

I am very happy to report to you, our fact finding mission to Manila, Philippines from Feb 2-9, 2019 was very productive. They were great host and they went out of their ways to make sure everything went well. Also, I am happy to inform you that Professor Don Alvear, MD, FACS, Ped Surgeon From Pennsylvania was a great help. He is founder and president of World Surgical Foundation who has been doing outreach in Philippines among many other destinations for last three decades. Also, Dr Denish Ranjan of Portland, Oregon, he is Transplant and HPB Surgeon. Unfortunately, due to an expected family situation, Dr Quyen Chu, Chief of Surgical Oncology, LSUHSC could not join us. Our colleagues from Philippines are very interested in establishing Liver Transplant Program and they requested if I could give talks about:

A- "Establishing a Liver Transplant Program: The Essentials"

B- "Pancreatic Resection in the Era of Minimal Invasive Surgery"

C- "Update in Liver Transplantation"

During our stay we visited all major institutions in Manilla. Also, we visited with Philippines Undersecretary of health and who over sees Transplantation and Organ Recovery.

Feb 4, 2019

1- Visited Asian Hospital And Medical Center

Dr Miguel (ike) Mendoza, Chairman Dept of Surgery

Dr Tony Perez, Division head of Hepato-Pancreato-biliary

I gave one lectures A- "Establishing a Liver Transplant Program: The Essentials"

2- Makati Medical Center

Dr Juaquin Manalastas, Chairman Dept of Surgery

Dr. Catherine Teh, Chief Section of Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary, (Vice President of Philippines Chapter of IHPBA)

I gave two lectures: A- "Establishing a Liver Transplant Program: The Essentials"

B- "Pancreatic Resection in the Era of Minimal Invasive Surgery"

Feb 5, 2019 (Chines New Year)

3- Quirono Memorial Medical Center, we made rounds and visited several patients with complex pathologies

Feb 6, 2019

4- Philippine General Hospital

Dr. Ted Herbosa , Vice Chancellor and

Dr Gap Legaspi, Medical Director

Dr Tony Perez, Chief section of HPB unit

I gave a lecture about A- "Establishing a Liver Transplant Program: The Essentials"

Feb 7, 2019

5- Dept Of Health (Ministry of Health)

Dr Fransisco Sarmiento

Dr Natividad.

6- Quirono Memorial and Medical Center

Dr Romy Abary, Chairman of Surgery

Dr Joel Celaje , Chief Resident

They had a gentleman with Chronic Gastric Outlet Obstruction with significant Wt Loss and his stomach was 10x bigger than average. Luckily, Antrectomy with Duodenal mass resected uneventfully.

Also, managed to Talk with Dr. Liqueete on the phone (director of National Kidney and Transplant Surgery)

7- Philippine Children's Medical Center

Dr Leandro Resurreccion, Chairman of Surgery (Hepatobiliary and Pediatric transplant surgeon)

Dr Lester Suntay, Ped Surgeon, HPB, President of WSF, Philippines (He was very instrumental and helpful with all our activities)

Dr. Cherrie Sio, Ped Surgery Fellow

I gave a lecture about "Update in Liver Transplantation"

Also, we performed a redo surgery on one of the biggest Chole-Dochal Cyst, I have ever seen in a one year old child. Previously, It was operated on but due to significant inflammation a drain was placed and case was aborted. We were able to resect this Giant and symptomatic CholeDuchal Cyst and child recovered un eventfully

Feb 9, 2019

Dr. Vanessa De Villa - director of liver and transplant surgery (Medical City), We had breakfast with her and I enjoyed the visit very much

In summary, There is a significant surgical talent and potential in Philippines. Unfortunately, their government have very limited resources dedicated to health care system. This is complicated by lack of cohesiveness among their medical community and not to mention very stiff competition between different hospital. Additionally, Brain Death Organ has not taken off, in large part due to organ trafficking. They have been doing few liver transplants but most of their pts get out sourced to India for Liver transplantation. I believe with adequate support of IHPBA, AHPBA, WSF +/- ASTS, we can help people of Philippines to become independent in area of HPB and Transplantation Surgery.

Gazi B Zibari, MD, FACS

Director, John C McDonald Regional transplant Center

Director, WK Advanced Surgery Center

Willis-Knighton Health System

Professor of Surgery

Malcolm Feist Chair in Transplantation Surgery- LSUHSC, Shreveport