

“PHILIPPINE ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION, Past Present and Future”

The Philippine Orthopaedic Association started the year 1991 after a very rewarding annual convention held at Manila Hyatt Hotel during the first week of December 1990. During the meeting the association was very fortunate to have renowned orthopaedic surgeons from the region as guest speakers. They were Dr. Yoshi Koga and Dr. Tatsuya Tajima from Japan, Dr. Tan Ser Kiat and Dr. Aziz Nather from Singapore, Dr. P.C. Leung from Hong Kong, Dr. Shaheen Methar and Dr. Eric Taylor from the United Kingdom talked about infection control and surgical infections respectively. In the same meeting the new set of officers were elected: Dr. N. R. Agcaoili-President, Dr. L. Cabral - Vice President, Dr. A. Borromeo - Secretary, Dr. M. Geronilla-Treasurer. The other members of the board of directors are C. Maano, F. Dizon, C. Te, H. Lasam, L. Castillo, A. Kho, Dr. V.D. Lim and former President is ex-official member. Dr. Ramon Celo was elected as the new member of the Philippine board of orthopaedics.

The scientific programs for the year 1991 was scheduled for the different orthopaedic centers. This was held on the last Friday of every month. The first meeting was held at the Philippine Orthopaedic Center (formerly National Orthopaedic Center).

April was very busy month for POA. A big task for the association was to write a new constitution and by-laws. This constitutional convention was for the purpose of updating and making the constitution more relevant to the present times. The delegates to the convention were chosen from the list of former presidents, former Board of Examiners of the Philippine, Board of Orthopaedic and others who were elected from the different sectoral groups of the association. A total of 32 enthusiastic and hard-working members attended the convention. It was a live-in type of meeting and the group stayed on until 4:00 A.M. discussing the important issues. Among the more active senior members who attended were Dr. Ambrosio Tangco and Dr. Manuel Rivera. This new chart will be ratified during the coming annual convention this December at the Westin Plaza Hotel.

The month of May was our mid year meeting. This was held at the enchanting island of Cebu. Together with the Philippine College of Surgeons, the POA had a most lively scientific program with Dr. A. Montalban, Dr. V. Gomez and Dr. T. Altre as lecturers. They shared their experiences in pediatric orthopaedics. After the meeting, the fellows had a chance to frolic in the white sandy beaches of Mactan island.

The disastrous eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo caused some problems not only to our unfortunate brothers in Central Luzon but also to the POA. A scheduled scientific meeting on the last week of June by the Philippine Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine was cancelled because of the inability of the foreign guest speakers to arrive at the volcanic ash covered Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The Senior Travelling Fellows of the ASEAN Orthopaedic Association suffered the same fate. The visit was cancelled and the association was in a frantic search for alternate judges of the scheduled P.O.A. Syntex Research Forum last July 20th. The most generous cooperation of our senior orthopaedic fellows namely - Dr. Tablan, Dr. M. Rivera and Dr. Innocentes saved the day for all of us. They consented at a very, very short notice to be our pannel of judges for the Research Forum. Nine very well written scientific orthopaedic papers were presented by our young orthopaedic residents from various center.

We are at height of preparation for this year's annual convention. We have invited famous orthopaedic surgeons from the different ASEAN countries. They are Drs. Chotigavanich, P.C. Leung, K. Satku, C. Hilmy and Subramanian. Our theme for this December 4-6 meetings "Advances in Orthopaedics Relevant to the Philippine Practice."

The Tissue Bank of the Department of Orthopaedics College of Medicine University of the Philippines, together with the Philippine Orthopaedic Center and the Philippine Orthopaedic Association will host the 4th meeting of the Asia-Pacific Association of Surgical Tissue Banking this coming August 6-9, 1992. This will be at the luxurious Westin Plaza Hotel. Dr. N.R. Agcaoili, Vice President of A.P.A.S.T.B. is the over all chairman of the organizing committee. The A.P.A.S.T.B. 4th meeting will certainly boost the country's tissue banking projects.

This early, we have also started preparations for the 1993 ASEAN Orthopaedic Association meeting. We have planned it to be in Cebu city. Dr. M. Geronilla and Dr. A. Borromeo are in the thick of planning for this project. We anticipate that this Cebu AOA meeting will be very different from the Manila meeting or the last in Baguio city. We hope to see all our ASEAN brothers in Orthopaedics during this coming 1993 Cebu AOA meeting.

Prepared by:

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President, POA

IN MEMORIAL

Jose Velarde Silao, Jr.



Jose Velarde Silao, Jr., doctor, teacher, researcher and administrator, organized and developed the Department of Orthopaedics of the College of Medicine, of the Philippines and Philippine General Hospital. He was the first chairman from 1972 to 1983 of the first department of orthopaedic in the Philippines. When he died on October 6, 1990, he was professor IV of the College of Medicine, University of the Philippines.

He came from humble beginnings in Baybay Elementary School and later Baybay High School where he was a consistent Valedictorian. He continued his education in the university of the Philippines where he finished his medical degree in 1956, graduating number 7 in a class of 100 students. He thus became a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor society of the UP College of Medicine. He then became an adjunct resident in surgery at the UP-PGH in 1959. He finished his general surgery residency in the same institution in 1961.

He became a visiting fellow in orthopaedic surgery at the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, Columbia University, New York, U.S.A. from 1963 to 1964. This was followed by another fellowship in orthopaedic surgery at the Children's Hospital Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., under professor William T. Green of the Harvard Medical School.

On August 26, 1966, on his return to the Philippines he became a fellow in orthopaedic surgery. He then started a very lucrative practice as an orthopaedic surgeon in addition to his academic appointment at the College of Medicine of the University of the Philippines. Although he was a general orthopaedic surgeon by profession, he considered himself more of a hand surgeon.

In 1974, he received the Outstanding Achievement Award for Leadership and Management given by the UP-PGH Medical Center on its Foundation Day Celebration.

He was one of the founding members of the Asean Orthopaedic Association which was organized on February 26, 1981 in Manila together with 13 other Asean Orthopaedic Surgeons.

He acquired his Master's Degree in Hospital Administration from the Ateneo University in 1981. This enhanced his administrative skills tremendously. A year later in March, 1982, he established the disaster control plan of the Philippine General Hospital, the first of its kind in the Philippines and this became the model of other hospitals in the country. In addition, he also initiated the management course for medical students in the UP College of Medicine.

He became chairman of the Philippine board of orthopaedic in 1983, for which he initiated the in-service examination for orthopaedic surgeons in the country and systematized the records of the board.

In that same year, he was a recipient of a professorial chair of the UP College of Medicine.

He left behind four doctors, a medical student and a geologist. We who have been touched by his life truly share his family's deep loss. He left behind a department which he nurtured and loved. He left behind a dream for a greater PGH.

By example, he taught us the value of hard work. He often repeated "Let's go" signified his untiring pursuit for lofty goals and greater achievements. He taught us not only to be good orthopaedic surgeons but above all to be cultured Filipinos. To all of us who had the good fortune of being trained under him a part of us will always be Silao.

ANTONIO M. MONTALBAN, M.D.