



# PSREI NEWSLETTER

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October 2010

**PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY AND INFERTILITY, INC.**

- *Workshop on Standardized Semen Analysis Reporting Slated this October*
- *Practical Guide to Male Infertility coming soon!*

## Inside this issue:

Male Infertility book out in early 2011	2
PSP and PAMET meeting	2
PSREI Research holds annual convention	3
Foreign guest speakers	3
President's Year End Report	4
Ferring Dinner	4
Midyear Convention	4
Jam packed workshop in SA & Mor-	5
CDO Outreach	6
New members	6
Proposed amendment	7
Eidtor's Corner	8
2010 Research paper contest	8
Associate members	8

## PSREI holds 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

The Philippine Society for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility holds this October 13 to 16, 2010, the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention themed "Meeting the Challenges of the Next Decade." The Convention, to be held at the Diamond Hotel in Manila, focuses on cutting edge issues such as single ovulation induction, genetics and stem cell technology, as well as local and regional experience in ART. The emphasis of this year's meeting is male infertility, with special workshops for both clinicians and medical technologists. Several international speakers as well as colleagues from other disciplines such as urology, genetics and integrative medicine are contributing their expertise to this meeting.

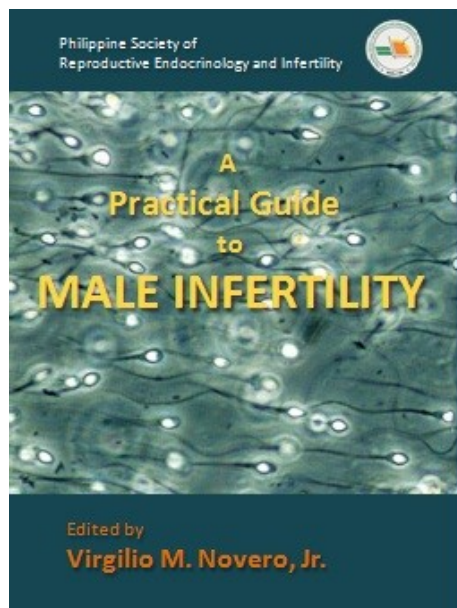
## PSREI, PUA forge alliance in Male Infertility

PSREI President, Dr. Virgilio Novero, Jr. last Sept. 24, 2010 forged an alliance with Philippine Urological Association President, Dr. Telesforo Gana to elevate the standard of male infertility treatment in the country. Dr. Novero, who initiated the dinner meeting with Dr. Gana and Dr. Carmela Lapitan, another PUA official, said that both societies agreed to find ways to improve training in male infertility within their respective training programs as well as to collaborate in male infertility symposia in the coming years. PSREI treasurer, Dr. Marlyn Dee and past PSREI president Dr. Rogelio Mendiola witnessed the historic alliance which aims to elevate the efficiency of infertility treatment in general in the Philippines by synchronizing mindsets of the two societies involved in male infertility management.



PSREI forges alliance with PUA. From left: Dr. Marlyn T. Dee and Pres. Dr. Joy Novero (PSREI), Pres. Porong Gana and Dr. Mela Lapitan (PUA), and past PSREI Pres. Dr. Roger Mendiola.

## Male Infertility book out in early 2011.....



The release of book offering of the PSREI for the year 2010 has been reset to the first quarter of 2011. Entitled *A Practical Guide to Male Infertility*, this book will contain 23 different chapters on various relevant male infertility topics with contributions from international experts from Belgium, Australia, Hungary, and Saudi Arabia plus local stalwarts in male infertility from the Philippine Urological Association (PUA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the POGS and the PSREI. This milestone reference is edited by Dr. Virgilio Novero, Jr., one of the leading local experts in male infertility and current PSREI president. Because limited copies are being printed, all interested clinicians are encouraged to reserve copies in advance through the PSREI secretariat.

Among the guest contributors of the book are Professor Paul Devroey of Belgium (ICSI and Male Infertility), Professor Herman Tournaye of Belgium (Sperm Retrieval Techniques:

Clinical Aspects), Professor Daniel Franken of South Africa (Interpretation of Semen Analyses and Sperm Function Tests), Dr. Gareth Weston of Monash IVF, Australia (Lifestyle, Aging, and Male Reproduction), Dr. Tiki Osianlis and Maria Diamante of Monash IVF, Australia (Sperm Retrieval Techniques: Laboratory Aspects), Dr. Zolt Peter Nagy of Hungary (Reproductive Cryobanking: Sperm, Oocytes, Ovarian Tissues, and Embryos), and Nelson Holiva of Saudi Arabia (Setting Up an Andrology Lab). The current IFFS President, Professor David Healy of Monash IVF (Australia) will write the Preface along with Dr. Florante Gonzaga, founding President of the PSREI. Chapters on male reproductive physiology, pathophysiology of male infertility, IUI, medical management of male subfertility, management of varicoceles and azoospermia, and other relevant topics are included. Many chapters are being written by past presidents of the PSREI. Dr. Novero has promised that local data on male infertility has been included in this milestone reference book.

## PSREI invited to PSP, PAMET meetings for lectures on Semen Analysis

As an off-shoot of PSREI's efforts to educate pathologists and medical technologists on the need to standardize semen analysis in the country based on international standards, two big umbrella societies—the Philippine Society of Pathologists (PSP) and the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET) have begun on their efforts to spread the word. PSREI president has given a lecture entitled "Semen Analysis According to WHO Standards: A Collaborative Project of PSREI, PSP and PAMET" at the PAMET Chief Med Techs Symposium last August 6, 2010. Additional lectures at the PSP Midyear Convention in Cagayan De Oro (October 21, 2010) and the PAMET Midyear Convention (November 2010) are lined up. It is hoped that these series of lectures will help fully standardize the conduct and manner of reporting of semen analysis in the Philippines.



**PSREI sets collaborative projects with PSP and PAMET.** From left: Dr. J. Atibagos and President Evelyn Lagamayo (from PSP), PSREI Pres. Dr. Novero, Pres. Dr. Leila Florento and L. Alquiza (from PAMET) and Sarah of PSREI.

## PSREI HOLDS 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION AT THE DIAMOND

By Enrico Gil C. Oblepias, MD, FPOGS, FPSREI, FPSGE

Welcome to the 2001 PSREI Convention!

This year, the society organized a program that members and guests will find interesting and timely. The organizing committee prepared four activities from October 13-16, 2010 at the Diamond Hotel with the overall theme of *PSREI 2010: Meeting the Challenges of the Next Decade*. Registrants can select from a combination of these activities to individualize their learning experience to their specific needs.

The first two days will be the holding of the *Annual Convention Proper* which aims to provide both reviews and updates in relevant topics on reproductive endocrinology for Ob-Gyn generalists and specialists alike. To share with us their knowledge we have our own distinguished experts from the society and six guest speakers. Our invited lecturers are: Dr. Eva Cutiongco-de la Paz (Philippines), a prominent geneticist; Dr. Paulita Bacig (Philippines), a leading expert in integrative medicine; Dr. Chiew Yoke Fong (Singapore), an authority in stem cord technology; Dr. Hermann Behre (Germany), an internationally known male infertility expert; Dr. Milton Leong (Hong Kong) and Dr. Clement Ho (Hong Kong), both accomplished IVF specialists.

In the morning of the third day is a half-day *Male Infertility Symposium for Clinicians*. Dr. Daniel Franken, a world renowned andrologist from South Africa and Dr. Carmela Lapitan, a top Filipino urosurgeon will join Dr. Behre, and our own infertility specialists headed by Dr. Virgilio Novero, Jr. in discussing five relevant issues related to male infertility.

In the afternoon of the third day, the PSREI will be conducting the first ever hands-on *Workshop on Semen Morphology*. Limited to 24 participants only, this half-day course is designed to teach laboratory technicians the correct procedure of slide preparation and morphology evaluation. This is a WHO and DOH endorsed certificate course. Dr. Franken will be conducting this activity.

On the fourth day will be a *Full Semen Analysis Workshop*. This is a full-day workshop on all aspects of the semen analysis intended to update laboratory technicians and clinicians about current international standards of doing a semen analysis - from proper sperm collection to the correct procedures in the evaluation and reporting of sperm concentration, motility, vitality, morphology, and others. Also with Dr. Franken, this will

utilize a classroom-type setting using PowerPoint presentations. This activity is ideal for pathologists, medical technologists, and clinicians involved in fertility evaluation.

Noticeably, the third and fourth day activities were devoted towards addressing the male aspect of the infertility problem. A special interest of the PSREI President, Dr. Novero spearheaded and personally attended to the details of these activities.

As an added attraction, we will be treated to some of the research outputs of our fellows-in-training as they present their winning experimental studies and interesting case reports during the second session of the second day. As in the past years, this activity has always been designed to encourage scientific paper writing amongst our present and future members.

In the evening of October 13, the *Fellowship Night* will be held at the Constellation at the hotel's top floor. Entitled *Black and Purple Meets to the Future* it promises to be an interesting and a fun night of fellowship.

With all these, we hope that this year's convention will be a fulfilling undertaking for all who attended.

### FOREIGN GUEST SPEAKERS:



**Dr. Herman Behre  
(Germany)**

Male infertility and in vitro fertilization expert



**Prof. Daniel Franken  
(South Africa)**

World renowned andrologist and expert on semen analysis



**Dr. Clement Ho  
(Hongkong)**

Specialist in Reproductive Medicine



**Dr. Chiew Yoke Fong  
(Singapore)**

Specializes in pathology



**Dr. Milton Leong  
(Hongkong)**

Specialist in Reproductive Medicine





It has been 10 ½ months since I assumed office as president of the PSREI. It feels much longer. Regardless, this is to give an overall assessment for the general membership about the accomplishments during my term of office and to give the next president and other members of the board of recommendations about future projects. I shall be reviewing completed projects, projects which shall be completed shortly or in early 2011 and recommended projects for the next term.

The first major project of the year was the Management Action Planning (MAP) Workshop which was held last Feb. 7, 2010 at our private farm in Sariaya, Quezon. Attended by 28 PSREI members and supporters (REI fellows), the MAP outputs on governance, service, training, and research concerns of PSREI are now in the form of a report of recommendations which may be used by all BOTs for reference.

Outreach programs were also a regular activity in 2010. Completed already were two (2) extremely well-attended outreach lectures in Iloilo City (June 12, 2010, sponsored by MSD) and Cagayan De Oro City (Aug. 21, 2010, sponsored by Takeda) where POGS regional leaders met with the designated lecturers from the PSREI. A third Outreach CME activity has been scheduled in Central Luzon for a date before the end of 2010 and will be sponsored by MSD.

Ferring Philippines sought the help of PSREI when it launched Menogon, its urinary FSH-LH injectable gonadotropin, in a dinner symposium entitled "Updates on the Uses of Gonadotropins" at EDSA-Shangrila Hotel last March 26. Attended by 43 PSREI members, Dr. Teraporn Vutyavanich of Thailand was the key lecturer with

## President's Year End Report

myself as the 'front act'.

June 23, 2010 marked the return of the PSREI Midyear Convention after a 2 year absence. Solely sponsored by Unilab and its 2 divisions, Biofemme and Biomedis, the activity was held at the Bayanihan Auditorium and was attended by 128 participants and covered 13 scientific lectures in various REI topics.

In July, I sought out the leaders of the Philippine Society of Pathologists and the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists for collaborative research on the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of med techs and pathologists on semen Analysis reporting. And subsequently, the presidents of PSP and PAMET (Dr. Evelina Lagamayo and Dr. Leila Florento, respectively) met with yours truly and agreed to conduct the research. The survey would serve as the springboard to conduct the Semen Analysis Standardization Workshop in the coming October which both societies agreed to help support by spreading the word. As an offshoot, PSREI was invited to give lectures to various PSP and PAMET CME activities to start informing their members about the need to standardize semen analysis and to invite its members to the October workshop.

A similar move outside the society was again done this time with the Philippine Urological Association I along with current treasurer, Dr. Marlyn dee and past president Dr. Rogelio Mendiola met with PUA President, Dr. Teleforo Gana and one of its officers, Dr. Carmela Lapitan. I sought the meeting with Dr. Gana to explore ways how our two societies could help improve the treatment of Male Infertility in the country. At the end of the dinner, the PUA and the PSREI forged an alliance to help improve male infertility treatment by making definite improvements during the training of specialists and by conducting joint CMEs on the subject matter.

The centerpiece activity however, as always, is the Annual Convention where this year's theme is "meeting the Challenges of the New Decade". This year's celebrations however are different because there are 3 other attached CME programs to the scientific program of the main convention that

was scheduled on Oct 13-14, 2010. These are the following 1) the country's first ever Male Infertility symposium on the morning of Oct. 15; 2) a hands-on Sperm Morphology Workshop in the afternoon of Oct. 15; 3) a consensus-type full Semen Analysis Workshop. Four international guest speakers are scheduled to grace the scientific meetings and they are the following: Dr. Hermann Behre of Germany, Dr. Milton Leong of Hongkong, Dr. Clement Ho of Hongkong, and Dr. Daniel Franken of South Africa. Dr. Franken will serve as the Course Director of the Semen Analysis and Sperm Morphology Workshops having been conducting such courses all over the world. The Semen Analysis Standardization workshops is a flagship project of PSREI which is endorsed by the WHO and the DOH. As of this writing, all four scientific meetings are full to overflowing based on the pre-registration lists!

As to membership, four new REI specialists are to be inducted into the ranks as PSREI fellow, having recently passed the written and oral exams given by the Certifying committee. They are the following: Dr. Marian Capco of PGH, Dr. Lorelyn Madamba and Dr. Jocelyn Abdurahman of St. Luke's, and Dr. Balila of the Consortium. The total number of fellows in the society is now 94. The 3 training programs --- PGH, St. Luke's and the Consortium, were also visited midyear and were recommended to be maintained based on the visits. But a new highlight of membership is the influx of associate members of the society having opened the doors to such beginning 2010. So far, 7 individual applications are in process while another 5 have inquired and have signified their intention to apply in the near future. Expected to be formally accepted as associate members before the end of the year are 10-20 new associate members.

The biggest remaining project, also a flagship project, of my term is the completion of the scientific book, *A Practical Guide to Male Infertility*. Consisting of 23 chapters in various topics in male infertility, it is an ambitious publication being the first such publication on the topic locally and is a concerted effort of 40 contributors including 10 foreign experts, 7 non-PSREI

## Jam-packed Workshops in Semen Analysis & Morphology loom

The two workshops organized by the PSREI to finally begin standardization of semen analysis in the country, the half-day sperm morphology hands-on workshop on October 15, 2010 and the full-day semen analysis workshop on October 16, 2010 appear to be headed 'as box-office hits' in a manner of speaking. The morphology workshop, which was intended to accommodate only 15 participants, already has 27 registered with a few more trying to get in. The full semen analysis workshop, which was projected to accommodate 90 participants, now has 120 with field reports suggesting that many more might register on-site contrary as to how it was advertized that all registrants must pre-register as the workshop kits need to be prepared from South Africa. On last review, most of the big-name hospitals in Metro Manila and the other big cities have sent representatives to either or both workshops. And academic institutions have also sent participants. "It seems that standardization of semen analysis in the Philippines is well on its way, finally..." said PSREI president Dr. Virgilio Novero, Jr.

### presidents.....

specialists (5 urologists, a geneticist, and a infectious disease specialist) plus 23 PSREI writers. The bulk of the foreign experts are from 2 of the most respected IVF centers of the world --- Brussels Free University (Prof. Devroey, Prof. Tournaye, and Dr. Nagy) and Monash IVF in Australia (Prof. Healy, Dr. Weston, Dr. Osianlis, and Ms. Diamante) plus Prof. Franken and Prof. Behre. If plans do not miscarry, the book should be released by the end of the first quarter of 2011 and will be used as a local reference book for the subject matter similar to how PSREI's Consensus Statements on Endometriosis (2008) and PCOS (2009) are being currently used in the country. This project is the result of an educational grant from Merck-Serono.

As I approach the last few weeks of my term as president, may I offer a few suggestions on other possible projects which I was not able to accomplish or take on due to lack of time. These include the accreditation-leveling of PSREI fellows as to IVF practice, assistance to DOH in registration and accreditation of IVF facilities, development of special interest groups in PSREI such as PCOS, male infertility/andrology, embryology, etc) especially with the entry of associate members. To encourage outstanding research, the society might like to put up the "Outstanding Research Award" in REI which shall be awarded to such with good cash incentives. An independent committee evaluating the qualified awardees may have to be created to assure that only outstanding research with relevant clinical or basic science impact are awarded.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Oblepias, Dr. Punsalan, Dr. Dee, Dr. Aguilar, Dr. Raymundo, and Dr. Richie Mendiola, for ever supporting the projects which we lined up and for putting up with my slave-driving efforts. Special acknowledgment goes to the PSREI staff—Sarah and Richie for understanding my quirks. The leaderships of PSP, PAMET, PUA and PSGE for collaborating or listening to PSREI's vision. Thank you as well to the undying support of the pharmaceutical friends especially Merck Serono, MSD, Unilab/biofemme/Biomedis and Takeda. Finally, to the entire membership of the PSREI for giving me the opportunity to serve the society, maraming salamat po!

## Congratulations to the Organizing Committee of the Midyear PSREI Convention held at the Bayanihan Hall, Unilab last June 23, 2010!



## Ferring Dinner symposium on IVF

A dinner symposium on Stimulation Protocols in IVF has been slated by Ferring, Philippines on November 25, 2010. Dr. Peter Plateau of the Dutch-speaking Free University of Brussels has been invited to deliver two papers about the different stimulation protocols in IVF. All PSREI fellows and practicing clinicians in assisted reproductive techniques are to be invited on this three-hour symposium at a still unspecified hotel. Ferring Philippines has requested all members of the PSREI to mark that date and to expect a very fruitful evening about current concepts in IVF stimulation.



Dr. Jana Joy Tusalem

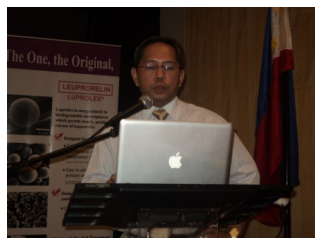


Dr. Melissa F. Diawatan

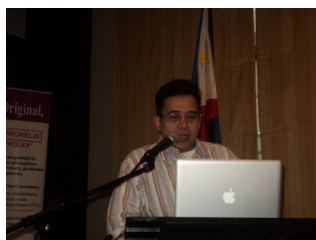
### Speakers:



Dr. Enrico Gil C. Oblepias



Dr. Virgilio M. Novero Jr.



Dr. Noel E. Raymundo



Dr. Rudie Frederick Mendiola



## Cagayan De Oro Outreach August 21, 2010

The second PSREI Outreach Program was again a resounding success. It was attended by doctors from the different neighboring areas of Cagayan de Oro led by the PSREI regional director, Dr. Melissa Diawatan. The function room of the Mulberry Hotel was filled to capacity by obstetrician-gynecologists who were eager to update themselves with the latest in reproductive endocrinology and infertility.

It was a rare occasion for it was an all male event. The speakers were headed by the president, Dr. Virgilio M. Novero Jr. who lectured on Ovulation Induction for the General OB followed by the vice-president, Dr. Enrico Gil C. Oblepias who spoke on Abnormal Uterine Bleeding. For the second half, the PRO of PSREI, Dr. Noel E. Raymundo, talked about Pelvic Endometriosis and lastly the Chair of the Outreach Program, Dr. Rudie Frederick Mendiola gave a discourse on the work-up of the infertile Couple. Despite being a busy Saturday for the attendees, the open forum was very interactive.

This activity would not have been successful if not for the support of Takeda and the local POGS chapter headed by Dr. Jana Joy Tusalem.

## Congratulations and Welcome to the new PSREI members!

The PSREI Board of Directors and Certifying Board welcome the new members who successfully passed the written and oral examination given last October 6, 2010 and they are Dr. Ma. Lorelyn Libalib-Madamba, Dr. Marian Capco-Dichoso, Dr. Jocelyn Abdurahman and Dr. Cynthia Balila



## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PSREI CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLES	CURRENT CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
<u>Article III, Section I: d) Committee on Re- search and Develop- ment</u>		<u>It shall promote and support scientific activities in research and development in the field of reproductive endocrinology and infertility.</u>
<u>Article III, Section I: h) Committee on Election</u>		<u>It shall formulate and enforce the procedure on election of board of directors &amp; officers.</u>  <u>Members of the committee shall be past president of the society.</u>
<u>Article III, Section I: i) Committee on Nomination</u>		<u>It shall formulate the criteria &amp; procedure for the nominees of the board of directors and offi- cers of the society.</u> <u>Members of the committee shall be past president of the society.</u>
<u>Article V, Section 3: Term of Office of Di- rectors</u>	The members of the Board of Directors shall hold office for one (1) year and until their successors are duly elected and qualified.	<u>The members of the Board of Directors shall hold office for one (1) year and until their suc- cessors are duly elected.</u>
<u>Article VII, Section 4: Treasurer</u>		<u>The treasurer shall render an- nual financial report during the annual business meeting.</u>
Article IX, Section 2a: Functions of the Certi- fying Board	The Board shall accredit fel- lowship or other training programs in reproductive en- docrinology and infertility. It shall formulate the rules and regulations necessary in the pursuance of this function.	The Board shall accredit fellowship or other training programs <u>includ- ing partnerships or consortia of institution</u> in reproductive endo- crinology and infertility. It shall for- mulate the rules and regulations necessary in the pursuance of this function.



## Editor's Corner



### Coming of Age: Recognition and Role of REI Practitioners in Today's Society

By Angela G. Sison-Aguilar MD FPOGS FPSREI

With the recognition of Professor Robert Edwards' work in in vitro fertilization this October by the Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute, attention has thus been called to the condition known as infertility "afflicting a large proportion of humanity including more than 10% of all couples worldwide" (so reads the citation of the Nobel Prize in Medicine 2010).

Society, through the Nobel Assembly, has finally acknowledged the role of Professor Edwards and his partner clinician, Dr. Patrick Steptoe, in alleviating human suffering—"the great disappointment and ... lifelong psychological trauma" nearly 10 percent of couples experience trying to search for a solution to help them conceive a child.

This highlights the role REI specialists play in today's society. Given the value of our expertise, we, like Professor Edwards, should strive to make our contribution to the various issues that involve our knowledge in reproduction. This contribution should also make an impact in alleviating human suffering.

The current debate on the provision of reproductive health services to the public not only grazes but also touches core issues regarding the mechanism of action of products and devices that control fertility. We should add our expert voices to the debate to clarify these issues so the stakeholders will be able to make informed decisions that have great impact on their future. The Nobel Prize in Medicine bestowed on a man whose life is devoted to reproductive medicine should inspire us—moreso, motivate and embolden us to take a more active role. This is because, like Professor Edwards, our work matters. Our knowledge matters. We matter.

### THE PSREI NEWSLETTER

The PSREI Newsletter is an official publication of the Philippine Society of Reproductive endocrinology and Infertility, Inc. It is printed bi-annually and distributed to the members of the PSREI.

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## INVITING OUR COLLABORATORS TO BECOME AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Reproductive endocrinology and infertility is a field requiring many disciplines to deliver the full complement of services needed by our patients. Among these are urologists, nurses, embryologists, psychologists, medical technologists, geneticists. We are inviting our colleagues to apply as affiliate members of our society. If you are an REI practitioner, you may refer members of your team or your collaborators to our secretariat. Please contact Sarah by email at [psrei2001@yahoo.com](mailto:psrei2001@yahoo.com) or through our office at POGS Bldg. Malakas St. Quezon City with tele-

### 2010 RESEARCH PAPER CONTEST

All the submitted papers were screened by the Committee on Research and the chosen papers for the competition will be presented during the 16th annual convention on October 14, 2010 at 10am. A total of three (3) interesting papers and three (3) Research papers on reproductive endocrinology and infertility will vie for cash prizes. Invited judges who will grace the affair include Dr. Lilia P. Luna, Dr. Florante P. Gonzaga, Dr. Corazon T. Lim for the Resident's Interesting case contest and Dr. Ma. Antonia E. Habana, Dr. Trinidad R. Vera and Dr. Ditas Decena for the Research paper contest. The chosen papers were:

#### Research Paper Contest:

1. Outcomes of patients undergoing fertility-sparing surgery for ovarian cancers: 5-year review in a tertiary hospital
2. Comparative analysis of the accuracy of transvaginal ultrasonography, hysterosalpingography and hysteroscopy in the detection of intrauterine pathology in the investigation of female infertility.
3. Effects of oral reduced glutathione treatment on semen characteristics of male infertility patients with oligozoospermia: a randomized placebo-controlled trial.

#### Interesting Paper Contest:

1. HIS story....HER story....46XY Disorder of sexual development: A rare case of partial androgen insensitivity syndrome vs 5 alpha reductase deficiency.
2. Third time's a charm??? Three siblings with congenital adrenal hyperplasia.
3. Contralateral-unilateral reproductive tract syndrome: a case of unicornuate uterus with ipsilateral ovarian and fallopian tube agenesis.