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FEATURE ARTICLE

VIBRANT AT 25

The year 2018 marks our Silver Anniversary.

As part of the celebration, we will reintroduce ourselves by way of an article that attempts to embrace who we are. Far from being a mere fact sheet and a chronology of activities and accomplishments, this is a glimpse of our team's life history.

What is it you know of PIDSP?

The Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines (PIDSP) is a non-stock, non-profit subspecialty organization of the Philippine Pediatric Society.

A significant majority of the members are graduates of one of two accredited Pediatric Infectious Diseases fellowship training institutions, namely, the Philippine General Hospital and the Philippine Children's Medical Center.

What have we done? What are we involved with?

Our Society is recognized as a major player and a voice of influence for pressing childhood concerns in the field of infectious diseases.

The Annual Immunization Calendar, Clinical Practice Guidelines on tuberculosis, dengue, community acquired pneumonia, leptospirosis and bacterial meningitis, antimicrobial use, emerging infections such as SARS, the influenza pandemic, Zika virus and vaccine-preventable diseases and several position papers are noteworthy imprints of our DNA.

Our Society also invests heavily on educational pursuits. Apart from our annual convention, the Society sponsors training workshops, writeshops, module development, medical forums, attendance to regional conferences and provides research and fellowship grants.

On numerous occasions we have successfully collaborated with other organizations for their scientific conferences, helping in educating other doctors and allied health professionals. In the recent years, we were able to cascade several modules on Dengue, HIV and Immunization.

On the aspect of fellowship training, aside from the presence of a Subspecialty Examination Board, we have an Accreditation Committee tasked to formulate and revise operating policies and guidelines and accredit institutions who seek to create fellowship training programs. This is to ensure that the standards set by the Society are met.

Our Society is also actively involved in initiating and participating in medical and vaccine missions. Beneficiaries have included Papa John Inc, a home for street children; He Cares Foundation; and communities affected by Haiyan to name a few.

What is on our bucket list?

The top priority programs include the following: a renewed focus on relevant researches, creation of more scientific modules on diseases of public health importance, dissemination of completed clinical practice guidelines, online continuing medical education (CME) activities and implementation of advocacy programs with both government and non-government agencies.

What keeps us together?

We cannot truly pinpoint one winning ingredient.

The passion for what we do, the mutual respect, the desire to be more and do more for others is part of our culture. This is what keeps us dynamic, relevant and progressive.