



Newsletter

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PHC CELEBRATES 45TH ANNIVERSARY



The Philippine Heart Center marks its 45th Anniversary with a grand celebration for the entire month of February. This year leads us to look back with grateful hearts, with the theme "**Balikan ang Nakaraan, PHC Ating Pasalamatan.**"

A two part grand launch ushered in the good vibes. Grateful and blessed, the first part of the program was the celebration of the Holy Mass which was officiated by PHC Chaplain Fr. Marven Ruyeras which was held at the MAB Hall. The second part of the festivities took us to the streets for the Lantern Parade followed by the Street Dancing at the MAB Canopy.

The entire Philippine Heart Center Community gathered together for the 'Lakad Puso' held on February 9, 2020. The 'Lakad Puso' is an annual event that promotes walking as a physical activity - an effective way towards happy, healthy heart for employee wellness. The event was participated by the staff of the four (4) services- Hospital Support Service, Medical Service, Nursing Services and Education, Training and Research Service.

A lively Zumba dance sets the mood for the Lakad Puso, as the employees enthusiastically participated in the warm-up exercise. The walk did not push through

because a continuous rain shower. However, despite the gloomy weather, the PHC staff and officers were in high spirits and just sashayed to the beat as each service gave their very best during the Zumba dance showdown.

The Family Fun Day held at the MAB Hall followed the exhilarating Zumba dance showdown. PHC opened its doors to the family of PHC staff as all enjoyed the food, games, surprises and giveaways.

The festivities continued with the **Grand Alumni Homecoming** as the event's highlight. *Reminiscing the glorious beginnings, building memories, advocating good governance and moving beyond better to realize our vision of service excellence in cardiovascular care was highlighted with the homecoming theme "45 - Balik-Tanaw 2020."* It was well participated by the medical alumni and former nursing and administrative officers, with the Secretary of the Department of Health, Dr. Francisco Duque III as the honorable Guest Speaker. The kickoff celebration was held at PHC and followed by the Gala Night at the Unilab Grand Ballroom.

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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

JOEL M. ABANILLA, MD

The Philippine Heart Center celebrates its 45th Anniversary with much nostalgia, with the theme "Balikan ang Nakaraan, PHC Atang Pasalamatán", taking us to another dimension -- reminiscing our glorious beginnings, building memories, advocating good governance and moving beyond better to realize our vision of service excellence in cardiovascular care.

Our celebration is truly meaningful as we focused on its two dimensions – the past and the present. For most of you who have been at PHC for year or even decades of committed and loyal service, I am pretty sure that reminiscing the past on pictures in sepia, has brought so much colorful memories. You have witnessed and have been part of the changing of seasons here at PHC, where monumental development has dawned. There have been significant improvement in the infrastructure, quality management systems, facilities and equipment upgrades, as part of our commitment to quality healthcare.

As PHC presently embarks on a new journey, the concept of change leads us to unite and carry out our mandate, to go "Beyond Better." The culture of "Good Governance" has nurtured and revolutionized health care services and has brought about transformation in the organization.

Beaming with much pride, we can say that we truly belong here at PHC. With renewed and high spirits we will carry out our mandate, as champions of cardiovascular health. We serve with our hearts, in genuine love for our country and for God's greater glory.

PHC Grand Alumni Homecoming 2020



Pediatric Cardiology Division Grand Alumni Homecoming

By Maria Dolores B. Victor

It was a beautiful Sunday morning, on the 16th of February, trainees and specialists coming from different places around the country gathered together to celebrate the 45th Grand Alumni Homecoming with the theme of “Balikan ang Nakaraan, PHC Ating Pasalamantan”. The gathering and get together indeed paved way for all the former and present members to look back at fond memories that they’ve had and to be grateful for these experiences in PHC.

The event started with a mass followed by an opening program which was held at the Pinagbungkos Garden to welcome everyone present. It was hosted by Dr. Villela and our very own Dr. Bote-Nunez. Everyone was entertained by the “flashmob” dance wherein the fellows in-training showcased their talents and creativity. In addition to this was the meeting of FOUR HEARTS of PHC representing : Patient Care, Education and Training, Research, and Public Information.



Later that afternoon, all Pediatric Cardiology graduates from all over the Philippines, gathered to celebrate the 12th WLL Honorary Lecture in honor of the man who started Pediatric Cardiology in the Philippines, Dr. Wilberto L. Lopez. A total of 82 alumni and fellows were present and was welcomed by Dr. Aurora Gamponia, the Department Manager of Pediatric Cardiology.

A film was presented showing all the graduates since 1978 , the narration of Dr. Teofilo Cantre on “Pagbabalik Tanaw – PHC Pediatric Cardiology noong 1975” , and the story continued by Dr. Jhuliet Balderas with her talk on “Ang PHC Pediatric Cardiology Ngayon.” These presentations made everyone appreciate the history of Pediatric Cardiology and that made all the attendees feel grateful to be a part of this organization.

Another highlight of the event was the talk given by the guest speaker, Mr. Chinkee Tan, which allowed everyone to reflect and gain insights regarding balancing work and life. His message was clear enough for us to appreciate the importance of not just working really hard, as our profession may require, but also to give precious time to self and family.

The whole program wouldn’t be complete without the response from our Honoree Dr. Wilberto Lopez. He said that “ *We have almost reached the level of excellence in the management of pediatric cardiac patients. We have evolved from the basic diagnostic procedures ... into the metamorphosis of the different new techniques... and in the management of children’s heart diseases* ”. Truly an inspiring man. To us, he is the Tatay of everyone.

A giving of recognition was also held to give distinction to the following individuals who have contributed to the growth of the department.

NAOMI N. POCA, MD	- Advocacy and Service Award
AURORA B. MENESES, MD	- Leadership/Achievement award
JHULIET J. BALDERAS, MD	- Leadership/Achievement Award
AURELIA G. LEUS, MD	- Leadership/Achievement Award
RUDY A. AMATONG, MD	- Outstanding Teacher Award
EDEN D. LATOSA, MD	- Outstanding Teacher Award

After all the wonderful activities, programs, and talks, the celebration ended with a gala night in Unilab Bayanihan Hall, where we, the Pediatric Cardiologists, showed our hidden talents not only in taking good care of children with heart disease, but also in dancing.

This event gave us a feeling of “coming home”. It rekindled old friendships. It gave gratitude to people who mattered. And lastly, it allowed us to celebrate our little and big achievements.

In PHC, we – the Pediatric Cardiologists are more than just colleagues. We are a family. We will always be a part of each other’s journey wherever we may be . And we will be looking forward to the fulfillment of each one’s dreams ahead.



Aurora Muriel S. Gamponia, MD
Chairman, Alumni Homecoming

ALUMNI HOMECOMING ON THE NURSING SIDE

by Rosario Maria Belen M. Cercado, RN

February is one of the most anticipated time of the year for the Philippine Heart Center. This year is extra special because of the 45th Founding Anniversary. A number of activities were planned for the whole month and PHC alumni across the globe from doctors, nurses, administrative personnel and graduates of the different programs of PHC, were invited to celebrate this milestone.

The highlight of the month-long celebration was the First Grand Alumni Homecoming wherein all areas of the hospital held their mini-reunions aside from the general alumni activities. A Eucharistic mass officiated by Fr. Marven Ruyeras marked the beginning of the celebration and was held at the PHC Medical Arts Building lobby. After the mass, a surprise interactive Flash MOB dance was performed by selected PHC employees and participated in by the PHC Alumni from the different services. The program was graced by the Secretary of the Department Health Dr. Francisco T. Duque III who, after his inspirational speech, asked for the support of Philippine Heart Center in all the programs of the department to help overcome the challenges that the health care system is facing at the moment.

The interactive show and exciting games kept the guests in festive atmosphere. Games were actively participated in by all the guests of various ages. These were held at the Pinagbungkos Plaza which was decorated with a stunning retro backdrop created by the engineering department.

Each department, together with its alumni representative, shared its plans and program along with their respective divisions. Ms. Carmencita A. Ligan, the president of the PHC Nursing Alumni Association (PHCNAA) proudly presented the numerous achievements and plans of the group, both for the alumni and PHC nurses.

A simple blessing ceremony for the newly donated desktop computer to the PHC Medical Library was one of the highlights of the activities of the PHC Nursing Alumni. The computer was received with great appreciation from the recipients and the said donated item is a symbolic representation of their support to PHC Nursing Service in fulfilling their goal of providing world-class research.

Shortly after that, everyone gathered for a luncheon program and a memorable closed group conversation while enjoying the sumptuous food prepared by the sponsors and by the alumni. This was held in the 8th-floor Atrium.



The Gala Night capped the alumni activity and provided the venue where the alumnae and the employees can mingle, acquaint themselves, share their best practices while at the same time reminiscing the good old years. Each alumnus has a story to tell, their joys and experiences that brought them to where they are. Great memories gave a sense of belonging and realization that though life takes people to unexpected places – love always brings them back to their home, the Philippine Heart Center.

ALL TOGETHER AGAIN ----

By Aileen Guzman-Banzon, MD, FPCP, FPCCP, FPSCCM, FPSSM

The 45th PHC anniversary and alumni homecoming last February 16, 2020 was a milestone reunion and fantastic fun. As we reflected back on where we have been over the past 45 years, the pulmonary division came together to experience the joy that grows out of strong friendship and shared recollections of pulmonary fellowship days. Though we have spent years apart, we were still able to pick up where we left off.



On a beautiful Sunday morning, we had games and fun activities that entertained everybody and got everyone to loosen and open up to one another. The day went by too fast but catching up with old friends and colleagues brought a bit of nostalgia adding to fond memories already stored.

The 1970's themed gala night was festive and glamorous with everyone in their fanciest attire. It was a very special night with a variety of performances from the different departments and divisions. The pulmonary group presented a funky flashback of the iconic dance moves of the 70s wearing the disco-inspired costume. As we grooved-in with our dance, we rolled back years and were young for the night.

Department of Surgery and Anesthesia's Got Talent!

By Dennis M. de Asis, MD

It's that time of the year when graduates of the Philippine Heart Center from all the training programs, including the Nursing Division, have a reunion of sort, coming from all parts of the country (or the world, rather), and reminisce the good old days. As is customary, the alumni of the different departments are asked to present a themed-production number every hospital anniversary. For some reason, the Department of Surgery and Anesthesia has shied away from the limelight and has taken the back seat (for the longest time), in the sense that they never participated in the presentation of production number during the fellowship night, which is the highlight and the clinching event for the month-long anniversary celebration. However this year, with the convincing prowess of Dr. Ramon O. Ribu leading the team, he was able to sway the consultants into dancing to the groove of the 70s. Audience were awestricken at the sight of their performance, not only because of the dance steps, but because of the eye-catching costumes they've donned - from the colorful Afro hairs, vibrant tops, down to the glittering shoes and bell-bottom pants. The swing moves and salsa routine of Drs. Florimond A. Garcia, Renato R. Pacis, Adelina S. Lim, Theresa C. Menor and Veronica M. Durante during the showdown were a revelation. And the biggest surprise of it all, was seeing Dr. Gerardo S. Manzo, and Dr. Rommel Lorenzo G. Cariño, finishing off the production number with the gyrating moves of Ursula Dudziak's "Papaya" song popularized in 1975.



Anesthesiologists and surgeons are known to have a very hectic schedule, as they are the first to arrive in the operating room theaters, and the last to leave the hospital until all cases are done for the day - in the vernacular, "hindi nasiskatnang araw". Maybe that's the reason why, the department never had the chance to participate in the said event for the past many years. But because it's the very first Grand Alumni Homecoming, the department came into agreement to make the difference this time. It was difficult at first to come up with a common time for rehearsals, as the O.R. schedule is always unpredictable (sometimes getting out of O.R. past 12 midnight!), but they managed to squeeze in their schedule, an hour or two of practice, weekends not excluded. Modesty aside, the group was never complete in any of the rehearsals, but voilà.....everything just fell into place during the actual presentation, bringing with them home the "Most Awesome" group award.



Prior to that presentation, DSA alumni had the chance to have bonding at the foyer of the Children's Auditorium, where lunch was served, followed by showdown of singing talents via karaoke. This mini-program was made possible through the efforts of Dr. Ribu, when he designated regional coordinators from Southern Mindanao, Northern Mindanao, Cebu, Visayas, Bicol, Southern Tagalog, Central Luzon and Northern Luzon, to spread awareness and increase the number of attendees. After this fun-filled activity, the ladies made sure they had their hair and make-up done, to fit the looks of the 70s and match their glamorous outfits for the "big event". And the rest is history.

This may be the start of a new-found career for the department after the night's revelation. We may just be able to tap Dr. Manuel T. Chua Chiaco, Jr., to be the star performer in next year's anniversary homecoming. So competitors....."alam na this". Better start practicing as early as now, for the Department of Surgery and Anesthesia is ready to showcase its talents for 2021!

Radiology Division's Walk to the Past

Last February 16, 2020, the great institution that is Philippine Heart Center celebrated its 45th Anniversary with a Grand Alumni Homecoming. Hundreds of graduates and employees, now prominent in their respective fields, rallied back to pay homage to this beloved institution. Months of planning and preparation paid off as the revelry that happened proved to be a remarkable one.

Prior to the event, the organizing committee of the Division of Cardiovascular Radiological Sciences led by Dr. Rafael Villarica and Dr. Josiah Marasigan, paid homage to the rich history and achievements of the division as they put together the "Radiology Walk."

In the morning of the event, everyone gathered at the courtyard in front of the iconic Pagbubungkos to reminisce the past with an energetic flash mob. The crowd couldn't help but sway to the top hits from the 60's through the 80's. This was followed by a short program that featured prominent graduates from each specialty. They were asked the question: "What do they think is the greatest contribution of their medical specialty in the Philippine health system today?" Our division was represented by Dr. Rafael Tenorio, who showcased the extent and magnitude of influence our alumni in the field of radiology and on national health. His quote " ... Through the years, PHC remains a center of excellence for Radiology and the true heart cardiovascular imaging. Like arteries of the human body, our graduates has provided uninterrupted flow of quality radiological services. After 45 years, it has proudly produced 154 highly competent radiologists, its greatest contribution" made him stand out.

A short quiz show followed which tested how much the graduates and employees know their home institution. The morning's party concluded with an epic balloon drop which got everyone scrambling because each balloon contained a coupon which can be exchanged for actual gift items.

The lunch party was divided into separate events, based on medical specialty. Each service was assigned a room in the newly renovated wing at the 5th floor of the Medical Arts Building. In our Division, this part of the program proved a bit more solemn as the different sections prepared short video presentations that recognized the founding members of our institution. This special segment was graced by the presence of the remaining founding mentors of the division, including Dr Honorato H. Piedad, the founding chairman, and Dr Jaime Tomas. This was also attended by the succeeding chairs of the division, namely Dr. Orlando Ignacio and Dr. Carolina



Abesamis-Drilon. These exceptional individuals who paved the way of our alumni shared heartfelt words describing pride and appreciation for the opportunity to witness how their mentees succeed in their different practices. Some of the division's most prominent alumni were also in attendance, including Dr. Orestes Monzon, our first graduate (1977), Dr. Rene Reyes (1980) and Dr. Herbert Echaluse (1995) among many others.

In response, various audiovisual presentations and speeches from the alumni were presented. A solemn candlelight ceremony was then held in celebration of the history and success of the Division and its alumni which was held by none other than our present chair, Dr. Marvin Tamaña. By the end of the brief yet meaningful ceremony, not a dry eye was left in the room as generations of the division's radiologists all shared that sentimental moment. Everyone was nostalgic while taking a trip down the memory lane.

The evening party at the Bayanihan Center was the most elegant part of the day-long celebration. The attendees all dressed up for the occasion to mingle and re-establish connections with the people who were once strangers but became friends and families.



PHC Celebrates 45th Anniversary

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The working environment has been a breeding ground for career and personal growth of employees. PHC has also been a second home, it has fostered camaraderie where everyone feels like they are a part of a big family. The **Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE)**, recognition is yet another monumental event as the employees who have remarkably reached a milestone in their career were duly recognized and awarded with plaques and cash gifts in return for their loyalty and service to the institution.



The **Dangal ng Bayan** Award was given to **Dr. James O. Ho Khe Sui**, the Department Manager of Adult Cardiology, in due recognition of the exemplary performance of his duties and public service.

The **MR. & MS. PHC** Coronation Night at the MAB Hall is so far the grandest and most anticipated pageant in the PHC history. The best bets from the different divisions exhibited their finest as they walked down the runway in their festival costume, sportswear and formal attire. Any pageant would not be complete without the nerve-wracking, Question & Answer portion. It was no surprise that all the candidates were able to answer the questions with grace and confidence. Deserving winners emerged as the much coveted title of **Mr. PHC** was given to **Reggan S. Romarate** from the Department of Surgery and Anesthesia and **Francesca Ira B. Lim** from the Social Service Division as the newly crowned **Ms. PHC**.

