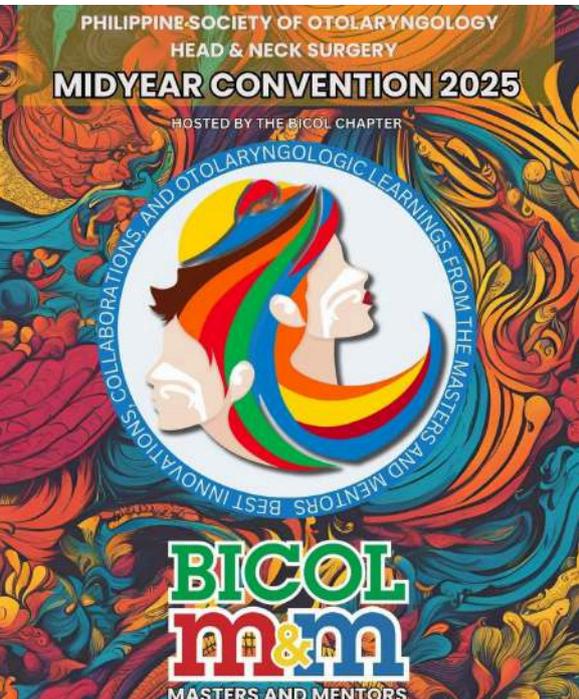


# ORL NEWS

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



The perfect cone of Mayon Volcano serving as a picturesque backdrop for this year's Midyear Convention at Legazpi City, Albay (Photo Credit: Dr. Neil Apale)

## Masters & Mentors Shine: The PSO-HNS 2025 Midyear Convention

By: Melvin G. Berin, MD, FPSO-HNS

With the majestic Mayon Volcano as its backdrop, the PSO-HNS successfully held the 2025 Midyear Convention from May 28 to 30, 2025, at The Oriental Hotel in Legazpi City, Albay. Delegates from across the country gathered under the theme: "BICOL M&M: Best Innovations, Collaborations, and Otolaryngologic Learnings from the Masters & Mentors."

### The Birth of a Theme

Preparations for the convention began as early as November 2023. From the very beginning, the Bicol Chapter recognized that hosting a national gathering of this scale would require not only meticulous planning, but also a unifying theme that spoke to the identity of the region, the purpose of the Society, and the evolving needs of the specialty.

Drawing inspiration from the mentor-mentee programs in medical education and the growing popularity of global masterclasses, the Chapter envi-

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## PRC: ORL-HNS IS NOW A DISTINCT SPECIALTY!

By: Frederick Y. Hawson, MD, FPSO-HNS & Aileen Delos Santos-Garcia, MD, FPSO-HNS

On October 20, 2025, all fellows of the PSO-HNS received an email announcing a most important piece of news: Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS) is now officially recognized as a separate and distinct medical specialty through the promulgation of Resolution 36-A of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). This recognition will have significant effects on our specialty's engagements with the DOH, PhilHealth, PMA, and the HMOs. How momentous that this recognition has been reached in time for the PSO-HNS 70th anniversary.

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## ... PSO-HNS 2025 Midyear Convention



-sioned a concept that would celebrate both Masters and Mentors. The Master symbolizes expertise honed through years of discipline and excellence, while the Mentor signifies guidance, wisdom, and the desire to shape future generations. In Otolaryngology, the Society is blessed to stand on the shoulders of both—our Masters, who pioneered and innovated, and our Mentors, who nurture and inspire.

With this vision, the Bicol Chapter shaped the theme “BICOL M&M” and engaged the Society’s academies to ensure that mastery and mentorship would be the heart of the convention. By January 2024, teaser videos were released during the Bacolod Midyear, followed later in the year by a uniquely Bicolano invitation at the Annual Convention, complete with regional ice cream flavors.

This was not the first time the Bicol Chapter welcomed the PSO-HNS community. In 2006, it hosted SMB: Scientific & Medical Breakthroughs, and in 2015, Halo-Halo in Bicol: ENT and Other Specialties. Those gatherings brought unforgettable experiences such as thrilling Butanding encounters, the first-ever PSO-HNS shootfest, and even the memorable Bikini Show. With this legacy, the Chapter promised nothing less for 2025.

### Academic Excellence

The convention’s core was the scientific program. Plenary symposia highlighted the latest advancements in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. Masters and Mentors from across the country generously shared their knowledge, guiding younger practitioners through innovations in clinical practice, surgical techniques, and research. The sessions were highly interactive and meaningful, ensuring that learning would translate into improved patient care nationwide.

### Bicolano Spirit and Cultural Richness

True to the theme, every activity carried the M&M branding:

- Me and Mayon Photo Contest
- Whisky Tasting: Meat & Malt
- Summer Fashion Show: Models & MDs
- Bicol Night: Mari na ta Mag-ogma
- Sports Activities: Move with Magayon
- Fellowship Night: Music & Madness

The much-anticipated Bicol Night, initially planned for the historic Daraga Church, was moved indoors due to inclement weather. Yet, it remained a night of memories and culture, with music, dance, and cuisine that proudly showcased Bicolano hospitality.

Adding to the highlights was the revival of the Bikini Show, paired with a spirited whisky tasting activity. This combination of nostalgia, fun, and sophistication became one of the most talked-about moments of the convention.

The Fellowship Night at the Cagsawa Ruins was a fitting finale. Beyond the camaraderie and celebration in the shadow of Mayon, members of the Society themselves took the stage to sing—unveiling hidden talents and creating an atmosphere of joy and discovery. Truly, it was an evening of Music & Madness worthy of remembrance.

Sports and wellness activities rounded out the convention, from Zumba at Legazpi Boulevard to golf at Mayon Imperial, giving participants time to relax and bond outside the scientific halls.

### Gratitude and Legacy

The success of the convention was made possible by the support of many partners. The Bicol Chapter extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Provincial Government of Albay led by Governor Glenda Ong Bongao, the Department of Tourism – Region V, the City Government of Legazpi, the LGU of Daraga, the PSO-HNS Board of Trustees and Secretariat, the PSO-HNS Academies, the Western Visayas Chapter, The Oriental Hotel, Cyborg Entertainment, Masaya Corp, partner hotels, exhibitors, and sponsors.

The PSO-HNS 2025 Midyear Convention will be remembered not only for its lectures and activities, but for the unity, inspiration, and renewal it brought to the Society. For us in the Bicol Chapter, small in number yet mighty in spirit, hosting this gathering was an honor, a joy, and a legacy we will forever cherish.

# ORL-HNS Now Recognized as a Separate and Distinct Specialty



## 2020 – The Beginning of the PRC Journey

The seeds of this thrust for specialty distinction were planted in 2020, under the presidency of Dr. Cecilia Gretchen Locsin, when the PSO-HNS received its initial correspondence from PRC regarding the Professional Practice Outcomes of another specialty society. This prompted the formation of a Technical Working Group (TWG) which crafted a position paper asserting that encroachment issues affected not just the practice of ORL-HNS as a specialty but the very practice of Medicine itself.

## 2021 – Building the Framework

Under the leadership of Dr. Adrian Fernando, Chair of the External Affairs Committee, the PSO-HNS responded to the PRC's call to participate in the Career Progression and Specialization Program-Credit Accumulation & Transfer System (CPSP-CATS). A TWG was formed to develop the Level Alignment Matrix (LAM) for ORL-HNS, composed of Dr. Adrian Fernando, Dr. Ricardo Ramirez Jr., and Dr. John Rodolfo Suan Jr., with Dr. Agnes Remulla and the late Dr. Jacob Matubis representing the PBO-HNS. By June 14, 2021, the first draft of the ORL-HNS LAM was submitted to the PRC.

## 2022 – Initial Approval

In 2022, with Dr. Conrado Donato Pabico Jr. as Chair of the External Affairs Committee, the draft LAM received its initial approval from PRC. This milestone marked the beginning of formal recognition of the PSO-HNS's structured training standards aligned with national qualification frameworks.

## 2023 – Subspecialty Integration

By 2023, under the leadership of Dr. Christine Joy Arquiza as External Affairs Chair, the PSO-HNS submitted the initial subspecialty LAMs from all academies. Later that year, Dr. Locsin—who by then had joined the PRC Board of Medicine (BOM)—advised the PSO-HNS on the further refinement of these documents. In October 2023, Dr. Ed Alfanta presented the society's approved ORL-HNS LAM during the CPSP-CATS Workshop for the Medical Profession at the PICC, ensuring ORL-HNS's place in the national framework of medical specialization.

## 2024 – Final Approval and Harmonization

Dr. Mohammad Ariff A. Baguindali took on the role of External Affairs Chair, while Dr. Locsin officially became a member of the PRC BOM-CPSP. Together with Dr. Arquiza and Dr. Pabico, they coordinated a series of consultations with subspecialty academies to finalize each LAM. By July 2024, the Final ORL-HNS LAM was officially approved by the PRC, marking the culmination of four years of collaborative work.

## 2025 – Resolution 36-A: Full Recognition

The year 2025 began with Dr. Conrado Donato Pabico Jr. once again at the helm of the External Affairs Committee. A TWG on PRC Compliance: Equivalency & Substantial Comparability of Training Hours to Academic Units was formed, composed of Dr. Locsin, Dr. Arquiza, Dr. Pabico, and Dr. Baguindali. Finally, in October 2025, the PRC Professional Regulatory Board of Medicine promulgated Resolution No. 36-A, s. 2025, officially creating the Career Progression and Specialization Program for Diplomate (PQF Level 8)—which now includes Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery among the recognized medical specialties.

## A Legacy for the 70th Anniversary

All the PSO-HNS Boards of Trustees from 2020 to 2025 worked tirelessly towards this achievement—through pandemics, online town halls, and countless meetings—anchored by unwavering leadership and unity of purpose. With the PRC's recognition, ORL-HNS stands affirmed as a distinct and competitive medical specialty, ensuring that the Filipino public continues to benefit from world-class standards in ear, nose, throat, head, and neck care.

**Indeed, this historic milestone—achieved in time for our 70th year—cements our legacy of ENT excellence for generations to come.**



# Annual Convention 2025: A Journey of Healing, Innovation, and Growth as One Society

by Conrado Donato A. Pabico, Jr., MD, FPSO-HNS  
Over-all Convention Chair

The Philippine Society of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery proudly announces the hosting of our Annual Convention 2025, happening on December 2-4, 2025 at The SPACE at One Ayala, Makati City, with the inspiring theme:

## **“Breathing Better, Living Better: Advances in Rhinology, Skull Base Surgery, Smell, and Sleep Surgery.”**

This year, the Philippine Academy of Rhinology (PAR), in partnership with the Philippine Academy of Sleep Surgery (PASS), leads the charge in curating an exceptional scientific program. Our Organizing Committee, composed of passionate and seasoned Fellows from both Academies and the society, ensures nothing less than the most relevant topics, engaging sessions, and practical updates designed to advance clinical practice and patient care.

As our Society grows stronger, we embrace the exciting challenge of moving to a new, world-class venue. The SPACE at One Ayala is a 2,700-sqm state-of-the-art facility with four main halls and six breakout rooms, tailored for expansive scientific discussions and dynamic exhibitions. Located at the heart of Makati's CBD, it offers unmatched accessibility, seamlessly connected to the Ayala MRT, EDSA Carousel, and a multimodal transport terminal. This milestone move ushers in a new chapter for our Society—one filled with fresh opportunities, modern comforts, and the promise of a new convention home.

Our deepest appreciation to the Opening Ceremony Committee for their dedication in facilitating a meaningful start to our convention. Their excellent choice of keynote speaker, Dr. Efred Laxamana—practicing ophthalmologist and Chair of the PRC Board of Medicine—underscores the timeliness and relevance of this year's program. Dr. Laxamana's address on the importance and implications of specialty recognition by the PRC could not be more fitting, setting the tone for discussions that are vital to the growth of our profession and the advancement of patient care.

Behind the scenes, the Finance Block, Ways and Means, and Booths Committees work tirelessly to secure the support of our pharmaceutical and medical equipment partners—ensuring both the financial strength of our Society and the overall success of this convention. Equally vital is the Publicity and Documentation Committee, whose creativity and innovation bring our theme to life. From the design of a futuristic and visually striking logo to the careful crafting of materials that capture the essence of our gathering, they ensure that our message resonates with our fellows, diplomates residents partners in the medical field.

The Physical and Technical Committee plays a very pivotal role in this year's annual convention. Moving into a brand-new venue demands not only expertise, but also experience,



foresight, and precision. From preparing the halls and ensuring seamless audiovisual support, to managing logistics and anticipating technical needs, this hardworking committee carries one of the busiest responsibilities—before, during, and even after the convention. Their dedication guarantees that delegates experience a venue that is comfortable, conducive, and appealing, allowing the spotlight to shine fully on the scientific program and fellowship.

Innovation also takes center stage as the Registration Committee introduces a groundbreaking self-service kiosk system with QR code registration. This express system streamlines both the pre registered and on-site registrants and strengthens security, tracks attendance in real time, and integrate CME monitoring—a concept that sets the stage for the future of our conventions.

Meanwhile, the Scientific Committee has gone above and beyond in curating this year's program. With the participation of both esteemed local and international experts, they have designed scientific sessions that offer a comprehensive spectrum of learning—from foundational principles to the most cutting-edge advances in the field of Rhinology, Smell, Skull Base, Sleep Surgery and the other subspecialties in our field of ORL-HNS. Adding further excitement and depth, the Committee also brings to the spotlight two much-anticipated highlights: the Ramon V. Arcenas Rhinology Research Contest, showcasing original and groundbreaking studies, and the Rhinology Quiz Bee, a lively and challenging competition that celebrates knowledge, sharpens expertise, and inspires camaraderie among participants.

And, of course, no gathering is complete without celebration! The Social Committee brings us the annual “PSO-HNS Got Talent” contest, this year with a fun twist: “Breathe Right, Sleep Tight: The TikTok Challenge.” Delegates are invited to showcase their hidden (or outrageous!) talents, fostering laughter, camaraderie, and memories to last beyond the convention halls.

With groundbreaking science, spirited contests, innovative learning, inspiring talks, and vibrant fellowship, the Annual Convention 2025 promises to be an unforgettable gathering. We warmly invite all members, colleagues, and partners to join us as we breathe better, live better, and move forward together as one Society.



**ExeCom**

**2025 Annual Convention Organizing Committee**



**CPD Com**



**Socials Com**



**Reg Com**



**Pub Com**



**Sci Com**



**Finance Com**



**Opening Ceremonies**



**Phys/Tech Com**

# PBO-HNS PROCESSES GO DIGITAL

by Alberto F Calderon, MD, FPSO-HNS



The COVID lockdown in 2020, provided your Board, the PBO-HNS, with a “silver lining” as far as proceeding with its activities are concerned. Determined to proceed with its mandate of conducting the certifying board exams (CBE) despite the limitations of mobility during the lockdown, the Board hesitantly embraced new technology. After achieving its goal using virtual technology during the lockdown years, with renewed self-confidence the Board decided to go further and use technology to improve some of its processes.

## PBO-HNS WEBSITE

With encouragement from our “Tech Wizard” Prof. William Lim, the Board unanimously agreed to develop a website to improve and streamline its operations. Website development is expensive, but despite this “bitter pill to swallow,” the Board nevertheless pursued it, even if its meager coffers were substantially depleted. This website will serve as the springboard for the improvements that have been conceived by the Board. Parts of the website are ready for their pilot launch this October 2025.

Aside from the usual content of a website, it will also have the capability to serve as a repository for OR techniques and other requirements of the residents for the CBEs. These can be uploaded in real time as the resident accomplishes them. This will come with a “tracking system” to guide residents as to how much they have completed. If the residents’ portfolio repository proves to be successful, then in 2026 the website will also be utilized for the various accreditation & leveling undertakings for the training institutions. It will eventually be used also as a payment facility for the different Board activities.

## ONLINE EXAM PLATFORM

The years 2020 – 2022 were “heady & intoxicating times”. Again, with the pandemic serving as a catalyst, the Board was hard pressed to search for a fitting exam platform for the first ever virtual certifying board exams. Despite grappling with technology, the 2020 virtual CBE was a success. However, in the postmortem meeting, numerous loopholes were detected in the program in which the candidates could circumvent the exams. So with great tenacity, our other “Tech guru” Dr. Agnes Remulla was able to search & employ what appears to be the perfect platform for our purposes, exam.net. I shall refrain from expounding on the merits of this platform at the risk of giving hints on how one can go around this system.

Everybody knows that by now our CBE is conducted in a hybrid manner, all the candidates are physically present in one venue while the examination is being answered online.

## TRAINING THE TRINOR DIGITAL MODULE

One of the more difficult tasks for the Board is to gather all the Chairpersons, Program Directors & Associate Board Examiners (ABE) for the biennial examination workshop. Participating in this workshop is compulsory for the ABEs, in order to maintain their status with the Board. This workshop is also a prerequisite for those who will be nominated to become new ABEs.

With the Board now totally in love with technology, the third member of our “Tech Trio” Dr. Karen Capuz was tasked to come up with a “Training the Trainor Digital Module” to address this “workshop” issue. Instead of gathering all our colleagues in one venue, the module was sent through email to all concerned. This module contained an instructional on test construction, sample questions on cognitive objectives and workplace-based assessment among other things.

By embracing digitalization, the PBO-HNS unlocks limitless opportunities to transform its processes and elevate the standards of practice in ORL-HNS, shaping a future of excellence for the specialty. The PBO-HNS believes in elevating standards by driving innovation.



# Message from THE PRESIDENT



Bismillah-ir Rahman-ir-Rahim!!!

As I write this message for our ORL News, I am reminded of how far we have come as a society—not just in our pursuit of medical excellence, but in the strength of our bonds as one community. Every page of this newsletter is a reflection of our shared dedication, our passion for the calling we have chosen, and an enduring symbol of our collective voice. This publication is a living record of our journey — our milestones, our innovations, our advocacies, as well as the many inspiring stories that define who we are as a community of healers and learners. This serves as a bridge that connects generations of otolaryngologists — documenting our present efforts while paving the way for future endeavors. This is a legacy for all of us. It is a reminder that our strength as a society comes from working and growing together.

The practice of ORL-HNS is not without its challenges. Yet, it is in these very challenges that we find opportunities to grow, innovate, and serve with greater purpose. Let's continue to conquer the best for the specialty.

As we look ahead, let us nurture the spirit of collaboration, innovation, and excellence that defines our society. Let us celebrate our achievements, but also keep our hearts open to learning and to lifting each other up. Together, we carry the torch of PSO-HNS: a community that thrives on unity and service, dedicated not just to the science of medicine but also to the humanity behind it.

Thank you for being part of this continuing story, and may we all remain steadfast in our mission to serve, to teach, and to heal. May we continue to shine our light for the people we serve and for generations of otolaryngologists to come.

Happy Reading!

Mabuhay ang PSO- HNS, Mabuhay po tayong lahat.

**MOHAMMAD ARIFF A. BAGUINDALI, M.D.,  
FPSO- HNS, FPCHA**

## GLOBAL REPRESENTATION >

# A Practice Bridging Two Countries

by Jose Angelito U. Hardillo, MD, FPSO-HNS



A chance encounter between Prof. Gordon Snow from the Netherlands and my mentor at the time, Prof. Alfie Pontejos, opened the door for my journey into head and neck oncology in the late 1990s. Fresh from passing the boards in 1996, I traveled to Amsterdam for what was meant to be a six-month fellowship in head and neck oncological surgery at the Vrije Universiteit. That short stay soon extended to a full year—and from there, new opportunities began to unfold.

I was later invited to pursue a PhD at the Katholieke Universiteit in Leuven, Belgium, under the guidance of Prof. Pierre Delaere. During the final year of my doctorate, I undertook another fellowship in head and neck oncology at Erasmus University Medical Center in Rotterdam. What began as additional training grew into a career: after one year, I was offered a staff position in the Department of ENT-Head and Neck Oncology. Accepting this role meant leaving the Philippines for good, but I committed myself to never losing ties with my alma mater, UP-PGH.

Today, I serve as an associate professor and principal investigator in Head and Neck Oncological Surgery, where my research focuses on defining oligometastasis in head and neck cancer using clinical data and tumor single-cell sequencing technologies. I also hold a visiting professorship at the Department of

ENT at UP-PGH, a role through which I spearheaded the establishment of a memorandum of understanding between the two departments. This collaboration has fostered exchange among students, residents, and faculty in both clinical and research arenas, giving rise to postgraduate courses, clinical visits, and joint training opportunities. Whenever I return to the Philippines, I make it a point to teach in the operating room or join rounds with the residents, continuing the cycle of mentorship that shaped me.

My experiences across two countries have also deepened my appreciation of the strengths of different training systems. In the Philippines, residents cultivate exceptional clinical intuition and delicate tissue-handling skills, honed by the sheer volume and diversity of cases they encounter on a daily basis. In the Netherlands, residents are rigorously trained in evidence-based protocols and theoretical knowledge, supported by a centralized, research-driven healthcare system.

The Philippine system, by necessity, emphasizes adaptability and clinical intuition, while the Dutch system thrives on structure, standardization, and data. These differences, rather than divides, show how both systems have unique strengths that can complement one another: adaptability and clinical acumen on one side, structure and scientific rigor on the other. Looking back, what began as a chance meeting evolved into a lifelong vocation—to advance patient care, drive research, and strengthen training in head and neck oncology, while building lasting bridges between the Philippines and Europe.

## Towards a Unified Guideline on Hearing Disability Criteria

by Elmer M. dela Cruz, MD,  
MCI Aud, FPSO-HNS  
(Project Head:  
Hearing Disability  
Definition Update)



The PSO - HNS, through its Scientific Committee and Subcommittee on Clinical Practice Guidelines, in collaboration with PANORS, PAAud, PSAud (Philippine Society of Audiology), and ACAP (Association of Clinical Audiologists of the Philippines), has developed interim criteria for classifying hearing loss in relation to Persons with Disability (PWD) certification.

This initiative addresses inconsistencies between international definitions, national policies, and local clinical practice. Existing references have set varying thresholds: some documents use 26 dB such as the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons (PWD) or Republic Act no 7277, the Department of Health Administrative Order 2006-003 cites 31–41 dB depending on age, while the Global Burden of Disease published in Lancet in 2021 study defines disabling hearing loss as 35 dB or greater. To reduce confusion and ensure fairness in certification, PSO-HNS has adopted a unified, practical standard after consultation with the different hearing health care organizations.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS UPDATE: “Shaping Policy, Safeguarding Our Specialty”



by Conrado Donato A. Pabico Jr., MD, FPSO-HNS

The External Affairs Committee of PSO-HNS continues to actively represent our members in key policy discussions with national health and professional institutions, including the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), Philippine Medical Association (PMA), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), and other specialty societies.

With the PRC, we eagerly anticipate the release of the long-awaited resolution that will formally recognize PSO-HNS as the official specialty society for ORL-HNS. In line with the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) mandate, all regulated professions are tasked with ensuring international alignment of competencies and qualifications through career progression mechanisms leading to specialization and subspecialization. Our Society has successfully completed the equivalency mapping of training hours and academic units for our specialty—a milestone achievement that strengthens the alignment of our residency and fellowship programs with both national and global standards under the Career Progression and Specialization Program and Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CPSP-CATS). (UPDATE: This PRC resolution has already come to pass and is the subject of a front page article. - Ed.)

At the PMA, we are actively collaborating to secure parallel recognition of our Society as one of its new specialty divisions. While this may take time, as it requires the passage of the new Medical Act still under review in Congress, we continue to work closely with PMA on broader advocacy issues. Notably, PMA is lobbying for the increase of doctors' fees and benefits under PhilHealth's All Case Rates (ACR) scheme. Current estimates suggest that PhilHealth reimbursement covers only about 30% of our actual professional fees; thus, we complied with PMA's request to provide a matrix of our Society's latest professional fee schedule.

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## ...Hearing Disability Criteria

### Current Criteria

Regardless of Age:

- Permanent unaided thresholds greater than 35 dB HL in Pure Tone Audiometry (PTA), averaged across 500 Hz, 1 kHz, 2 kHz, and 4 kHz, in the worse ear.

Acceptable Test Battery:

- Air Conduction Audiometry
- Bone Conduction Audiometry
- Speech Audiometry
  - Signed out by either an Audiologist or an Otolaryngologist.

For Children (≤3 years old):

- When PTA is not feasible, Evoked Potential Tests suggesting at least a mild hearing loss in any ear are acceptable.
- Behavioral tests are strongly recommended when available.

### Considerations in Drafting

In formulating these criteria, the Committee considered the diverse subsets of the hearing-impaired population:

- Adults with unilateral hearing loss, who often experience significant challenges in speech perception in noise, sound localization, and workplace safety—factors that directly affect quality of life and employment.
- Pediatric patients, where hearing loss has profound effects on education, speech, and language development.

These considerations reflect the Society's effort to ensure that individuals across different age groups and clinical presentations have equitable access to government recognition and support.

### Next Steps

These criteria represent the Society's consolidated position at present and will serve as the working standard for PWD classification. Future refinements may be made as more evidence and feedback emerge, but members are encouraged to apply these criteria in clinical practice to promote clarity, fairness, and equity in certification.

## THE SPOTLIGHT: BOT NEWS 2025 >

# PSO-HNS H.E.LP.S. ENT CARE CATALOGUE: STRENGTHENING ADVOCACY THROUGH NATIONWIDE LAUNCHES

by Jefferson A. Alamani, MD, MHA, FPSO-HNS; Advocacy Chair, PSO-HNS



In line with the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery's mission to promote equitable and quality ENT care across the country with the foundation of the implementation of Universal Health Care for all Filipinos to have access to healthcare, the PSO-HNS Advocacy Committee proudly launched the H.E.Lp.S. ENT Care Catalogue throughout 2024 to 2026. This initiative marks a significant stride in our continuing effort to bring the society's advocacy closer to communities, medical institutions, and health professionals nationwide.

The PSO-HNS H.E.Lp.S. program, which stands for Handog ng ENT Specialists sa Lipunan at Sambayanan, serves as a comprehensive guide for ENT-related diseases. It aims to streamline and strengthen local initiatives by providing standardized materials, health education modules, and sustainable community engagement models for each focus area. One of these program is the ENT Care Catalogue that gives primary care guides on managing common ENT complaints, giving initial management and knowing when to refer to an ENT Specialist. Part of this catalogue is a directory of the ENT Regional Centers, Training Institutions that they can refer their patients.

Throughout 2024 and 2025, several regional chapters and training institutions actively participated in the rollout of the H.E.Lp.S. ENT Care Catalogue.

The pilot launch was held last November 14, 2024 in Alnor Hotel and Convention Hotel, Cotabato City. This marked the official roll out of the catalogue which took years in completion. Conceptualized by then Advocacy Chair, Dr Mohammad Ariff Baguindali and now the PSO-HNS President. Followed by a Baranggay launch in a RHU III in Balanga City in December 2024.

The Northern Luzon Chapter in April 26, 2025 initiated the first regional luzon launch, highlighting outreach projects that addressed common ear and hearing problems in underserved areas during the PSO-HNS Trustee Chapter Visit coinciding with the NLENT interhospital Grandrounds and Quarterly Meeting headed by NLENT President of the chapter, Dr Sherwin Biasura. The catalogue was recieved by the Baguio City municipal health officer representative, The Bicol Chapter launch was held before the PSO-HNS midyear convention of May 27 in Bicol University. This was attended by municipal health officer in Legazpi. Headed by Bicol Chapter President Dr Rosebe Nacion-Lauraya.

In June 18, Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium became the first accredited training institution to launched the catalogue in 2025 during a meeting of health care workers of Caloocan spearheaded by Dr Gerry Luna, Chair and Dr Mary Rose Adeline Guinto, Training officer of the department of ORL-HNS.

## External Affairs Update



Regarding PhilHealth, we are preparing for the anticipated shift from the current ACR system to the Diagnostic Related Groupings (DRG) framework. This transition will have significant implications for claims processing, reimbursements, and documentation requirements. Our Society is proactively engaging stakeholders to safe-guard both patient care quality and the sustainability of our profession.

In light of increasing reports of unauthorized and illegal facial plastic surgery practices, the Society issued an advisory to raise awareness and protect the public. We also collaborated with the Philippine Dermato-logical Society on a joint initiative addressing this pressing concern.

Finally, in our engagements with the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS), we continue to maintain constructive dialogue while asserting our Society's autonomy on matters directly affecting our discipline. We remain committed to collaboration without compromising the integrity and independence of our specialty.

The Society's External Affairs Committee remains steadfast in ensuring that the development of every policy is met with informed advocacy – always prioritizing the welfare of our members and the patients we serve.

## PSO-HNS H.E.Lp.S. ENT Care Catalogue...

Meanwhile, in September the Southern Mindanao Chapter show-cased its commitment to public service by integrating the H.E.Lp.S. modules into existing local partnerships with rural health units, expanding the reach by making ENT cases simpler for general practioners. These were held in Davao City, Kidapawan City General Santos City, Tacurong City, Zamboanga City. This launches were included in the Post-Graduate Roadshow of Southern Mindanao Chapter ENT4GP: Mastering ENT Conditions in Primary Care Settings. This was conceptualized by Southern Mindanao Chapter Past President and Trustee Dr Bendatu Dalandag and current chapter President Dr. Duane Salud.

In October 8, 2025 with Dr Alamani headed the Philippine Pacific Health Initiative in the Kingdom of Tonga. He together with Fellow Dr Ji-ilhan Banawol, Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center, Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Resident Dr Paulo Enrico Ugaban, and 3 other Philippine Delegates launched the catalogue during the Clinical Medical Education of Vaiola Hospital. The catalogues were recieved by Dr Ma'ake Tupou, Medical Superintendent, and witnessed by Dr Leonel Daley Peters, WHO Fellow and Dr Samuelle Anton Quizon, DOH

In October 18, Manila Central University - College of Medicine launched the catalogue during a gathering of Barangay Health Workers in the CAMANAVA area this was spearheaded by Trustee Candice Que-Ansorge.



# PSO-HNS H.E.Lp.S. ENT Care Catalogue...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

Each launch underscored the unified vision of PSO-HNS – that advocacy should not only reside in policy and professional education but also in meaningful, on-the-ground action. The society's chapters and training institutions played a crucial role in adapting the catalogue to their respective service areas, ensuring that the materials and approaches remain relevant to the communities they serve.

The Advocacy Committee continues to monitor the implementation of the H.E.L.P.S. ENT Care Catalog, gathering insights and best practices from each chapter. These collective efforts reflect the society's commitment to empower both practitioners and communities, ensuring that every Filipino has access to quality ear, nose, throat, head and neck care.

As we move forward, the PSO-HNS reaffirms its dedication to advancing the goals of PSO-HNS H.E.L.P.S. – promoting health education, fostering collaboration, and sustaining the impact of ENT-HNS advocacy nationwide.



## ORL News EDITORIAL STAFF 2025



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## A Journey Beyond the Familiar

by Anna Kristina Hernandez, MD, DBPO-HNS



I began at the UP-PGH, where I completed my residency in Otorhinolaryngology, alongside a master's degree in management. My father is a rhinologist, and while his influence was undeniable, my fascination with rhinology came from the complexity of the nose as an organ. In 2020, I ranked 4th in the diplomate board exam, an unexpected encouragement that strengthened my resolve to keep learning and growing.

When my plan to train in Craniomaxillofacial Surgery didn't materialize, the pandemic shifted everything. I was seeing patients with smell loss and realized how little we knew about managing it. That challenge pushed me to seek further training at a specialized Smell and Taste Clinic in Germany, and later in the Netherlands, where I focused on rhinologic oncology surgery.

The move abroad was far from simple. I had little research experience (just one publication after residency) when I began clinical chemosensory research. I had to teach myself statistics, learn a new subspecialty, and discover my own rhythm as a researcher. I was fortunate to have supportive colleagues and an experienced, kind mentor—Prof. Thomas Hummel, who guided me throughout. Life in a new country meant learning a language, navigating norms, finding friends, even assembling furniture due to high costs. It was humbling but

built resilience.

Choosing to leave before the two-year clinical practice required for PSO-HNS fellowship was unconventional, but it allowed me to pursue research and international training that profoundly shaped my career. I am proud to represent the Philippines in my work, contributing to initiatives such as developing olfactory and trigeminal tests, co-authoring the position paper on olfactory dysfunction, and exploring research on olfactory implants and global olfactory sensitivity.

I am deeply grateful to my husband, who has been my rock, supporting me through life abroad. But I miss being near my family, whose encouragement continues to inspire me from afar. This year, I completed my PhD in Medicine with Summa Cum Laude honors. More than the title, it symbolizes growth from embracing challenges and change.

If there's one insight I'd share with colleagues back home, it's that there is no single path in medicine. My journey has combined clinical work and research. While it involved sacrifices, it has led to a career I find meaningful and fulfilling. Embracing the unfamiliar can be deeply rewarding for anyone willing to take the first step.



## HEAL HELpS p70: PSO-HNS Advocacy Commitment for the 70th Anniversary



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

As the PSO-HNS celebrates its landmark 70th year, it launches, not just a campaign, but a movement that redefines what it means to heal, to advocate, and to serve. Enter: HEAL HELpS p70, the society's flagship advocacy program and one of the highlights of its Platinum Anniversary celebration.

This three-part acronym HEAL HELpS p70 represents the Society's collective heartbeat—a rallying cry that brings together healthcare, environmental consciousness, legislative vigilance, service, and wellness for its own members.

### HEAL: Pillars of Society Advocacy

The first part, HEAL, stands for a holistic approach to Society's advocacies. Each letter of HEAL represents a vital pillar of the Advocacy of the Society:

#### H – Hearing Advocacy

This is a call to action for early detection and prevention of hearing loss, particularly in vulnerable populations, like pre-school children. PSO - HNS continues to champion better hearing for all through community screening, using the voice whisper test, patient education, and expert guidance.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

## (...HEAL HELpS p70: PSO-HNS Advocacy Commitment for the 70th Anniversary)

This is a collaborative and developing cry of the subcommittee, guided by our mentors, Drs. Norberto Martinez, Jenelyn Magno, Christopher Malorre Calaquian, and Emil Ruben "Butch" Henson.

### **E – Environment (Corporate Social Responsibility)**

With the health of our environment deeply connected to human well-being, this pillar promotes sustainable practices within the medical field. This includes reducing waste, improving ecological awareness, and fostering a greener healthcare system. The chapters and academies of the Society champions the promotion of environmentally-sustainable activities, such as tree planting, mangrove planting, reef planting, pawikan conservation, coastal clean ups, among others.

### **A – Advocacy and Avocation**

Advocacy extends inward, too. This unique aspect of HEAL focuses on our avocations or passions we ENT specialists pursue beyond the clinics and operating room. Through shared activities, events, and meetups, the Society fosters camaraderie, mental wellness, and balance, encouraging members to thrive both professionally and personally. As of now, programs are being lined up to promote avocations like Running, Biking, Golf, Marksmanship, Photography, Watch Collecting, for all levels of skill and interest. Register on this link (<https://forms.gle/XYKAovbnup7tK7mb6>) to join these activities.



### **L – Legislative Monitoring**

With constant developments in health policy, PSO-HNS remains vigilant—tracking and participating in relevant legislation that impacts ENT practice and patient care. The Society ensures that its voice is heard in key national conversations. As of now, the subcommittee is focused on issues such as ENT Regional Centers, Philippine Medical Act, Audiology Bill, among others.

### **HELpS: Handog ng ENT Specialist sa Lipunan at Sambayanan**

The second part, HELpS, refers to the efforts of the PSO-HNS to give back to the community through outreach programs, free clinics, surgical missions, and patient education campaigns. This initiative reflects the Society's dedication to providing ENT services not only within hospitals, but also to communities with limited access to specialty care. Whether delivering care to remote islands, hosting health fairs in urban barangays, or training local health workers, HELpS exemplifies service in action. (For more details, there is a special article about HELpS elsewhere in this issue.)

### **P70: On the Road to Platinum**

The third part, P70, signifies Platinum 70, honoring the society's seven decades of excellence. Rather than resting on its laurels, PSO-HNS leverages this milestone to pave a new path forward. HEAL HELpS P70 serves as a bridge from legacy to leadership in an evolving landscape.

HEAL HELpS P70 is a comprehensive vision. It transcends a mere campaign for patients, extending its reach to doctors, communities, policymakers, and environmental stewardship. It fosters camaraderie among colleagues while advocating for the systems that support essential care. Indeed, it is more than just a celebration, it is a movement for continuing growth.

As PSO-HNS enters her platinum era, it embraces the courage to evolve, the humility to serve, and the clarity to lead. HEAL HELpS P70 is not merely a tagline; it is a blueprint for our Society's concept for 21st-century healing—whole, human, and heart-driven.

PSO - HNS at 70: "Proud of our Identity. Forging Our Legacy: 70 Years of Leadership in ENT Excellence. Seven decades of expertise. One unified purpose.



# Seventy Years of Excellence: THE PSO-HNS TURNS PLATINUM

by Candice Que-Ansorge, MD, FPSO-HNS, FPCS, MBA

The PSO-HNS was founded on February 17, 1956 by the “Heroic Nine” led by Thierry F. Garcia, MD. The Society began as the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology and Bronchoesophagology (PSOB). In 1981, it adopted its present name and established the Philippine Board of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, setting standards for training and certification. From post-war beginnings to national prominence, PSO-HNS has grown into eight chapters, ten academies, forty-two training institutions, and subspecialty fellowship programs. This milestone affirms its enduring mission to uphold excellence, foster innovation, and strengthen leadership in the specialty for generations to come.

In 2026, we proudly celebrate our origins and future together. With the theme “Proud of Our Identity, Forging Our Legacy: 70 Years of Leadership in ENT Excellence,” our platinum anniversary embodies durability, resilience, and value – all qualities that resonate with the Society’s legacy. The Ad Hoc Committee for the Platinum Anniversary, chaired by Dr. Ricardo Ramirez Jr., has been working with dedication and vigor to ensure that this milestone celebration becomes an extraordinary commemoration of the Society’s seventy years of excellence.

The Platinum Anniversary Logo was thoughtfully designed to embody the Society’s legacy. At its core, the inner and outer circles signify unity – both within the organization and in its broader partnerships. Flanking the emblem are two green laurels, symbolizing continuous growth and achievement. Each laurel carries a deeper meaning: the 10 leaves on the left represent the Society’s Academies, while the 8 leaves on the right stand for its Chapters.

The central highlight is the stylized “70” – where the decorative number 7 is paired with a platinum gemstone “0.” This gemstone design features 8 inner facets and 10 outer facets, a subtle tribute to the chapters and academies that form the foundation of PSO-HNS. The color palette harmonizes with the Society’s official logo, reinforcing identity and tradition. Completing the design, the radiating spokes in the background represent the training institutions, which continue to shape and sustain the future of the specialty. The overall composition reflects not only the Platinum milestone but also the enduring vision and strength of PSO-HNS.

On February 17, 2026, PSO-HNS will mark this historic milestone with the Platinum Ball at the Shangri-La The Fort, Manila. This grand event commemorates the Society’s 70th Anniversary, honoring seven decades of excellence, leadership, and unity in advancing Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery in the Philippines. The Platinum Ball will bring together fellows and partners of PSO-HNS in an evening of elegance and camaraderie. Highlights will include a tribute to the Society’s pioneers, recognition of its achievements through the years, and a celebration of its continued commitment to patient care, research, and training.

As it enters a new era, the PSO-HNS stands poised to continue shaping the future of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery in the Philippines and beyond.



MESSAGES >

## Message from the Publicity Com Chair

### “FROM LIKES TO LEGACY: DIGITAL PRESENCE AND PROFESSIONAL CREDIBILITY”

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



Once upon a time, professional credibility was measured in citations, not followers. Our mentors built reputations through published papers, podium presentations, and peer respect—not through reels, reach, or reaction counts. Yet here we are in 2025, where a viral post can garner more visibility than a peer-reviewed journal article.

Welcome to the era where “likes” have tacitly become the new letters after our names.

In the ever-scrolling world of modern medicine, our digital presence has become our public face. Patients Google us before they meet us. Colleagues share our posts before our papers. The ENT who can explain sinusitis in sixty seconds on TikTok might reach more people than an hour-long lecture at the convention. And while that may sound unsettling, it’s also an opportunity—to shape how our profession is seen, heard, and trusted.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

# IN CONSTANT PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE: THE EVOLUTION OF THE PSO-HNS



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

The Philippine Society of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS) celebrates momentous growth in size, reach, and relevance over the years. Pioneered by Drs. Tierry Garcia, Napoleon Ejercito, Angel Enriquez, Cesar Villafuerte, Sr., Antonio Roxas, Sr., Vicente Songco, Antonio Vicencio, Macario Tan, and Ariston Bautista in 1956, the society has seen continuous expansion into a fellowship of a more than a thousand-strong.

The landscape of ORL-HNS practice in the country is widening, with the enhancement of existing centers of care, and establishment of new ones in areas previously lacking. With now 42 training institutions nationally, the Society continues to produce specialists equipped with knowledge and skills to deliver quality otolaryngologic healthcare. Different regional chapters work to ensure parity and synergy in service that is tailored to the needs of each local community. Subspecialty academies work towards advancement in their corresponding fields, and support further learning through training and skills development.

The evolution of learning has shifted from traditional and geographi-cally limited means to highly flexible and accessible experiences powered by digital platforms and resources. These technological advancements continue to help the Filipino otolaryngologist learn more through immediate access to a vast and constantly evolving knowledge base and encourage collaboration. This democratization of information has been key in the speed at which the society continues to evolve.

The Philippine Journal of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery (PJOHNS) published its maiden issue in 1981, but has much older roots in the then Philippine Journal of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology which first published in the 1950s. Home to high quality scientific work and a testament to world-class standards, the PJOHNS was recently officially accepted for indexing in Scopus - having met strict quality criteria related to peer review, citation performance, and editorial standards. The high quality repository of knowledge is proof of commitment to service that is evidence-based.

The PSO-HNS caps off this year with the historic recognition of ORL-HNS as a separate and distinct medical specialty by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). Years' worth of efforts towards formal recognition has finally born fruit. This achievement lays the foundation for even greater representation of ORL-HNS within the framework of medicine in the Philippines - a timely one as the Society looks to celebrate its 70th year in 2026.

The Society may have been formed from humble beginnings, but certainly not humble ambitions. The past decades have shown continued dedication toward expanding, improving, and innovating - with the understanding that this pursuit of excellence is far from concluded.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLICITY COM CHAIR

As Chair of the Media and Publications Committee for three consecutive years, I've watched PSO-HNS evolve from a quiet newsletter readership to an engaged online community. We no longer just inform; we inspire, advocate, and amplify. But the challenge remains: how do we stay authentic in the age of algorithms?

Because let's be honest—behind every polished post is a careful dance between professionalism and personality. We want to be visible but not vain, engaging but not exaggerated, informative but not intimidating. The line between advocacy and self-promotion is thin—and often filter-enhanced. Then there's our new digital companion: artificial intelligence. I've seen residents submit research drafts so flawlessly written that even Grammarly blushed. Part of me is impressed; another part wonders, have we outsourced curiosity itself? If AI can now generate abstracts, introductions, letters and anything you can think of—will it soon write our legacy, too?

Still, I choose optimism. AI may refine our words, but it cannot replicate our wisdom, warmth, or wit. It can predict phrasing, but not passion. The soul of our profession—the empathy behind every consult, the mentorship behind every manuscript—remains distinctly human.

So as we scroll, post, and prompt our way through the digital decade, may we remember: credibility is no longer confined to the clinic or the conference. It now lives online, too—but it thrives only when our authentic voice leads the algorithm.

Because someday, when the likes fade and the links break, what will endure is not our hashtag, but our humanity. And that, I hope, is the kind of legacy worth sharing.

# EDITORIAL



## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:

Frederick Y. Hawson, MD, FPSO-HNS

As you all know, April is the month when our society joins voice care specialists around the world to celebrate World Voice Day (WVD), specifically on April 16. On this day since 1999, this day has been used to hold education campaigns to inform the public of the importance of the human voice and the need for its preventive care. Each hospital usually mounts endoscopy missions, lay fora, or singing concerts as activities to spark public interest for the cause of this day.

It was such a stroke of providence that for WVD this year, the PALP (Philippine Academy of Laryngo-bronchoesophagology and Phoniatics) had been offered the opportunity to collaborate with VoiceCon PH, a premier voice mastery event especially curated to benefit content creators, entrepreneurs, and professionals who rely on their voices to earn their daily bread.

Only on its maiden outing this year, VoiceConPH promised an immersive learning experience which will impart science-backed, real-world strategies that can transform how one speaks and his confidence in delivering his message. Enrolling in VoiceConPH carried a premium price tag (ranging from P24K to P8K), either in-person or online, but it did gather top voice experts as faculty to teach attendees how to use their voices "for influence, impact, and income."

The main speakers were Ron and Joyce Titular, both former DJs of NU 107, currently voice coaches and voice talents. "Making the Voice Connection" was about controlling public speaking anxiety with vocal yoga exercises, like vagal massage and

foundational breath. "Setting Up Your Voice for Success" was about the shape, color, and range of the voice we produce by varying our intonation, volume, pace and phrasing. A "boss voice" can be achieved with correct Bruegger's posture, mirroring voice idols, saying it like you mean it and telling stories

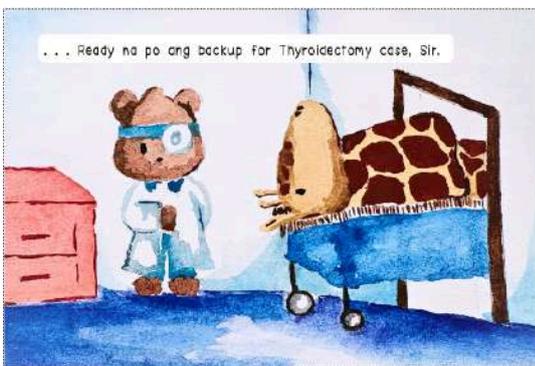
Inspirational speaker Mr. Francis Kong discussed about investing in your voice, emphasizing how delivery is an important as the content. Hard-hitting online influencer Real Time Darbs talked about using his tried-and-true formula of Hook, Value and Pay-off in creating viral content that converts into sales. Radio DJ Mike Pederro shared tips about choosing and using the right microphone. Financial adviser Chinkee Tan lectured about how to monetize communication to launch a new online brand. The magnetic voice talent Ms. Inka Magnaye led an insightful panel discussion with the audience.

Forgive for my bias, but the absolute highlight of the day were the lectures about the medical aspects of voice care. Current PALP chair Dr. Shamyllie Quinto talked about the anatomy, physiology and diseases of the vocal folds, using videos of her patients whose problematic voices were helped by available therapeutic options. Former PALP chair Dr. Mary Arlene Bongosia then shared about her tips for Vocal Hygiene to prevent serious vocal disorders. Aside from these talks, PALP had been also given its own booth where we gave out brochures to all the attendees about voice hygiene.

PALP has done this activity to fulfill our commitment to the advocacy of the PSO-HNS to raise public awareness about our subspecialty. However, far from being an exclusive concern for PALP alone, it goes without saying that each and every member of the PSO-HNS should also be an advocate for the care of the human voice, whether professional voice user or not, every World Voice Day and all year round.

## EDITORIAL CARTOON:

Adrian Alvarez, MD, FPSO-HNS



## Bicol Chapter



### Bicol ENT Specialists Continue Strong Momentum After Successful Midyear Convention

The Bicol ENT Specialists (BEST) proudly celebrated a highly successful hosting of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS) Midyear Convention in May 2025. The event brought together leading specialists, trainees, and stakeholders in the field, reinforcing the dynamic nature of the Bicol Chapter as a hub for professional growth and collaboration in Otolaryngology. Despite the busy schedules and accomplishments from the convention, BEST is already preparing for its next series of meaningful initiatives.

Among the upcoming activities is Project Gasang, now in its second year. This initiative focuses on the laying of artificial reefs in Virac, Catanduanes, following the success of its first installment, which has already become a thriving marine habitat. Preparations are also underway for ENT Made Easy, 9th Edition, to be held in Masbate City. This training will gather Municipal Health Officers, General Practitioners, Nurses, and other allied health workers across the island, ensuring that ENT care remains more accessible at the primary care level.

Another highlight is the Thyroid Mission and CLAP Surgical Mission in partnership with the Catanduanes Medical Society, with participation from residents of the Bicol Medical Center (BMC) and the Bicol Regional Hospital and Medical Center (BRHMC). These efforts aim to extend specialized care to underserved communities.

Through these initiatives, BEST demonstrates its continuing commitment to advancing ENT practice, promoting community health, and strengthening partnerships across the Bicol region. With its strong foundation and active collaborations, the society is poised to deliver not only professional excellence but also lasting impact on the communities it serves.

## Central Luzon ENT (CELENT) Chapter



CELENT 2025: Advancing Service, Learning, and Sustainability

The CELENT Family continues to build on its tradition of service and excellence, with 2025 marking another year of meaningful impact on community health and the environment.

A Brief Look Back at 2024

Last year provided the foundation for our current initiatives. Among the highlights were the medical mission in Candaba, Pampanga in April, the cleft lip surgical mission with Jose B. Lingad Memorial General Hospital in July, and the tree-planting activity in Pilar, Bataan later that month. The year concluded with the Pawikan Conservation activity on November 23, 2024, held in partnership with the PSO-HNS Board of Trustees, reaffirming CELENT's commitment to biodiversity and coastal protection.

2025: Strengthening Impact

This year has continued CELENT's focus on professional growth and community engagement. The Continuing Medical Education (CME) lecture series remains a vital platform for learning, with sessions held in January, April, and July 2025, and additional lectures set for September and November.

In July 2025, CELENT, in collaboration with Bataan General Hospital, successfully carried out a cleft lip surgical mission, once again transforming lives through compassionate care.

Environmental advocacy remains central to the chapter's mission. Following the success of 2024, CELENT conducted another tree-planting activity in Pilar, Bataan on August 9, 2025, reinforcing its commitment to climate action and reforestation. Looking ahead, the second year of the Pawikan Conservation advocacy will take place in November 2025, further strengthening efforts toward marine life protection.

Moving Forward

The milestones of 2025 reflect CELENT's dedication to service, continuous learning, and sustainability. Guided by unity and purpose, the chapter remains committed to uplifting communities, advancing healthcare, and safeguarding the environment for future generations.

## Central Eastern Visayas (CEVENT) Chapter

The Central - Eastern Visayas (CEV) Chapter remained active from mid-2024 through the first half of 2025, with officers and members rolling out a series of meaningful activities, many in collaboration with the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (VSMMC). The Chapter hosted its second inter-hospital grand rounds on August 31, 2024, bringing together training institutions across the region and highlighting challenging thyroid malignancy cases that encouraged shared clinical learning.

On September 21, 2024, the Chapter held its annual Tree Planting Advocacy in Carmen, Cebu, in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. This year's activity included follow-

through monitoring of previously planted trees, underscoring the Chapter's long-term environmental commitment.

In observance of National Thyroid Cancer Awareness Week, a public lay forum on thyroid cancer was conducted at the VSMC Outpatient Department to provide timely information on thyroid health and cancer prevention.

The year concluded with a visit from Professor Karman Barin, who conducted his Vestibular Workshop in Cebu City on December 10-11, 2024. This hands-on training was well-received for its practical insights.

In May 2025, the Chapter organized a three-day thyroid mission at VSMC as part of World Thyroid Day celebrations. The outreach served dozens of patients and reinforced the Chapter's dedication to community health.

The Chapter also revived its annual post-graduate course on common ENT diseases, intended for general practitioners and non-ENT specialists. Previously held across the CEV region, with the last run in Ormoc in 2019, the course returned on June 20, 2025, marking an important milestone in the Chapter's educational initiatives.

As we move forward, the Chapter remains committed to serving, educating, and advocating for the region. With the continued support of members, partners, and the Mother Society, we look ahead to greater collaboration and impact.



## Northern Luzon ENT (NLENT) Chapter

On September 20, 2024, the La Union Cluster of NLENT hosted a Craniomaxillofacial Trauma Course and Workshop at ITRMC in partnership with PACMF, whose fellows served as lecturers and facilitators. The following day, the second quarter meeting was held at Ciabel Hotel.

On December 5, 2024, the chapter held its fourth quarter meeting at Discovery Suites, Ortigas. The next day, NLENT performed during the annual convention through the "PSO-HNS Got Talent" contest under Vice President Dr. Eduardo Dizon, showcasing North Luzon's cultural heritage and unity.



The first quarter meeting of 2025 was held on April 26 in Benguet, highlighted by a visit from the PSO-HNS Board of Trustees. Activities included a Free Paper Presentation of challenging cases from five NLENT training institutions, with insights from panelists Dr. Dumlao, Dr. Carbonell, and Dr. Peckley. During the business meeting, Dr. Baguindali and the BOTs discussed society initiatives. Founding fellows enriched the event: Dr. Cosalan, who shared reflections on the early years of the specialty and membership policies; and Dr. Mangahas, who delivered a lecture on "Asymptomatic Allergic Rhinitis." The evening featured a keynote address by Baguio City Health Officer Dr. Mark Tirao, who also attended the launch of the "PSO-HNS H.E.L.p.S. ENT Care Catalogue" for distribution across barangays in Baguio. The following day concluded with a bike, run, and basketball activity.

The second quarter meeting was held on August 9, 2025, at Java Hotel, Laoag City, in hybrid format. It included another allergy lecture by Dr. Mangahas and the "Sound and Stability" audiovestibular course led by Dr. Bancifra and several Neuro-otology experts.

Looking ahead, NLENT anticipates hosting the PSO-HNS-AHNOP Interhospital Grand Rounds on September 23, 2025, the ASEAN ORL Summit in Cambodia in October, and its culminating fourth quarter meeting in December with the election of new officers.

## Northern Mindanao Chapter

Silip Tenga

In partnership with JCI Macajalar 24K, the chapter conducted a Silip Tenga (Ear Check) outreach on April 10, 2025, at Xavier Ecoville in Lumbia, Cagayan de Oro.

The initiative focused on basic ear examinations for school-aged children, promoting early detection of ear conditions and educating students on proper ear hygiene. A total of 30 children were served, receiving ear check-ups, consultations, and practical advice on maintaining ear health. The children were eager to participate, and the activity highlighted how small efforts can create meaningful community impact.

This collaboration with JCI Macajalar 24K underscores the value of working together to bring essential health services to underserved youth. The chapter looks forward to continuing similar partnerships and outreach programs to help build a healthier, better-informed community.

Tree Planting Activity at the DRRM Forest

On August 2, 2025, we conducted a Tree Planting Activity at the DRRM Forest in Malaybalay, Bukidnon. The event gathered individuals committed to environmental conservation and disaster resilience.

This initiative supports reforestation, climate action, and strengthening natural barriers against disasters. Participants planted native tree species that contribute to long-term ecological balance.

The DRRM Forest plays a vital role in reducing environmental risks such as floods and landslides, making this activity both an environmental and disaster-preparedness effort.

### Siargao BOT Visit Recap

From August 22–24, the PSO-HNS Board of Trustees (BOT) visited Siargao to showcase the ENT Care Catalogue and assess the proposed venue for the 2026 Midyear Convention.

A courtesy call with the Mayor marked the visit, followed by a site inspection of the venue and accommodations to ensure a smooth experience for delegates. Siargao's natural beauty and island atmosphere inspired the team and offered a glimpse of what awaits next year.

More updates on the 2026 Midyear Convention coming soon.



### Southern Mindanao Chapter

#### UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP, SAME COMMITMENT

The PSOHNS Southern Mindanao Chapter welcomed its new officers during a ceremonial induction on November 15, 2024, at the Annual General Assembly held at Dusit Thani Hotel, Davao City. Outgoing Chapter President Dr. Bendatu Dalandag opened the event with a message, reflecting on the accomplishments of the past two years. His leadership was marked by initiatives that strengthened the organization's presence in the region.

Succeeding him is Dr. Duane Salud, along with the newly inducted officers committed to continuing the chapter's mission.

#### WORLD HEARING DAY 2025

In celebration of World Hearing Day on March 4, the chapter collaborated with the Department of Health-Davao and DepEd Region XI to raise awareness on hearing health. Held at Sta. Ana Elementary School, the event educated 300 students on proper ear care, in line with the global theme: "Changing mindsets: Empower yourself to make ear and hearing care a reality for all!"

#### WORLD SLEEP MONTH 2025

The chapter participated in World Sleep Month at SM City Davao on March 20, 2025, bringing together experts in sleep medicine to share insights on sleep health. Chapter President Dr. Duane Salud, together with fellows, represented the society.

#### VISMIND COLLABORATION

A highlight was the launch of the 1st Visayas and Mindanao Cummings Quiz Bee and Interesting Case Contest on March 15 at The Ritz Hotel, Davao City. The event fostered camaraderie among training institutions and received participation and positive feedback. Future editions are being considered in other regions.

### WIN AND WINE

"All work and no play makes an ENT dull." Embracing this mantra, the chapter held its 2nd Quarterly Meeting at Wine World Davao on June 21, 2025. The evening balanced organizational updates with relaxation and featured a Wine Lecture and Tasting session enjoyed by members across Southern Mindanao.



### Southern Tagalog ENT (STENTS) Chapter

STENTS Ushers in 2025 with New Leadership and Robust Lineup of Activities

Fresh from celebrating its 25th Founding Anniversary, the Southern Tagalog ENT Society (STENTS) steps into 2025 with renewed energy and a full calendar of events. The year began with the inauguration of its new officers on February 1, 2025, in Alabang, led by President Dr. Ruth Estimar. Joining her are Dr. Enrique Papa II (Vice President), Dr. Ma. Ignatius Cordova (Secretary), Dr. Josefa Andrea Cornista (Treasurer), Dr. Sherwin Salvador (Auditor), and Dr. Elaine Macabare-Dimayuga (Public Relations Officer). Committees were also formed to support activities.

Quarterly meetings are scheduled throughout 2025. The first quarter event was held on March 1 in Cavite, in collaboration with DLSU and the Philippine College of Occupational Medicine, alongside the post-graduate course "Silent Threats, Loud Solutions." The second quarter business meeting was held on June 14 in Alabang. On September 20, STENTS will conduct team development and strategic planning sessions, with the fourth quarter meeting in Makati on December 1.

Advocacy and outreach remain priorities. In partnership with the Palawan Medical Society, a coastal clean-up was conducted on January 19. This was followed by a medical mission and children's book reading at the City Jail in Puerto Princesa on March 22. On May 26, children's books were distributed in Pag-asa Island with assistance from the Philippine Navy. The chapter also won the PACMFS Road Safety Infomercial Contest with DLSU's ENT-HNS Department.



This year's advocacy highlight is the launch of the third book in the educational trilogy, "Mga Kuwentong Bitin nina Bart at Eugene," on August 5, 2025, raising ENT awareness among schoolchildren.

These efforts reflect STENTS' values of respect, resourcefulness, resilience, ethical foundations, teamwork, and social awareness. Looking ahead, STENTS will continue supporting members through education and advocacy programs aligned with PSO-HNS goals.

## Western Visayas Chapter

Following the success of the 2024 PSO-HNS Midyear Convention, the Western Visayas Chapter geared up for 2025 marked by a strong commitment to service, education, and community engagement. Most activities were conducted in collaboration with the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital (CLMMRH) and Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC), the two ORL-HNS residency programs where many chapter members serve as consultant staff.

Linis Tenga missions, a chapter advocacy, provided ear care to communities including Sta. Barbara in Iloilo, as well as the Kalipay Negrense Foundation and Welcome Home Foundation in Negros Occidental.

Public lay fora at the CLMMRH and WVMC Outpatient Departments, with radio guestings by PSO-HNS fellows and residents, covered topics such as Noise-Induced Hearing Loss and supported Pinoy ENT Allergy Week, World Hearing Day, Goiter Awareness Week, World Voice Day, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week, and Cleft Awareness Month.

As part of the chapter's ecologic advocacy, a tree planting activity was held at Sunset Boulevard in Iloilo City, with more planned at other sites.

On May 9, the Chapter, in cooperation with St. Paul's Hospital Iloilo, Inc. ORL-HNS Department, hosted "FEESST, STROBOSCOPY, AND BLUE LASER SURGERY: INNOVATIONS IN LARYNGEAL INTERVENTION." This program featured lectures by Dr. Cathrine Miura and Dr. William Lim, and included live laser surgeries and a hands-on workshop.

Looking ahead, the Chapter is preparing for WVMC's Western Visayas Head and Neck Ultrasound Course 1 on August 23, 2025. This essential course, in collaboration with PSO-HNS and Dul-II-An Foundation, Inc., underscores the Chapter's dedication to advancing professional knowledge.

The Chapter's 49 fellows across Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Capiz, Aklan, and Antique, and its partnership with the two training institutions, continue to advance ENT healthcare and serve the Western Visayas region.



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

The Academy for Head and Neck Oncology of the Philippines (AHNOP), now on its 18th year since its conceptualization in 2007, continues to work hand in hand with PSO-HNS and training institutions nationwide to improve patient care through collaborative learning and increased public awareness of head and neck tumors.

Activities for 2025 began in April, in time for the Head and Neck Cancer Consciousness and Awareness Week (HANDACOW). From April 21-27, AHNOP hosted "Takbo Para Sa Buhay," a virtual advocacy run promoting head and neck cancer awareness and community wellness. On April 22, 2025, AHNOP members from the Visayas region held the annual Virtual Inter-hospital Grand Rounds, allowing institutions in the region to present and discuss complex head and neck cancer cases with a panel of experts in surgical, radiation, and medical oncology.

Training institutions nationwide also conducted lay forums on head and neck cancer, mainly in outpatient departments, with patients and their carers as audience. Several groups participated in media interviews through radio features and social media videos. To conclude the April activities, the ORL-HNS Department of Makati Medical Center hosted the Annual Basic Head and Neck Post-graduate Course last April 28-29, 2025, giving trainees and consultants an opportunity to review and update knowledge on the diagnosis and management of head and neck tumors.

For the rest of the year, AHNOP aims to participate in and lead activities for national and international programs, including the IFHNOS World Head and Neck Cancer Day on July 27 and the DOH National Thyroid Cancer Awareness Week in September. The Academy will also continue delivering lectures on head and neck cancer during its general assemblies and will maintain its quarterly interhospital grand rounds in collaboration with training institutions and regional chapters.



## Philippine Academy of Audiology (PAAUD)

The Philippine Academy of Audiology (PAAud), under the Philippine Society of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS), organized lectures and activities for 2024-2025. Through scientific sessions, workshops, and member-focused programs, PAAud supports excellence in audiology education, advocacy, and service.

On October 25, 2024, "Vertigo Bootcamp: A Comprehensive Course for Primary Care Physicians" was held at Seda Vertis North, providing knowledge and practical training in vertigo management. PAAud joined Deaf Awareness Week from November 11-15, 2024, offering

free hearing screening and lay forums on hearing and hearing loss.

During the PSO-HNS Annual Convention on December 6, 2024, PAAud hosted a symposium featuring Dr. Jona Minette Ligon, Dr. Melanie Grace Cruz, and Dr. Joyce Rodvie Sagun, who presented approaches in otology and audiology. On the same day, PAAud received the Outstanding PSO-HNS Subspecialty Academy Advocacy Program Award.

On January 28, 2025, PAAud held a lecture on Auditory Brainstem Response with Ms. Ultima Angela Alparce. For World Hearing Day, a workshop “Collectively Crafting an Empowerment Vision for Ear and Hearing Care” was held on February 24, 2025, emphasizing collaboration and advocacy.

In partnership with the Department of Health, PAAud conducted a Newborn Hearing Screening Certifying Course for members in May-June 2025 at the UP College of Medicine. PAAud held its First Quarter Meeting, featuring a lecture on over-the-counter hearing aids by Mr. Danny Goh, and contributed to PWD Guidelines for Hearing Loss released on June 9, 2025.

On March 14, 2025, PAAud and Manila Central University held an Audiology Course on dizziness management. At the May 28, 2025 midyear convention, Dr. Ligon and Dr. Cruz delivered “From Learning to Leading: A Dual Perspective in Otology.” On August 9, 2025, PAAud co-hosted a Dizziness Masterclass and Workshop with Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and the PSO-HNS Northern Luzon Chapter.

These activities reflect commitment to audiology excellence.



## Philippine Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery (PACMFS)

### The Philippine Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery: Advancing Excellence in Surgical Care and Advocacy

Since its founding in 2004, the Philippine Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery has led a transformative journey in the field. Through its commitment to education, innovation, research, and service, the academy has become a pillar of excellence within the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS) and wider medical community.

A key driver of the academy’s success is its training program for fellows and residents. Guided by a faculty of experts, the academy plays a vital role in shaping future ENT-Head and Neck Surgeons in managing craniomaxillofacial cases. Trainees benefit from monthly online lectures, hands-on learning, mentorship, and exposure to surgical techniques, equipping them with skills and confidence to address cases effectively.



To advance academic growth, the academy hosted postgraduate courses emphasizing techniques essential in restoring facial skeletal function and integrating 3D printing technology. These courses provide trainees with knowledge needed to handle complex cases and improve surgical outcomes.

The academy also pursues publishable research. In collaboration with prominent institutions, it continues to explore innovative techniques, materials, and technologies in craniomaxillofacial surgery. This culture of inquiry drives continuous progress for patients and the broader medical field.

The academy is likewise proactive in road safety advocacy. Recognizing the high incidence of craniomaxillofacial injuries from traffic-related events, it has launched awareness campaigns promoting prevention and safer road practices. This complements its mission by addressing treatment and prevention. The academy has also created a referral network to direct inquiries to the nearest craniomaxillofacial surgeons across the country.

In just over two decades, the Philippine Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery has demonstrated excellence in surgical education, research, service, and advocacy. Its ongoing efforts to train future surgeons, drive innovation, reach underserved communities, and promote safety continue to set benchmarks in the field.

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

### Membership

PAFPRS held its executive meeting to discuss plans for coming year. Thirteen PSO-HNS fellows were inducted as new members, and five senior mentors were honored for their contributions: Dr. Eduardo C. Yap, Dr. Jose Florencio P. Lapeña, Dr. Roberto Pangan, Dr. Eutrapio S. Guevara, and Dr. Philip P. Nolasco.

### Activities with Other Organizations

Vice-Chair Dr. Eduardo Francisco Tanlapco and Secretary Dr. Christopher John Batan represented PAFPRS at the PSO-HNS Leadership Summit. During Midyear Convention, Dr. Mark Fernandez and Dr. Galen Clark Perez delivered lectures on rhinoplasty.

### Webinars and Scientific Meetings

PAFPRS launched its webinar series “Before the Cut,” covering facial photography, aesthetic analysis, scar management, nutritional effects on wound healing, and nonsurgical scar care with dermatologist Dr. Athena Mallari.



The first Scientific Meeting, led by Academic Officer Dr. Alfanta, focused on "Microtia and Atresia Repair," with lecturers by Dr. Ivy Tangco and Dr. Erasmo Llanes, moderated by Dr. Candice Que-Ansorge.

The second meeting, "Principles in Cleft Rhinoplasty," featured Dr. Konrad Aguila and Dr. Eduardo C. Yap, moderated by Dr. Genilou Jimena-Baligod.

### Advocacy and Collaborations

For National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month, PAFPRS held a Scientific Meeting, interhospital grand rounds, and an E-poster and infomercial contest. The "Adopt a Bungie" medical mission was conducted with Kiwanis International, Operation Rainbow Australia, Adventist Hospital Cebu, VSMMC, and PAFPRS volunteers, providing cleft surgeries and hands-on surgical training.

### Post-Graduate Courses

Fellows joined RHINOMAMA, an intensive rhinoplasty masterclass. The Basic Facial Plastic Surgery Course was held at St. Luke's Medical Center, and the Scientific Meeting highlighted innovations in congenital ear reconstruction.

### Research Activities

Fellows initiated studies on necrotizing fasciitis, septorhinoplasty findings, cleft palate analysis, rib cartilage rhinoplasty outcomes, and columellar reconstruction.

### Future Activities

UP-PGH will host the Septorhinoplasty Course. The next scientific meeting will focus on secondary orbital reconstruction in partnership with PACMFS.

### Philippine Academy of Laryngobroncho-esophagology and Phoniatics (PALP)

For 2025-2026, the Philippine Academy of Laryngobronchoesophagology and Phoniatics (PALP) is led by its newly appointed chair, Dr. Maria Shamylle C. Quinto. The Academy continues its commitment to advancing the subspecialty through regular scientific activities that update members on developments in laryngology.

In observance of World Voice Day last April, institutions conducted lay fora to promote proper voice care. The QCGH Department of ORL-HNS hosted the PBO-HNS-required LBEN Course and Workshop on April 24-26, 2025. On April 26, PALP participated in VoiceConPH, the country's premier voice development event attended by over 2,000 participants, with Dr. Quinto and Dr. Arlene Bongosia as lecturers.



Dr. Quinto was also featured in a Rappler interview, where she highlighted the evolving role of ORL-HNS specialists in voice and upper aerodigestive tract care. PALP launched a directory on social media to help patients identify certified voice specialists.

In partnership with SV More, a lay forum was held at Quezon City High School and Kamuning Elementary School, covering voice physiology, vocal hygiene, and common interventions for sore throat and hoarseness.

St. Luke's Medical Center Global City held a post-graduate course on "Office-Based Laryngology Procedures" last June 21, 2025, with Prof. Marina Mat Baki from Malaysia as guest speaker. Batangas Medical Center followed with its course, "From Squeaks to Speeches: The Larynx's Coming of Age," on June 28, 2025, focusing on issues affecting the professional voice.

The Philippine Academy of Speech Pathologists (PASP), in partnership with PALP, held a dysphagia assessment workshop on July 11, 2025. PASP also presented the "Parangal sa Natatanging Kaagapay Katuwang sa Pagkakakilanlan" award to PALP on July 13, 2025.

PALP will host the 5th Laryngology Quiz Bee with Unilab on August 10, 2025, and remains steadfast in promoting laryngologic education, advocacy, and research.

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

After a successful Annual Convention in 2024 at Shangri-La EDSA, the Philippine Academy of Neurotology, Otology, and Related Sciences (PANORS) has remained focused on its advocacies in otology and vestibulology.

The work toward establishing an equitable and justifiable definition of persons with hearing disability continues this 2025. With the final proposal set for presentation at the PSO-HNS Townhall Meeting in October 2025, and with the significant contribution of Dr. Elmer Dela Cruz, PANORS hopes to forward the proposal to the Department of Health and open it for review by other concerned community groups.

In vestibulology, PANORS has collaborated with the Philippine National Ear Institute and Abbott Pharmaceuticals to implement the Vertigo Teams Preceptorship Workshop for family medicine practitioners and general ENTs. This initiative aims to capacitate clinicians and enhance diagnostic and treatment skills for common vertigo conditions. Most recently, the workshop was held in Cebu on August 30, 2025 at Seda Ayala Center, where participants received training on history taking, diagnostic tools, and management of both common and less common vestibular disorders.



Additional workshops are planned for October and November 2025, and PANORS encourages PSO-HNS fellows to attend.

### **Philippine Academy of Otorhinolaryngic Allergy and Clinical Immunology (PAORLACI)**

The Philippine Otorhinolaryngic Allergy and Clinical Immunology (PAORLACI) remains steadfast in its mission to advance ENT Allergy through meaningful initiatives in 2025.

The year began with the 2nd ORLACI Interhospital Grand Rounds held at The Medical City South Luzon, featuring participation from three institutions and valuable insights from a multidisciplinary panel that included an allergologist, pathologist, and rheumatologist.

Another highlight of the year was the 2nd ENT Pinoy Allergy Week, held from January 23-28, 2025. The event featured lay forums and free clinics conducted across various training institutions from Luzon to Mindanao, aimed at raising public awareness about ENT allergies. The campaign reached a wide audience through multiple platforms, including face-to-face sessions, radio and TV broadcasts and Facebook Live, ensuring accessible and inclusive engagement nationwide.

Dr. Anne Marie Espiritu and Dr. Eileen Lim represented PAORLACI at the Leaders' Summit, where they engaged with fellow ENTs and key leaders to discuss current challenges and share best practices for advancing the field of Otorhinolaryngic Allergy and Clinical Immunology.

Acknowledging the role of environmental factors in allergy management, PAORLACI also shares regular educational content via its members' Viber group to promote awareness and sustainable practices.

PAORLACI is currently preparing for its upcoming postgraduate course entitled "Immunology of Pain in ENT Diseases," a pioneering program that aims to explore



the complex interplay between the immune system and pain mechanisms in otorhinolaryngologic conditions.

Through these diverse initiatives, PAORLACI continues to promote education, collaboration, and improved care in Otorhinolaryngic Allergy. With these endeavors, the academy aims to elevate its standard of care and contribute meaningfully to the global dialogue on ENT allergy and clinical immunology.

### **Philippine Academy of Pediatric Otolaryngology (PAPO)**

This year, the academy participated in two high yield post-graduate activities: "ENT Conditions in Children 4 - Pediatric Airway and Swallowing: Unlocking the Essentials," held and organized by the Department of ORL-HNS of Victoriano Luna General Hospital in July 2025; and "Pediatric ORL Practices in the Outpatient Setting: A Postgraduate Dive," organized by the Ear, Nose, Throat, Head and Neck Institute of The Medical City in September 2025. Both courses were graced by multispecialty experts in Laryngology and Phoniatrics, Speech Rehabilitation, and Pediatrics.

The academy welcomed new members: Dr. Abbey Salcedo, Dr. Deanna Guillen, Dr. Allan Labotan, and Dr. Louise Canta, the latter three being graduates of local clinical fellowship programs. The academy is also continuing its efforts toward PRC accreditation of the subspecialty, supported by existing fellowship training programs in the Philippine Children's Medical Center and East Avenue Medical Center.

The academy is developing strategies and programs to revive its advocacy on preventing foreign body incidents in children and looks forward to collaborating with PSO-HNS chapters to strengthen the campaign.

In November, most members will attend the 10th Asia-Pacific Pediatric Otolaryngology Society Conference (formerly the Asia-Pacific Pediatric Otolaryngology Group) in Seoul, South Korea.

Several members will present locally conducted cases and research to share knowledge and experiences with pediatric ENT colleagues worldwide.

The academy looks forward to a fruitful 2026 with its upcoming plans and initiatives.



### **Philippine Academy of Rhinology (PAR)**

The Philippine Academy of Rhinology (PAR) is off to a strong start in 2025 with the distribution of a Strategic Survey to PSO-HNS Fellows and non-Fellows, including residents, board-eligible graduates, and Diplomates. This initiative sought to assess whether PAR continues to uphold its Mission and Vision, gather feedback on prog-



programs such as the ESS Course, Practical Rhinology, academic meetings, and welcome suggestions for future offerings.

The new PAR leadership team, Dr. Rodante Roldan (Chair), Dr. Ma. Lourdes Enecilla (Vice Chair), Dr. Soraya Joson (Secretary), Dr. Gianele Ricca Sugcang (Treasurer), Dr. Ryan Chua (Scientific Committee Head), Dr. Giancarla Marie Ambrocio (Academic Committee Head), and Dr. January Gelera (Advocacy Committee Head), along with the Advisory Council and select members, held a Strategic Planning Workshop on February 8 at Discovery Primea, Makati. The results of the survey were presented, and plans for 2025 and the succeeding years were outlined.

PAR will continue its academic meetings for Fellows, featuring local and international offerings with the ASEAN Rhinologic Society. Immediate Past Chair, Dr. Norman Mendoza served as international faculty at the ENT Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on February 20-22. Drs. Roldan and Enecilla have been invited as international faculty to the 2025 Singapore ENT-HNS Congress and the SingHealth ENT Fortnight-SOHNSS FESS Workshop from April 5-6, and 7-8.

This year's highlights include PAR's Basic and Advanced Endoscopic Sinus Surgery Courses in July and its role as co-host of the 69th Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Annual Convention with the Philippine Academy of Sleep Surgery, themed "Breathing Better, Living Better: Advances in Rhinology, Smell, Skull Base, and Sleep Surgery." PAR will also introduce new initiatives, including the "Dr. Ramon V. Arcenas Rhinology Research Contest" during the Convention and "MUST NOSE: Rhinology Quiz Bee", reflecting its commitment to balanced, interactive, and values-driven learning.

### Philippine Academy of Sleep Surgery (PASS)

The Philippine Academy of Sleep Surgery (PASS) marked 2025 with meaningful initiatives that advanced its mission of promoting awareness, education, and collaboration in the field of Sleep Medicine.

In March, PASS joined the global celebration of World Sleep Day by organizing lay fora across institutions in Metro Manila and the provinces. These activities provided accessible education on sleep health, while the release of infographics through social media extended reach and engagement nationwide.

Members of PASS also participated in the 18th Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Sleep Medicine (PSSM), held on March 20-22, 2025, at Seda Vertis North Hotel. The event, themed #EveryDaySleep: Healthy Sleep for a Healthy Life, highlighted the growing importance of sleep health in overall wellbeing. PASS members, Dr. Keith Romeo Aguilera, Dr. Michael Alexius Sarte, and Dr.

Maria Patricia Ann Puno-Prodigalidad were among the distinguished speakers who shared their expertise.

The academy likewise acknowledges the work of Dr. Jimmy Chang, current PSSM President, who coordinated with the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and addressed the MMDA Road Safety Summit, emphasizing the critical role of sleep in public safety.

Institutional progress was notable this year, with St. Luke's Medical Center and The Medical City formally accredited by the Philippine Board of Sleep Medicine. Both hospitals offer subspecialty training programs in Sleep Medicine, open to graduates of ORL-HNS residency programs.

Looking ahead, PASS members are set to represent the Philippines at the World Sleep Congress in Singapore in September 2025, further strengthening the academy's engagement in global discussions on sleep health. From December 2-4, 2025, PASS and PAR will co-host the 69th PSO-HNS Annual Convention, themed Breathing Better, Living Better: Advances in Rhinology, Smell, Skull Base and Sleep Surgery.

Through these efforts, PASS continues to foster awareness, collaboration, and expertise in advancing sleep medicine in the country.

## TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

### Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center

ARMMC Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery: A Year of Growth, Impact, and Service

The Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center (ARMMC) continues to advance under the leadership of Chairman Dr. Terence Jason Flores. This year, the department celebrates the success of its new diplomate, Dr. Marice Sangalang, whose achievement reflects the institution's enduring commitment to excellence in clinical training and professional development.

Three new first-year residents—Dr. Erwin Manipol, Dr. Arvin Benedict Torres, and Dr. John Paul Gaza—joined the program, bringing enthusiasm and dedication to the field. The department also welcomed new consultants: Dr. Fatima Gansatao and Dr. Miguel Mendoza (Rhinology), and Dr. Catherine Miura (Laryngotracheo-bronchoesophagology), whose expertise enhances both academic and clinical pursuits.

Community engagement remained central to the department's mission, highlighted by the Annual Valentine's Celebration, a fundraising initiative that supported ward and outpatient services.

Internationally, the department made a notable presence at the 2025 International Congress of Otorhino-



laryngology Research in South Korea, under Research Coordinator Dr. Rubiliza Telan. Dr. Angela Marie Rosario Jao and Dr. Gytha Kate Torres-Valenzuela presented Phases II and III of the PAAUD study on mHealth hearing screening tools, offering insights into accessible hearing care in urban schools. Residents Dr. Patricia Daganta and Dr. Allen Bundocalso contributed rare case reports via e-poster presentations.

In-house academic activities included the Basic Stroboscopy and Bronchoscopy Workshop and the 2nd Endoscopic Sinus Surgery Workshop, enhancing residents' procedural competence. Outreach efforts continued through a Medical and Surgical Mission in Silang, Cavite, and four successful cleft surgeries led by Dr. Ma. Carmelita Samaco and Dr. Konrad Aguila.

Looking ahead, ARMMC ORL-HNS prepares for Cleft Workshop 2025, the Larynx Postgraduate Course, and Runny Nose 2026, reaffirming its commitment to innovation, education, and compassionate care.

### Asian Hospital and Medical Center

The Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery of the Asian Hospital and Medical Center, one of the largest tertiary healthcare institutions in southern Metro Manila, continues to lead in delivering comprehensive otolaryngologic care across Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Las Piñas, and the neighboring provinces of Cavite and Laguna.

For over two decades, the department has promoted community health through public awareness initiatives, screening programs, and continuing medical education. Its annual postgraduate course, ENT Essentials, serves as a platform for general practitioners and allied health professionals to enhance their competencies in otolaryngology and improve access to quality ENT care for Filipinos.

In early 2025, the department celebrated World Hearing Day 2025 with a hospital-based event at the Asian Hospital main lobby. More than 100 patients benefited from free ear consultations, accompanied by a string performance led by Dr. Ernest Mañas. The same event marked the inauguration of the Asian ENT Center, a state-of-the-art facility offering specialized services in hearing, balance, voice, swallowing, and head and neck point-of-care ultrasound and biopsy.

In the latter half of 2024, the department successfully conducted the 18th iteration of ENT Essentials, titled ENT EssENTials 18: Partnering with the ENT MD for Facial Enhancement, Rejuvenation, & Restoration. Featuring an aesthetic filler workshop and lecture series, the event drew over 500 participants and 1,000 additional online registrants.



Looking ahead, the department will host ENT Essentials 19, themed The Ezzentials of Snoring and Sleep Apnea, focusing on multidisciplinary collaboration in the diagnosis and management of sleep-related breathing disorders through the integration of specialist, general practitioner, and allied health expertise.

### Baguio General Hospital

The Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery promotes awareness, education, and community service via numerous initiatives. The department held various activities to demonstrate its dedication to healthcare and togetherness.

Dr. Sherwin Biasura appeared on the Baguio Chronicles Online Podcast on January 28 to celebrate Goiter Awareness Week 2025. The program was hosted by Dr. Frederick Mars Untalan and posted online. On January 31, Drs. Biasura, Reden Malote, and Alehxandra Garay spoke during a Goiter Awareness Lay Forum at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center Out-Patient Department.

The department updated consultants' and residents' personal data sheets and the department organizational chart at its annual picture-taking session at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center Garden on February 5. The department held a Eucharistic Celebration for Saint Blaise, the Patron Saint of Throats.

On March 8, Dr. Jefferson Peckley and Dr. Carlene Erica Hipol appeared on the Baguio Chronicles Online Podcast to celebrate World Hearing Day 2025. World Sleep Day 2025 guest speaker Dr. Beverly Carbonell appeared on the same podcast on March 14.

Dr. Justin Cacayuran and Dr. Moses Dong-on visited a Bontoc General Hospital Medical and Surgical Caravan on April 4-6, offering minor surgeries to the community. For World Voice Day 2025, Drs. Carlo Paolo Pagalilauan, Christian Clyde Apigo, and Alehxandra Garay lectured on voice awareness on April 16.



On April 26–27, the department hosted the 1st Northern Luzon Quarterly Meeting in Ion Hotel, Baguio City. Dr. Sherwin Biasura, president of the North Luzon ENT Chapter, organized the event, which was attended by the PSOHNS Board of Trustees. The PSO-HNS HELPS ENT Catalogue was launched at the meeting to equip primary healthcare professionals with ENT information and resources.

Department members bonded at "First Blood," its annual team-building event, on May 4 in Bauang, La Union. Later, consultants and residents attended the 2025 PSOHNS Midyear on May 28-30.

The department plans to conduct more lay fora at its outpatient service to promote awareness of more ENT-related health activities, in accordance with DOH activities.

## Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center

In celebration of World Ear Care Day 2025, the Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery (O-HNS) of Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center (Bataan GHMC) held an Ear and Hearing Care Lay Forum on March 4, 2025, at the hospital's OB-Gyne Ward. The event, conducted in partnership with the Public Health Unit and Newborn Hearing Screening Unit (NHSU), focused on promoting awareness of ear care and hearing health among mothers of roomed-in newborns.

In observance of the National Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week, the Department held a week-long event from April 24 to 30, 2025, focused on education, prevention, and treatment of head and neck cancers. The activities began with a two-day Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Lay Forum on April 24 and 25, reaching both radio audiences and outpatient attendees.

On April 26, the department successfully conducted a Surgical Mission for Minor Head and Neck Neoplasms, offering free excision and biopsy procedures to 30 pre-screened patients in need. This was followed by the relaunch of "Pasilip Ka: Head and Neck Cancer Screening" on April 28 during the hospital's flag ceremony, where employees and individuals at risk were encouraged to undergo free screening and evaluation.

The Department successfully hosted the "Central Luzon Maxillofacial Prosthesis Workshop," its first in-house Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery post graduate course, on July 10–11, 2025, in coordination with the Philippine Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery (PACMFS) and the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS) Central Luzon Chapter (CELENT). The workshop brought together OHNS consultants and residents from Bataan GHMC,



Jose B. Lingad Memorial General Hospital, and Dr. Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Research and Medical Center. It aimed to strengthen regional capabilities in craniofacial rehabilitation through maxillofacial prosthetics. Participants took part in lectures and hands-on sessions on the fabrication and application of essential prostheses such as feeding obturators with nasoalveolar molding (NAM), maxillary obturators, gunning splints, and occlusal splints.

Through these efforts, BataanGHMC continues to raise the bar in regional health service delivery—bringing awareness, hope, and healing to the community it serves.

## Batangas Medical Center

The Batangas Medical Center (BatMC) is one of the newest accredited training programs in ORL-HNS, the second to be accredited in the Southern Tagalog Region, and the only DOH Level III hospital to be accredited in the region.

The Department of Otorhinolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery is geared towards providing quality ENT service not just to the province of Batangas, but to the whole of CALABARZON. As a training institution, it is committed to providing highly skilled, excellent and compassionate specialists dedicated to serving the community with ear, nose, throat, head and neck concerns. The department is also determined to make advancements in research and innovation to cultivate its healthcare professionals into providing the highest standards of care.



This year, the Batangas Medical Center has formally inaugurated its ENT Care Center highlighting its Out-Patient Department and Hearing Center. This was attended by the hospital's administrative staff, esteemed health care professionals and distinguished doctors in the field of ENT. This commences another special center of the hospital providing service to underserved communities with its leading-edge equipment and materials. Beyond clinical care, the department remains active in education and outreach by hosting postgraduate courses, participating in medical missions, organizing community health forums, and supporting research competitions. This underscores its commitment to public service, continuing education, and the advancement of ENT care in the region.

**Bicol Medical Center**

BMC ENT-HNS Department: A Year of Service, Growth, and Community Care

The Bicol Medical Center ENT-HNS Department looks back on a meaningful and productive year—one filled with opportunities to serve, educate, and grow alongside the community. Over the past year, the department actively joined global health observances such as World Allergy Day, World Hearing Day, and World Voice Day, with special attention to promoting vocal health among teachers. We also launched a Voice Awareness Campaign in partnership with DepEd Camarines Sur, helping educators access early intervention through our upcoming Voice and Swallowing Clinic. Bringing quality ENT services closer to the people remains a top priority.

Through Lakbay Serbisyo, we've reached numerous barangays and municipalities across Camarines Sur over the past three years. Alongside medical missions, these efforts ensure that ENT care is accessible to underserved communities.

We continue to raise awareness through annual participation in Head and Neck Awareness Week. A heartfelt highlight this year was the Gift Giving Activity at our ENT Head and Neck Tumor Clinic, where we extended support and care to cancer patients and their families.



Beyond patient care, we proudly served as part of the organizing team for the Mid-Year Convention held in Legazpi City, Albay, reflecting our commitment to professional growth and collaboration in the medical field.

This year, we also welcomed three new consultants, adding strength and expertise to our growing department. In May 2025, we successfully completed our accreditation, reaffirming our dedication to safe, high-quality, and compassionate ENT care.

As always, we remain committed to serving with heart, advancing education, and improving lives across Bicol and beyond.

**Cagayan de Oro Consortium of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery**

In observance of Head and Neck Consciousness Week last April 2025, our department actively participated in raising public awareness about head and neck cancers, particularly targeting the community in Northern Mindanao. The event featured educational materials and interactive activities set up in the outpatient lobby, accessible to patients and visitors alike. This awareness

effort in Northern Mindanao outpatient areas reflects our commitment to educating the public and improving head and neck cancer outcomes through community-centered healthcare initiatives. We aim to continue and expand these programs in the coming years to reach more individuals and foster healthier communities.

In the recent Midyear Conference held in May 2025, our very own Dr. Shaira Cagulada, a resident in our department, achieved an impressive milestone by securing 3rd place in the Interesting Case Presentation category. This accolade highlights her dedication, clinical acumen, and commitment to advancing knowledge within the field of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery.

In July 2025, our department proudly commemorated World Hearing Day, a global initiative dedicated to raising awareness about hearing health and promoting preventive measures to address hearing loss. This year's celebration focused on spreading knowledge through a series of insightful lectures aimed at healthcare professionals, patients, and the wider community.



The lectures fostered an interactive environment where participants exchanged ideas, discussed innovations in hearing technology, and explored ways to encourage safe listening practices. This event reinforced our department's commitment to advocacy in ear and hearing care and emphasized the importance of early detection and intervention in mitigating the impact of hearing loss.

We look forward to continuing these efforts, expanding educational outreach, and collaborating with stakeholders to enhance ear health awareness in future World Hearing Day celebrations.

**Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital**

The Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery of Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital welcomed 2025 with renewed purpose and dedication. Guided by our core values of service, education, and advocacy, we engaged in a series of activities that touched lives both inside and beyond the hospital.

In March, residents Dr. Casten Jose Sixto Guanzon and Dr. Randzae Alexxi Dosono brought home the championship from the Southern Mindanao Chapter-led First VisMin Cummings Quiz Bee in Davao City. Under the mentorship of Dr. Michael Joseph David, their win was not just a victory for the department, but also a



reflection of our shared dedication to lifelong learning.

The Department's advocacy efforts remained strong. It conducted a cleft lip surgery mission on February 28, in collaboration with Dr. Virgilio De Gracia and the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center College of Medicine Class of 1983. As part of the Western Visayas Chapter's ongoing advocacy, we also extended their Linis Tenga program to two institutions. This year, the beneficiaries included the Kalipay Negrense Foundation in Bago City, which provides protection and rehabilitation for disadvantaged children, and the Welcome Home Foundation, a center for deaf individuals and children with multiple disabilities. At the latter, the team positively impacted over 40 deaf-mute patients and the foundation's staff.

The Department also observed key health awareness campaigns, celebrating Goiter Awareness Week, World Hearing Day, World Voice Day, and Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week with informative outpatient department lectures and several AM radio guest appearances. A thyroid surgery mission is also scheduled to coincide with July's World Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Day.

Reflecting on the considerable efforts of the first half of 2025, the Department is proud of its team's unwavering commitment to excellence in patient care, education, and community service.

## Cagayan Valley Medical Center

In support of various health celebrations, the Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS) of Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) actively participated in several meaningful activities in the first half of 2025.

As part of the Goiter Awareness Week celebration last February 2025, a lay forum was conducted – free consultations held at the Public Health Unit of Solana and the CVMC Outpatient Department triage, reaching out to communities for goiter consciousness, prevention and early detection.

To celebrate World Hearing Day in March 2025, the department conducted a campaign on hearing and ear care among CVMC employees - senior personnel, those with ear-related concerns, and employees exposed to high noise. This initiative highlighted the importance of protecting ear and hearing health and encouraged preventive practices against hearing loss.



To enhance surgical training, the department successfully hosted the third annual in-house Basic Facial Plastic Course (Pig's Foot Workshop) last March 2025. Spearheaded by Dr. Arnie John David, Fellow in Facial Plastics, the workshop provided hands-on learning opportunities in basic facial plastic techniques for residents, clerks, and interns.

The Department additionally established dedicated subspecialty units, underscoring our continued commitment to the advancement of patient care: Sleep Study Room; Otology, Neurology, Hearing and Dizziness Center; Sinus and Allergy Center; Voice and Swallowing Center; and lastly, Maxillofacial and Plastic Center.

Looking ahead, the department anticipates even more productive years with the upcoming establishment of the CVMC Multispecialty Center, which includes an ENT Center. In preparation for this advancement, fellowship training is actively underway to further elevate the level of subspecialty care: Dr. Heather Grace Dulnuan is currently in Taiwan, subspecializing in Rhinology; Dr. Randy Bersamin is undergoing training in Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in UP-PGH. And in preparation for the establishment of the Sleep Medicine Unit in CVMC, Dr. Vion Guzman is pursuing her specialty in Sleep Medicine at The Medical City.

Through its dedication to public service, training excellence, and surgical innovation, the Department continues to build momentum toward becoming a leading center for ENT care in the region and beyond.

## Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital & Sanitarium

### DJNRMHS Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery: Advancing Awareness, Skills, and Community Care

The Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS) of Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium (DJNRMHS) continues to uphold its mission of promoting ENT awareness, enhancing clinical competence, and strengthening community engagement through a dynamic lineup of activities.

In celebration of Oral Health Month, the department, in partnership with the Dental Service, held a lay forum on February 17 focusing on oral hygiene and the complications of poor oral health. Participants received complimentary dental hygiene kits to encourage preventive care.

That same month, the department upgraded its diagnostic armamentarium with the acquisition of an ABR/ASSR machine, tympanometer, and portable ultrasound unit, enhancing early detection and manage-



ment of hearing loss and other ENT conditions.

On March 8, the department observed World Hearing Day through a lay forum and free hearing consultation and screening. This was followed by an in-house workshop on basic suturing techniques on March 15, attended by residents from various training institutions. The month of April highlighted World Voice Day and Head and Neck Consciousness Week, featuring the inspiring story of a laryngeal cancer survivor under departmental care.

Last May, an in-house septoplasty course was held at the Karl Storz Training Center in BGC, while Road Safety Month was marked by a lay forum on ENT injuries related to vehicular accidents.

A key milestone was the launch of ENT HELPS (Handog ng ENT Specialists sa LiPunan at Sambahayan) on June 18, a community program training barangay health workers in North Caloocan on basic ENT care and referral pathways, in coordination with the PSO-HNS Advocacy Committee.

In November, the department will host its 2nd Nursing Care Postgraduate Course on Multidisciplinary ENT Care, reaffirming its commitment to collaborative, patient-centered service.

**De La Salle University Medical Center**

**Advancing Lasallian Excellence in Service and Education**

The De La Salle University Medical Center (DLSUMC) Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery upholds the Lasallian Mission and Vision of providing quality Christian education anchored in compassionate service. In collaboration with other healthcare professionals, the department remains committed to delivering holistic and patient-centered care.

A series of lay fora on Thyroid Diseases, Allergic Rhinitis, Oral Care, and Obstructive Sleep Apnea encouraged health awareness, self-examination, and timely ENT consultation.

Several post-graduate courses and workshops were also organized to promote academic growth and interdisciplinary collaboration. “Silent Threats, Loud Solutions,” conducted in partnership with STENTS, featured an audiologist and an occupational health physician. “Suture for the Future: Go Beyond Simple Interrupted” and “Catch the Wave of the Voice” likewise fostered interdepartmental discussion and hands-on learning.

As a premier training institution, the department takes pride in the achievements of its trainees and alumni. Dr. Elmart Yap and Dr. Patricia Gato were recently conferred Diplomate status. Alumna Dr. Giancarla Gutierrez

received the 1st Place Editor’s Pick Award for her study titled “Computed Tomography Analysis of the Anterior Epitympanic Recess and Sinus Tympani Depths Among Filipino Adults at DLSUMC.” Dr. Patricia Eugenio presented “A Parathyroid Cyst Presenting as a Thyroid Nodule” during the annual convention, while Dr. Michael Dela Cruz presented “Jigsaw: A Puzzle-Like Comminution of a Nasoorbitoethmoidal Fracture” at the CMF Interhospital Grand Rounds, where DLSUMC also won first place in the road safety video competition.

Continuing to align with the standards of the Philippine Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery and the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, the department is preparing for “ENTips 3: Back to Basics” on September 13, 2025, featuring core ENT lectures and a practical workshop. Animo La Salle!

**East Avenue Medical Center**

As the National Specialty Center for ENT Care, the Department of Otorhinolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery of East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC) demonstrated leadership in education, service, and international collaboration from July 2024 to June 2025.

The department hosted three flagship postgraduate courses that defined its academic year. POCUS4@Head & Neck (July 2024) provided intensive hands-on ultrasound training for head and neck procedures. The Rhinoplasty Masterclass Manila (February 2025) featured cadaver dissections, expert lectures, and live surgical demonstrations. The 34th Temporal Bone and Basic Audiology Course (July 2025) delivered advanced otologic instruction through endoscopic and microscopic dissections.

Complementing these, in-house workshops strengthened surgical competencies in suturing, prosthesis fabrication, arch bar placement, 3D printing, and septoplasty. Public engagement also remained active through lay fora during ENT Week, Deaf Awareness Week, and other national observances. Thyroid Mission 2025 provided free surgeries and consultations for underserved thyroid patients.

Academically, the department achieved distinction by securing first place in both the PALP LBEN Quiz Bee and the PSO-HNS Descriptive Research Contest 2024.

On the global stage, EAMC was represented at the European Academy of Otology and Neuro-Otology (EAONO) and SOHNSS Singapore, earning the 2nd Best Poster Award. At the World Congress on Thyroid Cancer 2025, faculty members served as international speakers, while residents and consultants presented e-posters. Consultants also underwent specialized training in the Thyroid RFA Program in Taiwan and presented an



original simulation project at the AAO-HNSF Global Surgical Simulation 2024.

Finally, the department participated in the DOH Strategic Workshop on National Specialty Centers (July 2025), contributing to framework development, verification tools, and long-term sustainability planning for specialty care delivery nationwide.

## Eastern Visayas Medical Center



### The Unwritten Page: Charting a New Path Forward

"The road goes ever on and on, down from the door where it began," to quote J.R.R. Tolkien. The Department of ORL-HNS at the Eastern

Visayas Medical Center began its own journey on April 1, 2014, initiated by Dr. Marion Acuin. By 2018, the department achieved a significant milestone, being granted its initial one-year accreditation. Since then, the department has steadily engaged with the activities of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (PSOHNS), building a strong foundation for its future.

Over the past year, the department has undertaken several impactful activities. These include a medical mission with the ANRI Initiative Foundation, the "ENT Pasilip Program" that reached 360 elementary students. Demonstrating a deep commitment to community and sustainability, we have also participated in yearly mangrove planting and an annual multispecialty screening for children with disabilities. Our outreach efforts are further extended through OPD Lay Forums during ENT celebrations and through vital information campaigns on social media and radio.

This year, our participation has grown even further. We have entered—and successfully competed in—various programs, such as the First Visayas-Mindanao Cummings Quiz Bee, the Interesting Case Competition, and the Philippine Academy of Laser Procedures (PALP) Quiz Bee. Most recently, our participation in the PAFRS for Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness, which included case presentation and an infomercial contest, earned us a commendable 2nd place.

Our journey is far from over. As a growing department, we are driven by hope and a powerful desire to expand

our reach. We will continue to build on our achievements, offering more to our patients, strengthening our department, and enriching the community we are proud to serve.

## Far Eastern University – Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation

### A New Chapter for FEU-NRMF Medical Center: Embracing the Healthway Medical Network

The FEU-NRMF Medical Center proudly ushers in a new era as it officially becomes part of the Healthway Medical Network, a milestone that reflects the institution's continued dedication to advancing healthcare quality and patient-centered service. The rebranding, initiated with the management transition in January 2025, signifies a strategic step toward innovation, integration, and excellence in medical care.

Leading this transformative phase is Dr. Jacqueline Angeles, Chief Operating Officer and a distinguished fellow of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS). Under her leadership, the institution remains steadfast in its mission to deliver comprehensive, accessible, and compassionate care while fostering academic and clinical growth among its trainees and staff.

In alignment with its commitment to education and professional development, the department is preparing for two major academic highlights. The 27th Post-Graduate Course, titled Visage 3.0: Symmetry and Science – The Art of Facial Aesthetics, will be held in September 2025. This highly anticipated event will bring together experts and colleagues to explore both the scientific and artistic dimensions of facial aesthetic surgery, emphasizing precision, symmetry, and patient safety.

Simultaneously, preparations are underway for the in-house Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery (FESS) Course, designed to enhance surgical proficiency, strengthen evidence-based practice, and improve patient outcomes. Through these initiatives, residents and consultants alike are empowered to continually refine their clinical and operative skills.

With renewed resources, a strengthened academic foundation, and an unwavering commitment to compassionate service, FEU-NRMF Medical Center stands poised to embrace the opportunities of this new chapter—continuing its legacy of excellence in training, innovation, and holistic patient care within the Healthway Medical Network.



**Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center**



Last May 2025, the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center (ITRMC) Department of Otorhinolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery partnered with Connor District Hospital to conduct a two-day surgical mission in Kalinga-Apayao.

Spearheaded by Dr. Loreto O. Balanon and Dr. Edelgard Michael Ulep, the team—composed of residents and consultants from ITRMC—traveled to the far north to perform 28 head and neck procedures. These included thyroidectomies, parotidectomies, cheiloplasties, and various reconstructive surgeries.

This initiative was held in celebration of the 25th founding anniversary of the ITRMC ORL-HNS Department, which has long been committed to community service through programs like Oplan Silip Bunganga at Lalamunan and the Linis Tenga Program.

Moving forward, the department hopes to make this surgical mission an annual tradition—not only to sharpen the clinical expertise of its residents and specialists, but more importantly, to continue nurturing a spirit of compassion and public service.

**Jose B. Lingad Memorial General Hospital**

The year began with a temporal bone course, setting an academically enriching tone. This was led by our Chairman in collaboration with distinguished consultants and fellows from East Avenue Medical Center.

In February, the department held its first Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery (FESS) Mission, providing operative exposure to senior residents under the guidance of Rhinology consultants Dr. Joman Laxamana and Dr. Eleanor Bernas.

March featured three in-house workshops aimed at enhancing clinical and surgical competencies. The 2nd In-House Audiology Workshop, led by Dr. Roannie Castañeda, focused on Pure Tone Audiometry, Play Audiometry, and Auditory Brainstem Response. The Basic Flap and Suturing Workshop, facilitated by Dr. Cristopher Urbis, Dr. Reden Aldea, and Dr. Galen Perez, taught suturing, hand-tying, and basic reconstruction techniques. The Bronchoesophagology Workshop, led by Dr. Janice Mangahas and Dr. John Hector Pagdanganan, explored airway and esophageal endoscopy fundamentals.

In April, clinical efforts continued with a Blepharoplasty and Rhinoplasty mission, led by Dr. Galen Perez. May concluded with the inaugural Navigation Workshop, introducing participants to the use of the institution's



state-of-the-art equipment. The department also held a team building activity to promote camaraderie and collaboration among consultants, fellows, and residents. Additionally, we proudly celebrated the graduation of our first fellow, Dr. Benedick Borbe.

At the Midyear Convention, Dr. Nicole Alethea Sarmiento-Miranda represented the department in the Interesting Case Contest, presenting her research titled “Hemorrhagic Hemangioma of the Lower Lip Associated with Kasabach-Merritt Syndrome in an Infant: A Ticking Time Bomb.”

In the coming months, the department will host an international post-graduate course on voice rehabilitation, as well as a FESS Simulation Course and Cleft Lay Forum—underscoring our continued commitment to excellence in training through hands-on, consultant-led education.

**Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center**

**Advancing Innovation in Hearing and Reconstructive Surgery**

The Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRRMMC) Department of Otorhinolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery achieved two groundbreaking milestones in its pursuit of excellence as a state-of-the-art, patient-centered Apex ENT–HNS Specialty Center under the Department of Health.

On July 23, 2025, the department successfully performed its first cochlear implantation surgery, marking a new chapter in public sector hearing rehabilitation. The procedure, led by Dr. Alexander Dy under the supervision of Department Chair Dr. Elias Real and neurotologist Dr. Erasmo Gonzalo Llanes, involved a multidisciplinary team of ENT surgeons, audiologists, anesthesiologists, and rehabilitation specialists. The recipient, a two-year-old prelingually deaf female, underwent thorough medical and audiologic evaluation prior to implantation.



While cochlear implants have long been available in select institutions, JRRMMC's program represents a major step toward democratizing access to advanced hearing restoration for financially constrained patients. The initiative underscores the department's mission to expand equitable, specialized, and compassionate care to the public.

Equally remarkable was the successful first hybrid plating system implant surgery performed on June 30, 2024, for mandibular reconstruction in a 24-year-old male diagnosed with ameloblastoma. Guided by Dr. Cristina Nieves, Dr. Jay Pee Amable, and Dr. Karen Ty, the procedure utilized hybrid plating technology that merges the stability of locking constructs with the adaptability of non-locking systems—providing improved fixation, reduced tissue irritation, and optimal anatomical contouring.

These milestones highlight JRRMMC's expanding capacity for complex surgical innovation, encompassing microvascular reconstruction, virtual surgical planning, and implantable hearing solutions. Moving forward, the department aims to integrate these technologies into routine care, conduct outcome studies, and advance public access to high-quality, evidence-based surgical interventions.

## Manila Central University - Dr. Filemon D. Tanchoco Medical



The Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery of MCU-FDTMF Hospital began 2025 with a strategic planning session on February 1, led by Chairman Dr. Keithley Bryan Perez, Assistant Chair Dr. Ma. Rowena Muñoz, and Program Director Dr. Candice Que-Ansorge, aligning departmental goals toward

excellence in service, training, and research.

In celebration of World Hearing Day, the department held “Hearing Health in Focus: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Navigating Hearing Loss” on March 14–15. Organized by Dr. Jona Minette Ligon in collaboration with the American Hearing Center and the Philippine Academy of Audiology, the two-day symposium tackled topics on newborn hearing screening, early childhood detection, the developmental impact of untreated hearing loss, occupational and endocrine factors, and rehabilitation strategies. The event concluded with a community outreach program at Joseph's Clinic in Malabon City, where free ear cleaning and hearing screening services were provided.

Resident Dr. Norizcelle Pearl A. Bartolome earned Second Place at the 44th MCU-FDTMF Hospital Residents' Case Report Contest for her paper, “Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma of the Larynx in a Tertiary Hospital: A Case Report.”

Community service remains a key priority. Under Dr. Que - Ansorge and Dr. Emmanuel Samson, and with

support from Chinese benefactors, free cleft lip and palate surgeries continue for underserved patients. Likewise, free ENT outpatient services are offered every Wednesday at Joseph Clinic under Dr. Edgardo Lazaro, who also spearheads public awareness initiatives on common ENT conditions.

Through its sustained efforts in education, outreach, and patient care, the Department of ORL-HNS continues to uphold its mission of cultivating competent, compassionate, and ethical otolaryngologists, dedicated to advancing excellence in service, training, and research.

## Manila Doctors Hospital



The Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery of Manila Doctors Hospital remains steadfast in its mission to deliver exceptional, patient-centered care while advancing professional training and community outreach.

This year marked continued growth in both clinical service and academic excellence. A steady rise in patient volume, particularly among charity cases, underscored the increasing public trust in the department's specialized ENT services. Our commitment to accessible healthcare was exemplified through two major surgical outreach missions. In March 2025, the department held its annual “Bridging the Gap” Cleft Lip and Palate Surgical Mission, providing free corrective surgeries and multidisciplinary care to children with congenital deformities. The following month, our team participated in the Capiz Surgical Mission, in collaboration with the Corporate Sustainability Initiatives Office (CSIO), performing thyroid surgeries, cleft repairs, and other essential head and neck procedures for underserved communities.

In the academic arena, our residents showcased their knowledge and dedication at the **4th National Laryngology Quiz Bee**, earning **2nd place** among teams nationwide. Continuing our tradition of excellence in continuing medical education, the department hosted the **18th Microbiology and Pharmacology in ENT Post-Graduate Course**—a two-day in-person event that brought together physicians, trainees, and allied professionals for expert-led discussions designed to elevate clinical practice and promote multidisciplinary collaboration.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, the department reaffirms its commitment to advancing excellence in patient care, research, and education. With

compassion as our cornerstone, we look forward to strengthening our service to patients and communities—continuing to heal, teach, and inspire through the art and science of otolaryngology.

**Makati Medical Center**



The first half of 2025 marked continued progress for the Department of Otorhinolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery at Makati Medical Center (MMC), reinforcing its commitment to excellence in patient care, training, and innovation.

In January, health awareness took center stage through lay forums on Allergic Rhinitis and Goiter Awareness, promoting patient education. February highlighted surgical advancement with the Basic Suturing Workshop and PATA Course led by Dr. Jesster Navarro, followed by a Powered Sinus Surgery Workshop. The month culminated in a milestone—the hospital’s first Pediatric Cochlear Implant Surgery, performed by Dr. Erasmo Llanes, signifying MMC’s growing strength in otologic care.

March emphasized public and professional engagement through forums for World Hearing Day and World Sleep Day. The department also welcomed new consultants—Dr. Daryl Madrid and Dr. Shamyllie Quinto (Laryngobronchoesophagology) and Dr. Rowena Muñoz (Craniomaxillofacial Surgery) — broadening its subspecialty expertise. Consultants further enhanced their competencies at the Thyroid Ablation Workshop held at The Medical City.

April’s Basic Head and Neck Postgraduate Course drew specialists and trainees for focused discussions on oncologic and reconstructive surgery, complemented by lay forums for World Voice Day and Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week.

May featured a Microtia and Atresia Surgery webinar with the Philippine Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and the MSA Socials with the Departments of Anesthesia and Ophthalmology, strengthening interdepartmental collaboration.

In June, the **CURIS Radiofrequency Workshop** and the **20th Clinicopathologic and Radiologic Course** reaffirmed MMC’s leadership in ENT diagnostics and education.

Looking ahead, upcoming activities include the FEES and Stroboscopy Workshop (July), surgical missions in Leyte and Bacolod, and an October Strategic Planning Session to shape future directions in clinical service, training, and outreach.

**Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center**



The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center (MMM&MC) Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery continues to solidify its role as a leading center for ENT care in Northern Luzon. As the DOH-designated ENT Care Center for Region I, the department consistently evolves, expands, and innovates its services, Residency Training Program, and facilities to meet the growing healthcare needs of the region.

Community outreach and stakeholder engagement remain central to the department’s mission. Among its impactful initiatives are the multi-awarded Ear Care Mission and the Head and Neck Cancer Training Modules for BHWs, both reflecting a deep commitment to public health through education, early detection, and prevention. The department also actively partners with the DOH-BUCAS Center, helping to bring specialized ENT services closer to the underserved communities of Ilocos Norte.

The department also celebrates the achievements of its members. Dr. Alvarez was a finalist in the Oral Research Presentation at the Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS) Conference in Albay. Expanding its international footprint, Dr. Nolasco was awarded an International Visiting Fellowship in Rhinology in Korea, while Dr. Rondal is set to speak at the upcoming ASEAN ORL-HNS Congress in Cambodia and at the APPOS Congress in Korea.

In its pursuit of excellence, the department continues to build a strong roster of subspecialty-trained consultants in Head and Neck Oncology, Pediatric ENT, Otolaryngology, Sleep Medicine, Audiology, Laryngology, and Aesthetic Surgery. Currently, three graduates are undergoing subspecialty training in CMF Surgery, Rhinology, and Sleep Medicine. This continued growth strengthens the department’s training program and enhances its ability to deliver comprehensive, up-to-date, and specialized ENT care.

These milestones underscore the department’s unwavering commitment to community service, academic excellence, and international collaboration, firmly positioning it as a premier center for otorhinolaryngologic care in the Philippines.

**Ospital ng Makati**

The Ospital ng Makati Department of ORL-HNS proudly reflects on a productive year marked by academic milestones and surgical innovation. In 2024, the department hosted two successful post-graduate



courses: “Sculpting Confidence: A Basic Rhinoplasty Post-Graduate Course and Carving Workshop” held last September 14 at Ardenhills Suites, Quezon City, and the 3rd In-house Temporal Bone Course and Hands-on Workshop last October 7–11, a specialty board–required training

We proudly celebrate the accomplishments of our recent graduates, Dr. Liza Rowena Perdon-Chan and Dr. Aileen Beatrice G. Antonio, who were both conferred as diplomates of the PBO-HNS in December 2024. Dr. Perdon-Chan ranked 4th nationwide in the certifying board examination.

In 2025, we welcomed Dr. Charisse Ann Labor as our first-year resident and Dr. Christopher John Batan as consultant under head and neck reconstructive surgery. Fourth year resident, Dr. Thomase Jamilla P. Chiong represented the department internationally at the European Rhinologic Society’s Symposium in Budapest. In-house thyroid RFA training was conducted with guest lecturers Drs. Ma. Victoria Pascual, Ruby Robles, and Maria Karen Capuz, while consultants Drs. Michelle Angelica Cruz-Daylo, Elaine Lagura-Trinidad, Christopher John Batan, and Cristina Nieves underwent advanced RFA training at Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital. Additionally, the department was recognized as the 2nd leading facility in hearing screening output nationwide by the Newborn Hearing Screening Reference Center.

Looking ahead, the department prepares for its post-graduate course “Refine and Define: Mastering Facial Aesthetics, Botox and Fillers Lecture and Workshop,” and department accreditation on September 5, 2025.

## Ospital ng Maynila



The year 2025 has been a landmark period for the Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery of the Ospital ng Maynila Medical Center, highlighted by academic excellence, surgical innovation, and global recognition.

Even before the year began, the department achieved a significant milestone when Dr. Tristan Galvez won First Place in Poster Presentation on Surgical Innovation during the 68th PSO-HNS Annual Convention in December 2024—a testament to the department’s pioneering spirit and commitment to advancing surgical techniques.

In January 2025, Dr. Ariele Laudencia represented the department at the Interdepartmental Research Contest hosted by OMMC, reaffirming the unit’s dedication to research and academic leadership. The following month, the department collaborated with East Avenue Medical Center for the *Rhinoplasty Masterclass – Manila*, a major educational event featuring expert-led lectures and live demonstrations.

A milestone achievement followed in April with the successful completion of the department’s first Fellowship Program in Otology, marking a new era in advanced subspecialty training. In May, Dr. Laudencia presented her research at the Third International Conference on ENT – Head and Neck Surgery in Dubai, UAE, bringing international recognition to the department. Her study is also slated for presentation at the Descriptive Research Competition of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery in August 2025.

The department sustained its momentum with the Second Ear Masterclass Course in June, followed by two major postgraduate programs—the *Minimally Invasive Facial Aesthetic Surgery Course* in August and the *Second Functional Nasal Surgery Course* in September.

As 2025 draws to a close, the department remains steadfast in its mission to advance education, research, and compassionate patient care, reflecting the dedication and excellence of its entire team.

## Dr. Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Research and Medical Center



To start the year with a bang, the Department launched an infomercial entitled “I-Check mo, Neck mo!” in celebration of Goiter Awareness Month. The catchiness allowed for a significant impact on our audience, garnering multiple social media reactions and increasing inquiries regarding goiter.

The next few months, we campaigned and promoted hearing loss awareness and ear care. One of which was a radio guest appearance by Dr. C. Tibayan, who discussed the Auditory Brainstem Response testing, a new diag-

nostic service at the institution. This was then followed by conducting the very first ABR on one of our patients. This milestone is also marked as a first in Nueva Ecija. Another infomercial with an appealing title of “We care, ear care” was also launched. A virtual campaign was released, and an OPD onsite lay forum regarding proper ear care was launched. Practical and effective tips on proper ear care were shared with patients and their companions while passively waiting in line.

We strive to maintain consistency in our campaigns. For the month of April, Dra. J. San Pedro and Dra. A. Laguna held a lay forum at the OPD regarding hoarseness. They tackled the possible causes of hoarseness, its immediate care, and when to seek professional help. This was a platform to emphasize that an ordinary symptom of hoarseness may not be as simple as it seems.

As advocates of education, the Department organized a basic plastic surgery workshop at the institution. Participants were aspiring Doctors, both medical clerks and interns. Basic wound care, suturing techniques, and plastic reconstruction were discussed. All participants were able to apply these techniques and were trained on real meat under the guidance of the organizers.

**Quezon City General Hospital**



The Department of Otorhinolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery of Quezon City General Hospital (QCGH) celebrates a year of academic achievement, professional advancement, and service to the community.

In the field of research, Dr. Mercedes Josefa R. Arroyo won 2nd place at the QCGH Interdepartmental Interesting Case Contest (August 2024) with her paper “Lingual Amyloidosis Masquerading as a Malignancy in a Middle-Aged Woman.” Meanwhile, Dr. Claudette Gloria Plumo presented “The Effects of e-Cigarette Vaping on Voice Quality and Vocal Cords Among Patients in a Tertiary Hospital in Quezon City” at the QCGH Interdepartmental Research Presentation (November 2024). In addition, Dr. Ma. Niña Kristine C. Sison-Reyes’ study, “Otorhinolaryngologic Manifestations of Long COVID-19 Infection Among Patients in QCGH,” was published in the Philippine Journal of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery (Vol. 39, No. 2, 2024).

Professional growth remained a key focus. Dr. Plumo successfully passed the PBO-HNS Diplomate Examination in September 2024, with QCGH serving as one of the oral exam testing centers. Drs. Ma. Niña Kristine Sison and Lena Alethea Cruz completed clinical observerships in Laryngology and Swallowing, and Head and Neck Surgery, respectively, at Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Thailand. Department Head Dr. Maria Cristina Vical also completed an observership in Laryngology at the Vanderbilt Voice Center in Nashville, Tennessee, USA.

Locally, the department organized “Gandang QCGH: A Blepharoplasty and Rhinoplasty Mission” in November 2024, led by Dr. Mark Arjan Fernandez, providing reconstructive and aesthetic procedures to patients in need. In April 2025, QCGH successfully hosted the Laryngobronchoesophagology (LBEN) Course and Workshop in partnership with PALP, PSO-HNS, and PBO-HNS, training 88 participants from accredited institutions.

Looking ahead, the department will proudly participate in the upcoming Laryngology Quiz Bee (August) and Rhinology Quiz Bee (December), continuing its pursuit of academic and clinical excellence.

**Quirino Memorial Medical Center**



The Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS) of Quirino Memorial Medical Center (QMMC) was founded in 1993 headed by Dr. Romeo Villarta, Jr. alongside other ORL-HNS specialists - Dr. Wilfredo Dela Cruz, Dr. Jan Eero Lopez, Dr. Nelson Magno, and Dr. Gerardo Cruz. At present, the department of ORL-HNS is headed by Dr. Hector Angel Kintanar as Chairman, Dr. Nelson Magno as Vice-Chairman, and Dr. Rowald Rey Malahito as Training Officer. In its 32-year history in public service, the department has graduated 30 board eligible ORL-HNS specialists. The training program is currently made up of 6 resident trainees with a total of 21 active consultants in different subspecialty services namely Neuro - Otology and Audiology; Rhinopharyngology, Allergy, Oral Cavity, and Sleep Surgery; Laryngobroncho-esophagology; Head and Neck Surgery; Craniomaxillofacial, Facial Plastic, and Reconstructive Surgery.

The department continues to perform highly specialized procedures such as cochlear device implantation, skull base surgeries, image-guided surgeries, major head & neck surgeries with reconstruction using flaps, microlaryngeal surgeries, minimally-invasive thyroid surgery (transoral endoscopic thyroidectomy vestibular approach or TOETVA), open reduction internal fixation of fractures, rhinoplasty, and blepharoplasty.

We have been actively conducting courses to reinforce our commitment to advancing the field. Last year, the department has organized a Temporal Bone Dissection Course, WHO-certified World Hearing Day celebration through hearing screening for employees and the local community, Newborn Hearing Screening Personnel Certifying Course, and a Post-graduate Audiology Course attended by several delegates (doctors and allied health professionals) from all over the Philippines. This year, the department held another

Temporal Bone Dissection Course and hearing screening in celebration of the WHO World Hearing Day. We also hosted an Institutional Conference on the topic of TOETVA. The department plans to host these courses annually to pursue our mission in providing excellent education and training in public health promotion.

## Region 1 Medical Center



The department's first activity was the traditional celebration of "Goiter Awareness Week" from January 27-31, wherein lay lectures were given by residents at the OPD. A screening for ear health was conducted at Gabon Elementary, Calasiao on March 3 as part of the celebration of World Hearing Day. Information drives on ear care were also conducted at the Dagupan City Jail and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology of Urdaneta City on March 10 and 27 respectively.

Our second year resident, Dr. Michael Francis Mangahas, was able to present his case report: "Reconstruction of a Cementifying Fibroma Defect in the Maxilla of a 15- year- old" during the NLENT 1st quarter meeting held in Baguio on April 26.

The department was able to move to its office in the 2nd floor of the newly constructed seven-storey RIMC building on May 19.

World Thyroid Day and International Thyroid Awareness Week were celebrated from May 25 to 31 with lectures on post- thyroidectomy pain management and ultrasound- guided FNAB from Drs. Mona Rolaida Mamaril and Ryan Neil Adan respectively. The opening of the RIMC Ear Unit was formally held on June 30. As of August 6th, the department finally has its first graduate of the training program, Dr. Charles Eric Floro.

## Rizal Medical Center



This year, the Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery of Rizal Medical Center proudly celebrates its Pearl Anniversary, marking 30 years of compassionate, high-quality care. With 16 active consultants, 11 resident physicians, and a dedicated support team, the department continues its pursuit to become a Department of Health–designated ENT Specialty Center. It remains committed to producing competent and ethical specialists grounded in evidence-based medicine, technological advancement, and internationally recognized research.

Renovation of the ENT Center is underway, including the establishment of a Pediatric Hearing and Balance Laboratory and the expansion of the Sleep Laboratory to serve more patients. A multidisciplinary Cleft Care Team has also been formed to provide comprehensive, holistic management of cleft lip and palate patients.

Since 1995, the department has built a strong legacy of community outreach, conducting medical missions nationwide and empowering primary care providers in ENT disease management. In September 2024, over 300 patients and barangay health workers in Bislig, Surigao del Sur benefited from these efforts. This year's annual "ENT sa Barangay" will be held in Ilijan, Batangas, offering outpatient services, while monthly consultations continue for underserved communities in Quezon Province.

Committed to health education, residents organize year-round institutional events promoting awareness for World Hearing Day, World Sleep Day, World Voice Day, and Oral, Head, and Neck Cancer Awareness Week. The department also conducts annual tracheostomy workshops for RizalMed nurses to ensure continuity of care and will spearhead the Head and Neck Basic Course in 2026.

Through clinical excellence, research, and community engagement, the department upholds its mission to advance ENT health and deliver compassionate care within and beyond Rizal Medical Center.

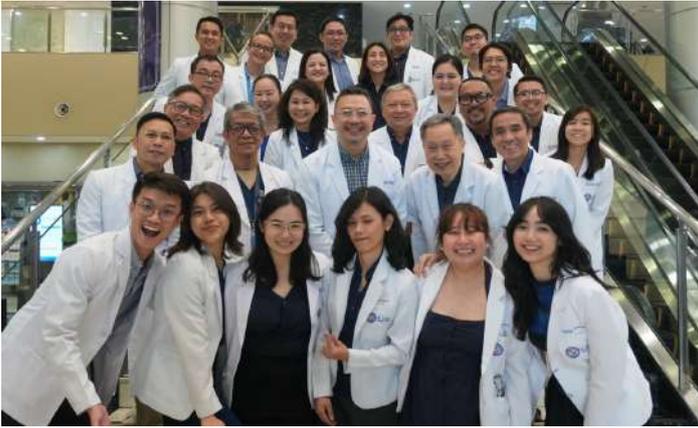
## St. Luke's Medical Center

The Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery of St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) opened 2025 with a lay forum on Allergic Rhinitis in SLMC Quezon City as part of Pinoy Allergy Week, underscoring its commitment to public health education.

In February, the department conducted a weekend surgical mission at St. Cabrini Medical Center, Sto. Tomas, Batangas, providing cleft repair surgeries to underserved patients. This initiative highlighted the department's advocacy for accessible, compassionate surgical care.

In partnership with the Philippine Academy of Facial Plastic Aesthetic and Reconstructive Surgery (PAFPRS), the department hosted the Basic Plastics Course on March 5–6, 2025, at the Quezon City Sports Club. Entitled "Mastering the Basics of Facial Plastic Surgery: Course and Workshop 2025," the program combined comprehensive lectures with practical suturing workshops.

April activities centered on World Voice Day, celebrated through "World Voice Day 2025: Empower Your Voice" on April 30 at SLMC Quezon City. Hospital personnel and patients were treated to performances by the Payatas Kids Choir and The Other Side of Doctors,



featuring SLMC’s own physicians. Residents also participated in a hands-on stroboscopy workshop. In conjunction, lay forums were held in both SLMC Quezon City and Global City to promote Head and Neck Cancer Awareness.

In May, a mini bronchoesophagology workshop enhanced residents’ surgical proficiency. This was followed by the postgraduate course “Office-Based Laryngology Procedures” held on June 21, 2025, at SLMC Global City, featuring expert-led discussions and demonstrations on advanced in-office laryngeal techniques.

Looking ahead, the department will host “Re:Form”—a surgical mission focused on facial plastic surgery—in July, and sponsor the hospital grand rounds “Revisiting Image-Guided Surgery: Applications in Skull Base, Sinonasal, and Temporal Bone Disease” in August.

**St Paul’s Hospital of Iloilo**

The Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS) of St Paul’s Hospital of Iloilo was granted its certification as an ORL-HNS training institution in August 2025. Historically, the Department was created in 1998 to cater to the need of specialists in ears, nose, and throat diseases in Western Visayas. Thus, Manila-trained surgeons Dr. Rodolfo dela Cruz, Dr. Teodoro Jardeleza and Dr. Marida Arend Arugay came back from training to spearhead the creation of an ORL-HNS training program. They then collaborated with other fellows in Negros Island to establish the first ORL residency training program as a Consortium of, St. Paul’s Hospital of Iloilo, Western Visayas Medical Center and Corazon Locsin Memorial Medical Center.

Several board-certified fellows have since graduated from the program, and the specialty developed with leaps and bounds in the Western Visayas region.



Presently, the Department has 7 Active and 13 Visiting Consultants, and 1 ORL resident-in-training. The Department has hosted several conferences such as Management of Sleep Disordered Breathing with Dr. Patricia Ann Puno-Prodigalidad as the speaker; Management of Voice Related Diseases with Dr Melfred Hernandez as speaker; and recently hosted the Hands-on Surgical Workshop on Stroboscopy and Laser Surgery for Laryngeal Pathologies with Dr. William Lim as the speaker.

The Department aims to be the Center of Excellence in Sinus, Voice and Swallowing and Sleep Surgery in Western Visayas. The hospital has established SPARS (St. Paul’s Airway, Respiration and Sleep Center) to house the newly-acquired pediatric and adult flexible Stroboscopy machine, which will cater to all airway and swallowing diseases in the region. This Center also houses two Polysomnography Machines for evaluation of sleep disorders. The Department has two consultants who are internationally-trained fellows in laryngology and bronchesophagology.

**Southern Isabela Medical Center**



RISING 8TH: NOVUS INITIUM ; From the Northeast, A spark that lights the nation

SOUTHERN ISABELA MEDICAL CENTER joins the roster of accredited ENT training institutions in Northern Luzon.

Santiago City, Isabela — On March 26, 2025, history unfolded at Southern Isabela Medical Center (SIMC) as it proudly became the 8th accredited ENT–Head and Neck Surgery training institution in Northern Luzon. What was once a dream has now blossomed into reality, placing SIMC alongside seven other distinguished institutions shaping the future of ENT in the region.

This achievement was led by Dr. Peter Anthony Wong, Department Chair. Consultants and visiting consultants—Dr. Jeanette Plate, Dr. Marieflor Cristy Elgincolin, Dr. Jan Jefferson Quemado, Dr. Ronalyn Lizardo, Dr. Jil-ilhan Banawol, Dr. Carlo Polo Dumlao, Dr. Jil-ilhan Banawol, Dr. Dennis Andrew Remigio and Dr. Mona Rolaida Almazan Mamaril— together with five residents contributed to SIMC's entry into the list of accredited training institutions. Their efforts mark a new phase for Santiago City and the Cagayan Valley.

This accreditation isn't just a title. It symbolizes a commitment — to train, to inspire, and to create a generation of world-class ENT doctors who will carry with them not just skill, but compassion and purpose. For SIMC, this is only the beginning. Guided by its vision of becoming a globally recognized center of excellence, the institution is poised to embrace innovation, foster collaboration, and uphold the highest standards of patient care.

Like a sprout breaking through the soil, SIMC enters this new chapter full of life and potential — determined to grow strong, reach higher, and bloom brighter. With this bold step, Santiago City and the entire Cagayan Valley become home to a rising beacon of hope for Philippine ENT.

Here, at SIMC, the journey has just begun — and the future shines from the northeast.

## Southern Philippines Medical Center



The Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC) has officially launched its training year with a strategic focus on preparations for 2025. The department engaged in productive discussions regarding training strategies, research output, and re-accreditation of their program. A highlight of the planning session was the proposal to establish the first Head and Neck Oncology Fellowship training outside Luzon, which is slated to

begin in 2026. With SPMC recognized as one of the Department of Health's ENT Care Specialty Centers, the department is setting ambitious goals for the future.

In addition to academic development, the department was involved in several important socio-civic activities. On March 4, 2025, it hosted Silip-Linis Tenga during World Hearing Day, screening students from Sta. Ana Central Elementary School for ear and hearing impairments. The department also organized a lay forum in the Outpatient Building to discuss newborn hearing screening and ear care. Another key initiative was its participation in the Department of Health's "Tutukan ang Early Detection para Bawat Bata Malusog" program. This program, held from July 1-9, focused on early health interventions, particularly hearing screenings for children across nine schools in Davao, Tagum City, and Malita.

The department further focused on training enhancement with the Pata Course in April 2025, assessing residents' skills in suturing techniques and tissue defect reconstruction. Furthermore, the department held a workshop on Stroboscopy in June 2025, following the acquisition of its first Stroboscopy unit, offering hands-on training with expert guidance from Dr. William Lim.

Looking ahead, the ENT4GP Post Graduate Roadshow in September 2025 will provide practical training for primary care physicians. This course will equip clinicians with diagnostic tools, essential ENT skills, and up-to-date knowledge to improve ENT care across Southern Mindanao.

SPMC's ORL-HNS department is actively expanding its capabilities, ensuring both enhanced medical training and a lasting impact on the community's health.

## The Medical City



From late 2024 to mid-2025, the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at The Medical City achieved milestones reflecting its dedication to academic excellence, surgical innovation, and public health advocacy.

At the 68th PSO-HNS Annual Convention in December 2024, first - year residents Dr. Diane Kristie V. Apostol

and Dr. Julianna Marie Angeline D. Uy presented case reports on atypical thyroid lesions and laryngeal amyloidosis, respectively, earning recognition for their clinical relevance. Dr. Uy further distinguished herself by winning First Place in the Case Report Division of The Medical City's 3rd International Conference in Clinical and Translational Research (UP-RISE) with her paper "Unravelling Hoarseness: A Case Report on Laryngeal Amyloidosis." The study underscored the importance of clinical acumen and individualized management in rare voice disorders.

The department also celebrated the success of its recent graduates, Dr. Raphael A. Alonzo and Dr. Paulina Maria Angela C. Villar, both of whom passed the 2024 Board Examinations, with Dr. Villar placing second nationwide.

A strong emphasis on continuing education was demonstrated through several in-house training activities, including the Facial Plastics Suturing Workshop (February 3), Head and Neck Ultrasound Workshop (March 25), 3D Printer Training (June 3), and the Cadaver Dissection Workshop (July 22–23).

Public service remained central to the department's mission. The "Pasilip Ka" campaign (March 3–7) offered free ear care to hospital employees, while lay forums on Cochlear Implantation (March 10) and Oral Cancer Awareness (April 21) promoted community education. Research advocacy continued as Dr. Charleen Grace Cruz presented her work on supraglottic webs at the PSO-HNS Midyear Convention in Legazpi City.

As 2025 progresses, the department continues to strengthen its role as a leader in ENT-HNS care, research, and innovation.

**University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center Inc.**



The Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS) at UERM Medical Center continues to uphold its commitment to patient-centered care and academic excellence. Uniquely positioned within the institution, the department carries dual clinical and academic roles, with all residency training staff serving as university-appointed faculty members dedicated to both teaching and mentoring.

In October 2024, the department received another four-year accreditation from the Philippine Board of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (PBO-HNS), affirming its commitment to high standards in training and service. This followed a productive year of collaboration, notably the AO-CMF International Course on Innovations in Biomaterials and Autografts, co-hosted

with the Philippine Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery. Led by Dr. Jehan Grace Maglaya, Dr. Jaypee Amable, and Dr. Karen Ty, the course showcased advancements in surgical techniques and interdisciplinary cooperation.

The department also celebrates the achievements of its faculty. Chairman Dr. Adrian F. Fernando now serves as President of the Philippine Academy of Head and Neck Surgery, Inc. (PAHNSI). Dr. Maglaya was appointed AO-CMF Representative for Southeast Asia, and Dr. Oliver Glenn Domingo was re-elected to the Board of Trustees of the PSO-HNS. Alumna Dr. Ma. Cristina Garcia became a Diplomate of the PBO-HNS and is pursuing a Master's in Clinical Audiology at UST.

Recent graduates continue to excel internationally—Dr. Meow Miura completed a Laryngology Fellowship at the University of Tokyo, and Dr. Bien Lugtu trained in Head and Neck Surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering before pursuing Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery in Japan.

Under Dr. Fernando's leadership, the department embraces renewal—strengthening residency training, advancing research, and cultivating future leaders. Now in its 37th year of accreditation, the UERM ORL-HNS Department stands poised for continued growth, collaboration, and innovation.

**University of the Philippines - Philippine General Hospital**



In 2025, the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery of the University of the Philippines – Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH) continues to uphold its vision of leadership in surgical innovation, academic training, and service excellence.

Comprehensive training in routine otolaryngologic surgeries remains the standard. With the Department's diverse consultant expertise, residents gain exposure to advanced procedures including endoscopic skull base surgery, transoral robotic surgery, and cochlear implantation. Complex head and neck cancer reconstructions using free tissue transfer and regional flaps are regularly performed. The Department's Prosthesis Fellowship further enhances rehabilitation outcomes through the provision of obturators, facial prostheses, and splints for craniomaxillofacial cases. Technological advancements—such as 3D printing for surgical planning, LASER technology, high-definition endoscopy units, and image-guided surgical systems—support precision and improved patient outcomes.

Academic excellence is fostered through daily general and subspecialty clinics, weekly activities such as Grand and Census Rounds, Tumor Boards, Journal Clubs,

and Academic Hours, as well as quarterly Research Contests and regular trainee assessments.

Service remains central to the Department's mission. Public health initiatives include Goiter Awareness Week, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week, and World Sleep Day campaigns; World Hearing Day missions; and free videostroboscopy screenings for World Voice Day. The Department also actively participates in multidisciplinary clinics for patients with complex conditions such as Down syndrome, skeletal dysplasia, and metabolic disorders.

The latter half of 2025 will feature the Department's signature Temporal Bone, Septorhinoplasty, and Endoscopic Sinus Surgery and Anterior Skull Base Courses, ahead of its biennial Laryngobronchoesophagology Course in 2026.

The UP-PGH Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery remains steadfast in advancing patient care, education, and research—continuing to make a meaningful impact on the health of the Filipino people.

## University of Santo Tomas Hospital



The University of Santo Tomas Hospital (USTH) Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a momentous gathering of alumni, residents, and distinguished guests. The event honored the Department's four-decade legacy through heartfelt recollections and the presentation of plaques recognizing its outstanding members and enduring contributions. Leading the celebration were Dr. John V. Silva, Department Chair; Dr. Archie Brian C. Ramos, Chair of the 40th Anniversary Committee; and Dr. Daniel Rafael R. Cachola III, Co-Chair.

A highlight of the program was the unveiling of portrait paintings commemorating the Department's past and present leaders. Honored Distinguished Chairs included Dr. Eusebio A. Llamas, Dr. Milagros S. Lopez, Dr. Vicente T. Chiong, Dr. Benito L. Uy, Dr. Norberto V. Martinez, Dr. Francis V. Roasa, Dr. Ferdinand G. Pamintuan, and Dr. John V. Silva. Recognized Distinguished Residency Training Officers were Dr. Vicente T. Chiong, Dr. Norberto V. Martinez, Dr. Robie V. Zantua†, Dr. Benjamin S. A. Campomanes, Dr. Raymond G. Belmonte, and Dr. John V. Silva.

In 2024, the Department continued to demonstrate academic excellence as Dr. Justin E. Santos and Dr. Katrina N. Maravilla ranked 5th and 9th, respectively, in the Philippine Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Diplomate Examinations. The postgraduate course Balance Beyond Borders on vestibular rehabilitation was held on December 10–11, drawing ENT specialists, rehabilitation experts, and allied professionals.

In April 2025, Dr. Cedric Jonathan C. Ng earned 3rd Place for Oral Presentation at the Singapore ENT–HNS Congress for his research on pediatric skull base anatomy in Filipinos. On April 28, the first Vocal Implant System (VOIS) surgery in the Philippines was successfully performed by Dr. Milabelle B. Lingan, marking a major advancement in voice rehabilitation. Looking ahead, the Department will host the Principles in Microvascular Head and Neck Reconstruction Course on August 22–23, 2025, featuring Taiwanese expert Dr. Pao-Jen Kuo and esteemed local faculty.

## Veterans Memorial Medical Center



The Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center remains steadfast in its mission to provide high-caliber continuing medical education for ENT professionals in the region and beyond.

In July 2024, the department conducted its Annual In-House Endoscopic Sinus Surgery, Temporal Bone Dissection and Laryngobronchoesophagology Course, offering intensive, hands-on training in contemporary sinus, ear surgery and laryngeal surgical techniques focusing on the different types of Isshiki Thyroplasty. The course emphasized anatomical mastery, surgical precision, and evidence-based approaches, with faculty-led demonstrations and cadaveric dissections enriching the learning experience.

This was followed by the highly anticipated “12th Laryngeal Postgraduate Course” and “3rd International Symposium on Dysphonia, Phonosurgery, and Advanced Laryngeal Workshop”, held in August 2024. The two-day event brought together distinguished local and international experts to share advancements in the management of voice disorders. With a strong focus on interactive workshops and surgical demos, the symposium fostered an engaging environment for both specialists and trainees alike.

Lastly, the department held the “Primary Care in Otorhinolaryngology: An Approach to Aging ENT Patients” last May 2025. The recently held course addressed the rising complexity of ENT care in the aging population, providing attendees with updated diagnostic tools, treatment protocols, and multidisciplinary strategies to manage age-related otolaryngologic conditions.

Through these academic initiatives, Veterans Memorial Medical Center continues to uphold its commitment to clinical excellence, lifelong learning, and leadership in otorhinolaryngology. We extend our gratitude to all participants, faculty, and collaborators who support and contribute to our shared vision for better patient care and professional growth.

**Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center**



The Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery of the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (VSMMC) has remained at the forefront of community engagement, surgical outreach, and continuing medical education with a series of impactful events in recent months.

In observance of World Sleep Day, the department held an educational forum on March 14, 2025, at the VSMMC Outpatient Department with Dr. Colina Q. Colina, MD, FPSO-HNS as the key speaker. This year’s focus was on Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) —a prevalent yet often overlooked sleep disorder. A lecture was delivered to patients and medical staff to highlight the signs, risks, and management options for OSA.

From May 23 to 25, 2025, the department organized a successful thyroid surgical mission at the VSMMC Operating Room Complex. This three-day mission provided surgical care to 29 patients with thyroid masses, many of whom had limited access to specialty care.

In collaboration with the Central Eastern Visayas Chapter of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS), the department conducted a Postgraduate Course on June 20, 2025, at the Borbon Hall, Bayfront Hotel Cebu. The course, titled, “Common ENT Conditions: How to Handle; When to Refer,” was attended by general practitioners, residents, and allied medical professionals. It focused on equipping frontliners with practical knowledge in managing ENT cases and recognizing red flags that warrant referral to specialists.

In a concerted effort to promote early detection and prevention of head and neck cancers, the VSMMC Department of Otorhinolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery held an educational lecture at the hospital’s Outpatient Department (OPD) on July 30, 2025. The event was organized in collaboration with the Academy for Head & Neck Oncology of the Philippines (AHNOP) and in support of the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS), marking the observance of World Head and Neck Cancer Day.

Through these initiatives, the VSMMC Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery reaffirms its role as a leader in patient-centered care, surgical outreach, community education, and professional development. The department remains steadfast in its mission to elevate ENT health standards in the region—through education, service, and innovation.

**Victoriano Luna Medical Center**



The Victoriano Luna Medical Center Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery looks back on the past year with pride as it celebrates milestones in training, service, and innovation.

In September 2024, the department rejoiced with its alumni, Dr. Maria Katrina C. Tagata, and Dr. Jeffrey L. Lumbres, who both passed the Diplomate Exam of the Philippine Board of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Tagata brought further honor to the group by securing 7th place overall nationwide, a testament to the department’s legacy of excellence.

In March 2025, the department welcomed back Dr. Allan N. Labotan, after completing his fellowship in Pediatric Otolaryngology at the Philippine Children’s Medical Center. Now serving as Pediatric ENT Section Head, he strengthens the residency program with expertise and renewed vision.

True to its mission of supporting the health and morale of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the department actively engaged in postgraduate courses and workshops throughout the year.

Last July 10, 2025, it proudly hosted its own course, “ENT Conditions in Children 4: Pediatric Airway and Swallowing – Unlocking the Essentials,” at SV More Building. The event gathered over 50 participants — ORL-HNS surgeons, pediatricians, and general practitioners — who gained valuable insights in managing pediatric airway and swallowing concerns.

Alongside academic endeavors, the department enhanced its capability to deliver quality patient care with the procurement of a wireless dual - probe ultrasound scanner, along with adult and pediatric telescopes for bronchoscopy and esophagoscopy. More advanced equipment is also expected soon, reflecting the department’s continuous pursuit of innovation.

On August 15, 2025, the Philippine Board of ORL-HNS visited the institution to evaluate progress following the renewal of its four-year accreditation in October 2023.

Through these achievements, the department reaffirms its mission of providing efficient and compassionate care, while nurturing future leaders in the specialty.

**Western Visayas Medical Center**

Western Visayas Medical Center ENT Department Celebrates 26 Years of Service with Milestones in Patient Care, Education, and Community Outreach



The Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC) celebrates 26 years of service, highlighting major achievements in patient care, education, and community outreach.

In 2024, the department served 12,450 outpatient consultations, managed 530 admissions, and performed 1,300 surgeries, demonstrating its dedication to delivering quality ENT care to the Hiligaynon community.

Beyond hospital services, the department leads public health efforts through educational forums for World Hearing Day, Pinoy ENT Allergy Week, and Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Month. Its Linis Tenga outreach program recently reached residents of Santa Barbara, providing direct ear care services.

Reinforcing community engagement, the department joined local officials for a tree-planting activity at Sunset Boulevard, Mandurriao, Iloilo City, and raised awareness through BOMBO Radyo guestings focused on oral head and neck cancer and cleft awareness.

The department also promotes interdisciplinary care through regular Multidisciplinary Team Conferences for complex case management.

Supported by nine residents and 17 active and visiting consultants, the department maintains its commitment to training and academic growth. Following the success of its 2024 postgraduate course, "Tip of the Scalpel," it now prepares for "Ultrasound of the Head and Neck" on August 23, 2025.

WVMC ORL-HNS continues its mission to provide expert care and meaningful service, enriching both medical practice and community well-being.

## Zamboanga City Medical Center



### Community and Clinical Milestones in 2025

The Department of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery remains steadfast in its role as the designated Specialty Center for Region IX, achieving a functionality score of 71.83 as a Basic Comprehensive Center for the first half of 2025. In support of national and international health cam-

paigns, the department led several community-based and educational initiatives.

During Goiter Awareness Week, free thyroid ultrasound, fine needle aspiration biopsy, and a lay forum on thyroid health were offered to promote early detection and awareness. For World Hearing Day, pure tone audiometry testing was conducted for employees of the Zamboanga City Medical Center to highlight the importance of hearing care. As part of Pinoy ENT Allergy Week, a health education video on allergy prevention and treatment was produced to help inform the public about common allergic conditions. In celebration of World Voice Day, the department provided free endoscopic voice examinations to teachers at the Immaculate Conception Archdiocesan School in Upper Calarian, emphasizing the importance of vocal health. A lay forum on sleep disorders was also held in observance of World Sleep Day, focusing on sleep health and management.

To support continuous learning and skills development, the department invited laryngologist Dr. Pamela Dela Cruz to conduct a lecture and live surgical demonstration on blue and CO<sub>2</sub> laser surgery, with four cases performed. Additionally, first-year resident Dr. Christopher Kim Sorino presented a notable case of condylar hyperplasia in a 14-year-old female, contributing to the department's academic enrichment.

These efforts reflect the department's ongoing commitment to community service, public health education, and the advancement of clinical and surgical excellence.

## PSO-HNS

### 8 Chapters



### 10 Academies



### 41 Training Institutions

# PSO-HNS AWARDS 2025



**Jehan Grace Maglaya,  
MD, FPSO-HNS**

Outstanding ORL-HNS  
Specialist in Community Service



**Rhodora Ocampo,  
MD, FPSO-HNS**

Outstanding ORL-HNS Specialist  
in Leadership in an Organization



**SOUTHERN TAGALOG  
CHAPTER**

Outstanding PSO-HNS Chapter  
Advocacy Program



**Adrian Fernando,  
MD, FPSO-HNS**

Outstanding ORL-HNS  
Specialist in Research



**Christopher Malorre Calaquian,  
MD, FPSO-HNS**

Outstanding ORL-HNS Specialist  
in Teaching



**PACFMS**

Outstanding PSO-HNS Subspecialty  
Academy Advocacy Program



**USTH**

Outstanding PSO-HNS Training Institution  
Advocacy Program

## PJO-HNS STAR REVIEWER AWARDEES >



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MD, FPSO-HNS



Adrian Fernando,  
MD, FPSO-HNS



Ruben Emil D. Henson III,  
MD, FPSO-HNS



Gerard Lapiña,  
MD, FPSO-HNS



Joyce Ann Regalado-Go,  
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