

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# PAO 2004 annual conference on November 18-20

The Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO) will hold its 2004 annual convention on November 18 to 20 at the Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong.

With the theme "Look the Future in the Eye," the convention focuses on pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus to draw attention to the growing number of blind and visually impaired children in the country.

"They are our hope and future," says PAO President Dr. Marcelino D. Banzon, citing the appropriateness of the theme. Yet, they are also the "most vulnerable" to the many causes of blindness and visual impairment, which are easily preventable with early screening and management, he adds.

## Joint PAO-AAO meeting eyed for 2005

The Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology will mark the 60th year of organized ophthalmology in the Philippines with a proposed joint meeting with the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Romulo N. Aguilar, former PAO president and head of the committee undertaking preparations for the celebrations, said the proposal has been accepted by the AAO and a memorandum of understanding is due to be signed soon.

Dr. Aguilar said this marks the first time that the AAO is holding a joint meeting with a national ophthalmology organization, having done so in the past only with supranational organizations.

The meeting is slated November 28 to December 1 at the Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong.

The convention is also expected to draw participants from the Asia-Pacific region.

It will serve as a fitting highlight of the PAO's celebration of 60 years of organized ophthalmology in the country. Organized ophthalmology began in the Philippines in 1945 with the founding of the Philippine Ophthalmological and Otolaryngological Society.

Dr. Aguilar is joined in the anniversary celebration committee by Drs. Salvador Salceda, Alejandro de Leon, Marcelino Banzon, Ma. Dominga Padilla, Carlos Naval, Winston Villar, Teresita Castillo, Reynaldo Santos, Heriberto Guballa, Mary Rose Pe-Yan, and Ronald Yutangco.

Prominent international pediatric ophthalmologists and strabismologists have been invited to shed light on the different ophthalmic disease entities affecting children. Among them are Dr. Kenneth Wright, Dr. Mohamad S. Jaffar, Dr. Ken K. Nischal, Dr. John W. Shore, and Dr. Sonal Farzavandi. Meanwhile, Dr. Tekeyuki Akahoshi and Dr. Abhay Vasavada will share more pearls on phacoemulsification. The opening session will have as speaker Victoria Garchitorena, president of Ayala Foundation.

Dr. Ma. Dominga B. Padilla, who heads this year's organizing committee, said PAO's 2004 meeting will have many "firsts." It will feature two new courses on topics that are becoming more and more important to ophthalmologists—ophthalmic photography and computerization of the ophthalmic practice. The annual photography contest will also include a category on digital photography. Also, all registered participants will get CDs containing a compilation of selected lectures.

## 2nd PAO-SERI confab

The Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO) and Singapore Eye Research Institute (SERI) will hold their second joint conference on July 29 and 30, 2005.

The two-day conference will have a mix of prominent local and Singaporean ophthalmologists to speak on glaucoma and conditions affecting the retina.

On the first day, clinical topics will be discussed while, on the second day, research methodology will be tackled.

For the first time, the residents' research paper contest will be presented at the PAO-SERI conference instead of the PAO annual convention.

Sponsored by Novartis, the research paper contest is open to all senior residents in ophthalmology. Those who want to take part have until April 31, 2005 to submit their paper to the PAO (+63-2-8135324, [www.pao.org.ph](http://www.pao.org.ph)).

In charge of organizing the PAO-SERI conference is PAO's Adhoc committee on research. Dr. Franklin Kleiner is the chair while Drs. Jessica Marie Abaño, Leo Cubillan, Heriberto Guballa, Patricia Khu, Ruben Lim Bon Siong, and Reynaldo Santos are members. The committee is advised by Dr. Alejandro De Leon.

Dr. Manuel Delfin chairs the subcommittee that will oversee the contest. He is assisted by Drs. Santiago Antonio Sibayan and Lee Versoza, and advised by Drs. Guballa and Kleiner.