

Inaugural Address

By **Marlyn T. Dee, MD, FPOGS**
POGS President, 2022-2023

Good evening. This is my POGS Odyssey.

I was born to **Marcelo** and **Leonila**, 4th and youngest of 2 boys and 2 girls. From grade school up to high school, I studied diligently and graduated from Hope Christian High School at the year 1973. I went on to my baccalaureate in Medical Technology in 1977 and graduated as *Cum Laude*. I had my medical education at the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery batch 1981. It was in medical school that I first showed interest in my Gynecology subjects. It was the late **Dr. Jesus Tomacruz** who inspired me to become a dedicated educator and physician. He inspired me to pursue Obstetrics and Gynecology, and in 1983, I entered the three-year residency training program of the UST Hospital. As a resident, I was active in joining research contests, for which I won multiple awards including first prize in the POGS Interesting Case in 1984 for my paper on Spectrum of Turner's Syndrome and second prize in the POGS Abbott Research Paper Contest in 1986 for my paper in Fetal weight and placental weight ratio and its relation to perinatal outcome. I first became chief resident in 1985, and in 1986, I was offered to serve for another.

After which, I strived hard and took up the POGS Diplomate Exam where I finished 3rd. I entered the UST Faculty of Medicine & Surgery in 1988 and taught in 2 Departments—the Department of Preventive and Community Medicine & the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology. In 1989, I likewise joined Tondo Medical Center as a part-time medical specialist with **Dr. Corazon Medina-Quesada** as the Department Chair. With all the positions I was handling, in pursuit of higher education and training, I wanted more. During the time of **Dean Ramon Sin**, I was given the opportunity to be a scholar of the Catholic Academic Exchange Service (KAAD) for my fellowship program in Germany. In preparation for it, I had to enroll at the Goethe Institute for 2 and ½ years to study the German language to obtain the minimal German language proficiency. In September 1993, I went to Bonn, Germany, and had another 3-month course of intensive classes of the German language and immersion to its culture, and I was finally certified to rotate in the hospital where I had my one-year fellowship training in Reproductive Medicine at Women's Clinic in Bonn Venusberg in 1994. It was also here that I imbibed the culture of punctuality or "pünktlich". It was not an easy task—from learning a new language, to adapting to a different culture and even living in a foreign land. But like in anything, where there is perseverance, there is success. After my training, I came back and took the PSRM diplomate written exam in 1995 and was one of the first fellows of PSRM. This was followed by another certifying examination in PSUOG in 1998, and another for PSGE in 2008. In 2006, I also pursued further studies and graduated *Magna Cum Laude* in the UST Graduate school for Masters in Health Profession Education. And in the years 2004-2007, I became the Chair of Tondo Medical Center, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Aside from my training and practice as a clinician, I am also an educator. I care for the training of our younger colleagues. As mentioned, I have been teaching medical students since 1988 and I am still an active faculty member up to this day. I have also been training residents for years and even became the residency training officer. I believe that molding the younger generation into becoming good physicians is of paramount importance, just like how our previous mentors taught us to become the physicians we are now. All this without sacrificing my beliefs and using it to strengthen me, religion has always played a vital role in my life. In the year 2000, I was officially baptized as a Catholic with my main sponsor, the late **Dr. Nelia Sison-Salvacion**. This was witnessed by **Drs. Corazon Medina Quesada, Ernesto Moreno, and Ruth Gutierrez**, who also served as my mentors. A clinician, educator, leader, researcher and a social advocate, all of which has led me into the different roles I have played in POGS. My exposure started by joining CMEs with the late **Dr. Leonardo Co** and it was followed by being in the POGS Committee of



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Community Service, Credentials and Membership, Research, Subcommittee on Moratorium Review, and participation in the different POGS AC Subcommittees. I was also a member of PBOG in 2008-2010, and in 2012, I became the president of PSRM. I became a member of the POGS Board of Trustees from 2015 to 2017 and I served as the Chair of the Committee on CME and the overall chair of the organizing committee of the Midyear Convention in Manila back in 2016. I again joined the Board in 2020 as a treasurer and this year, as the vice president. It has been a tough and challenging time due to the pandemic—the stress from the pandemic itself, the adjustments we all had to make in our private and professional lives, not to mention the webinar fatigue that most, if not all, have been experiencing. But again, we were all able to stay on top of it and we were able to fulfill the duties and responsibilities tasked to us. Indeed, everything is truly possible with the help of the Almighty.

And so, before the 2021 Annual Convention ends, I would like to thank the following for making this year successful:

- The past 2020 Annual Convention for the lessons learned from them
- The 2021 Midyear Convention which was used as a benchmark for the Annual Convention
- To my hardworking Annual Convention organizing committee chairs, co-chairs and members, allow me to thank each and everyone of you, starting with:
 - *The Convention Secretary, Dr. Catherine Joie Carelle Roux-Ong*, for coordinating with the different subspecialty societies to come up with a much attended preconvention webinars; for being responsible for overseeing the activities of the different subcommittees and coordinating these activities aligned with the Annual Convention.
 - *The Scientific Program Committee*, headed by **Drs. Angela Sison-Aguilar and Ma. Cristina Pelaez-Crisologo**, for creating a scientific program containing relevant, innovative and sensitive topics as well as inviting key lecturers to grace our annual convention; for simplifying the post evaluation forms and securing 13.5 PRC-CPD & 19 PMA-CPD units for this congress.
 - *The E-Library, Committee* headed by **Drs. Anne Catherine Castro and Andrea Santiago**, for managing the repository of the materials from the preconvention webinars, plenary and simultaneous session lectures as well as the industry sponsored lectures which are all available until Dec. 31, 2021.
 - *The Physical/ VART (Virtual arrangement and Technical) Committee* headed by **Drs. Jennifer Go and Marlene Javier**, for their creative talents in crafting the song writing contest wherein the song “We Rise as One” by **Dr. Ryan Capitulo** is heard as an attendee enters the virtual lobby; and for providing the technical needs of the different subcommittees and for creating an easy guide for us to navigate the website.
 - *The Documentation Committee* headed by **Drs. Leslie Rigor and Leedah Ranola-Nisperos**, for overseeing the documentation of all vital activities of the annual convention including the beautiful pictures of the inductees, awardees and important personalities which make this event a memorable one.
 - *The Exhibits Committee* headed by **Drs. Rosemarie Tiburcio and Kirsten Cruz-Canlas**, for being the conduit between POGS and our pharmaceutical partners and for facilitating the creation of the virtual exhibit booths.
 - *The Speaker’s Bureau Committee* headed by **Drs. Jocelyn Zamora-Mariano and Katherine Angelo-dela Cruz**, for their patience and hard work in securing the pre-recorded lectures of both international and local speakers and in helping editing these lectures in coordination with VART.
 - *The Programs and Invitations Committee* headed by **Drs. Anne Marie Trinidad and Maria Therese Berina-Mallen**, for creating informative posters and infographics; for preparing the mini-program and the letter of invites to all the important personalities and designing the POGS 2022 calendar and planner.
 - *The Registration Committee* headed by **Drs. Emmanuel Dagala and Maribel Emma Co-Hidalgo**, our ever dependable pair for facilitating an orderly and systematic registration of more than 6400 participants.
 - *The Socials Committee* headed by **Drs. Jennifer Aranzamendez and Marinella Agnes Garcia-Abat**, for the engaging concept of “POGS gives back” during this 75th diamond anniversary celebration of POGS; for inspiring the BOT, RDs, Organizing committee and subspecialty societies produce a memorable show for everyone to enjoy plus entertainers who kept us on our feet dancing the night away.
 - *The Souvenir Program Committee* headed by **Drs. Maria Lynn Estrella-Sese and Olivia Jane Chua-Fernandez**, for not only creating the cover design aligned with the convention’s theme, but for putting a personal touch in preparing the souvenir program.

“ will listen to the needs of our members and make sure that concerns will be addressed... may we do everything in accordance with the POGS core values - integrity, competence, accountability, compassion and innovation. ”

- *The Sports Committee* headed by **Drs. Antoinette Anonuevo and Marinella Agnes Garcia-Abat**, for encouraging all our participants to join the POGS virtual run and zoomba 2.0 which everyone enjoyed
- *The Ways & Means Committee* headed by **Drs. Ditas Decena and Sybil Lizanne Bravo**, for their exceptional and hard work in engaging our pharmaceutical partners to collaborate with POGS so we can provide a special convention to all its delegates.
- And last but not the least, the *Abstracts Committee* headed by **Drs. Ana Victoria Dy Echo and Maria Constanca Wylengco**, for stimulating the minds of our young colleagues to come up with relevant abstracts to be included in the poster and oral presentations. Maraming maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

- I would also like to thank the BOT, especially president **Dr. BJ Cuenca** for supporting the needs of the annual convention.
- The Regional Directors for their cooperation in the socials
- The Subspecialty Societies for the preconvention webinars
- Our pharmaceutical partners
- The technical team (Creative Synergy Inc., Quatro Cantos Digital Inc., and Orange Components/Events).
- And the secretariat who were overworked this year with the two conventions, again, Maraming maraming salamat.

I would also like to mention my gratitude to my support system:

- First and foremost, the Almighty.
- My family (my sister Evelyn and her family, Alvin, Tamie and Nichole, Diane & Adrian; my brother Steve and his family, Rosalia, Stevenson and my 3 nieces with their family in USA)
- My OB-GYN family at the UST-FMS, the UST Hospital and Tondo Medical Center
- My special barkadas, and
- The Past POGS Presidents

And now, as we embark on another year, the question is, what do I intend to do for POGS?

I intend to:

- Help the residents to meet the number of cases required without sacrificing skills through networking which will benefit both trainees and patients.
- Increase the benefits for our members who will be needing assistance due to catastrophic illnesses or prolonged admission.
- Improve the information technology at POGS since the virtual platform is here to stay even after the pandemic. I plan to invest in LMS (learning management system), which is the platform to be used by PBOG, CREED, and other subspecialties.
- Create projects to ensure and boost good mental health for our members, especially during these trying times.
- Conduct an intensive moratorium refresher course by the CME in preparation for the Part I Diplomate written examination.
- Enhance the PNSS to get more information for research and local statistics (to ask subspecialty basic data they need to be incorporated).
- Expand the research activities of POGS through more international collaborations.
- Support the project of the committee on Maternal and perinatal welfare with their collaboration with AFOG on the Virtual Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) Capacity Building.
- Continue the empowerment of regions to enhance their potential as future leaders.
- Continue the collaboration with other specialties.
- Continue the negotiations w PHIC, AHMOPI.
- Continue the representation in the TWG to manifest our position of the pending bill of the House and Senate in the new Physician Act of 2021 to replace the Medical Act of 1959.
- Continuously support the ongoing presidential projects.
- And with these plans, I know that I cannot do it alone and that I need the full support and dedication of my BOT-RD team, and you, my beloved members. I will continue to learn from the experiences of our past POGS Presidents in my journey as POGS President of 2022. I will listen to the needs of our members and make sure that concerns will be addressed
- May we do everything in accordance with the POGS core values—integrity, competence, accountability, compassion and innovation. So help me God and let us all pray for each other.
- Let us all stay safe and, together we will rise as one

Thank you.

Marlyn T. Dee, MD, FPOGS

Valedictory Address

By Benjamin D. Cuenca, MD
POGS President 2021

Good afternoon to all the POGS Past Presidents, the Guest-of-Honor, Keynote Speaker and Inducting Officer, Dr. Rosario Angeles Tan-Alora, the members of the 2021 Board of Trustees, the POGS Regional Directors and Chapter Presidents, the members of the PBOG and the CREED, the members of every constitutional, standing, and ad hoc committee, the members of the Organizing Committee of the 2021 Annual Convention and 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration, headed by the POGS Vice President, **Dr. Marlyn Dee**, Fellow Inductees and to each and every member of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (Foundation) Inc.

GRATITUDE. This was the last slide in my Inaugural Address as your President-elect during the Closing Ceremonies of the 2020 Annual Convention on Nov 14 last year, where I said *"I lift up the spirit of this leadership to Him, my Most High Consultant and Most Divine Adviser."*

This time, I want to begin the Valedictory Address with this same slide for He alone is only ONE whom I resort to, when things get too big to handle or when matters to be decided upon prove to be complicated if not conflicting. I therefore want to accord the first keyword, which is Gratitude, to Him for His consistent reminder that *"All things happen for a good reason and that reason is for Him and Only Him to reveal at the time He perfectly designs."*

I lift everything to Him- the success of this annual convention and all the people behind it, the good connectivity, the wisdom bestowed upon the commissioned website providers and event management group, the excellent health condition and physical set-up of every POGS member while in attendance to the convention and most important of all, the basic reason why we hold this event, and that is to enhance professional growth and boost mental health, to rekindle and strengthen camaraderie and renew friendship, so that as a whole being, we become competent healers to be constant blessings to others, especially to the least of our brethren.

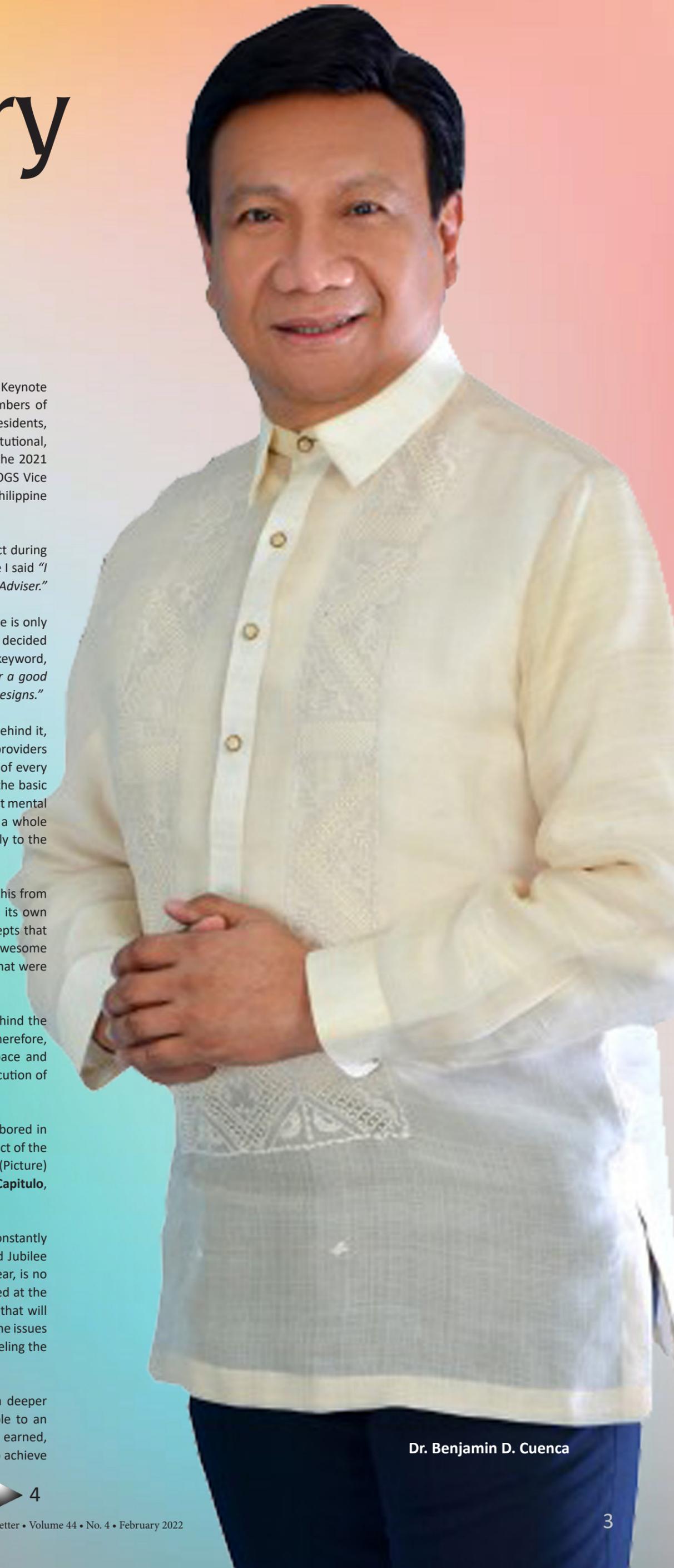
Just like this annual convention, all good things must come to an end! I first read this from the poem of Geoffrey Chaucer entitled Troilus and Criseyde. That every plan has its own birthing pain. From a defined set of goals did sprout the working concepts, concepts that became beautiful time-bound plans, plans that were perfectly translated into awesome execution, fueled by both individual and collective commitments...commitments that were finally delivered to astounding fruition.

This magical spectrum fittingly depicts the dedication of the Men and Women behind the 2021 POGS Annual Convention and 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration. I, therefore, salute the hard work of the whole team who braved the challenge of time, space and communication and that of the virus itself, only to ensure everyone a flawless execution of plans for all POGS members enjoy and appreciate.

The same recognition is hereby accorded to the group of POGS Members who labored in the same way and level of intensity to deliver to the Members the successful conduct of the POGS 75th Diamond Foundation Anniversary Celebration and Midyear Convention (Picture) in July, led and organized by the POGS PRO, **Dr. Socorro M. Solis** with **Dr. Ryan B. Capitulo**, as convention secretary.

To lead the Society during the protracted phase of the pandemic with all its constantly changing guidelines and restrictions, while geared to celebrate our 75th Diamond Jubilee and in effect, to prepare for two major conventions in a row, right on the same year, is no joke! However, with the best people around supporting the plans, the tasks defined at the outset were not felt as roadblocks but were rather taken as constructive reasons that will promote the spirit of teamwork and internal collaboration. True enough, despite all the issues coming in hoards, the formidable tasks brought everyone closer to one another, feeling the gracious Hands of God working all the way within our midst.

The successful turn-outs of these two major conventions suddenly have given a deeper meaning to the thankless organizing appointments and have become comparable to an abundant harvest, because of the friendship enhanced and established, respect earned, resilience proven, which all collectively steered everyone in the organizing team to achieve excellence.





*I lift up the spirit of this
Leadership to HIM, being my
Most High Consultant and
Most Divine Adviser.*

COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP. In the inaugural address I delivered last year, I made emphasis on consultative and collaborative style of leadership that will fuel the governance slogan Enhanced Collaboration and Regional Empowerment for Regional and Global Recognition. And it is with awe and delight to see now that more and more POGS members from all regional chapters, taking the centerstage of almost all POGS nationwide activities, including those of the sub-specialty and affiliate societies. This is largely owed to the spirit of enhanced collaboration that fueled tenacity and grit among the members across the country. After all, our beloved POGS is a national Society composed of twelve regional chapters nationwide and six clusters in the metropolis.

Aligned with such empowerment, the 2021 Board Resolution #002-02-09 was passed and approved on February 9 that requires POGS members to seek membership and recognition from the regional chapter where they do at least 70% of their clinical practice. Likewise, any member who secures a Certificate of Good Standing from the national office must show a concurring document from the regional office where he or she is affiliated or recognized as member, before such certificate is finally issued.

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL RECOGNITION. Without lifting a finger, some distinguished members of our Society have garnered regional as well as global distinctions, owed to their passion and personal tenets related to reproductive health, the environment and the science of bioethics. These champions will be aptly given the deserved recognition on December 7 during a webinar purposively planned for them entitled "The POGS and the World."

DIAMOND PRESIDENT. To lead and to deliver have never intended to reap accolades or to add feathers in the cap. The Lord looks at us in our heart and on what we keep in it. What motivates me to deliver is the reality that the POGS is turning 75 this fiscal year and as everyone who came before has done, all the best were always accorded to our beloved POGS, what more during its 75th Diamond Jubilee! This exactly drives my motivation as the 2021 leader.

But to lead the Society during the second year of the lockdown proved to be an experience far from what they describe as a walk in the park. When everything was virtually happening almost instantaneously that demanded immediate attention or my presence, believe me, I would resort only to Him with an attendant Propranolol Inderal, to maintain health and sanity.

But as the journey continues, I come to realize that this leadership is so blessed to have been joined and served by esteemed colleagues who are leaders themselves, so that along with their committed committee members, the flagship programs and presidential advocacy projects were all brought to monumental fruition, namely, **Dr. Mary Christine Fernando-Palma** and her editorial staff for the *Storybook of POGS at 75: Our Story, Our Legacy*; **Dr. Lourdes Blanco-Capito** for the *Bioethics Forum* which has now been integrated in the core curriculum of the residency training program through the help of the members of the CREED and its chairperson, **Dr. Milagros Zaragoza-Ibay**; **Dr. Ma. Julieta Victoriano-Germar** with her members and advisers for the *Clinical Consensus*; **Dr. Ma. Gay M. Gonzales** and her members for the *POGS Virtual Library* together with all its landmark digital innovations that were put on wheels by the POGS librarian, **Mr. Clarence John R. Marte**, and of course, **Dr. Ditas Cristina Decena** and **Dr. Marjorie I. Santos** who dedicated unparalleled time and effort to launch once again the *Moratorium* and brought it all the way to a successful completion.

MARK OF A GOOD LEADER. My personal perception of a

leader? The answer is simple. A leader ought to be GOOD. Someone who constantly endeavors to put unrelenting premium on virtues and values. After all, leadership is a daunting task. Its intention must be always pure and honest.

To be a Good Leader means to listen attentively. History has proven that Great Leaders are Great Listeners! A Good Leader says 'Let's Go' and not 'You Go.' A Good Leader upholds professionalism at all times, at all fronts, at all levels. And for us in the POGS, the term 'professionalism' is the perfect clinical translation of Integrity, Competence, Accountability, Compassion and Innovation.

My personal perspective of good leadership? It is nothing more than a full exercise of one's moral core in order to inspire and motivate to promote common good.

THREE CHEERS...ONE POGS! Next to God, what made this entire POGS leadership a pleasant experience to treasure is the supportive team that constantly watches my back, which is composed of the Board of Trustees, Regional Directors, Chapter Presidents, Council of Advisers, PBOG and CREED, POGS Secretariat, true and sincere friends and personal advisers.

Most importantly the leadership derives strength from the 4,877 POGS members who are generous for kind words to express appreciation of the collective effort of everyone in the leadership. Kayong POGS Members po ang aming pangunahing dahilan kung bakit kami patuloy na nagsusumikap upang makapagbigay ng maayos na paglilingkod. Paumanhin po kung may mga pagkukulang pa o may mga bagay na di sinasadyang makaligtan.

Specifically, this grateful and indebted heart salutes the 2021 Board Secretary for all the services she rendered with utmost sense of integrity, objectivity and justice. **Dr. Leilani Chavez-Coloma**, hear this, I also learned a great deal of lessons from you. The leadership has always been made easier with such a conscientious Board Secretary and Friend, who possesses such tenacity and diligence that you have.

To the Creative Advisory Team Committee or (CatCom), led and inspired by **Dr. Socorro Bernardino** with her members: **Drs. Jennifer Obiles-Madera, Marivic Agulto-Mercadal, Kristen Canlas-Cruz and Aurora Victoria Avelino**, maraming maraming salamat sa lahat ng tulong at malasakit para sa ating POGS!

I will be remiss if I won't give recognition to the steady support of all the members of the POGS Secretariat, led by **Ms. Imelda Malubag, Ms. Sandra Joy Eramis, Ms. Junie Diaz** and **Ms. Mary Rose Guinto**. And to all our friends, partners and supporters in the pharmaceutical and medical industries, let us continue to work together to enhance further this support system that we have now, in order to uphold the best quality of healthcare for the women and mothers of the country, guided by mutually aligned mission, vision and core values of our respective groups.

YOU GAIN SOME, YOU LOSE SOME. In my inaugural address last year, I mentioned about the last few conversations I had with my Father during his waning days in September 2019 (**Constantino H. Cuenca**: April 12, 1926 - September 26, 2019). I remember telling him the responsibility that I might be carrying on my shoulders after the POGS election come November (2019). Radiantly from his eyes, I saw the joy of a proud father. I also remember asking him to wait so that he could witness the inauguration. I did not realize then, not until after his passing, how selfish I was to make such a request from a 93-year-old man who was in failing health.

I am not sure if I have mentioned here that every single day of the POGS leadership was met with pleasure, delight and excitement, knowing that I was not doing it alone. Every single day is a chance to learn and to grow. In fact, I once told the Board Secretary that I was high-strung on that particular day for I was strangely finishing almost all listed tasks for the day, swiftly one after the other. Little did I know that later on that same fateful day would mark the last few healthy and coherent days of my Mother (**Rosario Dantes Cuenca**: October 19, 1937-September 21, 2021).

LIFE GOES ON. The feeling of loss was too much to bear. What made the experience more perplexing was the feeling of void and the sense of emptiness. And sadly, I could not find where it was and how and what to fill it up with. There were flashes of yearnings that I wanted to feel the warm grip of her hands like we always used to do and not the cold flat glass surface that covers her beautiful picture beside her urn. On her 40th day of passing, a dear friend opened my eyes to the fact that I should no longer wonder where the void is, because the void...the emptiness is right within my heart and all I need to do is to fill it up...fill it up more with LOVE.

To all my mentors, ninong and ninang, friends and colleagues in FEU-NRMF Department of OB-GYN and in the UP-PGH, Division of Gynecologic Oncology, maraming salamat po. And to all other hospitals and institutions and academic societies who saw my growth as a professional and as a person, thank you!

To all my siblings and relatives here and abroad, salamat for the overflowing love that runs within our family and for the inspiration and assurances that this family always provides!

To my immediate family, most dearly to my wife **Cherry**, I can't find the right adjectives that can perfectly describe all your good traits and qualities as a person. Suddenly I ran out of words. Pardon me, Ma. Thank you for the steady and uncompromising support, for the pair of ears that steadily listen, for the grip of your hands that assures and for the embrace that always comforts.

Time and again I say, "I lift up the spirit of this POGS leadership to Him." Thank you for the once-in-a-lifetime experience to lead this prestigious Society and for all the trials, challenges and wisdom that I gained from it.

And if given the chance to do it all over again, without hesitation, I will accept and serve the POGS over and over... and I promise to do better every time, with heightened agility and renewed enthusiasm...for the love of POGS, as we always hear and say.

LIFE AFTER PRESIDENCY. So, what would life be after the POGS Presidency? Well, it's time to personally supervise the construction of a small mausoleum that will house the remains of my Father and Mother. It's time to re-visit my roles as husband and father. Administrative works, clinical and surgical engagements and teaching commitments will continue. It's high time also to check on health issues and hopefully go back to some short-distance running. Most importantly, it's time to spend more time with friends, virtually and otherwise, and as a POGS Member, the readiness to serve the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (Foundation), Incorporated in whatever capacity, will forever remain in my heart.

PAMAMAALAM AT PASASALAMAT. This is **Dr. Benjamin 'BJ' Dantes Cuenca**, 56 years old, the POGS 2021 President, signing off... NOT NOW but on December 31, 2021 at 11:59 PM, na nag-iwan sa inyo ng isang kaisipan...

...hindi po ako kamag-anakan ni DingDong Dantes o ni Jake Cuenca. Marami na ang nagtanong at marami pa ang di nakaaalam. Hindi ko hangad ang kanilang angking kakisigan, sutla at kinis ng balat o anyong-ganda ng kara at mukha. Sila ma'y tanyag sa larangan ng puting tabing, wala akong pakialam o angking pag-iimbot sapagkat ako'y naniniwala na ang bawat nilalang ay may landasing tatahakin at misyong gagampanan.

At ang sa akin ay maglingkod bilang abang Presidente ninyo sa POGS sa taong dalawang libo at dalawampu't isa, kung kailan ay sabay-sabay din nating ipinagbunyi at ipinagdiwang ang ating ika-pitumpu't limang taon ng pagkakatatag... isang pagkakataon hindi naman naipagkaloob kay Dingdong Dantes o kay Jake Cuenca, subali't naibigay naman kay Benjamin 'BJ' Dantes Cuenca.

Maraming salamat muli sa inyong lahat na nakasama ko in this blessed Leadership Journey as the 2021 POGS President!

Benjamin D. Cuenca, MD



the dream of Dr. Bismark. She laid down the groundwork for this undertaking. It was then again shelved because of the SarsCov2 pandemic and was subsequently endorsed to the next Board.

In 2021, POGS President **Dr. Cuenca** encouraged and supported PBOG 2021, under the Chairmanship of **Dr. Menefrida Reyes**, towards the writing of the final draft of the PARTP Project. A Committee for the 2021 PBOG Special Project was created which was composed of **Drs. Maria Nellbezz Calderon-Candelario (Committee Head), Helen Te-Santos, and Teresita Cadiz-Brion** with the rest of the 2021 PBOG members who wrote down the details of the new scheme.

Objective: The objective was to assist the Residency Training Programs (RTPs) which might lack residents to complement their system. In order for institutions to apply for full accreditation or reaccreditation, a full complement of trainees should be present.

This endeavor is dedicated for those institutions which lack full complement of residents to start with but are aiming to establish a residency training program for the first time. It also aims to “shepherd institutions” which would greatly benefit from this levelling scheme.

The PARTP in Obstetrics and Gynecology guidelines with the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) was approved by the 2021 BOT and sealed with a Board resolution that was passed for its implementation, starting fiscal year 2022.

At the moment, the updated total number of accredited Residency Training programs is 91. Last December 22, 2021, the PBOG organized and managed the first and Virtual Awarding of Certificates to the 23 reaccredited institutions and 3 newly accredited institutions for year 2021:

1. Amai Pakpak Medical Center
2. Las Piñas Satellite and Trauma General Hospital
3. Southern Isabela Medical Center

This was graced by the presence of the 2021 POGS President **Dr. Benjamin Cuenca** and yours truly, as Board Secretary.

The Council for Residents’ Education, Enhancement and Development (CREED) on the other hand, was able to visit a total of 29 Residency Training Institutions for monitoring and mentoring last year. A take-off on the incorporation of Bioethics in the curriculum of the different residency training programs through its Chairpersons and training officers was made possible in a bipartite meeting with the Council during the cascade of the Bioethics Forum.

The Committee on Mutual Assistance Program (CMAP) headed by **Dr. Lety Torregosa** reported a total claim of 226 for Sickness, Living and Death Benefit programs for the membership last year. We have likewise maintained the assistance to Covid afflicted members and furthermore made possible an additional criteria for the Living Benefit Program, which are loss of speech and loss of hearing. The Committee deemed this necessary since an Obstetrician Gynecologist

will be unable to carry out his/her functions if he/she has difficulty in speaking or listening (communication disabilities) due to a stroke or other illnesses.

The two proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-laws of the Society for 2021 A. Article VIII A Regional Districts Divisions / Groupings- renaming

- 8.2.1 Region 1 – North Western Luzon
- 8.2.2 Region 2 – North Eastern Luzon

And the modification in the statement for B. Article I Membership on the Automatic Termination of Membership, Section 6, were presented by the Chairperson of the Committee on Amendments, **Dr. Ma. Gay M. Gonzales**. These two proposals were incorporated as a referendum in the electronic voting system during the Elections for the 2022 Board of Trustees held on Nov 11, 2021. A required majority of votes from the membership was arrived (98% and 94% respectively for both items) and the proposed amendments were then ratified.

Newly updated 2021 editions of the following: Clinical Practice Guidelines on Cesarean Section, Ectopic Pregnancy, Handbook on Gender Based Violence, CPG on Pelvic Organ Prolapse and on Recurrent Pregnancy Loss (Joint Project with the Philippine Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology) were turned over and presented by the Chairperson of the Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines, **Dr. Gil S. Gonzalez**. Likewise, the CPG on Hypertension in Pregnancy and Medical Complications in Pregnancy was presented by the Philippine Society of Maternal and Fetal Medicine, through its then President, **Dr. Carmela Madrigal-Dy**.

The Adhoc Committee on the Revision of Ethical Guidelines, through its chairperson **Dr. Lourdes B. Capito**, past president in 2009, presented the 2021 revised edition of the Ethical Guidelines in Obstetrical and Gynecological Practice, Medical Education and Research of the Society which has incorporated guidelines from the different Subspecialty and Component Affiliate Societies collaborating with us.

Digital and soft copies of which will soon be available in the POGS Virtual library.

Recent publications were presented and launched by the following authors:

1. **Dr. Walfrido Sumpaico**, POGS President in 1996, launched the sequel of their first book in 2019, “At First Glance”, “The Second Look” which is another literary work of the group of Maternal Fetal Medicine specialists, the Kagitingan writers. This new book talks about clinical insights during the last trimester of pregnancy.
2. **Dr. Erlidia Llamas Clark**, the Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness, launched their 3rd book entitled Climate Change Disasters and Covid 19 recounting and summarizing how the different stakeholders and

Greetings of hope and well wishes to all.
The year 2021 was indeed a great year of accomplishments for the Society with the POGS President, **Dr. Benjamin D. Cuenca**, ably leading the team and supported by his Board of Trustees. We have successfully carried out all the tasks at hand in the various projects set forth for the POGS last year.

The culminating activity is the 2021 Annual Convention and the 75th Anniversary Celebration. The Organizing team for this event was composed of the hardworking Sub-Committees headed by **Dr. Marlyn T. Dee**, the 2021 Vice President and Overall Organizing Chairperson, with **Dr. Carelle R. Ong**, the Convention Secretary. It was conducted on a pure virtual format last Nov. 9-12, 2021 and was also effectively and efficiently brought about. The Conference was attended by a total of 6,637 registrants, 570 of which were Life Members, 2945 Fellows, 339 Diplomates, 492 Junior members, and 110 Associates (Total members who attended - 4,456). It was also attended by 906 non-member delegates, 1,271 Resident Trainees and 4 International Delegates.

During the Annual Business Meeting held last Nov 10, 2021, the President highlighted in his report the different accomplishments of each of the Committees. All of which were guided by the thrust of his governance, the Enhanced collaboration, and Regional Empowerment for Regional and Global recognition. Each and every one, namely the Chairpersons of Committees, its members, and all of the Affiliate member Societies contributed, collaborated and participated in the efforts to fulfill the assignments and achieve the goals intended.

The Philippine Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (PBOG) proposed the guidelines of the PBOG 2021 Special Project on the Provisional Accreditation of Residency Training Programs (PARTP) to the 2021 Board of Trustees (BOT). This is a new scheme and process of RTP accreditation.

Background: In 2017, then POGS President, **Dr. Mayumi Bismark**, urged the PBOG, under the Chairmanship of **Dr. Conrado Crisostomo**, to consider the possibility of utilizing an alternative scheme of “levelling” for accrediting residency training programs. However, at that time, PBOG had many other priorities which overshadowed this initiative and was temporarily kept aside.

Eventually in 2020, PBOG Chairperson, **Dr. Ma. Lourdes Pobleto-Chan** took on the “levelling” challenge and rekindled



members have responded to these challenging times in the different areas of care.

The 2021 winners of the POGS Multicare Fellows' Research Paper Contest were reported by the Chairperson of the Committee on Scientific Works, **Dr. Enrico Gil C. Oblepias**.

1st place - "Ovarian Volume Cut-Off on Sonography for The Diagnosis of Polycystic Ovaries using the ESHRE/ASRM sponsored 2018 International Evidence Based Guideline for Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome: A Single Center Study" - by **Dr. Capella A. Remigio**, St. Luke's Medical Center Quezon City.

2nd place - "Phase One and Two Results of the Awareness Study a Randomized Control Trial to Improve Diagnostic Strategies for Ovarian Cancer in Filipino Women" - by **Dr. Clarissa L. Velayo**, UP College of Medicine Philippine General Hospital

3rd place - "A Comparative Study on The Accuracy of Five Intrauterine Growth Charts in Predicting the Classification of Neonatal Birth Rate" - by **Dr. Vanessa Marie P. Lim**, St. Luke's Medical Center Quezon City.

The Adhoc Committee on POGS Unified Research Agenda (PURA), under the leadership of **Dr. Malou Otayza**, announced

through its Co-Chairperson, **Dr. Virgilio M. Novero**, the winner of the 2021- 2022 POGS Flagship Research Project (the second recipient): "Blood Transfusion in Elective Gynecologic and Obstetrical Surgeries: A Multicenter Study" with the principal investigator, **Dr. Maria Antonia Esteban-Habana** of UP PGH.

During the Opening and Closing ceremonies of the 2021 Annual Convention, we welcomed 296 newly inducted Diplomates and 174 new Fellows respectively through the Committee on Credentials and Membership. We embrace these new colleagues with delight and are hopeful that they will truly embody and emphasize in their practice the Mission, Vision, and Core Values of the Society.

To come a long way and to end the year 2021 with a roaring success, it is but deserving for all of us to celebrate as ONE POGS. Last December 11, 2021, the First National Christmas Party of the Society was organized through the Creatives Advisory team Committee (CATCom) with all the Society's members invited, in appreciation and gratitude for the many blessings and support we received. We again gathered to loosen up, have fun and celebrate. After all, it is not always work, we also deserve and need to play and relax.

We are hopeful that this New Year, 2022, the year of the

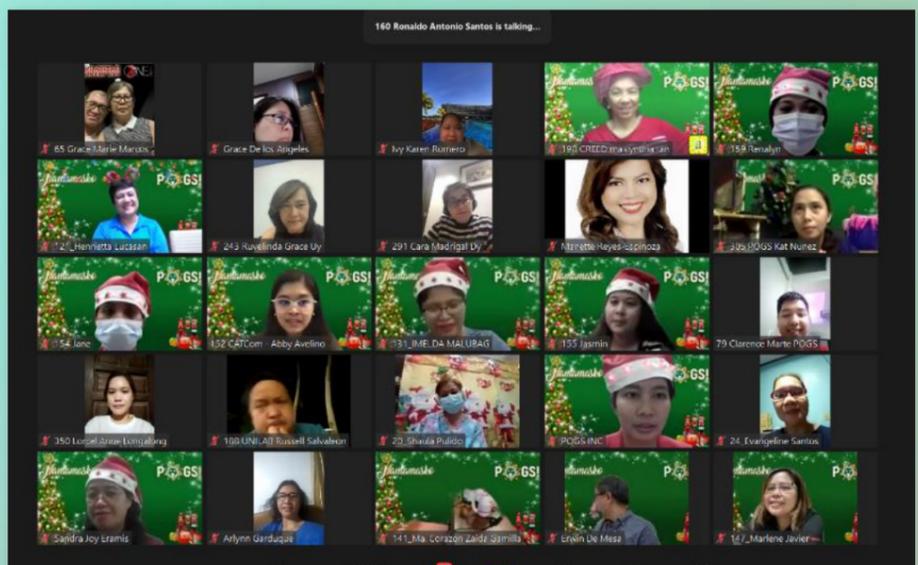
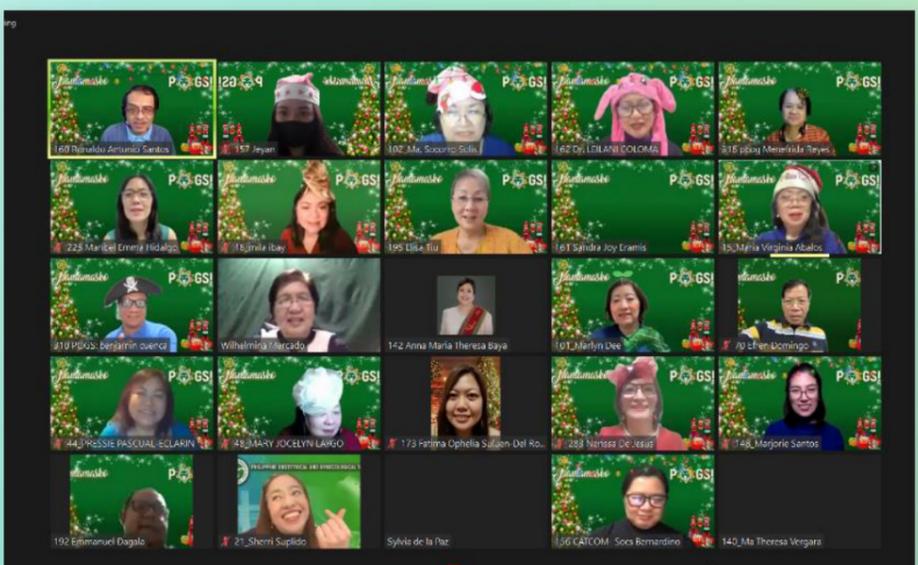
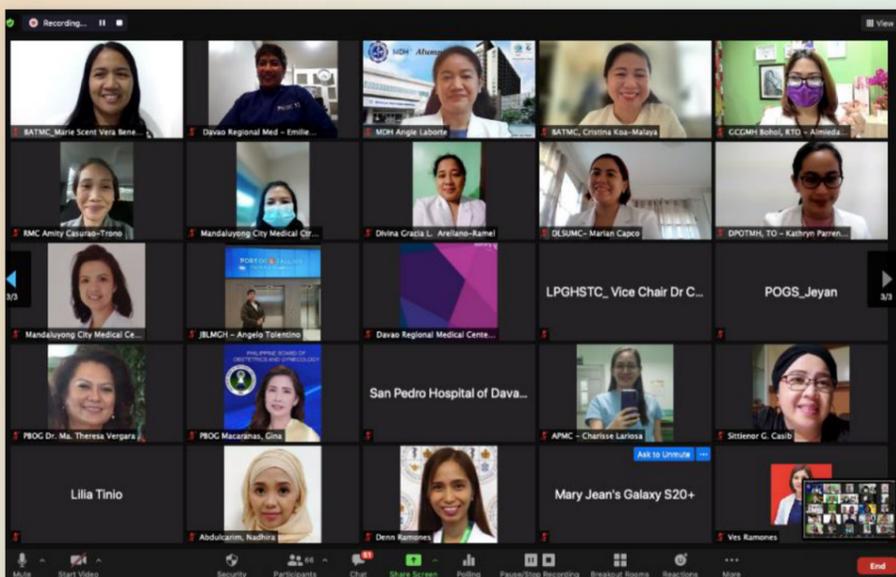
Tiger will provide us with more vitality and growth as an organization. With much hope, we shall thrive and advance further as ONE POGS to move past the uncertainties that Covid 19 has created.

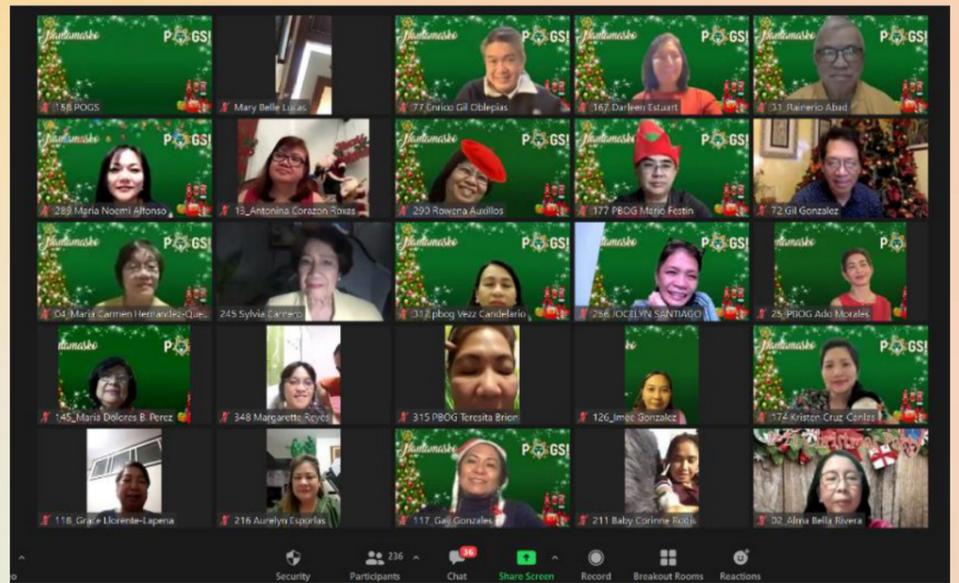
We now welcome and congratulate our new set of leaders headed by:

Marlyn T. Dee, MD
2022 POGS President

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
Vice President – **Efren J. Domingo, MD**
Board Secretary – **Leilani C. Chavez-Coloma, MD**
Treasurer – **Erwin R. De Mesa, MD**
PRO – **Ma. Socorro C. Bernardino, MD**

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Ma. Virginia S. Abalos, MD
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Ma. Gay M. Gonzales, MD
Gil S. Gonzalez, MD
Milagros T. Jocson, MD
Annette M. Macayaon, MD
Enrico Gil C. Oblepias, MD
Ronaldo Antonio R. Santos, MD
Sherri Ann L. Suplido, MD





Foundation Day Guest Performer: The Dawn

2022 PHILIPPINE BOARD OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

REY H. DE LOS REYES, MD
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MA. SOCORRO M. SOLIS, MD
Secretary

Members

3rd Year

TERESA DIANA B. BONGALA, MD
GRACE D. DE LOS ANGELES, MD
CECILE MELISSE P. DERECHO, MD
MARIO R. FESTIN, MD
MARIA GINA ANCHETA-MACARANAS, MD
JOCELYN ZAMORA-MARIANO, MD

2nd Year

TERESITA CADIZ-BRION, MD
MADONNA VICTORIA C. DOMINGO, MD
VIRGILIO M. NOVERO, JR., MD
NOEL E. RAYMUNDO, MD
CHARISSE SHARON E. TAN, MD
MA. THERESA M. VERGARA, MD

1st Year

MARIA LUISA S. ACU, MD
JO-ANN B. BADUA, MD
RICHARD RONALD B. CACHO, MD
MILA ZARAGOZA-IBAY, MD
JULIE DEL ROSARIO-LIM, MD
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CHRISTIA S. PADOLINA, MD
ANNE MARIE C. TRINIDAD, MD



POGS 2021 Annual Convention and 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration

RISE Up to the New Normal (Relevant, Innovative, Sensitive, Engaging)

Catherine Joie Carelle R. Ong, MD
Convention Secretary

The **Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecologic Society, Inc.** has reached another milestone as it celebrated its 75th year of existence as a premiere society. Preparation started early in the year as the song writing contest revealed the talents of our members. The winning song “*We Rise as One*” was the composed and sung by **Dr. Ryan B. Capitulo**. The purely virtual annual convention held last November 9-12, 2021 had the theme: **# Rise Up to the New Normal: RELEVANT, INNOVATIVE, SENSITIVE, ENGAGING** and was attended by 6,637 enthusiastic delegates.

The well-attended pre-congress paved the way to the annual convention as the entire month of October (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 4-7pm) was dedicated to the webinars of the 13 different subspecialty societies. We kicked-off the week-long event on November 7, 2021 with the energizing virtual run and Zoom-ba 2.0 with our guest instructors **Joshua** and **Jopay Zamora**.

The event was formally opened on November 9, 2021 with the Filipiniana-inspired Opening Ceremonies. The outstanding members of POGS were given their much deserved awards:

Constantino P. Manahan Young Researcher Awardee:
Eileen Feliz M. Cortes-Garcia, MD

Honoraria Acosta-Sison Awardee of Merit for Research:
Jean Anne B. Toral, MD

Baldomero Roxas Memorial Lecturer and Awardee for Academic Distinction:
Cecilia A. Ladines-Llave, MD

The keynote speaker for the night was **Dr. Cecilia A. Ladines-Llave**. One of the highlights of the evening was the induction of the 296 Diplomates as members of POGS. The opening of the virtual exhibits which featured our partners in the pharmaceutical industry took place right after. The night was concluded by a show of talents from the different subspecialty societies.

The scientific sessions which featured international and local speakers commenced on November 10, 2021. Included in our scientific program were 29 industry sponsored symposia sponsored by our friends from the pharmaceutical industry. The plenary sessions included **RELEVANT** and timely topics such as the Universal Health Care Act and the Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women’s health. The President’s hour led by **Dr. Benjamin D. Cuenca** focused on how POGS “*Braced for New Normal Demands and Issues*”. The Annual Business Meeting was well attended. The simultaneous sessions started in the afternoon on updates and latest recommendations by

the following subspecialty societies: PSMFM, PSRM, PSUOG and PAGSPHIL. There were two panel discussions conducted by SGOP and PSCPC led by the experts in their fields. The fellowship night entitled “*Sparkle*” featured the talented POGS members with jaw-dropping performances from regions 1 to 6. A special number was prepared by the organizing committee who danced to the song “*Friday I’m in Love*”. The night was rocked by the performance of **The Dawn**.

November 11, 2021 was election day. The plenary sessions were started off with institutional reports from the PBOG by **Dr. Menefrida S. Reyes** and CREED by **Dr. Mila Z. Ibay** as well as new developments given by the board secretary **Dr. Leilani C. Coloma**. **INNOVATIVE** talks on the “*Adaptation to the new normal: technology and the ob-gyn*” were focused on maternal safety and telehealth. The simultaneous sessions in the afternoon featured a variety of interesting topics by the following subspecialty societies: PSGE, PSURPS, PSSTD, PSCM, AGSPI and PSFP. The fellowship night entitled “*Glitter*” featured awesome performances from regions 7 to 11 and NCR. The Board of Trustees and the socials committee prepared dance medleys featuring songs by VSD and company and the night was kept alive by the band Spirit of 67.

The last day, November 12, 2021 started early with Late Breaking Updates focusing on: Strengthening health systems and access to care, Covid-19 vaccination in pregnant Filipino women and The WHO Labor Care Guide. Plenary sessions which are **SENSITIVE** were geared on “*Social obstetrics and the economics of health*”. The simultaneous sessions not only featured lectures from PIDSOG and AOGIN but also included interactive podcasts which discussed the “*Impact of the Pandemic on Obstetric Training*” and tips “*For the Practitioner*”. Also featured were the outputs of the residents in training as their researches and interesting case presentations were showcased in the “**Abstract Oral Presentation**”. The week-long celebration was concluded by the elegant “Closing Ceremonies”. An excellent speech was delivered by **Dr. Rosario Angeles Tan-Alora**, the guest of honor and keynote speaker. The 2022 members of the Board of Trustees were inducted by Dr. Alora as well. Also featured in the closing ceremonies is the induction of the 174 new Fellows of the society. Lastly, the attendees were serenaded by the world renowned performers **Mr. Robert Sena** and **Ms. Isay Alvarez** and as a bonus, a greeting from **Ms. Lea Salonga** was dedicated to POGS and its members for their diamond celebration. The entire annual convention was truly **ENGAGING** from the scientific sessions to the social events. In spite of the pandemic, POGS has delivered an exceptional annual convention which is Relevant, Innovative, Sensitive and Engaging. We have indeed learned and managed to Rise up to the new normal!







2021 Annual Convention and 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration
#RISE Up to the New Normal



Linda C. Gludice, MD



Jeanne Ann Conry, MD



Annette M. Macayaon, MD



Mario Philip R. Festin, MD



Sybil Lizanne R. Bravo, MD



2021 Annual Convention and 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration

#RISE Up to the New Normal
Relevant Innovative Sensitive Engaging

October 2021

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|--------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-----|------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 PSCPC | 6 | 7 PSURPS | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 PSCM | 12 | 13 | 14 AGSPI | 15 | 16 PSRM |
| 17 | 18 PIDSOG | 19 | 20 PSGE21 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 AOGIN | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |





Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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

My last issue

Greetings to our dear POGS colleagues and blessings as we welcome the new year.

This edition of our newsletter is my last issue as your PRO for 2019 - 2021. The past three years will be my most memorable stint in POGS as we in the Board of Trustees continuously faced one challenge after another, to triumph and "rise as one".

The year 2019 was the last face to face Foundation Day Celebration in POGS. Three days before the event, the elevator in the POGS building broke down. This was further complicated by having no water supply in the area. A snap decision was made to transfer the Foundation Day activity to a suitable venue. I was blessed with very competent foundation committee members and quick acting secretariat, and after intense prayers, we successfully pulled off the celebration in nearby La Chandelle's Events Place at Mother Ignacia St.

The following year 2020 was intense because of the pandemic and lockdowns enforced. POGS transferred its activities to the virtual platform. For the first time the Foundation Day was held purely via the Zoom Meeting. Another first was being able to involve all the POGS regions who sent in their short video

greetings and presentations. The Past Presidents were able to participate in the comfort and safety of their homes, and we all were able to reach out and have a "kumustahan" to remove the feelings of isolation. This time we in the committee had to learn to be digitally literate in record time to cope with the needs of the current situation.

The most hectic year for me was 2021. POGS was celebrating its 75th Foundation Anniversary and it was decided to combine this with the Midyear Convention, all with me as the Over All Organizing Chair. A surge of COVID cases forced us to reconsider holding a hybrid (face to face and virtual) convention to a purely virtual one. This required much planning and discussion, including helping our members to learn how to navigate the convention website and be able to join in all the scientific and

social activities including the Foundation Day Celebration. Thanks to a very passionate and competent Midyear Organizing Committee, Foundation and Newsletter Committee and event partners Creative Synergy Inc. (CSI) and Quatro Cantos web developers, another successful event done!

During my three years as PRO I was heavily reliant on my committee members **Drs. Leilani Coloma, Marga Gellaco, Elyneth Valencia, Imee Gonzalez and Sheila Magpale**. To all of you thank you so very much.

This 2022 I will be assuming the post of Secretary to the Philippine Board of OB-GYN, another area where the POGS is transitioning to a virtual platform for holding both written and oral certifying examinations. As I write this, there has been another surge of covid cases driven by the omicron variant. Let us all stay safe, take care of each other and pray that this will be over soon.

See you all soon and may God bless us all!



Committee on Newsletter & Foundation Day

Ma. Socorro M. Solis, MD
Chairman

Ma. Margarita Leticia Gellaco, MD
Imee D. Gonzalez, MD
Shiela T. Magpale, MD
Elyneth I. Valencia, MD
Members

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.

Virtual Library Project Delivers Beyond Target

By **Ma. Gay M. Gonzales, MD**
Chairman, Committee on Library and Archives;
Ad Hoc Committee on Virtual Library

The Ad Hoc Committee on Virtual Library, one of the flagship programs of the 2021 POGS President **Benjamin D. Cuenca**, on its inaugural year of establishment, has remarkably delivered beyond expectations, important online services that catered to the needs and interests of the POGS members, especially those who are embarking on various forms scientific works, amidst the challenges of the pandemic.

Inspired by the leadership of this writer, the committee members ensured that the foremost objective of promoting maximized utilization of the POGS library resources is put forth, such as e-resources that include e-books, e-journals and even recorded POGS webinars. This endeavor is brought to astounding reality through the platforms of National Library of the Philippines, E-Library USA and the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society for the members to access especially in areas of research.

Moreover, the POGS Library and Archives continues to delve on other related programs in order to achieve its ultimate goal of full digitalization of all POGS materials, along with long-term preservation of intrinsic resources.

The POGS certified librarian, **Mr. Clarence John Marte**, deserves commendation for personally handling even the minute developments in the section. To mention a few, the library has finished the digitalization of POGS core collections, both in library and archive sections, such as journals, CPGs, newsletters, souvenir programs and the like.

In 2022, the **Committee on Library and Archives** looks forward to step up its services in any way possible to make the offered services, not only more encompassing, but more sensitive and responsive to the needs of the end-users- our POGS Members!

In the meantime, here are the lists of specific e-resources currently available that the POGS members can peruse on.



Dr. Ma. Gay M. Gonzales

**LIST OF AVAILABLE E-RESOURCES
POGS VIRTUAL LIBRARY**

LIST OF E-RESOURCES AT NLP PORTAL

- WILEY - GALE EBOOKS - BRITANNICA LIBRARY - PROQUEST
- PROQUEST EBOOK CENTRAL - PRESSREADER
- EMERALD PUBLISHING

LIST OF E-RESOURCES AT E-LIBRARY USA PORTAL

- PROQUEST DISSERTATIONS AND THESES GLOBAL
- GALE ACADEMIC ONE FILE - MAGAZINE ON FLIPSTER
- PRESSREADER

LIST OF OPEN ACCESS E-RESOURCES

- DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS - ACADEMIC JOURNALS
- BIOMED CENTRAL - PUBMED - MEDWORM - JSS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH - DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS EBOOKS - THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES PRESS.

LIST OF E-RESOURCES AT POGS

- UPTODATE - PHILIPPINE JOURNAL OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY - ARCHIVE OF RECORDED WEBINARS

FOR REGISTRATION AND ACCESS

1. Type in the link below at your browser to access the POGS Virtual Library google Form. <https://bit.ly/3xYGMjK> ; and
2. Wait for the email of the POGS VIRTUAL LIBRARY for the instruction of access and account details.

POGS-MULTICARE 2021 Annual Scientific Works Contests Held

By Enrico Gil C. Oblepias, MD, FPOGS

Residents' Interesting Case Paper Contest Winners



Riezyl B. Culminas, MD



Maria Angela B. Ocampo, MD



Ma. Kristina Barbara O. Reyes, MD



Cristyne G. Loquero, MD



Joan M. Flores, MD



Ivy Lorraine E. Quiñones, MD



Capella A. Remigio, MD



Clarissa L. Velayo, MD



Vanessa Marie T. Lim, MD

Residents' Research Paper Contest Winners



Cristyne G. Loquero, MD



Joan M. Flores, MD



Ivy Lorraine E. Quiñones, MD



Capella A. Remigio, MD



Clarissa L. Velayo, MD



Vanessa Marie T. Lim, MD

Fellows' Research Paper Contest Winners



Capella A. Remigio, MD



Clarissa L. Velayo, MD



Vanessa Marie T. Lim, MD

Despite the pandemic, POGS members and resident-trainees from accredited training institutions continue to be productive in terms of scientific paper and research outputs. Because of this, the POGS in cooperation with MultiCare again separately held the Residents' Interesting Case Paper, the Residents' Research Paper, and the Fellows' Research Paper Contests in 2021.

Emceed and moderated by **Drs. Debby Pacquing-Songco** and **Madonna Victoria C. Domingo**, the **POGS Residents' Interesting Case Paper Contest** was held last September 16, 2021. Out of the many entries, 8 were selected to give a presentation through a virtual platform, with a panel of judges composed of **Drs. Jimmy A. Billod, Nelinda Catherine P. Pangilinan** and its Chair **Raul M. Quillamor**.

The papers presented were the following:

1st Place: *A Rare Case of Primary Signet-Ring Cell Carcinoma of the Cervix*

Author: **Riezyl B. Culminas, MD**
Co-authors: **Aida J. Bautista, MD** and **Sabrina A. Sy, MD**
Training Institution: Manila Doctors Hospital

2nd Place: *Inside Out: A Successful Repositioning of a Chronic 3rd Degree Uterine Inversion*

Author: **Maria Angela B. Ocampo, MD**
Co-authors: **German Tan Cardoso, MD** and **Almira Zoraida M. Fernandez, MD**
Training Institution: East Avenue Medical Center

3rd Place: *A Series of Unfortunate Events: Guillain-Barre Syndrome in a COVID Positive Pregnant Patient*

Author: **Ma. Kristina Barbara O. Reyes, MD**
Co-author: **Encarnita Nicolas, MD**
Training Institution: East Avenue Medical Center

Finalist: *Giant Immature Teratoma in a 15-Year-Old Causing Anti-N-Methyl-D-Aspartate (Anti-NMDA) Receptor Encephalitis-like and Guillain-Barre Syndromes as Paraneoplastic Manifestations: A Case Report*

Author: **Alfonso Leandro D. Toreja, MD**
Co-author: **Angelito D.L. Magno, MD**
Training Institution: De La Salle University Medical Center

Finalist: *Cytokine Storm Secondary to COVID-19 Pneumonia in a Preterm Pregnancy: A Management and Bioethical Dilemma*

Author: **Dominica Louise A. Sumera, MD**
Co-author: **Zoraida R. Umipig-Guevara, MD**
Training Institution: Delos Santos Medical Center

Finalist: *More than Teen Angst: A Case of Ovarian Teratoma Presenting as Anti-NMDAR Encephalitis*

Author: **Ma. Rosila Flor Escudero, MD**
Co-author: **Lyra Ruth Clemente-Chua, MD**
Training Institution: The Medical City

Finalist: *When the Metastatic Tumor Presents as a Primary Tumor: Gastric Signet Ring Cell Carcinoma presenting as Advanced Cervical Cancer with Ovarian Metastasis*
Author: **Marie Felle P. Florez, MD**

Co-author: **Angelito D.L. Magno, MD**
Training Institution: De La Salle University Medical Center

Finalist: *A Confirmed Case of Menstrual Cup Associated Toxic Shock Syndrome: A Philippine Perspective*

Author: **Andrea Francesca I. Santos, MD**
Co-author: **Merlind M. Morales, MD**
Training Institution: Medical Center Manila

The **POGS Residents' Research Paper Contest** was held on October 20, 2021. This was emceed and moderated by **Drs. Lylah D. Reyes** and **Maria Rowena D.R. Raymundo**. Out of all submissions, 8 finalists were selected and asked to give a video presentation via Zoom. The panel of judges this time were comprised of **Drs. Ina S. Irabon, Brenda Bernadette B. Zamora** and its Chair **Maria Lora P. Garcia-Tansengco**.

The papers presented were the following:

1st Place: *Assessment of the Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices of OB-GYN Consultants and Residents on the Screening of Postpartum Depression*

Author: **Cristyne G. Loquero, MD**
Co-author: **Pherdes E. Galbo, MD**
Training Institution: Cebu Velez General Hospital

2nd Place: *Knowledge, Attitude, Practices towards COVID-19 and Infection Prevention and Control among Tertiary Level Hospital Labor and Delivery Room Health Care Workers in the Time of Pandemic: A Cross-sectional Survey*

Author: **Joan M. Flores, MD**
Co-author: **Maria Michelle Guaiz-Borbe, MD**
Training Institution: Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center

3rd Place: *Acceptability of Telemedicine among Patients undergoing Prenatal and Postnatal Care in the Setting of the COVID-19 Pandemic*

Author: **Ivy Lorraine E. Quiñones, MD**
Co-author: **Virgilio M. Novero, Jr., MD**
Training Institution: UP-Philippine General Hospital

Finalist: *Comparison of Maternal and Neonatal Outcomes between COVID-19 Positive and Negative Parturients who delivered in a Tertiary Hospital: A Retrospective Cohort Study*

Author: **Stephanie M. Lazo, MD**
Co-author: **Victoria Sy-Fernando, MD**
Training Institution: Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center

Finalist: *Fears, Perceptions, and Concerns on COVID-19 of Term Pregnant Women in a Tertiary Hospital: A Cross-Sectional Study*

Author: **Christine Mariz T. Ching, MD**
Co-author: **Maria Michelle Guaiz-Borbe, MD**
Training Institution: Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center

Finalist: *Association of Total Gestational Weight Gain and Maternal and Perinatal Outcomes among Pregnant Patients using The Institute of Medicine 20019 Gestational Weight Gain in Guidelines in a Tertiary Hospital*

Author: **Francesca Debbie L. Liu, MD**
Co-author: **Maria Michelle Guaiz-Borbe, MD**
Training Institution: Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center

Finalist: *Characteristics of COVID-19 Positive Pregnant Patients Admitted in a Private Tertiary Hospital and their Maternal and Neonatal Outcomes*

Author: **Josephine Alexandra D. Lim, MD**
Co-authors: **Zarinah G. Gonzaga, MD** and **Mariles H. Nazal, MD**
Training Institution: The Medical City

Finalist: *Comparison of the Effect of Miconazole and Clotrimazole in the Treatment of Vulvovaginal Candidiasis among Women seen in a Tertiary Medical Center from 2016 to 2020*

Author: **Shiara Marriz T. Marquez, MD**
Co-author: **Lylah D. Reyes, MD**
Training Institution: FEU-NRMMF

After a rigorous selection process by the Committee on Scientific Works, the winners of the **POGS Fellows' Research Contest** were presented on November 10, 2021 during the POGS Annual Business Meeting.

The winning papers were the following:

1st Place: *Ovarian Volume Cut-Off on Sonography for the Diagnosis of Polycystic Ovaries Using the ESHRE/ASRM sponsored 2018 International Evidence-Based Guideline for Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome: A Single Center Study*

Author: **Capella A. Remigio, MD**
Co-Author: **Marisol Pangan-Gorospe, MD**
Training Institution: St. Luke's Medical Center – Quezon City

2nd Place: *Phase I and II Results of the Overa Study: A Randomized Controlled Trial to Improve Diagnostic Strategies for Ovarian Cancer in Filipino Women*

Author: **Clarissa L. Velayo, MD**
Co-Authors: **Karen N. Reforma, MD, Renee Vina G. Sicam, MD, Michele H. Diwa, MD** and **Alvin Duke R. Sy, MSPH, RN**
Training Institution: UP-Philippine General Hospital

3rd Place: *A Comparative Study on the Accuracy of Five Intrauterine Growth Charts in Predicting the Classification of Neonatal Birth Weight at a Private Tertiary Hospital*

Author: **Vanessa Marie T. Lim, MD**
Co-Authors: **Ma. Luisa S. Acu, MD** and **Anna Liza C. Salita, MD**
Training Institution: St. Luke's Medical Center – Quezon City

Congratulations to all winners! On behalf of the POGS Board of Trustees, the POGS Committee on Scientific Works would like to thank and commend all its members and all its accredited training institutions for your participation and commitment to honing your skills and nurturing your interest for scientific paper writing and research. May this lead to the future sharing of relevant new knowledge in the field of obstetrics and gynecology here and abroad.

Community Service in the time of COVID: POGS STC revisits the Taal volcano disaster evacuees

By Irma Velarde, MD
Regional Director, Region 4



December 29, 2021. The beginnings of the Omicron surge did not stop the team of Region 4, POGS Southern Tagalog Chapter to do a face to face visit to the pregnant women who were relocated at the Sea Breeze Residences, Talaibon, Ibaan, Batangas due to the January 2020 Taal volcano phreatomagmatic eruption.

With prior coordination by **Dr. Julieta Villanueva**, POGS-STC President for 2022, the team catered to 26 women, most of whom were pregnant, with a few at their early postpartum period. Chapter Community Service Chair, **Dr. Alma Joy Morin**, organized the medical mission and



prepared the gift packs. There were free prenatal and postnatal check-ups, free multivitamins and mommy books. Each were given a sack of rice and a bag filled with health and delivery supplies. Indeed, the encounter was brief but memorable.

Most of the women have had no prenatal check-ups and were still unsure where they will deliver even if they were near term or post-term. Missions like these only give them temporary relief, temporary hope. The region, is thus, determined to find more answers and solutions to these issues that contribute to maternal morbidity and mortality.



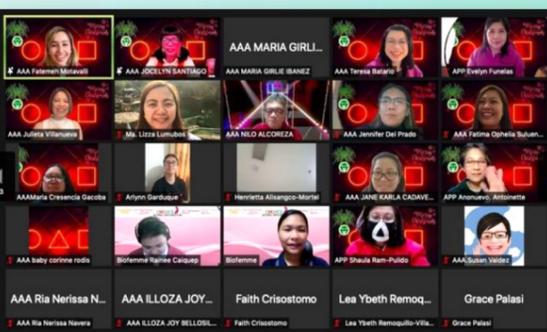
POGS Southern Tagalog Chapter Induction Ceremonies and Virtual Christmas Party

By Irma Velarde, MD

On December 5, 2021, POGS President-elect **Dr. Marlyn Dee** visited Region 4 and virtually inducted the Chapter President for 2022, **Dr. Julieta Villanueva**, a fellow from Batangas. **Dr. Teresa Batario**, a very inspiring leader from Quezon and 2021 President has turned over the gavel and medal to Dr. Villanueva. The rest of the 2022 officers were also inducted as well as the new members.



Dr. Irma Velarde



ceremonies. There were fun Tik-tok presentations and games prepared by the organizing team that lasted in the afternoon. The event was sponsored by Biofemme.



A Filipino Squid Game-themed Christmas party followed the



Odette in Palawan

By Irma Velarde, MD

There was initially very little news of the aftermath of typhoon Odette in Central Palawan. For a while, it was literally isolated from the rest of the country - no electricity and internet, wiped-out villages, landslides and non-passable roads. It was only on the fifth day post-Odette that telecommunications resumed.

Front and center in the relief operations was the **Palawan Medical Society (PMS)** led by it's President, **Dr. April Rhelboy Andal**, the husband of our very own POGS Southern Tagalog Chapter (STC) Palawan Area Coordinator, **Dr. Marie Andal**. The PMS and it's partners were able to give relief goods to the areas most in need such as the municipalities of Araceli, Dumarán, Kalayaan Islands, Roxas in barangays Caramay, Tagumpay, Tinitian and Green Island and the municipality of San Vicente. In Puerto Princesa, they were able to serve the native Batak and Tagbanua tribes as well as several other barangays.

The members of the Palawan team of POGS STC has given their generous donations, after which the Chapter leadership

followed suit and donated cash, too. Other regions who gave their cash donations were POGS NCR and Region 5, Bicol Region. The Palaweno's were beyond grateful as they promise to rise above this disaster.



Pamaskong Handog ng Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society Bicol Chapter

Halfway homes in Bicol region were the beneficiaries of POGS Bicol Christmas gift giving activity. They were transitional living facilities for abused/abandoned women and children who want to seek refuge.

Hablon Dawani in Peñafrancia, Naga City was one of the recipient of our donations last December 4, 2021. Upon coordination with their head household they specially requested for toiletries, canned goods, kitchen condiments, sanitary necessities and snacks. There were 32 recipients in the facility including the staff.



Halfway home in Daet, Camarines Norte was also one of the recipients last December 5, 2021. Upon coordination with the provincial social worker, wish lists of the children housed in the facility were given to us. Gifts listed in their wishlist, groceries, hygiene kits and Jollibee meals were given to the children and caretaker.



Another recipient is Pasirungan Center for Women and Children an LGU run facility accredited by DSWD located within the Masbate City Hall compound. The gift packs contained toothbrush, toothpaste, bathsoaps, shampoo, bath towels, slippers and assorted foodstuffs. Jollibee chickenjoy, spaghetti and softdrinks were served to the delight of everybody especially the children!



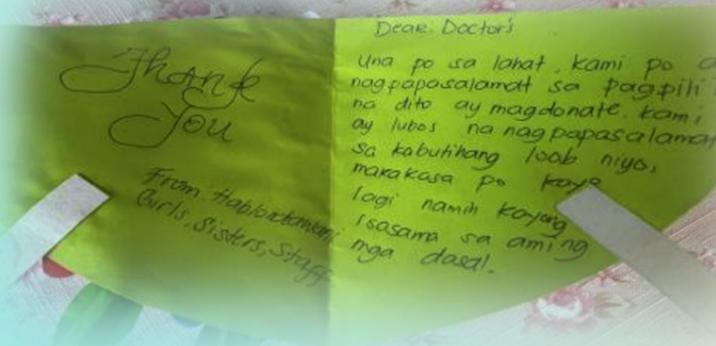
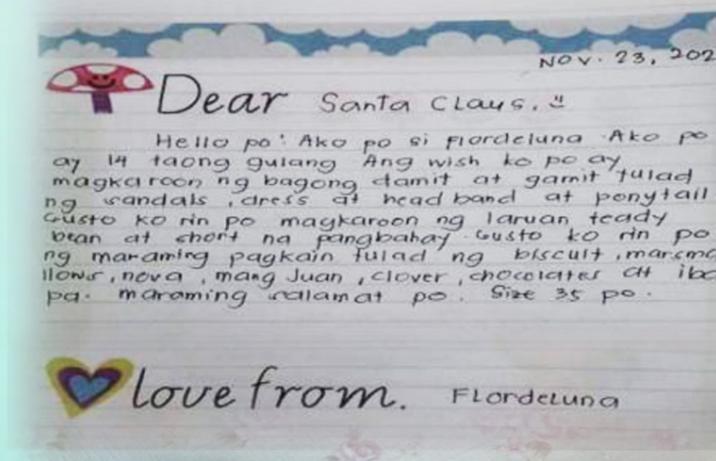
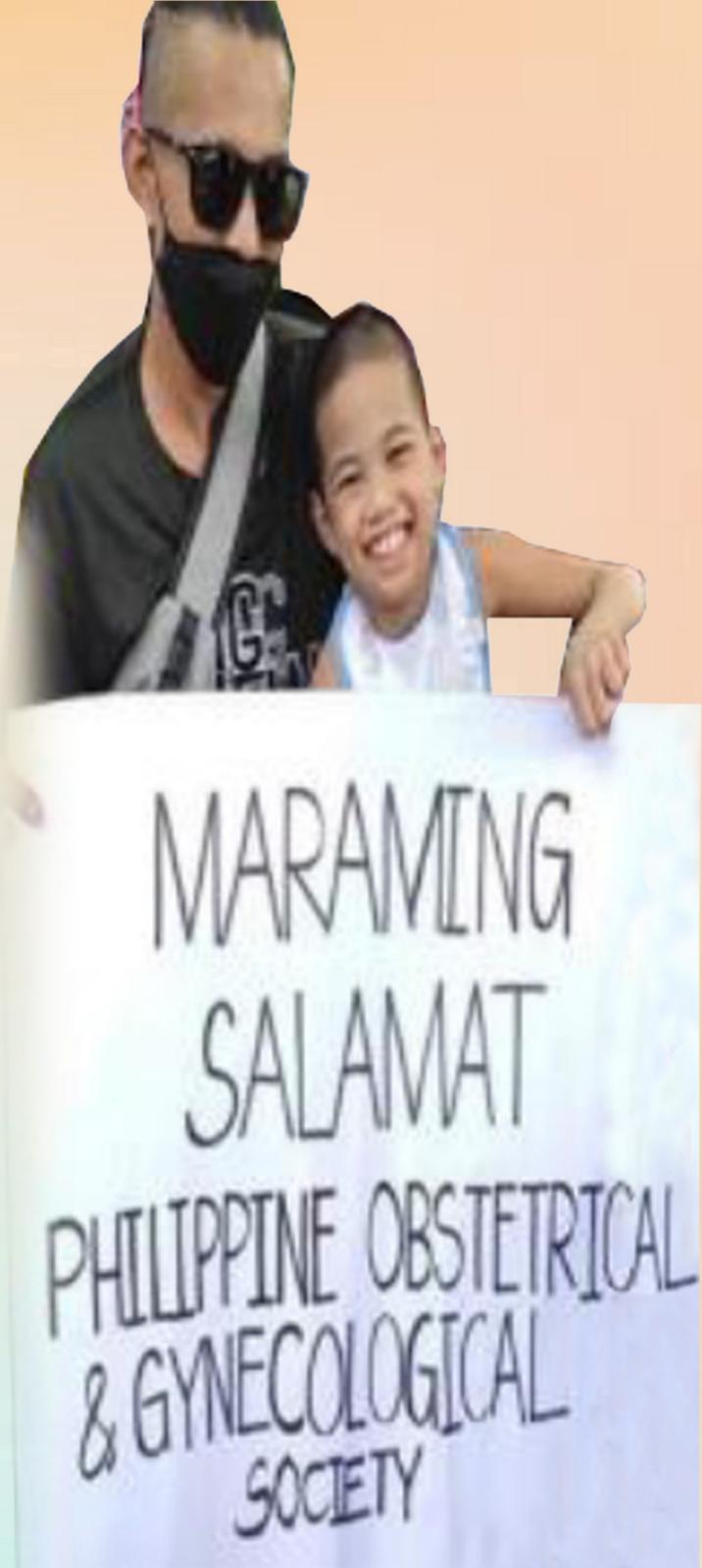
Another recipient is Haven for women and girls in Ligao City. Assorted groceries and hygiene kits were distributed together with snacks.



Sorsogon group turned over the mats to Cerebral Palsy Association of Sorsogon



Another recipient is the Foundation of Our Lady of Fatima Center for Human Development, Inc. in San Agustin, Iriga City. Groceries and Jollibee food pack were given.



Region 6

Sagip Buhay Operation for the victims of Odette typhoon in Negros Occidental



The southern city of Negros Occidental recorded the highest number of casualties, the worst-hit by Typhoon Odette in the province on Dec. 17, 2021. The provincial government of Negros Occidental has declared a state of calamity due to the destruction caused by typhoon.

There were also about 43,000 totally damaged houses, while 173,000 were partially damaged in the province because of the typhoon.

We, the members of POGS Region 6 immediately responded to the needs of the community by extending help to the victims. We received donations from POGS (Foundation), Inc, NCR, Region 3, and Region 5. Donations given were so helpful that

the people of Negros Occidental and DSWD were so thankful to POGS for the assistance we provided them.

Three of the worst-hit communities were the main recipients of POGS donations, Kabankalan, Cauayan, and Himamaylan. Kabankalan donations were course thru **Dr. Marie Therese Magno**, Cauayan thru **Dr. Franzi Mae Tabujara** and Himamaylan thru **Dr. Judy Bascon**. Help given to their communities were food, water, clothing, and nipa.

As the governor of Negros Occidental said, **Gov. Lacson**, “*Ang ganda ng spirit of bayanihan. Of course, hindi naman namin cinancel ‘yung Christmas. So, in the spirit of Christmas, ang ganda ng tulungan dito.*”



Region 7 and POGS Cebu Chapter Relief Operations

By Maria Dolores B. Perez, MD
Regional Director, Region 7 (2020-2021)

On December 16, 2021, the destructive force and intense winds of Typhoon Odette devastated Central Visayas leaving behind fallen trees, damaged electric posts and power cables, and ripped down homes and dwellings leaving numerous people homeless with no water, electricity and power or cell signals. The following days and weeks brought about long lines in convenience stores, supermarkets, gasoline stations, atm machines, and water stations as basic necessities became scarce. Last time Cebu was hit by a storm as fierce as Odette was in 1984 by Typhoon Nitang, and in 1990 by Typhoon Ruping.



Pictures:
POGS Region 7 and POGS Cebu
Chapter Outreach in Lapulapu District Hospital
on January 9, 2022 handing out maternity hygiene
kits and gallons of water to 100-120
postpartum patients.





POGS Region 8 launched Relief Operations to the Typhoon Odette victims of Liloan Southern Leyte

By Mina Sirikit Claridad-Tagra, MD
Region 8 Regional Director

Municipality of Liloan is a 4th class municipality in the province of Southern Leyte, Eastern Visayas (Region VIII), Philippines. The latest population is 3558.

A "Wawa" (strait passage) divides the mainland of Leyte and Panaon island on the south. The passage is famous for its swirling currents that form turbulent flow of water called "Lilo" that's where the name Liloan derived.

At 4:50 p.m. on December 16, Odette made its third landfall in Liloan, Southern Leyte as it packed maximum sustained winds of 195 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of up to 270 kph.

Liloan, Southern Leyte province has been placed under a state of calamity as Typhoon Odette left a trail of massive destruction, killing at least 13 and rendering thousands of families homeless in its capital town and 24 barrios.

I was once a victim of typhoon Yolanda, so I know the sufferings, pain and hardships of my fellow Liloanon.

Since the telecommunications, internet connections, water and electricity were all down, there was some difficulty in communicating with the people of Liloan.

One week after the aftermath of Typhoon Odette, I learned from my sisters and brothers that thousands of houses were totally damaged, their farmlands, poultry and piggery were totally washed out.



I immediately communicated with the 2021 POGS BOT headed by **Dr. Benjamin Cuenca** thru POGS treasurer **Dr. Erwin De Mesa** for the availment of POGS Calamity fund. I am truly grateful also to POGS NCR thru their Regional Director **Dr. Rosalie Escobar** and **Dr. Sirikit Zafra** Regional Director of Region 5 for sharing their blessings. Since the fund was not enough to cover 800 families who were homeless, covering the coastal area of Poblacion Liloan, San Roque, Anilao and the mountainous barrio of Fatima.

I asked help from my fellow POGS Region 8 members, my ACEMC Tacloban family and my closest friends both from pharmaceutical companies and dearest friends in Tacloban City and abroad.

With Gods blessing and guidance I was able to raise sufficient amount to buy 800 packs 5 kg rice, biscuits and mineral water.

Early morning of January 2, 2021 we travelled from Tacloban City to Liloan Southern Leyte in the midst of heavy rains, flash floods and land slides. We safely arrived Liloan Southern Leyte around 9:00 in the morning. The relief operation was organized and smoothly conducted thru the help of LGU Liloan. It was a fulfilling mission, seeing the people smile and inspired, made our day fulfilling and satisfying.

A little step to share our blessings will shine the light of our typhoon victims a little farther into the dark.





Sagip Surigao Project 1 & 2

By Angelie M. Taruc, MD, Ann Carmel B. Buaquina, MD and Cyriel Anthony I. Tingne, MD

In the afternoon of December 16, 2021, Super Typhoon Odette brought torrential rains, strong winds, mudslides floods and storm surges to the central-southern parts of the country. The provinces of Surigao del Norte, the Dinagat Islands, Southern Leyte, Cebu, Negros Oriental and Palawan experienced the most of Odette's fury. As the typhoon made its exit as the strongest storm to hit Mindanao in 10 years and the 3rd strongest recorded storm in the Northern hemisphere innumerable homes, properties and establishments were damaged in Visayas and Mindanao. Coincidentally, the landfall of typhoon Odette is the 10th year anniversary when Typhoon Sendong brought catastrophic flashfloods in Northern Mindanao last 2011 killing thousands of people particularly in Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City. Once we heard the news that a Category III typhoon is coming on December 16th, a typhoon much stronger than Sendong, it brought back painful memories and fears that history might repeat itself. Much needed preparations for the incoming typhoon was done in all areas, but when it comes to nature's wrath, nobody is prepared enough. The communication line was badly damaged by the typhoon. In this era where we are all dependent to the internet for communication, our life was put on halt but there's a looming fear for the safety of our families, relatives and friends that are away from us.

Once the communication lines were back and news and footages of Surigao del Norte that was severely damaged by Typhoon Odette was confirmed, the Bayanihan spirit once again was set in motion, as the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS) Region 10 promptly initiated relief operations to Surigao del Norte, one of the badly hit areas. Spearheaded by POGS Region 10 Regional Director, **Dr. Maria Imelda P. Carbajal**, **Dr. Rico Borromeo**, chair of POGS 10 Disaster Committee together with 2021 POGS Region 10 President, **Dr. Gemma M. Serrano**, Sagip Surigao Project (SSP) commenced. The project received outpouring support not only from local members of POGS but also from our mother society, 2021 POGS BOT and members from the other regions of the country.

Our SSP Part 1 was conducted before Christmas, last December 23, 2021, an immediate response to assist particularly our nine POGS R10 Surigao members. Life saving goods such as boxes of bottled water sacks of rice, canned goods, solar lamps, transistor radios and medicines were prepared and packed, together with Noche Buena packages, packs of coffee and gallons of ice cream to uplift the spirits of our members. Aside from these, they were also given cash assistance, a total of Php25,000 each; Php15,000 from POGS National and Php10,000 from MAP POGS 10. **Dr. Rico Borromeo** with his truck and driver, drove from Cagayan de Oro City to Surigao City to deliver the goods and the financial assistance. He was assisted by our 2021 POGS 10 BOT, **Dr. Geraldine Malbas** who travelled with him from Butuan City. Upon arrival, they were met by our POGS Surigao members. We



are thankful that all our members and their families are safe despite their houses being badly damaged by Typhoon Odette. Our POGS Surigao Members are beyond grateful for all the care and assistance from all POGS Members, not just POGS Region 10. We are one POGS, true to its mission to safeguard the welfare of its members.

Immediately after the short Christmas break, the SSP working team, this time with 2022 POGS 10 President elect, **Dr. Quennie S. Quino** planned and carry out the SSP Part 2 for the Surigaonons in the badly hit area Barangay Punta Bilar, Purok 1,2 3 and 4 which is composed of 350 households. Despite the several challenges, our colleagues gathered and put their best efforts together in the planning, purchasing and packing of relief goods in the quickest amount of time. After almost 2 weeks of preparations, SSP team from again lead by our hardworking trio, **Drs. Mel Carbajal, Gemma Serrano and Rico Borromeo** together with our 2022 VP **Dr. Ton Tingne** and Disaster Member, **Dr. Mae Taleon** embarked on a 7-hour journey by land braving rainy weather conditions going to Surigao City.

The team arrived safely in Surigao at around 6 o'clock of January 14, 2022 and was welcomed by the POGS 10 2022 BOT and Area Coordinator of Surigao namely **Dr. Ma. Belen Bullo** and **Dr. April Sunshine Pelias**, respectively. The team was also warmly welcomed by the City officials of Surigao City under the leadership of **Mayor Ernesto U. Matugas Jr.** In the early morning of January 15, the SSP team including POGS members from both Butuan and Surigao made their way to Barangay Punta Bilar, one of the most badly hit area to distribute the relief goods. As they reached the destination, heartbreaking images of roofless homes, toppled street lights, shattered infrastructures and destroyed farmlands left behind by typhoon Odette were witnessed by the group. A total of 350 families awaited the team who graciously received the relief goods which included grocery items, drinking water bottles, flash lights, as well as their most requested dried fish "bulad", vegetables, hammers and a generator set for the whole barangay. The activity lasted for 4 hours and ended in an impromptu gathering of the POGS 10 volunteers exchanging heartfelt messages of gratitude to one another and wishes for the swift rehabilitation of Surigao.

The Sagip Surigao Project is truly a demonstration of our society's core values of compassion and accountability. Despite the recent threat of COVID 19 surge, the members of POGS Northern Mindanao Chapter accepted the challenge and has emerged to be champions. It did not stop our society from reaching out to our fellowmen who were in dire need. The overwhelming desire to help united everyone, with a common goal of bringing light, hope and joy to our fellow countrymen even in the simplest but best way that we can.



POGS-SMC vax roll-out, a job well done!

By Cherry Joy Tabora, MD and
Marie Janice Alcantara-Boquiren, MD



The evolving COVID-19 situation has caused a lot of restrictions for everyone. Following an increase in COVID-19 cases in Davao City, additional precautionary and restrictive measures have been made. But this did not stop the men and women of POGS Southern Mindanao Chapter (POGS-SMC) to continue to be of service to the women and their families in Southern Mindanao. While others stopped and stayed at home, POGS-SMC continued to work and exert their time, effort and compassion to the people in need in Southern Mindanao.

To be able to help women and their families fight against Covid-19 infection, POGS-SMC in cooperation with Stella Maris Academy of Davao Alumni Association, Gaisano Mall of Davao and the Department of Health Region XI, launched its first vaccination roll-out with its theme "BAKUNA PARA SA BUNTIS AT IBA PA" last September 19, 2021 and October 17, 2021 at Gaisano Mall of Davao, Davao City. The said activity was initiated by POGS Region XI Regional Director, **Dr. Veronica Deniega**. Through the efforts of POGS-SMC Officers headed by **Dr. Marie Janice Alcantara-Boquiren** and the Service Committee Chair **Dr. Cherry Joy Tabora**, the said program was successfully accomplished. The Vaccination Roll-out was open to all women who are pregnant, lactating, postpartum and non-pregnant and their husbands and other relatives and companions at home.

First Vaccination Roll-out last September 19, 2021 and Second Vaccination Roll-out last October 17, 2021 with POGS Region 11 Regional Director, POGS-SMC Officers and volunteer members.

The team was able to vaccinate a total of 790 recipients for the first dose and 887 for the second dose. About 76% of the participants were women and 24% were men. A total of about 14-18% of these participants were pregnant women while 8-12% of them were breastfeeding/lactating, 3-8% postpartum and 35% non-pregnant women. 14% of the recipients were the husbands of the pregnant patients and 22% were their other companions and relatives. Although most of the recipients did not experience any side effect, some of them and most common complaints after vaccination were tiredness, headache, fever, sore jab site, itchiness and rarely difficulty of breathing (0.4% of the participants). The program was realized also with the help of our partners in women's health. In the future, we hope to give our best in reaching out and helping more women in need...

Serving the women and their families of Southern Mindanao.

With the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, challenges remain and will definitely and undoubtedly continue to rise. However, if all of us will follow strict health protocols and work together as one community, together we can fight and hopefully surpass this battle... this pandemic. Indeed, the POGS-SMC is one step in the realization of this goal. One Good Job, POGS-SMC!

