



Official Publication of the FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY
Dr Nicanor Reyes Jr School of Medicine Alumni Foundation

ECTOPIC MURMURS

Volume 30

Number 4

October 2017

Opinions and articles published herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect that of the FEUDNSM Alumni Foundation

A Giant Step Forward If...

ENGRACIO P CORTES MD⁶³

Let me tell you my perspective on

oncology. Giving up Boston for Buffalo in the late 1960s to specialize in cancer treatment (there was no oncology fellowship then), my friends and co-residents thought I was crazy, a dreamer, a Don Quixote trying to topple the windmills. But I had seen a miracle work. A patient with

severe back pain unable to walk because of cord compression from metastatic prostate cancer was remarkably relieved of pain and started to walk just a few days after orchiectomy. That one episode motivated me to choose oncology as a specialty. At the time, I did not realize that there were only a handful of chemotherapeutic drugs available to treat cancer. With the exception of methotrexate which could cure choriocarcinoma in women, the treatments available for acute leukemia and advanced

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PRESIDENT'S *Message*

Hurricanes have visited our



LICERIO V
CASTRO JR MD

neighboring islands and parts of the United State along the Gulf of Mexico, the recent tragedy in Las Vegas, and raging fires in northern and southern California have brought so much destruction, devastations and sufferings to mankind. Such catastrophic magnitude had wreak havoc, chaos and unimaginable hardships to many. People had suffered enough but the spirit lives on. We are determined to stand up with our brothers and sisters. This is us as an organization standing shoulder to shoulder with our fellowmen. Let them feel they are not alone. As we have shared with the victims the meaningful donations in kind and prayers that would strengthen their will to survive and raise their spirit to

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From your **CHAIRMAN**

It is difficult to write or say anything when death had just occurred, eg, Las Vegas carnage). Let me ruminate with something else.



NOLIC
GUINIGUNDO MD

Not much going on in our FEUDRNSM Alumni Foundation

except our president had signed the contract with the Caesar's Palace Casino for 2018 and 2019. Those events have been written and will be sending you the definite dates and what is going to happen next year and the year after next.

I am sorry to say that we are still losing three major positions in the executive committee: the secretary, treasurer, and executive director. We are in the process of asking who might be interested particularly of the treasurer's position. The executive director is also our little president and a very important position to fill. I am not sure what happened to our duty and obligation to our Alumni Foundation, indirectly to the medical school where we are supposed to help. What happened to our voluntarism which is not presently happening.

Let me remind everyone that we cannot be here forever and help the Alumni Foundation. It is about time we forget our bickering and try to help our medical school the way our constitution and by-laws were written. May God bless you all

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A Professor's Take on Las Vegas Massacre

CESAR D CANDARI MD⁶¹

FCAP Emeritus

The recent massacre at Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, where 58 innocent people were shot to die and 500+ injured while attending a country music concert in an open ground is a very sad event. It was done by a lunatic Stephen Paddock whose girl friend is a Pilipina, Marilou Danley.



CESAR D
CANDARI MD

It is so ironic that a Pilipina-American history Professor Tessa Winkleman of University of Nevada Las Vegas, few days after the horrible shooting was in a video obtained by Campus Reform, seen addressing her History 407 class referring to President Trump, (that) *when he got elected, I told my classes three semesters ago, some of us won't be affected by this presidency, but others are going to die. Other people will die because of this.*

The professor told her class that President Trump is to blame of the horrific massacre. She further said: *I don't know whether these events would have inevitably happened whether or not he got elected, but he has the same rhetorical powers every president has, to encourage*

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FAITH CORNER

REVEREND MELVIN ANTONIO MD⁶⁵



REV MELVIN ANTONIO MD

This article starts on a sad note and ends with expressions of lament. First off, I received the news of the recent passing of Mae Casis into eternal life. I offer condolences and prayers for my classmate, Rolly, and his family as they mourn. May they feel the warmth of the Lord's tender embrace in their

grief, comforted by the sure promise of eternal life for Mae.

This is but one of a cascade of tragic events that have occurred so close together. Hurricane Harvey devastated the Texas Gulf Coast – Corpus Christ, Rockport, the City of Houston, Galveston. Lives lost, property damaged beyond repair, acute shortages of gas. Then Hurricane Irma ravaged the Eastern Caribbean before it raked the Florida peninsula from Key West on up the Eastern seaboard. It seemed that Mother Nature dealt a one-two punch but before you know it, there came another in the form of Hurricane Maria.

Caribbean islands ceased to exist, and Puerto Rico will take years to recover. Communities of faith continue to offer prayers of hope for all the loss of life and property continue to be offered and volunteerism to aid in the tedious process of recovery and repair is the order of the day. We look to the Lord our Creator for

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A Toast to FAITH BAUTISTA

CESAR D CANDARI MD⁶¹

FCAP Emeritus



CESAR D CANDARI MD

Faith Bautista of San Francisco, a Pilipina-American community leader was one of five members of Community Development Advisory Board appointed by President Donald Trump for terms of 4 years: This is a key administration post, the White House announced

recently.



The Community Development Advisory Board's major function is to give advises to the United States Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund on policies and activities.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I just want to say hello and to thank you for your continued support of our



GEMORSITA M TENAZAS MD

Alumni Foundation. So many years have passed with you doing this great job and/or contribution that probably most of us, Alumni, take it for granted. I would like to thank you for all these

many years and many more years to come for your unselfish dedication.

I did not see you at the Long Beach FEU Reunion this year. I hope to see all friends and classmates every year. I missed you.

I hope everything is fine with you. Warm regards to you and family.

GEMORSITA MACAVINTA
TENAZAS MD⁶⁴



2018 Balik-FEU

43th Alumni Homecoming

January 17-20, 2018

HONOREES

Class⁵⁷ (Diamond Jubilee)

Class⁶² (Emerald Jubilee)

Class⁶⁸ (Golden Jubilee)

Class⁹² (Silver Jubilee)

Class⁷² (Sapphire Jubilee)

Class⁷⁷ (Ruby Jubilee)

Class⁸² (Coral Jubilee)

Class⁸⁷ (Pearl Jubilee)

Class⁹⁷ (20th Anniversary)

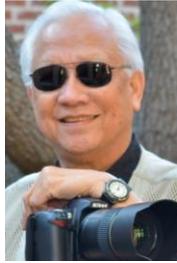
Class²⁰⁰² (15th Anniversary)

Class²⁰⁰⁷ (10th Anniversary)

The Grand Alumni Night on
Saturday, January 20, 2018
at the **NOVOTEL HOTEL**,
Araneta Avenue, Cubao
Quezon City.

For those who interested room
reservation now being accepted with
a special rate; please email
h7090-sb2@accor.com
Sales manager Ms Paula Makabenta

PUMPKINS and SQUASHES ROLANDO M SOLIS MD⁶³



ROLANDO
M SOLIS MD

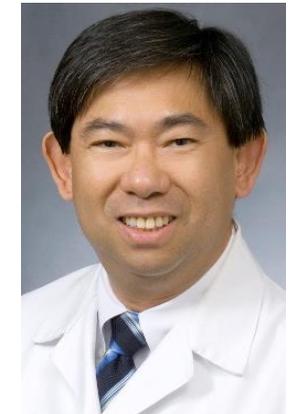


CLASS⁷⁷ LONG BEACH REUNION IMAGE



Gerardo Guzman MD⁶³ is recently recognized as most outstanding senior by the Philippine American Cultural Foundation of Chicago.

SEA OF JAPAN CRUISERS



Herman L Hedriana MD⁸³, associate professor of maternal fetal medicine at the University of California at Davis, is nominated to serve as the 40th annual Dean Lauro H Panaganiban MD memorial lecturer, during 43th *Balik-FEU* in January 2018, at FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine in West Fairview, Quezon City.

A Toast to **FAITH BAUTISTA**

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Faith Bautista is the president and CEO of National Asian American Coalition, HUD-approved Homeowners, small business and Consumer Advocacy organization serving our nation's 20 million Asian Americans. Through Faith's dedication and handwork, the National Asian American Coalition has expanded with its headquarters in the San Francisco Bay Area, a housing in San Diego and neighborhood outreach Hope Booths in over 23 island Pacific Shores.

Faith advocates in the halls of Congress, in the California Legislature and in front of key Federal legislature, such as the Federal Reserve, FDIC, OCC, FHFA, STC, FCC and SEC and among America's Fortune 500 corporations, as a major voice for the Asian-American community. She is the member of the Office of Thrift Supervision Minority Depository Institutions Committee and sits on the Low - Income Oversight Board for the California Public Utilities Commission.

Why All Asian Americans Must Work Together to Fulfill Our Dreams. The National Asian American Coalition is a unique organization. Faith Bautista stated: *We have a Board of Directors more diverse than any in corporate America; it*

includes Blacks, Whites, Latinos, Korean Americans, Chinese Americans, Japanese Americans, and Filipino Americans. In addition, Vietnamese American and Cambodian Americans are key members of our staff.

The primary mission is to empower twenty million Asian Americans and two million Asian American small businesses to become a national economic powerhouse.

Today, the National Asian American Coalition is the nation's leading Asian American nonprofit advocating against foreclosures, advocating for greater economic and small business development and in advancing the growing economic and social power of Asian Americans. Faith added to say: *Working closely with prominent Black, Latino and other Asian American organizations, it is our intention to be a resource for all corporate and governmental leaders that wish to ensure that they have a diverse 21st Century blueprint and footprint.*

National Asian American Coalition is a 501(c)-3 Non-profit Organization, a HUD Approved Home Counseling agency and an Internal Revenue Service approved VITA site.

This writer is a friend and town mate of Faith Bautista who grew up in the province of Antique, Philippines.

We have all the reasons to be proud at this very moment for Faith's appointment. The challenge is very much in our midst. There is so much to be achieved by Pilipino Americans in this country our

second homeland, *the land of the free and the home of the brave.* There has been a significant change in the lives of the Pil-Am after the fourth wave landed in this country. The new immigrant generations are more comfortable in America who has shown their impressive services with much recognition and appreciation from the American public.

Now, significant and fast-growing Pil-Am communities are in California, New York and Las Vegas.

In my previous article I stated; *we Pilipino Americans grow in number, we also become active in matters that impact the lives of the people. What a great CHANGE and improvement in our quest to be recognized by state, county and city government. Pilipino empowerments are in our dreams, goals and aspirations in this beloved country we have adopted with an awakening, albeit sluggish, finally reached the pedestal from ethnic to mainstream- the levels where we can actually take pride of our multi-cultural diversity.*

Today, Pilipinos in America are now visible in the American mainstream especially the younger generation. Their families have raised them to levels where they can actually take pride. It is a journey that we all feel proud, awesome to witness.

With high esteem, our congratulations to Faith Bautista and with open hearts we must contemplate on the following statements I made in my book *Success is a Journey*: Modest achievements, contributions to society, heroism, and

lessons in life, dreams, joys, and woes are parts of life on this earth. Faith has experienced all these in tandem with her profound and compassionate leadership.

Leadership is a quality hidden in the personality of a human being. Human personality is very complex, and it is difficult to grade individuals according to one's personality. Leadership, on the other hand, depends on the organic structure of the personality, which includes experience, skill, responsibility, intelligence, power of organizing people and social interaction. It also includes charity and humanitarian messianic zeal, passion and total devotion. Nothing great in the world has ever been accomplished without passion. That is what Faith Bautista is all about.

FAITH CORNER

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relief from the relentless onslaught of nature that plagues us. Yet we know that in the interconnectivity of nature disasters are bound to occur no matter what humans do. As if to demonstrate that humans cannot control what has already been divinely ordained, a major earthquake hit Mexico City. More lives lost, more property damaged. We cannot know the final tally as recovery continues to this day.



REV MELVIN ANTONIO MD



CESAR D CANDARI MD

As if to test our faith even further, we must also share tragedies perpetrated by our fellow humans. People intentionally run over in Barcelona, innocents stabbed to death in Paris. To cap it all, a gunman fires indiscriminately from a hotel window into a crowd whose only intent was to celebrate life, watch and listen to country music in Las Vegas. Fifty nine dead so far, maybe more as those seriously wounded try to survive. How are we to react to all this? We believe in God who is described in Scripture as a loving God, merciful and just, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, a God who created the world and all that is in it and saw that all He created was good. How do we react to all this?

I have no words except to mirror the thoughts of the Dean of my seminary, who suggests we *fall back on the most elemental and basic Christian response in such a time and that is to lament. We let the ensuing investigations run their course to establish motive. We cannot involve ourselves in looking to blame some special interest group or set of beliefs.* We cannot be in the business of proposing explanations and defining any course of action driven by overt and covert political agendas. Right now, we are left with witnessing extraordinary human suffering and grief. The inevitable question we ask as people of faith is, where is God in all this? We feel the agony of Christ on the cross as He says, *My god, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

At such a time of seeming helplessness, there is a scripture-based practice that our biblical ancestors used when going through such a cascade of tragic events – lament. To us, lament often sounds like despair, the opposite of faith. Yet I believe that it is precisely in places where we least expect to find God - in suffering, in pain, disaster, catastrophe and finally, on the cross - that God is clearly present. Lament does more than simply express despair. It shows us that in the most difficult times and places, God is present and hears our desperate cries for help.

To guide us in the process of lament, we have the Book of Psalms which explores the highs and lows of the life of faith. **Psalms 6, 13, 22, 86 and 79** are good examples of such laments. They cry out with pain *out of the depths of our souls.* The Psalms weep with those who suffer, laugh with those who celebrate and teach us all about the long journey of faith. Does the Lord hear our lament? He heard the cries of the Israelites enslaved in Egypt and sent Moses to lead them to freedom. He heard the lament of the exiles in Babylon and led King Cyrus of Persia to release them. He heard the lament of the prophets when all of humanity wallowed in sin and God sent His only begotten Son to die for us and redeem us in His sight. As we grieve, as we cry out in pain for all the misfortunes that have befallen us, the Lord our God will hear us. What will He do? That is part of the mystery of faith. He will do something. You can bet on it.

As I pray for comfort, hope and restoration for all losses suffered by victims of nature and of violence perpetrated by man, I always fall back on these bible verses: *For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, He will have compassion according to his steadfast love; for He does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone* **Lamentations 3:31-33.** In addition to our prayers, we must continue to do what we can to help those who suffer. We also must commit to memory the heroic responses by ordinary people to render aid and follow their example whenever the circumstances present themselves.

A Professor's Take on Las Vegas Massacre

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or discourage, So far, all he has done is to encourage violence.



CESAR D
CANDARI MD

One UNLV student, who spoke with Campus Reform on condition of anonymity, called the speech a *politically-driven rant* to make the point that *President Trump somehow incited this violence.*

We just experienced one of the worst mass shootings in United States history. It's a mile [sic] away, and we don't know what happened, we don't know why it happened, and we're pushing political agendas, and that's what

this is about, taking advantage of the situation for political belief, when we should be uniting, healing as a community, the student remarked.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders wants the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) to investigate assistant Professor Winkelmann.

UNLV issued a statement that said Winkelmann's comments were insensitive, but did not announce any potential disciplinary action against her.

Winkelmann apologized in an emailed statement to the Review-Journal and said she wished she had been *more thoughtful in how I directed the conversation.*

This week has been very difficult for members of our community, and we have allowed students space in our classes to discuss how they have been affected and to openly convey their feelings, she wrote. I regret that my comments caused more pain during this difficult time. Emotions were running high and I wish I would have been more thoughtful in how I directed the conversation.

This writer is a Pilipino-American and will neither be bias in my commentary nor with antipathy. However, it is common knowledge as has been stated before and to quote a university spokesman Tony Allen: *While we respect academic freedom in the classroom and the right to free speech, we believe the comments were insensitive, especially given the series of events this week and the healing process that has begun in the community.*

It is also my feeling that all these

statements by the professor are her opinion. Reading one's opinions is sometimes captivating. Others however are appalling.

Vincent Ryan Ruggiero, an author of a fascinating and marvelous book entitled *Beyond Feelings* has an excellent take on what good opinion is really all about. The book is a good read. The following is to share the amazing discussions taken in this book.

Today, it is claimed that opinion is a word that is often used carelessly. So many opinions we hear and read daily about politics, Obamacare repeal and change, fake news, the Russian collusion, Trump the racist, Putin the Hitler, etc. It has become so common.

This is a good example of an opinion that the Pilipina professor possibly used to refer to matters of his/her taste, belief and judgment. It would probably cause little confusion if the readers didn't attach too much importance to opinion.

Unfortunately, most do attach great importance to it.

We are in a free country and expressing an opinion is not only permitted but also guaranteed. Being free to hold an opinion and express it does not, of course, guarantee favorable consequences.

Everyone one is entitled to his or her opinion. I have much right to my opinion as you to yours. In fact, anyone who would challenge another's opinion is likely branded intolerant. One's personal preference is pointless to argue. However, it must be supported by a thorough inquiry

and deliberation to arrive at his/her considered judgment. It is not right for an opinion that falls in his or her view and belief more or less casually arrived at, with or without examination of the evidence. It is tempting to conclude that, if we are free to believe something, it must have some validity. That, however, is not the case. Free societies are based on the wise observation that people have an inalienable right to think their own thoughts and make their own choices. That must be the professor's thoughts.

But this fact in no way suggests that the thoughts they think and the choices they make will be reasonable.

It is evident that mistaken opinion abounds around us. Research shows that people can be mistaken even when they are making a special effort to judge objectively. Sometimes their errors are caused by considerations so subtle they are unaware of them.

To form an opinion is natural among us. One of the things that make human beings vastly more complex and interesting is their ability to form opinion. One has to realize that there are two sides to face; it can lift us to wisdom or topple us to absurdity.

Errors can corrupt anyone's opinion. Some people are more prone to errors than others. Only reasoning that supports their prejudices influences these people. These are people who are determined to let passion rather than reason governs their lives. On the other hand, those who

sincerely follow reason, but lack sound, overall good sense, and look carefully at all sides of an issue will make wisdom. There is no greater mistake than the hasty conclusion that opinions are worthless because they are badly argued.

The most important effect if the First Amendment is the exercise of one's opinion - the right to free speech. Are we Americans to be silenced? Is Professor Winkelmann within the realm of the First Amendment right?

From your **CHAIRMAN**

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in thinking about it.



NOLI C
GUINIGUNDO MD

Now, back to the recent killings in Las Vegas. I received notes that because of this recent event, that we should reconsider our venue in Las Vegas in 2018 and 2019. The only problem that I can foresee is the reservation process, that it is hard to find a place at this time. The contract has been signed. I am still waiting for the board's reply to the e-mail I sent to all members of the board of trustees.

Dr Boy Florescio had an immediate reply that the carnage can happen anywhere not only in Las Vegas. We should continue to pray for a safe reunion next year and the succeeding years. It has been said that the recent event should not

be politicized. Attempts should be made to enact laws to prevent this from happening. However, this had been attempted many times before. First amendment is freedom of speech, religion, press and redress of grievances. The second amendment is right of the people to keep and bear arms. That is why we have the National Rifle Association on the second amendment. These topics are quite complicated and I dare not get into it. These tragic events are happening every now and then, not only here in America but also in Europe. It is happening also in the Philippines and I would not deal with these items.

I still maintain that we should pray to God for a safe world, to stop war, to stop annihilations that North Korea is starting to think of nuclear war. Yes, we may not all be around to see a peaceful world where people live loving each other.

NOLI C GUINIGUNDO MD⁶²

PRESIDENT'S *Message*

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live on. Let us remember also our first responders who have rendered their ultimate sacrifices to help our distraught brothers and sisters. Such display of human kindness is unbelievable. The very essence of human nature at its best.



LICERIO V
CASTRO JR MD

Life is sweet, enjoy it. Every moment of our existence is very valuable, embrace it.

We will now embark on our next annual event which will be held at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas on July 4-8, 2018.

Allow yourself to be immersed in the upcoming festivities which will be hosted by the FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation Nevada Chapter under the leadership of Drs Dan and Melinda Fabito.

The Nevada group are comprised of very energetic and eternally youthful colleagues with one goal, that is, to entertain you with gusto.

To register, please use this link, <https://aws.passkey.com/go/SCFEU8>.

Please avoid calling so that you will not incur an additional charge of \$15.

Kindly register early to avoid the last minute rush otherwise you might run out of hotel accommodations. More information to follow.

It is my fervent hope that our organization will stay strong through all your great sacrifices, vigilance, and utmost understanding with everyone.

Let me express my eternal gratitude to everybody's commitment to our organization.

Lastly, I wish you all a healthy life. Be safe and hug your loves ones every morning.

LICERIO V CASTRO JR MD⁷³

A Giant Step Forward If...

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solid tumors were ineffective and their life expectancy averaged three months.



ENGRACIO P
CORTES MD

I experienced this devastating result first hand, when 18 of my patients died during my first month on the ward at Roswell Park Memorial Institute. Since then I stopped counting. I accepted the fact that

oncologists were the caretakers of terminally ill cancer patients.

Having a mentor, James Holland MD to guide me, I persevered. Dr Holland was one of the progressive and dynamic researchers at that time who were credited for raising the cure rates of acute leukemia in children from zero to 90%. He was given the Lasker Award and other prestigious awards for that achievement. He offered me a drug from Italy that had never been tested in the United States, to do a phase I study. Most of the patients I recruited for the study were patients suffering from leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma, of the Department of Medicine. To our surprise, remissions were seen, though transient. I started soliciting patients for the study from different departments with no takers, especially from the departments of surgery. The surgeons just did not believe in chemotherapy.

The only departments that were willing to take a chance to test the drug were the departments of pediatrics, thoracic, and gynecology. Tumor shrinkage was seen in lung and ovarian cancer. In the pediatric ward, there were teenage patients suffering from metastatic osteogenic sarcoma. Osteosarcoma is not a common cancer, but in the pediatric ward of major Cancer Centers, osteosarcoma cases predominate. The initial treatment for this type of malignancy was usually amputation of the involved extremity. Within six months, lung metastases developed and survival was counted in months.

Previous retrospective data from other major cancer centers had shown that with amputation alone, cure rate was only 20%. There was no known effective treatment for metastatic osteosarcoma. With the participation of pediatricians, within a year 17 patients were entered in the study and seven patients with lung metastases responded. This stirred an excitement at the Institution and press releases were disseminated. As a result, I was nominated to participate in the American Cancer Society's 14th annual science writers' seminar. The drug was Adriamycin; and it enabled me to travel to major United States and European cities, presenting the osteosarcoma data. Eventually, other investigators used Adriamycin in combination with other chemotherapeutic agents, resulting in an increased response rate and possibly cure rate of other malignancies such as Hodgkins' disease,

non-Hodgkins' lymphoma, breast carcinoma and multiple myeloma.

Furthermore, in the 1970s, Dr Holland who was chairman of the National Cancer Institute that sponsored a multi-institutional study group known as Acute Leukemia Group B, asked me to write a protocol giving Adriamycin to osteosarcoma patients after amputation, hoping to improve their disease-free survival. Within three years 88 patients were accrued, and the recurrence free survival was 55% instead of 20%.

Again, this result was presented in multiple cancer meetings. Franz Ingelfinger MD, the editor of the New England Journal of Medicine during that time wrote soliciting my study for publication. The submitted manuscript was published within two months (Figure 1) with a glowing editorial from Joseph Burchenal MD of Sloan Kettering entitled, *A Giant Step Forward If...* (Figure 2), the if was confirmed later on by randomized studies done by Dana Farber MD in Boston and UCLA.

That was the birth of adjuvant chemotherapy. The adjuvant chemotherapy study on breast cancer came out later. The pediatric department of Sloan Kettering invited me to present my result and provided me with housing for one night in Manhattan. Coming from Buffalo, that was a treat and exciting. They had an orthopedic surgeon named Ralph Marcove MD who invented a prosthetic devise to be inserted in a patient's involved extremity after excision

Original Article

Amputation and Adriamycin in Primary Osteosarcoma

Engracio P. Cortes, M.D., James F. Holland, M.D., Jaw J. Wang, M.D., Lucius F. Sinks, M.D., Johannes Blom, M.D., Hansjurg Senn, M.D., Arthur Bank, M.D., and Oliver Glidewell, M.A.

N Engl J Med 1974; 291:998-1000

Abstract

Adriamycin has been found effective in metastatic osteogenic sarcoma. To determine its efficacy in osteosarcoma without detectable metastases, 21 patients were given adjuvant adriamycin therapy two weeks (median) after surgical amputation of the primary lesion. Six courses of adriamycin (30 mg per square meter daily for three days, repeated every four to six weeks) were administered. Nineteen of the 21 patients survived from more than one to more than 32 months (median, more than nine months) after operation. Five of the 21 relapsed (two with local and three with pulmonary metastases). At 18 months, 71 per cent of treated patients may be expected to be free of pulmonary metastases as determined by life-table analyses (95 per cent confidence limits, 100 to 43 per cent), in contrast to 30 per cent of the series of 145 patients analyzed by Marcove et al. The data demonstrate an effect of adriamycin in delaying gross metastases from osteosarcoma and are consistent with chemotherapeutic eradication of micrometastases.

Figure 1 – The landmark publication on chemotherapy of osteosarcoma.

rather than amputating it. This prosthesis took a month to make. While waiting for the individualized prosthesis to be completed, a protocol was designed to first treat the patient with chemotherapy consisting of Adriamycin and high dose methotrexate. The result of their study also showed an impressive increase in disease-free survival.

That was the birth of neo-adjuvant chemotherapy, which was also applied later on for other malignancies, such as breast cancer. Due to the treatment of osteosarcoma and the use of Adriamycin in particular, there was a paradigm shift in treating malignancies by oncologists.

Remember, we began as caretakers, giving chemotherapy as a last resort to a terminally ill patient, to giving drugs as adjuvant chemotherapy after surgery and finally, giving chemotherapy first, prior to surgery, as neo-adjuvant therapy. As a result of this paradigm shift, the number of cancer deaths has decreased.

Fast forward to the 1980s and 1990s. Food and Drug Administration approved more chemotherapeutic agents, which gave the oncologists more armamentarium to treat patients with *one size fits all* shotgun therapy. Again, as a result of

combination of these drugs, remarkable responses were seen but with some intolerable side effects to pay for.

In the 1970s, estrogen receptor was discovered for breast cancer. This paved the way to a targeted or personalized therapy era in the 1990s. The completion of the Human Genome Project in 2003 cemented the role of targeted therapy, especially with the discovery of more oncogenes that drive the cancer to grow and how to antagonize them. And lately, the role of immunotherapy which was originally pioneered by William Coley MD, is resurrected. In 1893, Dr Coley injected heat-killed *Streptococcus pyogenes* into inoperable osteosarcoma patients and observed that the tumor shrunk. The Coley's toxin did not become mainstream because cancer cells had the ability to create checkpoint barriers that prevented the immune cells from effectively eliminating the cancer cells. Fortunately, there are unyielding scientists who, these past years, isolated these barriers. Checkpoint inhibitors of these barriers such as Yervoy, Opdivo and Keytruda, which you see all the time on television, magazines, and billboard commercials, became available to cancer patients with astonishing results in making their advanced cancer shrink.

These inhibitors are responsible in unleashing the immune cells to successfully penetrate and kill the tumor cells. Combining these checkpoint inhibitors with one another or with chemotherapy and radiation therapy had

also shown higher and impressive response rates in various malignancies.

The role of immunotherapy is here to stay. It is being fine-tuned to specific or individualized immune cells. These individualized immune cells have shown to cure children with acute lymphocytic leukemia who have been given up and considered for hospice care because their treatment options were exhausted. These immune cells are now being applied to other malignancies. We will be hearing of more and more miracles in the future as a result of these specific or individualized immune therapies, some of which will be in the form of cancer vaccines.

In summary, since I started my fellowship, many of those windmills have been toppled and it is not over yet. There are now thousands of Don Quixotes joining the rank. What is it for them in the future? Within 20 years, cancer will not be the leading cause of death among various diseases. For this young generation of oncologists, there is good news and bad news. The good news is that most of their patients will be cured. Burnout among them will definitely diminish. The bad news is that they will no longer have a role in deciding the best treatment options for their patients. Watson of IBM and its AI equivalents will take over and make the decisions for them. The role of the oncologist to his patient, therefore, will be limited to emotional support, such as giving them comfort, compassion, empathy and kindness, which Watson cannot offer.

Editorial

A Giant Step Forward — If....

Joseph H. Burchenal, M.D.

N Engl J Med 1974; 291:1029-1031

The two papers published in this issue of the Journal detailing the excellent preliminary results in the adjuvant therapy of osteogenic sarcoma not only represent a milestone in the treatment of this disease but also hold great promise for the future management of some other more common types of refractory tumors. For many years osteogenic sarcoma has been the *bête noire* of the chemotherapist, in that although the progress of the pulmonary metastases could be carefully followed by chest films, they rarely showed appreciable response to any chemotherapeutic agent. In refractoriness to chemotherapy, osteogenic sarcoma closely approximates the adult tumors . . .

Figure 2 – An editorial on Cortes et al paper on chemotherapy of osteosarcoma.

COMMENTS

Editorials, news releases, letters to the editor, column proposal and manuscripts are invited. Email submission, including figures or pictures, is preferred.

ECTOPIC MURMURS

Deadline for November issue
November 22, 2017

Please address submission to
acvrear@gmail.com

CLASS⁶⁸ Events

January 17-20, 2018, Golden Jubilee in Manila. Venue: Novotel Hotel in Araneta, Cubao, Quezon City on Saturday, January 20, 2018

February 1-6, 2018, Myanmar tour

April 21-28, 2018, Class⁶⁸ mini-reunion
Caribbean Cruise

July 4-8, 2018, Golden Jubilee in Cesar's Palace Casino Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada

MELVYN ESCARA MD⁶⁸
President

COMMENTS

Editorials, news releases, letters to the editor, column proposal and manuscripts are invited. Email submission, including figures or pictures, is preferred.

PMAC News

Deadline for November 2017 issue
November 1, 2017

Please address submission to
acvrear@gmail.com

FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Yes, I would like to invest in the future of the **FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation**. Herewith below is my membership registration/ renewal for 2016-2017

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Membership dues is \$70 (physician in training, \$25).

Please make your check payable to **FEUDNRSMF** and mail the same with this registration to:

FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation, 6530 Dunham Road, Downers Grove, IL 60516

Telephone (630) 971-1356

Email acvrear@gmail.com



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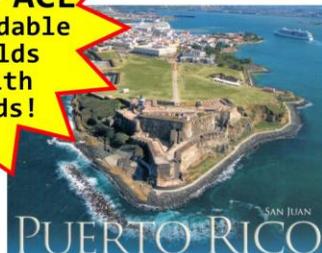
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HARMONY of the SEAS

7 Night Eastern Caribbean

April 21 - 28, 2018



21 APR FT. LAUDERDALE (Depart 4:30pm)

22 APR CRUISING

23 APR CRUISING

24 APR ST. MAARTEN (8am-5pm)

25 APR SAN JUAN (7am-3pm)

26 APR LABADEE (9:30am-6pm)

27 APR CRUISING

28 APR FT. LAUDERDALE (Arrive 6:15am)

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BALTIC CRUISE 2018, August 19-30, 2018

11 Night Northern Europe

Roundtrip from Warnemunde, Germany



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Through: Aug 30, 2018
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of Nights: 11

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Line: MSC Cruises
Terms: Terms & Disclaimers
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OVERVIEW

SHIP INFO

DECK PLANS

CRUISE LINE

DAY	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
1	Warnemunde, Germany		7:00 PM
2	Visby, Sweden	1:00 PM	7:00 PM
3	Gdynia, Poland	9:00 AM	6:00 PM
4	Klaipeda, Lithuania	7:00 AM	2:00 PM
5	Tallinn, Estonia	10:00 AM	5:00 PM
6	St Petersburg, Russian Fed.	7:00 AM	11:59 PM
7	St Petersburg, Russian Fed.	1:00 AM	8:00 PM
8	Helsinki, Finland	8:00 AM	2:00 PM
9	Stockholm, Sweden	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
10	At Sea		
11	Copenhagen, Denmark	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
12	Warnemunde, Germany		8:00 AM

Number of Nights: 11

ITINERARY MAP



(Click to Enlarge)

MORE INFORMATION

- [LIFE ON BOARD](#)

For more information, email **Nida Blankas Hernaez MD** ednida888@gmail.com



FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY DR NICANOR REYES SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNI FOUNDATION

39th ANNUAL REUNION & SCIENTIFIC CONVENTION

HONOREES

- Class⁵⁸ (Diamond Jubilee)
- Class⁶³ (Emerald Jubilee)
- Class⁶⁸ (Golden Jubilee)
- Class⁹³ (Silver Jubilee)
- Class⁷³ (Sapphire Jubilee)
- Class⁷⁸ (Ruby Jubilee)
- Class⁸³ (Coral Jubilee)
- Class⁸⁸ (Pearl Jubilee)
- Class⁹⁸ (20th Anniversary)
- Class²⁰⁰³ (15th Anniversary)
- Class²⁰⁰⁸ (10th Anniversary)



July 4-8, 2018

Caesar's Palace Casino & Hotel

3570 South Las Vegas Boulevard, Las Vegas NV 89109

1-866-986-0439

Lecturer volunteers from the Jubilee celebrants and from other classes are now being considered.

Please share with/ email us acvrear@gmail.com, ednida888@gmail.com, or lybms@aol.com the following:

- Your lecture title,
- Your professional title/ affiliation,
- Statement of your lecture objectives(s) and
- A copy of your curriculum vitae.