

*Mamma Mia The Musical:*

# Celebrating PCMC's 44th Anniversary

By Charito L. Maiquez | Co-Chair, Employees' Program Committee,  
44th PCMC Anniversary Celebrations



Officials and members of the 44th PCMC Anniversary Committee perform an intermission number during the celebration of 44th PCMC Anniversary on April 26, 2024 at the Sto. Niño Atrium.

The annual hospital anniversary celebration is always something to look forward to. This year's 44th anniversary theme is **"Mamma Mia! The Musical"**, adapted from the 2008 musical romantic comedy film *Mamma Mia!* showcased the immense talent and creativity within the organization, which brought to life the magic of the event. It has been a fun-filled afternoon of music and dance showered with the incredible spirit of the employees.

The annual Employees Program is the culmination of the week-long hospital celebration and featured a series of performances inspired by the hit movie *Mamma Mia!*. With the lively and vibrant stage design, employees wearing their colorful costumes, and the iconic ABBA music, everyone was on a high *Mamma Mia!* fever. Talented teams from the different departments performed their unique interpretation of the musical's iconic scenes. The competition was intense, and the superb performances of the employees gave the judges a tough job of selecting the best.

After the captivating performances of the teams, the Nursing Services team emerged as the winner of this year's competition. Their performance was full of energy, precision, and a heartfelt rendition of the iconic song "Dancing Queen." Their well-deserved win was met with thunderous applause and cheers from the audience.



**UNDEFEATABLE.** The nursing services remains invincible for three consecutive years.

The anniversary program was not just about competition, but it also highlighted the PCMC community's spirit and culture. One team came out on top, but the real victory was the camaraderie and the memories created as "One PCMC Family."

Congratulations to the whole PCMC community and to everyone who participated and contributed to making this celebration truly memorable.

# PCMC celebrates World Liver Day with pediatric liver patients and stakeholders

By Ira Karen U. Apanay | Public Relations Officer III

The Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) celebrated World Liver Day on April 19, 2024, with successful liver transplant recipients, pre-liver transplant patients, and stakeholders who are vital to the success of the liver transplantation program and the consortium between the Office of the President (OP), Department of Health (DOH), PCMC, and The Medical City (TMC).

PCMC Executive Director, Dr. Sonia B. Gonzalez, said that the event aims to celebrate the accomplishment of the Pediatric Access to Liver Transplantation (PAsLiT) Program of PCMC and the consortium in improving the pediatric liver transplant services in the country and, at the same time, bring hope to families who don't have the means to fund the expensive procedure.

The number of Filipino children being diagnosed with Biliary Atresia and other neonatal cholestatic liver



Parents and patients arrange the banner of the theme of celebration of World Liver Day celebration.

disease is continuously rising, and many of them will develop cirrhosis and eventually progress to end-stage liver disease. Sadly, very expensive liver transplantation is the only remedy for end-stage liver disease, and many of the patients suffering from this disease who consult PCMC come from the underprivileged sector of society.

Sophie Aguilo, now six (6) years old, is the first beneficiary of the PAsLiT Program. Sophie's successful liver transplant was performed on November 17, 2020, and she regularly visits the PCMC Section of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition for long-term care.

Another recipient of the program is Gianna Ambal Visto, who is 3 years old and underwent the liver transplant procedure on February 22, 2024.



(From left to right) PCMC Executive Director, Dr. Sonia B. Gonzalez, Senator Pia Cayetano, Pediatric Access to Liver Transplantation Program beneficiary Sophie Aguilo, and Senator Bong Go at the celebration of World Liver Day.

At the World Liver Day Celebration, which had as its theme "A Ray of Hope, a Lease on Life," the two transplant patients were present. A lay forum was also held to raise awareness of liver disease and talk about PCMC's and the government's pediatric liver transplantation program. The program also plans to recognize the consortium that gave hope to the families of patients with liver illness, as well as the work of PAsLiT's benefactors, including Senators Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go and Pia Cayetano, who were both in attendance.



Parents and patients attend the World Liver Day celebration in Multipurpose Hall.



# Successful Completion of Security Incident and Data Breach Notification Workshop

By Kristel S. Barrameda-Silvano, MBA | Administrative Assistant I, Ancillary Services Department



Participants of the Security Incident and Data Breach Notification Workshop.

In today's world of reachable electronic access, the possibility of breaches is a constant threat that could disrupt organizations, compromise privacy, and distort confidence. Many individuals and organizations are still unaware of the challenges and risks associated with security incidents and information breaches. It is crucial to be prepared for how to respond effectively to these incidents, as doing so is key to minimizing their impact.

The Data Privacy Team conducted a two-batch seminar workshop on April 2 and April 15, 2024, with Atty. John D. Ayson, chairperson of the committee, as the resource speaker for both sessions. Atty. Ayson, together with Vice Chair Ms. Charito L. Maiquez and Advisers Ms. Emma A. Mariano and Ms. Maria Cristina Estrelin C. Natonton, also served as critics for the workshop presenters. Aiming to address existing cybersecurity challenges and assure a safeguarded electronic era through thorough analysis and preventive measures, they meticulously analyzed the situations and its potential consequences for individuals, organizations, and the public. The workshop not only educated participants on the repercussions of security incidents and information breaches but also became a platform for exchanging knowledge and ideas. The interactive lectures and hands-on activities like brainstorming and problem-solving exercises promoted creative thinking and provided opportunities to develop new approaches.

Attendees have found the session really interesting and informative. Dynamic speakers and insightful dialogue kept them engaged throughout the event. Awareness of

the topic was certain with all the practical and relevant scenarios provided, which were highly appreciated. The seminar left participants feeling inspired and at ease, armed with useful knowledge and methods to improve the organization's cybersecurity status.

Overall, the workshop provided an exciting learning atmosphere where participants expanded their understanding and improved their capacity, thereby contributing to their professional and personal growth. Conducting the activity raised cybersecurity awareness, strengthened risk management processes, and built resistance to evolving cyber threats. The Data Privacy Team may consider the suggestions mentioned to ensure that future undertakings will be even more successful.



Ancillary Services Department Manager and PCMC Data Protection Officer, Atty. John D. Ayson discuss the Security Incident and Data Breach Notification.

# 2nd Dr. Joel Elises Memorial Lecture

By Canileure C. Dayrit, MD | Head, Section of Nephrology



Participants of the 2nd Dr. Joel Elises Memorial Lecture.



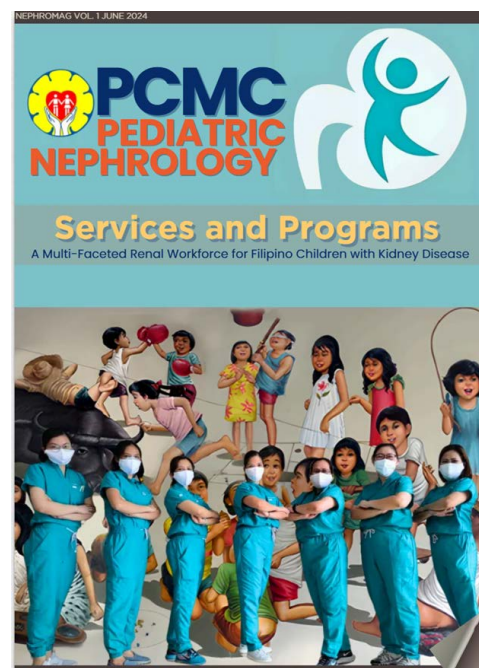
Participants join the activities.

In celebration of National Kidney Month in June, the Section of Nephrology hosted the 2nd Dr. Joel S. Elises Memorial Lecture in remembrance of one esteemed mentor and friend. It was held at the PCMC Multipurpose Hall on June 24, 2024.

Dr. Ma. Rosario S. Cruz served as the Honorary Speaker, whose talk was entitled “PCMC Nephrology: This is Our Story.” She spoke of the section’s modest beginnings and notable achievements amidst the struggles while constantly pursuing excellence in pediatric kidney care for the past 30 years. In attendance were the Executive Director, Dr. Sonia B. Gonzalez, who happens to be an alumnus of the training program under the tutelage of Dr. Elises, the Deputy Executive Directors from the Medical Services, Education, Training, and Research Services, and Nursing Services, Department Managers, and Division Heads. Special invited guests such as Dr. Cesar Ong, President of the Philippine Pediatric Society (PPS), Dr. Pelagio Esmaguél, President of the Philippine Society of Nephrology (PSN), Dr. Violeta Valderrama, President of the Pediatric Nephrology Society of the Philippines

(PNSP) with her Board of Trustees, past presidents of the PPS, PSN, and PNSP, and UP-PGH Nephrology Division Head were also present.

Dr. Joel Saranghilo Elises was an excellent example of a person who embodies work-life balance. He was outstanding in his career as a Pediatric Nephrologist and remained an affectionate family man loved by his wife and children. He is revered as the Head of the Section of Nephrology (2004–2010) and PCMC’s Office of Professional Education and Training (2006–2014). He was involved in training both the pediatric residents and the pediatric nephrology fellows, motivating each of them to be a persistent individual, a responsible learner, and a compassionate physician. His memory will always have a



The First PCMC Nephrology Magazine

special place in the hearts of those who were given a chance to be mentored by him.

The first PCMC Nephrology Magazine showcasing the section's services and programs was also launched, along with the Resident's Guide book and Sigla Bato: Preventive Nephrology modules.

A day before and immediately after the Memorial Lecture, the Performance and Capacity Building Mapped and Customized for the Filipino Pediatric

Nephrologist workshop was held. Graduates of the Pediatric Nephrology Training Program, coming from different parts of the Philippines, together learned the latest updates in percutaneous peritoneal dialysis (PD) catheter insertion and point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS). Our very own Dr. Gail Arejola-Tan and Dr. Alona Arias-Briones facilitated the training on PD catheter insertion in an infant and an older child, while Dr. Irish Senen Chang-Arellano reviewed the basics of POCUS. The event has been a chance for pediatric nephrologists to touch base once more and mingle with dear colleagues and friends.

# Continuing "The PCMC Journal" Indexing in WPRIM

By Baby Lynn F. Fegalan, RL | Head, Healthcare Library Section



*The Certificate of Indexing issued to the PCMC Journal for continuing to meet the requirements and standards of the National and Regional Journal Selection Committees (NJSC) for indexing in the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus (WPRIM) for the year 2024.*

The PCMC Journal received a Certificate of Indexing for continuing to meet the requirements and standards of the National and Regional Journal Selection Committees (NJSC) for indexing in the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus (WPRIM) for the year 2024. The recognition was given on May 16, 2024, and the criteria for awarding of the certificate included publication regularity, quality of journal articles, and adherence to NJSC high standards.

The Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-

PCHRD) Supervising Senior Science Research Specialist, Ms. Maria Violeta Intia, awarded the certificate to Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Paul Pasco, accompanied by Ms. Angelique Regio from the DOST-PCHRD's Research Information, Communication, and Utilization Division. Also in attendance for PCMC were Dr. Mary Ann Bunyi, Deputy Executive Director for Education, Training, and Research Services (ETRS), Dr. Caridad Santos, Manager for Clinical Research Department (CRD), Dr. Ma. Lucila M. Perez, Clinical Trial and Research Division (CTRD) Head, and Ms. Baby Lynn Fegalan, Healthcare Library Section (HLS) Head.

WPRIM is a regional database of biomedical literature and journals. It features journals and publications from countries within the Western Pacific Region, providing a platform for indexing and access to scholarly articles, research findings, and medical literature. WPRIM facilitates collaboration, knowledge sharing, and evidence-based practice among

healthcare professionals, researchers, and policymakers in the region.

This prestigious recognition is a testament to the dedication and effort of PCMC in developing scholarly undertakings worthy of publication and international broadcasting. It underscores PCMC's commitment to advancing medical knowledge and research and ensuring the dissemination of high-quality scientific information.

# Celebrating Triumphs: PCMC's Inaugural Autism Camp

By Carolyn Grace T. Madariaga, MD | Fellow-in-Training, Section of Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics



*Officers and staff of Section of Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics with the resource speakers and participants of the Autism Camp held on April 27, 2024 at the PCMC Multipurpose Hall.*

In a momentous stride toward autism empowerment and support, the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) Section of Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics proudly hosted its inaugural Autism Camp on April 27, 2024. This pioneering event, held both in person at the PCMC Multipurpose Hall and streamed live on the PCMC Neurodevelopmental Section's (NDS) Facebook page, marked the culmination of the section's Home Empowerment Program for families of children with autism under the SINAG initiative. SINAG, an acronym for Support, Inspire, Nurture Autism through empowered Guardians, embodies the unwavering commitment to guiding and supporting families and caregivers of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as they navigate the intricacies of the condition.

Parenting a child with autism is a journey laden with unique challenges and demanding resilience from caregivers. Recognizing this, the SINAG program endeavors to equip caregivers with the tools, knowledge, and community support needed to thrive on their journey. It hopes to be a vehicle for empowering caregivers to become lifelong advocates and educators for their children. The camp aims to deepen their understanding of ASD, raise awareness of its impact on families, and provide practical strategies for home management. It also seeks to foster a sense of community through a dedicated PCMC autism support group by offering a platform for mutual support and empowerment.

## **Campsite: Showcasing Talent and Building Community**

The camp welcomed a total of 18 families, each with their own story of strength and resilience, hailing predominantly from Quezon City and various other localities. With ages ranging from 5 to 9 years old and ASD levels spanning from level 2 to 3, devoted parents and guardians of these children attended to gather insights and strategies for navigating the complexities of ASD.

The entire venue was thoughtfully curated to celebrate the diverse talents of children with autism, showcasing their remarkable and touching artwork. The Center for Development Intervention Foundation, Inc. (CDIFI) arranged a booth featuring handcrafted items by children with special needs, including pieces crafted by children from Valenzuela SPED. Moreover, a dedicated message board provided a warm and inviting space for the whole community to share experiences, insights, and words of encouragement. This setup not only highlighted the children's creativity but also inspired the families who attended.

## **The Camp: Program Highlights**

The program was hosted by Dr. Ma. Florita Yambao-Dela Cruz and commenced with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting



*Participants during the open forum activity.*

by the consultants from the PCMC Child Neuroscience Division (CNS) and CDIFI educators.

In a video message, PCMC Executive Director Dr. Sonia B. Gonzalez expressed her admiration for the efforts behind the groundbreaking autism camp and how beneficial it is for families of children with autism. Former PCMC Executive Director and CNS Division Head Dr. Lillian V. Lee followed and set the tone with her opening remarks. Camp Director and NDS Head, Dr. Christine Leonor Ma. C. Conducto then outlined the objectives of the SINAG program, underscoring its transformative impact on families. A rundown of the home empowerment lecture series initiated on November 23, 2023, via Facebook Live was presented afterwards. The series was led by esteemed speakers, including the neurodevelopmental fellows in training, neuropsychologists Dr. Sabrina C. Tan and Dr. Rhea Lopa Ramos, along with educators Teacher Cecile Sicam, Teacher Suselyn Pascual, and Teacher Lady Suarez. All sessions garnered significant views online; hence, they were consolidated into a comprehensive guidebook crafted to encapsulate key insights from each lecture to be distributed to attendees for continued reference and support.

The first lecture, "Demystifying Autism," by Dr. Ermenilda L. Avendaño, a neurodevelopmental pediatrician and the Department Manager for Medical Services, fostered a deeper understanding of autism by dispelling myths surrounding it and emphasizing its neurological basis and behavioral definition existing along a wide continuum of skills. She discussed the escalating prevalence of autism

now attributed to heightened parental awareness, evolving diagnostic criteria, and enhanced screening methods. Dr. Avendaño underscored the importance of patient and family-centered management, aiming to minimize symptom severity, enhance functional independence, promote learning, and elevate quality of life. This holistic approach encompasses patient education, educational support, and medical and psychosocial interventions, all towards the overarching goal of empowering families and optimizing outcomes for individuals with autism.

In the second plenary entitled "Understanding and Managing Challenging Behaviors" by occupational therapist Teacher Lady M. Suarez, attendees were provided with essential strategies for effectively navigating and addressing behaviors. Teacher Lady emphasized the antecedents, behaviors, and consequences (ABCs) of behavior management and elucidated how behaviors can be learned and intertwined with sensory processing. Drawing from her expertise in sensory integration, she offered insightful recommendations for assessing task appropriateness based on the child's age and individual needs.

For the final session, "Teaching What Matters: Functional Communication Must-Haves for Children with Autism," speech-language pathologist Teacher Mae Catherine S. Sadicon delved into techniques for enhancing communication skills among individuals with autism. She portrayed communication as a vital toolbox often lacking in children with autism, stressing its crucial role



in mitigating behavioral challenges and aiding in daily activities. Communication goals of reducing frustrations, impulsivity, and potential harm to oneself or others were emphasized. Furthermore, she reiterated general recommendations on facilitating social interactions, collaborating with educators, and conducting team meetings to optimize communication outcomes for the children.

Meanwhile, CDIFI teachers accompanied the children in a parallel camp in the adjacent room filled with enriching games and activities that fostered creativity and camaraderie.

After the lecture series, attendees were divided into two subgroups for an open forum. This provided an opportunity for parents to discuss case scenarios regarding challenging behaviors, share experiences, and seek clarification on the topics discussed. Amidst the insightful discussion and interactive forum, parents found solace in shared experiences and companionship among fellow attendees. As the day drew to a close, hearts were uplifted by a joyous song and dance presentation from the children.

**Triumphs and Trials: Reflecting on the Camp Experience**

Despite encountering technical challenges and identifying areas for improvement, the camp's inaugural run proved successful. Post-event evaluation revealed that participants found immense value in the event by gaining insights into their child's behavior and learning

strategies to support them. The opportunity to connect with other families facing similar challenges and for children to interact with peers on the autism spectrum has been an invaluable experience. Attendees expressed satisfaction with the event and commended the speakers for their expertise and guidance. The success of the camp was also evidenced by its substantial number of Facebook online views and overwhelming participant feedback. To date, the Facebook live stream has gained 11K views and 699 likes on the PCMC NDS Facebook page.

**A Beacon of Hope: Continuing the Journey Together**

Looking ahead, the PCMC Section of Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics is geared to expand its reach in the succeeding autism camps by welcoming more families, inviting more esteemed speakers, and broadening its scope to encompass even more communities. This inaugural Autism Camp wasn't just an event, it was a life-changing experience that will resonate for years to come. The section reaffirms its steadfast commitment to empowering families and championing the inherent potential of every child with autism. In line with SINAG's steadfast mission, the PCMC Section of Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics aims to enhance its programs and sustain its advocacy and empowerment efforts, capped with optimism. Together, let us continue to illuminate the path ahead, forging a future where every child and every family find the support, understanding, and empowerment they deserve.

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