

CONFERENCE BULLETIN



MANILA HOTEL

NOVEMBER 25-27, 2009

by: *Ronaldo E. Puno, RMT, MBA-H*

Fortified at 45: PAMET Turns Sapphire



In celebration of yet another milestone, The Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc. (PAMET), observed its 45th or Sapphire Anniversary which coincided with the Annual National Convention held at the Manila Hotel from November 25-27, 2009.

Adopting this year's theme, "Medical Technologists: On A Higher Leap Amidst Global Challenges", PAMET spelled out the association's positive outlook despite of some unfavorable turn of events in the country which were brought about by the series of typhoons and other natural calamities in recent months

that literally devastated the lives of thousand Filipinos and destroyed millions worth of properties. The shifting trends in the profession both locally and globally is another issue that the association continues to focus. It also provided a wider perspective on the Medical Technologists' high degree of commitment in addressing social concerns like global warming, environmental protection and climate change where every individual is now being called to get involved and showing one's resilience despite the odds is most needed.

The pre-conference activities kicked-off with a full day registration

and scientific workshops on November 25, where relevant topics on various areas of laboratory practice were thoroughly discussed to limited number of participants.

It was followed on the following day, November 26, with simple yet meaningful ceremonies to officially open the convention. The traditional processional of PAMET National Board, Regional Directors, Chapter Presidents, Advisory Council and Keynote Speaker was made even more special and meaningful with the presence of representatives from various country-members of the Asia Association of Medical Laboratory Sciences (AAMLS)

by: *Gina A. Noble, RMT*



1st day starts with a bang by providing the delegates workshops that provided updates

The 45th Annual Convention of PAMET starts with a bang by providing the delegates workshops that provided updates, reviews in the practice of Medical technology. The different topics were given simultaneously in the different function hall of the Manila Hotel. Each workshop was well attended by the Medical Technologists all around the country. The officers and board of directors of PAMET appreciated the warm response of our colleagues and our deepest gratitude to all our course directors, moderators and most specially our sponsors who made the workshops a real success.

such as Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore and Taiwan as well as the Asia-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry (APFCB), represented by its President Mr. Joseph Lopez and PAMET-USA Officers in the person of Mr. and Mrs. Art Trinidad.

To properly set the mood for the conference, a lively opening salvo was prepared by the students of Emilio Aguinaldo College through a dance number which was later complemented by the angelic voices of the choir from the same school which rendered the Doxology, National Anthem and PAMET Hymn.

Addressing the more than 2,000 local and foreign delegates, PAMET Exec. Sec. Ronaldo E. Puno, aptly opened the day with his message emphasizing the important roles every Medical Technologist should play as part of the healthcare delivery team. He said: "...amidst the challenges that we are facing today, we, Medical Technologists, should be one in the advocacy towards the increase in number of Medical Technology professionals and the betterment of the profession, so that, no matter how difficult is the road ahead of us, we are confident that we are prepared and determined to rise above and ready to succeed..."

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Dir. Lily Alquiza welcomed the delegates while Treas. Eleanor P. Garcia did the roll call.

PAMET Pres. Dr. Leila M. Florento, in her message highlighted that: "This is the time for us to embrace ourselves and work hand in hand to meet the challenges brought about by global challenges and competitiveness. ... we have to maintain the drive for continuous improvement through learnings. We need these to continue fueling our journey as e adjust to new realities towards increasing our overall competencies."

To deliver the Keynote Address, Vice President Romeo Joseph J. Ignacio, introduced the Keynote Speaker in the person of Dr. Enrique A. Tayag, Director IV, National Epidemiology Center, Department of Health.

Dr. Tayag reiterated that: "Medical Technologists have wide range of "super powers". They should not be invisible to patient care. The world is now in the crossroads of creating value in healthcare delivery and the challenge is how to uphold our values."

The celebration will not be complete without conferring the four awards being given by the association annually to its outstanding and deserving members and chapters with significant contributions to the association and to the Medical Technology profession. Such recognitions for 2009 were given to Ms. Jacinta B. Cruz (Most Outstanding Medical Technologist), Ms. Vivian V. Tagama (Distinguished Service Award), Razel L. Kawano (Crisanto Almaro Memorial Award for Research) and Pangasinan Chapter (Most Outstanding Chapter).

Likewise, there was a display of latest and most modern diagnostic

equipments showcasing the state-of-the-art technologies in the laboratory science through the exhibits dubbed as: "Technomedical '09" under the chairmanship of Auditor Luella A. Vertucio.

The three-day conference which ran until November 27, has lined-up carefully-chosen topics which are relevant to the practice of Medical Technology with known experts in various fields as invited speakers. Plenary sessions, satellite symposia, round table discussions and paper presentations were made integral part of the scientific program. Dir. Lily M. Alquiza chaired the committee.

Forty-five years after its inception by the forefathers of Medical Technologists who felt the need for an organization to look after the welfare of all registered Medical Technologists in the country, PAMET had undoubtedly come a very, very long way. Up to the present, PAMET remains to be vigilant and steadfast on how it can promote the profession, improve the practice and assure that the country produces world-class professionals who are at par if not better than other Medical Technologists in all corners of the globe.

Looking at the impressive and relevant accomplishments of all the leaders of the association, past and present, who committed themselves and unselfishly shared their invaluable time and talents which brought PAMET to where it is today, it can be said that for the next 45 years or more, PAMET will remain to be the moving force among every laboratory professional... the association which remained faithful to its members through the years.

by: Joycelynn L. Aman, RMT, MBA

TRANSITION

Christian Denn Jeffrey Bondoc Yumang, a newly registered Medical Technologist from PAMET Pampanga Chapter, shocked the community when he joined His Creator at age 26 in November 2009 due to a tragic motorcycle accident. His kind heart and happy spirit will be remembered always.

Marcelina Ramos, 60, Chief Medical Technologist of Alviar Biomedical Laboratory in Malate, Manila joined her Creator last November 22, 2009 after fighting with ovarian cancer for three years. She was survived by her husband and only daughter. Her remains were laid to rest last November 26, 2009, the first day of 45th PAMET Annual Convention. Ms. Ramos was an active PAMET member until the time she succumbed to death. She is the latest recipient of Bayanihan Assistance Program.



by: *Virgie D.Silvestre, RMT*

Workshop on “Updates on Hemostasis “



The workshop was successfully held and was attended by over 50 participants from various hospitals and laboratories. We even requested for extra chairs to accommodate the persistent delegates. Though it started a little late, the participants eagerly waited for our most course director, Dr. Rodelio Lim.

Dr. Lim presented the course in a very simple and concise manner which was well-absorbed by the participants. He discussed very well one of the most controversial tests in the laboratory, the

Protime and APTT. The lecture was supplemented by the lecture of Mr. Robert Manaois, President of Scientific Biotech Specialties. He discussed the Lupus Anticoagulation and Thrombophilia Panel and the Principles in Hemostasis Automation. The participants also enjoyed the hands-on part on handling the new Protime and APTT analyzer, both the fully automated and semi-automated.

The workshop ended with a lively raffle of high tech gadgets sponsored by Scientific Biotech Specialties.

by: *Virgie D.Silvestre, RMT*

Updates on URINALYSIS: AUTOMATION IN MICROSCOPY

It was a very successful workshop held in Champagne Salon, Manila Hotel, conducted by Mr. Paul Lebrun, from Iris Diagnostics International, Hongkong together with the TNC Everlight Inc.

The speaker's shared that often told, Urinalysis is one of the most important and commonly requested in the Laboratory. It is a simple, non-invasive and effective test to conduct, which the results are indicative of one's general health that gives valuable but hidden messages.

Performing urine chemistry using urine dip stick reveals about the composition of urine but microscopic examination should not be ignored particularly for the presence of urinary casts and crystals. Therefore, microscopic and urine chemistry results shall be compared and correlated to enhance proper diagnosis.

According to Mr. Lebrun, the most common obstacle is the manual method which does not promote standardization, traceability and Laboratory efficiency.

In many Laboratories today, the use of AUTOMATED URINE MICROSCOPY INSTRUMENT is widely accepted, that eliminates pre analytical errors.

With machine launched by the TNC Everlight Inc., both chemical and microscopic analysis of urine are fully automated with 12 images identified and stored.

In addition, AUTOMATION offers workflow enhancement and minimizes human error both in result data entry and microscopic examination, with Quality Control Program that provides accurate and precise results.

by: *Joycelynn L. Aman, RMT, MBA*

A (H1N1) 2nd Wave: Are We Prepared?

The 45th Annual National Convention of the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc. (PAMET) started with convention workshops on November 25, 2009. Workshop 3 which was entitled “A(H1N1) 2nd Wave: Are We Prepared?” was held at the Millennium Salon, Manila Hotel. The workshop director was Ms. Hazel O. Galang, Supervising Science Research Specialist and Head, Virology Department, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. The moderator for the workshop was Director Joycelynn L. Aman.

During the workshop, Ms. Galang discussed the following topics: what influenza A (H1N1) is all about, the proper way of collecting and transporting specimens, the diagnostic techniques and procedures that are being used here in the Philippines, bio safety precautions, the vital role of medical technologists in the diagnosis and treatment and the preparedness of the government in handling outbreaks. The participants showed great interest about the topic. It was a very lively and informative lecture.

Likewise, she also informed the participants about the different DOH hospitals designated as Referral Centers for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases are.



45TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Highlights





by: Virgie D. Silvestre, RMT

TECHNO MEDICAL '09



The expo of the latest technology in diagnostic industry was formally opened to the convention delegates of PAMET on November 26, 2009 at the Tent City of the Manila Hotel. The Guest of Honor, Dr. Eric Tayag, together with the AAMLT delegates, APFCB President Joseph Lopez, and PAMET Board



of Directors led by President Leila Florento, shared the limelight in opening the Techno Medical 09.

The exhibit participated in by 36 different diagnostic companies showcased the latest in clinical laboratory instrumentation and reagents.

by: Ronaldo E. Puno, RMT, MBA-H

Asian Night: A Cruise By the Bay

After a long and stressful day brought about by the opening day of the 45th Annual Convention, PAMET once again showcased the typical and world-renowned Filipino hospitality by treating its foreign guests, mostly officers of the Asia Association of Medical Laboratory Sciences (AAMLS) member countries including Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Taiwan and the

President of Asia Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry (APFCB) Mr. Joseph Lopez.

While having a sumptuous dinner, the group cruised around the romantic Manila Bay. To further enjoy the night, a full house entertainment was provided. Amidst a lot of laughters and funny antics, PAMET Officers and guests took the night away by jointly dancing and

singing on board.

The event maybe short, but for sure, it was a very memorable experience and everybody had fun at its best. Majority of the National Board, Regional Directors and Advisory Council joined the special dinner generously hosted by Sysmex Philippines through its country manager and PAMET Vice President Romeo Joseph J. Ignacio.



Food Intake: Ready, Get Set, Go

A very informative lecture about food was discussed in one of the parallel sessions on November 27 at the Rigodon Room of the Manila Hotel.

Ms. Chita Celeste C. Angeles, Chief Nutritionist and Dietitian of Veterans Memorial Medical Center, ably shared her knowledge and expertise on the topic "The Role of Nutrition in Cancer Control".

In one of her discussions, she emphasized the use of herbs and spices to season foods instead of salts. If one cannot avoid salt in cooking, add the said ingredient towards the end of the cooking period to minimize unnecessary volume of salts.

She recommended the following to prevent cancer or to reduce cancer risk.

- Choose a diet rich in a variety of plant-based foods. They should cover two-thirds or more of the plate
- Consume 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables daily
- Include cruciferous vegetables and those that are dark green and leafy, including those that are deep yellow, orange or red in color
- Include citrus fruits and other foods that are high in antioxidant vitamins

She ended her lecture by quoting Hippocrates "Let food be your medicine and medicine be your food"

Traffic Light of Foods

RED (Stop)

Foods that are rich in man-made chemicals and toxins

Pork and pork products
Crabs, shells and shrimps

YELLOW (Caution)

Foods with moderate amounts of man-made chemicals and toxins

Beef
Chicken
Fish in shallow waters near the shore and waters in the mouth of the river

GREEN (Go)

Foods that contain essential nutrients to keep the body healthy and strong

Variety of fresh, raw fruits and vegetables
Variety of whole grain cereals
Variety of nuts, beans and legumes
Boiled or poached egg
Full cream milk
Fish from deep waters of the sea preferably with scales and relatively small



PAMET CHAPTERS GATHER ANEW



It was in Sampaguita room of Manila Hotel where the PAMET Annual Chapters' Meeting was held on Nov. 25, 2009 at exactly 6:15 in the evening. The meeting was presided by PAMET National Vice President and Chapters Committee Chair, Romeo Joseph J. Ignacio with the presence of other National Officers, Board Directors, Regional Directors, Advisory Council and Presidents and Representatives of 22 local chapters. The meeting took about 3 hours of full discussion about the most current issues facing the Medical Technologists in the country today.

Topping the agenda were the topics on CPE re-implementation, Welfare and Benefits and Salary Standardization and the accomplishment reports of Regional Directors. The most tackled issue though was about the Salary Standardization of Medical Technologists working in

the government hospitals and other healthcare facilities. It was reported by PAMET President, Dr. Leila M. Florento, that the organization is not sleeping on the issue and has been exerting all possible efforts and communicating with concerned government agencies in able to be heard in behalf of all the Medical Technologists. The organization already submitted its position paper and recommendations regarding the salary re-classification. The appeal is about the fair adjustment in the salaries of Medical Technologists just like what government did in other health care professionals.

On the other hand, the reports of different regional directors gave color to the said meeting. The mid-year convention in Baguio country club held on May 2-4 2009 which was attended by 862 delegates was reported mid-year conference to beat in terms of attendance. He

challenge as posed to the next host, Davao Chapter. The re-organization and revival of Isabela Chapter was also noteworthy.

Down south, the show must go on for the Southern Luzon region despite of the typhoon "Ondoy". The said conference was attended by delegates from various component chapters of South Luzon and ended up to be a very successful seminar.

Highlight of Visayas report was the first Inter-School Research Forum while Mindanao announced the creation of its new chapter Zamboanga-Sibugay which is a proof that despite geographical difficulties between different chapters, PAMET is very much alive and still expanding in the said region.

The meeting wrapped up with the announcement of the 2009 Most Outstanding Chapter, Pangasinan Chapter.

by: JULIUS T. CAPILI, RMT, MPH

THE PAMET CHAPTERS: BOLD and LOUD

The annual PAMET Convention always looks forward to the meritorious and overwhelming achievements of the local chapters from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Although Pangasinan chapter bested the rest as they were proclaimed winner of this year's search for the Most Outstanding Chapter, we actually were so impressed with the dynamism, laudable performance and efforts of all the chapters in carrying cognizant and relevant activities in their respective localities.

As you enter the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel, you will appreciate the panel boards showcasing the activities of the chapters in tarpaulin or in collage. It was not only reflective of

the creativity and artistry of the chapters but also displayed how enthusiastic and active they are. As I gleaned over the photos, I realized that aside from scientific seminars which were successfully conducted in each area, the chapters have been very vigorous and vigilant in carrying-out medical missions, the hand washing program in various schools and deprived communities, Kid-Galing awarding ceremonies, bloodletting activities, oath taking ceremonies and advocacy campaigns among others. There were even some who spearheaded the launching of research forums, retreat activities and socializations. Davao chapter also took the chance of inviting participants for

next year's Mid-year convention.

The panel boards simply depicted how the different chapters are continuously improving from their previous best. We remain hoping that through the displayed panel boards, we will be able to solicit the member's cooperation and participation in accomplishing all the activities that the chapter officers are planning for next year. We also anticipate that more chapters shall earnestly and resolutely illustrate their vibrant activities during the next year's convention. Again, we reiterate our sincerest congratulations to the chapters most especially to the chapter presidents who had a splendid and sterling recital this year.