

Convention Newsletter

**JULY 2023** 

# TRAILBLAZING TRADITIONS

From idea to execution, read about the compelling story of how the first-ever joint convention of surgical specialty societies in the Philippines came about in this exclusive interview with PSGS President Dr. Jaime Lagunilla, PALES President Dr. Raymund Ong, and many others.

### In this issue:

- President's Message
- Joint PSGS-PALES Annual Convention Interview
- Exploring Paradise Cebu
- Updates across chapters





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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Greetings!** 

The PSGS Newsletter serves to inform our members of the activities that our society is doing. However, because of the pandemic, its publication has been reduced to an annual issue from a bi-annual publication. Hopefully, with the lifting of the pandemic emergency, we can go back to having biannual publications again.

The current issue of the PSGS Newsletter contains our financial report, chapter activities, and topics of interest to our members. We also have a special report on the upcoming Joint Annual Convention of the PSGS and PALES to be held in Mactan, Cebu on July 19–22,2023.

My congratulations to the Committee on Publication and Information for coming up with this issue of the Newsletter.

Hoping to have more publications in the coming months.

Mabuhay ang PSGS

See you all in Cebu!!



Dr. Jaime Lagunilla
PSGS President





# Philippine Society of JULY 2023 PAGE 2

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Dr. Raymund Ona **PALES President** 



**Dr. Anthony Dofitas** Interviewer



## NDMARK How one idea led to the one idea led to the birth of this historic conference

#### Host

So Good Evening and welcome to the PSGS PALES Joint Convention Talk show. Technically, it's just more of a highlight of the start of the PSGS PALES Joint Convention, how it came about, and we just want to learn more about the what's in store for us during the convention. So we have here a lot of our guests and we have a lot of accounts and testimonials from our other board members and other surgeons that helped shape this convention. If you if it's ok, would you like to introduce yourselves a little bit and give a brief description of your role and also the organization you represent?

#### Dr. Jaime Lagunilla

First, well, I'm Dr. Jaime Lagunilla. I'm currently the President of the Philippine Society of General Surgeons. This is an organization of general surgeons all over our country, which aims to promote the welfare of the general surgeon and protect its interests.

#### Dr. Raymund Ong

Hi, I'm Dr. Raymund Andrew Ong, the incumbent President of PALES, which is a premiere organization of surgeons, tasked to advance the cause of Minimally Invasive Surgery in the country.

#### Dr. Noel Evangelista

Hi, I'm Dr. Noel Evangelista, the current secretary of PALES.

#### **Dr. Robert Bandolon**

Hello, Good Day! I'm Dr. Bobby Bandolon, I'm currently a board member of PALES, as well as a board member also of PSGS.





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#### Host

So just going straight to the meaty questions, this is the first time for the two surgical specialty societies, namely PSGS and PALES to have a joint annual convention. I'd just like to ask, how did this idea come about?

#### Dr. Jaime Lagunilla

That's going back almost a year back. I think if I remember right, I was organizing well, the PSGS was organizing the. The surgical forum last year and it was to be our first face to face meeting. I think sometime March of 2022 when we were meeting with the people from EDSA Shang. And I already brought up the idea I was with Mon and the other EXECOM, and Dr. Concepcion – our president then, Leo Ona, Macky Faylona, On the side, I was already telling the other board members like Alfred and Leo and even Mon. Puwede bang mag joint convention nalang tayo pare mahirap mag-organize ngayon. The pandemic was still there. There and there was a big question on having that face to face meeting and we were already starting to look for sponsors and we were having a difficult time. And this idea was more solidified when we really got into the work of doing of organizing that particular surgical forum. Because if you look at the schedule, on July the month before our surgical forum, it started up with PALES, and then the surgical oncology society in the latter last few weeks of July. Before our surgical forum and by that time, you were soliciting for pharmaceutical friends, we were really having a hard time and notwithstanding that they already did not do well during the time of the pandemic, so that was basically a decision that was that that was made because of the difficulty in looking for sponsors. Kasi nga tatlo tatlo kaagad, magcocontribute sila sa tatlong sunod sunod na society and that will certainly be a big financial burden on their part. So that was basically the biggest reason that I started to talk with Mon Ong knowing that he will be the President of PALES and I will be the incoming President of PSGS. So I took that opportunity to suggest this to him. Hopefully, he remembers that. On the side, when I was really trying to look at the other reasons behind why I thought of it, it was basically because PSGS and PALES really have the same, you know, vision. Most PALES members are general surgeons. Kaya mukhang madali ata ito or that's because that's the way things will go - Minimally invasive surgery. If we ask what else can the organization, the PSGS, can give to our fellows, I think giving them the opportunity to upgrade their skills in minimally invasive surgery is one way of doing it.

#### Host

Thank you so much for that account. It's also interesting that you really did open that comment that it is a very tedious process to organize an event, especially something as big as a Symposium or even an Annual Convention. If it's OK, I just like to ask, is it really very hard to organize a convention? What usually would be the steps? Is it just decide on the sponsors and then bahala na or is it a theme first and then you formulate your topics? How does a convention usually start? From the idea from what you told us, there was already an understanding from PSS and Palace regarding we want to work together, but after that what would be what would be usually the steps in organizing such an event?

#### **Dr. Raymund Ong**

How tedious? Honestly, it's very tedious and very challenging. Basically, you need extensive planning. Then initial talks with both the EXECOM of the two societies, and of course take into consideration the people who will support the convention, in this case, the companies that will be providing the needed support to make this convention happen. For the process, usually it starts with brainstorming, and then you decide on the theme, that will be applicable to both organizations.

#### Dr. Jaime Lagunilla

You know when I became a board member of PSGS, I really wasn't able to observe because in my first year, I was just an observer. And then during 2019–2020 it was already the pandemic so everything was virtual. When I took over and was the chair of the organizing committee, I really had a difficult time. Di naman ganun ka-difficult because we had the Ad Hoc Committee of Surgical Conventions, so everybody was helping everyone. And the experience of my colleagues in the Board of Directors was really something to say since they have been there for quite a long time. Anyway, we usually start with the theme first then once we get the board's approval, then once approved by the board, then we look for topics that are in alignment with our theme. So it's basically just like that, and then we start looking for a venue, but most of the time we have EDSA Shangri-la for that and then a meeting of the minds or a meeting between EDSA Shangri-la to finalize the financial aspect of the convention. Otherwise, the scientific session, the scientific part of the Convention is basically formulated based on the theme that was approved by the board.







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If we ask what else can the organization, the PSGS, can give to our fellows, I think giving them the opportunity to upgrade their skills in minimally invasive surgery is one way of doing it.

Dr. Lagunilla

Ang problema lang diyan ay kung ang speakers na hinahanap mo ay hindi available and then you already have your topic. Then you have to look again for somebody to fill in the gap. Hindi siya ganun kahirap because everybody's trying to help or helping each other out.

You know, we were in the transition phase from the pandemic, well, we call it normal.

#### Host

Thank you, Sir. You're mentioning the like and the power of the committees and the Members. It sounds like everything's working in parallel, that there is some, there's a scientific arm, is that correct? And then there's also a financial part that they work In sync with each other. It's not just a one person show you have a lot of people helping out. Tama ho ba?

#### Dr. Jaime Lagunilla

Yes, the committee members and the different committees there.

#### Host

So more or less a concerted effort. But what would be the easiest part when organizing the joint Convention? What would be your favorite part or easiest part in organizing this joint convention and also the other way around the most difficult one?

#### Dr. Raymund Ong

Easiest? There is no easy way. But I think it is agreeing to conduct such a grandiose event.

#### Dr. Jaime Lagunilla

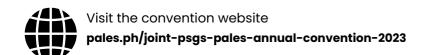
Easiest part: Convincing the board of this convention. I mean, when this idea was brought forward, everybody was very enthusiastic. Everybody was very supportive. They liked the idea. So that was the easy part. Even when the PSGS board approved it, Dr. Mon Ong invited me to a board meeting of the PALES to explain our side why we would want this. I didn't even need to explain it. Everybody was already on board. Madali yung pagconvince e. There's no conflict. Nobody questioned it. It's the era of collaboration and cooperation, and it's the right time to do it so everybody just approved it. Very enthusiastic all out support. That was the easy part.

#### Host

Very nice to hear that everyone was in sync and everyone was on board. But What would be the most difficult? Or was it all smooth sailing throughout this whole process since last year or this year?

#### **Dr. Raymund Ong**

The most difficult part? Since we are all coming from Metro Manila, the face-to-face visits to Cebu is one, the other is harmonizing all the activities based on our objectives, and of course, getting our sponsors. Communication and coordination follow, while both organizations have common interests, they each have their own strategies to achieve a common goal.







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#### Dr. Jaime Lagunilla

You know what? The national made all of this decision. It was the National board. We forgot something because when we were planning it, Duon tayo sa Cebu, Duon tayo sa Cebu. Because we were planning to make it a regional convention, we have to have a place that was attractive also to non-Filipinos and get away from our usual Manila-based convention. Kay Cebu kami ng Cebu. But we forgot to ask permission or to ask the Cebu chapters of both organizations to come on board. Imagine that it's hard putting all this work. Kasi sila yung magiging partner namin e. For the Cebu chapters of PSGS and PALES, I have to accept that we missed out on that. Actually, when we inducted the officers of the PSGS Cebu Chapter, after that, I had to apologize to them. I asked them if they were willing to host the Annual Convention and then when they said yes, that was the time that I apologized to them because from the very start, we should have been consulted before we made our decision. That aspect was not really as difficult as it seemed though.

The most difficult part, really, was the financial aspect. As usual, the financial aspect takes a heavy burden. Mainly because most of our pharmaceutical friends are based in Manila. And logistically, hindi namin nakita ni Dr. Ong, the logistics of bringing some of these people to Cebu already cost them a lot of money, especially on the PALES side, in their workshops, in the machines, and their trainers, and everything – that will already cost them a lot. And some are not very familiar with Cebu. The logistics of bringing in these people to Cebu, would already cost the pharmaceutical industries a heavy financial burden. That's why the support we get from them becomes smaller and smaller. But yeah, we were still able, as of the moment, ok naman na. We don't have any worries on the financial side anymore. Hopefully, the delegates will now come in. But ultimately. Well, there's another thing. Both organizations actually have their own set of rules when we do conventions, and then to marry those two will you know somehow create difficulties in satisfying both organizations. Yeah, but considering it's difficult, you know the support of both boards, of the individual members of the board are very, very open to anything that will somehow lead to the success of the Joint Convention.

#### Host

Thank you, Sir. It's very nice to hear and I'm sure regarding the Cebu chapter, they were to an extent, surprised, but they were very ready to handle such an endeavor. And I'm sure that they're very excited about our convention. It's very interesting also with regards to our sponsors and industry partners to an extent we don't really consider sometimes but for them moving to another place is very hard. But still, somehow you made the impossible possible. And just mentioning the hardships of marrying the rules of both organizations, etcetera, I'm sure there were specific people and other members that really helped out. How important are the Members? I think you already mentioned it already. Each society had its own members that helped make this convention possible, but who do you think would be any of the unsung heroes you could identify that helped make this joint convention a reality?

#### Dr. Jaime Lagunilla

Lahat e. Mahirap magsabi baka may hindi ako masabi may magalit haha.

Communication and coordination follow, while both organizations have common interests, they each have their own strategies to achieve a common goal.

Dr. Ong





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#### Host

It looks like collaboration and everyone just pitching in, is the real key to making this joint convention a success. So I'd just like to ask another question, just going back to our venue. I would just like to ask why Cebu? If this was something that everyone was so excited about, PSGS and PALES were very excited about the joint Convention and everyone honed in on Cebu why? Why Cebu and any particular reason?

#### Dr. Raymund Ong

Why Cebu? Initially, we were really planning to hold this as an International Convention, which it is an International Convention right now. We also believe Cebu has the experience before of holding the ELSA convention in 2017.

#### Dr. Noel Evangelista

In 2017, ELSA (Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Surgeons of Asia) held its 13th Asia Pacific Congress in Cebu together with our society, PALES. That joint convention of Minimally Invasive Surgeons was a big success, that's why we're doing that again with PSGS.

#### Dr. Jaime Lagunilla

We really planned to have an international at least a regional convention inviting our ASEAN neighbors. That's why we wanted to get out of Metro Manila and offer them something new. But on our part sa PSGS, Cebu is a historical place for us. This is where it all started. This was the place where the seeds for PSGS were planted starting out with the Cebu Eastern Visayas Association, Cebu Association of General Surgeons. That's where it all started and then ultimately became PSGS way back in 1999 that is why this is historical for us. Second is that this will be the 24th year of PSGS and next year we will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of PSGS. So kung duon nagtaning ang umpisa ng PSGS, this will also be the place that we will be starting. So during this convention, we will also be launching the start of the celebration of the 25th year of PSGS, ultimately culminating in Metro Manila on May 21, 2024.

#### Host

Very interesting that there's a lot of symbolism and a lot of sentimental reasons for choosing Cebu. It's not just the venue because of the white sand beaches and all the great food, but actually, it has a lot of meaning to surgeons and not just because of the past, but actually looking forward to the present, since this would probably be a kick-off event to an extent. So looking at the past and then looking forward to the future is a very interesting vision for this joint convention. So that means that we're looking forward to a lot of segments or a lot of speakers or activities. What would you be looking forward to? What are you most excited about for this convention?

#### Dr. Raymund Ong

It goes without saying that both the board of PALES and PSGS would like this landmark event to be successful. Of course, we are expecting a high number of attendees and a very active participation of our fellows.

#### Dr. Jaime Lagunilla

We'll the organizers, the Committee on Convention, actually prepared a whole lot for our attendees, for our delegates, for our fellows or residents. We have the pre-convention workshops, from choledochoscopy to basic lap courses, to live surgery, so this will be good for our fellows to update themselves. And then the opening ceremonies will be on the 19th, we will be inducting new fellows on the part of PSGS. We encourage general surgeons who are still not yet fellows to join us through associate membership, we now have that. This will be the first time that we'll be inducting associate members of the society. And then of course, we look forward to the fellowship night. The Fellowship night will be something else. I mean, both societies are well known for being very gracious during the fellowship night. And at the same time, of course, somebody will get away with a brand new Mercedes-Benz because this will be done during the fellowship night, so somebody will be really very, very happy to go home with the brand new Mercedes-Benz 180. Of course, the usual sessions, it's about marrying the traditional way of doing surgery, the open and the new novel way of doing it through minimally invasive surgery and the topics are really about these two. Certainly, there are topics also for those who do a lot of laparoscopic procedures. Yeah, I think this Convention is a very good way of marrying the old school and the new school I'm hoping that this will not be the last joint convention between the PSGS and PALES. I am hoping this will be an eye opener for everybody that we can actually collaborate and cooperate with each other, all with the interest of our patients in mind. Basically, with this convention, with this educational thing that we're doing, it's all for the benefit of our patients.







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## Sakin naman, bottom line ito - To improve ourselves in order to better serve our countrymen. Dr. Lagunilla

#### Host

Thank you for that. It segues perfectly into my next question and almost the last question, but one of my last questions that I wanted to ask, which you already touched upon, is that is this just a one-time thing only? Do you foresee more avenues that PSGS and PALES, not just in conventions but in other activities or in other projects, would work on?

#### **Dr. Robert Bandolon**

Well, if you start something this good, there is no reason why it can't continue. So, I think this won't be the last, this won't be a one-time thing, especially if this going to be successful. I really foresee that there will be more venues for collaboration. In fact, other societies can join in.

#### Dr. Jaime Lagunilla

Yeah, right now actually we have a lot of activities that we're collaborating with a lot of with PALES. Hybrid online learning is one, which we already offer to our residents. Since minimally invasive surgery is already in our curriculum so hybrid online learning is already a very good way of teaching them laparoscopic skills. Marami pang collaborative efforts actually not just with PALES. You know, maybe we can really widen this collaborative and cooperative effort with all the other societies. There are many societies within the medical field. You know, when I was listening to the PRC Career Development meeting, there are 84 societies in the medical field alone. This will not be the last, and this will not only end with our collaboration with PALES. Certainly, we're open to collaboration with other surgical specialties, I mean we are general surgeons, and we have a very wide knowledge about everything. Yeah, it's not only essential but necessary to also collaborate with other surgical fields. Sakin naman, bottom line ito - To improve ourselves in order to better serve our countrymen.

#### Host

A lot of very quotable quotes that we have heard. Thank you for tonight. It's been a long Interview, but we really just wanted to understand and appreciate the effort and the passion that was put into this joint convention. Would you like to plug any upcoming events for your respective societies?

#### Dr. Jaime Lagunilla

It has not yet been finalized. The External Affairs Committee is working on this, but we'll be launching this in Cebu during the Joint Convention. And we look forward to celebrating the 25th year anniversary of PSGS with several activities. The 10 chapters of PSGS, we're planning to do some sort of torch relay but we'll be relaying something else from chapter to chapter. Hopefully, this will have an impact on the Community. We will also be rolling out the new modules, especially for the junior years. We're starting to do that and hopefully, it can be accessed before my term ends. And then there's another one, there's another activity that everybody's excited about when we first presented it to the board. And that's the PSGS Advocacy on Community Health, wherein we will be asking the different training programs to join hands with the government service in as part of their training. There are a lot of private training programs that are having difficulty meeting the requirements. That's why we are trying to find ways to help them out at the same time. Trying to find ways for the government to have more training programs. Yeah, in your future activities and PSDS that we look forward to, and hopefully we'll come into provision in the next couple of years.

We also have some changes in our constitution and bylaws that we would want the PSGS National to approve through a referendum, especially with regards to membership (Associate membership). We'll be giving out flyers during the convention in order to inform all our members of the amendments that we would want to happen, so that's probably a topic that everybody should be aware of. We'll start with this convention and in two months we'll have a referendum.

#### Host

Well, thank you for gracing us with your presence. Thank you for being in this small talk show that aims to be a tribute to the body of work that is the PSGS PALES Joint Convention and hopefully for the listeners, hopefully, you can really join and sign up and go to Cebu and enjoy and see all the sights, but more importantly, attend the convention. Thank you, everyone, and see you in Cebu.







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# EXPLORING PARADISE

By Dr. Christian Enricuso, FPSGS



I was born and raised in Cebu. Waking up in this island every single day, I am fortunate to call this place my home. Cebu is a tropical paradise that showcases world-class resorts. Tourists flock here for a reason or two. One can do a spur- of- the- moment trip to any of Cebu's 30-minute drive coastal wonders in Mactan. In a heartbeat, you find yourself basking under the golden sun and sands.



Cebu's richness in color and flavor is not to be taken for granted too. The oldest street in the Philippines, Colon, which is at the heart of Cebu City, is home to the city's oldest commerce and trade buildings. At night, Colon is your one-stop shop for anything that captures your interest. The wide array of street food, the fresh produce, and the island souvenirs, make your trip to this historic street memorable. Colon's nearby streets tell so much of the city' history too and what better way to pay homage to the rich culture that is Cebu than to enter the halls of the museums in the area, and be transported to the past. It has to be told that Cebu's Sinulog festival is as historic and symbolic as its origin and story. This will remain as Cebu's identity on a global scale.



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If you're feeling adventurous, you can head down south or up north; whichever way you decide to go, Cebu aims to please so you do not wind up disappointed. Clear waters, white sandy beaches, old churches and Cebu's hospitable people make this island a top choice among local and foreign tourists. There is always something new and delightful to discover.

While Cebu is well-known for its coastal jewels, it does not fall short for its natural and green destinations. Drive up to Nivel Hills all the way to Balamban, you become one with nature as highways are lined with a variety of flora. Bring home a bouquet of fresh flowers or a basket of newly harvested greens, the hills are alive in this part of Cebu.

The city center is vibrant day and night. Drive to IT Park and find yourself immersed in international food options that line up each nook and corner. Cebu has always had a flair for conjuring up with local produce and turning it into something that whets the appetite.

I am a proud Cebuano. The joy of being here and calling this place my home is something that would never be taken away from me. Why? Because Cebu has it all.

















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## ACROSS THE CHAPTERS



## NEGROS OCCIDENTAL CHAPTER











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Recent Activities of PSGS – STC for the month of June (2023)

#### 1. June 2-3

This was two-day, basic laparoscopic cholecystectomy workshop for fifth year general surgery residents from the accredited training programs in STC. Each resident was assigned one pre-selected patient and assisted by a fellow from the UMIST consortium. Evaluation of the resident was done pre-operatively, intra-operatively, and post-operatively using the set prescribed rubrics (PSGS OSATS).

This was held at Batangas Medical Center in Batangas City.

#### 2. June 6

This was a one-day surgical and medical mission by the PSGS-STC, in collaboration with the PCS-STC and Oriental Medical Society for the Mangyan Alangan Tribe in Sitio Aruta, Baco, Oriental Mindoro.

#### 3. June 10

STC conducted its third annual Surgical Strokes Challenge with residents from the accredited training programs in STC competing among each other. This was a one-day activity held at De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute.







## SOUTH TAGALOG CHAPTER



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Philippine College of Surgeons Northern Luzon Chapter
Philippine Society of General Surgeons Northern Luzon Chapter
Philippine Pediatric Society Northern Luzon Chapter

Barangay Hall, Brgy. Rabon, San Fabian, Pangasinan September 4, 2022 8:00 AM-12:00 NN











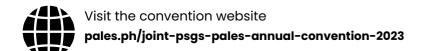
SURGICAL MISSION IN CELEBRATION OF 86TH ANNIVERSARY OF PCS (PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS)

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CONNER HOSPITAL SEPTEMBER 6-7, 2022

ORGANIZED BY: JRRMMC ALUMNI
NORTHERN LUZON

IN COLLABORATION WITH PCS NLC / PSGS NLC





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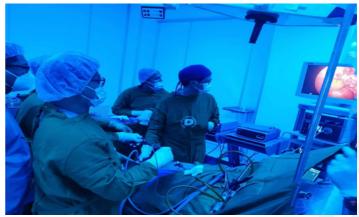


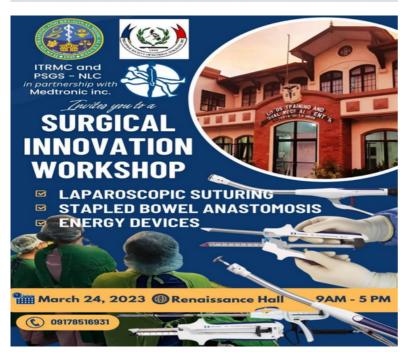
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## NORTH LUZON CHAPTER

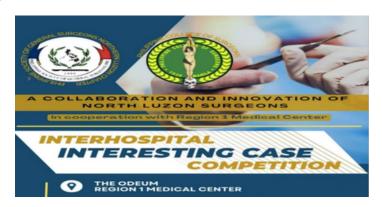


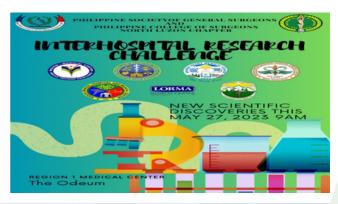


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## NORTH LUZON CHAPTER





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## CENTRAL LUZON CHAPTER









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## CENTRAL LUZON CHAPTER







## Philippine Society of General Surgeons Convention Newsletter

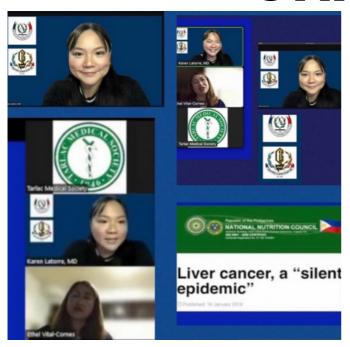
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## CENTRAL LUZON CHAPTER







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## PANAY CHAPTER







Inviting Fellows of PSGS Panay Chapter and Residents of

> 17 Sept 2022 8AM (Sat) AudioVisual Room Hollo Doctor's College of Medicine

Surgery



B BRAUN SHARING EXPERTISE







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## PANAY CHAPTER















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## CEBU AND EASTERN VISAYAS CHAPTER







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## METRO MANILA CHAPTER





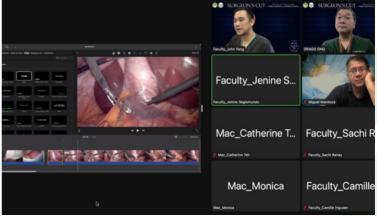


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# ACROSS THE CHAPTERS METRO MANILA CHAPTER









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## METRO MANILA CHAPTER







SURGICAL TRAINING REINFORCING APPLICATIONS FOR NON-TECHNICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL SKILLS (STRANDS)









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## METRO MANILA CHAPTER







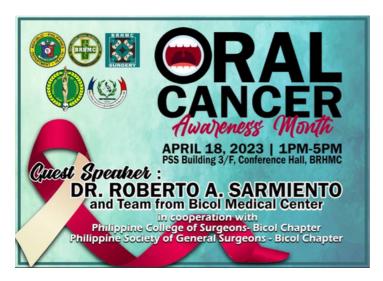




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## **BICOL CHAPTER**





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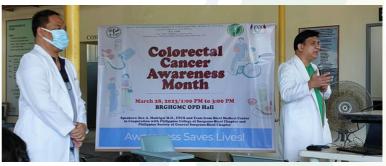
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## **BICOL CHAPTER**