic tool, greatly improving our ability to diagnose and evaluate laryngeal conditions. In addition, we have acquired a blue laser, complementing our existing CO2 laser, which broadens our minimally invasive interven-



tions within the larynx. Lastly, our recent investment in a neuronavigation system will enable us to perform more complex endoscopic surgeries with better precision.

We celebrated a groundbreaking achievement in our institution last June 27 with the successful execution of our first microvascular surgery and mandibular reconstruction using vascularized free fibular flap. This procedure was carried out on a 49-year-old male patient with a body-to-body mandibular ameloblastoma. This surgical milestone represents a pioneering moment not only for our department but also for our entire institution. The procedure was led by a distinguished team of microvascular specialists from Manila and assisted by our training residents.

These developments mirror our commitment to excellence and continuous improvement in patient care. We look forward to using these advances to deliver even better outcomes for our patients.

PSO-HNS

8 Chapters











10 Academies













39 Training Institutions

PSO-HNS Platinum Anniversary Celebration in 2026



by Ricardo L. Ramirez, Jr., MD, F PSO-HNS

The Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Inc. (PSO-HNS) proudly invites all fellows, residents, and stakeholders to join us in a grand celebration of seven decades of commitment, leadership, and innovation in ENT. This milestone marks our 70th Anniversary, a Platinum celebration that not only honors our achievements but also propels us forward in forging new legacies.

As we reflect on 70 years of ENT Excellence, we recognize the dedication of generations of Otolaryngologists who have made PSO-HNS a cornerstone of healthcare in the Philippines. *Our theme, "Proud of our Identity, Forging our Legacy: 70 Years of Leadership in ENT Excellence"*, captures the essence of who we are—an enduring community of specialists who take pride in our shared history while actively shaping the future of ENT practice.

The highlight of this momentous celebration will be our 70th Anniversary Dinner, to be held on February 17, 2026, at the prestigious Shangri-La The Fort Hotel. This elegant evening promises an unforgettable experience, with all PSO-HNS fellows gathered under one roof for a night of camaraderie, nostalgia, and shared pride. Together, we will reminisce on past milestones, honor

the visionaries who paved the way, and celebrate the brilliance of our community's present and future leaders.

Adding further grandeur to the occasion, the Annual Convention 2026 will be dedicated entirely to our Platinum Anniversary. Expect insightful scientific sessions, hands-on workshops, and an exhibition of groundbreaking innovations in ENT practice, all aligned with our 70-year legacy. The convention will be a fitting platform to explore the intersection of tradition and progress as we shape the future of our specialty. We call on every member of the PSO-HNS family to take part in this historic occasion. This is our time to reflect on our journey, celebrate our collective success, and strengthen the bonds that have made our society a pillar of excellence. Your presence at the Anniversary Dinner and active participation in the convention will make this Platinum Anniversary truly meaningful.

Mark your calendars and get ready for a year of celebration, learning, and inspiration. Let us proudly embrace our identity and forge a lasting legacy for the next generation of ENT leaders.

Together, we stand 70 years strong —and the best is yet to come! |



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2024**



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in an Organization



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Philippine Academy of Audiology
Outstanding PSO-HNS Subspecialty
Academy Advocacy Program



Southern Tagalog ENTs
Outstanding PSO-HNS
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Program

PJO-HNS PEER REVIEWER AWARDEES >



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Member of the PRC Board of Medicine
Committee of CPSP-CATS



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Dr. Maria Karen A. Capuz

First Fellow to be awarded the Eugene Myers Educational Fund



Dr. Jose B. Orosa III

Recipient of the Dr JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD (Filipino Physician of Distinction)



For his excellence and service in the CLINICAL PRACTICE CATEGORY conferred by the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) and the PMA Foundation for Professional Medical Advancement, Inc.

Department of ORL-HNS Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center

Excellence Award for Social and Environment Responsibility from International Hospital Federation



Philippine Academy of Cranio-maxillofacial Surgery (PACFMS)



DOH Recognition for CPG Development on the Management of Isolated Mandibular Body Fractures in Adults





PSO-HNS

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2024

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