

Revolutionizing the Future of  
**PATHOLOGY**  
with the EMERGENCE of



**75<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

16-18 April 2026  
Makati Shangri-La Hotel

**SOUVENIR PROGRAM**



# Revolutionizing the Future of **PATHOLOGY** with the EMERGENCE of **AI**

## 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

16-18 April 2026  
Makati Shangri-La Hotel

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### Philippine Society of Pathologists (PSP)

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It is my honor to congratulate the Philippine Society of Pathologists (PSP) as you hold your 75th Annual Convention with the theme ***“Revolutionizing the Future of Pathology with the Emergence of AI”***. The PMA lauds your efforts to actively seek opportunities for professional development and continuing medical education through seminars and teaching courses such as this. By staying current with the latest advancement in Pathology, you can ensure providing the most effective and up to date care for our patients.

The Emergence of AI has posed numerous challenges on its acceptance and relevance in many Medical specialties including the field of Pathology. Through the years, PSP has managed to be resilient and stayed relevant as a society. You have managed to provide continuous service, integrate various disciplines, and maintain excellence in the field of pathology. AI may hasten processes, reduce slide reading time, answer queries, and suggest differentials. Most of these are meant to support decisions, but the pathologist remains to be the final reader. AI provides an opportunity to augment but not to replace the pathologists. Through conferences you hold, you share your best practices, innovations, and experiences, deepen your knowledge through collaboration, and find ways to work on a wider and more impactful scale.

The Philippine Medical Association recognizes your achievement through sacrifices and hard work. We shall all work as one to deliver comprehensive and coordinated care for a healthy community and a healthy nation. I wish you success in your current endeavor.

“Nagkakaisang PMA: Hatid ay kalusugan para sa lahat!”

**Hector M. Santos, Jr., MD, MMHoA**  
President, Philippine Medical Association



# MESSAGE



Warmest greetings to all our colleagues, mentors, partners, and friends.

It is with heartfelt pride and gratitude that we welcome you to the 75th Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Pathologists, Inc. While we marked our 75th founding anniversary last year, this gathering allows us to continue that celebration as a community that has grown, endured, and thrived through the years.

For seventy-five years, the PSP has been more than just a professional society; it has been a home for generations of pathologists dedicated to the quiet but vital work of understanding disease and advancing patient care. This convention is a moment not only to honor that shared legacy, but also to celebrate the people who make it meaningful—each of you.

This year's program has been thoughtfully prepared to bring together respected experts, passionate educators, and colleagues across many subspecialties. We hope that the sessions will not only deepen knowledge but also inspire reflection, curiosity, and renewed purpose in our work.

Just as important as the scientific exchange is the opportunity to reconnect—with mentors who have guided us, with peers who have walked alongside us, and with younger colleagues who will carry our profession forward. These moments of connection remind us that while our work may often be behind the scenes, we are part of a vibrant and supportive community.

As we move forward from our 75th year, may we continue to uphold the values that have defined us—excellence, integrity, and service—while embracing the changes and challenges ahead with openness and collaboration.

Welcome to the convention. May your time here be enriching, meaningful, and filled with renewed inspiration.



  
**Maria Cecilia F. Lim, MD, FPSP**  
President, Philippine Society of Pathologists



The Philippine Society of Cytopathology extends its warmest congratulations to the Philippine Society of Pathologists, Inc. on the occasion of its 75th Annual Convention on April 16 to 18, 2026.

As a discipline, cytopathology plays a vital role in modern patient care bridging morphology with minimally invasive diagnostic procedures and techniques that significantly contribute to early disease detection and accurate diagnosis.

We reaffirm our support for initiatives that strengthen professional collaboration and elevate the standards of cytopathology practice in the country.

May this convention continue to inspire new ideas, enhance professional ties, and reaffirm our shared mission of advancing the art, science, and practice of pathology for the benefit of our patients.



The Founding Members  
The Philippine Society of Cytopathology

# MESSAGE



Warmest greetings to all esteemed colleagues and guests!

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I welcome you to the 75th Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Pathologists—a remarkable milestone that celebrates our enduring commitment to excellence, collaboration, and innovation in the field of pathology. For seventy-five years, this annual convention has served as a meaningful venue to acquire new knowledge, update our competencies, reconnect with colleagues, and build new professional relationships. As we gather once again, we do so at a pivotal moment in our profession. This year's theme, *"Revolutionizing the Future of Pathology with the Emergence of AI,"* is both timely and transformative.

Artificial Intelligence is no longer a distant concept but an accessible and powerful tool that is reshaping how we learn, teach, and practice. Its influence spans across education, where it has redefined teaching-learning processes, and across industries, where it continues to enhance efficiency and capability. In pathology and laboratory medicine, AI presents unprecedented opportunities—augmenting diagnostic accuracy, streamlining workflows, and opening new frontiers in patient care.

In this convention, the application and integration of AI in our field will take center stage as a key focus of the scientific program. We aim to critically explore its impact, address its implications for pathologists, and understand how we can harness its potential responsibly and effectively. Alongside these forward-looking discussions, essential and timely topics in both anatomic and clinical pathology have been carefully curated to provide comprehensive updates for all delegates.

Our Scientific Program Committee has thoughtfully designed this three-day event to maximize learning and engagement. Simultaneous sessions in anatomic and clinical pathology offer diverse opportunities for participation, while interactive microscopy sessions and specialized workshops, such as diagnostic electrophoresis, provide hands-on and practical experiences.

Beyond the scientific sessions, we encourage everyone to take part in the many meaningful activities throughout the convention. Let us come together for the opening and closing ceremonies, where we celebrate our shared purpose and achievements. We will also honor our newly inducted diplomates and fellows, and recognize the outstanding research contributions of our residents through poster and platform presentations.

We likewise invite you to visit the booths of our valued sponsors and partners, whose support helps make this event possible. Do not miss the fellowship night—a time to unwind, enjoy good food, celebrate our community, and be entertained by our special guest performer.

As Overall Chair, it is my sincere hope that this convention will be a fulfilling and memorable experience for all. The Organizing Committee has dedicated its time, effort, and passion to ensure a seamless and meaningful gathering. May this milestone event inspire us to embrace innovation while remaining grounded in the principles that define our profession.

Thank you for being part of this historic celebration. I look forward to sharing these moments with all of you.

Welcome, and mabuhay!

**Alan T. Koa, MD, FPSP**  
Overall Chair, 75th Annual Convention  
Philippine Society of Pathologists



Revolutionizing the Future of  
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# CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Day 1 • 16 April 2026 • THURSDAY • RIZAL BALLROOM

<b>8:00 - 10:00 AM</b>	Opening Ceremonies	
<b>10:00 - 10:15 AM</b>	Ribbon Cutting / Coffee Break	
<b>10:15 - 10:55 AM</b>	<b>(CP) AI in Clinical Laboratory Medicine: From Emerging Innovations to Practical Integration</b>	Dr. Bernard Gouget
<b>10:55 - 11:35 AM</b>	<b>(AP) Overview of the Current Landscape of AI in Pathology</b>	Dr. Eric Yang
<b>11:35 - 11:50 AM</b>	Open Forum	Moderator: Dr. Edna May Go
<b>11:50 - 1:00 PM</b>	Lunch Break/ Booth Visit	
<b>1:00 - 1:40 PM</b>	<b>(AP) Triple-Negative Breast Carcinomas: Rare Favorable Subtypes and Diagnostic Challenges</b>	Dr. Raza S. Hoda
<b>1:40 - 2:20 PM</b>	<b>(AP) Papillary Breast Tumors: Review of Common, Uncommon, and Unexpected Variants</b>	Dr. Raza S. Hoda
<b>2:20 - 2:30 PM</b>	Open Forum and Awarding of Certificate	Moderator: Dr. Sarah Jane Datay-Lim
<b>2:30 - 2:45 PM</b>	Coffee Break	
<b>2:45 - 3:25 PM</b>	<b>(AP) A Practical Approach to the Diagnosis of Prostatic Adenocarcinoma</b>	Dr. Christopher Przybycin
<b>3:25 - 4:05 PM</b>	<b>(AP) Case Studies in Hereditary Kidney Tumors</b>	Dr. Christopher Przybycin
<b>4:05 - 4:20 PM</b>	Open Forum and Awarding of Certificate	Moderator: Dr. David Jerome Ong
<b>5:00 - 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Recognition and Oath-Taking Ceremonies of Diplomates and Fellows</b>	

*Note: There will be a live feed of Day 1 program in Isabela Ballroom.*

## ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY WORKSHOPS • MANILA B FUNCTION ROOM

<b>Day 1 - 16 April</b>	<b>Interactive Microscopy: Gynecologic Pathology</b>	Moderator:
<b>4:15 - 5:45 PM</b>	Dr. Jennifer Bennett	Dr. Dian Lagamayo
<b>Day 2 - 17 April</b>	<b>Interactive Microscopy: Breast Pathology</b>	Moderator:
<b>8:00 - 9:30 AM</b>	Dr. Raza Hoda	Dr. Jennifer Go
<b>9:45 - 11:15 AM</b>	<b>Interactive Microscopy: Genitourinary Pathology</b>	Moderator:
	Dr. Christopher Przybycin	Dr. David Jerome Ong
<b>Day 3 - 18 April</b>	<b>HER2 IHC Interpretation Masterclass</b>	<i>In partnership with</i>
<b>8:40 - 11:45 AM</b>	Dr. Sarah Jane Datay-Lim and Dr. Christina Galvez	<i>AstraZeneca</i>
<b>1:00 - 2:30 PM</b>	<b>Interactive Microscopy: Thyroid Pathology</b>	Moderator:
	Dr. Ronald Ghossein	Dr. Robert Glen Abesamis



# CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Day 2 • 17 April 2026 • FRIDAY

**8:00 - 9:30 AM** Research Contest\*

**9:30 - 9:45 AM** Coffee Break

**9:45 - 10:25 AM** (CP) From Testing to Intelligence: Reimagining Viral Diagnostics for Equity and Pandemic Preparedness\*  
Dr. Melvin Sanicas

**10:25 - 11:05 AM** (CP) Frontline Diagnostics as the First Intervention: Accelerating Outbreak Response and Medical Countermeasure Development\*  
Dr. Melvin Sanicas

**11:05 - 11:20 AM** Open Forum\*  
Moderator: Dr. Criston Manasan

**11:20 - 12:00 NN** AP Breakout (Rizal Ballroom)  
**Endometrial Carcinomas: Unusual Patterns and Novel Histotypes**  
Dr. Jennifer Bennett

CP Breakout (Isabela Ballroom)  
**HbA1c Testing and Hemoglobin Variants**  
Dr. Rose Lou Marie Agbay

**12:00 - 1:00 PM** Lunch Break/ Booth Visit

**1:00 - 1:40 PM** Demystifying Ovarian Sex Cord-Stromal Tumors  
Dr. Jennifer Bennett

Automation, Robotics and Informatics to Improve Efficiency and Stat Testing Goal  
Dr. Deepti Jain

**1:40 - 1:55 PM** Open Forum and Awarding of Certificate  
Moderator: Dr. Kevin Elomina

Open Forum and Awarding of Certificate  
Moderator: Dr. Joan Marie Diestro

**2:00 - 3:00 PM** DOH Hour\*  
Moderator: Dr. Criselda Abesamis

**3:00 - 3:15 PM** Coffee Break

**3:15 - 5:15 PM** Business Meeting / Residents' Hour

**7:00 - 10:00 PM** Fellowship Night

**7:00 - 8:00 PM** Dinner with Serenade from Scala Chamber Orchestra

**8:00 - 10:00 PM** Main Act with Ice Seguerra



\*Plenary sessions will be held in Rizal Ballroom, with a live feed in Isabela Ballroom.



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# CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Day 3 • 18 April 2026 • SATURDAY

AP Breakout (Rizal Ballroom)

CP Breakout (Isabela Ballroom)

<b>8:00 - 8:40 AM</b>	<b>Classification of Thyroid Tumors Part 1</b> Dr. Ronald Ghossein	<b>(Workshop) Starting Strong in Diagnostic Electrophoresis: Common Cases Every Consultant and Resident Should Know</b> Dr. Jared Billena Dr. Mark Anthony Turingan Moderator: Dr. Pierre Givenchy Layson
<b>8:40 - 9:20 AM</b>	<b>Classification of Thyroid Tumors Part 2</b> Dr. Ronald Ghossein	
<b>9:20 - 9:40 AM</b>	Open Forum and Awarding of Certificate Moderator: Dr. Robert Glen R. Abesamis	
<b>9:40 - 10:10 AM</b>	Coffee Break / Booth Visit	
<b>10:10 - 10:50 AM</b>	<b>Squamous Intraepithelial Lesions of the Lower Anogenital Tract</b> Dr. Eric Yang	<b>TB or not TB? That is the Question! Pulmonary Paragonimiasis: Common or Uncommon</b> - Dr. Vicente Belizario, Jr.
<b>10:50 - 11:00 AM</b>	Open Forum and Awarding of Certificate Moderator: Dr. Maximo Saavedra Jr.	Open Forum and Awarding of Certificate Moderator: Dr. Pedrito Tagayuna
<b>11:05 - 11:45 AM</b>	<b>(CP) New Horizons for mHealth and Mobile Technologies in Laboratory Medicine and Pathology*</b> - Dr. Bernard Gouget	
<b>11:45 - 11:55 AM</b>	Open Forum and Awarding of Certificate* Moderator: Dr. Maximo Saavedra Jr.	
<b>11:55 - 01:00 PM</b>	Lunch / Booth Visit	
<b>1:00 - 1:40 PM</b>	<b>Current Concepts in Pediatric and Perinatal Pathology for the General Pathologist</b> <b>Beyond Positive or Negative: Practical Approaches to Hirschsprung Disease Diagnosis</b> - Dr. Farrah Kristine Santiago <b>Biliary Atresia: Diagnosis and Histopathologic Differentials in Neonatal Cholestasis</b> - Dr. Kethly Tejada <b>Defining Placental Lesions: The Amsterdam Criteria</b> - Dr. Sheila May Ramos	<b>Chemiluminescent Immunoassay Method in the Precision Diagnosis of Autoimmune Diseases</b> Ms. Selena Shen
<b>1:40 - 1:50 PM</b>	Open Forum and Awarding of Certificate Moderator: Dr. Erick Martin Yturralde	Open Forum and Awarding of Certificate Moderator: Dr. Jesser Dann Abella
<b>1:50 - 2:30 PM</b>	<b>(CP) National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL): Transforming Diagnostic Equity, Integration and Quality in the Philippines*</b> - Dr. Socorro Yañez	
<b>2:30 - 2:40 PM</b>	Open Forum and Awarding of Certificate* Moderator: Dr. Pedrito Tagayuna	
<b>2:40 - 3:00 PM</b>	Coffee Break	
<b>3:00 - 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Closing Ceremonies*</b>	

\* Plenary sessions will be held in Rizal Ballroom, with a live feed in Isabela Ballroom.



# CONVENTION SCHEDULE

## Opening Ceremonies 16 April 2026 · Thursday

**7:30 AM** General Assembly

**8:00 AM** Processional

Invocation  
The Philippine National Anthem  
PMA Hymn  
PSP Hymn  
Message

Message

Acknowledgement of Past Presidents

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Keynote Address

Awarding of Plaque of Appreciation  
to Keynote Speaker

Announcement of the Recipients  
of the PSP-Scribe Grant

Awarding Ceremonies

- Dr. Benjamin A. Barrera Service Award (Posthumous)
- Outstanding Pathologist Award
- Distinguished Service Award
- Dr. Liborio Gomez Memorial Award
- Dr. Liborio Gomez Memorial Lecture

### **Musika Medisina**

College of Medicine, San Beda University

### **Alan T. Koa, MD, FPSP**

Immediate Past President  
Overall Chair, 75th Annual Convention

### **Maria Cecilia F. Lim, MD, FPSP**

President

### **Justine Alessandra U. Uy, MD-MBA, FPSP**

Secretary

### **Edna May Lasap-Go, MD, FPSP**

Member, Board of Governors

### **Melvin J. Sanicas, MD, MSc, MBA,**

**FRSPH, FRSA, FAcadMED**  
Keynote Speaker

### **Maria Cecilia F. Lim, MD, FPSP**

President

### **Alan T. Koa, MD, FPSP**

Immediate Past President  
Overall Chair, 75th Annual Convention

### **Maria Cecilia F. Lim, MD, FPSP**

President

### **Paolo S. Ocampo, MD, PhD**

CEO, Scribe Medical

### **Jeffrey S. So, MD, FPSP**

Chair, Committee on Awards

### **Carmelita V. Navarro, MD, MPH, FPSP**

**Ansarie P. Salpin, RMT, MD, MPG, FPSP, MIAC**

**Jon Paolo J. Tan, MD, DPSP**

**Carlota L. Baizas-Manzano, MD, FPSP, DTMH**

**Rolando A. Lopez, MD, FPSP, FPhSC**

**Amado O. Tandoc III, MD, FPSP**

**Elizabeth Ann S. Alcazaren, MD, FPSP, FPhSC, MIAC**

**Elizabeth Ann S. Alcazaren, MD, FPSP, FPhSC, MIAC**

**Justine Alessandra U. Uy, MD-MBA, FPSP**

Secretary  
Master of Ceremonies



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# CONVENTION SCHEDULE

## Recognition & Oathtaking Ceremonies

16 April 2026 · Thursday

**4:15 PM** General Assembly

**4:45 PM** Processional

**5:00 PM** Invocation

The Philippine National Anthem

Opening Remarks

**Maria Cecilia F. Lim, MD, FPSP**  
President

Presentation of New Diplomates

Anatomic and Clinical Pathology  
Anatomic Pathology

**Rouchelle D. Dela Cruz, MD, FPSP**  
Secretary-Treasurer, Board of Anatomic Pathology

Clinical Pathology

**Maximo A. Saavedra Jr., MD, FPSP**  
Secretary-Treasurer, Board of Clinical Pathology

**Francis F. Dematera, MD, FPSP**  
Overall Chair, Board of Pathology

**Maria Cecilia F. Lim, MD, FPSP**  
President

Presentation of New Fellows

**Justine Alessandra U. Uy, MD-MBA, FPSP**  
Chair, Committee on Membership

**Maria Cecilia F. Lim, MD, FPSP**  
President

Presentation of New Subspecialists

**Francis F. Dematera, MD, FPSP**  
Overall Chair, Board of Pathology

**Maria Cecilia F. Lim, MD, FPSP**  
President

Closing Remarks

**Francis F. Dematera, MD, FPSP**  
Overall Chair, Board of Pathology

**Justine Alessandra U. Uy, MD-MBA, FPSP**  
Secretary  
Master of Ceremonies



# CONVENTION SCHEDULE

## Closing Ceremonies 18 April 2026 · Saturday

**3:00 PM** Invocation  
The Philippine National Anthem  
PMA Hymn  
PSP Hymn  
Introduction of the Guest Speaker

Message

Awarding of Plaque of Appreciation to Guest Speaker

Valedictory Speech of the Current PSP President

Induction of the New Set of Officers and Members of the Board of Governors

Turnover Ceremonies

Acceptance Speech of the New PSP President

Oath of New Chapter Presidents

Oath of New Officers and Board of Directors of the Philippine Society of Cytopathology

Oath of New Officers of the Pathology Residents Organization

Recognition of the Working Committees of the Annual Convention and the Corporate Sponsors

Announcement of Winners of the Research Competition

Announcement of Accredited Training Institutions

Closing Remarks

**05:00 PM onwards** Raffle

**Vox**  
Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health

**Jocelyn Myra R. Caja, MD, FPSP**  
Chair, Committee on Closing Ceremonies

**Albert Francis E. Domingo, MD, MSc**  
Undersecretary, Department of Health  
Guest Speaker

**Maria Cecilia F. Lim, MD, FPSP**  
President

**Alan T. Koa, MD, FPSP**  
Immediate Past President  
Overall Chair, 75th Annual Convention

**Maria Cecilia F. Lim, MD, FPSP**  
President

**Albert Francis E. Domingo, MD, MSc**  
Undersecretary, Department of Health

**Alan T. Koa, MD, FPSP**  
Immediate Past President  
Overall Chair, 75th Annual Convention

**Steffanie Charlyne A. Tamayo, MD, DPSP**  
Chair, Committee on Research and Poster Presentation

**Pedrito Y. Tagayuna, MD, FPSP**  
Chair, Committee on Accreditation of Pathology Training Program

**Alan T. Koa, MD, FPSP**  
Immediate Past President  
Overall Chair, 75th Annual Convention

**Carmela Claire A. Ferrer, MD, DPSP**  
**Christine D. Santos, MD, DPSP**  
Raffle Masters

**Justine Alessandra U. Uy, MD-MBA, FPSP**  
Secretary  
Master of Ceremonies



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## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Melvin J. Sanicas is a physician-scientist and global health leader based in Zurich, Switzerland, with over 18 years of international leadership across vaccines, infectious diseases, immunology, oncology diagnostics, and regulatory science. He currently serves as Global Medical Director and Vaccines Lead at Bavarian Nordic, leading global medical strategy and evidence generation for preventive immunization and emerging infectious disease programs.

Previously, he was International Medical Director for Cancer Immunology at Exact Sciences (now Abbott), where he advanced early cancer detection and real-world evidence programs. His earlier leadership roles include Senior Director for Global Medical Affairs and Clinical Development at Clover Biopharma, Director of Clinical Excellence and Global Medical at Takeda Pharmaceuticals, and Regional Medical Director for Sanofi Pasteur in Asia-Pacific.

He has authored peer-reviewed papers and book chapters on infectious diseases, immunology, and vaccinology. His TED-Ed global health videos have been viewed by over 10 million learners worldwide.

An accomplished leader in his field, Dr. Sanicas is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, the Royal Society for Public Health, the Royal Society of Arts, and the Chartered Management Institute (UK). His distinguished career has earned him high-level recognition, including the 2021 Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the Philippines award for Science and Medicine and the 2024 Pamana ng Pilipino Presidential Award.

He earned his Doctor of Medicine and Bachelor of Science Major in Biology from the University of the Philippines, with postgraduate degrees from leading global institutions including the University of Siena, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Harvard Kennedy School, and the University of Leicester.

Dr. Sanicas continues to champion innovations in global health and medical science, bringing a uniquely multidisciplinary perspective to shaping the future of health and diagnostics.



**MELVIN J. SANICAS, MD, MSc, MBA, FRSPH, FRSA, FAcadMed**

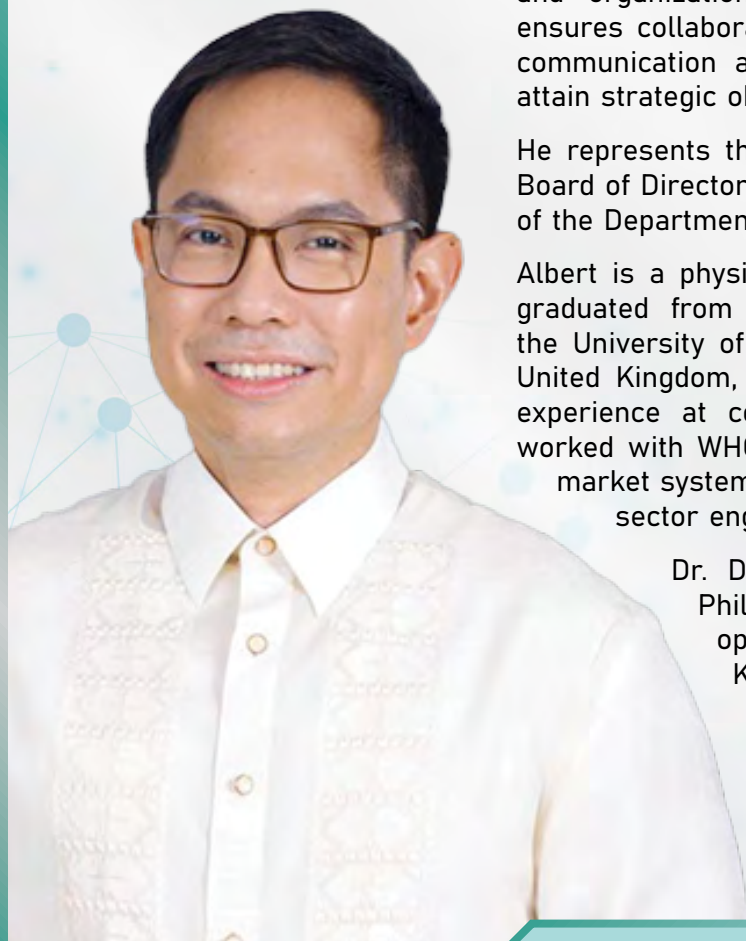


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## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Albert Francis Edralin Domingo is a senior official of the Department of Health (Philippines). He has direct oversight of strategic policy, local health systems development, international health cooperation, health human resource management, performance monitoring and strategy management, health promotion, and public affairs. As Chief Information Officer (CIO), he also supervises information systems and data governance.

Undersecretary Domingo is also the DOH Chief of Staff (COS), providing advisory and consulting services to the Secretary of Health on matters pertaining to sector-wide and organization-wide policies, plans, and strategies; ensures collaboration of all teams, easing organizational communication and uniting all designated personnel to attain strategic objectives.

He represents the Secretary of Health in the PhilHealth Board of Directors. He also speaks to the media on behalf of the Department.

Albert is a physician and health systems specialist who graduated from the University of the Philippines and the University of Edinburgh. A Chevening Scholar of the United Kingdom, he has eighteen years of public health experience at country and international levels, having worked with WHO, ADB and USAID. He is well versed in market systems approaches to health, including private sector engagement and health law.

Dr. Domingo was also a Vice President of PhilHealth, where he facilitated policy and operational improvements in the nationwide Konsulta - now YAKAP - primary care benefit package.

Consistent with his passion and advocacy for health, Albert is also a licensed group fitness instructor for indoor cycling.

**ALBERT FRANCIS E. DOMINGO, MD, MSC**



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# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY

### Jennifer A. Bennett, MD

Professor, Department of Pathology, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

#### Education/ Training:

- » Fellowship, Robert E. Scully Fellow in Gynecologic Pathology, Department of Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA
- » Residency, Anatomic Pathology, Department of Pathology, Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, PA
- » M.D., University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, FL



**17 April 2026, 11:20-12:00 PM**

#### **Endometrial Carcinomas: Unusual Patterns and Novel Histotypes**

Endometrial carcinomas may exhibit unusual architectural patterns and metaplastic changes that pose significant diagnostic challenges, particularly for pathologists unfamiliar with these variants. Examples include corded and hyalinized endometrial carcinoma (CHEC), pilomatrix-like high-grade endometrioid carcinoma, and endometrioid carcinoma with clear cells. Diagnostic complexity is further increased by several recently described histotypes, such as mesonephric-like adenocarcinoma, gastric (gastrointestinal)-type carcinoma, and somatically-derived yolk sac tumor, as well as uncommon entities including dedifferentiated/undifferentiated carcinoma and neuroendocrine carcinoma.

Most of these tumors can be recognized based on morphologic features; however, a focused immunohistochemical panel may be helpful. Interpretation of immunohistochemistry can itself be challenging, as several of these tumors—particularly the corded and hyalinized component of CHEC, pilomatrix-like high-grade endometrioid carcinoma, and dedifferentiated/undifferentiated carcinoma—may lack PAX8 expression. Awareness of these variants and accurate classification are essential, as many are associated with aggressive clinical behavior.

**17 April 2026, 01:00-01:40 PM**

#### **Demystifying Ovarian Sex Cord-Stromal Tumors**

Aside from fibromas, ovarian sex cord-stromal tumors are uncommon; however, correct diagnosis is essential as several are linked to hereditary cancer syndromes, most notably, DICER1 syndrome. Recognition of these associations has important implications for genetic counseling, surveillance, and management of affected patients and their families. Immunohistochemical markers of sex cord differentiation, including SF1 and inhibin, are valuable for confirming sex cord-stromal lineage. However, these markers lack specificity for individual tumor subtypes and therefore have limited utility in precise subclassification.

Accordingly, clinicopathologic correlation remains essential for accurate histotyping. Patient age, hormonal manifestations, relevant serologic markers (e.g., inhibin, testosterone), and macroscopic appearance often provide pivotal diagnostic clues and should be integrated with morphologic and immunophenotypic findings to ensure appropriate classification and management.



# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY

### Ronald A. Ghossein, MD

Director of Head and Neck Pathology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY

#### Education/ Training:

- » Fellowship, Experimental Pathology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
- » Fellowship, Oncologic Pathology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
- » Residency, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, New England Medical Center, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA
- » Residency, Anatomic Pathology, Mallory Institute of Pathology, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA
- » M.D., St. Joseph University School of Medicine, Beirut, Lebanon



18 April 2026, 08:00-09:20 AM

#### Classification of Thyroid Tumors

The classification of thyroid tumors has considerably evolved in the last 10 years. The non-invasive encapsulated follicular variant of papillary thyroid carcinoma is now renamed as non-invasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary like nuclear features (NIFTP) in order to indicate that it is no longer a malignant tumor and therefore preventing overtreatment. The new classification put a significant emphasis on the presence of high mitotic count and tumor necrosis in stratifying thyroid carcinomas. This led to the concept of high grade non-anaplastic follicular cell derived thyroid carcinoma. Under this umbrella term, you find two subtypes: poorly differentiated thyroid carcinoma whose definition is based on the Turin criteria as well as the new subtype of high grade differentiated thyroid carcinomas. These tumors retain the cytoarchitectural features of well differentiated thyroid carcinoma (e.g. papillae) but harbor high mitotic count and tumor necrosis. They have a mortality that is similar to the one of the poorly differentiated carcinoma subtype making them an aggressive tumor. The concept of using mitosis and necrosis to stratify thyroid carcinoma extends now to medullary thyroid carcinoma that can be grade in a two tiered system. Grade is an independent predictor of outcome in medullary thyroid carcinomas. Future classification may be hybrid histologic and molecular relying on the very strong relationship between genotype and histotype.



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# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY

### Raza S. Hoda, MD

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#### Education/ Training:

- » Fellowship, Breast Pathology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
- » Fellowship, Cytopathology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA
- » Residency, Anatomic Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA
- » M.D., Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, NY



**16 April 2026, 01:00-01:40 PM**

#### **Triple-Negative Breast Carcinomas: Rare Favorable Subtypes and Diagnostic Challenges**

Triple-negative breast carcinoma (TNBC) is often regarded as uniformly aggressive, leading to reflexive use of neoadjuvant chemotherapy. Yet, a subset of TNBCs demonstrates indolent behavior and can be managed effectively with surgery alone, sparing patients unnecessary systemic therapy. This interactive case-based course will focus on recognizing favorable TNBC subtypes—including select variants of metaplastic carcinoma and salivary gland-type tumors—through an integrated approach combining morphology, immunohistochemistry, and molecular testing. Designed for pathologists at all career stages, whether in academic centers, hospital-based practices, or stand-alone laboratories, the session will provide practical diagnostic strategies, highlight common pitfalls, and emphasize distinctions that directly influence patient management.

**16 April 2026, 01:40-02:20 PM**

#### **Papillary Breast Tumors: Review of Common, Uncommon, and Unexpected Variants**

Papillary tumors present some of the most challenging and controversial conundrums within the field of breast pathology. These lesions are complex and criteria, at times, cause confusion, particularly whether the lesion was invasive or in-situ disease. Studies have demonstrated low concordance in classification of in-situ and invasive disease. This course is designed to deepen the ability and understanding of surgical pathologists in discerning and deciphering papillary tumors of the breast and provide recent molecular updates in this challenging area through interactive case-based approach.



# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY

### Christopher G. Przybycin, MD

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#### Education/ Training:

- » Fellowship, Genitourinary Pathology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York, NY
- » Fellowship, Gynecologic Pathology, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland
- » Fellowship, Surgical Pathology, University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- » Residency, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- » M.D., University of Michigan Medical School



16 April 2026, 02:45-03:25 PM

#### A Practical Approach to the Diagnosis of Prostatic Adenocarcinoma

This presentation provides a practical framework for diagnosing prostatic adenocarcinoma with emphasis on distinguishing small foci of adenocarcinoma from benign mimics, recognizing unusual variants and known diagnostic pitfalls, and properly classifying intraductal lesions.

16 April 2026, 03:25-04:05 PM

#### Case Studies in Hereditary Kidney Tumors

The purpose of this presentation is to help pathologists recognize the key clinical, morphologic, immunohistochemical, and molecular features of hereditary kidney tumors, since the pathologist may often be the first physician to recognize that the patient has a hereditary tumor syndrome.



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# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY

### Sheila May N. Ramos, MD, FPSP

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#### Education/ Training:

- » Clinical Observership, Pediatric Pathology, KK Women's and Children Hospital, Singapore (November 2024-May 2025)
- » Fellowship, Gynecologic Pathology, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas Texas (2019-2020)
- » Residency, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, Southern Philippines Medical Center
- » M.D., Davao Medical School Foundation



18 April 2026, 01:26-01:40 PM

#### Defining Placental Lesions: The Amsterdam Criteria

The variability in sampling protocols and definitions of placental lesions across institutions often leads to inconsistencies in diagnosis and reporting. A systematic approach, along with collectively agreed-upon definitions and sampling methods, is essential to provide accurate and reproducible placental pathology diagnoses. Following the Amsterdam Criteria, placental pathology is categorized into four main areas: maternal vascular malperfusion, fetal vascular malperfusion, ascending intrauterine infection, and villitis of unknown etiology. Each category comprises specific disease entities with clearly defined diagnostic criteria. Attendees will learn about specific features associated with these categories and its implications for maternal and fetal outcomes. The adoption of refined and standardized diagnostic criteria for routine placental pathology reports enhances diagnostic accuracy, improves consistency in reporting, and facilitates effective communication of clinically relevant findings to perinatologists and other obstetric care team members.



# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY

### Farrah Kristine F. Santiago, MD, FPSP

Medical Specialist III, Division of Pathology,  
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#### Education/ Training:

- » Clinical Observership, Pediatric Pathology, KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Singapore (October 2022–March 2023)
- » Residency, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, Philippine Children's Medical Center
- » M.D., University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery



18 April 2026, 01:00–01:13 PM

#### **Beyond Positive or Negative: Practical Approaches to Hirschsprung Disease Diagnosis**

Hirschsprung disease (HD) poses one of the most demanding diagnostic challenges for pediatric pathologists, often resulting in anxiety for those encountering these cases infrequently. We will explore a structured and practical approach to enhance diagnostic accuracy and clinical outcomes in cases that general pathologists encounter regularly. Key topics will include the examination of different specimens received for HD evaluation, the critical role of immunohistochemistry, and the value of clinical and radiologic correlation. We will also emphasize the importance of synoptic reporting, focusing on documentation of the aganglionic segment length, surgical margins, and transition zones. By adopting standardized grossing protocols and recognizing histological indicators, general pathologists can significantly decrease diagnostic errors and optimize patient outcomes for those affected by Hirschsprung disease.



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# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY

### **Kethly A. Tejada, MD, FPSP**

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#### **Education/ Training:**

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- » Residency, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, University of Santo Tomas Hospital
- » M.D., University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery



**18 April 2026, 01:13-01:26 PM.**

#### **Biliary Atresia: Diagnosis and Histopathologic Differentials in Neonatal Cholestasis**

Biliary atresia is a progressive fibroinflammatory process involving the extrahepatic biliary tree, leading to obstruction of bile flow, cholestasis, and potential chronic liver damage. In the first 3 months of life, cholestasis has a broad differential diagnosis, with nearly 70% of cases attributed to either neonatal hepatitis or biliary atresia. The timing and expediency of diagnosis are crucial, as early intervention can significantly influence outcomes. This lecture will review the characteristic features of biliary atresia in liver biopsies, alongside vital clinical information such as serologic studies and imaging data essential for the pathologist to know at the time of biopsy. We will tackle key differential diagnoses, including neonatal hepatitis, metabolic and genetic disorders, infectious etiologies, and syndromic cholestasis. Through a pattern-based approach, this session will highlight practical histologic clues and potential diagnostic pitfalls, aiming to improve accuracy in distinguishing biliary atresia from other causes of neonatal cholestasis.



# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY

### Eric J. Yang, MD, PhD

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#### Education/ Training:

- » Fellowship, Women's and Perinatal Pathology and Cytopathology, Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA
- » Residency, Anatomic Pathology, Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA
- » M.D., PhD (Biochemistry), Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA



**16 April 2026, 10:55-11:35 AM**

#### Overview of the Current Landscape of AI in Pathology

Applied computational pathology brings together digital pathology and AI to support and improve routine diagnostic practice. This presentation highlights practical AI use cases across the pre-analytical, analytical, and post-analytical stages of the pathology workflow. It also examines key deployment challenges, including slide digitization, AI model compatibility, and building pathologist confidence in AI outputs. The session aims to provide a concise overview of the current landscape of AI in pathology.

**18 April 2026, 10:10-10:50 AM**

#### Squamous Intraepithelial Lesions of the Lower Anogenital Tract

This session provides a review of HPV-associated squamous intraepithelial lesions (SIL) of the lower anogenital tract in the context of evolving clinical standards. We will examine the Lower Anogenital Squamous Terminology (LAST) framework, reviewing the proposed 2025 updates and their impact on diagnostic practice. The discussion will further address recent refinements in vulvar SIL terminology and the shift in anal cancer screening paradigms following the landmark ANCHOR trial. Finally, we will explore emerging screening technologies designed to improve early detection and patient outcomes in high-risk populations.



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# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY WORKSHOP

18 April 2026, 08:40-11:45 AM

### HER2 IHC Masterclass

The workshop navigates the evolving landscape of HER2 testing, moving beyond the traditional binary (positive/negative) results to address the clinical significance of the "HER2-Low" and "HER2-Ultra-Low" categories. Key highlights include:

**Biological & Technical Foundations:** An in-depth review of HER2 biology and the technical nuances of scoring. This includes addressing common inter-observer challenges and the critical "initial/interim" assessment phases that ensure diagnostic accuracy.

**Practical Slide Evaluation:** A hands-on approach to slide interpretation, focusing on the morphological patterns required to distinguish subtle staining intensities in borderline cases.

**Clinical Trial Integration:** Analysis of the DESTINY-Breast04 and DESTINY-Breast06 trials, illustrating how specific IHC scores (including HER2-Low) now directly dictate eligibility for Antibody-Drug Conjugates (ADCs) like Trastuzumab Deruxtecan.

**Multidisciplinary Collaboration:** A concluding panel on the vital synergy between Medical Oncologists and Pathologists. This section emphasizes the need for standardized reporting to ensure that every patient receives a treatment plan tailored to their specific HER2 expression profile.

This workshop is delivered in partnership with *AstraZeneca*.

### FACILITATORS

#### Sarah Jane L. Datay-Lim, MD, FPSP, PDipMDPath

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- » Residency, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, The Medical City
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#### Christina G. Galvez, MD, FPCP, FPSMO

Medical Director, RPS Research Philippines Inc.

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- » Fellowship, Medical Oncology, Veterans Memorial Medical Center
- » Residency, Internal Medicine, Veterans Memorial Medical Center
- » M.D., University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery



# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

### Rose Lou Marie C. Agbay, MD, FPSP

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- » Fellowship, Hematopathology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- » Observership, Molecular Pathology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- » Residency, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, The Medical City
- » M.D., University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery



17 April 2026, 11:20-12:00 PM

#### HbA1c Testing and Hemoglobin Variants

The concentration of glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) is an essential diagnostic and therapeutic biomarker in diabetes mellitus. Variants of hemoglobin may interfere with HbA1c quantification in different HbA1c measurement systems. It is essential to understand this type of interference for laboratories to provide accurate and reliable results.

This lecture is delivered in partnership with *Everlife-Lifeline Diagnostics*.



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# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

### Vicente Y. Belizario, Jr., MD, MTM&H

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#### Education/ Training:

- » Master of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland, USA
- » M.D., University of the Philippines Manila



18 April 2026, 10:10-10:50 AM

#### **TB or not TB? That is the question!**

#### **Pulmonary Paragonimiasis: Common or Uncommon**

Pulmonary Paragonimiasis, also known as lung fluke disease, is an emerging public health challenge in several regions in the Philippines. One of the foodborne trematodiasis and a neglected tropical disease, it is caused by infection with lung flukes (*Paragonimus* spp.) that are known to be acquired by ingestion of raw or insufficiently cooked freshwater crustaceans and pork meat. Other modes of infection are likely and remain to be described. Clinical manifestations include tuberculosis (TB)-like signs and symptoms like chronic cough with or without hemoptysis. Chest radiographs are consistent with pulmonary tuberculosis or pneumonia. Definitive diagnosis is by demonstration of lung fluke ova from sputum through direct sputum smear (wet mount), 3% sodium hydroxide concentration technique, and direct sputum smear microscopy using Ziehl-Neelsen (ZN) or acid-fast stain. Misdiagnosis is very common possibly due to a lack of awareness of its overlap with TB, its endemicity, relative frequency of occurrence of the disease, and lack of laboratory capacity to diagnose this easily treated condition. Recent evidence indicates that this parasitic infection may be much more common and widely distributed than earlier reported, thus a need to enhance capacity for laboratory diagnosis and update national policy and practice guidelines.



# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

### Bernard Gouget, PhD

Secretary, IFCC Emerging Technologies Division

#### Education/ Training:

- » PhD in Economics and Law
- » Master's degree in Health Economics



16 April 2026, 10:15-10:55 AM

#### Artificial Intelligence in Laboratory Medicine and Pathology: From Emerging Innovations to Practical Integration

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming laboratory medicine (including clinical chemistry, hematology, microbiology, molecular diagnostics, immunology, etc.) and pathology, moving from emerging innovations to technologies with real potential for routine clinical integration. Advances in deep learning, foundation models, and multimodal AI are opening new diagnostic perspectives and redefining how data are generated, interpreted, and used to support patient care.

On the innovation front, AI is revolutionizing digital pathology, with models achieving expert-level performance in tumor detection, grading, and biomarker quantification, paving the way toward computational and morpho-molecular pathology. In laboratory medicine, AI enhances analytical quality through intelligent quality control, accelerates recognition of complex biomarker patterns, facilitates microorganism identification, and supports interpretation of high-dimensional omics data. Together, these advances point to the emergence of connected, data-driven laboratories.

However, the promise of AI will only be fulfilled through practical integration into real-world workflows. Key challenges include embedding AI tools into laboratory information systems and digital pathology platforms, ensuring interoperability with hospital infrastructures, and enabling effective human-AI collaboration. Equally critical are issues of analytical and clinical validation, explainability of AI outputs, continuous performance monitoring, data governance, cybersecurity, and regulatory alignment. In geographically distributed and resource-diverse settings, such as those encountered across the Philippines, scalability and equitable access are central considerations.

This presentation will bridge emerging innovations and real-world implementation, highlighting promising applications, lessons learned, and strategic frameworks for deploying AI in routine laboratory and pathology practice. It will emphasize the evolving role of laboratory professionals and pathologists as leaders and stewards of AI-augmented diagnostics, ensuring that technological advances translate into safer, more efficient, and more accessible patient care.



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# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

### **Bernard Gouget, PhD**

Secretary, IFCC Emerging Technologies Division

#### **Education/ Training:**

- » PhD in Economics and Law
- » Master's degree in Health Economics



**18 April 2026, 11:05-11:45 AM**

#### **New Horizons for mHealth and Mobile Technologies in Laboratory Medicine and Pathology**

Mobile health (mHealth) and mobile technologies are opening new horizons for laboratory medicine and pathology, driven by the convergence of smartphones, wearable biosensors, point-of-care devices, and emerging lab-on-a-chip platforms. Together, these technologies are reshaping how diagnostic information is generated, transmitted, and used, enabling a shift from centralized testing toward more connected and patient-proximal diagnostics.

Beyond monitoring of common physiological parameters, recent innovations in lab-on-a-chip and microfluidic systems now allow miniaturized biochemical, immunological, and even molecular assays to be performed on portable devices. When coupled with artificial intelligence (AI), these platforms enable automated sample handling, real-time quality assessment, and intelligent interpretation of results, bringing increasingly sophisticated laboratory capabilities to the point of care and to mobile environments.

In pathology, mobile technologies support digital image acquisition, telepathology, and remote consultation, facilitating access to expert diagnosis across geographic barriers. Across laboratory disciplines, mHealth solutions enable continuous data capture, rapid decision support, and tighter integration between patients, clinicians, and diagnostic services.

However, realizing this potential requires practical integration into routine workflows. Key challenges include interoperability with laboratory information systems, secure data transmission, analytical validation of mobile and chip-based assays against reference methods, user training, and compliance with quality and accreditation standards. In geographically dispersed and resource-diverse settings, these challenges are closely linked to scalability, sustainability, and equitable access.

This presentation will highlight emerging innovations and real-world use cases of mHealth, mobile diagnostics, and lab-on-a-chip technologies, and discuss pragmatic strategies for their implementation in laboratory medicine and pathology. It will emphasize how these tools can enhance diagnostic reach, efficiency, and resilience, while preserving the principles of analytical quality and patient safety.

Ultimately, mHealth and mobile technologies have the potential to transform laboratory medicine and pathology into more connected, agile, and patient-centered disciplines, enabling high-quality diagnostics anytime and anywhere.



# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

### Deepti Jain, MD

Director, Department of Laboratory Medicine, MIOT International Hospital, Chennai

#### Education/ Training:

- » Onco-pathology, Hematopathology and Cytopathology Specialty training, Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research Centre, Pondicherry
- » MD, Pathology, Gajraraja Medical College, Gwalior
- » MBBS, GSVM Medical College, Kanpur



17 April 2026, 01:00-01:40 PM

#### Automation, Robotics and Informatics to Improve Efficiency and Stat Testing Goal

Our laboratory automation journey began in 2017 with the consolidation of biochemistry analyzers and since has expanded across pre-analytical and post-analytical workflows to strengthen STAT testing performance.

#### Key Milestones

**Pre-Analytical Standardization:** Barcode-based time capture at specimen reception eliminated manual entry errors and established accurate TAT baselines. Standardized centrifugation protocols with automated temperature and speed monitoring reduced hemolysis rates by 32%. Standardized protocol for aliquoting reduced pre-analytical TAT by 47% while improving staff safety.

**Analytical Integration:** Chemistry, immunoassay, and hematology systems were consolidated with bidirectional LIS connectivity, enabling real-time specimen tracking and prioritization of STAT samples.

**Post-Analytical Intelligence:** Real-time dashboards with color-coded alerts identify threshold breaches, including specimen identification errors, critical value delays, and transport bottlenecks. Automated quality-improvement surveillance enables continuous monitoring and proactive intervention.

**Impact:** STAT turnaround time improved from 75 minutes in 2017 to 45 minutes in 2025. Real-time monitoring enables immediate corrective actions, including workflow redistribution and targeted staff training.

**Conclusion:** End-to-end automation enables the development of intelligent laboratories capable of continuous monitoring, rapid response, and data-driven process optimization.

This lecture is delivered in partnership with *QuidelOrtho*.



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# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

### Melvin J. Sanicas, MD, MSc, MBA, FRSPH, FRSA, FAcadMED

Global Medical Director, Vaccines Lead, Bavarian Nordic,  
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#### Education/ Training:

- » Diploma in Infectious Diseases, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France
- » Master of Business Administration (Human Resource Management),  
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- » Diploma in Advanced Vaccinology, University of Geneva, Switzerland
- » 2nd Level Master of Science, Vaccinology & Pharmaceutical Clinical  
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- » Master of Science, Major in Infectious Diseases, London School of  
Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
- » M.D., University of the Philippines



**17 April 2026, 09:45-10:25 AM**

#### **From Testing to Intelligence: Reimagining Viral Diagnostics for Equity and Pandemic Preparedness**

Viral diagnostics are undergoing a fundamental transformation. Once used primarily to confirm infection in an individual patient, diagnostic systems are increasingly expected to function as near real-time intelligence. They can inform outbreak detection and response, guide therapeutic use and clinical trial strategy, support vaccine decision-making, and strengthen routine public health policy. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated molecular innovation, but it also exposed persistent inequities in access, uneven regulatory agility, and fragmented data integration across regions.

This lecture explores the shift from single-pathogen testing toward multiplex platforms, genomic surveillance, decentralized point-of-care technologies, and AI-assisted interpretation. It considers how laboratory outputs, when connected to digital health systems and epidemiologic modeling, can contribute to early warning signals, situational awareness, and evidence-informed decision-making. The focus is not only on tools, but also on the workflows, standards, and governance that enable results to become actionable information.

In the Philippines, strengthening integrated diagnostic networks across an archipelago requires reliable specimen referral, tiered laboratory capacity, and timely data sharing between local facilities and national surveillance. Building interoperable reporting and analytics, while maintaining quality assurance, is central to detecting outbreaks early and sustaining response capacity between emergencies.

Innovation alone is insufficient. Preparedness must be grounded in equity. Across Asia, dense urban centers, high population mobility, and diverse health system capacities coexist. Scaling diagnostics therefore depends on resilient supply chains, workforce development, affordable access, and regulatory pathways that are predictable and fit for purpose. Cross-border collaboration, including shared genomic and epidemiologic data, must also be paired with strong safeguards for privacy, transparency, and community trust.

The discussion highlights the role of pathologists and laboratory leaders as stewards of analytic validity, data integrity, and responsible AI integration. Viral diagnostics should be positioned as a strategic public health asset, spanning clinical care and population health. The next pandemic will test not only technological sophistication, but also our ability to build resilient, inclusive, and intelligence-driven diagnostic ecosystems.



# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

### Melvin J. Sanicas, MD, MSc, MBA, FRSPH, FRSA, FAcadMed

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#### Education/ Training:

- » Diploma in Infectious Diseases, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France
- » Master of Business Administration (Human Resource Management), University of Leicester, United Kingdom
- » Diploma in Advanced Vaccinology, University of Geneva, Switzerland
- » 2nd Level Master of Science, Vaccinology & Pharmaceutical Clinical Development, Università degli Studi di Siena, Italy
- » Master of Science, Major in Infectious Diseases, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
- » M.D., University of the Philippines



17 April 2026, 10:25-11:05 AM

#### Frontline Diagnostics as the First Intervention: Accelerating Outbreak Response and Medical Countermeasure Development

In infectious disease outbreaks, time is the most critical determinant of outcomes. Delays between symptom onset, diagnosis, and treatment shape disease severity, transmission, and mortality. Frontline diagnostics are therefore more than confirmatory tests. They are the first actionable intervention that enables rapid clinical decisions and real-time public health response.

This lecture examines how sample-to-answer testing at the point of care and in peripheral laboratories can shorten therapeutic windows and support timely use of antivirals, monoclonal antibodies, and immunomodulatory therapies. It reviews practical principles for outbreak settings, including pre-analytical quality, fit-for-purpose performance targets, reflex testing and triage algorithms, and the use of viral kinetics and host-response biomarkers to identify when intervention is most likely to work.

Frontline diagnostics also accelerate evidence generation. Rapid pathogen and phenotype confirmation enables adaptive and platform trial designs by improving patient stratification, streamlining enrollment, and supporting early readouts of benefit. In parallel, diagnostic outputs such as variant identification, viral load dynamics, and molecular profiling inform target product profiles, dose and schedule decisions, and the iterative updating of vaccines and monoclonals as pathogens evolve.

The discussion highlights the responsibilities of pathologists and laboratory leaders in ensuring analytic validity, surge capacity, biosafety, and data integrity under crisis conditions. When linked to surveillance, clinical registries, and real-world data, frontline diagnostics can function as operational intelligence for regulators and response leaders. Strengthening diagnostic readiness between emergencies is essential to outbreak control and foundational to faster, more equitable medical countermeasure development.



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# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

### Selena Shen

Product Manager-South East Asia, Autobio Diagnostic

#### Education/ Training:

» Biology Science, Anhui Agriculture University



18 April 2026, 01:00-01:40 PM

#### **Chemiluminescent Immunoassay Method in the Precision Diagnosis of Autoimmune Diseases**

Autoimmune diseases encompass six core clinical domains: Antiphospholipid Syndrome, Connective Tissue Disease, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Autoimmune Liver Disease, Vasculitis, and Autoimmune Diabetes—each defined by distinct pathogenic autoantibody signatures. Peer-reviewed literature confirms that early autoantibody detection improves outcomes: anti-CCP IgG predicts rheumatoid arthritis onset years before symptoms; anti-MPO/PR3 IgG are validated biomarkers for ANCA-associated vasculitis; AMA-M2 IgG demonstrates >95% specificity for primary biliary cholangitis.

Diagnostic logic centers on identifying these specific antibody isotypes (IgG/IgA/IgM) to stratify disease activity and monitor treatment response. CLIA methodology offers superior analytical performance: it delivers high sensitivity, reproducibility, and quantitative results, reducing false positives/negatives compared to traditional assays. This precision enables clinicians to implement timely, personalized interventions, aligning with global clinical guidelines (ACR/EULAR, EASL) for autoimmune care.

This lecture is delivered in partnership with *Philippine Blue Cross*.



# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

### Socorro Cruz-Yañez, MD, FPSP

Project Lead and Consultant for NEDL development in the Philippines

#### Education/ Training:

- » Residency, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center
- » M.D., University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center

18 April 2026, 01:50-02:30 PM

#### National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL): Transforming Diagnostic Equity, Integration and Quality in the Philippines

Diagnostics are the foundation of modern medicine. About 70% of clinical decisions rely on laboratory, yet there is a great diagnostic divide among urban and rural health system as access to essential diagnostic services remains uneven. Disparities in timely, accurate, and affordable diagnostics persist across regions and different levels of care. The development and implementation of a National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL) represent a critical step toward addressing these gaps and strengthening the country's health system.

The NEDL is a prioritized, evidence-based, curated list of in vitro diagnostic tests that is recommended to be available at different tiers of the health care system—from the community to specialized health facilities. Anchored on the World Health Organization Essential Diagnostics List (EDL) framework, the Philippine NEDL contextualizes global recommendations to local epidemiology, health priorities, health programs and system capacity by allocating resources to reduce fragmentation in diagnostic service delivery. The development and planned implementation of the Philippine NEDL has been a multisectoral and iterative process, involving pathologists, clinicians, laboratorians, public health experts, policymakers, and international partners.

From a systems perspective, the NEDL is a powerful tool for health system integration by bridging public health programs and clinical services thru standardization of diagnostic pathways, disease surveillance, data-driven clinical decision-making and at the same time, enhancing supply chain management and improving digital health and laboratory information systems – all key elements for a responsive and resilient health care delivery.

From the perspective of the Pathology profession, the NEDL presents both an opportunity and a responsibility. Pathologists are central to the design, governance, and continuous improvement of the diagnostic network. The NEDL elevates the role of pathologists from laboratory-based specialists to key stakeholders in health system leadership and policy development, enhancing its role in clinical decision and a key quality driver across system networks through mentorship, supervision, and the establishment of robust referral and validation systems. The profession also plays a critical role in advocating for appropriate financing, regulatory frameworks, and ethical standards in diagnostic practice.

Nationwide, the implementation of the P-NEDL is expected to transform the landscape of laboratory diagnostics. By linking diagnostics to national health priorities and financing mechanisms, it ensures that laboratory services are not only technically sound but also accessible and affordable. Ultimately, the NEDL contributes to a more patient-centered, equitable, and sustainable health system, where timely and accurate diagnosis is recognized as a fundamental component of quality care.

As the Philippines moves towards full realization of Universal Health Care, the NEDL serves as a strategic cornerstone—translating policy into practice.





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# SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

## CLINICAL PATHOLOGY WORKSHOP

18 April 2026, 08:00-10:00 AM

### Starting Strong in Diagnostic Electrophoresis: Common Cases Every Consultant and Resident Should Know

Diagnostic electrophoresis is a laboratory technique that separates molecules based on electric charges and has numerous applications including the identification of monoclonal proteins and hemoglobin variants. The technology is locally available and affordable when performed in scale, but necessitates specialized training for both the pathologist who will interpret the results and the medical technologist who will process the specimen.

This workshop will focus on common cases for serum protein and hemoglobin electrophoresis. This two-hour workshop will start with introductory lectures to acquaint participants with concepts necessary for interpreting electropherograms and will be followed by mock sign-outs of actual cases.

This workshop is useful for pathologists and residents who plan to set-up this modality in their respective localities.

## FACILITATORS

### Jared M. Billena, MD, JD, MMPM, FPSP

Chair, Medical Specialist III, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Western Visayas Medical Center

#### Education/ Training:

- » Juris Doctor, University of San Agustin
- » Master in Management Major in Public Management, University of the Philippines Visayas
- » Residency, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, National Kidney and Transplant Institute
- » M.D., University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery



### Mark Anthony C. Turingan, MD, RMT, MMHoA, FPSP

Head Pathologist of Hematology and Histopathology Section, Medical Specialist III, Department of Pathology and Laboratory, Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center

#### Education/ Training:

- » Master in Management Major in Hospital Administration, Philippine Christian University
- » Fellowship, Hematological Pathology, University of Toronto/University Health Network
- » Residency, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, National Kidney and Transplant Institute
- » M.D., University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery

# NEW DIPLOMATES 2026

## ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY



**Edzel Jane J. Addun-Felix, MD, DPSP**  
Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center



**Gladys Larissa V. Armada, MD, DPSP**  
Philippine Children's Medical Center



**Marianne Karen Gay B. Banaag, MD, DPSP**  
Makati Medical Center



**Precious Angel B. Basilio, MD, DPSP**  
Ospital ng Maynila Medical Center



**Johanna Frances G. Baterna, MD, DPSP**  
St. Luke's Medical Center - Global City

# NEW DIPLOMATES 2026

## ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY



**Jasher L. Chua, MD, DPSP**

University of the Philippines - Philippine General Hospital



**Angeline T. Llemit, MD, DPSP**

Southern Philippines Medical Center



**Paul Garreth C. Lucero, MD, DPSP**

West Visayas State University Medical Center



**Adrian Ray S. Malapitan, MD, DPSP**

St. Luke's Medical Center - Quezon City



**Patricia Joyce V. Medrano, MD, DPSP**

Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center

# NEW DIPLOMATES 2026

## ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY



**Danette V. Pabalan, MD, DPSP**  
National Kidney and Transplant Institute



**Alexis John P. Peñas, MD, DPSP**  
Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center



**Charmaine M. Querri, MD, DPSP**  
Western Visayas Medical Center



**Seth Andrew J. Salih, MD, DPSP**  
University of the Philippines - Philippine General Hospital



**Ariane Marielle F. Valle, MD, DPSP**  
University of the Philippines - Philippine General Hospital

# NEW DIPLOMATES 2026

## CLINICAL PATHOLOGY



**Kyvell Lhasa S. Angob, MD, DPSP**  
Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center



**Jaspher B. Aquino, MD, DPSP**  
University of the Philippines  
- Philippine General Hospital



**Lorilee Mae T. Bollozos, MD, DPSP**  
Northern Mindanao Medical Center



**Joanna Candice P. Borlagdan, MD, DPSP**  
National Kidney and Transplant Institute



**Kristine Louise C. Bugayong, MD, DPSP**  
University of Santo Tomas Hospital

# NEW DIPLOMATES 2026

## CLINICAL PATHOLOGY



**Carl Dervin T. Buno, MD, DPSP**  
Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center



**Arnel Hope D. Castillo, MD, DPSP**  
Ospital ng Makati



**Katrina Luisa R. Dela Cruz, MD, DPSP**  
Ospital ng Maynila Medical Center



**Ma. Carla Angelica E. Deladia, MD, DPSP**  
Eastern Visayas Medical Center



**Francis Paulo D. Dizon, MD, DPSP**  
University of Santo Tomas Hospital

# NEW DIPLOMATES 2026

## CLINICAL PATHOLOGY



**Alexander C. Florentino, MD, DPSP**  
University of the Philippines  
- Philippine General Hospital



**Louise Mae V. Javier, MD, DPSP**  
East Avenue Medical Center



**Christian D. Jorge, MD, DPSP**  
Makati Medical Center



**Marija Micah Y. Lim, MD, DPSP**  
Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Medical Center



**Jose Luis R. Luzung, MD, DPSP**  
Jose B. Lingad Memorial General Hospital

# NEW DIPLOMATES 2026

## CLINICAL PATHOLOGY



**John Lorenz G. Mirhan, MD, DPSP**  
Southern Philippines Medical Center



**Zeny Claire L. Navarro, MD, DPSP**  
Makati Medical Center



**John Carlo B. Reyes, MD, DPSP**  
University of the Philippines  
- Philippine General Hospital



**Margarita Rae N. Rosario, MD, DPSP**  
St. Luke's Medical Center - Quezon City



**Nicole Dominique C. Santos, MD, DPSP**  
St. Luke's Medical Center - Global City

# NEW DIPLOMATES 2026

## CLINICAL PATHOLOGY



**Katreena C. Sasis, MD, DPSP**  
University of the East Ramon Magsaysay  
Memorial Medical Center



**Geneda Camille F. Sebial-Orteza, MD, DPSP**  
Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital  
and Medical Center



**Ellen Grace B. Solatorio, MD, DPSP**  
Western Visayas Medical Center



**Karl Lloyd M. Tausa, MD, DPSP**  
Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center



**Ryan Louis M. Verdadero, MD, DPSP**  
St. Louis University - Sacred Heart Medical  
Center

# NEW DIPLOMATES 2026

## ANATOMIC AND CLINICAL PATHOLOGY



**Katrina M. Arit, MD, DPSP**  
Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center



**Jerome C. Bagares, MD, DPSP**  
Western Visayas Medical Center



**Miguel Angelo D. Dimacali, MD, DPSP**  
National Kidney and Transplant Institute



**Pauline Mae R. Dy, MD, DPSP**  
University of the Philippines  
- Philippine General Hospital



**Eunice Danica O. Fe, MD, DPSP**  
Jose B. Lingad Memorial General Hospital

# NEW DIPLOMATES 2026

## ANATOMIC AND CLINICAL PATHOLOGY



**Patricia Ann S. Franco, MD, DPSP**  
University of the Philippines  
- Philippine General Hospital



**Wendell Amiel S. Jalbuena, MD, DPSP**  
West Visayas State University Medical Center



**Ace Mykole P. Loques, MD, DPSP**  
Ospital ng Maynila Medical Center



**Clarisse Veronica L. Mirhan, MD, DPSP**  
University of the Philippines  
- Philippine General Hospital



**Laurice S. Reyes, MD, DPSP**  
Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center

# NEW DIPLOMATES 2026

## ANATOMIC AND CLINICAL PATHOLOGY



**Rec Rellieson V. Sagala, MD, DPSP**  
Batangas Medical Center



**Chino Paolo M. Samson, MD, DPSP**  
Region I Medical Center



**Ma. Ena L. Suficiencia, MD, DPSP**  
Ospital ng Maynila Medical Center



**Jeremy Matthew J. Tan, MD, DPSP**  
Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center

# NEW FELLOWS 2026

## ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY



**Harriza M. Haron-Gangco, MD, FPSP**



**Ivy Carol A. Lique, MD, FPSP**



**Baldwin G. Mesina, MD, FPSP**



**Lennie D. Quimio, MD, FPSP**



**Jonathan P. Rivera, MD, FPSP**



**Marissa Krizelda D. Santos, MD, FPSP**

# NEW FELLOWS 2026

## CLINICAL PATHOLOGY



**John Harold S. Lim, MD, FPSP**



**Alessandra Kamille P. Mallari, MD, FPSP**



**Neal C. Rana, MD, FPSP**



**Allain L. Somera, MD, FPSP**



**Joan C. Tiu-Ayuson, MD, FPSP**

# NEW FELLOWS 2026

## ANATOMIC AND CLINICAL PATHOLOGY



**Mark Angelo C. Ang, MD, FPSP**



**Nina Natalia L. Bautista, MD, FPSP**



**Oliver L. Datukon, MD, FPSP**



**Michele H. Diwa, MD, FPSP**



**Joseph Michael R. Espiritu, MD, FPSP**



**Margie S. Gayapa, MD, FPSP**

# NEW FELLOWS 2026

## ANATOMIC AND CLINICAL PATHOLOGY



**Albert M. Luna, MD, FPSP**



**Andrea L. Paderes, MD, FPSP**



**Mark Anthony F. Son, MD, FPSP**



**Karen Cybelle J. Sotalbo, MD, FPSP**



**John Anthony D. Tindoc, MD, FPSP**



**Maria Angelica B. Valdes, MD, FPSP**

# NEW SUBSPECIALISTS 2026



**Michele H. Diwa, MD, FPSP**  
Molecular Pathology



**Jonathan P. Rivera, MD, FPSP**  
Head and Neck Pathology



## BENJAMIN A. BARRERA SERVICE AWARD (POSTHUMOUS)

Carmelita Valeña-Navarro, MD, MPH, FPSP, was a distinguished figure in Philippine medicine whose career was defined by academic excellence and a lifelong commitment to the field of pathology. In her early life, Dr. Navarro demonstrated exceptional brilliance, graduating as Valedictorian from both Marbel Elementary School and Maryknoll High School.

Her academic trajectory continued at the University of Santo Tomas (UST), where she earned her Doctor of Medicine degree as a Magna Cum Laude and Meritissimus graduate. Driven by a vision for public service, she later obtained a Master of Public Health from the UP College of Public Health. She pursued residency training in anatomic and clinical pathology at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital.

Dr. Navarro's pursuit of specialized knowledge led her across the globe. She completed advanced study grants in immunofluorescent techniques at Kyushu University in Japan and a preceptorship in bone pathology in Leuven, Belgium. Her international expertise was further solidified during her tenure as a visiting consultant at the world-renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

In the Philippines, her leadership was cornerstone to institutional development. She served as the Head of the Department of Laboratories at the Philippine Orthopedic Center for twenty-five years. Her leadership transformed the department into a premier training hub. Most notably, she established the Orthopedic Pathology Fellowship, personally mentoring pioneers in the field, including Dr. Aristotle Peter T. Lee—the current POC department head—as well as Dr. Jose Jasper L. Andal and the late Dr. Jeffrey S. Antonio.

Under her guidance, residency programs flourished through a curriculum emphasizing hands-on experience and interdisciplinary collaboration. She opened the POC to the wider medical community, hosting rotating residents from diverse institutions across the country, ranging from major Manila centers like UST and St. Luke's to Baguio General Hospital.

Simultaneously, she held critical roles as Chief Pathologist at Santa Teresita General Hospital and Consultant Director at The Medical City. She shaped the future of her profession as the Chairman of the Board of Pathology in 2003 and as an Associate Professor at UST. She also contributed to the medical community through her active membership in the International Academy of Pathologists and the Catholic Physicians Guild of the Philippines.

A prolific researcher, her scientific works on the histopathology of leprosy and the predictive validity of bone tumor biopsies provided vital diagnostic insights. This posthumous award celebrates a legacy of profound impact by a woman who elevated the standards of diagnostic medicine and contributed to the knowledge of bone and soft tissue pathology in the Philippines.



**CARMELITA V. NAVARRO, MD, MPH, FPSP**



## BENJAMIN A. BARRERA SERVICE AWARD (POSTHUMOUS)

Dr. Ansarie P. Salpin—RMT, MD, MPG, FPSP, MIAC—was a towering figure in Philippine Pathology, remembered as much for his legendary academic prowess as for his profound dedication to medical education and community service. A true scholar-clinician, Dr. Salpin's career was defined by a consistent, lifelong pursuit of excellence. This journey of distinction began at the University of San Agustin, where he graduated Cum Laude and as Class Topnotcher in Medical Technology, and continued at West Visayas State University (WVSU), where he earned his Doctor of Medicine as Class Valedictorian and Cum Laude. His academic dominance was further cemented on the national stage, where he achieved the extraordinary feat of placing second nationwide in both the Medical Technology and Physician Licensure Examinations.

During his residency training in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital, Dr. Salpin's reputation preceded him as a "legend." He achieved the unprecedented milestone of being the first Level 1 resident to rank first overall in the National Residents In-Service Examination (RISE)—a position he remarkably held for three years. This trajectory of brilliance culminated in his placing first in the 2013 Certifying Board Examination in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology.

Upon returning to serve his home region, Dr. Salpin became a cornerstone of the Iloilo medical community. He served with distinction as the Chairman of the Department of Pathology at both Iloilo Doctors' Hospital and Medicus Medical Center, while simultaneously rendering meritorious service to the public sector at the WVSU Medical Center. His commitment to the people of Western Visayas was further evidenced by his completion of a Master's degree in Public Governance in 2023, a credential he sought specifically to elevate the quality of his public service. As a Fellow of the Philippine Society of Pathologists (PSP) and President of its Western Visayas Chapter (2024-2025), he was instrumental in raising the standards of pathology practice across the region.

Beyond his administrative leadership, Dr. Salpin was a distinguished educator and mentor. He shaped the future of the profession by training numerous residents at WVSU-Medical Center and serving as a professorial lecturer at both WVSU and Iloilo Doctors' College of Medicine. His competitive spirit and intellectual rigor were perhaps best displayed in his role as a coach, leading the WVSU Clinicopathologic Conference (CPC) teams to victory in multiple regional and national championships.

Yet, beyond these professional accolades, Dr. Salpin was a man of diverse passions and a remarkably generous spirit. An avid badminton enthusiast, his legacy continues through the "Dr. Ansarie P. Salpin Badminton Tournament." The inaugural event, held in May 2024, benefited the SPED-integrated school for exceptional children in Iloilo, providing vital support for students with hearing disabilities. This initiative perfectly encapsulated the man: a sharp, competitive intellect balanced by a deep, enduring compassion for those with special needs.

Dr. Salpin's passing leaves a significant void, yet his life stands as a testament to the power of a purposeful existence. Though he was taken from the community relatively young, he managed to live a life that was exceptionally meaningful and well-spent. He proved that true brilliance is not found solely in professional mastery, but in the heart to use that mastery for the service of others. He remains a lasting inspiration to the pathology community and the people of Western Visayas.



**ANSARIE P. SALPIN, RMT, MD, MPG, FPSP, MIAC**



## BENJAMIN A. BARRERA SERVICE AWARD (POSTHUMOUS)

Jon Paolo Jalad Tan had his humble beginnings in Cotabato as the youngest of 3 siblings. Growing up, he was a brilliant but mischievous kid who spoke English fluently and loved the outdoors. Armed with both effortless intellect and grit, he continued his secondary education at the Philippine Science High School in Diliman, Quezon City. He then enrolled at the University of the Philippines Diliman to study Biology, where he qualified as a College Scholar from earning high marks. His love for science led him to pursue medicine at the University of the Philippines Manila. He eventually decided to specialize in Pathology, completing his residency training at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi) in 2014 as the chief resident.

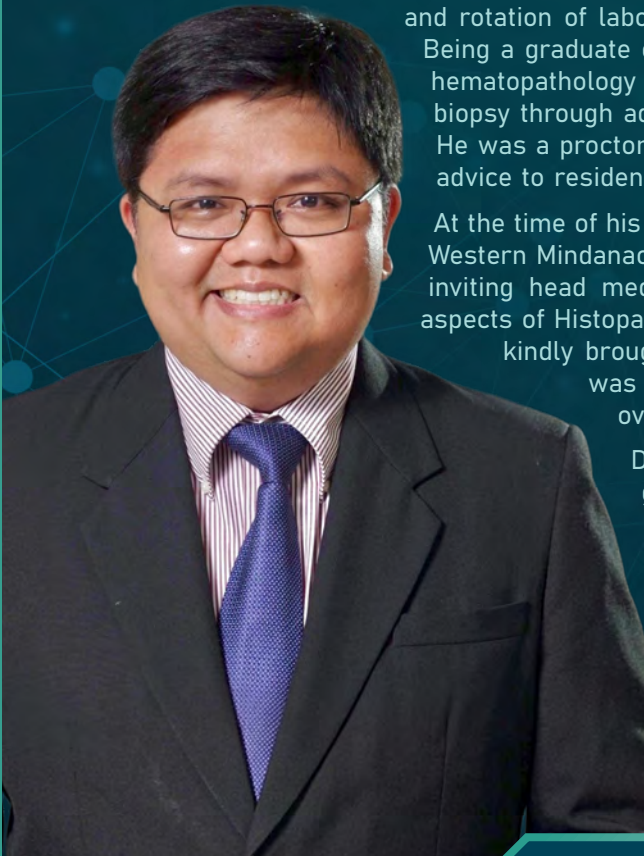
Dr. Tan devoted his time as an anatomic and clinical pathologist at Batangas Medical Center and Las Piñas General Hospital and Satellite Trauma Center. He actively participated in the society's activities and chaired several committees during annual conventions. He had a passion for teaching. Dr. Tan taught Pathology at various medical schools, even transitioning to online classes to reach students during the pandemic. He then went on to represent the society as the designated technical advisor for Clinical and Anatomic Pathology in the National Adverse Effects Following Immunization Committee (NAEFIC) of the Department of Health Epidemiology Bureau since 2023.

Amidst all these, Dr. Tan went back to his roots as a Mindanaoan in 2019 and significantly contributed to the Pathology practice in Zamboanga City, working in several hospitals which also cater to underserved neighboring islands. He continued to advocate for education and training by selflessly sharing his knowledge, skills, and talents in mentoring Pathology residents and medical technologists in Zamboanga City Medical Center. He held key positions like Training Officer, Section Chief of Surgical Pathology, and Head of Blood Bank over the years. As the head of the section, he facilitated the training and rotation of laboratory staff at National Reference Laboratories (NRLs). Being a graduate of NKTi, Dr. Tan regularly answered to uropathology and hematopathology referrals and helped establish good practices in renal biopsy through adequacy determination. He also volunteered consistently. He was a proctor for every in-service examination and provided research advice to residents.

At the time of his passing, Dr. Tan was the immediate past president of the Western Mindanao Chapter. His final project involved organizing a seminar inviting head medical technologists of NRLs to shed light on technical aspects of Histopathology, Renal Pathology, and Blood Bank. The event was kindly brought into fruition by his colleagues after his passing and was well-received by more than a hundred attendees from all over the region.

Despite his accomplishments, Dr. Tan remained kind, genuine, and unassuming throughout the years – charming people with his witty sense of humor and conquering the world with childlike wonder. He made sure to meet everyone with the same quiet respect regardless of social status, never the one to judge. He was best known as a respectable colleague, a supportive mentor, dependable friend, an endearing son and brother, and a beloved husband.

In a world where fame and prestige dominate, Dr. JP Tan reminds us that it is the heart that matters most.



**JON PAOLO J. TAN, MD, DPSP**



## BENJAMIN A. BARRERA SERVICE AWARD (POSTHUMOUS)

Dr. Carlota L. Baizas-Manzano, fondly known as “Charlie,” was a distinguished pathologist, dedicated public servant, educator, and mentor whose life’s work left an enduring mark on Philippine laboratory medicine.

Dr. Manzano obtained her BS in Pre-Medicine degree from the University of the Philippines Diliman and her Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center. She completed her residency training in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at the University of the *Philippines College of Medicine & Philippine General Hospital*, laying the foundation for a career defined by excellence and service.

Further advancing her expertise, she obtained a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand in 1988, and underwent extensive training in cytology, transfusion medicine, infection control, and laboratory inspection and licensing. A board-certified pathologist, she became a Fellow of the Philippine Society of Pathologists, reflecting her professional distinction and commitment to the discipline.

Dr. Manzano served with unwavering dedication as Head of the Department of Pathology, Laboratories, and Regional Transfusion Service at Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital, where she held the position of Medical Specialist II since 1989. Her leadership extended to the national level through her work with the Department of Health, including her role as Designated Regional Pathologist for Central Luzon and her participation in multiple technical working groups that shaped policies on laboratory standards, blood services, and licensing.

Beyond her administrative and clinical roles, she was an educator and academic leader, having served as Associate Professor and Head of Academic Pathology at Angeles University Foundation & Medical Center. She also contributed to research and literature, co-authoring studies and sharing her story in *The Autism Experience: Stories of Hope and Love*.

Dr. Manzano’s life was not only defined by her professional accomplishments but also by her vibrant personality. She possessed a sharp wit, a disarming sense of humor, and a remarkable resilience shaped by personal trials, including raising her child as a single parent after early widowhood. She balanced her scientific rigor with creativity—expressed through photography, writing, arts, and crafts.



**CARLOTA L. BAIZAS-MANZANO, MD, FPSP, DTMH**



## OUTSTANDING PATHOLOGIST AWARD

Rolando A. Lopez, MD, FPSP, FPhSC, is a distinguished surgical pathologist and cytopathologist with over four decades of dedicated service to medical education and the advancement of pathology in the Philippines.

He currently holds the rank of Professor at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, where he formerly served as Dean, and at the St. Luke's College of Medicine, where he chaired the Department of Pathology for 11 years. A preeminent figure in his specialty, Dr. Lopez has led the Cytopathology sections at both UST Hospital and St. Luke's Medical Center for nearly 30 years, while also serving an 11-year tenure as Director of the Institute of Pathology across St. Luke's Quezon City and Global City units.

Beyond his clinical and academic contributions, Dr. Lopez is a visionary leader who pioneered subspecialization within the Philippine pathology landscape. As a founding member and Vice-President of the Philippine Society of Cytopathology (PhSC), he was instrumental in establishing the first subspecialty society under the Philippine Society of Pathologists (PSP)—a transformative milestone for the profession. His dedication to professional growth is further reflected in his founding of the Metrowide Consortium for the Advancement of Pathology (MCAP)—now the Nationwide Consortium (NCAP)—and the launch of the International Pathology Symposium in 2009. Furthermore, he has significantly elevated the clinical profile of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) through his extensive lecture series and steadfast involvement with the IBD Club of the Philippines.

In recognition of his profound contributions to the field, Dr. Lopez was honored with the prestigious Dr. Liborio Gomez Memorial Award in 2011. His career is marked by the rare distinction of being named Outstanding Pathologist of the Year twice—first in 2004 and again this year. A prolific leader and mentor, Dr. Lopez continues to inspire the next generation of Filipino pathologists to pursue professional excellence and dedicated service in the advancement of pathology in the Philippines.



**ROLANDO A. LOPEZ, MD, FPSP, FPHSC**



## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

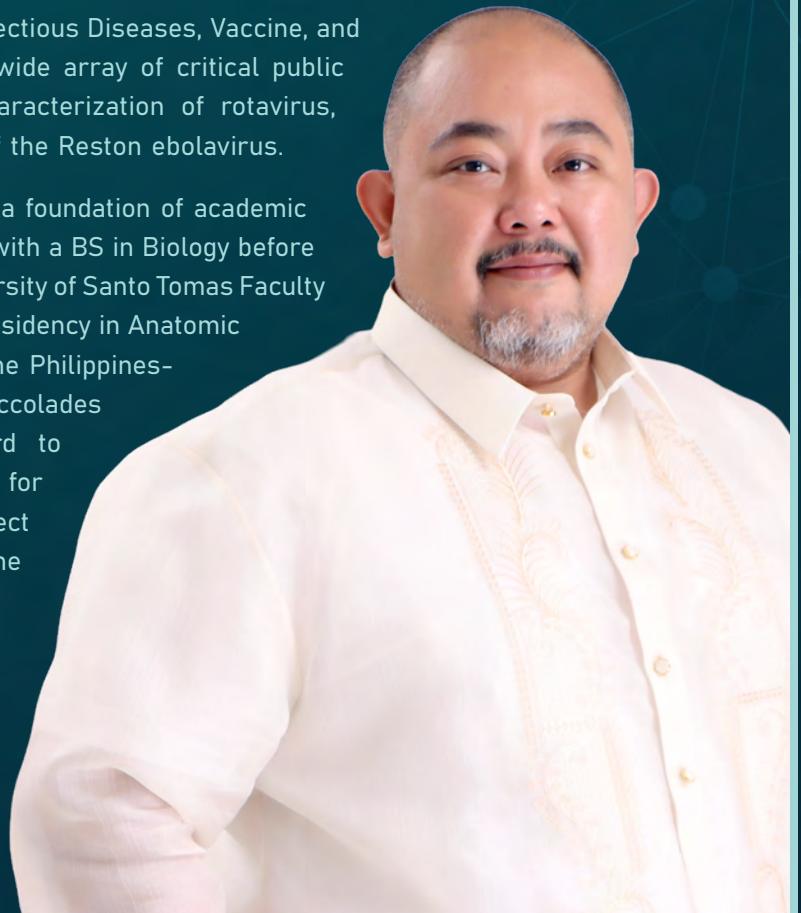
Amado Ona Tandoc III, MD, FPSP, is a distinguished pathologist and dedicated public servant who has significantly shaped the landscape of laboratory medicine and infectious disease research in the Philippines. He currently serves as the Division Chief of the Laboratory Research Division at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM). In this capacity, he leads 18 Department of Health (DOH) National Reference Laboratories, managing the country's largest laboratory division to support critical programs for emerging, vaccine-preventable, and neglected tropical diseases. His leadership proved pivotal during the global pandemic, where he spearheaded the establishment of the COVID-19 Laboratory Network through rigorous capacity-building, certification, and quality assurance initiatives.

Beyond his institutional roles, Dr. Tandoc's commitment to the Philippine Society of Pathologists (PSP) is profound. He served as a member of the Board of Governors from 2022 to 2024 and was honored as the Pathologist of the Year in 2021, a testament to his exceptional contributions to the profession. Since 2016, he has also served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Philippine Journal of Pathology, where he has been instrumental in elevating the quality and visibility of local pathology research.

A prolific investigator, Dr. Tandoc has authored numerous influential studies in prestigious journals such as Emerging Infectious Diseases, Vaccine, and BMC Public Health. His research spans a wide array of critical public health issues, including the molecular characterization of rotavirus, measles outbreaks, and the reemergence of the Reston ebolavirus.

Dr. Tandoc's distinguished career is built on a foundation of academic excellence. He graduated magna cum laude with a BS in Biology before earning his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. He completed his residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital. His diverse accolades range from the BPI-DOST Science Award to being named Tomasinong Makata ng Taon for his poetry—reflecting a multifaceted intellect dedicated to both the rigors of science and the nuances of the arts.

Ultimately, his journey remains defined by an unwavering devotion to the public good; it is this quiet, resolute endurance in the face of the most formidable challenges that truly distinguishes his service to the profession and the Filipino people.



**AMADO O. TANDOC III, MD, FPSP**



## DR. LIBORIO GOMEZ MEMORIAL AWARD AND LECTURE

Dr. Elizabeth Ann S. Alcazaren is a distinguished figure in the field of pathology, currently serving as the Chair of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology and the Consultant Director of Anatomic Pathology at The Medical City. With a career spanning over four decades, her expertise in cytopathology and breast pathology has made her a vital contributor to diagnostic medicine in the Philippines.

Her academic journey began at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Zoology. She obtained her Doctor of Medicine from the UERM Memorial Medical Center, later completing her residency in Anatomic Pathology at the same institution. Driven by her dedication to continuous learning, she pursued international training, including a fellowship in Cytopathology and a clinical observership in Breast Pathology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

Dr. Alcazaren has held prominent positions within the Philippine Society of Pathologists, including serving as Assistant Secretary and as a member of the Board of Governors. She is a founding member of the Philippine Society of Cytopathology.

Her professional journey is defined by significant leadership and administrative roles. Dr. Alcazaren has been instrumental in shaping the next generation of medical professionals as a former Training Officer for Anatomic Pathology at the Philippine Children's Medical Center, and UERM Memorial Medical Center. She spearheaded the development of the pathology residency training program at The Medical City, where she subsequently served as training officer for several years. At present, she is facilitating the establishment of a cytopathology fellowship training program at the Medical City.

She is a sought-after resource person and speaker. Aside from her speaking engagements for fellow pathologists, she is also called on to share her expertise with clinical colleagues, such as with the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology and Philippine College of Surgeons.

Dr. Elizabeth Ann S. Alcazaren continues to shape the future of pathology through her dual roles in pathology practice and medical education, ensuring the highest standards of diagnostic accuracy for patients in the Philippines.



**ELIZABETH ANN S. ALCAZAREN, MD, FPSP, FPHSC, MIAC**



Revolutionizing the Future of  
**PATHOLOGY**  
with the EMERGENCE of **AI**

# RESEARCH COMPETITION

## PLATFORM CATEGORY PANEL OF JUDGES



**Lorraine B. Almelor-Sembrana, MD, FPCP, FPCC**  
Philippine Heart Center



**Rhalp Jaylord L. Valenzuela, MPH, MMHoA**  
Philippine Heart Center



**Amado O. Tandoc III, MD, FPSP**  
Research Institute for Tropical Medicine

## MODERATOR



**Rex Michael C. Santiago, MD, FPSP**  
St. Luke's Medical Center



# RESEARCH COMPETITION

## POSTER CATEGORY PANEL OF JUDGES



**Jill J. Jaime, MD, DPSP**  
De Los Santos Medical Center



**Herbert Z. Manaois, MD, DPSP**  
Bicol Regional Hospital and Medical Center



**Ma. Margot Flor E. Schlaaff-Yasay, MD, FPSP**  
Saint Louis University School of Medicine



**Marissa Krizelda Duque Santos, MD, FPSP**  
Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center



**Mark Anthony C. Turingan, MD, RMT, MMHoA, FPSP**  
Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center

## PLATFORM PRESENTATION FINALISTS



**Exploring the Use of Computer-Aided Imaging for HER2 Immunohistochemistry Scoring in Breast Cancer: A Single-Center Experience in a Developing Country**

**Presenter: Josh Matthew B. Chen, MD**  
*St. Luke's Medical Center - Quezon City*



**A Descriptive Study on Turnaround Times of Surgical Pathology Cases with Immunohistochemistry Studies in A Tertiary Hospital**

**Presenter: Miguel Angelo D. Dimacali, MD**  
*National Kidney and Transplant Institute*



**The Association of  $\beta$ -catenin, E-cadherin, and CD10 Expression with Histologic Grade of Phyllodes Tumor: A Cross-Sectional Study**

**Presenter: Patricia Ann S. Franco, MD**  
*University of the Philippines - Philippine General Hospital*



**Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Medical Doctors on Adherence to Clinical Guidelines for Frozen Section Biopsy in a Tertiary Hospital**

**Presenter: Alykca Therese C. Libres, MD**  
*Southern Philippines Medical Center*



**Efficiency of Mobile Video Sharing Application (Google Meet) in Real-Time Field Image Transmission for Telepathology**

**Presenter: Celeste Madeja So, MD, MPH**  
*Zamboanga City Medical Center*

SCAN ME



to download the  
Research Competition  
Supplement



## POSTER PRESENTATION FINALISTS



### **Metastatic Breast Carcinoma involving an Endometrial Polyp and Uterine Leiomyomas: A Case Report**

**Presenter: Sarah Lizette Aquino-Cafino, MD**  
*Zamboanga City Medical Center*

SCAN ME



to download the  
Research Competition  
Supplement



### **Pancreatoblastoma Presenting as a Rapidly Enlarging Pancreatic Mass in a Child: A Diagnostic Challenge**

**Presenter: Eliza Katrina D. Barredo, MD**  
*East Avenue Medical Center*



### **Molecular Plot Twist: H3 G34V Mutation and MET Amplification in a Diffuse Hemispheric Glioma**

**Presenter: Viktoria Madelaine R. Beltran, MD**  
*Philippine Children's Medical Center*



### **Metastatic Uterine Leiomyosarcoma Presenting as an Overt Gastric Mass and Gastrointestinal Bleeding Masquerading as Gist: A Rare Diagnostic Pitfall**

**Presenter: Eldimson E. Bermudo, MD**  
*Zamboanga City Medical Center*

## POSTER PRESENTATION FINALISTS



### **Anterior Mediastinal Mystery: From Epithelioid Suspicion to a Diagnosis of Metaplastic Revelation**

**Presenter: John Patrick O. Chang, MD**

*St. Luke's Medical Center - Global City*



### **Follicular Lymphoma Presenting As Bilateral Ovarian Masses, Elevated CA-125, and Lymphadenopathies: A Diagnostic Pitfall in Gynecologic Oncology**

**Presenter: Karla Mae A. Cruzado, MD**

*Zamboanga City Medical Center*



### **Sinonasal Collision Tumor of Glomangiopericytoma and B-Cell Lymphoma**

**Presenter: Christian Joseph B. Cruzado, MD**

*Makati Medical Center*



### **Live Birth from a Primary Ovarian Pregnancy: A Rare Pathologically Confirmed Case**

**Presenter: Denn Saudi J. Hayudini, MD**

*Zamboanga City Medical Center*



## POSTER PRESENTATION FINALISTS



### **A Rare Case of a High-Grade Prostatic Adenocarcinoma with Aberrant Nuclear P63 Expression**

**Presenter: Ken Paolo Limonero Ibasco, MD**  
*St. Luke's Medical Center – Global City*



### **Beyond The Bone: Extraskkeletal Ewing Sarcoma Primary to the Breast in a 13 Year Old Male**

**Presenter: Jaeson M. Jimenez, MD**  
*Philippine Children's Medical Center*



### **Straddling Two Lineages: Mixed-Phenotype Acute Leukemia, B/T (Mpal-B/T) in a 12-Year-Old Filipino Female**

**Presenter: Dan Angelo D. Matias, MD**  
*Philippine Children's Medical Center*



### **Retroperitoneal Ectopic Pregnancy Presenting as Lumbar Pain: A Case Report**

**Presenter: Marc Vincent G. Procionos, MD**  
*Davao Regional Medical Center*

## POSTER PRESENTATION FINALISTS



### **Spinal Pain: From Neoplastic to Parasitic**

**Presenter: Junno Angelo M. Sexcion, MD**

*Davao Regional Medical Center*



### **Extra-Ovarian Brenner Tumor of the Cervix in a 43-Year-Old Woman: A Rare Entity with Uncommon Location, Case Report**

**Presenter: Christian Soga-ang, MD**

*Southern Isabela Medical Center*



### **Serous Cystadenocarcinoma of the Paratestis: A Rare Presentation of a Müllerian Tumor in an Elderly Filipino Male**

**Presenter: Xhyrel June J. Tagaylo, MD**

*St. Luke's Medical Center - Quezon City*



### **Gastrointestinal Clear Cell Sarcoma/Malignant Gastrointestinal Neuroectodermal Tumor (CCS/GNET) in a Young Filipino Adult: A Case Report**

**Presenter: Kristine Joy S. Uichanco, MD**

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## MISSION

To foster solidarity through proactive participation in society activities and advocacies enhanced communication and adherence to professional and ethical standards.

To train highly competent pathologists by providing continuing education and training to our members.

To lead the way towards the advancement in the field of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine through active participation in local and global collaborative research.

To promote the role of socially responsible Pathologists in the healthcare system by coordinating with policy makers, stakeholders, other societies and healthcare partners in service, training and research in the local and international arena in support of the national health agenda.

## VISION

The Philippine Society of Pathologists will be a unified and cohesive force composed of highly competent, globally recognized professionals collaborating with local and international health partners, including the academe and other societies working towards the advancement of the profession of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

We will be at the forefront of patient care while adhering to the highest standards in service, training and research.



# CODE OF ETHICS

**I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR** to adhere to the "Principles of Medical Ethics" of the Philippine Medical Association and to the Code of Ethics of the Philippine Society of Pathologists. Towards this end, I shall devote my services to the greatest benefit of the sick and injured and to ensure the fullest measure of cooperation with my colleagues. I further commit myself to adhere to the following canons of professional ethics:

***I SHALL LIMIT my practice to the specialty that I am board-certified in;***

***I SHALL NOT SOLICIT, directly or indirectly, or any manner whatsoever, or knowingly permit others to solicit in my behalf, nor shall I accept, a position which is occupied or about to be vacated without first consulting with the incumbent or outgoing pathologist;***

***I SHALL NOT ISSUE a report on preparations or material from another pathologist, or another laboratory or from other institutions which another pathologist serves, without making a reasonable effort to inform that first pathologist of the request for second examination or opinion;***

***I SHALL NOT DIVIDE, either directly or by means of any subterfuge, fees for laboratory services with referring physicians;***

***I SHALL NOT COMPETE for professional services on the basis of fees;***

***I SHALL NOT PARTICIPATE, directly or by means of any subterfuge, in an arrangement or scheme whereby an individual not duly licensed to practice medicine and not certified nor a member of the society, is allowed to operate a laboratory, clinical or otherwise;***

***I SHALL NOT ACCEPT a position in any hospital, institution or other medical organization which does not protect the welfare and interest of the pathologist;***

***I SHALL NOT ALLOW myself to be a willing tool for political purposes nor for the personal interest of others to the prejudice of another pathologist or colleagues in the allied profession;***

***I SHALL NEVER SPEAK ill of the society or any of my colleagues, nor shall I bring forth any issue before any other forum, administrative or judicial, without first having exhausted all avenues of negotiation or settlement within the society;***

***I SHALL ALWAYS SHOW RESPECT to the officers of the society as well as to its elders and to the principles that they represent. Towards this end, I shall always exert effort to support the programs and activities of the society and, that further, I shall exert every effort to contribute to the success of its endeavor;***

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and name before God Almighty and before my colleagues in the practice of pathology.



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Music and Lyrics by Raymond Leslie I. Diaz, MD

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Oh, PSP!

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Oh, PSP, live on!



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## To complete the picture, even the faint stains matter

Every breast tumour cell with membrane staining may matter - look more closely at IHC 0<sup>12</sup>



These images have been used for artistic purposes and should not be used for the basis of IHC interpretation.



### HER2 expression is a continuum. Even within IHC 0, tumours may exhibit faint, incomplete membrane staining<sup>3-5</sup>

- It is necessary to scrutinise patient cases initially classified as IHC 0 to ensure correct HER2 classification in patients with low levels of HER2 expression<sup>8</sup>
- Examining IHC 0 cases with a higher magnification may help differentiate cells with or without membrane staining<sup>7</sup>

The content is intended for Health Care Professionals for medical educational purposes only. ArkayZenica does not engage in the promotion of unapproved products or unapproved indications. Oncology (Print) 2023. Expiration Date: April 2026

HER2=human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; IHC=immunohistochemistry. References: 1. Tasciroiu P, et al. Ann Oncol. 2023;34(4):459-72. 2. Cugliani O, et al. Presented at: ASCO Annual Meeting 2024. Presentation KLB11000. 3. Chen L, et al. Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2022;202:219-225. 4. Arora GS, et al. Breast J. 2023;2023:12647. 5. Bostrom B, et al. Ann Pathol. 2022;127:50-55. 6. Hanawa N, et al. Virchows Arch. 2024;484:3-14. 7. Roche. Interpretation Guide for VENTANA anti-HER2 (DS). Available at: [http://www.hi1ad.com/training/HER2\\_DS\\_Interpretation\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.hi1ad.com/training/HER2_DS_Interpretation_Guide.pdf), accessed October 2024.

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\*Not to be used for dengue fever diagnosis.

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- > 99%
- > 99%

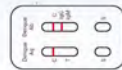
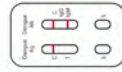
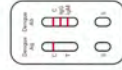
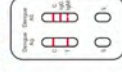


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- Onset Fecal Occult Blood > 95%
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## COMPANY PROFILE

Jiangsu Huida Medical Instruments Co., Ltd. was established in 2003.Huida dedicated to the R&D and intelligent manufacturing of global laboratory consumables for 20 years, providing professional-grade solutions for the fields of pathological diagnosis and medical testing.

Our main products are Microscope slide,Cover glass,Embedding cassettes,Printers and laboratory plasticware and glassware. We also passed ISO9001 , ISO13485 and are CE and FDA certified.



▶ Embedding cassettes



▶ Cover glass



▶ Microscope slide



▶ Printers



### Find Distributors

- Manufacturer: Jiangsu Huida Medical Instruments Co., Ltd.  
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- Tel:86 51 5 88387981 Fax:86 51 5 88387982  
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- Provides more accurate results
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- Lower background
- Higher efficiency
- Higher precision

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- An elevated approach to immunoassay testing
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<b>Tumor Markers</b>	<b>Hypertension</b>	<b>Diabetes</b>	<b>Growth Hormone</b>
<b>Respiratory Disease</b>	<b>Tuberculosis</b>	<b>Anemia</b>	<b>Vasculitis</b>
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<b>Cardiac Markers</b>	<b>Infectious Diseases</b>	<b>Thyroid</b>	<b>Pre-natal</b>
<b>Inflammation Monitoring</b>	<b>Rheumatoid Arthritis</b>	<b>Allergy</b>	
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◦ **DH76**  
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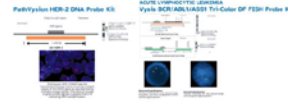
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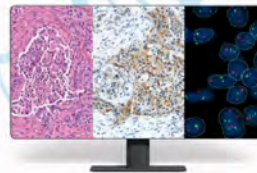
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# BenchMark IHC/ISH\* systems

## Fully-automated slide staining solutions



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### BenchMark GX system

- Increased testing efficiency with fully automated assays and 20 individual slide drawers
- Single platform to standardize baking-through-counterstaining
- Walkaway capacity with level-sensing waste disposal
- Optimize lab workspace with detachable stainer sub-assembly

### BenchMark ULTRA system

- Single piece flow with 30 independent slide drawers
- Exchange reagents at user-defined intervals with ultimate reagent access
- Improve patient safety with Unique Slide Identifier (USID)
- Random continuous access to enhance workflow efficiency
- Achieve optimal staining with protocol flexibility

### BenchMark ULTRA PLUS system

- Integrated touchscreen promotes simplified real-time run management and instrument monitoring
- Waste segregation and degradation reduces DAB to allow for non-hazardous waste disposal\*\*
- Enhanced decon for faster serviceability
- Easily view and manage the system with local and remote access
- Streamline workflow and productivity with connected monitoring and reporting
- Designed to maximize instrument uptime with removeable side and back panels for quick serviceability

### VSS 14 software

Integrated communication across all hosts and BenchMark instruments

### Assay detection

- **200+ ready-to-use assays** and detection chemistries optimized for all IHC and ISH needs and **companion diagnostics** portfolio



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\*IHC (Immunohistochemistry), ISH (In-Situ Hybridization)

\*\*It is the responsibility of each customer to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations related to the disposal of waste.

References:  
 BenchMark GX Instrument User Guide, publication version 1, software version 12.5.5, English, 2022  
 BenchMark ULTRA Instrument User Guide, publication version 1, software version 12.5.5, (102147/0EN), English, 2022  
 BenchMark ULTRA PLUS Use Guide v1.0, Software v14.00 (1017687EN), 2022

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