

NEWSLETTER

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE, INC.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEBBIE GUANI DY-MEGUIZO, MD

PRESIDENT

Coming into the year 2022, we were faced with many fears and adversities, but despite the uncertainties we were faced with, I am proud to say that PSRM remained steadfast in its pursuit to empower its members by encouraging active participation, healthy communication, and promising mentorships among the members of the society.

Together, we were able to move past these hardships as one family---paving the way for a new generation of PSRM that promotes leadership and excellence. This is further supported by the various activities that were planned, organized, and executed by our very own members, who are the ultimate source of strength and reason for our success.

From virtual symposiums for our members and colleagues, lay forums for our patients, wellness activities, fellowship nights, IVF workshops, and even a special interest group for our embryologists, PSRM has invested in numerous activities this year to ensure the optimal development of everyone involved. None of this would have been possible without the grit, hard work, and participation of each one of our members, and with that, I offer my gratitude for everyone who has played a role in the success of our society this year.

Our journey together is still not over. With the rising number of social and political issues associated with our specialty, we must continue to be dedicated in our mission to lead with utmost dignity and integrity for the Filipino people. Having worked and served for the society these past years, I have full faith and confidence that PSRM is more than capable of accomplishing any goal they set their mind to. As the year comes to an end, let us continue to support the incoming leaders of our society, thank the partners who have supported us, and most importantly, show appreciation to our managerial staff who have endured all technical and logistical issues encountered. It has been a great honor serving you all this past year. My sincerest thank you to everyone for the hard work, passion, and determination they have shown to bring PSRM to greater heights.

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Message from the President**
- **Academic endeavors of PSRM**
- **PSRM Committee on Research & Development launches flagship research projects**
- **Nurturing mind, body, and spirit the PSRM way**

ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS OF PSRM

ROMERICO F. TORRES, MD

VICE PRESIDENT AND OVER-ALL CHAIR ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

It has been a banner year for PSRM in terms of filling the knowledge gaps not just among its members but also the public in general. Over the past 2 years of holding the regular weekly Online Thursdays it has been able to develop a steady online following, due to the high-quality topics and speakers and the stimulating discussions which followed. The downside however is the webinar fatigue that everyone experiences with all the online activities that abound. Thus at the outset we have decided to decrease the frequency of the weekly webinar to every other week, while still maintaining the high calibre output for which it has become known for.

So far we have delivered 21 webinars 2 of which were in collaboration with the Philippine Society for Fertility Preservation. On the average per webinar we had 250 attendees with some exceeding 500 attendees! We are grateful for the collaboration we have with our industry partners, and the demand is ever so great that we already have reservations for slots for the coming year! Kudos to the CME team led by Dr Sonia Desquitado and the dedicated support of the CME tech team for this concerted effort and success.

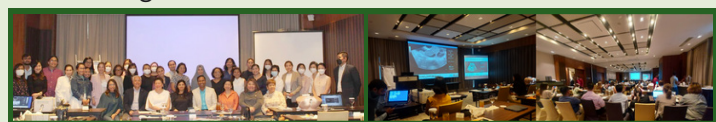
For this year's IVF series, Dr Marivic Tan, the course director, has conducted the 2 part IVF series. The first part which was sponsored by Ferring, was on the introduction of follitropin delta



with Dr David Sauer as the speaker for the 1st installment. This was followed by case discussion of local experiences on follitropin delta use by IVF lab directors Drs Richie Mendiola, Des Cabling and Marivic Tan. The second part was on recurrent implantation failure which featured a lecture and live Q and A with Prof Nick Maclon. A week later this was followed by my presentation of an RIF case discussed with Dr Nasser Al-Asmar Pinar from IM-Igenomix and Dr Marivic Tan. This 2nd part was sponsored by Merck.



We also had a face to face IVF series part 3 with didactics for the first part and hands-on the following 2 days using simulators for OPU and embryo transfer. This was in cooperation with BSV and locally coordinated by Dr Gia Pastorfide. The course was handled by the husband and wife team of Drs Attul and Shwatti Dongre from Babysure India. Around 40 PSRM members participated in the didactics and the hands on workshop held at the Marco Polo Hotel in Ortigas.



The PSRM Virtual Midyear Convention was held on May 12-13 with the theme Management of Uterine Adenomyosis: From basics to cutting edge. This featured foreign speakers such as Professors Malcolm Munro, Chi Yeng Fen, Tobias de Villiers and Dr Peter Plateau. This event was well attended with over 1000 registrants and 700+ participants per day. Our coming Annual Virtual Convention on September 8 and 9, 2022 promises to be equally exciting. The theme for this year is "Present and Future Horizons in Reproductive Medicine". This 2 whole days affair will feature 12 plenary lectures, 16 simultaneous sessions, 6 international speakers namely Professors Nikolaos Polyzos, Michel De Vos, Tommaso Simoncini, Judith Simms and Drs Laury Henry and Regidor Pedro-Antonio and 24 local speakers. Its jam-packed scientific program is both diverse and exciting that will appeal to everyone's interest. Within the annual virtual meeting, the research and interesting case contests will be held as well. Winding down the academic calendar year will be the POGS PSRM Pre-congress Webinar to be held on October 15, 2022 entitled "Adjunctive Therapies for Infertility Management: What's Real?". Pls watch out also for our simultaneous session during the POGS annual convention on November 9, 2022 in the afternoon which will feature talks on Endometriosis and Myoma Uteri. Kudos to the scientific committee

expertly headed by Professor Emeritus Lilia P Luna and Professors Angela Aguilar and Delfin Tan for all the hard work and the usual brilliant outputs ably supported by the PSRM Tech Team led by Drs Diana Amodia and Belle Pañares.

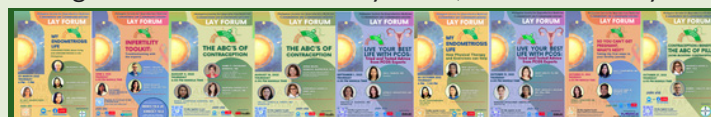


One of the initiated projects for fellows in training is the "Stump the Professors" which features presentations and discussions of challenging cases from the 3 fellowship training institutions plus CARM. First to present was St Lukes REI Training Program and it was on HIV in an infertility/ IVF patient. The second was by PGH on Mullerian Anomaly in a patient with recurrent pregnancy loss. Coming up on November are the presentations from CARM and finally FEU-JRMMC Consortium. Apart from the academic role of this activity, its goal also was to acquaint the fellows in training of their co-fellows and deepen the camaraderie among the training institutions. We thank BSV for sponsoring 3 of the four events, with Merck taking on the 4th event.

We also concluded the first installment of gathering the consensus of the PSRM general membership on the ART consensus guidelines through the Delphi Method. Prior to the consensus gathering, experts in law, theology/ religion, ethics and views from the sexual minority gave their diverse and divergent opinions on the topic enabling the membership a broader and more informed view of the issues discussed in the consensus gathering. This endeavor was spearheaded by Prof Angela Aguilar and Dr Eds Ong-Jao, guided by the group's advisor of methodology Professor Nina Carandang. We expect the written output to be out within the year on which the second part of the consensus gathering will be built upon.



Finally, leaving no sector un-involved, PSRM has reached out to our patients and general audience through lay fora led by Dr Maris Yap-Garcia. We have had 5 thus far on endometriosis, infertility, PCOS and 2 on contraception. All these activities are all fully supported and powered by the PSRM membership and its secretariat, truly making these academic activities by PSRM, for PSRM and beyond!



PSRM COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT LAUNCHES FLAGSHIP RESEARCH PROJECTS

MONA ETHELLIN L. YIU-SENOLOS, MD

On its second year, the PSRM Committee on Research & Development went full speed into launching flagship research projects for the 3 SIGs: Infertility, DSD and Endometriosis. This came after a full year of virtual research training sessions from top experts locally & internationally that laid down the ground work and sparked interest in doing research.

Currently on the pipeline are the following scientific papers:

1. Dienogest for endometriosis-associated pelvic pain in Asian women: a meta-analysis and Pharmacologic management for endometriosis-associated pelvic pain in Asian women: A Systematic Review for the SIG on Endometriosis;
2. Assessment of operational procedure, quality, and usability of I-DSD as a local national registry database in the Philippine setting and Profile of patients with disorders of sexual development identified through the Philippine digital registry for the SIG on Disorders of Sexual Dysfunction (DSD); &
3. The establishment of ethical guidelines on the provision and practice of advanced reproductive technology and intrauterine insemination using online delphi technique & plenary discussion for the SIG on Infertility.

To cap its activity for the year, another successful research and interesting case paper contest was held by the committee in time for the annual convention. As early as April a call to submit scientific papers was done and a total of 49 papers were submitted, of which 16 were research papers and 33 interesting cases. 5 of the best papers for each category were chosen and these were presented orally during the contest. Winners of the 3 best papers along with the 5 best posters were chosen for each category. These activities will serve as a venue to further develop young minds and hone their skills in research.

With these activities and even more plans for scientific works for the other SIGs, the committee can proudly look forward to even more researches that will have an impact for the clinicians in our society and the patients we serve.

NURTURING MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT THE PSRM WAY

MA. ISIDORA MARGARITA YAP-GARCIA, MD

The Philippine Society for Reproductive Medicine is a society built on a strong foundation of excellence. This culture of excellence is passed down and shared among the fellows; all of whom work hard to ensure that the society is acknowledged as a leading voice in women's health. Recognizing the members' remarkable contributions, the society's leadership works equally hard to give back to its fellows. This is the spirit behind the efforts to promote wellness and camaraderie amongst the society's members.



PSRM promotes health and wellness by organizing a relaxing session filled with music and aromatherapy. Harana and Aromatherapy pre-Valentine's event. February 12, 2022.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Wellness sub-Committee managed to bring PSRM together for activities that promote health in body, mind, and spirit. On February 12, 2022, PSRM got together virtually to learn about the health promoting benefits of essential oils. The society was likewise serenaded by our very own in a memorable pre-valentine's event. Notably, the entire ensemble - from instrumentalists to vocalists - were members of PSRM. Indeed, PSRM boasts of a wealth of talent in every field.



Dr. Lyra Ruth Chua awarding the Best of the Best in Filipiniana. Dr. Lourdes Cabling and runners-up Dr. Maj Morin, Dr. Grace P. Serrano, and Dr. Krista Pacifico

2022 proved to be an important year as it heralded the tail-end of the COVID pandemic. PSRM was quick to respond by bravely celebrating the mid-year fellowship in a hybrid event last May 14, 2022. This was dubbed "Modern Filipiniana Fashion Week" and was held at the Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar in Quezon city. Fellows were treated to an excellent choral presentation by a national children's choir - the Young Voices of the Philippines. Hosted by the indefatigable Dr. Romerico Torres and Dr. Anna Belen Alensuela, the evening was filled to the brim with the tinkling of laughter and wine glasses, music, and dancing. Dr. Lyra Ruth Chua had the honor of crowning the "Best in Filipiniana" award to Dr. Lourdes Cabling - who flew in all the way from Davao city just to celebrate this milestone event.



The world-class Young Voices of the Philippines performing Filipino songs for PSRM

Last August 20, 2022, the Wellness sub-Committee cooked up another unique event at the Bakebe, co-baking space at the SM Aura. This family event proved to be the perfect recipe for camaraderie. Who knew that 3 hours of intense baking could turn fellows, friends, daughters, and sons into one big family? Peppered with laughter, mixed with cooperation, plus a tiny dash of competition, the entire event proved that PSRM could both have its cake and eat it, too - literally!



The family that bakes together, stays together. Co-Baking at the Bakebe center in Bonifacio Global City, August 20, 2022.

At the heels of the successful Annual Convention, PSRM celebrated its first full face-to-face Fellowship night and the CCP Bay complex for a tour of the famous Manila Bay sunset. This was envisioned as a relaxing event but, true to PSRM's fun-loving spirit, the dancing that was slated for the function hall found its way to the ocean - only in PSRM! After the yacht tours, the night transformed into a Latin festival. Members were treated to a Salsa and Samba band, authentic Mexican food, and Margaritas ad libitum. The highlight of the night was when PSRM warmly welcomed its newest fellows into the fold. Fresh from induction, they proved that they are indeed cut from the same cloth as they gamely, and quite expertly, showcased their Latin dancing skills. Even the fellows-in-training joined in the fun as they danced the night away.



The few fellows sharing cocktails with PSRM pillars. (New inductees from L-R, first row: Dr. Ma. Sheryl de Jesus, Dr. Maria Angela de Castro-Abesamis, Dr. Gladys Anne Bermio, Dr. Serines Decano-dela Paz, Dr. Arby Jane Igualada, Dr. Annie Ruth Dayu. From L-R, second row: Dr. Charmaine Cabiscuelas-Castro, Dr. Cialuj Teza Agbayani-Cruz, Dr. Christine Joyce Maningas-Omolida)



Gazing into the Manila Skyline. From L-R: Dr. Leonila Estole-Casanova, Dr. Angela Aguilar, Dr. Ina Irabon, Dr. Marinella Abat, Dr. Debby Songco



Soaking up the last rays of the sun from aboard a yacht. From L-R: Dr. Margaret Cristi-Limson, Dr. Emma Caringal, Dr. Rena Cristina Koa-Malaya, Dr. Joy Jimenez-Bautista, Dr. Gladys Tanangonan, Dr. Debbie Dy-Meguizo

On December 8, 2022, Thursday, PSRM will finally celebrate the Christmas season together. The board and committee on socials are working hand in hand to ensure that this will be a Christmas to be remembered.

PSRM is blessed with 143 important voices in women's healthcare. However, its true strength is the commitment of its members. The dedication of PSRM fellows for the society is recognized and reciprocated by its leadership - one that strives for excellence by nurturing its members in mind, body, and spirit. The committees (Wellness and Socials) tasked to oversee PSRM events work tirelessly for good reason. PSRM's 143-strong, well-oiled machine of dedicated members truly deserve to be recognized and celebrated.



PSRM fellows together for the first face-to-face celebration in almost 3 years.





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