BE PART OF ASNA 2017

Dr. Maria Socorro F. Sarfati

In less than 4 months, we shall be holding the 12th Biennial ASNA Convention joint with the 39th Annual PNA Convention at Conrad Hotel, Pasay City on November 21-24, 2017.

The 4-day convention will showcase a powerhouse cast of experts in the field of Neurology. On November 21, simultaneous workshops will be conducted on Neurosonology, Thrombolysis, Neuropsychiatry, Movement Disorder and Child Neurology. Papers previously judged to be the best relevant researches in Basic and Clinical Neurosciences shall be presented. The Opening Ceremonies will be at 6 o’clock in the evening of the first day. The keynote speech will be delivered by Dr. Romeo Enriquez. And this special night would be the launch of the PNA Glee Club with an apt name Glee-O-Blast under the baton of Dr. Artemio Roxas. Filipiniana attire will be encouraged but you are most welcome in your smart casual outfit.

Highlights of November 22 include the Gilberto Gamez Lecture by Dr. Norbert Bruggemann, a Parkinson Disease expert, plenary sessions on Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Stroke. In the afternoon, modules on Stroke, Sleep, Movement Disorder and Interventional Neurology will be tackled. There will be a session on the Consensus on the Competencies of a Graduate of Neurology Training which will be very relevant in line with ASEAN Integration. The second day ends with simultaneous twilight symposia, one of which is the Asian Symposium Against Dementia.

The third day will be a day of diverse topics. PNA Councils will meet before the start of plenary sessions. Plenary topics include Dementia, Genetics of AED-induced Mucocutaneous reaction and Anticoagulation Guidelines. Afternoon modules will include Seizures in the Critically Ill, Dementia, Headache and CNS Infection. Time will be devoted on the Educational Outreach Program in the ASEAN region. This long day of brain calisthenics will end with the much awaited Fellowship Night. Everybody will be encouraged to come in his National / Regional costume and be immersed in this fun-filled night while meeting new friends from the ASEAN region.

After the night of camaraderie, make sure to be up early for the plenary sessions on Neuroimmunology, Epilepsy and Neurotoxicology. The ASNA convention will officially end by lunch. The PNA business meeting will be held after the lunch symposium. Closing ceremonies will be in the evening of November 24, 2017. PNA will be celebrating its Sapphire year. Come in your comfortable smart casual outfit but a blue sapphire-inspired attire will be highly appreciated.

Please visit our website www.asna2017.com. Please register online using the login code, asn@2017. For reduced rates, register on or before August 31, 2017. If you have a relevant research, we encourage you to submit your abstract online on or before August 31, 2017. Talk to our partners in the pharmaceutical industry for hotel accommodations. Our convention venue will be at Conrad Hotel but because of limited rooms, hotels nearby like Microtel, Hotel 101, Diamond Hotel and Hotel Jen will be the other options.

Be part of this big event- ASNA2017!
Warmest greetings from the Board of Governors of the Philippine Neurological Association!

This is the 3rd issue of SYNAPSE, the PNA’s official newsletter on electronic format. This issue brings to you updates on the latest activities of the PNA as well as the upcoming activities as we get closer to this year’s culminating event - the 12th ASNA biennial convention and the 39th PNA annual convention this November 21-24, 2017 at Conrad Hotel Manila. This is also a momentous event for all of us as we celebrate PNA’s 45th sapphire year. Let us continue to be active participants in all the activities of the PNA as we continue to strive for excellence in the care of our patients.

Mabuhay ang PNA! One PNA!

Romulo U. Esagunde, MD
Pna President 2017

On behalf of the PNA BOG and the Organizing Committee of the 38th PNA Annual Convention, I would like to thank everyone who attended and participated in the recently concluded 38th PNA Annual Convention at Hotel Novotel, Araneta Center.

This year’s theme of “Enriching Knowledge, Enhancing Skills, Empowering the Filipino Neurologist” captivated the very essence of our purpose and goal of doing our yearly scientific meeting. These 3 phrases captures the journey of every Filipino neurologist - from residency days to junior consultancy period and up to becoming an accomplished neurologist. Our continuing medical education activities now knows no boundaries in the advent of electronic learning system and on-line academic activities. Clinical updates in every field of neurology are readily available on-line even in abstract or news format.

The annual convention started with relevant workshops in neurophysiology, acute stroke thrombolysis and benign positional paroxysmal vertigo for the preconvention day. These workshop were all full-packed with attendees. This was followed by the OPENING CEREMONIES wherein our eloquent keynote speaker Dr. Carlos Chua delivered his speech entitled ‘The Plum Tree and the Neurologist.

The 3-day convention dealt with updates in stroke, dementia, headaches, sleep and critical care neurology.

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Editorial

Should We Tax Sugar?
The Impact of Sin Tax Bill on Sugar -Sweetened Beverages

Dr. Alejandro Bimbo F. Diaz

Would taxing sugar sweetened beverages (SSB) be effective in reducing consumption by Filipinos? The tax proposal was hotly debated in the public.

Worldwide there is an increasing number of Obesity and Diabetes Mellitus. It has become an epidemic indeed. Measures to reduce diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular diseases including stroke is by increasing the tax on sugar sweetened beverages. These were done in a number countries like France, Hungary, Denmark, Ireland, Norway, South Africa, United Kingdom and Mexico.

Advocates such as the World Health Organization and various medical organizations support the tax measure aimed in reducing unhealthy diets and offset the growing economic cost of obesity and diabetes.

In the Philippines, the prevalence of obesity is rising, currently at 6.5% while that of DM is at 7.2%. This is partly due to the excess sugar consumed by the Filipino household. Both obesity and DM are major risk factors of chronic diseases such as hypertension, cardiac diseases, cancer, stroke and dementia.

There can be as much as 35 grams of sugar in a can of soda. This exceeds the daily recommended allowance for children with just one drink serving. These drinks have been linked to obesity and diabetes. Controlling it at the state level is a way to reduce the country’s health concerns.

According to the price survey conducted by the Department of Finance, the implementation of House Bill 5636 or the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Act could push the prices of sugar sweetened beverages by 2% to as much as 140%. The first package of the ‘Train’ approved by the House of Representatives in May will slap an excise tax of P10 for a liter that contain locally produced sugar while a higher P20 will be taxed on those using imported sugar.

Some argue that this SSB tax measure is anti-poor. In a country like the Philippines where Chronic EnergyDeficiency (CED) states like undernutrition, infections like pneumonia, PTB are major health concerns, increasing the price of these regularly consumed beverages would be counterproductive. This could further increase the CEDs.

We believe, on the other hand that taxing these sugar sweetened beverages will result in less consumption of sugary drinks and help reduce the burden of obesity and diabetes. This, we believe, will help reduce the health economic cost of as well as their consequences such as CVDs, stroke, dementia, and cancer.

Some sectors doesn’t understand these. For instance, the Philippine Amalgamated Supermarkets Association said the proposed SSB tax would have a negative impact on the beverage industry and on the consumers of these products considered as basic commodities.

Nevertheless, the National Tax Research Center, the is supporting the government’s proposal to slap an excise tax on sugary drinks not only to raise revenues but also to support the Filipino health concerns.

In their report titled “Proposed Excise Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages in the Philippines”, the NTRC stated that “The imposition of an excise tax on sugar sweetened beverages is deemed timely and justifiable on the ground that these beverages are addicting for some and have been substituted for drinking water. Certainly, the habit of excessive consumption of these products causes adverse health effects”. We believe the excise tax measure is an effective tool in reducing the Philippines health burden. The NTRC further reported that given a strong public support, together with substantial health benefits and additional revenue that could be expected from the tax, this policy option of the government is highly supported. A tax on sugary drinks therefore is an essential approach to address poor diets and obesity as well as to fund health-related programs of the government.

The proposed SSB tax is expected to generate over P40B in revenues. The medical community also proposes the government subsidize the prices of fruits and vegetables to make them more affordable. Removing or reducing the tax on fruits and vegetables to promote a healthier diet for the Filipino.

While the benefit of including sugar restriction in education of young children is desirable, we believe that taxing the sugary drinks consumed by ordinary Filipino people would be one of the most efficient way. These should consequently reduce the their chronic like CVDs, cancer, and degenerative diseases.

While the parliament has already approved the house bill which addresses this expanded sin tax bill in the Train. The medical community should be ardent in supporting and hoping that this SSB tax in its totality shall be likewise approved in the Senate.

We look forward to seeing the Philippines join the growing number of countries that’s taxing the sugary drinks and beverages.
The third PNA Bimonthly meeting was held on September 5, 2015. Hosted by the Philippine Society of Clinical Neurophysiology (PSCN), the topic “Immunosuppressants vs. Targeted Therapy for Primary control of Myasthenia Gravis” was discussed by Dr. Hans Ludwig Damian (PSCN President).

Dr. Damian focused on the use monoclonal antibody therapy in moderately severe forms of autoimmune Myasthenia Gravis. Dr. Alejandro Bimbo Diaz (PSCN Vice president) later gave a short reaction to Dr. Damian’s lecture. Dr. Mark Sta Maria ably emceed the lively bimonthly conference. At least ten clusters of neurologists participated remotely from the Metromanila, Cebu, Davao, and other key cities and provinces all over the country.

The fourth and last PNA Bimonthly meeting for 2017 is scheduled on October 12, 2017 and will explore the differences and similarities of neuroleptic malignant syndrome and autoimmune encephalopathy.
Our 23rd Philippine Neurological Association Midyear Convention was held last May 27-28, 2017 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. It was attended by an overwhelming number of 300 fellows. In contrast to the previous PNA Midyear Conventions, this year’s meeting was only a one-day activity that focused on rekindling the tradition of building camaraderie and strengthening bonds among fellows – thus the theme “Bringing Back the Good Old Days”.

It commenced with a lecture series through the MERIITS (Medicem’s Educational and Research-based Initiative to Improve Treatment Strategies) program. Renowned speakers in their fields of specialties delivered lectures on pain (Professor Lars Nielsen), epilepsy (Professor Emilio Perucca), and neuroplasticity (Professor Kwan Ng). The midyear business meeting went smoothly in the afternoon. The Movement Disorder Society of the Philippines also engaged us in an interactive case discussion during the dinner symposium. The much awaited fellowship night was full of fun, games, and prizes.

Once more, the growing family of the Philippine Neurological Association has shown that we are moving as ONE PNA!
The study on the Survey of Neurological Disorders in Samboan, Cebu recently got IRB approval. This will include stroke, epilepsy, headache, Parkinson’s Disease and dementia. The Cebu Neuroscience Society thereafter, started training the BHW’s and Community Health Team of Samboan on the conduct of the survey.

A survey of neurological diseases in the PNA outreach programs of Davao and Quezon will also be done in the future.

Dr. Maritzie R. Eribal

We were also privileged to have Professor Jun-Ichi Kira delivered the Gilberto Gamez Memorial Lecture on Neuroimmunology entitled “Neuromyelitis Optica and the Longitudinally Extensive Spinal Cord Lesions.”

The annual research contest featured our top research papers from different institutions. Residents had their chance to battle it out in the 2nd Neurology Quiz Bowl. During the mornings, the different PNA Councils were given their time to meet and plan out their activities for the next 2 years. Everyone had tons of fun and laughter during the Fellowship Night as they came in 80s fashion and watched the new format of presentation in MTV way. The program was also packed with production numbers from selected fellows highlighting the best 80s dance music as well as the OPM hits of that era.

During the PNA Business Meeting, the body decided to have a new logo, the new set of officers were introduced as well. In the Closing ceremonies, PMA President Ireneo Bernardo III helped us in the oath taking ceremonies of our new fellows and new Board of Governors while DOH Secretary Paulyn Jean R. Ubial served as our Inspirational Speaker. Dr. Arnold Pineda delivered his valedictory speech and Dr. Romulo Esagunde gave his inaugural speech as the new PNA President for 2017.

The 38th PNA annual convention recorded a total of 620 attendees including fellows, associate fellows, residents, speakers and guests. We acknowledged the continuous support of our pharmaceutical friends as well as the support our junior and associate fellows.

We look forward to a good year of work and learning in 2017 as PNA hosts the 12 biennial convention of the ASEAN neurological association in November this year. (RUE)
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Thus with knowledge of investment, you would decrease the amount that you need to save, at the same time, the period of time you need to reach Financial Freedom.

RULE of 72: If you divide 72 with the percentage of gain you produce in a investment per year, you will determine how many years it will take for you to double your initial investment. So if you gain 5% interest coupon for your investment, then this is how your initial 3 million will become 16,548,046.10 in 35 years without you adding any money. The 5% earned from this money will give you P738,000 per year in passive earning which is what you projected you will need for the rest of your life without touching the principal and which you can leave behind the people you love or the institution you want to help like PNA.

$72/5 = 14.4$ years to double the initial amount.

Start with P3,000,000.00

In 14.4 years = P6,000,000.00
In 28.8 years = P12,000,000.00
Add another 5.2 years = P16,548,046.10

In the example above, you would be able to accumulate more money than you need in a shorter period of time of 34 years, and you only needed to save 3 million instead of the P14,760,000.00 that you thought you initially needed to prepare for your needs at age 65. This however is just an example and many of us would probably try to aim for more to prepare for our retirement.

What if you learned to invest and get a return at 10% or 20% per year. It would shorten the period you would achieve your goal and even decrease the amount of money you need to save. But there is a caveat, the higher the interest rate or gain that we aim, the higher the risk you need to take. And the higher the risk, the bigger the chance of losing not just the gain but actually also your savings. So one has to determine our own appetite for risk. You however can decrease the risk by increasing your knowledge of investment.

We have shown that with 3 million investment, and earning 5% / year that you have to reinvest to compound the earning, you would be financially free to enjoy your life with less stress on savings and now you can focus on improving the quality of your life against the option of only placing you money in savings account. They say however, that the hardest million is the first one. By this time you have earned your first million in investment, you would have learned so much more on investment that you would be on the road to becoming a multi-millionaire.

The question to all of us now is how do we find that vehicle that earns us 5% or more net of all expenses safely and on a consistent manner that allows us to still do what we are passionate about example being a good doctor, teacher, parent, husband or wife, sportsman, traveller-tourist, artist, etcetera. Everybody knows that investment is fraught with opportunities as well as danger. But let me assure you that as there are dramatic stories about big blunders in investment of people losing millions to billion in pesos or dollars, there are more who succeed in this activity called investment. Otherwise, this different investment instrument would have ceased to exist a long time ago. Far from the impression that it is gambling, there are actually so much science devoted to perfecting this different strategies of investment.

1. So the third thing that we have to do to be part of this activity and actually enjoy it, is we have to invest in ourselves first.

What does it mean to invest in ourselves first? In the olden times, there were many examples of those who have succeeded without having to finish a college degree, however, these are more an exception rather than the rule nowadays. To the greater majority, the more education you received, the higher your actual earning potential is in your lifetime. This pursuit for the acquisition of essential knowledge in many things including investment, tremendously tilted the acquisition of wealth towards those who have acquired the important knowledge not just completely and accurately but at the same time as early as possible to allow the person to benefit from this knowledge. So we are now in The Knowledge Age and is the advanced form of capitalism in which knowledge and ideas are the main source of economic growth (more important than land, labour, money, or other tangible resources). When we recommend investing first in ourselves, we refer to this as investing ourselves with knowledge on the intricacies of our profession and investment as well. Sounds daunting? I believe it is not as difficult as learning neuroanatomy. But to get into the activities of investment, we have to equip ourselves with the knowledge of investment first. The easiest way to lose your shirt is, by not doing your own study on whatever investment you make, and depend on another person to tell you where to put your money. Each investment has a risk and reward. It is best that you should know how deep you can fall before you jump in any investment. So pick up a book, even the idiots guide to investment before you place your money into anything.
As we increase our knowledge in our profession and start earning, we start saving and investing our money. If we succeed in both, life becomes easier as we now have a helper to earn more. We put our money to work. As we learn investment, we become good at seeing the opportunities presented to us everyday. At the same time, we also easily spot scams that usually victimize many of us. We have experienced and heard of many pyramid schemes that have victimized many gullible people and it is not just the illegal once but many are covered by laws. So you have pre needs, insurances, investments, and even international policies like the sub prime crises that triggered the recent Great Recession are examples of events that we could recognize earlier if we are knowledgeable about investment. So this does not just helps us to earn but also helps us avoid disaster.

1. The fourth rule is, do not lose your money. So as much effort you put in mastering your field of work or profession, if you give 5% of that commitment to learn investment, I am sure the returns to your financial health maybe more and as gratifying. The hardest thing to swallow is losing your hard earned money that you worked for for so many years. So before you invest, think about the worst possibility that can happen to your investment. Read, consult friends and family members who seem to be knowledgeable on investment and who succeeded on this (meaning they became rich because of their knowledge on investment) and finally a investment professional that has no conflict of interest and desires only to advice you to succeed (not sellers of investment portfolio in the banks and insurance companies) then compare each of their advice and compare it with what you know. If everything fits, or if majority of the inputs you received points to a go, then you can place your investment.

2. However, sometimes the varying opinion contradicts and may cause you to be paralyzed and unable to decide. If you still feel strongly on placing an investment, put only a third or even less of your initial plan to invest and look for another investment to place it. This rule is called Diversification. Always spread your investment as we are never sure of anything 100% of the time. So if we make a mistake with one, something remains in the future and we never end in the poor house. Because we are never sure about the outcome of any investment 100% of the time, we should diversify and learn to allocate our money in different areas so that when we make a mistake, we can still survive because we’ve spread our eggs in different baskets. So allocate your money in different investment that behave differently in the economic cycles. Let us say Land and Bond. Land value appreciates in increase in inflation rate while bond depreciates as interest rate will increase.

The following are general returns that are given by different investment vehicles. The returns are not consistent and fluctuate in cycles. The returns vary in different economic cycles so that knowing what instruments to get in at a particular time is an important skill.

1. Savings Account = earns 0.25 %/ year. Sure loser because the average inflation is 3%. Use this only for emergency and daily needs.

2. Optimum savings account = earns 0.65% / year. Another loser. Use if you are waiting for a better vehicle to time your investment that you would expect will yield you more. You are allowed to withdraw 3 times a month without affecting your interest gain.

3. Time deposit = another loser as it earns less than inflation. Used to park your money because you are waiting for better vehicle for investment.

4. Bonds
   A. Government Bond

5. Stock market

6. Managed funds in Banks and Insurance Companies

7. Insurance and Pension funds

8. Real Estate
   A. Single Detached Houses
   B. Commercial for rentals
   C. Farm lots and land banking
   D. Buildings

9. Art works, Jewelry, Rare and Collectors Items such as Watches, Cars, Motorcycles


11. Complementary Business

There are many ways where each of us can invest in to attain our financial goal of attaining Financial Freedom and success. Each one with its potential and challenges. We will have no time to discuss each one of this investments as this is just an overview article to encourage everyone to prepare for their financial future. Its best to choose something that we can enjoy and can be passionate about and at the same time allow us to continue what we are doing at the moment. Enjoying whatever financial activity that you decide to get in is very important because, it is easier to learn something you love doing at the same time get immersed and spend time at it. The activity earns you money as you enjoy it. It is also important to realize that one of the secrets of getting wealthy is to have multiple streams of earning. And the list above are just examples of many ways to develop multiple streams of earning. So good luck everyone, on your pursuit to Financial Freedom and Success.
The recently concluded JOINT CNSP-PLAE Symposium on Status Epilepticus in Infants and Children & 9th PLAE National Epilepsy Congress last July 17-19, 2017 at the Marco Polo Plaza Hotel in Cebu City was a huge success!!! This, despite the huge lemon thrown at the Organizing Committee only 3 weeks before the scheduled event!

It all started in 2014, when the Chairperson of the Japan-based Infantile Seizure Society (ISS) invited the Philippines to host the 19th Annual Meeting of the Infantile Seizure Society in 2017, upon the expressed wish of Professor Yukio Fukuyama, the Founding Chairperson of the ISS and a dear friend and ally and Honorary Fellow of the Child Neurology Society, Philippines (CNSP). Because this was such a prestigious scientific meeting among child neurologists and epileptologists worldwide and because the Philippines would be only the 3rd country invited to host it outside Japan since 1998, the Child Neurology Society and the Philippine League Against Epilepsy accepted the invitation to host the 19th Annual Meeting of ISS with the theme “International Symposium on Status Epilepticus in Infants and Children (ISSE2017). This was to be held back to back with the 9th PLAE National Epilepsy Congress. The site chosen was Cebu City, and the support of the Cebu Neuroscience Society headed by Dr. Maritzie Eribal was enlisted.

An International Scientific Advisory Board was created for the ISSE2017. The Local Organizing Committee was formed. Official endorsements were obtained from the Philippine Neurological Association, the Asian and Oceanian Child Neurology Association, and the International League Against Epilepsy.

In the next 2 and a half years, the Joint Organizing Committee with Marilyn Ortiz and Ana Marie Javelosa at the helm and with Lillian Lee, Aida Salonga, and Leonor Cabral Lim as Advisers, Lucy Kathrina Banzali as Secretary General, and Lourdes Ledesma as Treasurer, worked tirelessly to craft a 3 day scientific program (Benilda Sanchez-Gan for the ISSE2017 and Leonor Cabral Lim for the 9th National Epilepsy Congress) and social and hospitality program (Maritzie Eribal and Emerito Calderon) that were steeped in the ISS, CNSP and PLAE tradition of scientific excellence, relevance, collegiality and hospitality. The 3 day event was filled with high calibre lectures, regional panel discussion, and satellite symposia lectures by 17 international speakers and 5 local speakers. Fifty one abstracts were submitted for poster and platform presentations. The ASEPA Video-EEG Course was organized with John Dunne and Josephine Gutierrez as Course Directors. The social program consisted of a Welcome Reception to be hosted by Cebu Governor Hon. Hilarion Davide III, a “Cosmos” themed Fellowship Night, and the PLAE Annual Dinner. Support for this ambitious joint scientific meeting came in the form of CME grants from our partners in the pharmaceutical industry, ably solicited by the Ways and Means Committee headed by Jean Marie Ahorro.

Everything was going well until the terrorist activity in Marawi City happened, less than 3 months before the event. Because this was not immediately resolved, apprehensions about the safety and security of delegates prompted the ISS Executive Committee to cancel the 19th ISS Annual Meeting in Cebu exactly 3 weeks before the scheduled scientific activity.

Unfazed by this unexpected setback so close to the event, the Joint Organizing Committee decided to proceed with the scientific event which was then renamed “Joint CNSP-PLAE Symposium on Status Epilepticus and 9th PLAE National Epilepsy Congress”. Benilda Sanchez Gan, the indefatigable Scientific Chair of the Status Epilepticus Symposium, very ably succeeded in restructuring the SE scientific program with great haste and amazing creativity. All the invited local speakers and majority of the foreign speakers reaffirmed their commitment, and the pharmaceutical companies remained steadfast in their support.

Thus it was that the “Joint CNSP-PLAE Symposium on Status Epilepticus & 9th PLAE National Epilepsy Congress” came to pass…with a BIG BANG!!!

Three hundred sixty one delegates attended. The 3 day event was packed with 4 plenary lectures, 17 scientific symposium lectures, 1 regional panel discussion, 1 platform paper presentation, 2 poster paper sessions, 3 industry symposia, and a whole day ASEPA Video-EEG course. Awards for best scientific research papers were given.

The Faculty consisted of 12 foreign speakers - Helen Cross (UK), Haluk Topaloglu (Turkey), Raman Sankar (USA), Nicholas Abend (USA), Michael Rogawski (USA), Ingrid Scheffer (Australia), Deepak Gill (Australia), John Dunne (Australia), Heung Dong Kim (Korea), Irawan
Session chairs and judges were pooled from foreign as well as local neurologists namely Kai Ping Chang (Taiwan), Masanori Takeoka (USA), Reggy Penggabean (Indonesia), Sau Wei Wong (Malaysia), Hian Tat Ong (Singapore), Lillian Lee, Aida Salonga, Leonor Cabral Lim, Mel Villaluz, Myrna Fojas, Jean Marie Ahorro, Marilyn Ortiz, Elizabeth Palines, Victoria Bael, Madeleine Sosa, Gerardo Salazar, Ignacio Rivera, Kristine Mendoza, Ma. Pompeia Hizon, Marissa Lukban, and Bernadette Macrophon.

Not to be outdone was the fantastic social program, which consisted of the Opening Ceremonies with Ms. Precy Cuevas, from the Department of Health as Keynote Speaker, the Welcome Reception hosted by Cebu Governor Hon. Hilarion Davide III at the Cebu Provincial Capitol Building, where the delegates were regaled with the outstanding performances by Cebu's very own singers and dancers, the unforgettable Cosmos-themed Fellowship Night that fostered and strengthened the camaraderie among delegates through music and dance, and the PLAE Thanksgiving Dinner, that was highlighted by the Harana performed by the Philippine Opera Company, the Valedictory Address by the outgoing PLAE President Ana Marie Javelosa, and the induction of the incoming PLAE Executive Committee (Mel Michel Villaluz - President, Elizabeth Palines - 1st Vice President, Cristina Urbi - 2nd Vice President, Marc Fernandez - Secretary General, and Rio Carla Pineda - Treasurer).

At the end of the day, by God's Grace and with the full support from the Joint Organizing Committee, the members of the faculty, the sponsors from the pharmaceutical industry, the events organizer (GLI), the management of Marco Polo Plaza Hotel, the travel agency (Blue Horizons), and the officers and members of PNA, CNSP, PLAE, we actually pulled it off...turned lemons into lemonade!!! We are eternally grateful!!!
GREETINGS!

The certifying written examination given by the Adult Neurology Specialty Board was held on August 12, 2017 at the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center.
28 of the 39 PASSED (71.79%)
13/13 of the new graduates in 2016 PASSED (100%)
15/26 retakers PASSED (57.69%)

My heartfelt gratitude to the movers of OPLAN PAYONG 1 Drs Carlos Chua and Jun Roxas and OPLAN PAYONG 2, Dr. Maria Annette Bautista.

My gratitude also to the following:

1. Lecturers of the online review
2. Lecturers of the modules in Practical Exam
4. PNA BOG for the support
5. ANSB chaired by Dr. Johny Lokin for their dedication
6. Dr. Tere Martinez for editing the online lectures
7. Natrapharm for housing our members including their meals and review materials.
8. Our PNA employee staff Ga, Mark and Ems
9. And most of all to all the PNA fellows who believed in us.

I have directed the successful examinees to go back to their training institutions for the mock orals.

This is truly a humbling work. No amount of words can describe the experience i had working with our associate members. Officially signing out from the OPLAN PAYONG 2 duties.

Maraming salamat po!