

Inaugural Speech

Enhanced Collaboration and Regional Empowerment for Regional and Global Relevance and Recognition

Benjamin D. Cuenca, MD
POGS President 2021

Thesaurus defines 'collaboration' as a state of having shared interests or efforts as in social or business matters. With its positive connotation, the word has always been the cornerstone of success in any team endeavors. And when applied to healthcare, collaboration has proven to be one of the trademarks of highly successful health care innovations.

In 2021, the progressive path of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society will be geared towards this promising direction that will optimize opportunities to achieve collaborative benefits like quality of care, patient engagement, patient safety and other staff and organization benefits.

Collaboration will be enhanced both internally and externally. Collaborative endeavors with individual members will be nourished at committee level to generate more intensive participation in both committee chairmanship and membership from most, if not all regional chapters. In a similar manner, dynamic participation of the fourteen sub-specialty and affiliate societies of the POGS will be enjoined to define their respective goals and plans and align them with the major thrusts of the Society, i.e., to lower maternal mortality rate, strengthen campaign against teenage pregnancy, promote and safeguard the welfare of the POGS members, enhance research initiatives and output, drum up measures for accurate POGS nationwide statistics, and adopt new and relevant disciplines like sexual and gender minority issues.

External collaboration in both non-legislative (Department of Health, PMA, PhilHealth and other seven specialty societies) and legislative fronts (lower house, senate) will be further strengthened to optimize the important role and influence of the Society in shaping the landscape of women's healthcare and in the attendant legislative processes and policy-makings.

It is likewise the ardent focus of this governance to continue earning the respect of regional as well as global health organizations such as the AOFOG and the FIGO to show what the POGS can do and offer. We have done this in 2019 when we etched the highest attendance in the history of AOFOG Congress when we hosted its 26th Congress in Manila. We can do it again and we can do even better, especially in the discipline of scientific works.

In 2026, the POGS will be led by a president from the region of Mindanao. Hence, it is imperative and timely to push for stronger regional presence in all committees, especially those which are crucial in

generating decision-makings and in projects that put forth the thrusts, advocacies and priorities that define the POGS as a premiere society for women's health. Regional empowerment, true enough, will ensure that every activity of the Society will result to more impactful and far-reaching effects if every regional chapter will generate its own unique initiatives.

THE STORY BOOK OF POGS@75. The year 2021 will mark the 75th Diamond Founding Anniversary of the POGS. A coffee table book called 'The Story Book of POGS@75' is underway. A dedicated ad hoc committee, chaired by **Dr. Mary Christine Fernando-Palma** as the Editor-in-Chief, is composed of 85 contributors who attended a workshop on feature writing on September 30, 2020.

BIOETHICS FORUM. **Dr. Ma. Lourdes Blanco-Capito**, who currently chairs the Committee on Ethics and Medical Practice and a member of the FIGO Committee on Ethical and Professional Aspects of Human Reproduction and Women's Health, agreed to lead the Bioethics Forum project that must be attended by all candidates prior to their induction as diplomates and fellows of the Society. The program will showcase basic topics like the Mission and Vision of the Society, which a candidate, who will soon take the Oath of Membership, must know by heart. The forum will also feature sessions that will take up the Society's five core values that a POGS member must embrace, embody and represent at all times as a clinician. Topics such as those related to Medical Expert Witness and other related medico-legal issues will also be highlighted so that target group will be made to understand and appreciate the moral and legal obligations and duties that go with the title being bestowed upon them as Fellows of the Society. The title must etch in their hearts their committed moral responsibilities to their patients, to the Society and to God.

POGS PRACTICE BULLETINS. These written electronic and downloadable publications will feature the POGS position statements on relevant, timely and developing health issues that would necessitate immediate practice-changing guidelines from the mother society based on the best available and most recent comprehensive evidence. These committee opinions and practice bulletins will be compiled at the end of the year in a compendium.

VIRTUAL LIBRARY. If one of the thrusts of this governance is to encourage scientific work initiative and output, the mother society must, in parallel, provide an effective venue to encourage and expedite literature

search and review at least for the local journals in obstetrics and gynecology. For such purpose, journals like the PJOG and those of the POGS' subspecialty societies will be digitally available at the tip of the fingers of aspiring scientific workers. The digital archiving of the POGS library has been ongoing and it is clearly envisioned that further assistance will be infused to augment the works and finally see the POGS' digital library in its fully operational form.

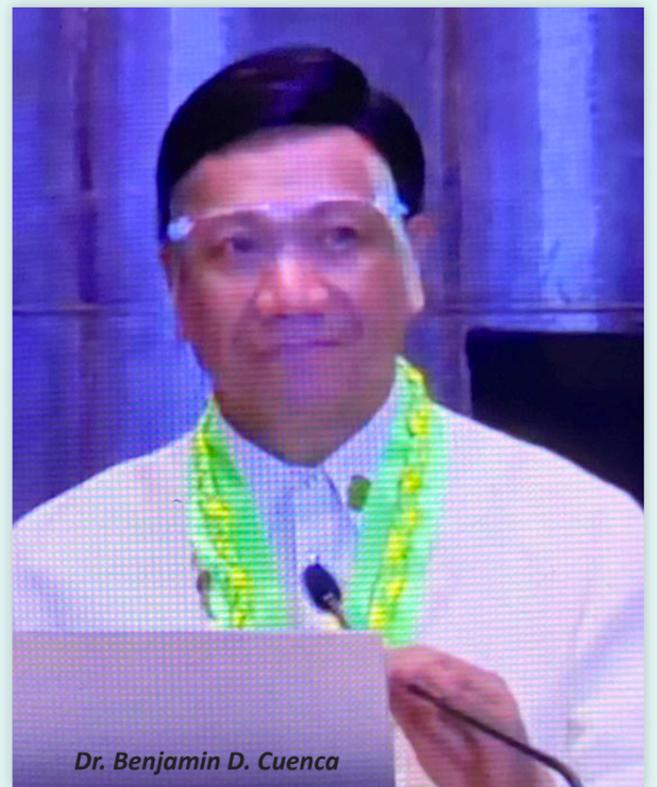
MORATORIUM. This governance priority is considered in response to the call of the DOH Secretary, **Dr. Francisco Duque**, to the eight specialty societies, on their plans for the graduates of their respective training programs, which are all being maintained and steadily accredited by their respective specialty boards, who failed their specialty examinations. The Health Secretary raised the brewing concern over the growing number of unbelonging group and recommended the conduct of the specialty board examinations at least twice a year and the conduct of a moratorium for this group at least every 5 years.

In 2015, under the leadership of **Dr. Ditas Cristina D. Decena**, a moratorium project was successfully undertaken and put forth into an astounding completion in 2017 with the consolidated efforts of the Philippine Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (PBOG) and the Committee on Continuing Medical Education. Personally, I foresee to duplicate such success in 2021 to embrace more potential members for the Society who will live up with its mission and vision statements and will embody the core values that the members all rally behind.

COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE. I see a kind of leadership that is both consultative and collaborative, carried out with utmost transparency and flexibility to give way for relevance. Such leadership style must also have space for the human heart because by being so, it becomes more sensitive and responsive to the needs of each and every member of the POGS.

CORE VALUES. The POGS' five core values, namely, Integrity, Competence, Accountability, Compassion and Innovation must all come ahead of every decision of any elected officer of the Society. These core values must not stay written and read, but above anything else, they must be translated into relevant decorum and actions worthy of respect and emulation – characteristics an ideal POGS Fellow must possess and project.

Therefore, I lift up the spirit of this POGS leadership in 2021 to Him, my Most High Consultant and Most Divine Adviser.



POST CONVENTION

#POGS2020HYBRID

Leilani C. Coloma, MD
2020 Convention Secretary

The year 2020 was indeed challenging, with us hurdling with a lot of difficulties. During the start of the pandemic, the 2020 Annual Convention Organizing Committee was initially uncertain whether or not to push with the convention physically or virtually. Despite all the lengthy Zoom videoconferencing and discussions, we were able to pull through and decide to continue with the virtual platform.

This became possible without discounting the best efforts, hard works, and timeless virtual pocket meetings done by every subcommittee. We had the full cooperation of everyone in our team, the OrgCom of the first-ever Hybrid Convention of POGS, in the time of Covid 19. More importantly, our leaders, the 2020 BOT were on full support of it.

Joining and navigating #POGS2020HYBRID may not have been a smooth journey for all of us. Some had technical difficulties, uncontrollable network glitches and failures. Nevertheless, the unparalleled number of attendees of 6416 registered delegates had a unique, different but exciting experience this year. Many even thought that the virtual platform was better than the physical one for reasons like:

- The Scientific sessions were able to engage their attention and participation without having problems on missing out one lecture from the others.
- The E library had helped them go back to their favorite sessions, whether it was a social event or industry-sponsored lecture.
- The souvenir photo booth was accessed without queuing in a long line.
- The comforts of home and at the liberty of one's own time while in attendance to the Convention was best.

The convention was made up of the following activities:

The first one consisted of five plenary sessions that were successfully delivered with foreign guest and local speakers from different fields of specialty. During these sessions, updates in Obstetrics and



Dr. Leilani Coloma

Gynecology as well as recent data from the local experience with the Sars Cov2 virus were discussed comprehensively. There was also a POGS hour that was dedicated daily to encompass relevant topics during these times.

All the subspecialty and affiliate societies of the POGS were given platforms to discuss current issues and topics in their fields that would be helpful not just to the members but to all the attendees.

Despite the challenges of the new set-up, we managed to maintain our ties virtually with partner stakeholders in women's healthcare like the FIGO and AOFOG.

The ceremonial act of presentation and conferment of the 2020 POGS Awardees was done using the hybrid format led by the Chair of the Committee on Awards, **Dr. Lyra Ruth Chua** assisted by **Dr. Padolina** and **Dr. Lagman-Dy**.

The Honoria Acosta – Sison Award of Merit in Research was bestowed upon **Dr. Cecilia Ladines-Llave**, who was introduced by **Dr. Efren J. Domingo**.

Dr. Raul M. Quillamor was granted the *Ramon Lopez Award of Merit for Community Service*, and was introduced by **Dr. Rosalie Escobar-Junio**.

The POGS Award of Excellence in Clinical Practice was given to **Dr. Florante P. Gonzaga** who was introduced by **Dr. Gilda Germar-Martinez**. The *Baldomero Roxas Award for Academic Excellence* was earned by

Dr. Ricardo M. Manalastas, Jr., who was introduced by **Dr. Conrado Crisostomo**. Dr. Butch delivered his memorial lecture with much words of wisdom during this time of pandemic.

More activities such as the Sports' and Socials' events were executed like before, participated in by members from the different regions and chapters and other registered delegates, which were indeed a blast for both. A lot of exciting and useful prizes were at stake for the various raffles successfully drawn and played. Each delegate had equal and fair chances of winning. We are very grateful to all our sponsors for making this possible.

Downloadable Program of Events, Souvenir Program and Scientific Work Abstracts were also made available, which made the whole experience more interesting, if not more immersing for the delegates.

Moreover, we welcomed 163 new diplomates and 179 new fellows preserving the traditional protocol ceremonies in the virtual platform.

The President, **Dr. Christia S. Padolina**, was able to convene the membership during the President's Hour and Annual Business Meeting done similarly with that of the physical setting.

Finally, the conduct of Elections for this year was a success and comparable with that during any physical convention. It was a lot easier and perhaps more preferable by doing away with the long lines experienced previously.

The 2021 Board of Trustees was inducted by the esteemed **Hon. Senator Risa Hontiveros** during the Closing Ceremonies.

Overall, it was indeed a success. Notwithstanding the uncertainties of the times, we managed to push through with our Annual Convention and all the official activities were conducted with all the members as ONE POGS.

We are hopeful for a better year ahead. Three cheers, one POGS!





Valedictory Address

Christia S. Padolina, MD
POGS 2020 President

Good afternoon to our Past Presidents, to our keynote speaker **Hon. Ana Theresia "Risa" Hontiveros-Baraquel**, the members of the 2020 Board of Trustees, the Organizing Committee of the 2020 Hybrid Annual Convention headed by **Dr. Benjamin BJ Cuenca**, our Regional Directors and Chapter Presidents, Fellow inductees and to each and every member of our beloved Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (Foundation) Inc.



As we draw to a close the **2020 Hybrid Annual Convention and 74th Anniversary Celebration**, we pause and say "thank you" to our dear Lord for the opportunity to connect and reach out to the greatest number of our POGS members (6,416 of registrants) this time virtually. We miss being with you face-to-face though but your virtual presence and patience during these past five (5) days were more than enough to make-up for the face-to face interaction. We are now 244 days into the COVID-19 pandemic.



As the story of COVID-19 continues to unfold - we were never paralyzed to inaction but rather we successfully rose above the adversities and unwearingly embraced the new normal with a gratifying renewed spirit of solidarity as ONE POGS.

In recent conversations, I was often asked "What legacy will you leave for POGS?" "Will it be being the Congress President of the AOFOG 2019 Convention in Manila?" or "Will it be the many challenging "firsts" in your term as 2020 POGS President?"



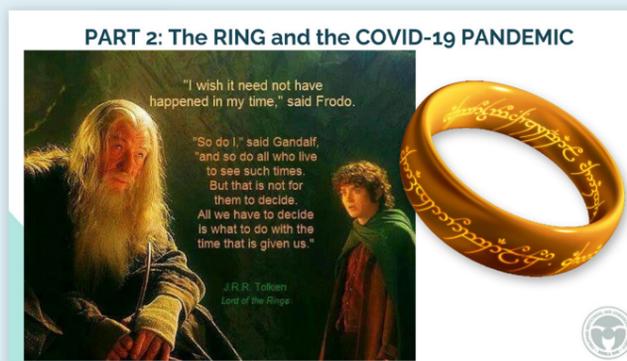
Part 1: #AOFOG2019Manila and #inGodsperfecttime

AOFOG in God's perfect time: The journey to the AOFOG in Manila was not a breeze. There were on and off tormenting storms we had to overcome. I had an army of excellent OrgCom chairs and co-chairs with their respective dedicated brigades of committee members working together with an efficient Convention Secretary (whom i fondly refer to as my Secretary of Defense), **Dr. Brenda Zamora**. I had full support of the legion of Board of Trustees and Regional Directors.

Truly, that endeavor pushed us to our limits and sometimes out of our wits just to ensure that POGS regains and even outshines its glory in academic excellence in the international community and provide us with the opportunity to showcase our Filipino culture and genuine hospitality. Congratulations to all of us for it was a success with the launching of the AOFOG Manila Declaration on Elimination of Cervical Cancer to boot. It was indeed in God's perfect time that our "ride with us to the AOFOG Congress In Manila" put us in the forefront of the international congress scene on women's healthcare.

That set the pace for our year 2020.

Part 2: The Ring and the Covid-19 Pandemic



"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times.

But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us." - by JRR Tolkien in The Lord of the Rings

The year 2020 is about the Ring: Its about taking advantage of opportunities



Shockingly, the year started with an explosion – there was the Taal volcano eruption that affected our POGS family in Region IV. Not long after that, the deadly COVID-19 virus caused a pandemic. The fear of the unknown was palpable. The death toll alarmed the healthcare system, froze businesses and nearly shut down the national economy and caused generalized turmoil.

The lockdowns that the pandemic has brought about gave us the chance to pause from our daily grind; do some soul-searching; re-charge our faith; spend some time with family and even re-connect with nature. There were those however who took the path less traveled – they charged straight into the frontlines ready to serve our patients despite the toxic risks to self, family and loved ones. All other paths to surviving this pandemic was way beyond the call of our duty but each of us served as frontliners, administrators and educators. We faithfully rendered service and assistance that changed the ill-fated lifecourse of others. Each of us made a difference.

The year 2020 is the Ring and I have decided on what to do with the time that was given us:

It is not anymore a question of how this year has changed me and the people I am with in this journey. What is more important is that we rose to the challenge offered by this time. This sense of purpose – of fate assigning roles to me – to us, strength to enable me to accept this fated role without giving up to the mortifying influence of what year 2020 brings. Being the "ring"-bearer was undeniably an enormous responsibility.



The year 2020 forced us to rethink and reassess our ways. Without the pandemic, this afternoon could have been just another Closing Ceremony at the Sofitel or PICC, but instead, it allowed us to learn and adopt new ways. It provided the opportunity to keep up with the times, explore innovative platforms, and think out of the box to re-connect. Thank you to the Virtual (VART) headed by **Dr. Socs Bernardino** and **Dr. Jen Go**. They were ably assisted by AT3 headed by **Ms. Luchie Tansiongco** and **Mr. Jericho** . . for helping us navigate the new normal.

I always thank the good Lord for His perpetual guidance. Truly, every step of my journey as President of POGS was taken to ensure the welfare of our members and that of the patients who depend on us. We continue to gain refuge in the people who support and trust us - our families and friends. My deepest gratitude goes to my board, regional directors and chapter presidents, various working committees, subspecialty and affiliate societies and the POGS general membership for being enduring and for consistently supporting me through all these challenges as we move forward as one community.

Part 3: Of Leaders, Heroes and Men of Value . . . Winning is not succeeding

To our new 2021 Board of Trustees, congratulations and I wish you well in your upcoming endeavors. You won the hearts of our POGS membership because of your dedicated service and promising leadership skills. You will be our 2021 heroes as we continue to battle the covid-19 enemy and the wrath and aftermath that it will still bring. Winning to make it to the BOT is not the ultimate achievement – it is only a humble beginning. It will be hours, days, weeks, months and may even be years of tough work of testing your endurance, perseverance, fortitude, tolerance and passion for service to POGS.

Keep the enthusiasm burning despite the challenges. Let your light shine and always put your heart in what you do.

“Try not to become a man of success, rather, become a man of value.” (by Albert Einstein)
As always, remember that we are ONE POGS.

For those who did not make it for the 2021 BOT, you are not any lesser or wanting in character. There is a perfect time. I myself had two failed attempts to become a board of trustee.

Part 4: Hindi ako si Darna . . . CSP after 2020

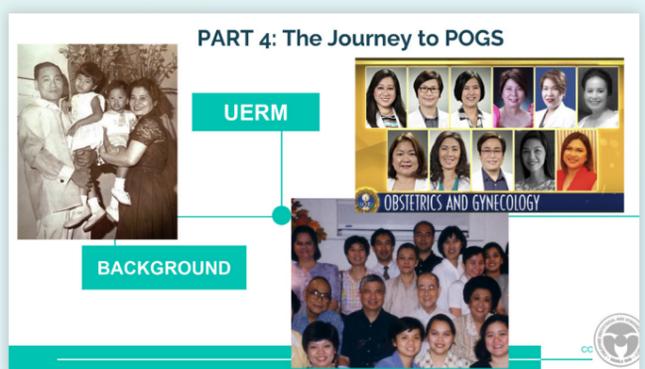


Hindi ako si Darna . . . ako ay si Christia S. Padolina. To our Fellows and to those who do not know me personally - I am Christia Santiago Padolina who have lawyers for parents but was influenced to become a physician as my mother was very sickly.

I proudly graduated from UERMMMCM (the best medical center along Aurora Blvd.) who initially wanted to become a pediatrician or an internist but went into Obstetrics as I was inspired to become one by my senior residents and consultants.



I furthered my craft, ventured in to the academe, government service and administrative responsibilities.



I have been active in POGS for the past thirty (30) years or 3 decades of dedicated service to POGS.

The numerous professional accomplishments, positions of great responsibilities handled and memorable significant awards have led me to greater heights but what matters most to me now are the acquaintances made, the friendships formed and the bonds that tie.



So, what will Christia do after the POGS Presidency?

Christia will give herself some pampering . . .

Christia will visit her family . . .



Christia will travel with her friends . . .

Give back dedicated time to her alma mater UERMMMCM

Continue being a public advocate

Part 5: CSP Avatar and #mahalkongPOGS Life of purpose

We were not prepared for the chaos the pandemic has brought about but our dear Lord has provided us with the strength to resist the fall, rise up and succeed in the new and better normal. There's no turning back.

It may not have been the perfect 2020 vision I planned out but with some “refraction” and the constant support of my BOT and RDs, various committees and the ever loyal and dedicated secretariat staff led by - Mel, Sandra and Junie, I can say it was a successful 2020 . . . we did more than survived . . . we are grateful and hopeful and we are now looking forward to a brighter diamond 2021.



Thank you for the trust. The road less travelled was not easy but it was comforting knowing I did it with all of you by my side. Thank you for allowing me to lead you in these challenging times. To all our colleagues who sacrificed for the welfare of others, our fervent prayers go to you. Your selflessness and noble deeds will be forever remembered. Most of all, let me recognize the kindness generously extended by each one of us during these exasperating times.

This is **Dr. Christia S. Padolina**, 2020 POGS President saying –

Promises delivered
Accomplishments sealed

Mahal kong POGS, maraming maraming salamat sa tiwala at suporta!

Bago po ako tuluyang mag Paalam sa araw ng pagtatapos ng ating convention, It is 65 days before Christmas. . . And

isang munting regalo mula sa akin, sa amin dito sa pamunuan ng POGS at sa aking mga mahal na kaibigan at kapamilya . . . nais kong maunang bumati sa inyong lahat ng isang Maligayang Pasko!

Message from

The Board Secretary

By Pilar Lagman-Dy, MD

As of the last **Board of Trustees (BOT)** meeting on December 14, 2020, the Committee on Credentials and Membership reported that POGS has 4,767 members: 158 new Junior members, 163 new Fellows, 163 new Diplomates and 4 Life members below 64 years of age. Below is the breakdown of members according to the region where they are currently practicing:

Region	Junior	Diplomate	Fellow	Associate	Life	
NCR	252	170	1420	68	384	2294
1	36	18	184	4	23	265
2	17	15	76	2	5	115
3	48	30	268	10	68	383
4	66	36	343	11	38	494
5	11	5	58	2	7	83
6	47	9	193	3	20	272
7	45	32	208	4	37	326
8	9	9	40	3	7	68
9	4	6	30	1	4	45
10	21	13	122	3	10	169
11	39	23	172	2	17	253
Total	595	366	3,114	113	579	4,767

Effective 2021, the BOT has also approved the following Annual Dues:

DIPLOMATE / FELLOW Members	PHP4000	
	• Annual Dues	2300
	• Journal Subscription Online	200
	• MAP Contribution	900
	• MAP Living/ Death Benefit	600
JUNIOR Members	PHP3500	
	• Annual Dues	1800
	• Journal Subscription Online	200
	• MAP Contribution	900
	• MAP Living/ Death Benefit	600

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

One hundred ten (110) POGS members has availed of the Covid-19 Positive Sickness Benefit Program. Sadly, the families of our 7 members claimed their Death Benefits. Below is the summary of claims made by members:

SUMMARY OF CLAIMS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020

BENEFIT	NO. OF CLAIMS	AMOUNT OF CLAIMS	TOTAL
SBP COVID +	110	Php10,000.00	1,100,000.00
SBP SURGICAL	19	Php20,000.00	380,000.00
SBP MEDICAL	6	Php10,000.00	60,000.00
LBP	4	Php60,000.00	240,000.00
DBP	7	Php60,000.00	260,000.00
			Php2,200,000.00

The chair of the Mutual Assistance Program, **Dr. Lety Chua-Torregosa** recommended to the BOT the continuation of the special program next year on Covid-19 positive members who will apply under the sickness benefit program since the Covid-19 pandemic is not yet over. The extension of the benefit will need the same requirements and the amount of claim is still Php10,000 per applicant. The COVID-19 special program has been included in the proposed budget for 2021. The BOT unanimously approved its continuity.

FELLOWS' INDUCTION

After thorough screening by the **Committee on Credentials and Membership**, one hundred seventy-nine (179) new Fellows were invited and were officially inducted during the Closing Ceremonies of the 74th Annual Convention on November 14, 2020. It was a hybrid type of ceremony where majority of the

BOT members were present (face-to-face) in Grand Hyatt Manila Hotel and the inductees were at home connected via Zoom. Everything went well and they were welcomed as the newest members of the Society with **Dr. Delfin A. Tan**, 1998 POGS President as the candle-light ceremony leader. On-screen, all the inductees appeared pretty, handsome and very respectable-looking in their togas as their names were called one by one by the Board Secretary **Dr. Pilar Lagman-Dy**, and accepted to the Society by President **Dr. Christia S. Padolina** who administered the Oath-taking with emphasis on the POGS core values of Integrity, Competence, Accountability, Compassion and Innovation.



November 14, 2020. Online Induction of 179 new Fellows during the Closing Ceremonies of the 74th POGS Annual Convention

Philippine Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (PBOG)

There were one hundred sixty-three (163) new Diplomates inducted during the Opening Ceremonies of the 2020 74th Annual Convention in November 10, presented by the PBOG Chair **Dr. Ma. Lourdes Poblete-Chan** and PBOG Secretary **Dr. Carolyn Zalameda-Castro**. Because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the scheduled Part II Oral Examinations in March was cancelled and was only held in September after several trials and dry-runs with the different platforms. It was entirely an online oral examination, with 63.42% passing rate (163/257). Likewise, the Part I written online examination was satisfactorily held in October 18, with 82% passing rate (158/192). The results were comparable with the previous traditional or face-to-face examinations.



November 10, 2020: Online Induction of 163 new Diplomates during the Opening Ceremonies of the 74th POGS Annual Convention

Dr. Menefrida S. Reyes, representing the private sector, was voted as the new Chair of the 2021 PBOG with Dr. Maria Josefina A. Morales as the appointed Secretary. The BOT approved the PBOG recommendation as to the new members of 2021-2023:

	NAME	SECTOR
1	Jocelyn Z. Mariano, MD	UST (2021-2022)
2	Virgilio B. Novero, Jr., MD	PGH
3	Madonna Victoria V. Domingo, MD	PGH
4	Ma. Theresa Vergara, MD	Southern Luzon Medical Schools
5	Teresita Cadiz-Brion, MD	NCR Government Medical Schools
6	Noel E. Raymundo, MD	MCU
7	Charisse Sharon Espina-Tan, MD	Visayas Medical Schools

It was also approved by the BOT during the December 14 meeting to allow the 4 examinees to take the March 2021 (only) oral examinations. The PBOG reconsidered the four (4) unsuccessful oral exam takers in September whose

junior membership will expire on December 31, 2020 but have only taken less than 3 oral exams. They applied for the March 2020 oral exam which was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic and PBOG was only able to give one set of oral examination this year.

COUNCIL FOR RESIDENTS' EDUCATION, ENHANCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (CREED)

Despite the Covid-19 Pandemic, the 2020 CREED led by Chair **Dr. Concepcion Damaso-Rayel** and Secretary **Dr. Cynthia Fernandez-Tan** successfully conducted the online Workshop (Formulation and Determination of MCQs and MPLs in September 5) and Training of Trainers (Residency Training in the Time of the Pandemic in September 26). They even managed to do hospital visits VIRTUALLY; a total of 26 accredited training institutions were successfully evaluated: Revisit (3), Year 3 visit (5), Year 2 visit (15), Mentoring (3). As a reference material for future CREED members, they were able to accomplish and submit to BOT the first edition of the CREED Administrative Manual.

For both PBOG and CREED, the following virtual meetings were successfully carried out:

1. Quadripartite Meeting (July 23), with 236 attendees: members of BOT, PBOG, CREED, Chairs and Training Officers of accredited training institutions. Topics discussed included: a) Quantitative and Qualitative Parameters for Assessment of Training Program during the Pandemic, b) Hospital Accreditation Visits, and c) Online Exams. **Dr. Eleanor B. Almoro**, FPOGS and member of PRC talked on Foreign Medical Graduate Professionals and Residency Training.



July 23, 2020. Online Quadripartite Meeting attended by members of the BOT, PBOG, CREED and Chairs/TOs of accredited training institutions

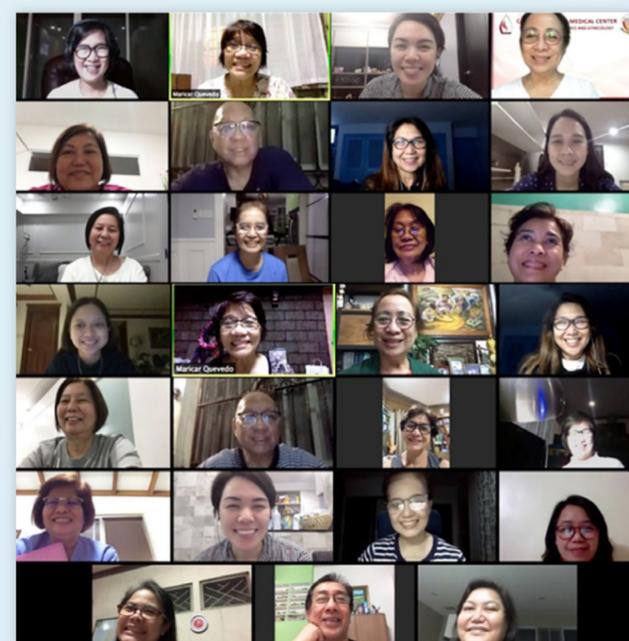
2. Bipartite Meeting (August 29) where members of PBOG and CREED agreed to implement some mitigating measures during the pandemic to address the training and credentialing of accredited training institutions, including transfer of technical responsibility, deferment to 2021 of the full implementation of integrated training in Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS), and drafting of the Pathology Instructional Design to guide the accredited institutions
3. Project Dystocia Meeting (August 27) with **Drs. Sylvia Delas Alas-Carnero** and **Ruth H. Gutierrez** as advisers and resource persons. Controversial issues related to labor and delivery were thoroughly discussed: a) Arrest and Failure in Descent, b) Start of the Active Phase of Labor, and c) Failed Induction of Labor.

The project will be endorsed to the Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) headed by **Dr. Gil S. Gonzalez**.

REVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL AND EMPLOYEES' HANDBOOK

Headed by **Dr. Lourdes Blanco-Capito**, the members of the committee (**Drs. Marinella Agnes S. Garcia-Abat, Rowena M. Auxillos, Mario A. Bernardino, Teresa Diana B. Bongala, Pressie T. Pascual-Eclarin, Agnes S. Estrella, Rosalie Escobar-Junio, Ma. Bernadette R. Octavio, Maria Carmen H. Quevedo, and Raul M. Quillamor**), with POGS President **Dr. Christia S. Padolina** and BOT Liaison Officer **Dr. Pilar Lagman-Dy**, had zoom meetings every week which lasted until 12 midnight. They did an excellent job in revising (including grammar and sentence construction) the 2015 Admin Manual. With the able support of the ever-efficient technical working group (TWG): **Drs. Ana Victoria V. Dy Echo, Kristine Therese R. Elises-Molon** and **Mikaela Martinez-Bucu**, the newly-revised Admin Manual and Employees Handbook will be ready for distribution to POGS members and employees in 2021.

A big THANK YOU to the entire Secretarial staff who assisted the BOTs and all committees in accomplishing our work. Special mention are **Ms. Imelda B. Malubag**, our Executive Officer who oversees everything, **Ms. Sandra Joy C. Eramis** of Credentials and Membership and AdMin Manual Revision Committees, **Ms. Kathleen Nuñez** of PBOG and **Ms. Angelique Mesias** of CREED.



July-November 2020. Weekly Zoom meetings with the Committee on AdMin Manual and Employees' Handbook Revision headed by Dr. Lourdes Blanco-Capito

September 26, 2020. Training of Trainers (ToT) Zoom Meeting with Chairs and Training Officers of 86 POGS accredited training institutions



After meticulous search of an online platform with excellent security features and capability of test analytics such as item analysis, discrimination index, validity and reliability, CREED conducted the first-ever online Residents' In-Service Examination (RISE) last November 22, 2020. There was a total of one thousand one hundred sixty-three (1163) residents who took the RISE from 86 accredited training institutions and 13 non-accredited training institutions, comprised of 352 First years, 289 Second years, 284 Third years and 238 Fourth years.

November 22, 2020. First-ever online Residents' In-Service Examinations (RISE) administered by CREED to the 1,163 residents in-training



Nominees for CREED 2021-2023 were approved by the BOT during its December 29 meeting. The nominees complied with the Qualifications of Members as stated in the Handbook of the CREED 2018. **Dr. Mila Zaragosa-Ibay**, who represented the private sector, was voted as the 2021 Chair with **Dr. Maria Estrella Yu-Flores** as the appointed Secretary.

NEW CREED MEMBERS		NEW CREED MEMBERS	
Dr. Romerico Torres	Academe	Far Eastern University (FEU)	
Dr. Geraldine Ramos	Academe	Manila Central University (MCU)	
Dr. Elsa Espino-Aquino	Academe	Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM)	
Dr. Alpha Montaos	Govt	Valenzuela General Hospital	
Dr. Darleen Stuart	Private	Brokenshire Integrated Health Ministries, Davao	

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Message from the
Editor-in-Chief

Ma. Socorro M. Solis, MD
P.R.O

“Resilience is when you address uncertainty with flexibility.” —Unknown

Let us welcome the year 2021 with hope and joy. We survived 2020, we learned, we adapted, and like diamonds, we came out polished and perfected under pressure. This is the theme for this year’s Midyear Convention and Foundation Anniversary. We are celebrating **POGS 75th Diamond Foundation Anniversary** jointly with the **Midyear Convention** in NCR in July 5-6, 2021. It will be in hybrid format similar to the recent Annual Convention. The milestone celebration will feature as speakers our past presidents. The Foundation Anniversary celebration is also the time we honor our past leaders of the society who have shaped what we are today. Likewise, for two nights, regional presentations will be highlighted. The Midyear Convention will be free registration for all our members in good standing.

This issue contains highlights of the annual convention, the newly elected officers of the Board of Trustees and the appointed regional directors. Featured also are the relief efforts of our regions in areas severely affected by Typhoon Rolly and Ulysses. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate **Dr. Leilani Coloma**, a member of our newsletter and foundation day committee, who was the Convention Secretary, and now newly elected POGS Board of Trustees as our Board Secretary. Congratulations , we are all so proud of you!

With news of a vaccine becoming available, we see that though the tunnel may still be long and dark, there is now a beginning “light” that we can see and look forward to. Let us all stay safe and healthy and continue to pray for the Lord’s protection and guidance.



**Committee on Newsletter
& Foundation Day**

Ma. Socorro M. Solis, MD
Chairman

Leilani C. Coloma, MD
Ma. Margarita Leticia Gellaco, MD
Imee D. Gonzalez, MD
Shiela T. Magpale, MD
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The POGS Newsletter Editorial Board encourages contributions for articles and announcements coming from the regional chapters, affiliated subspecialty societies, and accredited member hospitals. For any submissions or inquiries regarding this matter, the editorial board may be reached through the POGS secretariat at e-mail address pogs.kath@gmail.com, or through phone numbers (0927) 438-0513 and (02) 921-2479. Look for Ms. Kathleen Gail M. Nunez for any assistance that you might require on this. Thank you very much.

Donations

On behalf of the PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Foundation), INC. we would like to thank all the members and donors for your contribution to the Taal volcano eruption victims in Region IV and Typhoon Ulysses victims in National Capital Region (NCR) and Region II fund raising activities. Your donation of cash and in-kind is greatly appreciated and important to us. With your generous help we were able to raise a total amount of Three Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (Php389,200.00) for Taal Volcano eruption victims. As of 14 December 2020, disbursements and allocations of total cash donations received are as follows:

Taal Volcano Eruption Victims Donation

Total Cash Received	₱ 389,200
Less: Disbursements	
Release of Initial Fund for Sagip Buntis Project	₱ 100,000
Reimbursement of expenses during STC relief operations	₱ 10,200
January 16, 2020 - Sto. Tomas & Batangas City	
January 20, 2020 - Alfonso Cavite & Tagaytay City	
Release of Additional Fund for Sagip Buntis Project	₱ 100,000
	₱ 210,200
Total Cash Balance	₱ 179,000
Less: Alloted Funds to Sagip Buntis Project still for release	₱ 100,000
(Total Appropriated Funds for the Sagip Buntis Project is Php300,000)	
	₱ 79,000
Available Cash Alloted for Taal Volcano Eruption Victims	₱ 79,000

While, for Typhoon Ulysses victims we have received a total of One Hundred Ninety-One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php191,500.00). As of 14 December 2020, disbursements and allocations of total cash donations received are as follows:

Typhoon Ulysses Victims in NCR & Region II Donations

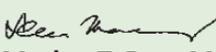
Total Cash Received	₱ 191,500
Less: Disbursement	
Release of Initial Fund to Region II c/o RD Dr.Clemencia D. Lasam	₱ 100,000
Available Cash for Typhoon Ulysses victims in NCR & Region 2	₱ 91,500

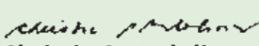
The fund-raising drive of the Society was a success and we could not have done so without your help.

Thank you again for your compassion and generosity.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely Yours,


Marlyn T. Dee, MD
Treasurer


Christia S. Padolina, MD
President



Remembering Taal: A POGS STC Holiday Gift-giving Cheer

By Alma Joy Morin, MD

On December 29, 2020, the officers of the Sagip Buntis Program of POGS-Southern Tagalog Chapter lead by the Regional Director, **Dr. Irma W. Velarde**, headed to ground zero to spread good cheer in behalf of the whole of POGS.

Subic Ilaya in Agoncillo Batangas suffered the brunt of the Taal Volcano eruption in January 12, 2020, exactly one year today. Being within the 14km radius from the Taal Volcano crater, it was one of the most devastated. Although, the once ash-damaged landscape of the town is now difficult to imagine, the remnants of the volcano's wrath are evident on the bumpy ride due to the fissures created by the earthquakes that followed. Similarly, the community is struggling to rebuild their lives withstanding the Covid pandemic.

composed of **Dr. Alma Joy B. Morin** (Head of the Community Service Committee), **Dr. Beunaventura Magboo** (Coordinator for Western Batangas), **Dr. Maria Angelica Malambut**, **Dr. Breshelbia Sarabia** and **Dr. Riza Ma. Carmen Berbarabe**. **Dr. Liezl Medrano** joined the team in the activity.

This is the only time the Sagip Buntis Program officers convened as a team on ground zero as logistics were affected by quarantine restrictions. The initial meeting was last February 25, 2020 in Tagaytay City when the Sagip Buntis Program was born. The group decided to be physically present during the activity while strictly observing safety protocols against Covid-19 to help lift the spirits of the affected families and to remind them that they are not alone.

Gift packages were distributed to 150 indigent families identified through the assistance of **Ms. Sally Aala** of the Agoncillo Rural Health Unit, Brgy. Captain Gorgonio Atienza and members of the Baranggay Council. The packages were composed of grocery items and 5 kg of rice for a simple celebration of 150 indigent families during the holiday season.

Indeed, the Taal eruption has brought people together. It has given us the blessing of being able to spread love, care and kindness.

The Sagip Buntis Program Team Officers are



POGS Bicol sending help after super typhoon Rolly

On All Saint's Day, November 1, 2020, typhoon ROLLY with its devastating 215kph winds and gust topping 265kph along with intense rainfall made its landfall in Bicol Region leaving behind massive flooding, landslides, loss of lives and destruction to properties and crops. Electrical power and internet signals were cut off, roads were impassable but despite these challenges, we in POGS Bicol were able to distribute hygiene kits, groceries, rice, mats, blankets, slippers, trapal and drinking water by bancas, pick-up trucks, tricycles and by foot to Virac, Catanduanes (Brgy. Buyo, Antipolo, Hicming, Tuban) on November 9 and November 22, 2020 Coastal towns of Calabanga (Brgy. sabang & balonggay) on November 7 and Pasacao (Brgy. Caranan) on November 8 and Tiwi and Guinobatan, Albay on November 19 and 20, 2020 respectively.






PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Foundation), INC.

Appreciation, Recognition and POGS Family Christmas Party

Monday, December 14, 2020, 4:00 p.m. via ZOOM

Registration Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZEv02hrDojG9z1YJ7Y8qlm56JULJ4Y1M9w>

Board of Trustees

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Regional Directors

POGS PRO



POGS Past Presidents

Kadilimang bumabalot, mapapawi ng liwanag!



Annual Convention Organizing Committee



Board of Trustees



PBOG



CREED



Me and my drum, Me and my drum

POGS Secretariat



PowerDirector

Announcement

75th

Diamond Foundation Anniversary Celebration and Midyear Convention

5-6 July 2021

FREE REGISTRATION

1. Members of good standing who have paid their Annual Dues by **APRIL 30, 2021**
2. Life Members
3. Members 65 y/o and above

REGISTRATION FEES

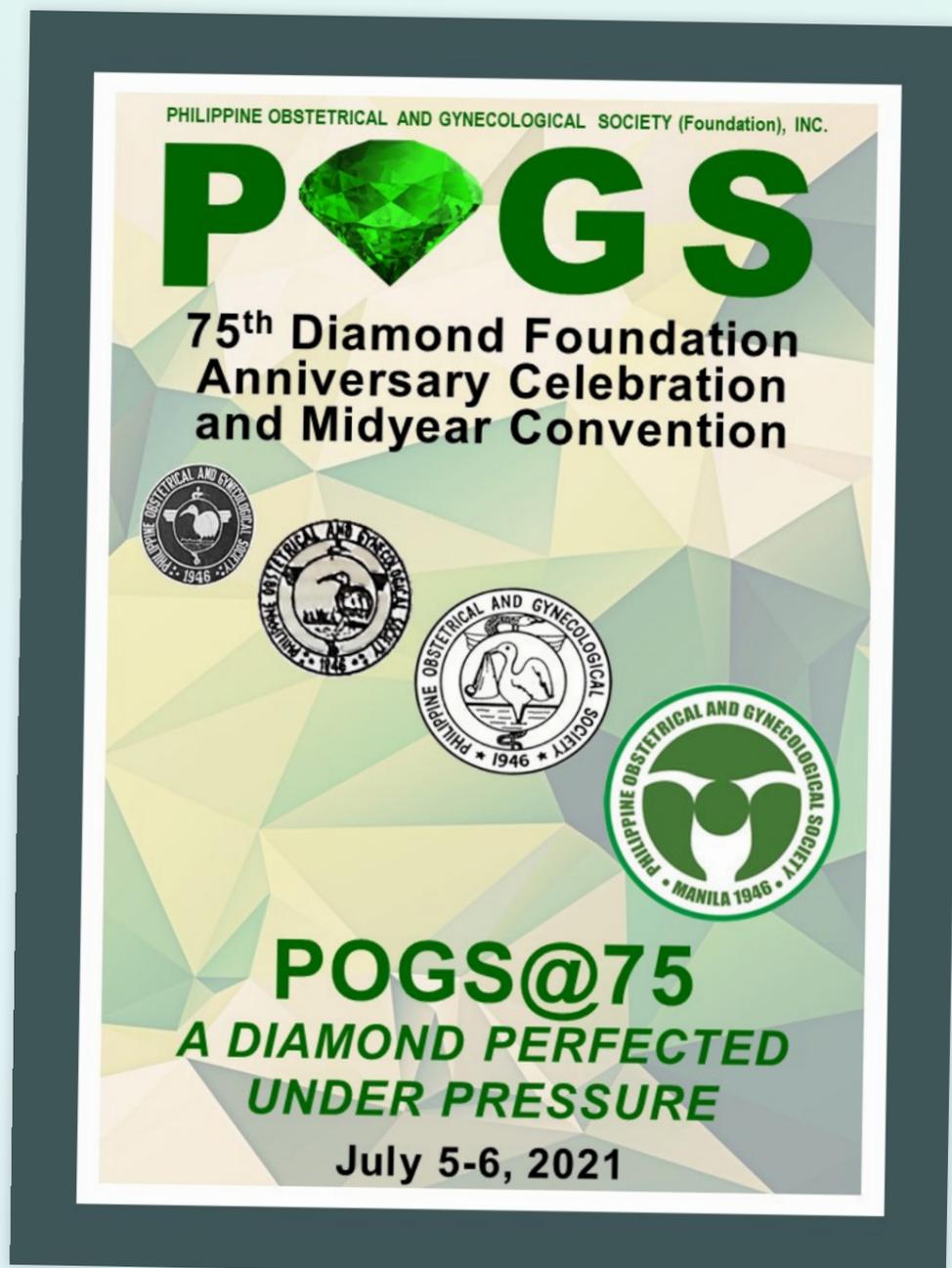
Residents - **P1000**

Nurses/Midwives - **P1000**

Nonmembers - **P1500**

Members with unpaid dues - **P1500**

Foreign - **USD 100**



POGS
@75
STORYBOOK

**COVER
DESIGN
COMPETITION**

- The competition is open to all POGS Members and Residents of POGS accredited training institutions.
- The theme for the cover design is Diamond. (color scheme: Silver and Green)
- The cover design should be submitted in JPG, PNG or TIFF format, 9 x 12 inches, with a resolution of at least 300 dpi, in portrait orientation.
- Submission must be accompanied by a description in word format (maximum of 100 words).
- The winner shall receive a cash prize of Php 10,000
- Deadline of submission is on January 31, 2021
- Entries may be submitted to the POGS secretariat via email: pogsboard@gmail.com.
- The POGS 2021 Board of Trustees will serve as the Board of Judges.
- Winners will be announced thru the POGS website by February 2021.
- Non winner entries may also be featured in the book.
- Criteria for judging will be as follows:

a) Symbolism (adherence to the theme)	= 50%
b) Style and artistry	= 25%
c) Creativity	= 15%
d) Originality	= 10%
	100%
- For inquiries, please send a message to +63 09334116593.