

Report of the Chairman, AFUSA-UERMMMCMC, Inc.
(including *The Report of the Committee on Recycle for Charity*)
2009 MARVADC Chapter Annual Meeting
BWI, Maryland, March 6-8, 2009

In November, 2008, I with President Romy Divinagracia, had a person to person meeting with Mr. Wilson Young, CEO, UERMMMCMC, in his Office at the Medical Center. We discussed the present conditions of the infrastructure of the Medical Center with emphasis on the old and outdated University Teaching Hospital. Mr. Young told me that they are now looking for a lot near or with close proximity to the Medical Center to build a new University Hospital. He also promised me that during his tenure he will be proactive and also be very sensitive with the new problems facing the Medical Center including the parking situation which is atrocious and also a deterrent to increasing the census of private patients at the University Hospital. One improvement that I noticed is the presence of a traffic light at the Aurora Blvd. crossing to go to the Basic Science Bldg., the Administrative Offices, the gymnasium, and the College of Nursing. This is, indeed, long overdue because several accidents involving medical & other students while crossing the street were reported in the past.

In Feb. 4, 2009, I delivered the Dr. Jaime Zaguirre Memorial Lecture and my topic was "Stress Prevention and Management in Medical Practice". Dr. Aquilino Esquerra who eventually became a faculty in Neuropsychiatry after being a Professor of OB-GYN gave the history and life of Dr. Zaguirre including his accomplishments and contributions to academic neuropsychiatry and organized medicine. I also gave other lectures to the Sophomore Class on "Humanism and Professionalism in Medical Practice" and "Geriatric Pharmacology & Therapeutics" at the request of Dean Retta Reyes and Dr. Ronald Macaraig, Head, Department of Pharmacology. My other commitments did not allow me to attend the yearly homecoming celebration at the Medical Center and the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

It was also a great honor to be the first Paz Y. Fores, M.D. Memorial Lecturer at the Makati Medical Center on Feb. 3, 2009. Dra. Fores was the first Chair of Anesthesiology at the Catholic University of the Philippines and the UST Hospital. She was also one of the pioneers among those who founded and initiated the Philippine Board of Anesthesiology, Inc. For my presentation, the Organizing Committee selected "The Prevention of Human Errors in Medicine and Medical Practice. I met Dr. Ariston Bautista who was Professor of ENT when I was a medical student at the UERMMMCMC.

Then for the rest of the 3 weeks I was on the Medical/Surgical Mission with the PAGES-Operation HOPE at the Nueva Ecija Provincial Hospital, Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija sponsored by Gov. Umali; the Rizal Provincial Hospital, Morong, Rizal sponsored by Gov. Ynares, M.D.; and the Ospital Ng Maynila, Manila, sponsored by Mayor Lim. We were doing oral-maxillofacial surgery with emphasis on cleft lips, palates and other maxillo-facial deformities.

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Yes, we are back to the Old Glory days of the College of Medicine, UERMMMC, having topped & placed 5th in the most recent medical licensure examination with 90% passing compare with the national average of 64.5%. We as alumnus and friends of the Medical Center should not sit on our laurels but continue to support our Alma Mater, *ad libidum*, or until it hurts!! I am aware that the present economic situation compromises many of our funds raising projects but we still owe our Alma Mater what we are today and in the future years. Thank you for your unwavering support for all those years and the years to come.

The Committee on Recycle for Charity submitted to Dr. Elmer Gilo, Treasurer, AFUSA, all the records of contributions ever since its inception for recording and auditing purposes. Recently, I donated a fiberoptic pediatric laryngoscope and a Wright's respirometer to the Department of Anesthesiology which will be shared in its use with the Department of Pediatrics. Also complying with the Wish List request of the Department of Neuroscience, I donated a Nellcor Console Model Pulse Oximeter and 10 ampules of Tensilon (Edrophonium). Dr. Gely Diamante, Head, Department of OB-GYN, received the Acuson 123 Ultrasound three years ago but they were not able to use the machine because it needed a mother board in its computer system. Mr. Bob Gaw of Boston, MA sent me a new mother board via UPS which I received prior to my departure to the Philippines. I met with Gely in the Medical School and she will submit via e-mail other needs, equipment & supplies which I can enclose in the box for the shipment of the mother board. The shipment will cost \$90.00 via the *balikbayan box* route to the Philippines from Louisville, KY. I recently received 3 pulse oximeters donated by friends and they will also be shipped to the Medical Center for the ER, OR-Anesthesia, and the critical care units. The following are the requested needs of the College of Medicine and the University Teaching Hospital for the FY 2009-2010:

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| 1. Pulse oximeters | 2. Anesthesia Machines |
| 3. Fiberoptic bronchoscopes | 4. GI Endoscopes |
| 5. Hysteroscope set | 6. IV Infusion pumps |
| 7. Dissecting Microscopes | 8. ECT Machine |
| 9. Computer/Laptops | 10. AMBU Bags (Adult & Pediatrics) |
| 11. Adult & Pediatric CPR Models. | 12. Recent Textbooks & Journals (All Disciplines) |

A very sad part of this report includes my visit of Dr. Romulo Guevera, Jr. who was confined in the ICU, intubated, and very, very ill. I have one consolation and that is in November 2009, I also visited Romy and he recognized me and even squeezed my fingers while he was on a respirator, intubated, with feeding tubes, and other invasive monitoring devices. He was a great teacher and an outstanding academician who always

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kept the students interested in his discipline and field of endeavor. Our prayers go with Romy and his family. When I gave the Dr. Romulo Guevara, Sr. Memorial Lecture in Pharmacology two years ago, Romy attended with all the children and grandchildren of Dr. Guevara, Sr. and I was, indeed, deeply honored and pleasantly gratified and overwhelmed.. The granddaughter who is a physician gave the family's response after the Memorial Lecture.

Respectfully submitted:

Benjamin M. Rigor, M.D., LL.D., UERMMMC '62

Chair, AFUSA-UERMMMC, Inc.

March 1, 2009