



PAHPBS: Shining through in Extraordinary Times

The Philippine Association of HPB Surgeons (PAHPBS) is a 140 member-strong subspecialty organization recognized by the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS), and is a recognized international chapter of the International Hepatopancreatobiliary Association (IHPBA) in the Asian region. Its vision has been to be the leaders in delivering quality HPB surgical care in the Philippines and to raise the standards in both surgical techniques and training by paving the way for innovations and exchange of ideas.



PAHPBS Board of Directors 2018-2019

PAHPBS started the year 2020 under the leadership of its President Dr. Catherine SC Teh after the Annual Business Meeting of the organization during the PCS Clinical Congress last December 2, 2019. The organization was off to a dynamic start! PAHPBS actively participated with the Philippine College of Surgeons in the PCS Alliance for Life: A Cancer Summit held last February 4, 2020 at the PMA Auditorium, in celebration of World Cancer Day. It was a day of Cancer-related Lay Fora, Round Table Discussions on Public-Private Dialogue on Cancer patients and funding and a separate forum on How to Look for and Access Clinical Trials. A highlight of the activity was the formal introduction and launch of the PCS Cancer Commission.



The PCS Alliance for Life: A Cancer Summit

The unexpected onset of the Covid-19 pandemic then brought the world unprecedented changes and challenges, which at first, seemed insurmountable. From a dark period of initial fear and uncertainty, however; surgeons did what they did best: Assess situations, formulate action plans based on evidence and rational thought, and championed innovations and adaptations in response to crisis situations.



Fellows of PAHPBS rising to the challenge of Surgery in a Pandemic

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

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.



PAHPBS Circulars released in response to the onset of Covid-19 Pandemic

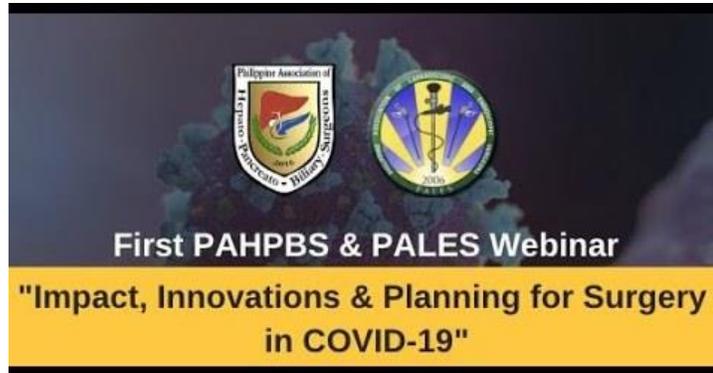
The organization likewise continued to release regular updates to its recommendations throughout March and April as majority of the country went into ECQ. These were not limited to quality surgical care alone, but also extended to systems engineering, organizing team competencies, and action plans for 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 released. 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.



Comprehensive infographics released by PAHPBS

As the world gradually learned to adapt to this pandemic, so did scientific meetings evolve in this "New Normal". In April 24, 2020, PAHPBS and PALES teamed up in collaboration with the Telemedicine Network of the Philippines to present the very well-attended webinar: "Impact, Innovations and Planning for Surgery in COVID-19". The webinar dealt with pressing issues for surgeons with regard to rational use of PPE, systems management, and OR safety protocols. We

had the honor of having SAGES president Dr. Horacio Asbun as a special guest reactor. The event was attended by more than 600 participants.



One of the first webinars in this “New Normal” by the PAHPBS, PALES and Telemedicine Network of the Philippines

One of the positive outcomes of this digital adaptation to the “New Normal” is the ability to conduct international meetings and collaborations more readily than before. PAHPBS actively participated in the SAGES HPB Facebook Collaborative Educational Series “All things HPB” in May 13, 2020. Our very own President was invited to give a talk on “All things HCC”.



SAGES HPB Facebook Collaborative Educational Series

In an unprecedented turn, the PCS Midyear Convention 2020 was conducted in a purely online platform. The organization hosted a symposium on Advanced imaging in HPB Surgery last May 28, 2020 as part of the PCS 46th Midyear Online Convention.



46TH MIDYEAR CONVENTION
MAY 28-29, 2020

ONLINE

CURRENT DIRECTIONS IN SURGERY

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Speakers

- Romulo S. Ong Abrantes, MD, FPCS speaker
- Jonathan C. Nolasco, MD, FPCS host
- Raymond Joseph H. Romero, MD, FPCS speaker

PAHPBS Symposium on Advanced Imaging in HPB Surgery

In an effort to move forward from purely Covid-19 related topics, and pursuing excellence and exchange of ideas in other equally-important HPB topics, PAHPBS hosted a successful multidisciplinary webinar entitled "Decision-Making and Tailored Management of Gallbladder Cancer" last June 4, 2020. It was attended by almost 400 participants, 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.



DECISION-MAKING & TAILORED MANAGEMENT OF
Gallbladder Cancer
04 June 2020
Thursday • 7PM

SCAN ME

Medtronic
Faster Together

TelemedicineOne

Decision-Making & Tailored Management of Gallbladder Cancer
Thank you for attending your evening with us

PAHPBS Webinar on Multidisciplinary Management of Gallbladder Cancer

During the PSGS 18 Surgical Forum (Online), the PAHPBS hosted a Symposium on Surgical Approaches to Bile Duct Injuries and Emerging Trends in Pancreatic Cancer: Neoadjuvant in Resectable Disease our very own 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 Treatment in Resectable Disease.



The PSGS Surgical Forum: ONLINE

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.

Together with leaders in liver transplantation globally, Dr. Catherine 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 every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month with pioneers and leading liver transplant experts throughout the rest of the year.



An International Collaboration and Initiative: LiverTx Seminars is FREE and Accessible Online

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 1-15, 2020 in a unique format.



After an initial cancellation, the ASEAN LHC was conducted ONLINE in a format unlike any other

An online opus kick-started on Aug 1 with a glorious opening ceremony having Prof Martin Smith, the President of the IHPBA as keynote speaker followed by daily On-Demand videos of lectures from world-renowned experts in HPB, and wrapping up with a Live online plenary discussion.



Keynote address during the Opening "Allegro" of the ASEAN LHC: Online

It was a series of events spread over 2 weeks, consisting of Live online plenary sessions on the weekends in an engaging blended learning format, as well as daily On-Demand videos of lectures from world-renowned experts in HPB.



Online Sessions of ASEAN LHC: An symphony of International and Local Experts in HPB

This online masterpiece culminated in a meaningful closing ceremony and an Online Party unlike any other, with carefully crafted original signature drinks unlike any other! DJ Ace Aventura very gamely spun the beats as the local and international faculty and working committee sang along to karaoke hits. 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 PAHPBS a model for their upcoming virtual events.



The ASEAN LHC Online Party

In an initiative to explore new aspects and learn from different perspectives and to serve as a respite from the usual rigorous academic topics, last October 28, PAHPBS hosted the webinar “Cutting through Global Health: Looking through the Journey of an MSF (Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors without Borders) volunteer” featuring a triumvirate of truly admirable and strong Filipina MSF volunteers: Anne Jimenez,RN, Karina Aguilar,MD, and Lynette Dominguez,MD. It was an illuminating and inspiring evening well spent with our excellent panelists, who generously shared their insights and experiences at the frontlines in the service of humanity in some of the world’s most austere and often dangerous health care environments. Their bravery and passion truly embodies the mission of this global humanitarian organization. The session was moderated by Dr. Alex Erasmo, with much-appreciated participation of PCS President Dr. Jose Antonio Salud.



Global and Humanitarian Surgery at the Forefront: Medecins Sans Frontieres leading the way in austere settings

PAHPBS remains steadfast in its commitment and upholds its mandate in the face of challenges and uncertainty, during this pandemic and beyond. It is the spirit and resolve of its dynamic leadership and members that has enabled the organization to shine through these extraordinary times.

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.