

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In March of 2014, the General Membership, elected into office eleven Officers and Board members of the Philippine Society of Gastroenterology, who “pledged to serve the Society to the best of their abilities, without reservations or purposes of evasion.” Time flies, 12 months have elapsed, and it is with great pleasure that I report to the General Body the accomplishments of the Society through the different working committees for the fiscal year 2014-2015.

Over-all Chair 2015 Joint Annual Convention Chairman of Internal Affairs and Committee on Chapters Dr. Dina C. Gonzales First Vice-President

This year's Philippine Digestive Health Week started with a pre-convention post-graduate course. The Post-graduate Course took place yesterday at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Boracay room. Goal of the course is to provide the general practitioners, internists, and gastroenterologists with comprehensive review of the most common GI problems clinicians encounter in their daily practice. Topics and their respective speakers are shown in this slide. Topics covered were extensive and varied, from GERD diagnosis and management to GI tumors markers, from Predictors of Acute Liver Failure to Gallbladder Sludge, Cholesterolosis, and Adenomyosis. It was a very successful course and the feedback was very encouraging.

This is the poster for the PDHW 2015. The Organizing Committee, after beating their brains out trying to find a theme for this year's convention, have decided to simply drop the “theme approach” and instead tackle what they feel are latest and relevant topics in our field of specialty. The PSDE President's Hour Lecture was eloquently delivered by Dr. Felix Domingo, Jr. this morning. We will hear from Dr. Jose Sollano, Jr. and Dr. Albert Ismael tomorrow and Saturday when they deliver the HSP and PSG Presidents' Hours, respectively. Our Francisco Roman Lecturer for this year is Prof. Haru Inoue, who shared his endoscopic experience and expertise when he lectured on the topic Submucosal Endoscopy: ESD, POEM, SET and beyond. The Gonzalo Austria Lecturer for this year is Dr. Anthony Leachon, current PCP President, who will talk on the HERO Advocacy Program. Among interesting topics to be covered are Hepatic Encephalopathy, Pancreatic Fistula, Liver Transplantation Referral Systems, AIDS related GI Complex, Halitosis, Endoscopically Suspected Carcinoids, etc. Not topics should be missed. The Philippine Clinical Practice Guidelines on Colorectal Cancer, joint project of PSG with PSDE, was completed, after months of hard work and dedication by lead convenor Prof. Sollano and his core members, was presented earlier. “Healthy Tiyan, Happy Katawan”, PSG/ PSDE/ HSP Advocacy sponsored by Westmont Pharmaceuticals will be launched Saturday pm. So please be there.

For this year's JAC, we have (3) Platinum, (3) Gold, and (1) Bronze sponsors. There are (52) Booth sponsors.

Shown here are the members of the Organizing Committee of the 2015 JAC. Let us all acknowledge their hard work and dedication, without which the PDHW will not be a resounding success.

Last year, PSG in coordination with PSDE, drafted the implementing rules and regulations for PSG/PSDE Chapter formation, as well as the proposed subdivisions by region, patterned after the PCP chapters: Dr. Gozar-Duque along with our members from Region 1, namely, Drs. Felinor William Antonio, Lauren Bacasen, Ma. Elizabeth Espiritu, Glen Ernest Fonbuena, Ma. Blanca Kua, Armando Lay, Rommel Palaganas, Ma. Ana Tolentino, applied for establishment of a Northwesterrn Luzon Chapter. The application was approved by the PSG and PSDE Board and it is now the first official chapter of the PSG-PSDE. The chapter officers had their oath taking during the opening ceremonies earlier this morning. The Cebu group has also signified their interest to form a chapter verbally, but have not formally applied in writing. We, at PSG (and PSDE) Board welcome more applications. We think that existence of local chapters will facilitate the fulfillment of the mission and vision of the Society.

The implementing rules and regulations of Chapter formation was presented during the last annual business meeting and copies were sent to all members a month before the Convention.

The Society maintained its affiliations with the APAGE and WGO. We have paid our annual dues for the year.

Locally, the Society has been actively participating in activities with the PCP and the PMA. Among the significant initiatives and activities were the following:

- PMA Summit of PMA Specialty Division and Affiliate Societies, April 2014
- Civil Society Coalition with the PCP on the Sin Tax Bill, June 2014
- Creation of a PSG Emergency Disaster Preparedness Committee under the Committee on Civic Action, to support the PMA directive on disaster preparedness dated July 17, 2014
- PMA Foundation Day Celebration, September 15, 2014
- National Medicine Week Celebration, September 21-27, 2014.

Chairman of External Affairs/CO-Chair, JAC 2015/Overall Coordinator, Philippine Consensus Guideline Development on Colorectal Cancer

Dr. Frederick T. Dy
2nd Vice-President

Dr. Dy represented the Society in the annual business meeting of the WGO held last May 3, 2014. The gists of the meeting were the following: 1. There are currently 7 WGO training centers worldwide 2. WGO 2014 guidelines on NASH-NAFLD, Hepatitis C, and Common GI Symptoms are now available on the Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology 3. The theme of World Digestive Health Day for 2014 is Gut microbes and for 2015, it will be GERD 4. The next WCOG meeting will be held in partnership with the Australian Gastroenterology Week from September 28 to October 2, 2015 after which in collaboration with ACG on October 13-17, 2017 in Orlando, Florida, USA. 5. The plan of WGO is to have a biennial meeting in partnership with a member Society. Member societies are invited to submit proposals for future meetings.

As you will recall, the midyear convention was held last January 10, 2014 side by side with the Asian-Pacific Single Topic Conference last January 10-12, 2014 at the Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay. That is why, for this fiscal year, the Board has decided to forego with the 2014 Midyear Convention. Dr. Dy was reassigned as overall co-chair of the JAC 2015.

Dr. Dy was also tasked to coordinate the development of the Philippine Consensus Guidelines for Colorectal Carcinoma, a joint project of PSG and PSDE. Prof. Jose Sollano was the lead convenor for the consensus guideline; the core members include Drs. Marie Antoinette Lontok (PSG), Edgardo Bondoc (PSG), Therese Macatula (PSG), Joseph Bocobo (PSG), Rommel Romano (PSG), Diana Payawal (PSDE), Frederick Dy (PSG) and Mark Anthony De Lusong (PSDE). The core group met frequently, with the culminating electronic voting participated in by chiefs of sections of training GI institutions or their representatives held last February 20-21 at the Peninsula de Punta Fuego, Batangas. Due to their hardwork and dedication, the clinical practice guideline was completed in time for presentation this afternoon at the JAC 2015.

Committee on Membership and Secretariat

Dr. Jane D. Ricaforte-Campos

Secretary

Dr. Jane Ricaforte-Campos, on behalf of the Society, presented our bid to host the 2017 Asian-Pacific Digestive Week during last November 23, 2014 in Bali, Indonesia. Initially it was announced that the 2017 APDW will be held in Manila. But the APDWF decided to reopen the bid. The PSG Board after much discussions and considerations, decided not to host the APDW come 2017.

The Board has nominated Dr. Joseph Bocobo as the Philippine representative in the APDWF. He will replace Dr. Albert Ismael, whose term expired last year.

Regarding the purchased condominium and parking space: The condominium at the Bonifacio Global City was bought last May 14, 2014. The floor area of the Tower 1 Unit 903 9th floor is 64.93 sq. m, price of the unit is Php8,978,028.80 which was paid in full last July 30, 2014. The covered parking area is at Tower I Unit 17 floor 5P floor area: 12.50 sq m. Price of the parking area is Php1,140,750.00. The downpayment for the parking area amounted to Php228,150.12 but this downpayment less the reservation fee of Php100.00 and spot downpayment of Php14,075 was stretched to 24 months, which will finish on June 04, 2016 (@4,753.13). The rest of the remaining balance amounting to Php912,600 can be loaned through financing institution later on.

Chairman- Committee on Training Program (CTP)

Dr. Leticia Ibanez-Guzman

PRO

Members of CTP: Enalyn Ang

Rachel Marie Cruz

Wilfredo Benjamin Reyes

The Committee on Training Program completed the following projects:

1. Fellows-in-Training Exam (FEE)- The FEE was held last October 18, 2014 at the Westmont Office, Bonaventure Bldg, Ortigas. The examination consisted of 200 multiple choice questions (MCQs) with the Minimum Passing Level set at 62%. A total of 46 trainees took the exam of which only 17/46 or 37% passed. Scores ranged from 43-75.5% with the average score of 58.7 +/- 8 (Mean +/- Standard Deviation). The low passing rate was attributed to the increase of case-based questions requiring comprehension and analysis from 21% in 2013 to 46% in 2014 FEE. Twenty nine of the 46 trainees failed the FEE, one each from Metropolitan Medical Center, UERMMM, STUH; 2 each from CDUH, CGHMC; three each from CSMC, EAMC, UP-PGH; four each failed from MDH, MMC, and five from SLMC. More second year fellows passed compared to first year fellows, 62% vs 16%. The cost of the FEE printing and item analysis amounted to Php6,200.00
2. The 3rd PSG Pedagogy Workshop on “Better Powerpoint Presentations” was held last November 15, 2014 also at the Westmont Office, Bonaventure Bldg, Ortigas from 7:30 am – 12:30 pm participated in by 46 fellows-in-training. The facilitators of the workshop were Dr. Allan Larosaa prominent ophthalmologist, and our very own, Dr. Leticia Ibanez-Guzman. Participants were required to bring their own lap-tops and were taught first-hand the programs that they can use to make their lecture presentations lively and animated. Feedback of the fellows was very good and they expressed willingness to participate in more training workshops. Personally, I learned much from this workshop.
3. A workshop to update the Standard Gastroenterology Training Program was held last November 15, 2014 at the Westmont Office, Bonaventure Building, Ortigas from 1:00-5:00 pm with 47 participants—8 from the PSG Board, 7 from PSDE Board, 7 from HSP Board, 2 from the CTP, 3 from Accreditation Board, 2 from Research Committee, 8 section heads and 9 Training Officers from PSG accredited Training Hospitals. (slide of names of participants). The workshop was facilitated by the Committee on Training Program (CTP) of the PSG. Main points agreed upon during the workshop were as follows:
 - A. Specialized Rotations:
 - i. Rotation to Pathology and Radiology will be required for all training fellows beginning January 2015. Duration of rotation will be two weeks protected time each from Pathology and Radiology per year. Formal assessment of the rotating fellow is highly encouraged and will preferably be done by the Department of Radiology/Pathology. GI conferences with Radiologic/Pathologic aspects will be presented by the fellow rotating in the aforementioned departments.

- ii. For GI Nutrition, a standard curriculum is presently being crafted by the Nutrition Council. This curriculum will be incorporated into the GI fellowship training curriculum. Rounds of in-patients of GI service may regularly include a clinical nutritionist (if available) or a nutritionist/dietitian.
- B. Procedures (slides, compare previous and new)
 - i. The required number of procedures for EGD (100), colonoscopy (100), PEG insertion (10), EVL (10), snare polypectomy (10), abdominal paracentesis (10) will remain the same.
 - ii. Instead of the term 'injection sclerotherapy', injection hemostasis was deemed more accurate and will be adopted. The number of required procedures was maintained at 5.
 - iii. Performance of liver biopsy will no longer be required as most biopsies nowadays are being performed by interventional radiologists with ultrasound/CT scan guidance. Fellows nevertheless will be encouraged to perform/assist/observe consultants do the procedure on their patients
 - iv. Census of all procedures should be entered into a template that will be designed by PSDE
 - v. Data should include complications of performed procedures
- C. Cases
 - i. Required number of in-patients (350) and out-patients (500) per fellow) will remain the same
 - ii. Instead of a logbook, a database template will be designed by PSDE to be used to enter pertinent patient data.
- D. Conferences
 - i. The Endoscopic Radiologic Conferences (ERC) will be shortened from the previous average duration of 3-4 hours to 1.5 hours, and this will be held quarterly. A Hepatology conference lasting 1.5 hours will follow each ERC.
 - ii. Nutrition conferences will be encouraged
- E. Assessment Tools
 - i. In line with emphasis on Outcome-Based Education (OBE), the different hospitals are encouraged to hold yearly OSCE
 - ii. For Specialty Board Exams and FEE, the textbook Sleisenger and Fortran's Gastrointestinal and Liver Disease, Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, Management ,latest edition, will still be the main, if not the sole, source of questions;as agreed upon, there will be no need to add an Hepatology textbook

Committee on Civic Actions
Dr. Felipe Gozar L. Duque
Board of Director

A. War on Worms (WOW)

The PSG through the Civic Action Committee is an active member in the coalition for the eradication of soil transmitted diseases in the country. The Civic Action Committee participated in the feedback forum and planning of soil transmitted infections and schistosomiasis control in school children. This is a continuation of the War on Worms program in support of the DOH's Integrated Helminthology and schistosomiasis control program. The forum was held in the Provincial Capitol in Negros Occidental in Bacolod City on July 4, 2014. The meeting was attended by municipal and provincial health officers of the province, the PSG, other NGO's and the World Bank.

Remember Dr. Vicente Y. Belizario Jr? He is our JAC 2014 Gonzalo Austria Memorial Lecture He is the program director of the WOW. He thanked the PSG on behalf of the Department of Health for its contribution to the success of the program. He is particularly thankful to the Dose Meter Poles that were given to the different elementary schools in the Municipality of Calatrava. The dose meter poles are used to determine the dose of praziquantel to be administered based on the child's height rather than weight which is more convenient especially during mass drug administration. Because of its practicality, the dose poles have been adapted for use nationwide in the campaign against schistosomiasis. The battle against parasitism will be expanded for 2015 to include preschool children. The deworming will take place in July 2015. The PSG through the Civic Action Committee has pledged its continuous support until the program's goal is realized.

B. Potable Water Supply (POWS)

The Potable Water Supply (POWS) project of the PSG has been going on for the past four years. The society has committed to provide at least one potable water supply to a community where there is none. As of date, the PSG has put up three potable water sources in the towns of Water, Baro, Oriental Mindoro; Ventar, Ilocos Norte; and in Minapasuk, Calatrava, Negros Occidental.

For 2014-2015 we are putting up another potable water source in Barangay Hinab-Ongan, also in Calatrava, Negros Occidental to provide its five thousand residents with water safe for drinking. The Municipality of Calatrava is about 130 km away from the capital city of Bacolod. Barangay Hinab-Ongan is a remote barangay that can be reached only after an hour and a half ride on a 4x4 SUV through one of the most rugged terrains. The choice of this barangay is based on the absence of an accessible potable water source. Residents have to walk up a muddy hill about a kilometer away to be able to get drinkable

water and have to carry them back to their homes. Barangay Hinab-Ongan is also endemic for Schistosomiasis.

The project involves the 1. provision of a PBC water pipe that will connect the water source from almost the top of the hill all the way down to the barangay center and 2. the construction of a potable water supply shed so that the residents will have an easier and safer access to drinkable water especially during the rainy season where going up the hill is a physical challenge. On February 21, 2014 the Civic Action Committee led by Dr Wendell Espinoza, POWS Project Coordinator for Negros Occidental inspected the site together with Dr Genevieve Montano, Calatrava town's new Municipal Health Officer. Construction will be undertaken by the municipal engineer's office headed by Engr. Bong Galicia as per instruction by Calatrava Municipal Mayor Hon. Araceli Somosa. The occasion was also made as an opportunity to visit and inspect our existing potable water supply in Barangay Minapasuk which is functioning and serving its purpose very well.

C. PSG Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Committee.

In compliance with a directive from the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) dated July 17, 2014, the PSG created the sub-Committee on Disaster and Emergency Preparedness which is under the Civic Action Committee. The newly formed committee represented the PSG in the Seminar on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness entitled "Transforming Medical Operations from Hospitals to the Disaster Zone on November 12, 2014. The activity organized by the PMA was held at the PMA Auditorium in North Avenue, Quezon City. The whole day event touched on issues that included: 1. Water, sanitation, and hygiene during emergencies, 2. how to put up an Incident Command Center, 3. How to prepare physicians in the Disaster Field, 4 Search and Rescue and the Role of the Doctor, 5. Putting up an Emergency Operations Center, 6. Coordination between Doctors and the ICUs and 7. Ebola Epidemic Response.

It was emphasized and agreed during the seminar that the "Check In" of all Medical, Specialty, and Sub-specialty organizations who want to render service in times of disaster or emergencies will be with the Philippine Medical Association.

D. Radyo mo sa Nutrisyon

On December 6, 2014 the PSG was invited to participate by providing a Resource Speaker for the Radio program Radyo mo sa Nutrisyon. The weekly multi-awarded radio program is an initiative of the Nutrition Council of the Philippines which is a detached agency of the Department of Health (DOH). It is aired weekly over DZXL 558 kHz with both local and international reach. It is available by internet live streaming and all past segments are accessible via the Youtube. The program is hosted by Mr. Rod Marcelino and Asst. Secretary of Health Ma Bernardita Flores who is also the Executive Director of the Nutrition Council of the Philippines. As an aftermath of the activity, the prospect of collaboration between the developers of the radio program and the PSG was brought up. An exploratory talk between PSG President Dr Peter Sy, Dr Allan Policarpio, Chair of the Committee on Councils, the Chair of the Civic Action Committee and Mr Francis Flores, Business Development Director of MQ Mediazone Productions

took place last February 10, 2015 before the monthly board meeting. The collaboration will be a very good avenue for PSG to extend sustainable community service that is relevant and far reaching.

E. PSG Free Endoscopy Clinic

The PSG through the Civic Action Committee participated in the Annual Medicine Week Celebration from September 22 to 26 2014 by performing free endoscopy for patients of the PMA Indigency Clinic last September 25, 2014 at the PMA Auditorium in Quezon City. Free endoscopy was provided to 10 patients only because of limited time and resources. A pediatric gastroscope loaned by Dr Armand Lay to the PSD was used during the mission. The activity was witnessed by Dr Domingo Pascual, Head of the PMA Indigency Clinic. The examinations were performed without sedation and there were no complications observed. Because of PSG's participation, the society represented by the Chair of the Civic Action Committee Dr. Gozar Duque, was made a member of the PMA Indigency Committee.

A request to the board that is pending approval is the putting up of an outpatient GI Specialty Clinic in the PMA to be staffed by our members on a twice a month basis. This will provide indigent patients of the PMA with a much needed expertise that cannot be addressed by the current medical staff. Concerns regarding the assignment of members temporarily shelved what could have been a very laudable endeavor.

Committee on Scientific Activities

Augusto Jose Galang, MD

Board Member

The Scientific Committee chaired by Dr. Augusto Galang, conducted a series of Postgraduate courses this year with the common theme: "Ur CME: Update and Revisit your Clinical Management Expertise".

The first Postgrad Course was held in August 16, 2014 in collaboration with Rottapharma. The audience included 84 members of the PAFP Quezon City Chapter. The venue was in Serye Filipino Restaurant in Quezon Circle. The following were the topics and respective speakers:

Updates on GERD Therapy - Dr. ArceBansil

Revisiting Peptic Ulcer Disease - Dr. Raul Canlas

Clinical Approach to Jaundice - Dr. Alvin Velasco

Management Options in Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease - Leonardo Manabat, Jr, MD

Expertise in Evaluation of HBV+ job applicants - Augusto Jose G. Galang, MD

The post-graduate course was awarded with 10.5 CME Units (Category II) PAFP, 30 CME Units PMA, and PCP 20 CME Units

The second Postgraduate Course was conducted in Cebu last Oct 11, 2014 again in collaboration with Rottapharma. The venue was Cebu Grand Convention Center in Cebu City. A total of 98 participants from the Cebu City Chapter of the PAFP attended. The following were the lecture topics and speakers:

Updates on Gallstone Therapy - Dr. Leslee Ong
Revisiting Acute Pancreatitis - Dr. Melinda Ortiz
Rational Approach to GI Bleeding - Dr. Imelda Acuzar-Po
Complications of Liver Cirrhosis - Dr. Bernadette Moscoso
Mastering Approach to Jaundice - Dr. Alvin Velasco
Expertise in Evaluation of HBsAg + Job Applicant - Dr. Augusto Jose G. Galang

The third Postgraduate Course was held last February 13 in Villa Caceres in Naga City in collaboration with Westmont Pharmaceuticals. A total of 57 participants who were General Practitioners, Family Physicians and Internists attended the event. The following were the lecture topics and speakers:

Updates on the Management of UGI Bleeding - Dr. Julius Rustia
Revisiting Colorectal Cancer Screening - Dr. Cleodosil Cope
Clinical Strategies (Pre, Intra & Post ERCP) in Biliary Tract Disorders: How far can we go? - Dr. Joseph Kelvy Musngi
Management Options in NAFLD - Dr. Julius Soriano
Evaluation of HBsAg + Job Applicant - Dr. Augusto Jose G. Galang
Management Approach to Liver Mass on Ultrasound - Dr. Stephen Wong

The following CME credits were approved:

PAFP – 7.5 CME Units
PMA - 20 CME Units
PCP - 20 CME Units

Overall, the lecture topics were interesting for the audiences judging from their active participation during the open forum. The feedbacks received from the audiences were positive. They appreciated the relevance and applicability of the different topics to their clinical practice. In the end, they were grateful to the society for these scientific activities.

Committee on Research and Research Education

Dr. Ira I. Yu

Board of Directors

The 2014 CAT Workshop was held last May 10-11, 2014 at the Marco Polo Hotel, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. This was attended by 26 GI fellows.

The Research Workshop was held September 13, 20, and 27, 2014 at the Sequoia Hotel in Quezon City. The activity was sponsored by Hi-Eisai and spearheaded by the Joint Research and Research Education. The workshop included didactic lectures and hand-on exercises on the Basics of Clinical Research and

Protocol Writing, Excel and SPSS Data Analysis Applied to Basic Study Designs, and Paper Publication Preparation.

The different training institutions took turns hosting the CAT conferences for the entire year (show slide of schedules and date). To address the gap posed by geographic problem faced by training fellows from CDUH, PSG sponsored the airfare plus accommodations in some of the CAT conferences and other research activities. As agreed upon by the Board, the PSG will continue to support similar activities to ensure continuous and consistent participation of all fellows. This is in line with the PSG mission to support CME and training of fellows.

As per decision based on the Tripartite Meeting, the JRRE will officially be a joint effort of the three societies—PSG, PSDE, and HSP. Since the official inclusion of HSP as part of JRRE, each CAT conference will be preceded by a Liver conference (1.5 hours for Hepatology Conference and 1.5 hours for the CAT) for each session. These conferences will be held every second Wednesday of February, May, August and November, 2015, and thereafter as will be agreed upon by the JRRE and the Research Coordinators of the 3 Societies.

This year, we have one application for research funding. The research proposal of Dr. Aubrey Q. Taguba and his co-investigators, entitled “Prevalence of Vitamin D Deficiency in Chronic Liver Disease Patients at the Outpatient Clinic of the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital” was granted sponsorship by the PSG. Based on the proposal, the required budget is Php74,130 with an estimated 20-week work schedule. The financial support was given on a staggered basis; half of the fund was given already last December 2014, while the remaining half was already given upon submission of the completed study. The study will be presented at the JAC 2015. The funding of research aims to foster interest among fellows to engage themselves in worthwhile research activities.

Committee on Councils, Clinical Practice and Quality Management

Dr. Allan A. Policarpio

Board of Directors

The first Nutrition Caravan was held last November 8, 2014 with the theme “Nurturing...Nourishing...Healing” at the Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. A total of 81 participants attended the said activity, composed of consultants, surgical and medical residents, nurses, dietitians and nutritionists. Listed below were the topics and their respective speakers:

Nutrition Screening and Assessment-Dr. Maria Blanca Kua

Nutrition of the Critically-Ill patients-Dr. Maria Blanca Kua

Pharmaconutrition, Micronutrients and Anti-oxidants- Dr. Russellini Magdaong

Nutrition for Acute and chronic Liver Failure-Dr. Yvonne Mina

Probiotics and the Gut Flora- Dr. Michelle Cloa

Preoperative, Perioperative, and Postoperative Nutrition of Surgical Patients-Dr. Luisito Llido

Fad Diets- Ms. Elizabeth Limos (PGH nutritionist)

The first nutrition caravan was awarded 9 PAFP CME units (Category II), 40 PMA CME units, and 20 PCP CME units. Sponsors were Abbott Nutrition and BBraun Pharma.

The second Nutrition Caravan was held last February 21, 2015 at the Pangasinan Provincial Hospital in San Carlos City, Pangasinan. Participants included barangay health workers from different rural health units (RHU) and lay people. Dr. Maria Blanca Kua and Dr. Russellini Magdaong lectured on different topics related to nutritional deficiency and nutrition in the elderly. This nutrition caravan was done in conjunction with PSDE annual wet clinic in the same local hospital.

Allow me to congratulate the Nutrition Council chair Dr. Maria Blanca Kua and their members, for being the most active council the past consecutive years.

Committee on Constitution and By-Laws
Dr. Patricia Anne I. Cabral- Prodigalidad
Board of Directors

This year, only a small amendment on the Constitution was deemed necessary by the Board. This proposed revision arises from the need to align with the PSDE Constitution on which some amendments are expected to be ratified during the 2015 PSDE business meeting. The proposed amendments can be found in the attached sheets and will be presented later by Dr. Prodigalidad.

The Board of Directors, through the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws is also happy to inform you that it has nominated one of our past presidents for the very prestigious Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA). Prof. Ernesto O. Domingo was nominated under the category "Academe." The award is befitting of Prof. Domingo, whose entire life has been devoted to the education of young physicians. He has served as Professor Emeritus and Dean of the UP College of Medicine, Chancellor of the University of the Philippines, Manila, and Faculty Regent of the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines.

Nominations Committee
Dr. Joseph Bocobo
Immediate Past President
Members: Dr. Marichona Naval
Dr. Marceliano Aquino
Dr. Diana Payawal
Dr. Randy Mercado

There are now 365 PSG members, of which 15 signified their intentions to be nominated as candidates for officership.

The most outstanding fellow was chosen by the said committee, and he will be recognized and awarded during the fellowship night.

The Nominations Committee this year has decided to confer the President's Award to Prof. Jose Sollano Jr. for his exemplary contribution as lead convenor of three consensus guidelines.

At this juncture, allow me to thank you, the General Membership for giving me the privilege and opportunity to serve the Society for the past decade.

I would like to express my heart (and gut-felt gratitude, for isn't gut the most important organ ?) to my fellow officers and board members, whose work ethics and dedication have inspired me to work harder in face of challenges.

To the members of the specialty board and accreditation board, all the standing committees, the whole organizing committee of the 2015 JAC, the secretariat personnel: Lani, Diane, Joel, Weng, Lea and Rizza, a million thanks. Let me thank also my family, for their understanding and encouragement... and to God Almighty.

As my term expires, hopefully more time to spend with my family, no more meetings that end past midnight, AND no more slipping in (the house) like a thief in the night... Thank you, thank you, and Mabuhay ang PSG!