

August 29, 2008

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings! I would like to give you further updates regarding various concerns of our society.

1. Philippine Renal Disease Registry

As you probably know, the Registry has been a joint project of the PSN and the Renal Disease Control Program (REDCOP) since 2000. The REDCOP is managed and financially supported by the National Kidney and Transplant Institute. Last June 2008, we received word from Dr. Enrique Ona, NKTl Director, that he is terminating the support of REDCOP to the Registry because he would like to channel NKTl funds to other projects. Our society firmly believes in the importance of continuing the Registry, so this sudden termination prompted us to scramble for other sources of support for the Registry. Fortunately, the National Epidemiology Center (NEC) of the Department of Health, which is headed by Dr. Eric Tayag, recognized the value of the Registry and agreed to take it up as a joint project with the PSN. Thus, the Registry will now be run directly under the Department of Health with technical support from the PSN. We are still finalizing the details of the agreement with the NEC and we will give you updates as developments arise.

The REDCOP has terminated data collection as of June 2008, will just finish encoding collected data and wrap up all loose ends by October 2008, at which time its involvement with the Registry will formally end. As we are currently in transition, we request all of you to just keep on filling up all the Registry forms for your transplant, dialysis and kidney biopsy patients and we will announce to you the new methods of data collection under the NEC by next month.

Dr. Romina Danguilan and myself, who have been heading the Registry since its inception in 1996 have also decided it is time to step down and pass on the leadership of the Registry. Dr. Elizabeth Sebastian has graciously accepted to be the overall head of the Registry and Drs. Stephanie Andres, Glenda Pamugas and Annabelle Sy will be the assistant heads.

2. Midyear Convention

We encourage all of you to attend our Midyear Convention in Boracay from October 9 to 12, 2008. The Western Visayas Chapter has worked hard to bring us a very good

program and we hope that all of you will be there to enjoy it. The program for the Midyear Convention accompanies this letter.

3. Meeting with dialysis unit heads

We feel that it is time to review the issues relevant to DOH licensing and PhilHealth accreditation of dialysis centers so we would like to invite all of you who are heads or medical directors of dialysis centers to attend a meeting on October 9 at 1 pm at the Midyear Convention venue. This would be just before the opening of the Midyear Convention which will be at 5 pm on the same day. Kindly inform the PSN Secretariat of your intention to attend this meeting.

4. 2009 Annual Convention

We are also well on our way with our planning for next year's annual convention. Dr. Dolores Bonzon is our overall convention chair and Dr. Corazon Macaraeg is our Scientific Committee chair. The chosen theme is "Innovations in Nephrology". The first two foreign speakers, Dr. Gabriel Danovitch and Dr. Leonard Stern, have already confirmed their agreement to speak in our convention. Stay tuned for other exciting updates.

That is all for now. Again, I want to express my thanks for all the hardworking members of the society who make all of this possible.

Sincerely yours

Benita Padilla, MD