

PSREI NEWSLETTER

Official Newsletter of the Philippine Society of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Inc.

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June, 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lyra Ruth Clemente-Chua, MD FPOGS



It is said that one year is too short a time for a presidential term in our various specialty and subspecialty societies. I say that if the right people are in place, a lot can be accomplished in one year.

The PSREI boasts of a membership dedicated to the upliftment of the practice of the subspecialty, and a board of directors who take their duties as leaders seriously and well. Consider this - during the first five months of this incumbency, we have been able to accomplish the following innovative activities:

1. PSREI Outreach Programs - For the first time in PSREI history, a committee on continuing medical education (CME) was formed with Dr. Blanca C. De Guia as first chair, and four activities have been lined up for this project. We have been to Cebu City (Dr. Milagros Chan) and Baguio (Dr. Betha Fe Castillo). We will be in Davao City and Laoag City during the latter half of the year. As the word "outreach" suggests, we go out and reach out to the community to bring CME to those who cannot come for the midyear and annual meetings of the PSREI. Problems discussed are those that the general OB-GYN commonly meets in practice and we give them updates on endometriosis and infertility. So far we have had good interactive sessions, with each group having its own unique problems and situations. Camaraderie has also been fostered, not only with the PSREI members in the cities but also with the nonmembers. With the help of our generous partner Astra Zeneca we hope to continue this worthwhile endeavor.

ART ETHICS WORKSHOP HELD

Anticipating an increase in the practice of assisted reproductive technologies in the country, the PSREI led by its president Dr. Lyra Ruth C. Chua and ART Guidelines Committee Chair Dr. Virgilio M. Novero Jr., successfully completed a 2-day workshop on the formulation of Ethics Guidelines for Assisted Reproductive Technology and Intrauterine Insemination. This was held at the Holiday Inn-Mimosa in Angeles City, Pampanga last May 27-28, 2006 and was sponsored by AstraZeneca.

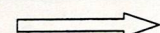
A total of 22 participants attended the much-anticipated workshop where lecture topics were delivered by special guests including former UP Manila Chancellor Dr. Marita Reyes, Fr. Manuel Perez MD of the Ateneo, Atty/Dr. Tony Rebosa of UST, and Dr. Augusto Manalo who represented the POGS Ethics Committee. Their lecture topics were "An Academician's perspective on the Formulation of Ethics Guidelines for ART", "Moral Perspectives", "Legal/Government Perspectives", and "General Perspectives", respectively. Aside from the participation of the 8-man ART Ethical Guidelines Committee, the others who attended the affair included past PSREI presidents, the members of the present PSREI Board of Trustees, sectoral representatives

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Participants: Standing from left: Drs. Noel Raymundo, Leonardo Almeda, Ms. Angela Ho, Melissa Diawatan, Concepcion Ilao-Oreta, Virgilio M. Novero Jr., Rogelio P. Mendiola, Marilyn T. Dee, Gilda G. Martinez, Eileen M. Manalo, Blanca C. De Guia, Ma. Victoria R. Tan, Mr. Jess Basuel. Sitting from left: Drs. Corazon T. Lim, Santiago A. Del Rosario, Augusto Manalo, Lyra Ruth Clemente-Chua, Marita Reyes, Fr. Manuel Perez, S.J., Antonio Rebosa, LLB., Lilia P. Luna, Rosalinda B. Arceo, Ma. Trinidad R. Vera



EDITOR'S CORNER

Regulating the practice of ART and IUI Virgilio M. Novero Jr., MD

The practice of the infertility procedures, in vitro fertilization and intrauterine insemination has gained tremendous interest in the Philippine especially in the past few years. As commonly mentioned, anything that provides benefit for the greater many should always be received with open arms. Unfortunately, many misunderstand that both procedures are simple and easy to implement. In reality, both carry tremendous risks for patients undergoing them especially if they are conducted/performed by the "undertrained". The famous writer, EF Schumacher, said it best. "The greatest danger occurs when partial knowledge is practiced on a vast scale."



I had the occasion to talk to colleagues and friends in the pharmaceutical business who come from neighboring Thailand, HongKong, and Indonesia where IVF centers were sprouting like mushroom and that some general gynecologists were marketing themselves as ART experts soon after observing only a couple of cases. In the same breath, they mentioned the low success rates and high rate of complications among such groups. Unfortunately, the concerned organizations/societies did not create the regulatory mechanisms that would protect the public from over-commercialization and overzealous practitioners.

This move of the PSREI leadership to come up with its own Ethical Guidelines in the Practice of ART/IUI is definitely for the better good of the general public and for ART practice in general. Because of the delicate nature of the program and the involved costs of the treatment, it is but proper that IVF practice is carried out in the fairest manner for those who require the procedure.

However, it must also be considered that such regulation be carried out in a manner that the growth of its practice in the country would not be hampered. The requirements should be similar to those of international standards of competence. This way, the PSREI guidelines will not be self-serving for its already qualified members and will not appear discriminatory against those who are seeking to practice them. When this fair balance is struck, only then can we truly say that a set of guidelines is protective to both patient and would-be practitioners.

President's message..... from p. 1

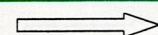
2. The joint PSREI-PSCM Midyear Convention - Again for the first time in their histories, the two societies are banding together for their midyear convention. "Why joint?", some have asked, obviously wanting to keep the uniqueness of our society intact. I think the answer lies in the realities of the times and the overlapping of the interests of the two societies. We both deal with women's special problems of infertility and menopause, among other, so what is wrong with one midyear meeting bringing together the experts who could answer questions coming from the two groups. The second reason is of a more practical and economical nature, and has been met with enthusiasm by our partners in the pharmaceutical industries. Just look at the recent joint midyear meeting of the PCS/PUA/PSA the surgeons, urologists, and anesthesiologists all coming together in one meeting. I think the wider scope of this joint meeting will stir up a more enthusiastic discussion and interaction among the participants. Dr. Rosalinda Arceo, our chair for the midyear, has made sure of that. The cowboy-themed evening fellowship with Dr. Eileen Manalo leading, will even challenge our singing and dancing skills even more. Come and join us on June 2 and 3 in the Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City.
3. Another valuable first for this year is the workshop on clinical and ethical guidelines in IUI and IVF being ably handled by Dr. Virgilio Novero Jr., our PRO. Again, as a response to the changing picture of REI practice, there is an urgent need for regulation and guidance for these assisted reproductive technologies. Who should do it? How much training should one have in order to be allowed to do it? My own midwife-secretary can be trained to do IUI, but is she qualified, morally and ethically? To whom should we do these procedures? What are the ethics involved? These and other sensitive questions will be tackled by our brilliant and esteemed past presidents Dr. Santiago del Rosario, Leonardo Almeda and future presidents Milagros Chan, Eileen Manalo and Marlyn Dee. Participants have been chosen carefully in order to have a good representation of all sectors, including the spiritual aspect. Our patients will surely benefit much when these much needed guidelines are in place.
4. More plans are afoot for the rest of the year. Watch out for our annual convention on October 4 and 5, being planned by Dr. Corazon Lim our vice president and over-all chair. Watch out for the renewed and revived committee on scholarship, which has been put on inactive status for this year due to lack of funding. Those who plan to join us in this subspecialty prepare your applications for PSREI scholarship to the institutions offering Fellowship training - UP-PGH, SLMC and the Consortium.

THE PSREI NEWSLETTER

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12th Annual Convention

October 4-5, 2006

EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City

"Expanding Horizons in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility"

Guest Speakers:

Colin Michael Howles, MD

Medical Vice President for Reproductive Health Asia Pacific Region

Jan I. Olofsson, MD, PhD

Medical Director, Reproductive Medicine, Organon Asia Pacific

DAY 1, OCTOBER 4, WEDNESDAY

SESSION I – EVIDENCE BASED INFERTILITY

- Evaluation of the Male
- Evaluation of the Female
- Unexplained Infertility

SESSION II – HEALTH IN THE MENOPAUSE & ADVANCES IN CONTRACEPTION

- Critique (evaluation of evidence from large trials of HRT & current recommendations for practice)
- Risk/Benefit ratio of new methods for male & female contraception

SESSION III – MANAGEMENT OPTIONS IN THE ADOLESCENT

- Adolescent contraception
- Endometriosis in the adolescent
- PCOS in the adolescent

SESSION IV – EVIDENCE BASED REPRODUCTIVE SURGERY

- Endometriosis
- Tubal Infertility
- Future Directions & development in adhesion prevention

DAY 2, OCTOBER 5, THURSDAY

SESSION V – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ART

- Embryo Selection & Health
- Risk during pregnancy & birth after ART

SESSION VI – OPTIMIZING OUTCOME IN ART

- Quality Assurance
- Reducing Multiple Pregnancy
- Embryo Transfer & Luteal Phase Management

SESSION VII – POLYCYSTIC OVARIAN SYNDROME

- Diagnosis & Etiology
- Treatment
- Effects on Cardiovascular Health

SESSION VIII – EVIDENCE BASED MANAGEMENT OF RECURRENT SPONTANEOUS ABORTION

- Optimal Diagnostic Protocol for Recurrent Spontaneous Abortion
- Hematological disorders in Recurrent Spontaneous Abortion
- Immunological disorders in Recurrent Spontaneous Abortion

FEES:

	Pre-Reg July 31, 2006	On-site
Members	P 1,000.00	P 1,200.00
Non-members	P 1,500.00	P 2,000.00
Resident/Fellows	P 850.00	P 1,000.00

CME ACTIVITIES

LOCAL:

POGS Annual Meeting by Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society
14-Nov-06 to 17-Nov-06 Manila (Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel),
METROMANILAPHILIPPINES (OB/GYN: Women's Health)

PSCM Annual Convention

Sept. 12-13, 2006

EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City

INTERNATIONAL:

IFFS 19th World Congress on Fertility & Sterility

April 30, 2007

International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa

<http://www.iffs2007.org.za>

7th International Congress on Reproductive Biomedicine and 2nd International Congress on Stem Cell Biology and Technology

September 13-15, 2006

Tehran, Iran

6th World Congress (COGI) by Controversies in Obstetrics, Gynecology & Infertility (COGI)

to 17-Sep-06 Salvador, BAHIA BRAZIL (GEN - Gynecology & Obstetrics)

Genetics, Genomics, and Traditional Screening Methods in Obstetrics and Gynecology by American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)

10-Aug-06 to 12-Aug-06 Vancouver (Fairmont Waterfront Vancouver), BC CANADA (GYN - Contraception & Reproductive Health)

ART in the 21st Century: A Time for Reflection and New Horizons - Part 2 by Sero Symposia International Foundation

11-Oct-06 to 11-Nov-06 Amsterdam, NETHERLANDS

(OB - Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART))

FIGO 2006 KL World Congress by Fédération Internationale de Gynécologie et d'Obstétrique (FIGO)

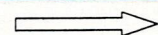
05-Nov-06 to 10-Nov-06 Kuala Lumpur (Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre), KUALA LUMPUR MALAYSIA (GEN - Gynecology & Obstetrics)

52nd Annual Meeting of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society by Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society

15-Nov-06 to 18-Nov-06 Ottawa (Westin Ottawa), ON CANADA (OB - Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART))

ACOG 55th Annual Clinical Meeting by American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)

05-May-07 to 09-May-07 San Diego (To Be Announced), CA USA (GEN - Gynecology & Obstetrics)



NEWSBITS

PSREI Written and Oral Exams

The written and oral examinations of the PSREI have been set on September 17 and 24, respectively, at the POGS office. This examination is open to all certified fellows and diplomats of the POGS of high standing and who have completed approved training programs in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. For more details, please contact the PSREI Secretariat at 920-9565. Successful examinees will be inducted into the society during the annual convention this October.

Research and Interesting Case Contests Set

Research Forum Chair by Dr. Lilia P. Luna announces the holding of the annual Research Contest and the Residents' Interesting Case Contest during the Annual PSREI Convention on October 4-5, 2006 at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel. Cash prizes of P12,000 for first place, P7,000 for second place and P5,000 have been earmarked for each of the two contests. Deadline for the submission of entries have been set on August 21, 2006.

Attention: All Interested participants to the IFFS 19th World Congress on Fertility & Sterility (Durban, South Africa; April 30, 2007)

Individual Incentive

All members who express interest to attend this convention either through the official website or through the PSREI e-brochure will be awarded a one-day wildlife safari to Hluhluwe wildlife reserve which is located near Durban.

Group Incentive

The PSREI is gathering the list of would-be participants to the Durban IFFS Convention in order to avail of one free participant for every 20 members registered. The benefits of this promotion will be shared among all participants in the list. For particulars, please contact the PSREI secretariat.

PSREI holds Ethics..... continuation from p. 1

from Luzon/Visayas/Mindanao, and embryologist Angela Ho of RM Laboratories.

"It is high time that our society formulates its own ethical guidelines for ART and IUI", said Dra. Chua, who thanked all participants for the difficult task which had to be completed.

"We need to formulate our own to avoid the fate of some of our neighbors where ART is being practiced indiscriminately and service to patients is compromised," said Dr. Novero, who also doubled as the workshop director.

To help formulate the guidelines, all participants were provided with a complete set of references including ART ethics guidelines from the ASRM, Singapore Ministry of Health, ACOG, the IFFS, the Human Fertility and Embryology Authority of the UK, and relevant articles from the International ART bioethics and ART Law congresses, ART textbook articles, and articles concerning ART issued by the Vatican.

Once the draft of guidelines are finalized, they will be presented to the ART Ethical Guidelines Committee for review and eventually submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval. Once approved, these will be presented to the PSREI membership during the Annual Convention in October 2006 for final deliberation, ratification, and implementation.

Among the key issues deliberated included the minimal requirements for independent practice of ART, requirements for the set up of an ART facility including the credentials of its medical director and embryologist, guidelines for IUI practice, and guidelines for specific ART procedures as IVF/ICSI, third party ART, preimplantation genetic diagnosis, and others.

Aside from drafting ethics guidelines for ART and IUI practice, the qualifications for would-be applicants to take the PSREI examinations (for those who completed overseas-based REI fellowship training programs) were drafted.

The PSREI Committee for Ethical Guidelines in ART/IUI are composed of the following: Dr. Novero (chair), Dr. Leonardo Almeda, Dr. Mila Chan, Dr. Santiago del Rosario, Dr. Marlyn Dee, Dr. Eileen Manalo, Dr. Concepcion Oreta, Dr. Greg Pastoride and Dr. Trinidad Vera

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