

20th Annual Convention of Philippines Society of Nuclear Medicine

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The 20th Annual Convention of the PSNM took place at the conference facilities of the Holiday Inn Galleria Suites of Metro Manila and was attended by more than 100 registered participants, including nuclear medicine physicians, clinicians, residents, technologists, representative of the Atomic Energy Commission of Philippines and pioneers of nuclear medicine in the Philippines. The scientific program consisted of a series of review lectures covering a range of currently available radionuclide treatments and was carried out by three experts attending the convention, namely, Dr. C.A. Hoefnagel (The Netherlands), Prof. M. Fischer (Germany) and Prof. A.K. Padhy (India) (Figure 1) The convention started with a brief opening ceremony presided over by the President of the PSNM, Dr. Emerita Andres-Barrenechea.

The whole day program was started in the morning and lasted till late afternoon. Dr. Cornelis A. Hoefnagel started the proceedings with an overview lecture, entitled "Radionuclide Therapy from Palliation to Cure", which described the favorable characteristics of radionuclide therapy to serve as a palliative therapy and the current trend to move this treatment modality forward in the management protocol of several tumors to become part of a strategy with curative intent. This was followed by a number of lectures by the three speakers on a variety of topics, e.g., "Radioimmunotherapy of Lymphoma", "Radionuclide Therapy of Neuroendocrine Tumors", "Palliation of Painful Bone Metastases palliative or curative?", "Radionuclide Therapy of Hepatocellular Cancer", "Radionuclide Therapy in Children" and "Management of Problematic Thyroid Cancer". In the late afternoon, after the closing remarks, the business meeting of the Philippine Society of Nuclear Medicine took place, electing a new Board of the Society.

The convention was accredited for Continuing Medical Education Units by the Philippine Medical Association, the Philippine College of Physicians and the Asian School of Nuclear Medicine. The speakers received certificates of appreciation for their lectures by the Philippine Society of Nuclear Medicine.

During the social event of the convention, the new Board of the Philippine Society was presented, new members to the Society were sworn in, and the 7 new fellows of the Society were appointed (Figure-2 and 3). Subsequently Prof. Ajit K. Padhy received the Honorary Fellowship of the Philippine Society of Nuclear Medicine for his contributions to nuclear medicine in the Philippines over many years and also 4 pioneers of nuclear medicine in the Philippines received special awards. The Fellowship night was concluded with a dance contest between institutes and the experts had one more job to do, i.e. to be the jury

The PSNM annual convention was preceded and followed by a series of pre and post convention seminars on several topics of interest in nuclear medicine (Figure-4). It has been an outstanding Presidency for Dr. Emerita Barrenechea and her colleagues (Figure-5), who had worked tirelessly for the past two years, promoting the specialty all over Philippines, establishing strong interactions with many clinical specialties, introducing new techniques and creating an overall vibrant atmosphere in the country conducive to rapid growth of the specialty in Philippines. It is hoped that the new President Dr. Resty Monzon and his team would carry forward the good work of Dr. Barrenechea and her team in the future.



Figure-1. Drs. Hoefnagel, Padhy and Fischer with Dr Rosevic Cembrano and Dr Dang Ortiga of Davao.



Figure-2. The Fellowship Night was a formal affair, conducted with grace and dignity.



Figure-3. Happy faces and all smiles. Drs. Rivera, Mea, Estrada, de Guzman, Caligagan and Barroso, the new inducted Diplomates of PSNM who received the title of “Diplomate in Nuclear Medicine”. They were conferred the titles after meeting the society’s requirements and successfully passing the board examinations.



Figure-4. Dr. San Luis, Dr. Barrenechea and Dr. Hoefnagel soon after the pre-convention CME at St. Luke’s Medical Centre, Manila



Figure-5. The “Barong Squad”: Board Members of the Philippine Society of Nuclear Medicine