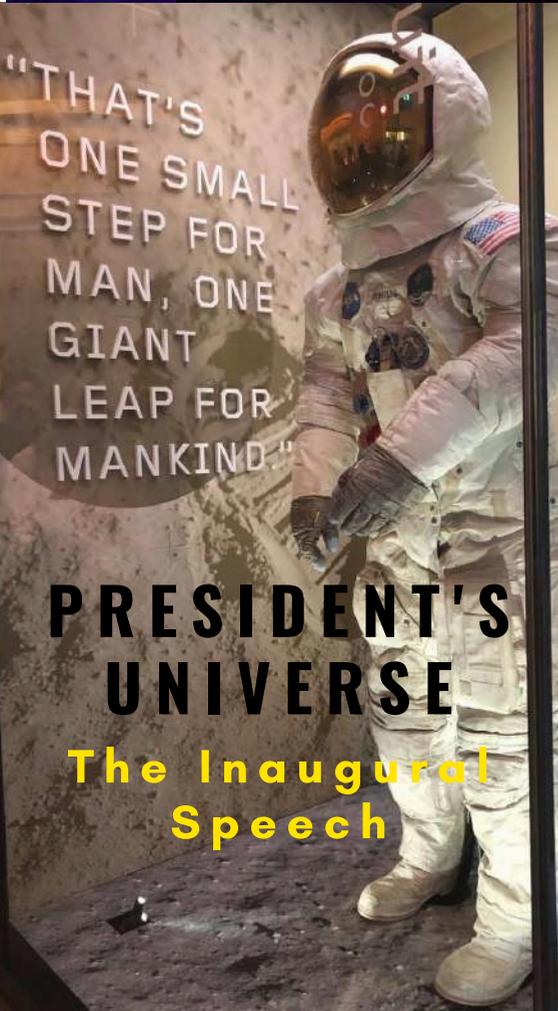


JANUARY-JULY 2020, VOLUME 1



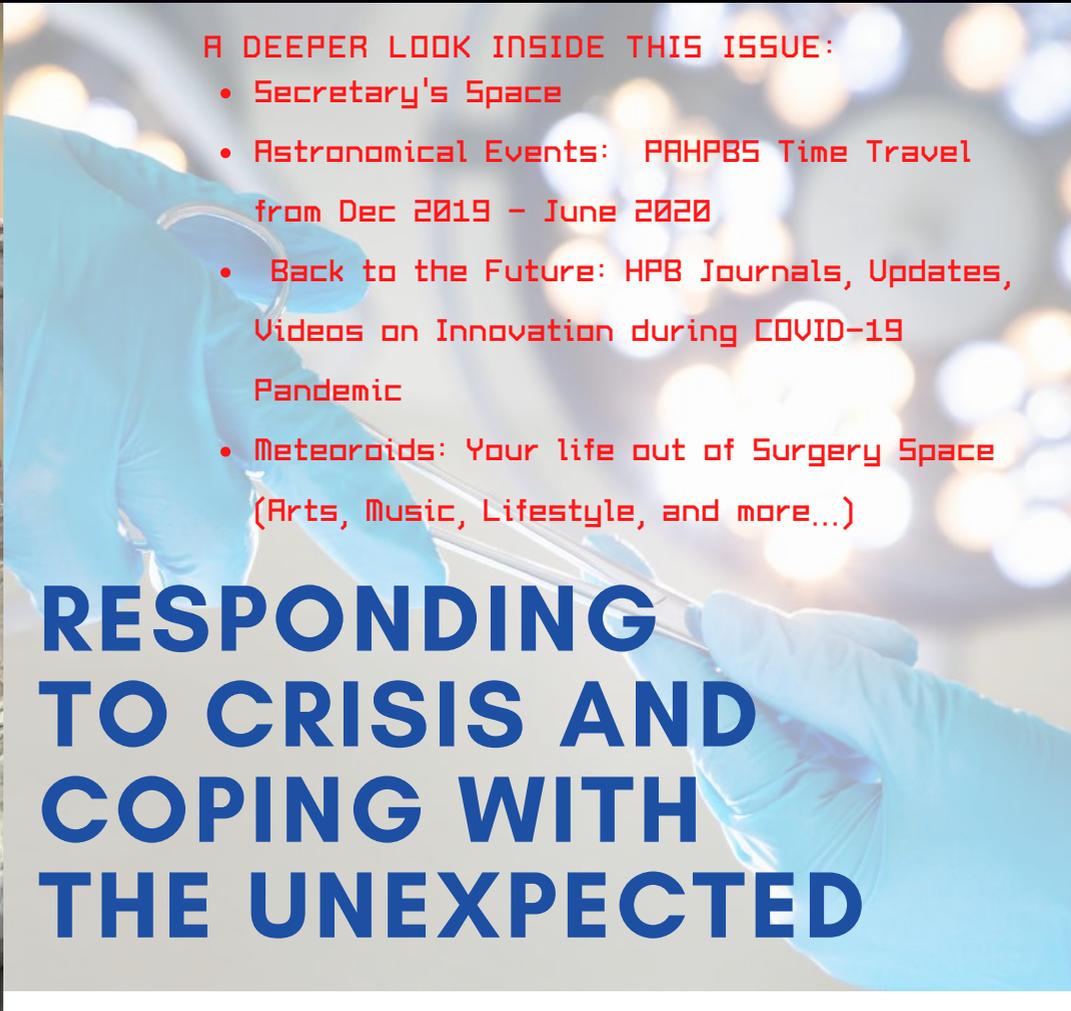
C.O.M.E.T.S.

*Communications and Opportunities for Members to Enhance
Training and Service
a PAPHBS newsletter*



"THAT'S
ONE SMALL
STEP FOR
MAN, ONE
GIANT
LEAP FOR
MANKIND."

**PRESIDENT'S
UNIVERSE**
The Inaugural
Speech



A DEEPER LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Secretary's Space
- Astronomical Events: PAPHBS Time Travel from Dec 2019 - June 2020
- Back to the Future: HPB Journals, Updates, Videos on Innovation during COVID-19 Pandemic
- Meteoroids: Your life out of Surgery Space (Arts, Music, Lifestyle, and more...)

**RESPONDING
TO CRISIS AND
COPING WITH
THE UNEXPECTED**

Philippine College of Surgeons Foundation, Inc.
presents the

Philippine College of Surgeons
75th Annual Clinical Congress
**Game Changers
in Surgery**

INAUGURAL ADDRESS
CATHERINE SC TEH, MD, FPCS, FRCS(ED)

President
Philippine Association of HPB Surgeons
2020-2022



PRESIDENT'S UNIVERSE

INAUGURAL SPEECH OF PAHPBS PRESIDENT DR. CATHERINE SC TEH

This year marks the 50th year of Apollo 11. The mission that first landed humans on the moon safely. This has inspired me with a “Moonshot Thinking” for our society, the PAHPBS. We needed both radical and breakthrough solutions to create a massive impact perhaps just like the approaching typhoon Tisoy.

Looking back, 10 years ago, it was a moonshot to create this society. Though a little late in our developments in the HPB field. The landscape has always been that of general surgery. Modern and advanced, scientific and responsible liver, biliary, pancreatic surgery has taken place only in the past 15-20 years. It was not perceived as a specialty at that time, in the eyes of Filipino surgeons. Even before PAHPBS was formally inaugurated.

In 2014, I organised the 1st HPB masterclass where I performed a Live demonstration of laparoscopic hepatectomy. The next 2 masterclasses followed in 2015 and 2016, following the same format of 1.5 days of didactic and live surgery on day 2. These were necessary to improve awareness and drum up the interest of surgeons to specialise, train and pursue HPB. Thankfully, this moonshot idea was shared by

"Looking back, 10 years ago, it was a moonshot to create this society (PAHPBS). We needed both radical and breakthrough solutions to create a massive impact..."

the same group of HPB enthusiasts and in 2015, we were inaugurated as the Philippine Association of HPB Surgeons graced by Prof Daniel Cherqui as keynote. There were only 21 founding members at that time. Today, 4 years later, we have a 22 associate members and 114 members with Prof Henri Bismuth as an honorary fellow. I believe, we are a bunch of people who believe in moonshots. We faced birth pains and growing pains in this first 4 years. Thankfully we have 2 wise men who lead us to unity and provided us the wisdom in carrying out the vision and mission of this young society. And for that I wish to take that opportunity to give my profound gratitude to both Dr Mon de Vera as the founding President and Dr Ernesto Tan our outgoing President. Let us give them a big round of applause.



...THE INAUGURAL SPEECH

THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

Many things have happened since then. And I thank the Board of trustees all for working with me. With that I urge you to give another round of applause to the Board of trustees who worked hard to realise our vision as the nationally recognised leaders in HPB care.

Last year, we held the 1st international symposium with 0% funding and 100% doubt. Not knowing whether there will be enough attendees, and many more concerns. I did not hesitate despite the odds. 9 Internationally known speakers came to support us with Norihiro Kokudo our IHPBA president elect as our keynote. Those who were there experienced the high quality scientific content for learning and mutual exchange. It was a roaring success!!! Indeed, I am a believer of moonshots.

And the rest is history.

Today, I stand here with tremendous honour and privilege as I accept the challenge as your President for the next 2 years, as a person who breathes, eats and sleeps HPB, I am much more inspired by moonshot thinking. The Lancet Global Surgery Commission found that nearly one-third of the global burden of disease can be treated surgically and that 5 billion people lack access to safe and affordable surgical care. That includes us!!! Philippines!

Locally, Liver Cancer is the 3rd leading cause of cancer related mortality in the country. In 2016, 8,580 HCCs were diagnosed, and the same number of 8,230 patients with HCC died. We have got to do better than that!!! The lack of expertise, urban-rural divide, creating infrastructure contribute to this huge problem, not to mention the lack of political will and unity amongst us. This is not the time to identify as I or you, but we and us, together as one. **One HPB, One Vision, One Goal, One Moonshot for the Filipino patients.** Let us identify our needs, institution per institution, let us think of centralisation of cases because we all know that high volume centers produce good outcomes. Not every hospital can be an HPB center, resources are meagre, whether human or infrastructure. We need funding and we need the government to align with our needs not only for the patients but for training. Understandably, without the volume, how can we train our younger colleagues to become experts? Capacity building is sorely lacking.

" This is not the time to identify as I or you, but we and us, together as one. One HPB, One Vision, One Goal, One Moonshot for the Filipino patients. "



GOALS

- Bridge the Gap
 - Improve training curriculum
 - Access to Quality HPB surgery
 - Patient Safety
- Engage Government
- Unify for a Philippine Liver Transplant Program
- Minimal Access HPB Sx
- Strengthen partnerships within & externally
- Support & Empower young HPB surgeons
- Cyber presence - website, social media
- Local & International Representation



I am taking this opportunity to challenge everyone to be a game changer, to be inspired by moonshot thinking, let us all be one and improve these gaps... Bridge these gaps and improve our training curriculum, improve access not only for patient care but quality surgical outcomes. Let us engage the government, unify as the Philippine Liver Transplant Program, provide opportunities for minimal access HPB surgeries through training, local and international partnerships, please let us support and empower our your colleagues, make them shine, shine much brighter than us for tomorrow the landscape is for them to change and for us to look back. Let us also take advantage of social media and create a place in the cyberspace, develop local and international representation and collaboration.

It is time we create expert teams and not teams of experts. For there will be roles to take by each one of us. Let us remember there is unity in diversity.

Let us continue to grow and shine, so that by 2027, we can change this map of liver transplantation and Join the rest in turning pink!

...THE INAUGURAL SPEECH

THE FUTURE

Let us take advantage of technology, for example telemedicine as a education & collaborative platform. Technology in minimal access surgery such as laparoscopic & robotic approach are here to stay, There will always be patients who will want to have those services. Again, not every institution is capable due to the high learning curve and high cost. What is necessary first and foremost is to have HPB surgeons in every region to take care of these needs, whether open or lap. Technology is a must because pre-operative planning by radiologic assessment is the backbone of a good surgical outcome in liver, biliary and pancreatic surgery. Improving diagnostic and planning access & expertise alone will already change the landscape where unnecessary surgeries are done causing harm and surgeries / interventions needed are not given effectively and efficiently. Twinning with local institutions, partnerships with other specialties, with expert centers abroad, including humanitarian outreach are solutions right in front of us that we should take advantage of especially for the development of liver transplant program.



" It is time we create expert teams and not teams of experts. For there will be roles to take by each one of us. Let us remember there is unity in diversity. "

REACHING THE MOON TOGETHER



...THE INAUGURAL SPEECH

REACHING THE MOON TOGETHER

Open our eyes and hearts to the current standards and advances - join the international community like the IHPBA 2020, AHPBA,

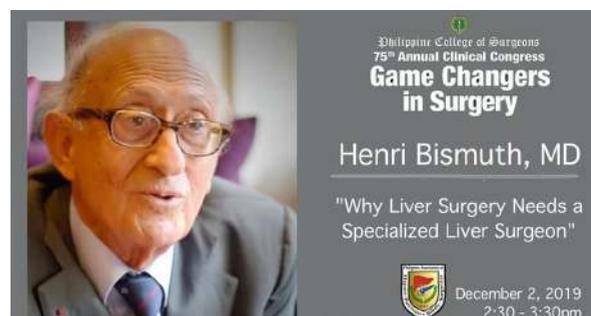
And I will continue to extend our network across the globe to be able to bring them to you , to us

Come 2020, we will be hosting the 3rd ASEAN Lap HPB conference here in Shangrila, and we hope to see you again and and be part of history !

Ladies & Gentlemen, All I want for Christmas is your support. Please sign-up in a committee, one in which you think you will and may have a contribution. Think of how you can give back, for giving back is the way to true happiness. Give back to our country and give back as a responsible global citizen.

And Perhaps, soon, we can reach for the moon, together.

I wish each one of you a very Merry Christmas and Thank you for listening.



"THINK OF HOW YOU CAN GIVE BACK, FOR GIVING BACK IS THE WAY TO TRUE HAPPINESS. GIVE BACK TO OUR COUNTRY AND GIVE BACK AS A RESPONSIBLE GLOBAL CITIZEN. AND PERHAPS, SOON, WE CAN REACH FOR THE MOON, TOGETHER."



SECRETARY'S SPACE

PAHPBS in COVID Times

by DR. JOSE MACARIO FAYLONA

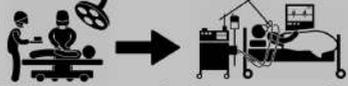
The past seven months have been challenging to this young society. The COVID pandemic hit hard on all aspects of our lives starting from the lockdown imposed last March and still continuing at the present. Though the prediction of the UP OCTA group is that we have already flattened the curve this does not mean that we are done with this pandemic. Despite the limitations in activity imposed by the lockdown, your society has been very busy in continuing our monthly board meetings done online of course, providing continuous educational activities for our members and fellows in training and collaborations with other societies and stakeholders to upgrade HPB care for our local setting.

COVID related activities started with the PAHBPS COVID-19 health advisory for people with liver diseases and liver transplant patients which was published as early as March 20. This was followed with the society's recommendations in time of this pandemic. The 10Ps of PAHPBS was subsequently published. There were infographics created to popularize all of these documents for better understanding and application in the community. The society was also the first to innovate on how to have a smoke evacuation system recommended for open surgery and subsequently also a system for laparoscopic surgery. Guidelines were also published on certain diseases and how to manage them during COVID times. All of these was due to the diligence and brains of our current president. Dr. Catherine Teh with the support and input of everyone in the board.





MANAGING COVID-19 IN SURGICAL SYSTEMS

 Prepare for a rapidly evolving situation: re-evaluate frequently	 Educate all staff on PPE and COVID-19 management	Develop A dedicated COVID operating space  Specific room for all COVID operations  No unnecessary items inside  Minimize traffic in and out  Recover in OR until ready for isolation room  Keep transport pathways clear  Specific care pathways should be developed for each site
 Postpone elective operations immediately, save personnel & PPE	 Decrease health care staff exposure: Limit to most experienced	
 Develop a clear plan for providing essential operations	 OR/RR may need to be converted to ICUs as landscape changed	

Reference: M. Brindle & A. Gawande, Managing COVID in Surgical Systems. Annals of Surgery 2020. Pre-publication

Despite the COVID pandemic, the society takes this opportunity to continuously educate our members and fellows through the various platforms. First, the quarterly fellows' forums hosted by the different training programs continue to provide excellent topics that stimulate discussion and achieve learning by sharing of cases, current approaches in diagnostic and treatment options.

The society also invited Dr Horacio Asbun, President of SAGES as a panelist when we shared our guidelines last April 24, 2020. This initiated the first of the many succeeding webinars by other specialty societies. PALES also jointly participated in this 1st webinar after the PCS debuted a week prior. This was followed by other activities such as the the SAGES HPB Facebook Collaborative Educational Series "All things HPB" last May 13, 2020, where Dr Teh shared current approaches to "All Things HCC". The PCS 46th midyear convention online last May 28, 2020, The PAHBPS Webinar Decision Making and Tailored Management of Gallbladder Cancer last June 4, 202 was received very well as this successful event was also participated by Dr Anil Argawal, known in the field of GB Cancer.

The society continues to build up its educational online presence with the next events coming up in the second half of the year. Stay tuned for the biggest event this August as PAHPBS hosts the 3rd ASEAN Laparoscopic HPB Conference online.

Another landmark event that will serve to increase physician's awareness and help us develop our Philippine Liver Transplant program is The LiverTX Seminars. This is a recurring webinar activity starting from July 1. PAHPBS is determined to develop the Liver Transplant Program together with the Hepatology Society of the Philippines (HSP). A committee on Liver transplant program headed by Dr Vanessa de Villa has initiated meetings with multi-stakeholders. We hope that this will improve our program for Liver transplant.

It is also unfortunate that one of our board member resigned due to personal reasons and the board welcomed back Dr. Monette Casupang as a member of the board of directors for 2020 to 2022. This was decided upon based on the last election returns in Dec 2019. It was approved by the board of directors in the last Board meeting.

The society under the leadership of our tireless moonshot-thinking president continues to work for the society and as of the moment, plans are already being made for further activities that will promote the practice of HPB in our country. So, check back on our 2nd issue of the PAHPBS newsletter for all these exciting developments as we continue work hard for improving the state of HPB care for Filipinos. May the pandemic end soon and let us all be safe.

C.O.M.E.T.S. JANUARY-JULY 2020 VOLUME I

ASTRONOMICAL EVENTS

PAHPBS Time Travel from
Dec 2019 - June 2020

Events and Online publications

By: Dr. Karen Latorre

04 Feb 2020- PCS Alliance for Life: A Cancer Summit

20 March 2020- PAHPBS COVID-19 Health Advisory for people with Liver Disease and Liver Transplant patients: A Guide for Clinicians: Liver involvement in SARS-CoV2 Infection/Covid-19

21 March 2020- PAHPBS Recommendations in Time of COVID-19 Pandemic

24 March 2020- STOP COVID Infographic

31 March 2020- PAHPBS Letter to Fellows and Members: Video on Smoke Evacuation Close Filtered Suction System Open Surgery

3 April 2020- Video on Smoke Evacuation Close Filtered Suction System Laparoscopic Surgery

09 April 2020- The 9Ps of PAHPBS Post-ECQ Preparedness in COVID-19 Pandemic

- Acute Cholecystitis and Gallbladder Disease During the Covid-19 Pandemic: Management Guidelines

23 April 2020- The 10Ps of PAHPBS Post-ECQ Preparedness in COVID-19 Pandemic: Managing COVID -19 in Surgical Systems

24 April 2020- 1st PAHPBS and PALES Webinar

13 May 2020- SAGES HPB Facebook Collaborative Educational Series "All things HPB"

28 May 2020- PCS 46th Midyear Convention Online: PAHPBS Symposium on Advanced Imaging in HPB Surgery

04 June 2020- PAHPBS Webinar Decision Making and Tailored Management of Gallbladder Cancer

01 July 2020- LiverTx Seminars (a recurring series of Webinars)



PCS Alliance for Life: A Cancer Summit 04 February 2020

PAHPBS spent an eye-opening morning in support of the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) at the Alliance for Life: A Cancer Summit held last 04 Feb 2020 at the PMA Auditorium, Quezon City.

The focus of the summit was on Delivery of Quality Multidisciplinary Cancer Care to the Filipino People: A lofty and arduous yet definitely worthy goal that needs to start from the grassroots level and be spared from bureaucracy.

A Lay Forum was conducted by the PCS for interested LGU and barangay health workers. This was simultaneous with an intense Round Table Discussion among stakeholders of the PCS Commission on Cancer, the DOH, and the Presidents of the respective Component Societies of the PCS and PMA involved in the care of Cancer Patients. The activity culminated in the inauguration and formal introduction of the members of the PCS Commission on Cancer.



RESILIENCE: COVID-19 Pandemic Coverage



RESILIENCE

March - April 2020

As we continue to fight against COVID-19 performing our duties in treating HPB patients, helping our colleagues manage COVID-19 patients and responsibly looking after ourselves, our families, colleagues and friends; we continue to enrich ourselves in expanding our knowledge and improving our surgical skills by spearheading & participating in various e-learning programs and platforms. In light of the unique set of challenges posed by the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic, the organization adapted to the rapidly changing clinical landscape.

Recognizing the need for immediate action, grounded on best-available yet rapidly evolving data, PAHPBS released online circulars and guides for patients and surgeons alike as early as March 21, a few days after the lockdown. Among

these were the widely circulated PAHPBS Recommendations in the Time of Covid-19 Pandemic which served as a guide for clinicians in managing HPB surgical cases as the Covid-19 situation was unfolding. It emphasized Risk Urgency strategies for triage in situations of dwindling resources and manpower. In keeping with its mandate of leadership, PAHPBS likewise continued to release regular updates to its recommendations throughout March and April as majority of the country went into ECQ. These were not limited to quality surgical care alone, but also extended to systems engineering, organizing team competencies, and action plans for surgical teams that could be adopted in hospital settings across the country. Circulars were released online: Managing Covid-19 in Surgical Systems, STOP COVID, The PAHPBS Covid-19 Health Advisory for people with Liver Disease and Liver Transplant patients and A Guide for Clinicians: Liver involvement in SARS-CoV2 Infection/Covid-19 and



... RESILIENCE

videos for simple and affordable innovations in smoke evacuation in laparoscopic and open surgery were widely disseminated and shared through all social media platforms.

Recognizing the need to always be two steps ahead of a problem, PAHPBS released a circular The 9Ps of PAHPBS Post-ECQ Preparedness in COVID-19 Pandemic were released and was received widely as a guide for many institutions, well-ahead of the lifting of the ECQ measures in the country. These recommendations emphasized risk mitigation strategies for patients and health care workers alike, rationalization of team approaches as well as rational use of PPE. It was subsequently updated to the 10Ps of Post-ECQ Preparedness. All these may be found in the PAHPBS facebook page as the PAHPBS webpage is still under construction.

"Recognizing the need to always be two steps ahead of a problem..."



In response to the rapidly- evolving and challenging situation brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, PAHPBS tirelessly worked towards collating best-available evidence and creating rational and practical recommendations for clinicians and patients alike. As workflows were abruptly disrupted, and clinic and hospital visits were placed at a standstill, and so many limitations to health-care access were imposed by the national quarantine measures, the emphasis was on Preparedness and Calibration of the health care response not only for Covid-19, but also for the equally important welfare of HPB and Cancer patients.

PAHPBS produced written recommendations and Infographics designed to encourage institutions to engineer their systems: to exercise regular, daily team briefing; Organize Competencies of their teams and Prepare for action; Communicate, Collaborate, Coordinate; Optimize and conserve hospital resources; and to be vigilant of rapid evolution. It was important to Innovate whenever necessary, keeping safety in mind, and lastly; to Document and Debrief.

Planning for Surgery in the Covid-19 Pandemic: The 10 P's for Preparedness in the Post- ECQ Period and Beyond

1. Prepare OR workflows.
2. Prioritize emergency, urgent and life-threatening cases.
3. Patient selection is key especially in cancer cases.
4. Provide Context, Consideration, Care and Commitment in Communication with patients.
5. Procedural checklists with layers of screening is essential.
6. Protect yourself and the entire healthcare team.
7. Prevent and mitigate aerosol generation and surgical smoke transmission.
8. Pneumoperitoneum management during laparoscopy.
9. Post-procedural processes in the OR.
10. Post-op management details are important.

Full document may be accessed in the link below
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1EDeQwfhB2ojymQAP8jP-67RITZEOjgpP>



...RESILIENCE

This pandemic necessitated us to adapt and innovate to be able to cope with the rapidly developing situation in our own areas of practice: During ECQ and beyond.

Because as the old adage goes: Failure to Plan is Planning to Fail.

A compendium of relevant resources pertaining to Surgery in the time of COVID-19 from the PAHPBS, PALES and PCS are in this compilation:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EDeQwfhB2ojymQAP8jP-67RITZEOjgpP?usp=sharing>



20 March 2020- PAHPBS COVID-19 Health Advisory for people with Liver Disease and Liver Transplant patients: A Guide for Clinicians: Liver involvement in SARS-CoV2 Infection/Covid-19

21 March 2020- PAHPBS Recommendations in Time of COVID-19 Pandemic

23 March 2020- Let us all take a moment to pray for the souls of our dearly departed colleagues and allied health care workers, who selflessly laid down their lives in the service of others. Their spirit of true heroism and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

24 March 2020- STOP COVID Infographic

31 March 2020- PAHPBS Letter to Fellows and Members: Video on Smoke Evacuation Close Filtered Suction System Open Surgery

03 April 2020- Video on Smoke Evacuation Close Filtered Suction System Laparoscopic Surgery

09 April 2020- The 9Ps of PAHPBS Post-ECQ Preparedness in COVID-19 Pandemic -Acute Cholecystitis and Gallbladder Disease During the Covid-19 Pandemic: Management Guidelines

23 April 2020- The 10Ps of PAHPBS Post ECQ Preparedness in COVID-19 Pandemic: Managing COVID -19 in Surgical Systems



24 April 2020

As the world gradually learned to adapt to this pandemic, so did scientific meetings evolve in this “New Normal”. Having a knack for innovation and technology, PAHPBS leadership teamed up with PALES in collaboration with the Telemedicine Network of the Philippines for one of the 1st Webinars in the country during this pandemic to present the well-attended webinar “Impact, Innovations and Planning for Surgery in COVID-19” on April 24 with SAGES president Horacio Asbun as a special guest reactor. This event was attended by more than 600 participants.

As the surgical community got its bearings amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, PAHPBS and PALES collaborated in a webinar entitled: “Impact, Innovations and Planning for Covid-19”. Dr. Miguel Mendoza, Dr. Ray Sarmiento, and Dr. Catherine The shared recommendations for best practices and local experiences in coping with surgical needs in this pandemic. Also gracing the event to share his insights was Prof. Horacio Asbun- SAGES President.

In case you missed the 1st PAHPBS-PALES Webinar, you may still view it on this link:

<https://youtu.be/M4rkH1Aytyg>.

SAGES HPB Facebook Collaborative Educational Series “All things HPB”



SAGES HPB FACEBOOK COLLABORATIVE

EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR SERIES
“ALL THINGS HPB”
WEDNESDAY MAY 13, 2020
7:30PM EASTERN, 6:30PM CENTRAL

ALL THINGS ONCOLOGY:
Discussion on Role of Neoadjuvant/Adjuvant Therapies and Surgical Timing

Hepatocellular Carcinoma
Catherine Teh MD, Makati Medical Center, Manila

Biliary Cancers
Hop Tran Cao MD, MD Anderson, Houston

Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma
David Kooby MD, Emory University, Atlanta

Colorectal Liver Metastasis
Sean Cleary MD, Mayo Clinic, Rochester

MODERATOR
Tim Vreeland MD, Brook Army Medical Center, San Antonio

Open to all surgeons and surgeons in training
Join us at:
www.facebook.com/groups/SAGESHPB



Philippine College of Surgeons Foundation, Inc. Philippine College of Surgeons

46TH MIDYEAR CONVENTION
MAY 28-29, 2020

ONLINE

CURRENT DIRECTIONS IN SURGERY

PAHPBS Symposium on Advanced Imaging in HPB Surgery

13 May 2020

As part of the goals of the current PAHPBS leadership for international partnerships, The PAHPBS participated in the SAGES HPB Facebook Collaborative Educational Series “All things HPB” in May 13, 2020 as our very own President, was invited to give a talk on “All things HCC”.

From the SAGES HPB Facebook Collaborative comes an Educational Seminar Series entitled “All Things HPB”. Held last 13 May 2020 (7:30 am Philippine Standard Time), and open to all surgeons and surgeons in training.

Important aspects on HPB Oncology were discussed in-depth with expert international faculty such as Prof. Hop Tran Cao from MD Anderson in Houston, Prof. David Kooby from Emory University in Atlanta, Prof. Sean Clary from Mayo Clinic Rochester and PAHPBS President Prof. Catherine Teh.

28 May 2020

PAHPBS contributed to the PCS Midyear Convention with a Symposium on Advanced Imaging in HPB Surgery.

The session focused on utility of imaging modalities of crucial interest in diagnosis and planning in HPB Surgery. Moderated by Dr. Jonathan Nolasco with excellent talks given by Dr. Romulo S. Ong Abrantes for Pancreatic Imaging and Dr. Raymond Joseph H. Romero for Liver Surgery.

The symposium may still be accessed via Docquity App.

DECISION-MAKING & TAILORED MANAGEMENT OF Gallbladder Cancer

04 June 2020
Thursday • 7PM



04 June 2020

In an effort to move forward with pursuing excellence and exchange of ideas in other equally-important HPB topics, PAHPBS hosted a very well attended multidisciplinary webinar of almost 400 attendees entitled “Decision-Making and Tailored Management of Gallbladder Cancer” on June 4, 2020 with the participation of 6 local experts including radiology, pathology, medical oncology and our very own Drs Hanisah Guro and Cenon Alfonso together with a world authority on GB Cancer, Dr Anil Argawal from India.

We thank all of the expert speakers during the PAHPBS Webinar on Decision Making and Tailored Management of Gallbladder Cancer and to the 411 attendees who tuned in and engaged in a lively and interesting discussion. Key aspects in the multidisciplinary management of GB Cancer were discussed.

Our expert local faculty included Dr. Hanisah Guro, Dr. Paul Giovanni Mendoza, Dr. Richie Pilapil, Dr. Cenon Alfonso and Dr. Maximino Bello, III along with international faculty Prof. Anil Agarwal, an authority in GB Cancer and co-author of the consensus guidelines on laparoscopic management of GB Ca. This event was seamlessly conducted through the tireless efforts of the Committee on Surgical Education headed by Dr. Monette Jordan-Casupang and moderated by Dr. Romualdo Cacas.

We also thank TNP Telemedicine Network of the Philippines for the technical support and Medtronic for their cooperation in this project.

Stay tuned for more educational activities of the PAHPBS!!!

In Case You Missed It, You may also catch the Youtube streaming of this webinar through this link:

<https://youtu.be/gv7HJRL4nnw>



JULY 2020

 @LiverTxSeminars

SETTING UP A TRANSPLANT PROGRAMME

Guest speakers



A series of educational web-based seminars on core topics in the field, with the aim of increasing global access to knowledge and expertise from domain leaders

Dr Sonal Asthana
Multiorgan Transplant Surgeon
Aster CMI Hospital
Bangalore, India

Dr Koong Jun Kit
University of Malaya
Medical Centre
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Prof Arvinder Soin
Chairman
Institute of Liver
Transplantation and
Regenerative Medicine
Medanta, Delhi, India

Prof Peter Lodge
HPB & Transplant Surgeon
Leeds Teaching
Hospitals NHS Trust, UK

1 July
(Wed)

Making transplant affordable and accessible
Dr Sonal Asthana
Engaging national and international resources in increasing donor awareness
Dr Koong Jun Kit

Registration <https://bit.ly/LiverTxJuly>

Convenors

Glenn Bonney/Shridhar Iyer (Singapore)

Steering Committee

Lim Seng Gee (Singapore)
Alfred Kow (Singapore)
Koong Jun Kit (Malaysia)
Shahid Farid (UK)
Richard Laing (UK)

Irene Scalerà (Italy)
Roberta Angelico (Italy)
Francesca Marcon (Italy)
Raman Girn (India)
Sonal Asthana (India)
Catherine Teh (Philippines)

15 July
(Wed)

Building a transplant programme: How I did it
Professor Arvinder Singh Soin
Professor Peter Lodge

UK 1.00pm | Italy 2.00pm | Bangalore 5.30pm | Singapore 8.00pm

01 July 2020

Together with leaders in liver transplantation globally, Dr Teh set up a steering committee to organize a recurring educational program that addresses various issues like forming a team to infrastructure development and core topics in liver transplantation, aptly called the “LiverTx Seminars”, consisting of scheduled webinars held starting July 1, 2020. This continues to run with pioneers and leading liver transplant experts.

This is an educational programme that addresses core topics in liver transplantation. The first of its kind, it is a free and accessible program worldwide. PAHPBS is pleased to take part in this global endeavor.

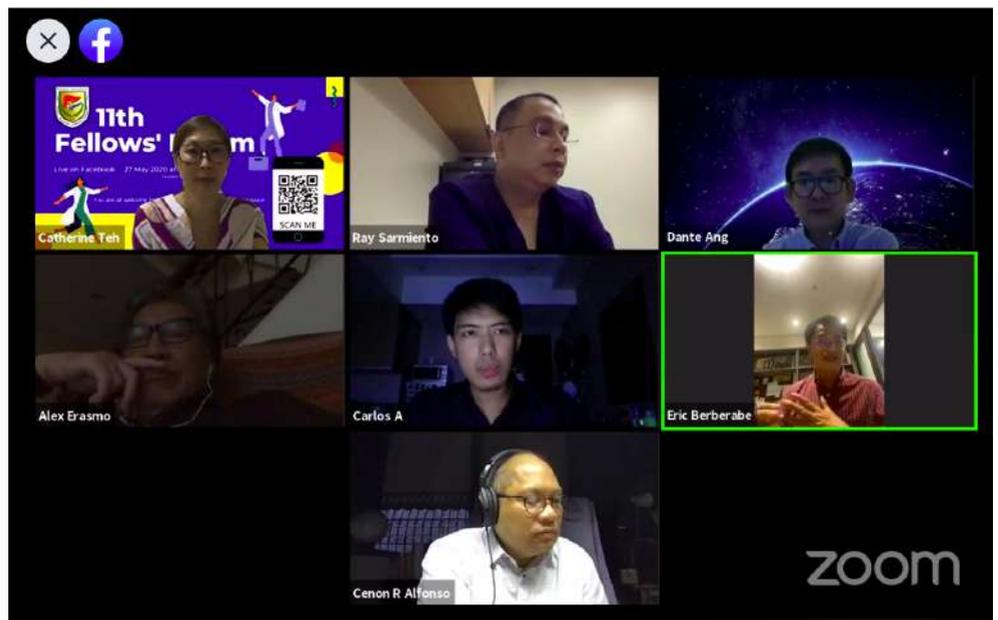
In its first month, some of the giants in liver transplantation (Prof Arvinder Soin and Prof Peter Lodge) have shared their lectures on how to start a liver transplant programme, with many more curated programmes and speakers over the coming months. It is a series of live Zoom event with Q and A, held every first and third Wednesday of the month.

Please feel free to register and join us in this event. Also do consider joining our worldwide community by leaving your contact number (optional) so we can add you to the LiverTxSeminars WhatsApp community (at registration). This is aimed to promote discussion and collaborative research. Topics that will be covered will be based on user feedback.

At present we have representation from 4 regions, UK, Italy, India and South East Asia.



27 May 2020



Following through on its commitment to promoting the highest standards in training, PAHPBS likewise moved its regular bi-monthly Fellows' Forum to an online format last May and July.

This was hosted by the HPB Fellows of Philippine General Hospital (PGH).

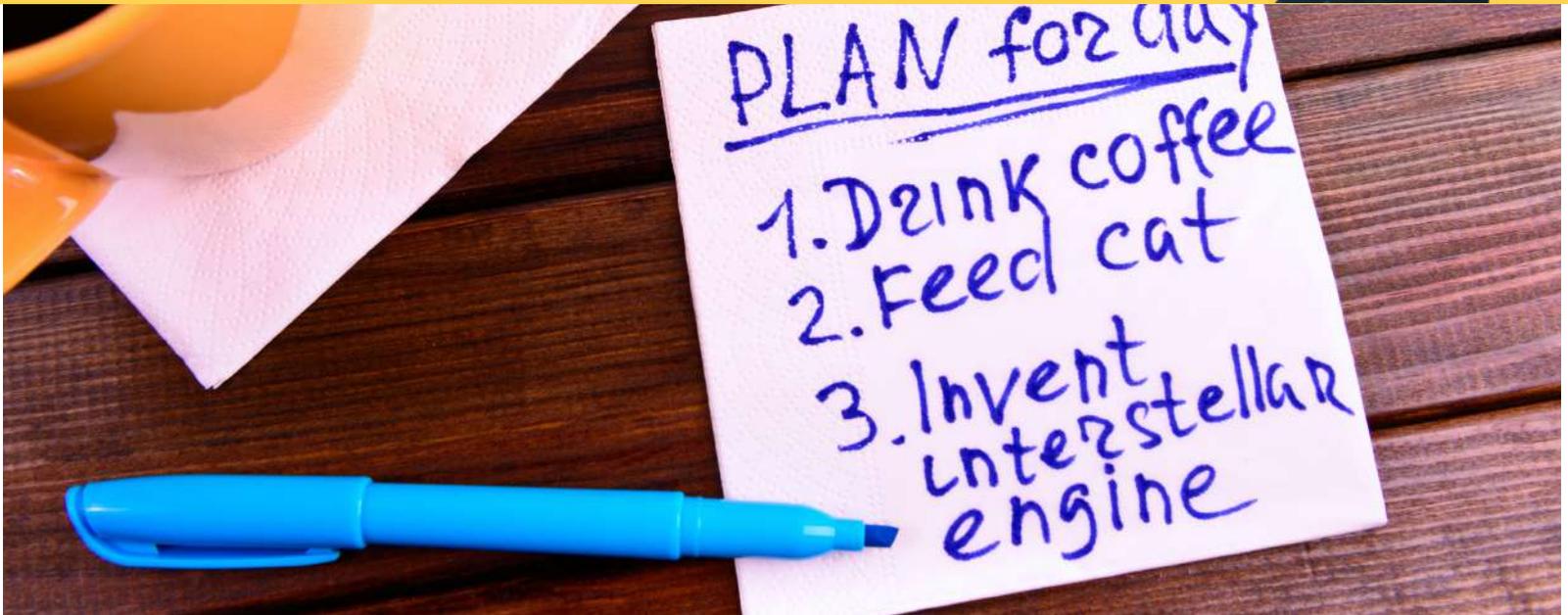
Topics were focused on HPB Surgery in the time of COVID-19 Pandemic.

The succeeding Fellow's Forum will be hosted by St Lukes Medical Center and The Medical City end of July and September respectively. Stay Tuned!

Visit the Facebook page Philippine Association of HPB Surgeons or IG and twitter page @pahpbsi for more information on the dynamic facets of PAHPBS and to contact this growing organization.

Email us at: secretariat@pahpbs.org

INTERSTELLAR PERSPECTIVE: NO BOUNDARIES



by KAREN LATORRE, MD & CATHERINE SC TEH, MD

(Published in INCISIONS, The Official Newsletter of the Philippine College of Surgeons Vol 40 Num 2 Aug 2020).

Amidst this pandemic, SpaceX launched NASA astronauts to space on May 30. How you ever wondered what the earth looks like from outer space? Astronauts have the best view of the earth from outer space seeing it as a shared space with no boundaries at all even when we are setting the 6 feet boundary to distance ourselves from each other during this pandemic. As the challenge to eliminate COVID-19 continues, taking this perspective from space, we should learn to recognize that we are all struggling and facing this challenge together, apart. In reality, there is no boundary.

" TAKING THIS PERSPECTIVE FROM SPACE, WE SHOULD LEARN TO RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE ALL STRUGGLING AND FACING THIS CHALLENGE TOGETHER, APART."



In keeping with its mandate of leadership, PAHPBS likewise continued to release regular updates to its recommendations throughout March and April as majority of the country went into ECQ. These were not limited to quality surgical care alone, but also extended to systems engineering, organizing team competencies, and action plans for surgical teams that could be adopted in hospital settings across the country. Circulars were released online: Managing Covid-19 in Surgical Systems, STOP COVID, The PAHPBS Covid-19 Health Advisory for people with Liver Disease and Liver Transplant patients and A Guide for Clinicians: Liver involvement in SARS-CoV2 Infection/Covid-19 and videos for simple and affordable innovations in smoke evacuation in laparoscopic and open surgery were widely disseminated and shared through all social media platforms.

... NO BOUNDARIES

As we continue to fight against COVID-19 performing our duties in treating HPB patients, helping our colleagues manage COVID-19 patients and responsibly looking after ourselves, our families, colleagues and friends, we continue to enrich ourselves in expanding our knowledge and improving our surgical skills by spearheading & participating in various e-learning programs and platforms. In light of the unique set of challenges posed by the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic, the organization adapted to the rapidly changing clinical landscape.

Recognizing the need for immediate action, grounded on best-available yet rapidly evolving data, PAHPBS released online circulars and guides for patients and surgeons alike as early as March 21, a few days after the lockdown. Among these were the widely circulated PAHPBS Recommendations in the Time of Covid-19 Pandemic which served as a guide for clinicians in managing HPB surgical cases as the Covid-19 situation was unfolding. It emphasized Risk Urgency strategies for triage in situations of dwindling resources and manpower.

In light of the unique set of challenges posed by the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic, the organization adapted to the rapidly changing clinical landscape.



... NO BOUNDARIES

Recognizing the need to always be two steps ahead of a problem, PAHPBS released a circular The 9Ps of PAHPBS Post-ECQ Preparedness in COVID-19 Pandemic were released and was received widely as a guide for many institutions, well-ahead of the lifting of the ECQ measures in the country. These recommendations emphasized risk mitigation strategies for patients and health care workers alike, rationalization of team approaches as well as rational use of PPE. It was subsequently updated to the 10Ps of Post-ECQ Preparedness. All these may be found in the PAHPBS facebook page as the PAHPBS webpage is still under construction.

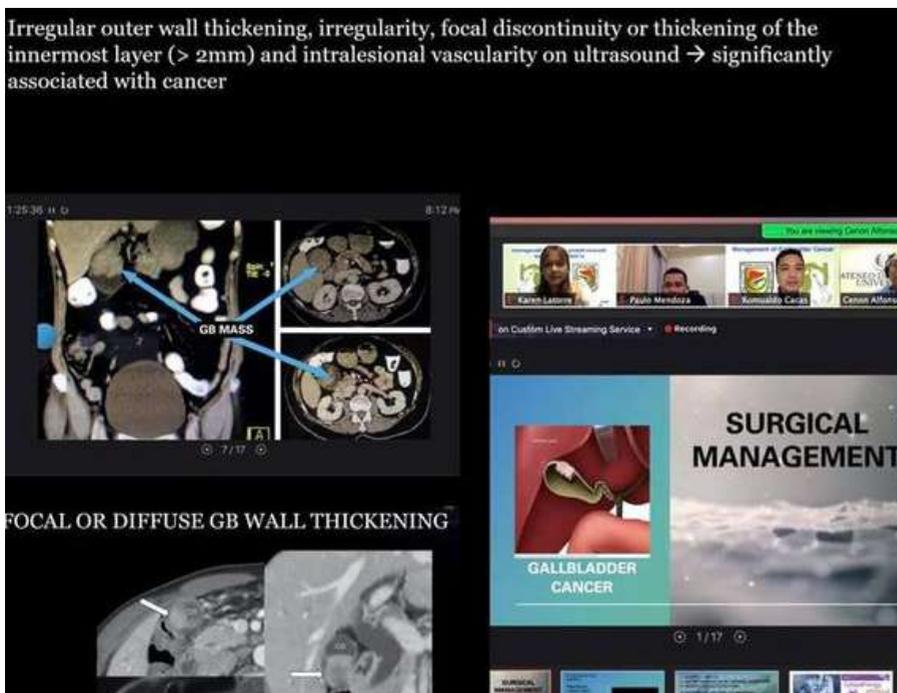
As the world gradually learned to adapt to this pandemic, so did scientific meetings evolve in this "New Normal". Having a knack for innovation and technology, PAHPBS leadership teamed up with PALES in collaboration with the Telemedicine Network of the Philippines for one of the 1st Webinars in the country during this pandemic to present the well-attended webinar "Impact, Innovations and Planning for Surgery in COVID-19" on April 24 with SAGES president Horacio Asbun as a special guest reactor. This event was attended by more than 600 participants.

We also hosted a symposium on Advanced imaging in HPB Surgery last May 28, 2020 as part of the PCS 46th Midyear Online Convention. Likewise, in an effort to move forward with pursuing excellence and exchange of ideas in other equally important HPB topics, PAHPBS hosted a very well attended multidisciplinary webinar of almost 400 attendees entitled " Decision-Making and Tailored Management of Gallbladder Cancer" on June 4, 2020 with the participation of 6 local experts including radiology, pathology, medical oncology and our very own Drs Hanisah Guro and Cenon Alfonso together with a world authority on GB Cancer, Dr Anil Argawal from India.

In the recently concluded PSGS 18 Surgical Forum (Online) last Aug 6 to 8, Dr. Jonathan Nolasco spoke comprehensively on Surgical Approaches to Bile Duct Injuries while Dr Catherine Teh gave her interesting viewpoints on Emerging Trends in Pancreatic Cancer with Neoadjuvant Tx in Resectable Disease.

Following through on its commitment to promoting the highest standards in training, PAHPBS likewise moved its regular bi-monthly Fellows' Forum to an online format last April and July.

As the world gradually learned to adapt to this pandemic, so did scientific meetings evolve in this "New Normal".



... NO BOUNDARIES

As part of the goals of the current PAHPBS leadership for international partnerships, The PAHPBS participated in the SAGES HPB Facebook Collaborative Educational Series “All things HPB” in May 13, 2020 as our very own President, was invited to give a talk on “All things HCC”.

Together with leaders in liver transplantation globally, Dr Teh set up a steering committee to organize a recurring educational program that addresses various issues like forming a team to infrastructure development and core topics in liver transplantation, aptly called the “LiverTx Seminars”, consisting of scheduled webinars held starting July 1, 2020. This continues to run with pioneers and leading liver transplant experts.

PAHPBS remains steadfast in its commitment to deliver quality HPB surgical care and upholds its mandate to raise standards and improve the quality of HPB care including training by paving the way for innovations and exchange of ideas amidst challenges and uncertainty, during this pandemic and beyond, setting no boundaries.

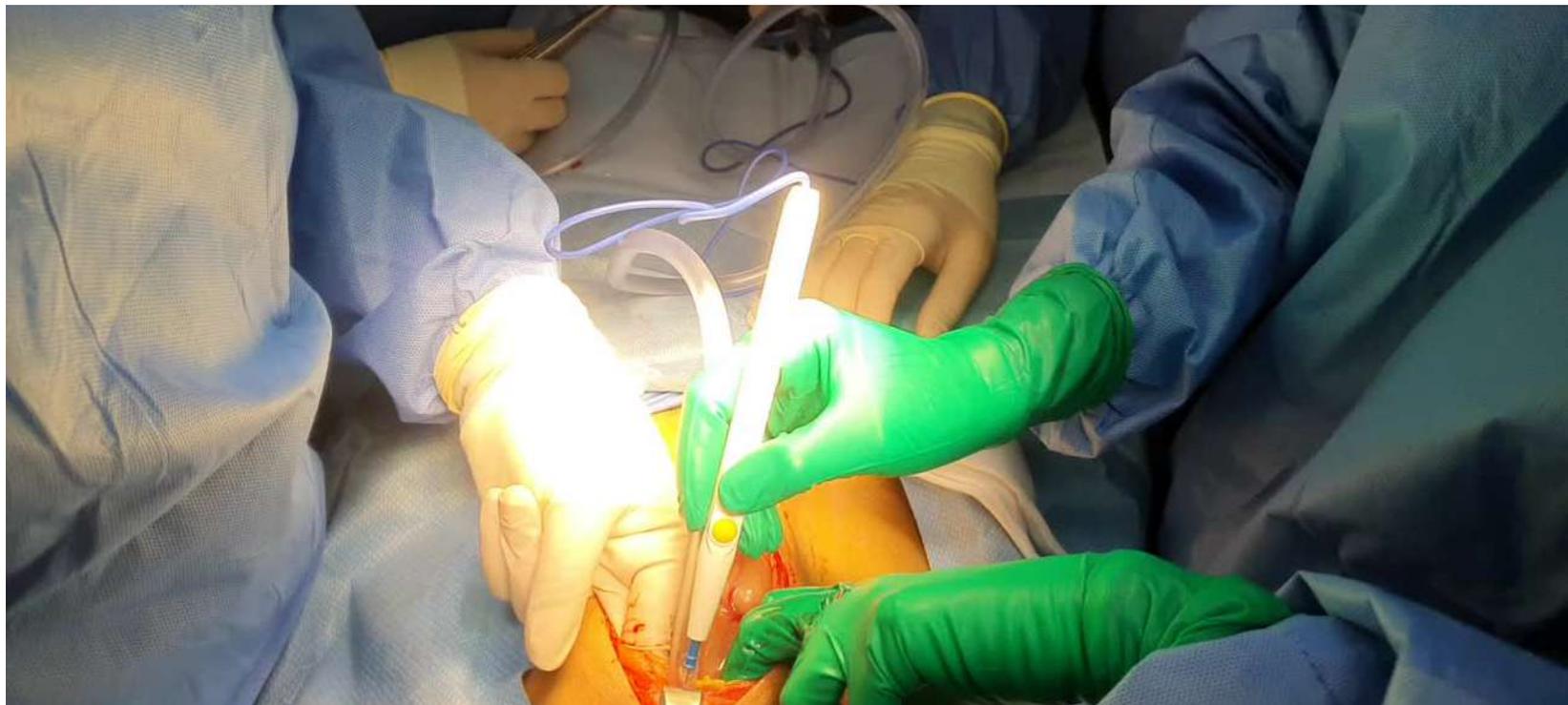


As a testament to the organization’s resilience, creativity, and passion for blazing new trails, the PAHPBS rendered an online concerto unlike anything seen before for an Online Scientific Congress. PAHPBS hosted the 3rd ASEAN Laparoscopic HPB Conference and 2nd PAHPBS International Symposium Online last August 115, 2020 in a unique format. An online opus kickstarted on Aug1 with a glorious opening ceremony having Prof Martin Smith, the President of the IHPBA as keynote followed by daily On-Demand videos of lectures from world-renowned experts in HPB ending with a Live online plenary discussion on 2 weekends in an engaging blended learning format, as well as culminating in a meaningful closing ceremony and an Online Party with carefully crafted original signature drinks unlike any other! At the #ASEANLHC2020, PAHPBS has certainly set a new standard in hosting virtual congresses as other societies locally and internationally has approached us for tips and made us a model for their upcoming virtual events.

Visit the Facebook page Philippine Association of HPB Surgeons or IG and twitter page @pahpbsi for more information on the dynamic facets of PAHPBS and to contact this growing organization. PAHPBS remains steadfast in its commitment to deliver quality HPB surgical care and upholds its mandate to raise standards and improve the quality of HPB care including training by paving the way for innovations and exchange of ideas amidst challenges and uncertainty, during this pandemic and beyond, setting no boundaries.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

HPB SURGERY INNOVATIONS DURING
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



MODIFIED SMOKE EVACUATION SYSTEM IN OPEN SURGERY

BY DR CATHERINE SC TEH

BACK TO THE FUTURE

HPB SURGERY INNOVATIONS DURING
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Alternative Solutions

Teh (Closed) Filtered Suction System
For evacuation of smoke & pneumoperitoneum

**TEH (CLOSED) FILTERED
SUCTION SYSTEM FOR
EVACUATION OF SMOKE &
PNEUMOPERITONEUM**

•To evacuate the artificial pneumoperitoneum and surgical smoke safely, the following alternative solution maybe used in the absence of a smoke evacuator like the AirSeal iFS system

Meteoroids

Your LIFE out of Surgery
Space (Arts, Music,
Lifestyle, and more...)



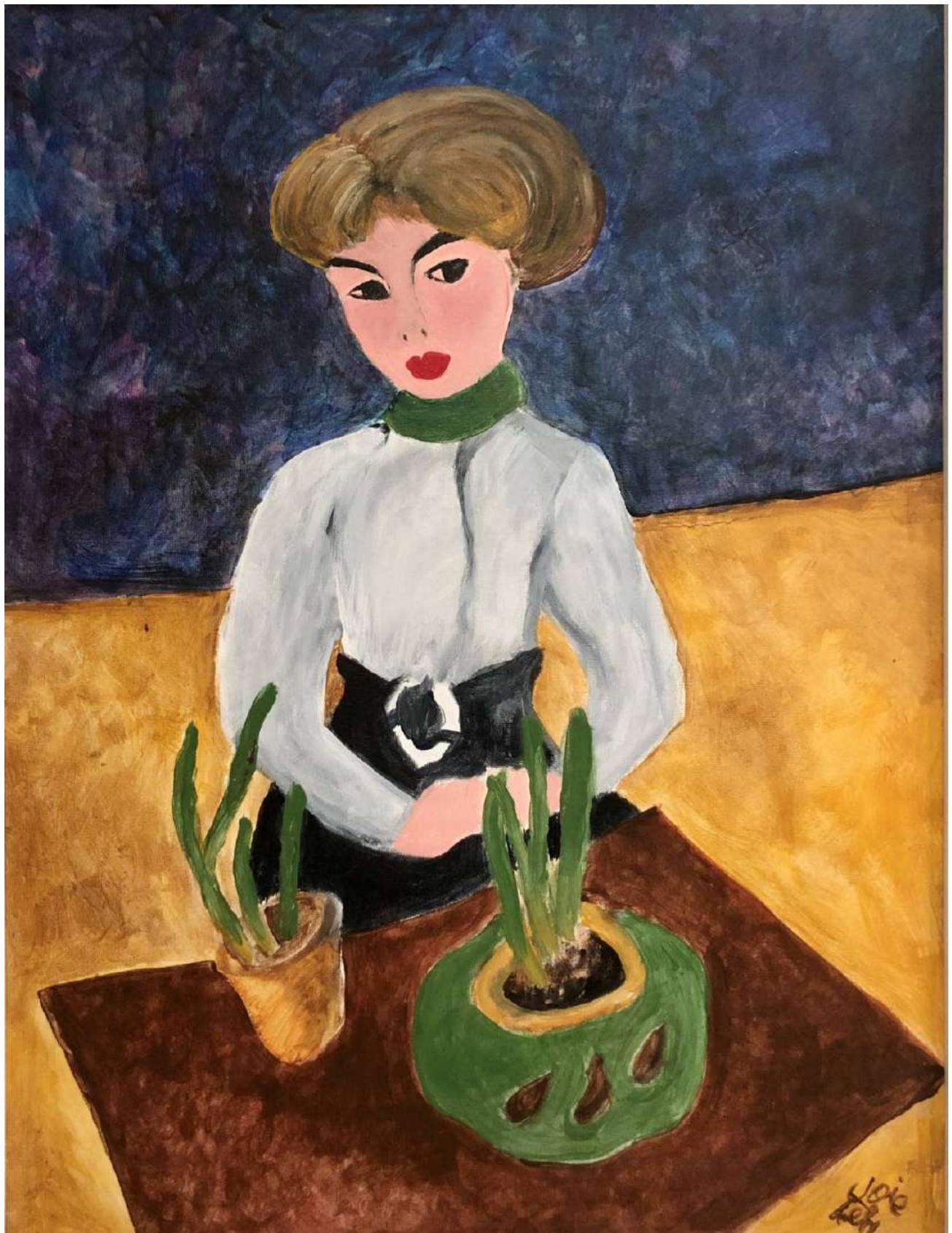
BROADEN YOUR IMAGINATION.
INTERPRET AND LABEL.

BY DR CATHERINE SC TEH

SPOT THE PROBLEM

BRIGHT MIND.CLEAR VISION.SKILLFUL HANDS.





TIGER MOM

BY JOIE EMELLINE SC TEH



FELLOWS AND TRAINEES'

LAUNCHPAD

COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE EYES OF A SURGICAL TRAINEE

BY: LEANDRO V. TORRE
HPB FELLOW-IN-TRAINING. THE MEDICAL CITY

In the modern era of General Surgery nowadays, subspecialty is not anymore a choice but a necessity. Those of us fortunate enough to get into a Fellowship program go to Manila to train and then get back to the province to further propagate the practice. This was the norm for decades. Graduate, subspecialize, and practice.

However last November of 2019, there was a viral pneumonia detected in China that, at first, we thought would spontaneously be resolved after a couple months just like the even deadlier Ebola virus or its cousin, the SARS virus. Before we knew it, there was an announcement in March 2020 from the government that the whole NCR would be placed on lockdown. Again, we thought, okay this will be for a month. Now, were on our 5th month of "lockdown" or quarantine as the government prefers it to be called. Health care facilities are suffering, health care workers are getting sick and some are dying, the whole economy is collapsing, the general public are frustrated. We are on this COVID-19 pandemic.

This scenario, if I was told last year December when I started training, I would say it is impossible and would only happen in the movies. But this is the reality now. And as fellow-in-training in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) surgery, I, too, have to deal with this. Worldwide, this has affected to many aspiring HPB surgeons just like myself. But the other diseases, even amid the pandemic, are still in existence. Patients are still there. The cirrhotic adults and yellow children needing Liver Transplant are still there. The pancreatic and hepatocellular cancer patients are still there. The bothering stones of the gallbladder and bile ducts are still there. But the worst thing for us surgeons and patients is that elective surgeries had to be put on hold or even cancelled to conserve resources.

Slowly, the Philippines' health care system and protocols adapted. In our institution where I am training, we slowly resumed surgeries already and adapted to a somewhat trial-and-error system. Systems were adapted from international and local data and protocols.

So, what did it mean for us trainees??? Personally, from the very first day of the lockdown up to the present, I have been clocking in to my institution. As surgeons, surgical masks were not a problem as we are used to prolonged hours in the operating room wearing these. But when supplies were dwindling and N95 masks were now required but not provided enough or had to reuse it, we had to adapt. When we found out that reusable elastomeric masks were now recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), we knew we had to get a hold of these. We were lucky enough to purchase a few of these at a time when they were still sold in a pre-pandemic price. The whole surgical department, including residents and fellows, in our institution had half-face and full-face respirators. Everyday we had to wash and disinfect these. The heralded and mystic white coat of doctors were not anymore recommended. Scrub suits were now instead recommended – which is way more comfortable. The dreaded census conferences were now replaced with online Zoom meetings. On the better side of things, society conferences both national and international, were now mostly free! During the first few months however, these conferences all talk about COVID-19. At first it was interesting but once you have heard a good number of these lecturers, it gets boring. Thankfully these lectures now deviated from talking all about the pandemic. Thus, in exchange for actual surgical training, our training was converted to more of a knowledge-based training. Surgery in our institution were running at 30% capacity at first and now are slowly getting back up to about 70%. Some resectable cancers postponed due to the lockdown were, unfortunately, now were referred to other services for palliation. Some liver tumor recurrences that ideally would have indicated resection were now referred for ablation instead. All patients now required to be tested for COVID-19 before the surgery. Our periodic COVID -19 swab tests also never gets easy. This uncomfortable process feels like your brain gets tickled and the oral swab is enough to induce a serious gag reflex. Luckily, I get some satisfaction every time I find out its negative. Although, in the back of my mind, the stigma and possible health risk should it be positive is always there.

This was a cycle that had to be undergone so as to tackle this obstacle. Sure, it's a daunting task aside from the already demanding activities that our training requires but it is a task that most of us trainees are willing to do. When you look at the picture, the whole world is suffering and we are not an exception. The show must go on. HPB diseases still need to be treated. Our valuable training in our respective institutions, however limited, are very important now and in the future when we get back to our private practice. The lessons that we actually get from this pandemic made us respect communicable diseases more and, God forbid, should another pandemic occur in the future.

"If she's amazing, she won't be easy. If she's easy, she won't be amazing. If she's worth it, you won't give up. If you give up, you're not worthy.. Truth is, everybody is going to hurt you; you just gotta find the ones worth suffering for." – Robert "Bob" Marley



SUPERNOVA NEWS

PAHPBS C.O.M.E.T.S. NEWS FLASH / UPDATE

PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF HEPATO-PANCREATO-BILIARY SURGEONS



Guidelines for HPB Fellowship Training During the COVID19 ECQ Among Accredited HPB Training Programs in the Philippines

PAHPBS COVID-19 Advisory No. 6
May 25, 2020

With the Luzon-wide lockdown under Presidential Proclamation 922 or The Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), COVID19 pandemic rendered the usual regular daily discipline, rigor and grind in the majority of surgical training programs in the National Capital Region (and later across the entire Country) to a sudden halt last March 17, 2020. For some hospitals which were already overrun by COVID19 cases by mid-February, the disruption was weeks earlier than the ECQ. HPB training was not spared.

All elective procedures were amongst the first to go. Then health human resource dipped due to mandatory quarantine. Personal protective equipments (PPE's) decimated. UP-PGH was designated by the Government as a dedicated COVID19 facility. For some reasons, Rizal Medical Center, The Medical City and St. Luke's Medical Center became de facto COVID-19 centers for the Rizal province, Quezon City-Marikina and Makati cities respectively. Eventually, the other DOH hospitals with HPB programs, namely Jose R. Reyes Memorial (JRRMMC) and Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC) were disrupted because they became testing and admission centers of suspects and confirmed cases in Manila City and Davao City respectively. ECQ ran for almost solidly 2 months. The socio-economic impact is so profound such that a recession is almost inevitable. Resource became extremely scarce. One thing is sure, the journey back to the so-called "new normal" is going to be slow, gradual and cautious.

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Prioritization of cases and experts over trainees will be the new norm in the recovery phase, at least during the uphill climb.

The Board of Trustees of the Philippine Association of Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgeons led by its President, during its last regular meeting on the 20th of May, 2020, resolved to issue this guideline to all its accredited training HPB training programs director and training officers:

***All current fellows-in-training shall be extended for another year of training in order to satisfy the prescribed learning content and objectives including the number and variety of cases.**

***Special cases like mid-year entrants who have completed their prescribed cases and training period may formally write the President of PAHPBS, a request for exemption.**

It is advised that all accredited training programs strictly adhere to the provisions of this advisory.

For the Philippine Association of HPB Surgeons Board of Trustees,

Catherine SC Teh, MD, FPCS, FRCS(Ed)
President

PAHPBS COVID-19 ADVISORY NO. 6 GUIDELINES FOR HPB FELLOWSHIP TRAINING

The Board of Trustees of the PAHPBS led by its President, during its last regular meeting on the 20th of May 2020, resolved to issue the following guidelines to all its accredited training HPB fellowship programs' Director and Training officers.

NEWSFLASH





MUSINGS OF A YOUNG HPB SURGEON FROM THE SOUTH OF MANILA

BY: DR. RAYMOND JOSEPH ROMERO

As a young HPB consultant in our country in times of pandemic, it is definitely a struggle. Before this pandemic occurred, liver and pancreatic surgery in my place is already a challenge. Many fellow Filipinos are not aware of the disease that we are treating. The other specialties are just beginning to adjust with our technical and critical care requiring procedures. And now, this pandemic came, all the efforts that have been started went back to zero. I don't know where to start.

I keep track of the events and effect of this pandemic in our lives. Until now, I think the idea just became into status quo. The idea is to protect yourselves to treat more. How to do that, of course by praying. I invest on all protective gears, but in the end, you still hear news of increasing number of cases. Aside with all protective gear that we have, the only powerful protection is definitely Prayers.

Though the effect of pandemic is negative in many points, but the positive points here is that, others started to listen. Many people had time to listen, through webinars or simple online meetings so young surgeons had the opportunity to express their points to the new learning trend.

I am still hoping that this problem will be over soon, so by continuously educating residents and fellow doctors, once this pandemic is over, we will face a better system. As for our specialty, by continuous education of our trainings, other specialty and common people, we will be able to improve the system in our place. Thank you.

A tribute to the Fallen

WE HONOR THE
DOCTORS WHOM
WE HAVE LOST IN
THIS BATTLE.
THEIR HEROISM
AND SACRIFICE
WILL NEVER BE
FORGOTTEN.



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HEAVENLY BODIES

C.O.M.E.T.S.



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