“Good Samaritan in us: A life of sharing, a life of giving”
Generaldo D. Maylem, MD

The battle against Covid-19 shocked the world. 2020 was the year when the almost all citizens of the world became clueless and helpless. We went to a battle to fight the unknown enemy. Fighting relentlessly with the hope of winning over this battle was our prayer. The journey was not easy, frilled with ups and downs and we cannot afford to lose because the only best thing to do is fight and fight until we see the light.

Who are the unsung heroes in this battle? Who are the hardworking front liners in this battle? Who are the stakeholders in the battle? This is a unique battle because we do not see our enemies. The virus can attack us at all sides, can bring our immune system or defenses down and can kill us anytime. In other words, it can make us helpless because we are clueless. Much as we need to strengthen our internal defenses, we need to strengthen our external defenses as well.

The life cycle of PPEs are limited from donning to doffing, the events in between is life changing and maybe even bigger than life itself. Of course, without the PPEs, it is tantamount to living a life dangerously because he or she is exposed to all elements without protection.

We want to share our happy and fulling moments as we touched lives. These is our own way of showing and nurturing our gift from our alma mater, the Thomasian spirit. We are proud to say that we, the Thomasian MDs of the north, did not fail you, our alma mater. This reminds me of the last few lines of the lyrics of the UST Hymn. As a Thomasian, it gets to one’s soul and gives one’s life what it is to be a different mold. The support for us alumni doctors is an epitome

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of a “valiant legion, imbued with an unending grace”. This “dark times” made us shine with our core values that has been taught to us. The “unending grace” has reached us and in return has touched so many lives in this part of the world. “The gloom of our darkest night. Keep us in beauty and truth and virtues. Impassioned embrace. Ever your valiant legions. Imbued with un-ending grace.”

As it is always instilled in our life, this song is the embodiment of the University spirit, it is usually played with the intention to bolster morale and present the pride and unity of all Thomasians. Anargyroi UST-FMS Foundation, Inc. is heaven sent. They have never left us alone fighting and engaging in this worst nightmare of our community, Cagayan Valley. As part of our initiatives, we strengthened our group, The Thomasian MDs of the North, Cagayan Valley Chapter headed by our esteemed leader, Dr. Steve Callang. We realize that in their own simple way, they gave us this “physical shield” to protect us from this pandemic. Thanks to Dr. Steve Callang, one of our esteemed leaders in the group. Dr. Steve is a well-respected pediatrician and a board member of the Callang General Hospital and Medical Center. With a thankful heart, we will never forget Anargyroi UST-FMS Foundation, Inc. God bless you more so that you can share more.

A million thanks to all of you from all of us, Thomasian MDs of the North.
The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is more felt in developing countries like the Philippines, as scarce resources are spread to support the health care system, assist disadvantaged families, and recover economic losses.

Bicol region, at the southeastern tip of Luzon, is situated at the typhoon highway of the country. The effects of the pandemic are augmented by five tropical weather disturbances in a span of three weeks. Last October 25, 2020, Typhoon Quinta (Molave) hit Bicol region, affecting the province of Albay as its capital Legazpi was celebrating the annual town fiesta of St. Raphael’s feast day. Six days after, at the eve of All Saints’ Day, super-typhoon Rolly (Goni) hit the northern municipalities of Albay, washing away volcanic debris into the communities along the slope of Mayon Volcano. Two more tropical storms (Siony and Tonyo) brought rains and mudflows in the coming days, leaving many homeless and forced to evacuate. Finally, typhoon Ulysses (Vamco), affected the northern Bicol provinces of Camarines Sur and Camarines Norte.

The local government units had to reallocate limited funds to the immediate needs of typhoon victims. Medical frontliners experienced a shortage in much needed material support to carry out their function in the midst of the ongoing pandemic.

Anargyroi FMS Foundation’s call to donate was very timely in mid-December, at that time, relief goods were flowing abundantly as most civic organizations were prioritizing these. The protective suits and medical masks were a huge help to all municipalities and cities of Albay, so much that two boxes were sent over to the island province of Catanduanes, which was the most devastated by super-typhoon Rolly, and the island of Masbate, where COVID-19 cases are on the rise.

The people of Bicol region will always be grateful for the generous hearts of those who kept us in mind in these trying times.
Featured BOT Member
Erwin G. Gonzalez, M.D.

Erwin studied at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) from elementary all through medical school. He was chief editor of his 1959 high school yearbook, Veritas under tutelage of Cenon Rivera, future director of Fine Arts and creator of UST school logos. In Rivera’s style, Erwin designed the maiden issue front cover of the short lived Journal of Arts and Sciences (February, 1962). He initially wanted to be an architect but studied Medicine instead, becoming president of “Section E” consisting of the top 20 male and 21 female students in the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery (FMS) Class ’67. He joined 6 Filipinos (4 from UST) serving internship at the US Naval Hospital in Subic Bay, then immigrating to the United States and settling in New York City.

Drawn by his interest in exercise and neuro-musculoskeletal function, he pursued training in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) at Columbia University-Presbyterian Hospital, becoming chief resident in 1972 and board certified in 1974. Fortuitously, Robert Darling MD, former director of Harvard Fatigue Laboratory (exercise physiology) was chairman. Paul Corcoran MD, an authority on energy expenditure was residency director. He would later collaborate with him in research and succeed him as program director from 1976-90. Erwin served on the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education Residency Review Committee, American Hospital Association Governing Council and a PM&R board certification examiner.

Erwin was president of the American Academy of PM&R (AAPM&R) in 1989-90 and was invited to the White House to witness signing of the American with Disabilities Act.

He delivered the Mariano Alimurung Lecture during his class silver jubilee in 1992 when his role model Ramon Sin MD was the Dean. He is recipient of other honors, author of books including “The Non-Surgical Management of Acute Low Back Pain” and “Physiological Basis of Rehabilitation Medicine”. He is a pioneer in intra-operative evoked potential monitoring and musculoskeletal sports spine Physiatry.

He was Professor of Clinical Rehabilitation Medicine at Columbia until 1990, Professor and Chairman at Beth Israel (Mt. Sinai, Albert Einstein) till 1997 when he retired.

Following the footsteps of mentor Dr. Darling, Erwin received the AAPMR Frank H. Krusen, MD Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015 for outstanding contributions in patient care, research, education, and community service. The award is the highest honor the specialty can bestow.

Supporting causes benefiting the USTFMS is his way of giving forward. His idea establishing a Development Office and Alumni Relations at USTFMS led to the founding of Anargyroai:FMS Foundation which was incorporated in 2017. He is forever grateful to his parents and his alma mater.
Anargyroi: UST-FMS Foundation, Inc.

GRADUATING REGENT’S SCHOLARS OF 2021

The Regent’s Scholarship Program has nurtured five scholars towards their dreams of becoming a medical doctor.

CHARLES JOHN S. LATORRE

Mr. Latorre is a graduate of BS Medical Technology at University of Santo Tomas. During his time as a pre-medical student, he was a leader of various organizations including being a hospital leader of World Citi Medical Center and the vice president for medical technology interns at Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center during internship. He finished his bachelor’s studies as a cum laude graduate. As a medical student, he tutors his classmates who are having a hard time in their studies. He was also a part of the peer tutoring club that is being organized by the Guidance Office that helped him to establish camaraderie with his batch mates as well as the lower years.

CLOIE ANNE P. RABINETAS

Ms. Rabinetas took her undergraduate degree of BS Biology at the University of Santo Tomas, for which she graduated cum laude last 2017. When she entered medical school, she became a member of the Pax Romana Medicine Unit and served as a Thomasian Health Ambassador for a year. To give back, she tried as much as possible to reach out to her fellow medical students by helping them in ways she can, such as teaching.
PATRICIA JOYCE G. SI
Ms. Si is a registered pharmacist who finished summa cum laude and batch salutatorian from the University of Santo Tomas in the year 2017. She also placed fourth in the Pharmacy Licensure Examination. Presently, she is a clinical clerk at the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. She has been paying it forward and enjoying by sharing her knowledge. She leads in group studies, conduct review classes, tutor the younger batches, and read tons of her favorite books on her spare time. She looks forward to the years ahead for the skills, the training, the knowledge, and the friends she will encounter during her internship and residency.

CARMELA NINA S. TORMO
Ms. Tormo is a graduate of BS Nursing in University of Santo Tomas and was one of the topnotchers during the Nursing Licensure Exam 2018. Even before medical school, she has been participating in different medical missions. Last June 2018 she became the assistant team leader who organized a medical and surgical mission held at Capoocan, Leyte that served a total of 800 patients. Together with the team who went to Leyte, she conducted a program where they shared their experiences and taught skills to fellow medical students who wanted to participate in the same event.

JOCHEBETH JOI T. TROCINO
Ms. Trocino graduated with bachelor’s degree in biology from University of the East-Manila, magna cum laude. Her undergraduate thesis was chosen as one of the novel researcher at the 52nd BIOTA Annual National Convention and Scientific sessions and was presented in Indonesia. During her second year in medicine, she applied as one of the peer mentors in the mentoring program of the UST FMS Guidance Office. She was able to help her fellow students who are struggling in their subjects and those who are in need of emotional support. After a year, she was chosen to be the head peer mentor and had a chance to give advise to her younger colleagues during their pep talk.

The new building to be named after Saints Cosmas and Damian, patron saints of the Faculty, will house the state of the art simulation and research facilities, a learning and study center for medicine students, a faculty lounge and medical graduate programs. It will occupy the parking lot beside the Tan Yan Kee Student Center and in front of the Miguel de Benavides Library.

Mobilization of plans for the Building were interrupted due to the on-going pandemic. However, Dean Lourdes D. Maglinao said that preparation is still underway.

Alongside with the Facilities development, the St. Martin de Porres Building’s renovation is being done during this quarantine period. The renovation is expected to be finished before July 2021.

The UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, the oldest medical school in the Philippines, traces its beginnings to the “Facultad de Medicina y Farmacia,” which opened on May 28, 1871 by Spanish decree.

Surviving the Philippine revolution against Spain, the war against the United States and the Japanese occupation during World War 2, UST Medicine has become a Center of Excellence for Medical Education, producing the most number of medical graduates and topnotchers in medicine board exams.
USTMAAAA New President

Dr. Ferdinand M. Ramos is the new President of UST Medical Alumni Association America, UST Med Batch 1980 with honors. He is a Pain Management Specialist in Lafayette, Indiana. Having more than 41 years of diverse experiences, especially in PAIN MANAGEMENT, ANESTHESIOLOGY, Dr. Ferdinand M Ramos affiliates with Franciscan Health Lafayette, cooperates with many other doctors and specialists in medical group Unity Healthcare LLC.

New Ways to Give: Give2Asia

Recently, AFI partnered with Give2Asia, a U.S. based non-profit organization that connects corporations, foundations, and individual donors with trusted local charities in 23 countries.

Give2Asia’s Fiscal Sponsorship Program offers Asia-based charitable and educational organizations a convenient and cost-effective way to accept tax-deductible contributions from international supporters. With Give2Asia serving as a fiscal sponsor, local organizations in Asia can rely on a trusted platform for managing overseas donations. Give2Asia handles donations of cash, stock, and Bitcoin, manages all tax receipts, and handles all of the requirements for disbursing international funds to organizations.

In addition, donors may make donations by check, wire transfer, or gifts of securities to Give2Asia and indicate their intention to support the AFI Fund in the memo section of their donation or by emailing info@give2asia.org at the time their donation is made. For more information, please contact Give2Asia directly at its U.S. headquarters at +1.415.967.6300; info@give2asia.org; Give2Asia, 2201 Broadway, 4th Floor. Oakland, CA 94612 USA
How to Donate

- Peso Contributions -

BANCO DE ORO (BDO) Account
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Tel No: (258) 626-1114
Email: ustmaaa@gmail.com

Option 2: If USD donation is from abroad, deposit can be done through the SWIFT Code (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication Code) using the following details:

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- FOR FUTURE DONATIONS -

Please notify the Anargyro: FMS Foundation, Inc. Development Office upon EVERY TRANSACTION by sending the Donor Name, Amount of Donation, Preferred Project to Support, and Date of Donation to developmentoffice@anargyroifoundation.org