

# SGOP News



Official Newsletter of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of the Philippines Foundation, Inc.

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### SGOP FYI. . .

**SGOP Interesting Case and Research Paper Contests** will be held last week of September (Venue and exact date to be announced later)

**2nd SGOP Tumor Conference** on September 30, 2009, 6 PM, at the Ledesma Hall, 9th floor, Makati Medical Center

**Tumor Registry** reminders to all members, preferably through the SGOP website. ([www.sgop.org.ph](http://www.sgop.org.ph))

## SGOP is 25 years old!

### SGOP Foundation Day SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**T**he Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of the Philippines (SGOP) will be celebrating its 25th year foundation day anniversary on August 27, 2009, at the Legaspi Ballroom of the Intercontinental Hotel Manila. This celebration will take the place of the traditional pre-convention Welcome Dinner. The keynote speaker is the highly respected first president of our society, Dr. Luciano S.J. Sotto. Other highlights of this event are the recognition rites honoring the SGOP founding members, and the launching of our very own website. Our generous sponsor for this much awaited celebration is Biomedis Oncology.

ADUNGO

### SGOP- PSCPC-PSSTD Joint Annual Convention set August 27-29, 2009

**D**r. Rey H. delos Reyes, President of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of the Philippines (SGOP), announced that all preparations have been finalized for this year's annual scientific gathering to be held at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila in Makati City on August 27-29, 2009. Planned in close coordination with Dr. Cynthia Fernandez-Tan, President of the Philippine Society for Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy (PSCPC), and Dr. Ma. Bernadette O. Cruz, President of the Philippine Society for the Study of Trophoblastic Diseases Inc. (PSSTD), the 2009 collaborative affair will be the third time for the three Societies to engage in a joint convention.

The Organizing Committee, chaired by Dr. Gil S. Gonzalez, SGOP Vice President, has assembled a roster of experts to present a varied mix of timely topics, ranging from updates and practical aspects on surgery, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy for gynecologic malignancies, new concepts in trophoblastic neoplasia, and ongoing concerns like nutrition support, among many others. Participants will find interesting and immersive the special interactive sessions and tumor board discussions. The Course Faculty will feature international Guest Speaker Dr. Swee Chong Quek of KK Women's & Children's Hospital, Singapore. He will be joined by a mix of impressive young, upcoming speakers and of seasoned experts.

Members are enjoined to attend all the evening social events, including the Welcome Reception (August 27), Presidents' Night (August 28), and Fellowship Night (August 29). The Annual Business Meetings SGOP and PSCPC will be on August 28, 2009 at 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. respectively, right after the scientific sessions, at the Grand Ballroom. That of the PSSTD will be at 4 p.m. on the same day at the Dasmarias function room. Inquiries may be directed to the Convention Secretariat at (632) 353-1688 and 0926-727-9226.

GGONZALEZ

## Of Silver Anniversaries...

**D**sed as a symbol of all things precious, yet now in reach, silver is a triumphant symbol of the 25th Anniversary. Silver represents the mastery of one's craft and the attainment of material wealth" (Gretchen Scoble, Ann Field, Chronicle Books LLS, San Francisco, CA)

Twenty five years after its foundation, an organization may find itself in either of these situations: 1) It has simply ceased to exist or 2) it has successfully perpetuated its life that it remains viable after 25 years. More than a mere stroke of luck, viability in this sense is the sum of tenable visions, its members' parallel goals and missions and pure hard work. Today, the SGOP enter its 25th year of existence, from the nine founding members, it has grown to seventy eight members and more will be added..

As an organization, the SGOP has done a lot for the society. It has produced clinical experts through the years thus augmenting the medical care being received by millions of Filipino women afflicted by gynecologic cancers. The SGOP has opened its doors to advance the knowledge of "OB generalists". Through the organization's "Community Service" arm, it has reached out to sectors most in need but otherwise incapable of acquiring medical attention.

The road to success as we learned from our mentors was never easy. In fact it was a road that is always under construction. Yes, success wouldn't have come easy if the people involved did not feel any passion for what they did. As one proverb would say "few people succeed at anything unless they enjoy it". To this, any SGOP member would say "Amen!" Today, the hard work has paid off. Today, the SGOP stands as a symbol of solidarity and excellence. Moreover, the "closely-knit" relationship and the very palpable camaraderie among members have always been a source of envy.

The founders of this organization can be likened to stonecutters, persistently and tirelessly hammering away at a rock, carving the art to perfection. They were astute enough to know that one blow was not enough but that through a concerted effort, the hundredth and one blow may achieve the desired result. Our generation can not hope to duplicate what our mentors have accomplished, but to them, we can only promise that we will try to improve on their visions and keep alive the missions that they have started not only in this generation but in those to come.

TBCARDENAS

## Convention Nights...

### • PRESIDENTS' NIGHT

A toast to the current leaders of the three societies, this will be the third time the so-called Presidents' Night will convene. This will be on the night of August 28, 2009. The Presidents (Dr. Rey delos Reyes of SGOP, Dr. Cynthia Fernandez-Tan of PSCPC and Dr. Bernadette O. Cruz of PSSTD) have opted for a very timely theme for this year "Michael Jackson" (in memoriam?). This will surely be an enjoyable evening with the leaders swinging or singing in accordance to the theme. Another highlight of the evening will be the very interesting talk to be given by Dr. Augusto M. Manalo on "The Doctor as a Painter". This event is sponsored by Fresenius Kabi.

TBCARDENAS

### • FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

Every year, the most awaited event during the Annual Convention is the fellowship night. This is on August 29, 2009. Surely, this year will be another event to remember. This year's theme is Evolution of Dances through the Decades.

There will be six groups competing during the fellowship night. Each group will be performing a dance number representing a specific decade- PSSTD (1950), NCR 3 (1960), NCR 1 (1970), Visayas/Mindanao (1980), Luzon (1990) and NCR 3 (2000).

Top three performers will be chosen based on the following criteria: choreography (30%), production design (20%), showmanship (30%), audience impact (10%) and attendance (10%). First prize will receive 20 thousand pesos, second prize and third prize will get 15 and 10 thousand pesos, respectively. The event is sponsored by Globo Asiatico Enterprises Inc. and Astellas Pharma.

LAQUILIZAN

## EDITORIAL BOARD

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**Gil S. Gonzalez, MD**

**Aris Dungo, MD**

**Leo Francis Aquilizan, MD**

**Genalin Fabul, MD**

*Contributors*



**Goodfellow**

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I am happy that in spite of the ongoing economic crisis, we are able to continue with the activities of our Society.

Our midyear convention last April 3-4, 2009 at CAMSUR was a great success. Dr. Christine Palma and her members deserve to be congratulated. During that event, we were able to finally approve the amendments of our Constitution and By-Laws. I hope to provide each member a copy of our new Constitution and By-Laws during our Annual Convention. We learned a lot from the scientific lectures and enjoyed the water sports activities, and of course, the hospitality of Dr. Alma Bresnan and her family. Thanks to our benevolent sponsor, GSK, for their continued support. Again, they already agreed to support our Midyear convention next year.

The Gynecologic Cancer Registry Committee of Drs. Lily May Cole and Jean Toral has been working hard these past days, in coordination with Dr. Manny Manabat, who's in-charge of our Website. They have finalized the format for our registry to really capture the data that we need. Finally, our new website will be re-launched during our Silver Anniversary Night on Aug. 27, 2009. This is through the hard work of Dr. Manabat and our sponsor Biomedis Oncology, especially Mr. Albert Magpantay. I strongly encouraged all our members and all our fellows-in-training to actively participate in this project. The data that we generate from the registry will be of great help to us and will also be of benefit to our patients.

Our Society was founded in 1984. This is our Silver Anniversary Year. The committee, chaired by Dr. Aris

## The President's Notes

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**REY H. DE LOS REYES, MD**

Dungo, has been very busy since last year preparing for the celebration of our 25th founding anniversary. I hope everyone will come and actively participate in this celebration to give honor and recognition to the founders of our Society and see how our Society has progressed through the years.

Dr. Gil Gonzalez and the members of the Organizing Committee of our Annual Convention 2009, again deserved to be congratulated for the very beautiful program and activities they have prepared for us. They really exerted all efforts to make our annual convention this year a good venue for us to update our knowledge and at the same time enjoy the camaraderie of our friends and colleagues. We are again conducting this convention with the Philippine Society of Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy (PSCPC) and the Philippine Society for the Study of Trophoblastic Diseases (PSSTD) at the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati City. I enjoin everyone to participate and enjoy in this year's convention.

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**SGOP- PSCPC-PSSTD  
Joint Annual Convention  
Organizing Committee**



# I REMEMBER THEM WELL

Augusto M. Manalo, MD

**I** remember them well – the less than ten gynecologic oncologists, each with a vision of an organization of doctors primarily practicing gynecologic oncology, each willing to put his heart and soul into what the group believed was a very noble undertaking. With inspiration and advice from Dr. Constantino P. Manahan, one of the pillars of Philippine Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of the Philippines was formally organized.

In the years that followed, additional two, three or four members were added. These were graduates of the Gynecologic Oncology Program of the UP PGH Medical Center. Very recently, graduates of the Gynecologic Oncology Program of Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center were also added. Today, we have a total of seventy-eight members. This year, four more will be added.

I remember them well – other doctors from other fields of medicine who have worked and still work in intimate relationship with the gynecologic oncologists, who were invited as affiliate members. They included Pathologists like the late Dr. Benjamin Canlas, Dr. Adelaida Dalmacio Cruz, Dr. Francisco Narciso, Dr. Rolando Lopez, Dr. Elizabeth Arcellana-Nuqui, Dr. Jose Maria Avila, Dr. Agustina Abelardo and many others. They also included Radiation Oncologists like Dr. Gaudencio Vega, Dr. Miriam Calaguas, Dr. Teresita Ortin and others; Trophoblastic Disease Specialists like Dr. Fe Palo Garcia, Dr. Lourdes Capito, Dr. Bernadette Cruz, Dr. Elizabeth Jacinto, Dr. Carmen Quevedo, Dr. Mila Jocson, Dr. Anne Trinidad and others, and Anesthesiologist like Dr. Ma. Lourdes Cabaluna.

I remember them well – the annual postgraduate courses, initially held at the Ledesma Hall of Makati Medical Center, but later moved out to the bigger venues of hotels. These postgraduate courses later expanded to Annual Conventions which soon accepted, as participants, those practicing general obstetrics and gynecology. I remember the themes of those conventions – like Gynecologic Cancers – Continuing the Crusade, Future Directions in Gynecologic Oncology, Crossing the Bridge to the New Millenium and many others.

I remember them well – our distinguished speakers from across the seas – like William Creasman, Carmel Cohen, Sergio Pecorelli, Gillian Thomas, Hextan Ngan, Micheal Friedlander, Nelson Teng, Suzanne Garland and many more.

I remember them well – the almost innumerable countryside conferences from the far North to the far South, faithfully carrying out one of the important missions of the organization which is dissemination of relevant information about the specialty. I remember San Fernando (La Union), Tuguegarao (Cagayan), San Fernando (Pampanga), Calatagan (Batangas), Lucena City, Tagaytay City, Naga City, Cebu City, Tacloban City, Iloilo City and Boracay, among many others.

I remember them well – the formulation and later revisions of our treatment guidelines – at Clark Air Base, at Linden Suites and in Tagaytay.

I remember them well – the many issues of the Philippine Journal of Gynecologic Oncology, sometimes coming out late, but always full of rich information about the past and current studies done by our members.

I remember them well – the breakfast meetings at the Glasshouse, the Dome Café, what used to be the Country Waffle, the UCC Coffee and the Pancake House. I remember how we extensively discussed the activities of our organization, the problems that we have encountered and the solutions that we could offer to avoid or minimize these problems in the future.

I remember them well – our Fellowship Nights, the much awaited time for us to unwind, share our other talents and “chase the golden hours with flying feet”.

I remember them well – the mutual support, the friendship and camaraderie among all our members.

Yes, I remember them well. I have lived through all of them and, with fondness in my heart, I will continue remembering.

## The SGOP Founding Members



Dr. Luciano S.J. Sotto



Dr. Augusto M. Manalo



Dr. Genera M. Limson



Dr. Rainerio S. Abad



Dr. Isidro B. Benitez



Dr. Manuel N. Borja



Dr. Angeles Padilla-Cruz



Dr. Virgilio R. Oblepias



Dr. Thelma Buerano

# SGOP at 25



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## “FULL STEAM AHEAD” for *Project: CERVICARE*

**T**he concept of “*Project: CERVICARE*” stemmed out of the plan of the Community Service Committee of SGOP to wage a nationwide information campaign against cervical cancer.

As early as 2008, with its project director Dr. Benjamin D. Cuenca at its helm, the committee began drawing up plans to further the objectives of the project i.e. to establish nationwide information campaign against the disease, identify high-risk women and properly refer them to the nearest hospital for secondary level of care and establish networking programs with other related professional groups and non-government organizations with similar goals.

2009 marked the year when many of the conceptualized strategies of the committee were realized. With SGOP in the forefront together with the OB-GYN Alumni Association of Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRRMMC) led by its prexy, Dr. Anna Lynn Alvarado-Matignas, the battle against cervical cancer gained a foothold. The realization of all these plans came in no better time since 2009 is also the 25<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the SGOP.

In the effort to hold as many campaign programs and to reach as many communities as possible, *Project: Cervicare* saw an early kick off last January 25 with its breast and cervical cancer screening mission in Baliwag, Bulacan. The activity started with a short lay lecture given by Dr. Doris Benavides. A total of 70 patients were screened with 12 cases of (+) VIA identified and referred to JRRMMC for colposcopy and cryotherapy and 1 patient with gross lesion underwent punch biopsy. This was followed by another outreach program on February 22 in Baras, Rizal where 193 patients were seen, of whom four had punch biopsy for gross cervical lesions while 12 patients were VIA positive and underwent subsequent cryotherapy, five cases of endocervical polyp underwent polypectomy and 12 patients with breast mass were referred to the nearest hospital for definitive treatment. A lay lecture on cervical cancer was given by Dr. Genalin Fabul, chief fellow of JRRMMC Section of Gynecologic Oncology and Trophoblastic Disease.

On March 29, the “*Project: Cervicare*” group visited Obando, Bulacan. This time, 151 patients were screened: 5 cases were VIA positive, 2 patients had endocervical polyp who underwent polypectomy, one had biopsy for gross cervical lesion and one patient received appropriate referral for her breast mass.

“*Project: Cervicare*” has also established close tie-ups with pharmaceutical companies who share the same goals and vision. In cooperation with Glaxo-Smithkline, with its district business manager

(DBM) Ms. Ma Riza Pico, the first hospital-based outreach project was held at Pasay City General Hospital on May 27.

The group was also invited to hold a cervical and breast cancer screening among employees and relatives of the Professional Regulation Commission at Sampaloc, Manila on June 17, where 25 patients were screened; the two who were VIA positive underwent cryotherapy. This was led by the SGOP president himself, Dr. Rey H. delos Reyes.

The committee was also invited to join the midyear convention of the Philippine Society of Oncologists (PSO) at the Megatrade Hall I of SM Megamall on June 28 in its program on lay fora. This was attended by Drs. Rey delos Reyes, BJ Cuenca, Melchor dela Cruz, Judith Cabanela, JJ Germar, Anna Dy-Echo, Aya David, Teng Ganzon and the PGH and JRRMMC fellows.

The most recent successful outing was held on July 11 at Calumpit, Bulacan. The event was highlighted by the lay forum led by Dr. BJ Cuenca. Among the 120 patients screened, 2 underwent cervical polypectomy, 2 had punch biopsy for gross cervical lesions, one patient with suspicious cervix was referred for colposcopy, 2 patients with breast mass were referred for excision biopsy and 5 patients underwent cryotherapy for cervical ectropion. This project was made possible by the untiring effort of Drs. Arvin and Marivic Escueta, the latter being the vice president of the JRRMMC OB-GYN Alumni Association with the logistical assistance of GSK through its DBM Ms. Heidi Labrador.

All these outputs would not have been possible if not for the continuing commitments and unsolicited passion of the many cervical cancer advocates: the members of the SGOP Committee on Community Service, members of the JRRMMC OB-GYN Alumni Association, the GYN oncology fellows of JRRMMC and PGH, the residents in-training of Metropolitan Medical Center, JRRMMC and Ospital ng Makati and Tondo Medical Center; Ms. Ma. Victoria Mendoza and Ms. Jenelyn Roxas of the SGOP secretariat and the people behind Glaxo-Smithkline Philippines.

The year is far from over. Several projects are still in line: September 4 at North Caloocan General Hospital, September 13 in Plaridel, Bulacan and October 18 in Pinugay, Baras, Rizal.

The committee is still eagerly offering its services and enthusiastically waiting for more invitations from government as well as NGO's which share the same mission and vision.

Let's keep the torch burning for Project Cervicare!

GFABUL

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## Only in CamSur!

**R**elaxation...how do you define it? First, it is lying on a hammock under the trees, sipping your favorite drink while watching the sunset; second, exhausting your body by engaging in sports like wakeboarding; and since this group consisted of people from SGOP and PSCPC, lectures and updates on the latest treatment for gynecologic malignancies. Lucky for us, we were given the chance to experience CamSur's best through the generosity of Glaxo-Smith-Kline, as always, our partner in combating cervical cancer through their product, CERVARIX.

Last April 4, 2009, after a 45-minute flight to CamSur, we headed to CWC (Camsur Watersports Complex) for a quick brunch. The more adventurous ones from the group couldn't stop themselves from grabbing their gear and heading for the water because wakeboarding wasn't on the agenda that day. Business as usual, as our colleagues lectured on Targeted Therapy, Treatment planning and Chemosensitization in cervical cancer, Immunohistochemistry for Gynecologic Tumors, Minimal Access Surgery as well as the latest Colposcopy Classification and proposed Colposcopy form. The newest members of PSCPC were also inducted and amendments to the SGOP constitution were ratified that same afternoon.

The following day, the topics included clinical updates on Cervarix as well as addressing the issues and concerns regarding the HPV vaccine. This was followed by a tiring but hilarious teambuilding which was participated on by all the members. All the participants went home with bags or bayong of goodies from Bicol. After the teambuilding was the official wakeboarding/kneeboarding time or city tour, depending on your preference. After all the watersports activities and city/market tours, everyone went back to CWC for a mouth-watering dinner courtesy of GSK. They served sushi and pizza with a twist (using laing as an ingredient), lechon, delectable dishes, and desserts.

All in all, the trip to CamSur was quite extraordinary. Kudos to Dr. Christine Palma and Dr. Alma Bresnan for making this trip worth the air turbulence we experienced during the plane trip or the excruciating 9-hour bus trip. Because where else can you find a water complex hailed as the best by many international wakeboarders and a place where you can enjoy your vacation and update yourself on the latest in gynecologic oncology and colposcopy? There's only one answer: only in CamSur!

ADAVID