

PHILIPPINE PSYCHIATRISTS IN **AMERICA**

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PPA

PPA OFFICERS 2005-2006

President: Nestor Riel, MD

Secretary/Treasurer: Leo Arevalo, MD

Immediate Past President: Francis Sanchez, MD

President-Elect: Nestor Riel, MD

Secretary/Treasurer-Elect: Melanie Akalal, MD

Advisers: Norma Panahon, MD Albert Gaw, MD Rena Nora, MD



Visit our website to see more photos of the meeting!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

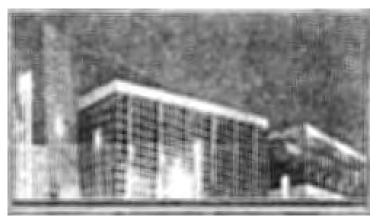
2005 Institute on Psychiatric Services October 5-9, 2005 San Diego, CA

2006 APA Annuai Meeting May 20-25, 2006 Toronto, Canada

ATLANTA 2005 ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS!

 $m{I}$ n the evening of May 24th 2005 at the Embassy Suites Centennial Legacy Ballroom in Atlanta, GA, members of the Philippine Psychiatrists in America once again gathered as an organization for our annual meeting. It was a great pleasure seeing everyone's enthusiasm and experiencing camaraderie we've come to expect every year. We were particularly delighted with the arrival of new members who are either early career psychiatrists or in residency training. Our efforts to reach out to fellow Filipino psychiatrists have paid off! We hope others who were unable to come this year will make it in the next annual meeting.

The evening's program began with a review of the past year by outgoing president Dr. Francis Sanchez. The year's highlight was the creation of the PPA website, which was given 21 well-deserved applause. The membership directory has been updated using modern technology. We are once again opening our mailboxes to find latest issue of the PPA newsletter.



Georgia World Congress Center-APA 2005

We are recognized as a component society of the American Psychiatric Association and an active member of the Caucus of Asian American Psychiatry, We are networking with the Philippine. Psychiatric Association. whose president. Dr. Sonia Castro-Rodriguez, took time to join us that evening. Lastly, our advisers, Drs. Albert Gaw. Norma Panahon, and Rena Nora, were given recognition for devoting their time. effort, and resources to make the past year a success.

The keynote fecture by Dr. Albert Gaw followed. Entitled "The Role of GABA in Schizophrenia", it was highly informative and relevant in this era of

modem psychiatry.

Then came the all-important election of officers. This year's election was unusual. because the incoming president was elected another term, hence the title "President-elect-elect". This was decided only after a spirited lively and discussion, which at one point even called updating our by-laws.

Dr. Castro-Rodrigueza president of "the other PPA". personally delivered her message to us, calling for "...exchanging ideas for the advancement of Philippine mental health." She also invited us to their upcoming annual convention to be held Palawan, Philippines.

As in the past years, Drs. Jack Meintyre, past president of the APA, and Jeffrey Akaka. APA Assembly's representative of deputy American Indian, Alaska Native. and Native Hawaiian Psychiatrists. graced the occasion with (continued next page)



Keynote Speaker Dr. Albert Gaw

s I look back at successful our annual. meeting last May, two things came to my attention that set goals for my term as president. First, we must be more represented in discussions of issues in psychiatry. Second, we need to update constitution to adapt to changes in the way our organization has been running in recent years.

As Filipino psychiatrists, we have our unique take on issues affecting our profession. It is therefore important that we actively take part in discussion of such issues. Is there legislation allowing psychologists to prescribe in the state where you practice? What can you say about Tom Cruise's anti-psychiatry

comments? Are those running for office in the APA supportive of our interests? How do the recent FDA changes in medication labels affect your practice? I would like PPA members to have an open discussion on these and other relevant issues in psychiatry. Feel send your free to comments through our Hopefully at website. some point we can create online discussions email groups.

By being better organized and structured, we can create and maintain open lines of communication

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

among our members. This brings me to my next topic.

In the past few years I've been with the PPA, we have not strictly followed the procedure in electing our officers (but we've always ended up with very capable officers). Whether we should go back to following the constitution by the letter (election by ballot) or with come пр an alternative may be up for During our discussion. last meeting, we had a lively exchange of ideas regarding the tenure of the president and the rules of succession. As for other

"I would like PPA members to have an open discussion ...on relevant issues in psychiatry. Feel free to send your comments through our website."

(www.PPA-online.org click on "Contact Us")

constitution matters, did you know that in the current version, there are proposed amendments that neither been approved or disapproved? Did you know that the secretary should succeed the President-Elect? Did you know that the tenure of the Treasurer should be 2 years? I would encourage reviewing (click on "Constitution and By-Laws" in our website) and discussing these matters, so hopefully as our next meeting approaches, we will come up with some resolution.

Not to get lost in every single detail of our constitution, my approach is to move forward with the goals and objectives of our organization while putting into effect gradual changes so that eventually our constitution will truly reflect our activities.

To ensure continuity in our organization, we must have a Board This is Governors. composed of current and past officers who will govern the affairs of the organization and help make the transition smooth during turnover of officers every year.

I also would like to form committees to give our members an opportunity contribute to organization in activities that best suit their interests. These would be the areas membership, publication, website development, political action, special projects, etc.

There is obviously a lot of work ahead, but I remain very grateful to the officers in the past few years who already started the work by reaching out to our members and increasing the interest and support in our organization.

(Write your comments to: PPA, 2861 Compton Place, Tracy, CA 95377)

ATLANTA 2005...

continued

their presence. They both pointed out that Filipinos are underrepresented in APA affairs and challenged us to play a more active role and let our voices be heard as an organization.

The program concluded with remarks. by incoming president Dr. Nestor Riel, who aims to continue the great progress made in the past year in re-energizing the organization and promoting growth and professional camaraderic 200ma оиг In his words, members. "...my job is to listen to you. my fellow members, and to act accordingly to see to it PPA becomes the organization we want it to be.**

Thank you to those who attended and helped make this event a success. To those who could not be with us, we hope to hear from you soon. Thank you to those who paid their annual dues and contributions. Thank you to our sponsors. To all current and future PPA members, we hope to see you in Toronto in 2006!



Induction of officers 🔺

Former PPA president Dr. Norma Panahon with Drs. Jack McIntyre and Jeffrey Akaka of the APA ▼





It's time to renew your membership!

The following are lifetime members*:

- 1. Adonis Amparo, MD
- 2. Leo dela Cruz, MD
- 3. Joe C. Fermo, MD
- 4. Merli G. Fermo, MD
- 5. Michael J.Fermo, MD
- 6. Oscar Lopez, MD
- 7. Jo Anne Macasact-Kim, MD
- 8. Rena Nora, MD
- 9. Norma Panahon, MD
- 10. Manuel Pardo, MD
- 11. Rogelio Rancal, MD
- 12. Letty Tan-Fermo, MD

Just in...

If you would like to offer assistance to victims of hurricane **Katrina**, you may volunteer at www.jonationwide.com and click on the "Apply Here" button or call (800)272-2707.

The Louisiana Office of Public Health has listed numbers that physicians can call if they would like to offer assistance: Carl Maddox Field House (225)219-0821
Pete Maravich Assembly Center (225)578-0377
OLOL Medical Staff Office (225)765-8871
If you do not get an answer from any of these numbers, fax your request to volunteer to (225)763-5730 and a representative will contact you.

You may also contact the American Red Cross, <u>www.redcross.org</u>, which is asking for volunteer mental health professionals.

Cash donations are urgently needed for the relief effort. For a list of organizations accepting donations, please visit the FEMA website, www.fema.gov.

The APA is providing resources in Disaster Psychiatry to members in District Branches through the main Disaster Committee website at www.psych.org/disasterpsych.

Most importantly, let us keep the disaster victims and their families, as well as those involved in the relief efforts, in our prayers...

*There may be some of you who are already lifetime members but are not listed here. Please indicate in the form below if you are a lifetime member so we can update our records. Thank you.

×		please return lower portion with your payment	######################################
		MEMBERSHIP DUES	
Name		Phone	
Address		Email	
Check one:	Annual \$35.00	Member-In-Training \$25.00	Lifetime \$200.00
	I am a Lifetime N	Member I paid my dues during the May	y 24 th meeting.
Please make check payable to:		Philippine Psychiatrists in America 2861 Compton Place	

Tracy, CA 95377