

# SGOP News

August, 2010



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

## In this issue...

### • SGOP ACTIVITIES

Joint SGOP-PSCPC-PSSTD Annual Convention

Recap of the SGOP-PSCPC Midyear Meeting

CPG for the Generalists

Residents' Interesting Case and Research Paper Contests

Tumor Conference

### • FEATURES

CME: Laparoscopy in Gynecologic Oncology

PROFILE: Dr. Karl Podratz

### • PRESIDENT'S NOTES

### • EDITORIAL

## SGOP, PSCPC, PSSTD Hold Joint Annual Convention in cooperation with IGCS

Gil S. Gonzalez, MD  
*Chair, Organizing Committee*

**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 in Makati City on August 20-21, 2009. Planned in close coordination with Dr. Cynthia F. Fernandez, 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 2010 collaborative affair will be the third time for the three Societies to engage in a joint convention. What is unique for this year's meeting is the official collaboration with the International Gynecologic Cancer Society (IGCS).

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. Karl Podratz, (Read more of Dr. Podratz on page 5 - Ed.) world renowned gynecologic oncologist from the Mayo Clinic, who will also represent the IGCS in the meeting. He will be joined by a mix of impressive local young, upcoming speakers and seasoned experts.

Members are enjoined to attend all the evening social events, including the Welcome Reception (August 19), Presidents' Night (August 20), and Fellowship Night (August 21). The Annual Business Meetings of the SGOP and the PSCPC will be on August 20, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. respectively, right after the scientific sessions, at the Grand Ballroom. Both Societies will also hold the Election of Officers in the same venue. That of the PSSTD will be at 4:30 p.m. on the same day at the Dasmarias function room. Inquiries may be directed to the Convention Secretariat at (632) 526-4787 and 0926-727-9226.



2010 SGOP- PSCPC-PSSTD Joint Annual Convention Organizing Committee

# The Wisdom of Doing Nothing



TBCARDENAS

**M**asterly Inactivity - it is an act not borne out of inertia or impotence. It is an artful and thought-through decision. These are lines I borrowed from Dr. Albert Lim Kok Hooi, an oncologist from Singapore (IHT, July 2, 2010) who himself was referring to the 30-year silence of the Zen masters on the slopes of the Tibetan highlands.

As oncologists, wisdom plays a major role in the treatment and healing of our patients. Wisdom however should not be equated with drugs nor surgical skills. Unfortunately, the extent of medical care we intend to or are forced to give are, most of the time, influenced by the perceived expectations from patients and their relatives. I have long toyed with the idea of writing a short treatise on this topic buoyed up by observations of “unacceptably over indulgent but otherwise useless” treatment some colleagues give to their patients. Dr Hooi’s article was an unexpected reminder - doctors badly need to be reminded.

Although not exclusive for oncology, the behavior of patients expecting to go home loaded with prescriptions and requests for costly ancillary procedures is very evident among these patients, most especially for those who are nearly or obviously terminally-ill. Again to quote Dr. Hooi, “there is often undue pressure from the patients with advanced incurable cancer - also from the patient’s relatives - to do something, anything, everything. They insist on mostly ineffective 3rd, 4th or even 5th line chemotherapy because death is not acceptable. Sometimes they demand a course of prolonged, high dose radical RT in such a situation. Sadly, some doctors cave in”.

Perhaps wisdom comes with age. Perhaps personal familiarity to situations will teach the young. Perhaps experience per se will guide the physician to the path of the wise. “The enlightened doctor sometimes holds back because he knows less is more . . .”

\* \* \* \* \*

“Change of Guards” - the Filipino public may still be on a honeymoon stage with the new administration, while the SGOP populace is gearing for a new election of officers and members of the BOT. For the last three years, the present set of officers have chipped in precious time and unconditional, untiring and selfless service - all for the growth and success of the Society. With the very vibrant Dr. Rey delos Reyes at the helm, SGOP has spanned new horizons making the job for the next set of officers a slightly easier one. “A job well done”, as the saying goes and CONGRATULATIONS are in order.

This would likewise be my last issue as your Editor-in-chief and as I sign off, let me extend my gratitude to all contributors for the last six editions and special thanks to Dr. Aya de Castro. Thank you all for the cooperation and support.

## SGOP Tumor Conference

**E**ach year, the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of the Philippines holds Tumor Conferences for the continuing medical education of its members, discussing interesting topics that could aid the clinician in providing the best possible patient care. This project of the society is being spearheaded by Dr Jericho Thaddeus P. Luna.

The first Tumor Conference for 2010 was held on the twenty-sixth day of March at the GSK Auditorium in Makati City. Presenting and discussing the case on Platinum Resistant Recurrent Ovarian Cancer was Dr Salvador Luis R. Villanueva. Giving his own comments and insights on the case was Dr Benjamin D. Cuenca.

This year’s second Tumor Conference was held on August 9 at the Metrobank Foundation Hall of the Manila Doctor’s Hospital. Dr Arnold Liwag presented and discussed the case, while Dr Jericho Luna was reactor.

Both conferences were well-attended by officers and members of the SGOP, as well as by residents and fellows in training.

JTPLUNA



2nd Tumor Conference, Manila Doctors' Hospital



Dr. Arnold Liwag as Speaker

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**H**ello to all the members of SGOP. This is the last issue of our newsletter during my presidency. Time flies so fast, I am now in the last few months of my 3-year term as president of our Society. With everyone's help, support and cooperation, we were able to achieve a lot for our Society and members. The guidance of our mentors, most especially Dr. Luciano SJ Sotto, Dr. Genara M. Limson and Dr. Augusto M. Manalo, has truly helped me a lot during the years of my reign.

Our midyear convention last May 3-4, 2010 at Anvaya Cove was a great success. Dr. Christine Palma and her members deserve to be congratulated. The presentation on the proposed revisions of the Guidelines for General Ob-Gyn was well attended, with everyone actively participating in the discussion. The revised guideline is expected to be made available during this year's annual convention. Everyone enjoyed a lot during the fellowship night. I give thanks to our benevolent sponsor, GSK, for their continued support. They already agreed to support our Midyear convention next year.

Our Society was founded in 1984. We celebrated our Silver Jubilee last year, 2009. The committee, chaired by Dr. Aris Dungo, who took care of the successful celebration of our 25th founding anniversary, has finally published the souvenir book to give honor and recognition to the founders and past presidents of our Society. I hope everyone has received their copy by now. If not, please coordinate with our secretary at the SGOP office. Don't miss this very important documentation of the progress of our Society. I am sure you had contributed a lot to it.

Dr. Gil Gonzalez and the members of the Organizing Committee of our Annual Convention 2010 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 very good venue for us to update our knowledge and at the same time enjoy the camaraderie of our friends and colleagues. For the 4th time, we are conducting this convention with the Philippine Society for Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy (PSCPC) and the Philippine Society for the Study of Trophoblastic

## The President's Notes



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

Diseases (PSSTD), at the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati City.

For the first time, this year's annual convention is held with the support of the International Gynecologic Cancer Society (IGCS). I am indeed very grateful that they sent Dr. Karl Podratz to speak on very important and relevant topics that will surely help us give the best gynecologic oncology care to our patients. Our guest speaker is a well-known gynecologic oncologist, researcher and a very much sought speaker in international oncology conventions. We are truly honored by his presence.

For this issue, our editor-in-chief, Dr. Teresita Cardenas, has prepared very interesting and relevant articles. I would like to express my sincerest thanks to her for her dedication and hard work in order to be able to come up with the two issues of our newsletter every year. I truly enjoyed working with her.

As this is the last year of my presidency, I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to all who has made this experience a very memorable and enjoyable segment of my life. It was indeed a great learning experience. To all my co-officers, members of the annual convention organizing committee, members of the different working committees, the gynecologic oncology fellows, the different pharmaceutical industries and their personnel, and all those who in one way or another has given their share in what we have achieved during my presidency, THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!!! Lastly, I enjoin everyone to participate and enjoy this year's SGOP-PSCPC-PSSTD Annual Convention.



**SGOP Officers and Members of the Board of Trustees 2008 –2010 with the Advisers**

Front Row (L-R): Drs. Oblepias, Limson, Delos Reyes, Manalo Llave and Gonzalez.  
Back Row (L-R): Drs. Dungo, Palma, Sia Su, Manabat, Tan, Cardenas and Cuenca



## SGOP- PSCPC Midyear Meeting

**A**nother educational and recreational midyear meeting was experienced by the members of SGOP and the PSCPC last May 3-4, 2010 at the exclusive (Ayala Land Corp) Anvaya Cove in Bataan. This was participated by 75 gynecologic oncologists and fellows. Of these, 59 were consultants and 16 were fellows-in-training. There were 5 sole PSCPC members. Glaxo Smith Kline through its dynamic representative, Ms. Veron Medina has made this academic and fun-filled event feasible and efficiently organized.

This year's midyear meeting was primarily for the two societies to discuss "The Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Prevention of Gynecologic Cancer". The Section of Gynecologic Oncology of the UP-PGH presented the recommendations based on the section's research/consensus for the different malignancy in gynecology. The session heads were Dr. Julieta Germar for Cervical Cancer, Dr. Carolyn Zalameda-Castro for Endometrial Cancer, Dr. Jean Toral for Ovarian Cancer, Dr. Glenn Benitez for Vulvar/Vaginal Cancer and Dr. Jericho Luna for Breast Cancer. The output of this consensus is expected to be published and possibly distributed and sold to the general gynecologists.

The final consensus will likewise be presented to the general membership of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society in the annual convention.

Updates on the practice of gynecologic oncology were also competently and comprehensively discussed by our younger consultants: Dr. Leo Aquilizan for "Chemoradiation or Chemosurgery for Cervical Cancer", Dr. Irene Magiba for "Neoadjuvant Treatment for Stage III Endometrial Cancer" and Dr. Helen Yambao for "Recurrent Ovarian Cancer: Sequencing of Chemotherapy".

The best treat of the Midyear was the fellowship night cooked up by Co-chair, Dr. Esther Ganson. A wacky and exciting party was rocked by our colleagues who formed an excellent band: Drs. Gil Gonzalez, Joy Garcia, JV Belarmino (radiologist), Pao Teodoro (radiology resident) and Cathy Dizon (orthodontist). The band's main singers were Drs. Ana Ruaro, Renee Sicam, Ana Dy Echo, with guest singers Drs. Rainerio Abad, Ronald Cacho and Rey delos Reyes, all with professional performing caliber. Music, dance, games and prizes entertained the participants till the late hours of the evening. A farewell presentation for one of our colleagues, Dr. Rafael Tomacruz was likewise prepared by Dr. Jericho Luna.

Day 2 was devoted to lectures on the Bivalent Cervical Cancer Vaccine: "Updates on the AS04 Adjuvanted Vaccine: Adding to a Strong Design Framework" by Dr. Julieta Germar, "Addressing the Male Vaccination Conundrum" by Dr. Rafael Tomacruz, "Peer-Reviewed Articles on Vaccination" and "Physician's Influence on Vaccination Coverage" by Dr. Jericho Thaddeus Luna.

Team building among the SGOP and PSCPC members was reinforced by creative activities organized by Benchmark, a professional events organizer through the generous sponsorship of GSK.

This midyear meeting has accomplished all that it aimed for: education, camaraderie, rest and recreation in the superlatives. We are looking forward to a similar activity next year.



MCFPALMA

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## 9th SGOP Annual Interesting Case & Research Contests

**T**he Society of Gynecology Oncologist of the Philippines, Inc. will be holding the 9th Annual Interesting Case and Research Paper Contest on October 9, 2010 at the GSK Office, Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. These contests aim to disseminate basic and advanced knowledge in gynecologic oncology and to promote interest in research on genital tract malignancies.

In this regard, we are inviting all residents in Obstetrics and Gynecology and subspecialty fellows in Gynecologic Oncology who are presently in training or had completed their training within 2009 to submit interesting cases and/or research papers related to gynecologic oncology. These papers should have been completed while the resident / fellow was in training at their respective institution. Deadline for submission of entries is on August 31, 2010 at the SGOP Secretariat at Unit 414 of Manila Astral Tower, 1330 Taft Avenue, Ermita, Manila. The rules and regulations for the contest are as follows:

### Rules and Regulations

**Objective:** The contests are aimed to promote interesting case presentation and research in Gynecologic Oncology among OB-GYN residents and subspecialty fellows in training.

1. The principal author must be a resident/fellow of a POGS-accredited training institution. He/She may be in active training or has completed his/her training last year (2009).
2. Papers that have been finalists in previous national (POGS)/international contests or have been presented in national/international conventions are no longer qualified to enter, unless these papers were preliminary reports with updated data and new information.
3. Manuscript must be written in English on 8.5" x 13" inch paper on one side only, double spacing and margins of 1.5 inch using Arial 11 font.
4. Six copies of the manuscript should be submitted. The identity of the author/s and/or institution should not be mentioned anywhere in the paper.
5. In a sealed business envelope, place a separate Title Page and a written certification by the Department Chairman.
6. The manuscript and the sealed business envelope must be placed in a long envelope and submitted to:  
SGOP Committee on Research  
Secretariat Office  
Unit 14 Manila Astral Tower  
1330 Taft Ave. corner Padre Faura St.  
Ermita, Manila 1000
7. Deadline for entries is on August 31, 2010

## SGOP Welcomes Dr. Karl Podratz

**D**r. Karl C. Podratz is a consultant in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Mayo Clinic Rochester. Dr. Podratz was awarded the honor of the named professorship, Joseph I. and Barbara Ashkins Professor of Surgery, in 1990.



Dr. Podratz obtained a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and completed post-graduate training at St. Louis University where he received his medical degree and a PhD in biochemistry. He completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Chicago and a Fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at the Mayo Clinic.

He has combined a high-volume gynecologic surgery/oncology practice with complementary clinical and translational investigations over the past 30 years at the Mayo Clinic. His chief research interest is endometrial cancer, focusing on the pathogenesis and treatment-related outcomes, and is the author of more than 200 peer-reviewed publications. He has also served in numerous administrative capacities at the Mayo Clinic, including the Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology for 14 years and Director of the Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship Program for 20 years.

Concurrent with his clinical and investigative pursuits at the Mayo Clinic, Dr. Podratz serves as Chair of the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation, member of the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons and a member of the Council of the International Gynecologic Cancer Society. He has served as past president of the Society of Gynecologic Surgeons, Society of Gynecologic Oncologists, Western Association of Gynecologic Oncologists and the Central Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. In addition, Dr. Podratz served as editor of Gynecologic Oncology and associate editor of Evidence-Based Obstetrics and Gynecology.

**Present Position:** Joseph and Barbara Ashkins Professor of Surgery; Mayo Clinic College of Medicine; Rochester, MN

**IGCS Activities:** Member of Council (2006-2010); Member, Scientific Program Committees; presented and chaired sessions at several meetings

(From: Women Cancer Network, 2010 and IGCS Election 2010 Election Brochure)

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## SGOP Releases CPG for the General OB-Gyn

**I**n fulfilling SGOP's mission of disseminating basic and advanced knowledge about gynecologic cancers, it is coming up with the second edition of the Clinical Practice Guidelines in Gynecologic Oncology for the General Obstetrician-Gynecologist. The first edition was published in 2003.

The ADHOC Committee was headed by Dr. Efrén Domingo. Members of the faculty of the Section of Gynecologic Oncology of UP-PGH took the lead in developing the guidelines. Focus for this guideline is the primary and secondary prevention for the different gynecologic cancers. The presentation and the critiquing of the clinical practice guidelines were held last May 3 during the SGOP Midyear Convention in Anvaya Cove.

This product of hard work will be launched and made available to our general OB-GYN colleagues during the Annual Convention in August 20-21, 2010.

# Laparoscopy in Gynecologic Oncology in the Philippines: How Far Have We Come?

**German C. Tan Cardoso II, MD**  
*Section Chief, Advanced Pelvic Surgery*  
*East Avenue Medical Center*

**T**he practice of laparoscopy dates back to 1901 when a cystoscope was used to inspect a dog's abdominal cavity. This technique was eventually applied in humans in 1923. Progress in its development was slow during the years that followed. It was only in the 1960s when laparoscopy was used for the management of benign gynecologic conditions such as tubal sterilization, evaluation and treatment of ectopic pregnancy, endometriosis and benign adnexal masses, that laparoscopy began gaining new ground. In the late 1980s the use of laparoscopy in gynecologic oncology was reported. The 1990s will be remembered as the decade during which the use of operative laparoscopy grew astronomically. Rapid technologic development and advances in surgical technique have pushed the frontiers of endoscopic surgery beyond what was envisioned in just a few short years. Many members of the Gynecologic Oncology Group once believed that laparoscopy has no role in the management of gynecologic cancers. Today, laparoscopy is the preferred surgical approach in the surgical treatment of many gynecologic cancers where the apparatus and skill are available.

In the Philippines, laparoscopy had been used in tubal ligation in the early 1970s with the single eye-piece laparoscope. In the 90s, operative laparoscopy began to be performed in the management of benign gynecologic diseases with the modern video laparoscopy. Most of the laparoscopic procedures being performed are for benign conditions. At present, there are only few institutions that have the machine.

During my senior year of residency in the early 90s, I stumbled upon a set of single eye-piece laparoscope in my institution. I studied how to operate the apparatus by myself and read on how to use it. Without formal training and the guidance of an experienced operator, I performed a few tubal ligations until the manual insufflator broke down.

In 2007, we acquired a modern video laparoscope/hysteroscope at the East Avenue Medical Center. The Section of Endoscopy was then formed, composed of five dedicated staff. Many cases of operative hysteroscopy and laparoscopy were performed. Among the operative laparoscopic procedures performed for benign conditions were cystectomy, oophorectomy, myomectomy, hysterectomy, sacral colpopexy, and hysterocolpopexy. When our team had gained enough skills and confidence we started doing laparoscopy on gynecologic cancer patients. We performed decision or assessment laparoscopy to assess resectability of advanced and recurrent ovarian cancer, diagnostic laparoscopy for peritoneal carcinomatosis and pelvic tuberculosis, and restaging procedures. A few cases of pelvic lymphadenectomy were performed for cervical and endometrial cancer. The highlight among the cases performed is extrafascial hysterectomy, BSO and bilateral pelvic lymphadenectomy on a case of endometrial cancer.

The slow progress of laparoscopy in the Philippines is due to limited availability of the machine and a lack of training centers. It is my hope that our Society, the SGOP, will encourage and support its members to learn laparoscopy. Progress in laparoscopy is inevitable. It is now the preferred surgical approach in many gynecologic cancers. In the coming years, it will become the standard surgical approach for gynecologic malignancies.



**Goodfellow**

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