

NEWSLETTER



PHILIPPINE SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE, INC.

PSRM NEWSLETTER

July 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Gladys G. Tanangonan, MD



2019 marks the 25th year of PSRM. Silver. It is a precious metal that symbolizes riches and wealth. In PSRM we have a treasure trove of silver-haired individuals who are aging gracefully and remain to be shining beacons to the younger generation. Silver. It is believed to be a mirror to the soul, helping us to see ourselves as others see us. This year will mark the society's birth into the Asean arena what with the forthcoming participation of PSRM in the AFOG convention in November and ASPIRE 2020 in April next year. Silver. It is a gemstone that represents hope, unconditional love, mystic visions and sensitivities. PSRM will continue to share knowledge through its Annual convention and CME activities, promote advancement of its members through lectures and seminars, and create awareness about women's health through different platforms. Silver. It denotes brilliance and sophistication. It is a reason to celebrate. And that is what we will do.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT Marinella Agnes G. Abat, MD



On behalf of the Philippine Society for Reproductive Medicine (PSRM), Inc. it is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the PSRM 25th Annual Convention here at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

The PSRM Annual Convention features a diverse array of topics designed to address educational needs of practitioners in the exciting field of Reproductive Medicine. Plenary lectures will feature outstanding speakers covering topics such as endometriosis, polycystic ovary syndrome, abnormal uterine bleeding, recurrent pregnancy loss, reproductive surgery, and in-vitro fertilization. One of the highlights of the convention is a memorial lecture which will focus on the state of the art of REI in the Philippines. Special topics on the role of gynecologists on the

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Jumpstarting ASPIRE 2020. Aspire leaders & administrators with the Filipino delegates taking a commemorative photo to joyfully herald in the 10th Congress.

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continuation message from the vice president.....

management of patients with HIV and hormone replacement therapy for women with malignancies will also be discussed by experts. Another important feature of the convention are the small breakout sessions with leading local REI experts, where the participants will have the opportunity to interact and discuss cases on LGBT and transgender care, secondary amenorrhea, and male infertility, among others.

The post-congress on the third day of the convention is designed for the continuing education of IVF practitioners. Ground-breaking and innovative topics on fertility preservation such as rationale for fertility preservation, fertility preservation among children and adolescent girls with cancer, fertility preservation in gynecologic malignancies and among women with breast and hematologic cancers, and ethical considerations of fertility preservation will be tackled.

Let me also take this wonderful opportunity to invite all of you to our fellowship night on July 18, 2019, 6pm at the Edsa Shangri-la ballroom, with the theme "Silver, Stars and Serenade". This will be a gala event, celebrating the silver anniversary of the PSRM. We encourage all attendees to wear their best black tie suits and silver gowns, as we salute the 25 glorious years of PSRM, and hail the fabulous years ahead. The socials committee has prepared a grand celebration that will feature a banquet of good food and music, with an orchestra and performances by our very own talented PSRM singers. I hope to see all of you there!



PHILIPPINE SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

25th ANNUAL CONVENTION

CONCERNS, CONTROVERSIES AND CHALLENGES IN REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

EDSA SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, MANDALUYONG CITY
16-17 JULY 2019

PRE-REGISTRATION IS UNTIL 15 JUNE 2019

FERTILITY PRESERVATION POST-CONGRESS COURSE 18 JULY 2019

BSV
Board of Specialties in Reproductive Medicine

KEYNOTE LECTURES

"State of the ART": 25 Years of REI in the Philippines
Dr. Leonardo A. Almada

Surgery for Endometriotic Cysts: When and How?
Dr. Delfin A. Tan

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REGISTRATION FEES	CONGRESS PROPER		POST-CONGRESS COURSE	
	PRE-REG	ON-SITE	PRE-REG	ON-SITE
MEMBER	5,000	6,000	FREE	FREE
NON-MEMBER	6,000	7,000	2,500	3,500
RESIDENT FELLOW IN TRAINING	4,800	5,800	2,500	3,500

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

ONLINE Visit www.psrm.org

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Account number: 235-3-23251243-2
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P.R.O.



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IVF SERIES 2019

by Romerico F. Torres, MD

Last June 14, 2019, the PSRM in partnership with Merck Serono Philippines has embarked on the first of its 3 part IVF series at the Edsa Shangrila, Boracay Room. A total of close to 80 members participated in the said event. The program was kicked off by the Welcome address of current PSRM Board President Dr Gladys Tanangonan and Sponsor's message by Miss Shine Basilio of Merck. The overview of the course was given by the Chair of the IVF series and PSRM Board Auditor Dr Romerico F. Torres. The following topics were discussed in this first installation; Indications for IVF, Pre IVF Work Up, Choosing the Right Stimulation Protocol and Use of Agonist or Antagonist, with or without LH during stimulation. The discussants for the topics were Drs Torres, PSRM Board Treasurer Asuncion Fernandez, Eileen Co-Sy and Past President Leonardo Almeda. The last part was a lively and engaging discussion of 2 IVF cases with the group being divided in to 2, and were ably handled by Drs Debby Guani Dy- Meguizo and Romerico Torres. The 2nd and 3rd (final) of the series will be held on the following dates: August 23, 2019 and September 13, 2019, both to be held also at Edsa Shangrila. The PSRM is grateful for the generous sponsorship of Merck Serono in this endeavor that addresses the aspirations of PSRM members to embark on their own IVF practice.



PSRM NEWSLETTER

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POGS Clinical Practice Guidelines on Basic Infertility Evaluation and Management By Ina S. Irabon, MD

The Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society(POGS), through the initiative of Dr Virgilio Novero, Jr., has mandated the PSRM to create a clinical practice guidelines on basic infertility evaluation and management, to serve as guide for the general or non-REI gynecologists on how to manage uncomplicated cases of infertility, which diagnostics to initially request, what medications a non-REI gynecologist can safely prescribe, how to manage each specific etiology of infertility, and which specific cases/scenarios need to be referred to an infertility subspecialist. It also showcases a special chapter on ethical guidelines and levels of competency that specifies the eligibility of health care practitioners with different training experiences, in providing care/management procedures for couples seeking infertility consult.

The CPG will have 12 chapters, each head-authored by some of the most exemplary REI practitioners in the country today. It includes chapters on definition and epidemiology, etiology and pathophysiology, initial evaluation, preconceptional health, ovulatory dysfunction, tubal infertility, uterine disorders, endometriosis-associated infertility, male infertility, unexplained infertility, indications for IUI and IVF, and ethical guidelines for infertility.

The PSRM plenary critiquing was held last June 4, 2019 at the Discovery Suites hotel, and attended by CPG authors, editors and board members of the PSRM. It was, as usual, a very academic exercise, laced with spirited and intellectual debates, all for the purpose of coming up with the best statements that would serve the best interest of the Filipino patient, and of course, strongly supported by current medical evidence. Next up is the grand plenary critiquing by POGS on August 2019, to be attended by a wider spectrum of audience, composed of generalists, and other stakeholders.

The CPG is set for release during the POGS-AOFOG convention in November 2019 at the Philippine International Convention Center.





International Reproductive Medicine Map

by

VIRGILIO M. NOVERO, JR., MD

Past PSRM President (2010)

Local Organizing Committee Chair, ASPIRE 2020

When the 10th Congress of the Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE) opens at the Philippine International Convention Center in April 2020, it will mark the biggest reproductive medicine event ever to be held in the history of the Philippines. Imagine about 2000 repromed delegates roaming the streets of Manila, of which 75% are international participants. With at least 50-60 world icons of the field, their two thousand disciples, and the involved pharma companies temporarily holing up in hotels along the Manila Bay area, it would seem like a dream that such an event is actually about to happen in Manila. Early feedbacks from curious onlookers project a heavy turnout for ASPIRE 2020. Filipinos have drummed up incredible excitement during the ASPIRE meeting in Hong Kong with their upbeat marketing video, their inviting booth, and the friendly smiles of the next hosts.

To be clear, the first big international RM event in Manila actually happened in February 2019 with the staging of the 6th ASPIRE Master class on Male Infertility at the Henry Sy Sr. auditorium of the St. Luke's Medical Center Global City. Manila was chosen to be the site of the 6th MC by the ASPIRE Education committee a year in advance. With adequate planning, the event became a rousing success with over 105 attendees, of which 75% were foreign delegates. That Master class broke previous ASPIRE MC records in attendance and positive feedback. The participants of the two workshops and the lectures were delirious about the scientific learnings of the program and the effectiveness of the course faculty. The faculty themselves were very pleased with the audience's interaction and the hospitality by the hosts. And the ASPIRE reps and the local organizers were very pleased with the results and feedback. Everyone went home very happy!

And if those are not enough, there is a good chance that the Asian Society of Endometriosis and Adenomyosis (ASEA) and potentially the Asian Society of Fertility Preservation (ASFP) may be holding similar events in Manila in the next few years.

For the longest time, Filipino practitioners were mere spectators in international and regional events, patiently traveling to various destinations to learn and bring home new knowledge for local application. Until the early 2000s, local experts would just listen as western and regional speakers dazzle during local congresses with their wit and credible ideas. But times have changed. A handful of local experts

are also getting regional exposure as speakers in scientific congresses. Requests for Filipino speakers in regional events seemed to have started around 2010 when Drs. Delfin Tan, Eileen Manalo, and yours truly received sporadic invitations to speak in various annual congresses and Pharma-organized symposia in Southeast Asia and China. Today, the list includes Richie Mendiola, Duchess Silao, and Angge Aguilar and invitations also originate from Taipei, South Asia, and North East Asia. Some of us even get to speak as many as 4-6 times internationally every year, a testament to the regional recognition of the Filipino as credible reproductive medicine experts!

More recently, Filipinos are also making their mark as leaders in regional reproductive medicine societies. I was elected to be a member of the ASPIRE board in 2016 and later promoted to treasurer/board member 2 years later, core reasons how the 10th ASPIRE congress landed in Manila. Similarly I was also appointed into the ASFP board in 2017. Dr. Aguilar herself was elected into a similar position in the ASEA soon after. In 2018, Dr. Tonette Habana was chosen to be a member of ASPIRE's editorial board for its new medical journal. Most recently Dr. Manalo entered the global stage and became a member of the scientific committee of the next IFFS congress for 2022. Truly, these are firsts for the Philippines in the international reproductive medicine arena. Hopefully more of these plus headways in scientific research will abound in the coming years.

It would be foolish to give credit to the current crop of Filipino leaders as if their achievements came purely out of their own talents and perseverance. As they say, 'the present stand on the shoulders of their predecessors'. The mentors of the preceding generation, Drs. Bobby Gonzaga, Nards Almeda, Delfin Tan, Greg Pastorfide, Lilia Luna, Rosie Arceo, Cora Lim, Santi del Rosario, Rogelio Mendiola, Trinidad Vera, and Lyra Chua, deserve credit for the march of the current breed of Philippine reproductive medicine specialists. And just the same, the current leaders are also paving the road for the march of the next generation into their own set of Philippine firsts...

Happy 25th anniversary to the PSRM!

PSRM CMEs

Marcela Dianalyn Sazon-Carlos, MD

2019 is another exciting year for learning and sharing. We started the year with a CME in Region 11, Southern Mindanao on January 12, 2019 at SEDA Abreeza in Davao City. We were graciously welcomed by their beloved regional director, Dra Helen Yambao.



Next stop was in Crimson Hotel in Muntinlupa on March 10, 2019. It was a blockbuster affair despite it being a Sunday and family day. We were welcomed by region 4 and their director Annette Macayaon. We had a total of 186 attendees.



Despite news of security threat, the group decided to push thru with the Zamboanga CME in Garden Orchid Hotel in Zamboanga. Dra Gay Gonzales and the people of Zamboanga welcomed us with open arms and smiles. We had a total of 85 attendees.



Our CME on May 16, 2019 to the Queen City of the South was equally impressive. The Waterfront Hotel Cebu City was filled to capacity, with 164 attendees. Dra Dulce Ellen Mary Chavez and Central Visayas group even had their delegates pre-registered and we were touched by their overwhelming response.



We visited the City of Pines on June 30, 2019. It was a cloudy Sunday but Newtown Plaza was bustling with activity. We were welcomed by their regional director Dr. Richard Ronald Cacho and the Northern Luzon chapter with a total of 68 attendees.



Last stop will be on August 4, 2019. We will be heading to Bacolod, Negros Occidental for our final outreach activity.

I would like to thank Unilab UAP and DKT for sponsoring our CMEs. Also to our past presidents Dr Leonardo Almeda and Dra Lyra Ruth Chua for accepting our invitations to speak during these activities. Thank you everyone for all your support.

PSRM goes to ASPIRE 2019 in Hongkong

By Maria Margarita Isidora Yap-Garcia, MD

"Now it's the time for us in Asia Pacific to lead assisted reproductive technology..." This was the heart of Professor Budi Wiweko's speech as he addressed the attendees of the 9th congress of the *Asia-Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE)*. This congress was held last May 2-5, 2019 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Professor Wiweko, ASPIRE's current president, is right-on-the-mark because the region is the largest in terms of population, member countries, and number of top-quality scientists. As proof of ASPIRE's dedication to excellence, this year also marked the unveiling of *Fertility & Reproduction* - the official journal of the ASPIRE. Indeed, the society has grown exponentially over the past 12 years and is now at the cusp of becoming a leader in its field.

The Philippine Society of Reproductive Medicine (PSRM) has been a tremendous part of this growth. Fresh from hosting a successful Masterclass in Male Infertility this year, the country now has the honor of hosting next year's annual congress. With this in mind, many of our kababayans flocked to Hong Kong and, of the 1800 delegates from 47 countries, 84 Filipinos participated in the congress. These included Reproductive Medicine Specialists, trainees, embryologists, nurses, and other partners in the field. Our very own Dr. Virgilio Novero, Dr. Delfin Tan, Dr. Eileen Manalo, Dr. Angela S. Aguilar, and Dr. Regina Paz Tan-Espiritu were recognized as members of the distinguished faculty. In the realm of scientific research, a total of 12 abstracts were accepted for poster presentation - with majority (9 out of 12) garnering merit as oral presentations.

Because we are hosting next year's congress, the PSRM with Dr. Novero at the helm, was particularly busy this year. An exhibit for ASPIRE 2020 was strategically placed at the convention entrance. Aside from showcasing the strong scientific program, the exhibit was a testament to the best our country has to offer. Armed with a quirky video and brochures of our best vacation spots, PSRM's members personally enjoined attendees of all nationalities to attend ASPIRE 2020. It was good, old-fashioned Filipino hospitality at its finest. Members of the ASPIRE faculty were also treated to a display of renowned Filipino talent as members of the PSRM performed a Ryan Cayabyab classic in a delightful production number. A rendition of "The Prayer" by Dr. Eileen Manalo and Dr. Mico Torres brought the house down. This prompted President-elect, Professor Tin-Chiu Li, to jokingly say that they "can not compete" and they "won't even try". Given the warmth of our welcome, it's no wonder participants from all over the world expressed great enthusiasm over next year's congress. Hopefully, our bid to welcome guests created enough ripples to generate a wave of participants next year.

At its inception, the ASPIRE aimed to form a cohesive group of dedicated, pioneering experts who serve as advocates for infertility patients in the Asia-Pacific region. Each year has shown a marked growth in terms of scientific output, global participation, and number of attendees. It is clear from this year's congress that the society is well in the way of achieving its goals. Next year, we will witness this all from the front seat as we prepare for ASPIRE 2020 in Manila. It will truly be an exciting year ahead.



The Philippine contingent at the 9th Congress of the Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction. (Left) Members of the PSRM on the Day 1 of the Congress. (Right) PSRM members showing unity and pride in their eye-catching Filipiniana garments.



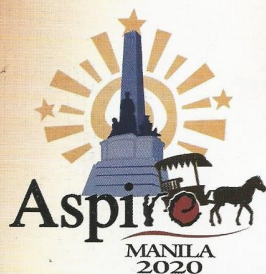
Rare photo-op. A smiling Dr. Delfin Tan as he obligingly posed with Prof. Susan Logan and PSRM delegates after delivering an outstanding lecture on Menopausal Health. (R-L, PSRM president Dr. Gladys Tanangonan, Dr. Lyra Ruth Clemente-Chua, Dr. Joan Tan-Garcia, Dr. Diane Manzano, Dr. Delfin Tan, Prof. Susan Logan, Dr. Debby Songo, Dr. Regina Paz Tan-Espiritu, Dr. Madonna Domingo, Dr. Marinella Abat, Dr. Mailanie de Cadiz-Pulanco, Dr. Ely Bautista-Domingo)



Presidents hard-at-work. Former PSRM President, Dr. Virgilio Novero, and current PSRM President, Dr. Gladys Tanangonan, working tirelessly to promote ASPIRE 2020 in Manila.



Talents abound. (Left) The indefatigable Dr. Eileen Manalo and Dr. Mico Torres singing their rendition of "The Prayer". (Right) Definitely no shortage of talent as members of the PSRM performed a song and dance number to the enthusiastic crowd.



SAVE THE DATE

THE 10TH CONGRESS OF THE ASIA PACIFIC INITIATIVE ON REPRODUCTION

16-19 APRIL 2020

Philippine International Convention Center (PICC)

BRIDGING THE GAP: FERTILITY AND REPRODUCTION

For inquiries, please contact
ASPIRE 2020 Congress Secretariat
GIS Group Global Co., Ltd.
Email: info@aspire2020.org

Organized by: **Aspire** Hosted by:

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THE 10TH CONGRESS OF THE ASIA PACIFIC INITIATIVE ON REPRODUCTION

16-19 APRIL 2020

BRIDGING THE GAP: FERTILITY AND REPRODUCTION

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The 10th Congress of the Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE 2020) will be held from 16-19 April 2020 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Manila, Philippines.

The ASPIRE 2020 Scientific Committee invites you to participate by submitting abstracts for Oral and/or Poster presentations. Submit abstracts under the following themes:

ABSTRACT THEMES

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. ART, Clinical | 11. Gynaecology and Surgery |
| 2. ART, Basic Research | 12. Male Fertility |
| 3. ART, Laboratory | 13. Menopause |
| 4. Contraception | 14. Nursing |
| 5. Counselling, Ethics and Psychosocial | 15. Ovary and Ovarian Biology |
| 6. Embryology | 16. PCOS |
| 7. Endocrinology, Clinical | 17. Preimplantation Screening and Diagnosis |
| 8. Endocrinology, Laboratory | 18. Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cells |
| 9. Female Infertility | 19. Reproductive Genetics |
| 10. Fertility Preservation | 20. Uterine Disorders and Endometriosis |

[View Abstract Submission Guidelines](#)

The Abstract Submission Portal will be opened on 1 July, 2019

ASPIRE 2020 BEST ORAL PRESENTATION AND POSTER PRESENTATION AWARDS

ASPIRE will be awarding 5 Best Oral Presentation and 5 Best Poster Presentation Awards. Results of the awards will be announced at the congress closing ceremony on Sunday, 19 April 2020. Shortlisted authors will be informed to participate in an onsite evaluation by selected ASPIRE judges. The recipients of the award will each receive USD 100 in cash and an award certificate.

ASPIRE YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDS (YIA)

ASPIRE aims to raise the level of research in Asia Pacific and is committed to the involvement of young researchers in ASPIRE congresses. The ASPIRE YIA is offered to provide promising young investigators' funding in support of quality research in ART as well as an opportunity for them to use ASPIRE Congresses as a platform to put forward their work. The recipients of the award will each receive USD 500 in cash and an award certificate at the congress closing ceremony.

[Find out if you are eligible](#)

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