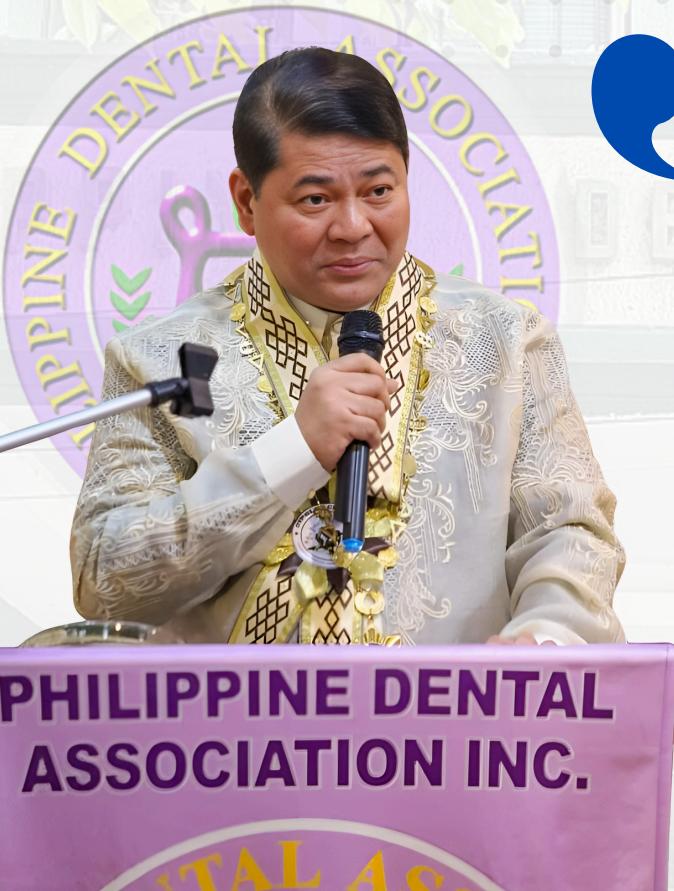




# PDA BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the Philippine Dental Association (PDA)



## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As we commemorate the 115<sup>th</sup> year of existence of the PDA, recognized by the Professional Regulation Commission-Board of Dentistry, I wish to reaffirm our dedication to our mission and vision.

I am pleased to report, that the initiatives we have championed have been successfully implemented, surpassing our expectations and yielding impressive results. Our direction has been instrumental in this achievement and I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering commitment and support. These initiatives have made significant impacts, leading to advancements in the five key goals:

- Intensifying the PDA membership campaign;
- Standardizing public health initiatives;
- Innovating continuing professional development and dental education programs;
- Strengthening connections with relevant government agencies in relation with the dental practice; and
- Strong campaign against the illegal practice of dentistry.

Our dedication to the PDA's core values has inspired us all. I take pride in being part of an organization that profoundly affects the professional lives of our members and the communities we serve.

I want to express my appreciation once again to all your support and being part of this remarkable achievement. I look forward to our continued collaboration as we build on our success and drive further impact, for a better future for the PDA.



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New advisory from the Department of Interior and Local Government



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When interacting with patients, it's crucial to present yourself in a way that builds trust and fosters a positive relationship



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#### Complicated Odontoma p. 18

Slow growing and non-painful mass associated with facial asymmetry

Dr. Ronaldo P. Nuñez  
PDA President, 2024-2025

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## Why Taking Care of Your Mental Health as a Dentist Is Important

Dr. Jeanne Marie Ciño-Martínez

A typical day in a dentist's life involves seeing six patients and providing dental care five to six times a week. Some dentists even go above and beyond their working hours to meet the needs of their patients, leaving them with only a few hours each day to get enough sleep and prepare for the next demanding day. Others try to make time for their families, but the demanding nature of their work and high expectations for patient care, often leave them feeling overwhelmed and stressed. If they are fortunate enough to manage their time wisely, they may be able to avoid becoming overwhelmed with work.

Several factors contribute to the high levels of stress and burnout among dentists. Financial responsibilities—such as paying bills and overhead expenses—can be a significant source of stress. Emotional demands from patients who may be anxious or fearful can also take a toll on dentists. Additionally, attending to a large number of patients everyday can lead to physical exhaustion and mental fatigue.

The consequences of stress and losing energy to keep up with the daily demands of work



among dentists can be severe. Reduced job satisfaction, committing unnecessary errors—that lead to poor patient outcomes, and mental health issues that harm professional and personal relationships, are among them. Mental health problems, such as unexplained anxiety and depression, can have profound impacts on dentists' well-being and their ability to provide quality care to their patients.

Dental professionals should create strategies for the prevention of possible burnout in their career, such as encouraging the promotion of a positive work-life balance, establishing a healthy environment—where a thriving support group system is within reach, and making relatively significant changes in the workload making sure that adequate breaks are taken while providing resources for professional development.

The mental health and well-being of dentists are very crucial in maintaining a thriving healthcare system in a community. If signs of burnout and stress are recognized early, dental professionals will be able to thrive, leading to better patient care with more fulfilling careers, while not forgetting to leave some room for self-care. ■

## Of Art, Drills, and Motherhood

Dr. Jennifer Mercado-Añonuevo

I have always loved being a dentist for more than just being a job—it's a life that I've lived with love, passion, and purpose. The world of dentistry for me has been equated with such great love, so much so, that I ended up marrying a dentist, and together we have three sons—two of them are now pursuing dentistry. Since they were young, I wished for all of them to be dentists. It wasn't just about the title. It was concerning the life it entailed: owning your time, being around family, and having a profession that enables you to serve other people while experiencing life in harmony and purpose.

Our household has always had its foundation within this common calling—being a dental family. My husband, my sister-in-law, and now two of our sons have chosen the same calling. I take pride in having a work-life balance that allowed me to never miss a school function or family day. I was there—present, hands-on, at their beck and call. I didn't just raise children—I raised men with values. Commitment to community, loyalty to family, and faith in God—

these are values I've attempted to instill in them not with words, but with example. While I've embraced the science of dentistry, I've also never let go of the artist within me. Dentistry is an art. Behind every smile is an artisan's touch—like carving a sculpture with precision, creativity, and care. Most dentists have an artistic side, often hidden, waiting to be discovered. For me, that side reveals itself in writing—and in music.

Poetry is second nature to me. I write about anything: motherhood, religion, and random stuff. I've written Christmas jingles for the PDA, tooth-brushing campaign, PDA Regional Conventions campaign jingles, and dental chapter hymns. I love singing in the choir, especially the second voice, which challenges me to create harmony. Music, like a poem, lets me share unvoiced joys and silent struggles.

I hope my kids grow rich in spirit and responsibility. Success isn't just what you do—it's what you give, what you create, and who you become for others.

Dentistry is a craft. So is parenting. So it is—living at full throttle. Discover your craft. Live it. And pass it on. ■

# PDA NEWS



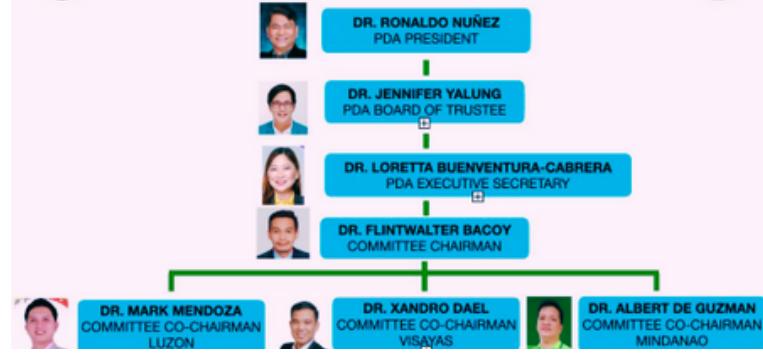
*Dr. Flintwalter Bacoy*



## PDA Committee on DRRM



PDA COMMITTEE ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RISK MANAGEMENT  
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



The PDA committee on Disaster Preparedness and Risk Management  
Organizational Chart

## Collaboration



The collaborative discussion among the heads, from left to right: Director Caesar Agnir, Jr. (Director of the OCD Disaster Preparedness Service), USEC Ariel Nepomuceno (OCD Administrator and Executive Director of NDRRMC), and Dr. Ronaldo P. Nuñez (President of the PDA)

## Courtesy Call



Courtesy call at the Office of Civil Defense, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on November 29, 2024. From right to left: Dr. Mark Mendoza, Dr. Loretta Buenaventura-Cabrera, Dr. Ronaldo P. Nuñez, USEC Ariel Nepomuceno, Director Caesar Agnir, Jr., Dr. Mari Jennifer Yalung, and Dr. Flintwalter P. Bacoy

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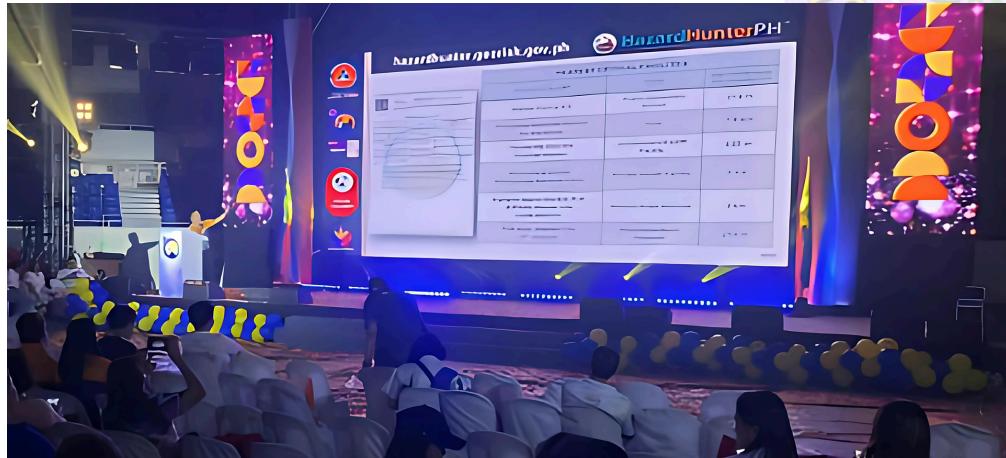
It aims to reduce natural disaster impacts; enhance resilience; spread knowledge and provide effective response and recovery through disaster preparedness planning; and execute risk assessment and capacity building. The committee provides efficient information dissemination on different natural calamities using various social media platforms of multi-sector governmental agencies posting, such as, OCD, NDRRMC, DOST-PAGASA, and DOST-PHIVOLCS.

Members that are greatly affected by calamity may seek financial support by applying to the PDA Membership and Welfare and Trust Fund Committee for Calamity Benefit Claim amounting to ₱5,000, once per year. As of this day, the PDA has been able to extend support to more than 200 members. During the devastating typhoon Ulysses in November 2024, the PDA was able to provide ₱15,000 worth of emergency financial support to the dentist members of the PDA-Camarines Sur chapter.

On November 29, 2024, the committee had a courtesy call with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Office at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The PDA dignitaries were warmly welcomed by USEC Ariel F. Nepumoceno (Administrator OCD and Executive Director, NDRRMC) and Director Caesar Agnir, Jr. (Director III Disaster Preparedness Service DPS OCD), and their staff.

## 21<sup>st</sup> PDA National Dental Health Month

During the 21<sup>st</sup> PDA National Dental Health Month opening ceremony at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum, P. Ocampo St. Malate Manila, held on February 2, 2025, an educational talk was delivered on Basic Protocols During Natural Disaster, by Hon. Emerito Junie B. Castillo III, EMDRCM, Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer DPS OCD.



The educational talk of Hon. Emerito Castillo III during the 21<sup>st</sup> PDA National Dental Health Month opening ceremony



The MOU ceremonial signing between the PDA and OCD

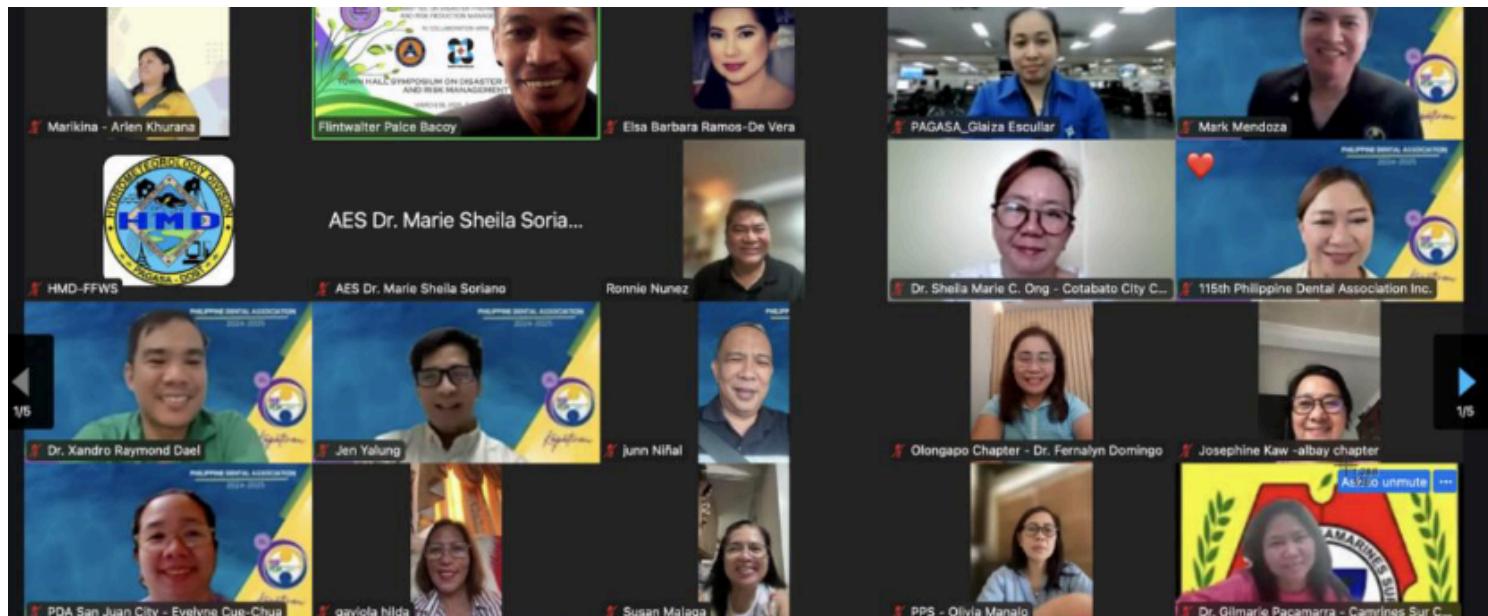
## MOU Ceremonial Signing Between PDA and OCD

A ceremonial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the PDA and OCD during the 21<sup>st</sup> PDA National Dental Health Month. This is to facilitate harmonious collaborations between the PDA and OCD with regards to information dissemination, training, workshop, and educational webinars.

Members of the PDA were able to participate in webinar and it was broadcasted via Facebook Live, on February 7, 2025, 10 AM–12 NN in the Shake, Drop, and Roll: a Tsunami Awareness and Preparedness webinar. This was in collaboration with other government agencies including the Japan Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

## Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Webinar

Some of the attendees of the webinar



The DRRM committee held its Town Hall Symposium on Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction Management webinar on March 6, 2025 from 9:00 AM–12:00 NN through Zoom. This was in collaboration with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), DOST-PAGASA, and DOST-PHIVOLCS. It was packed with attendees with more than 130 webinar attendees.

The resource speakers were Ms. Charmaine V. Villamil (GDAPO DOST-PHIVOLCS), Ms. Maria Ana Glaiza G. Escular (MWSS DOST-PAGASA), and Mr. Edgar A. Dela Cruz (FFWS DOST-PAGASA). An earthquake advisory was disseminated recently with regards to the Myanmar and Thailand 7.7 magnitude earthquake and the 4.9 magnitude earth-

quake felt in Calatagan, Batangas on April 1, 2025, wherein all members were encouraged to always be alert and informed at all times as the possibilities of stronger earthquakes may arise due to movements of the Philippine trench. Source: Department of Science and Technology Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

Dr. Jen Yalung

# Dentists Exempted from Business Permits per DILG Advisory

The PDA issuance of a Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) advisory exempts dentists from the payment of business permits, also known as mayor's permits, for operating their clinics. This development comes after extensive advocacy and persistent dialogues led by the PDA, reflecting our commitment to support the dental profession to ensure that our members can focus on delivering quality care without unnecessary financial burdens.

The DILG Advisory, dated December 26, 2024, and released recently by Undersecretary Marlo Iringan, outlines several key provisions that underscore this significant change. According to the advisory, professionals who have fulfilled their professional tax obligations are now exempt from the cost of business permits. While professionals are still required to secure permits, they can now do so at no cost. This change marks a crucial step forward, as it alleviates a financial strain that has long affected dental practitioners. The advisory clarifies that business permit fees will only apply to professionals engaged in selling, trading, or distributing articles of commerce, allowing dentists to concentrate on their core practice without the additional burden of permit



The office of DILG together with the assistant secretary for local government

fees. Historically, the requirement for business permits has been a significant financial hurdle, especially for newly-established dental practices and solo practitioners. The costs associated with securing these permits often discouraged young dental professionals from setting up their own clinics, thereby limiting access to dental care in various communities. By exempting dentists from these fees, the DILG has taken a vital step toward fostering a more favorable environment for dental practice in the country.

Moreover, the advisory emphasizes that local government units may still collect other fees and charges related to clinic operations, such as garbage collection; sanitary fees; and fire and occupancy permits. While these fees are still applicable, the primary financial burden of business permits has been lifted. This nuanced approach recognizes the need for local governments to generate revenue while also acknowledging the unique challenges faced by dentists.

The process leading to this advisory was not without challenges. The PDA has consistently advocated for the rights and welfare of its members, engaging in communication to stakeholders, government agencies, and local authorities.

The efforts included submission of papers, consultation, and members to voice out their concerns. These actions not only highlighted the importance of the dental profession, but also showcased the strength and unity of our association.

Looking forward, the advisory serves as a foundation for further improvements in the regulatory environment for dental practices. It opened the doors for continued discussions on how we can further streamline processes and reduce unnecessary barriers for dentists. We encourage our members to remain engaged and proactive in advocating for our profession, as there are still many areas where improvements can be made.

The exemption from business permits is not merely a financial relief; it is an opportunity for us to enhance our services and expand our reach within our communities. With reduced financial constraints, we can invest more in our clinics, adopt new technologies, and ultimately improve the quality of care we provide to our patients.

In conclusion, this advisory marks a significant turning point for the dental profession in the Philippines. It represents our shared commitment to advancing the interests of dentists and ensuring that we can operate our practices effectively and sustainably. 



Dr. Narissa Ragos

# The Vigilance Against Illegal Practice Continues

This year for the Kapatiran term of Dr. Ronaldo Nuñez, PDA President, the Campaign Against Illegal Practice (CAIP) committee, together with different chapters, was able to entrap and file cases in the court. A total of 26 entrapments were conducted, with the help of CIDG and NBI.

Since the implementation of RA 9484, the PDA has been pursuing those without proper registration from PRC. Upon receiving the complaints, the CAIP committee conducts verification from PRC and PDA. If the certificates are ready then it will be forfeited by coordinating with police agencies to assist us in conducting surveillance if the illegal action is still ongoing, once it is confirmed

then the entrapment procedure will be conducted. We encourage the members of the PDA to be vigilant in their communities to check illegal practitioners using social media and other online platforms.

The PDA also launched various programs for the public, to avail free dental treatments sponsored by various dental companies. Socio-economic problems result in consulting lower cheaper dental treatments. The promotion of CAIP on TV, radio, interviews, and social media can expose the dangers of illegal practice to the public.

The PDA aims to control, lessen, and fight illegal practitioners and encourage its members to participate in the campaign. PDA



AREA	CASES OF ENTRAPMENT
Metro Manila	4
Bulacan	3
Agusan del Norte	10
Caloocan	1
North Cotabato	1
Batangas	1
Nueva Ecija	1
Cavite	2
Olongapo	1
Baguio	1
Benguet	1
Total	26



Dr. Christine Valerio

# Dental Research, Now a Standing Committee

## The Establishment of the PDA Research Committee

From being a special committee, which was formed for a specific purpose and a limited timeframe, the research committee, is now put in place as a standing committee, tasked to address recurring matters, to deal with the permanent aspects of the program.

This year marks a significant milestone in the realm of the PDA research, as it becomes a standing committee, for the first time. The establishment of this committee signals a profound commitment to advancing the understanding of oral disease diagnosis and treatment through rigorous evidence-based practice.

## Commitment to Evidence-based Practice

In response to the growing need for evidence-based practice, this committee started to work on the Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) development for primary care for the General Practicing Dentists (GPD). The CPG will soon be disseminated to members to serve as a guide for evidence-based practice. The target is to finalize and finish, up to tertiary care, by the end of this year.

The committee aims to coordinate and facilitate high-quality research that adheres to the principles of evidence-based practice. It involves the integration of clinical expertise and the best available research evidence into the decision-making process for patient care.

This includes the systematic review of existing literature, the development of new approaches to data management to translate to research studies, and the dissemination of findings—with both practitioners and stakeholders.

The PDA Research Committee is committed to methodologically-sound research that contributes to evidence-based oral disease prevention, collaborating with researchers, clinicians, and educators to promote best practices, advocating for policies that support evidence-based approaches to treatment, and providing training and resources for dental professionals to promote awareness of new clinical practice guidelines.

## Impact and Future Directions

The establishment of the PDA Research Committee represents a dedicated effort to enhance the understanding and management of oral diseases. By prioritizing evidence-based practice, the committee ensures that interventions are grounded in reliable research, ultimately improving patient outcomes.

Moving forward, the committee will continue to expand its research initiatives, foster collaborations, and advocate for the integration of evidence-based strategies in all aspects of oral care.

In conclusion, the first year of the PDA Research Committee, as a standing entity, underscored a commitment to scientific rigor and effective practice.

This pivotal development paves the way for continued advancements in the field, promising better support and resources for the members and for those impacted by the oral disease burden. 



Dr. Christine Valerio

# Fifteen (15) Regional Scientific Seminars in Collaboration with UNILAB

The PDA successfully conducted the 15<sup>th</sup> Regional Scientific Seminar aimed at enhancing the knowledge, skills, and professionalism of dental practitioners across the region. The event served as a platform for continuing professional development, aligned with PRC requirements and the evolving standards of dental care.

The Regionals aimed to update dental professionals on the latest clinical techniques and technologies; strengthen professional ethics and patient-centered care; promote collaboration and knowledge-sharing among practitioners; and provide CPD units, necessary for license renewal compliance.

By the end of the sessions, participants were expected to apply the concepts presented, in their actual practice. The event was well-attended, with over 150 participants from every region, including dentists, hygienists, technologists, and dental students.

Attendees could earn a maximum of three CPD units per Regional-PRC Accreditation.

In addition to the main sessions, there were other activities which featured exhibit booths, showcasing dental supplies and products, and engaging question-and-answer forums that encouraged active participation and dialogue. ■



## Event Date, Topic Title, Guest Speakers, and Topics

### PDA La Union Chapter

**Venue:** Hudor Resort, Bauang, La Union

**Date:** January 7, 2025

**Dr. Art Kevin De Leon:** Functional Yet Esthetic Posterior Restoration

**Dr. Jeanne Marie Ciño-Martínez:** Navigating Your Go-To-Meds in Dentistry: Right Use, Dosage, No-Gos, and the Oopsies to Watch Out For

**Dr. Ezra Emmanuel Ching:** Revolutionizing Dental Imaging: The Power of Cone-Beam Computed Tomography

### PDA Isabela-Quirino Chapter

**Venue:** City Hotel and Convention Center, Ilagan City, Isabela

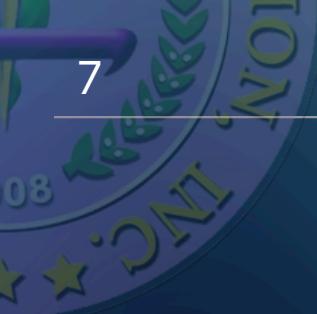
**Date:** January 14, 2025

**Dr. Art Kevin De Leon:** Functional Yet Esthetic Posterior Restoration

**Dr. Jeanne Marie Ciño-Martínez:** Navigating Your Go-To-Meds in Dentistry: Right Use, Dosage, No-Gos, and the Oopsies to Watch Out For

**Dr. Ezra Emmanuel Ching:** Revolutionizing Dental Imaging: The Power of Cone-Beam Computed Tomography





## PDA Bohol Chapter

**Venue:** Reyna's the Haven and Gardens, Tagbilaran City, Bohol  
**Date:** November 8, 2025

**Dr. Mariusse Chars Esquillo:** Prevention and Management of Surgical Complications

**Dr. Marie Arlene Christine Valerio:** Interprof: An Interprofessional Approach in the Management of Medically Compromised Patients

**Dr. Adrian Carlos Manaloto:** Advancements in CBCT: Enhancing Diagnostic Precision and Treatment Planning.

## PDA Davao del Sur Chapter

**Venue:** The Pinnale Hotel and Resort, Davao City, Davao  
**Date:** November 26, 2024

**Dr. Richard Ian Clem A. Quiñones:** Dental Drugs: A Guide for Practical Prescription

**Dr. Debra Dawn Sablada:** Precision Dentistry: Using Cone Beam CT and Intraoral Scanning in Today's Practice

**Dr. Rea Lane Horfilla:** Early Childhood Caries Challenges and Treatment

## PDA Misamis Oriental Chapter

**Venue:** Chali Beach Resort and Conference Center, Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental

**Date:** December 1, 2024

**Dr. Ryan Tiongco:** Assessment and Management of Dento-Alveolar Injuries

**Dr. Ezra Emmanuel Ching:** Revolutionizing Dental Imaging: The Power of Cone-Beam Computed Tomography

**Dr. Virgilio Vasquez:** Options to Restore Badly Broken Teeth

## PDA Dipolog Chapter

**Venue:** Ariana Hotel, Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte  
**Date:** December 10, 2024

**Dr. Alejandro Donesa, Jr.:** Exploring the Multifaceted Role of Calcium Hydroxide in Modern Endodontic Therapy

**Dr. Daniel Farnacio:** Precision Smile Make-overs: Mastering the Art of Gummy Smile Correction

**Dr. Ronaldo P. Nuñez:** Clinical and Laboratory Protocols in Complete Denture Rehabilitation

## PDA Ormoc Chapter

**Venue:** Carlota Hotel, Ormoc City, Leyte  
**Date:** October 22, 2025

**Dr. Joy Bautista:** The Science of Pain and the Art of Caring

**Dr. Ezra Emmanuel Ching:** Revolutionizing Dental Imaging: The Power of Cone-Beam Computed Tomography

**Dr. Marie Arlene Christine Valerio:** Interprof: An Interprofessional Approach in the Management of Medically Compromised Patients

## PDA Antique Chapter

**Venue:** Solana Hotel, Carles, Iloilo  
**Date:** October 24, 2025

**Dr. Ryan Tiongco:** Assessment and Management of Dento-Alveolar Injuries

**Dr. Rico Martin Gerochi:** Digital-Gerochi Work Efficiently with Digital Dentistry

**Dr. Marie Arlene Christine Valerio:** 2D or 3D? CBCT and Its Use in Dentistry

## PDA Zambales Chapter

**Venue:** SMX Olongapo City Convention Center, Olongapo City, Zambales

**Date:** January 21, 2025

**Dr. Art Kevin De Leon:** Functional Yet Esthetic Posterior Restoration

**Dr. Mariusse Chars Esquillo:** Prevention and Management of Surgical Complications

**Dr. Ezra Emmanuel Ching:** Revolutionizing Dental Imaging: The Power of Cone-Beam Computed Tomography

## PDA North Caloocan City Chapter

**Venue:** Occupational Safety and Health Center, Quezon City, Metro Manila

**Date:** January 21, 2025

**Dr. Simonne Salazar-Ferraris:** Masticatory Performance, Nutritional Intake, Prosthodontic Treatment: The Sequela of Aging

**Dr. Jeanne Marie Ciño-Martínez:** Navigating Your Go-To-Meds in Dentistry: Right Use, Dosage, No-Gos, and the Oopsies to Watch Out For

**Dr. Marie Rosinni Carmela Lachica:** Periodontal Foundations for Prosthodontic Success

## PDA NCR South Las Piñas City Chapter

**Venue:** Villar Hall, Villar Sipag Complex, Las Piñas City, Metro Manila

**Date:** March 11, 2025

**Dr. Simonne Salazar-Ferraris:** Masticatory Performance, Nutritional Intake, Prosthodontic Treatment: The Sequela of Aging

**Dr. Richard Ian Clem A. Quiñones:** Dental Drugs: Practical Prescription Guide in Our Daily Practice

**Dr. Marie Rosinni Carmela Lachica:** Periodontal Foundations for Prosthodontic Success

## PDA Marinduque Chapter

**Venue:** Summit Ridge Hotel, Tagaytay City, Cavite

**Date:** March 12, 2025

**Dr. Martin Luis S. Redor:** A Surgical Perspective on Managing Odontogenic Cysts

**Dr. Richard Ian Clem A. Quiñones:** Dental Drugs: Practical Prescription Guide in Our Daily Practice

**Dr. Wilmart Labriaga:** Solutions to Clinical Problems for All Ceramic Crown Restorations

## PDA Agusan del Sur Chapter

**Venue:** Romyr's Event Place, San Francisco, Agusan del Sur

**Date:** March 25, 2025

**Dr. Alejandro Donesa, Jr.:** Exploring the Multifaceted Role of Calcium Hydroxide in Modern Endodontic Therapy

**Dr. Alvin M. Laxamana:** Assessing Periodontal Prognosis for Better Clinical Decisions

**Dr. Marie Arlene Christine Valerio:** Local Anesthetic Delivery: A Success or Still a Work in Progress?

Participants expressed high satisfaction with the relevance of the topics, the expertise of the speakers, and the overall organization of the seminar.

Suggestions for future events were also present. The PDA Regional Scientific Seminar fulfilled its goal of providing updated, relevant, and ethical dental education to professionals in the region.

The success of the event is a testament to the PDA's continued commitment to elevating dental practice in the Philippines. 

## PDA North Cotabato Chapter

**Venue:** FCG Hotel and Convention Center, Kidapawan City, North Cotabato

**Date:** March 15, 2025

**Dr. Leo Gerald De Castro:** Bridge vs. Implants by Their Own Merits

**Dr. Stephen Almonte:** Periodontal Considerations in Fixed and Partial Removable Prosthodontic Therapy

**Dr. Roberto Tajonera:** Ethical Practice Guidelines

## PDA Masbate Chapter

**Venue:** La Piazza Hotel and Convention Center, Legazpi City, Albay

**Date:** January 7, 2025

**Dr. Daniel Farnacio:** Effective Pain Management and Rational Drug Prescription in Dental Practice

**Dr. Alvin M. Laxamana:** From Mouth to Body: The Impact of the Oral Microbiome on Systemic Health

**Dr. Adrian Carlos Manaloto:** Advancement in CBCT: Enhancing Diagnostic Precision and Treatment Planning



Dr. Christine Valerio

# PDA Luzvimin Area Convention, a Huge Success in Promoting Professional Growth for Dentists

The PDA successfully conducted the area convention, namely, The PDA Luzon Area Convention 2024, The 35<sup>th</sup> PDA Mindanao Area Convention, and The 27<sup>th</sup> PDA Visayas Area Convention. It was a flagship gathering that brought together dental professionals from various chapters within the area. The event aimed to provide an avenue for education, professional networking, and updates on trends and technologies in the field of dentistry.

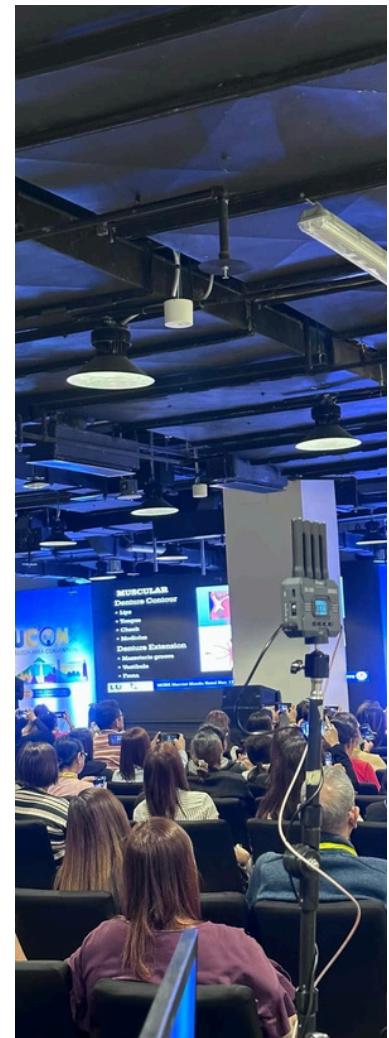
To achieve the objectives mentioned, a change in the conduct of the implementation was done. An interprofessional and interdisciplinary session assigned two lecturers to present related topics and correlations were presented in a one-hour plenary interactive discussion. To promote active participation from the delegates, software was used to deliver questions from anonymized respondents, making the participants more responsive.

Integration of Interdisciplinary/Professional Education and Collaboration (IPE/IPC) and Technological, Pedagogical, and Content Knowledge (TPACK), frameworks that help educators understand how to effectively integrate technology into the lecture sessions by considering the interplay between these three areas of knowledge, proved to be effective.

The objective was to promote lifelong learning and professional development among dental practitioners. It was designed to equip participants with updated knowledge, techniques, and skills essential for modern dental practice. Additionally, it sought to strengthen collaboration among the PDA chapters within the region and support Continuing Professional Development (CPD) compliance for dental professionals.

By the end of the scientific sessions, participants were expected to integrate various concepts using an interprofessional approach to patient management. During the table clinic sessions, they should be able to demonstrate their understanding by performing newly introduced techniques through hands-on simulation activities. The event was attended by over 500 delegates from various PDA chapters across the region.

A total of fifteen PRC-accredited CPD units were granted to participants, guests, and members of the organizing committee. A trade exhibit featured dental products, the latest technologies, and sponsor booths, while the fellowship night served as an avenue for strengthening camaraderie and cultural exchange among chapters. ■



## PDA Luzon Area Convention 2024

**Venue:** Marriott Hotel Manila  
**Date:** November 17–18, 2024

**Dr. Mario Esquillo:** Differential Diagnosis of Orofacial Pain

**Dr. Eleanor B. Almoro:** Postoperative Pain Management for Dentists

**Dr. Maritess Oliveros-Villarico:** Caries Risk Assessment and Its Potential to Be Beneficial in Preventive Treatment Planning

**Dr. Artemio R. Licos, Jr.:** Community-Based Preventive Dentistry: A Non-clinical Approach to Achieving Optimal Oral Health

**Dr. Iluminada L. Viloria:** Post-RCT Decisions: To Post or Not to Post in Endodontically Treated Teeth



**Dr. Adrian Carlos F. Manoloto:** Endocrowns: Restoring the Unrestorable

**Dr. John Q. Veloso:** Prosthodontics and Tricks

**Dr. Joanne D. Plandez:** The Art and Science of Complete Denture Rehabilitation: From Initial Impression to Final Occlusion

**Dr. Marian Almyra Naranjilla:** Integration of Oral Surgery and Orthodontic Treatment: A Comprehensive Approach

**Dr. Gary V. Brillo:** Impacted Teeth: To Move or to Remove

**Dr. Leo Gerald De Castro:** Ethical Excellence: The Key to Sustainable Success in Your Practice

**Atty. Felylou Altura Fernandez:** The Code of Ethics for Dentists and Social Media: The Impact of Digital Evolution and Social Media to Dental Practice and the Culture of Dental Profession

**Dr. Marie Rossini Carmela T. Lachica:** Periodontal Foundations for Prosthodontic Success

**Dr. Jordi Izzard A. Landayan:** Prostho-Perio Considerations for a Successful RPD Restoration

**Dr. Samantha Nina Marie R. Uy:** Oral Hygiene and Behavior Management: The Underdogs in Periodontal Care

**Dr. Stephen B. Almonte:** Prostho-Perio Considerations for a Successful RPD Restoration

#### TABLE CLINICS

**Dr. Adrian Carlos F. Manoloto:** CBCT: Enhancing Diagnostic Precision and Treatment Planning

**Dr. Alberto C. Reguyal:** Documentation in Dentistry: Tips and Tricks

**Dr. Germilyn Krizza C. Go:** Interproximal Reduction (IPR)

**Dr. Wilmart Labriaga:** Transforming Dental Practice: The Future of Intraoral Scanning in Clinical Dentistry

**Dr. Trinette Chang:** Colina Strip Off Crowns Made Easy for the GP

**Dr. Hertz A. Alano:** Orthodontic Mini-Implants (TADS): A Key to Orthodontic Treatment Efficiency

#### 35<sup>th</sup> PDA Mindanao Area Convention

**Venue:** Kauswagan Organic Convention Center, Kauswagan Lanao del Norte

**Date:** January 16-17, 2025

**Dr. Alvin Laxamana:** From Mouth to Body: The Impact of the Oral Microbiome on Systemic Health

**Dr. Arnold Laurito:** Prosteeth: The Insights and Implications Connecting Periodontal and Urological Health

**Dr. Romeo Jacob, Jr.:** Orthodontics Management of Impacted Teeth: An Inter-disciplinary Perspective

**Dr. Jose Angelo Militante:** The Role of Oral Surgery in Enhancing Orthodontic Treatment Outcomes

**Dr. Leo Gerald De Castro:** Ethical Excellence: The Key to Sustainable Success in Your Practice

**Atty. Felylou Fernandez:** The Code of Ethics for Dentists and Social Media: The Impact of Digital Evolution and Social Media to Dental Practice and the Culture of Dental Profession

**Dr. Ria Halili Suguitan:** Plaque, Prevention, and Protection: The 3 Ps to Perfecting Oral Care with Proven Tools Beyond the Drill Hands-on Minimally Invasive Dentistry for Healthier Smiles

**Dr. Sheryl Anne Eje Lantican:** PDA: Proactive in its Commitment to Oral Health

**Dr. Arvin Lester Nuñez:** Digital Prosthodontics: The Future of Dental Prosthodontics

**Dr. Samantha Nina Marie Uy:** Oral Hygiene and Behavior Management: The Underdogs in Periodontal Care

**Dr. Stephen B. Almonte:** Prostho-Perio Considerations for a Successful RPD Restoration

#### TABLE CLINIC

**Dr. Joy S. Bautista:** Freehand vs. Digitally Guided Implant Placement: a Comparative Approach

**Dr. Alberto Reguyal:** Demystifying Rubberdamology

**Dr. Art Kevin De Leon:** Functional Yet Esthetic Posterior Restoration



**Dr. Hertz A. Alano:** Orthodontic Mini-Implants (TADS): A Key to Orthodontic Treatment Efficiency

**Mr. Oswald Padilla:** The Future of Dental Imaging

**Dr. Adrian Carlos Manaloto:** Chairside FPD Temporization Techniques

## 27<sup>th</sup> PDA Visayas Area Convention

**Venue:** Newcoast Convention Center, Boracay, Malay, Aklan

**Date:** February 20–21, 2025

**Dr. Alvin M. Laxamana:** From Mouth to Body: The Impact of the Oral Microbiome on Systemic Health

**Dr. Alistair Kashmir C. Dela Cruz:** Diabetes and Oral Health

**Dr. Romeo Jacob, Jr.:** Orthodontics Management of Impacted Teeth: An Inter-disciplinary Perspective

**Dr. Jose Angelo Militante:** The Role of Oral Surgery in Enhancing Orthodontic Treatment Outcomes

**Dr. Leo Gerald De Castro:** Ethical Excellence: The Key to Sustainable Success in Your Practice

**Atty. Felylou Fernandez:** The Code of Ethics for Dentists and Social Media: The Impact of Digital Evolution and Social Media to Dental Practice and the Culture of Dental Profession

**Dr. Ryan De Guzman:** Plaque, Prevention, and Protection: The 3 Ps to Perfecting Oral Care with Proven Tools

**Dr. Sheryl Anne Eje Lantican:** PDA: Proactive in its Commitment to Oral Health

**Dr. Arvin Lester Nuñez:** Digital Prosthodontics: The Future of Dental Prosthodontics

**Dr. Leo Gerald De Castro:** Patient Comfort Challenges in Fixed Prosthodontic Rehabilitation: Causes and Solutions

**Dr. Samantha Nina Marie Uy:** Oral Hygiene and Behavior Management: The Underdogs in Periodontal Care

### TABLE CLINIC

**Dr. Joy S. Bautista:** Freehand vs. Digitally Guided Implant Placement: A Comparative Approach

**Dr. Alberto Reguyal:** Demystifying Rubberdamology

**Dr. Wilmart Labriaga:** Transforming Dental Practice: The Future of Intraoral Scanning in Clinical Dentistry

**Dr. Ryan De Guzman:** Beyond the Drill: Hands-on Minimally Invasive Dentistry for Healthier Smiles

**Dr. Hertz A. Alano:** Orthodontic Mini-Implants (TADS): A Key to Orthodontic Treatment Efficiency

**Mr. Oswald Padilla:** CBCT: The Future of Dental Imaging

**Dr. Adrian Carlos Manaloto:** Chairside FPD Temporization Techniques

Attendees commended the high quality of the scientific sessions, well-organized logistics, and engaging activities. Suggestions included extending certain lectures, adding more hands-on components, and inviting more international speakers. The Area Convention was a successful and

enriching event that contributed significantly to the professional growth of its attendees. It reaffirmed the PDA's commitment to fostering excellence in dental practice, promoting unity, and encouraging innovation in the dental community. ■



Dr. Christine Valerio

# PDA Chapters Scientific Seminars

The chapters successfully conducted its scientific seminars across various dates and venues, aligning with the PDA's goal of promoting continuing professional development and ethical, high-quality dental practice. The seminars aimed to provide updated knowledge, offer CPD units for license renewal, encourage networking among dental professionals, and strengthen commitment to ethical care. The program included registration, opening remarks, welcome messages, expert speakers, Q&A sessions, certificate awarding, and raffle draws.

Participants appreciated the topics' relevance and speakers' expertise while expressing interest in future hands-on components. The seminar were deemed successful in advancing dental education and fostering professional camaraderie. Recommendations include continuing to invite diverse expert speakers, incorporating hybrid formats, and adding breakout sessions for enhanced engagement.

This report summarizes chapter CPD applications per region, reflecting local chapters' active engagement in organi-

zing CPD-accredited activities that promote updated, ethical, and scientific dental practice nationwide.

The data reflects active participation of PDA chapters in promoting CPD across all regions. Most seminars were well-attended and aligned with PRC requirements, contributing to the professional development of Filipino dentists nationwide. We must continue supporting and guiding chapters, especially those in underserved or remote regions, to ensure equitable access to quality CPD opportunities. ☺

Region	Numbers of Chapters Applied	Total CPD Activities	Total CPD Units Granted
NCR North	41	41	128
NCR South	29	29	84
Region I	19	19	57
Region II	6	6	18
Region III	35	35	73
Region IV	73	73	185
Region V	11	11	28
Region VI	14	14	46
Region VII	7	7	18
Region VIII	5	4	22
Region IX	5	4	8
Region X	4	3	12
Region XI	8	8	15
Region XII	1	1	1
Region XIII	2	2	4
Affiliates	34	34	108
PDA Area Convention	3	3	45
PDA Regional	15	15	45
National Convention	3	3	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>921</b>

Dr. Almira Olarte

# Initiatives in Intensifying the PDA Membership

The PDA is pleased to present a summary of its membership data along with an overview of the Welfare and Trust Benefits and Insurance programs offered to its members. This report reflects the PDA's ongoing commitment to supporting the professional and personal welfare of its members, highlighting how these benefits have been utilized and their impact on the dental community.

## Membership with Welfare and Trust Benefits

As of the latest count, the PDA has a total of 18,742 registered members. These members are entitled to a variety of welfare and trust benefits aimed at assisting them in times of need. Among these benefits is the Medical Assistance program, which is available to members facing financial hardships due to illness or emergencies. To date, 7 members have been assisted under this program. The Living Benefit program is another vital component, providing retirement support to members who have served the association for a certain number of years. A total of 84 claims have been processed under this benefit, with each eligible member receiving an average of ₱25,000.

In addition, the Calamity Benefit program provides financial aid to members affected by natural disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes, and floods. This program has processed 230 claims, with an average payout of ₱5,000 per member. The Fire Benefit program offers assistance to members who suffer property or clinic loss due to fire incidents. So far, one claim has been processed under this category, with a benefit of ₱25,000 granted to the affected member.



## Insurance Program for Members

Beyond the welfare and trust programs, the PDA also offers insurance coverage to provide added security for its members. The Life Insurance program ensures financial protection for the families of members in the event of untimely death. A total of 12 life insurance claims have already been processed, amounting to a total payout of ₱185,000.

In conclusion, the PDA continues to deliver essential support to its members through these comprehensive benefits and insurance programs.

The PDA remains dedicated to ensuring that its members are protected and cared for, throughout their career. We extend our sincere appreciation to all our members for their continued trust and active participation in the association's initiatives.

Dr. Vianca Jane De Jesus

# Creating a Globally-Competitive Dental Practice in Collaboration With the Department of Tourism

The PDA, in partnership with the Department of Tourism (DOT) has worked collaboratively during the Kapatiran term. Its objective was to highlight dental services in the country while enjoying the scenic natural resources and cultural heritage of the Philippines.

The DOT is the primary planning, programming, coordinating, implementing and regulatory government agency in the development and promotion of the tourism industry, both domestic and international, in coordination with the attached agencies and other government instrumentalities in accordance with Tourism Act of 2009 (RA 9563) under the Health and Wellness program of the department, dentistry in the Philippines is considered a high-value tourism product worthy of investment and promotion, thus dental tourism was conceptualized.

The Dental Tourism guidelines of the DOT were developed during the tenure of Dr. Eligio "Gio" Batitis and remained in effect through their initial implementation. At present, the PDA Dental Tourism Committee has established its own set of guidelines, designed to prevent the rise of unauthorized dental practitioners.

These guidelines require the submission of a Letter of Intent addressed to the PDA President through the DOT Chairman, along with the following documents: a Certificate of Good Standing and Good Moral Character from the local chapter, Certificate of Good Standing from the PDA, Certificate of Good Moral Character from the PDA Ethics Committee, and Certificate of Good Standing from the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).



This event showcased the dental tourism plans in the Philippines

## DENTAL CLINIC ACCREDITATION GUIDELINES

For business practices, it includes Valid Credentials, Safety and Security, Waste Management, Payment Method, Availability of Official Email, Website or Social Media presence, and Availability of Dental Tour Package are the essential business practices required for dental clinic accreditation.

For dental facilities and equipment, treatment areas shall be well-kept and provided with furnishings and dental equipment and accessories necessary for patients' treatment per AO 2010-0001 page 15 Rules and Regulations Governing the Licensure of Primary Care facilities in the Philippines. Dental instruments should have undergone the required sterilization process to ensure patient safety and prevent cross-contamination. The clinic should have a dental x-ray machine such as, but not limited to, panoramic and cephalometric equipment, to provide comprehensive diagnostic capabilities.

For application for accreditation, it involves filling of application through the DOT online accreditation systems, followed by submission of documentary requirement and evaluation of supporting documents. An ocular inspection from DOT will be conducted, resulting in inspection findings that determine eligibility. Successful applicants receive issuance of certificate of accreditation after payment of fees and charges, with ongoing supervision and monitoring to maintain standards compliance.

For documentary requirements, which includes valid business/mayor's permit, list of dentists with PRC registration number and validity, proof of ownership, copy of valid preventive maintenance report from the supplier of maintenance of dental equipment, certificate of membership in good standing with the PDA, copy of DOH license for clinic with laboratories, and customer service training certificate. Each document verifies different aspects of the clinic's legitimacy, professional qualifications, equipment maintenance, and service standards.

The application for accreditation is free during the initial of implementation of the program. Further information will be collaborated together with the different areas of the department upon full implementation.

The program is designed to boost dental practice in our country to foreign patients at the same time while promoting the culture and tourist destination in our country. This program is in partnership with the accredited tourism agents stakeholders with its travel arrangements, tours, activities including dental appointments.

The committee on DOT is the representative of the PDA in the formulation of the guidelines on dental tourism. This government agency believes that dental practice in the Philippines is noble and competitive to the world at its finest. Enhancements for the Filipino Brand of Service Excellence capped the project to be globally-competitive.



## OHP P O S T E R S



Dr. Sheryl Eje Lantican

# Kapatiran Public Health Team Geared Towards Assisting the Local Chapters

The PDA in its Kapatiran public health team was geared towards assisting the local chapters in shifting their initiatives and partnerships to progressively contribute to the fulfillment of the country's global commitments for oral health.

## Project Goal

The goal of this effort was to collectively make a significant contribution in meeting strategic objectives of the Global Oral Health Action Plan (GOHAP) 2023–2030 while ensuring alignment of the PDA to the goals of the Philippine government on Universal Health Care (UHC) implementation.

## Objectives

The project aims to provide clear guiding principles and parameters in developing (future) public health projects as well as flexibilities for the local chapters to collaborate with their communities in identifying needs and co-creating innovative solutions for them while still being aligned in GOHAP 2023–2030 and the UHC.

## Project Components

**Sapat na Kaalaman:** Adequate knowledge of oral health professionals on effective interventions on primary oral health care which primarily focuses on preventing oral diseases and promoting oral health.

**Sapat na Kalidad:** Ensure quality of oral health interventions in both private and public facilities.

**Sapat na Ugnayan:** Foster collaboration and functional partnerships with the local government units, respective center for health development offices of Department of Health (DOH), Civil Society Organizations (CSO), and other stakeholders as a support and alignment to UHC implementation. This can be in the form of joint projects or drafting of a local health policy with community stakeholders and Local Government Units (LGU) to strengthen advocacies for oral health promotion.

**Sapat na Pagtaguyod:** Champion robust oral health promotion through various information, education, and communication (IEC) strategies and campaigns to broaden the knowledge of every individual on the importance of oral health and its connection to the overall health in every life stage.

**Sapat na Programa:** Ensure that every public oral health project of local PDA chapters is population-based intervention, has sound objectives, verifiable means of evaluation, and will sustainably address oral health needs that are jointly identified and implemented with community stakeholders.

**Sapat na Datos:** A complete, accurate, and detailed documentation of context and needs specific local oral health projects

should have up-to-date record of organized data. This is not limited to baseline and outcome data but should also include protocol approval of ethics review board, especially if involving vulnerable population, community preparation, and securing consent.

Guided by its core principles, the PDA Public Health Committee has spearheaded various benchmark projects through its sub-committees. Notable initiatives include the 1<sup>st</sup> PDA Public Health Conference, the Regional Dental Home Coaching Program (RHCP), activation of the Taguig Indigency Clinic, and the Cleft Lip Summit, which featured esteemed Malaysian experts as speakers. Promoting oral health has also been elevated as a key priority.

The PDA remains steadfast in its commitment to expanding community services and empowering dental professionals. Through these efforts, the organization aims to ensure that all PDA programs deliver meaningful and lasting impact.



Office of the President, PDA  
Official Statement  
Memorandum 2025-10  
Released March 4, 2025

# DOH Order on Rules and Regulations Governing the Licensing of Dental Clinics in the Philippines

This statement is being issued to update the PDA members on the current status of the Department of Health (DOH) draft policy of the Administrative Order (AO) on “Rules and Regulations Governing the Licensing of Dental Clinics in the Philippines.” Please note that with the enactment of Republic Act No. 1123, also known as the “Universal Health Care Act” the DOH has been mandated to establish a licensing and regulatory system for standalone health facilities, as stipulated in Chapter VII of the law.

## Involvement of the PDA

Pursuant to Department Personnel Order No. 2024-7639, titled “Creation of Technical Working Group (TWG) to Review the Draft,” the PDA was selected as a key stakeholder to participate in the evaluation of the draft regulations (See Annex 1).

## Survey and Meetings

Prior to the initial TWG meeting, the DOH circulated a survey form titled “DOH Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau (HFSRB) Survey for all Dental Clinic,” to PDA members through the Chapter and Affiliate presidents on July 29, 2024 (See Annex 2). The survey results will serve as a basis for the creation of licensing guidelines.

The TWG meetings were held on the following dates: October 30, 2024; November 22, 2024; November 29, 2024; December 23, 2024; and January 13, 2025. These meetings included various stakeholders who actively participated in the discussions. Each item in the draft was thoroughly reviewed and subject to approval by the entire team, with the primary ruling based on the majority consensus.

## Additional Events

On December 10, 2024, an online content validation session for the draft assessment tool was conducted, with participation from dental professionals. It was held on January 23, 2025 via Webex. The public consultation was intended to get the insights of the dentists not included in the TWG. From January 3 to January 13, 2025, the AO was made available for public viewing and comments.

Stakeholders were invited to submit their feedback via Google Forms, ensuring everyone had the opportunity to share their inputs. In addition to being published on the official website, the AO was also forwarded to chapter and affiliate presidents and posted on the official PDA website (See Annex 3 and 4). Upon conclusion of the viewing period, the Department of Health (DOH) received fewer than sixty comments, and only one email from a dental chapter.

## Key Amendments

For documentary requirements, PDA advocacy: The PDA team successfully advocated for the easing of document requirements, resulting in the following amendments: the acceptance of DTI or barangay permits instead of mayor's permits and business permits; acceptance of floor plans provided by dentists, rather than requiring those from professional engineers or architects, the DOH engage in a dialogue with the DENR to streamline requirements on behalf of dental professionals; and the president of the PDA emphasizing the crucial role of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) in the licensing process for dental clinics, given its status as an Accredited Integrated Professional Organization.

For facility requirements, dental clinics not located on ground floors may still be granted licenses and the twelve sqm operatory size requirement remains subject to further negotiation.

## Armamentarium

The required instruments will depend on the treatments offered by the clinic. Clinics providing only primary treatments will not be required to have instruments for secondary treatments and autoclaves of any size will be acceptable (Note: The previous recommendation for autoclave size was based on existing guidelines for hospital-based clinics from 2016).

## Concerns Raised by the PDA

**Licensing Team Composition:** PDA emphasized the necessity of including a dentist on the licensing team. Additionally, there should be a clearly-defined licensing process;

**Transitory Period:** The PDA team advocated for extending the transitory period from three to five years; **Licensing Fees:** It is imperative that the licensing fees remain reasonable and affordable; **Model Clinic:** A model clinic should be provided to serve as a benchmark for dentists to emulate; **PRC Collaboration:** The president of the PDA emphasized the crucial role of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) in the licensing process for dental clinics, given its status as an Accredited Integrated Professional Organization; and **Clinical Protocol Guidelines:** PDA underscored the critical importance of delivering high-quality dental care. Consequently, he reiterated the necessity of establishing comprehensive Clinical Protocol Guidelines.

The statement intends to provide official updates on the PDA's active involvement in evaluating the draft AO TWG, comprising a diverse range of professionals, including dentists from various sectors. Throughout the TWG meetings, the PDA team exerted all efforts to ensure that the requirements outlined in the AO were reasonable and focused on elevating the standards of dental care in the country. All members of the PDA are strongly encouraged to approach the AO with the utmost professionalism and not to resort to outright conclusions. All members of the PDA are strongly encouraged to approach the AO with the utmost professionalism and not to resort to outright conclusions.

The proposed AO is still in the process of being developed through various consultations with all the stakeholders. It is imperative that the members of the PDA should always consult your National and Chapter Officers on the actual status of the draft AO. As professionals, we must diligently utilize the appropriate platforms, maintain proper decorum, and employ professional language when sharing our inputs or opinions. Finally, dear members, please be assured that as your president, the PDA will always promote and protect the professional well-being of all its members. 

# FEATURED ARTICLES



*Dr. Jennifer Mercado-Añonuevo*

# Brand Yourself!

## Why creating a powerful package matters!

We often think that grooming is just for personal satisfaction—to feel good about ourselves so that others may see us with respect and regard is highly important in society. But think about this: have you ever bought something that wasn't packaged nicely? First impressions last. You may pick something off the shelf because you need it, but often, it's the packaging that catches your attention.

We all believe that skills should be the primary focus, not just physical appearance. As a dentist, having excellent skills, continuously learning innovations, and effectively advertising your craft are essential. But have you ever considered advertising yourself? Advertise yourself to advertise your practice.



Good grooming, paired with strong skills, create a powerful package. How you present yourself to your patients gives them confidence in choosing you and your clinic and trusting you with their treatment. You should exude an aura of confidence, good competency, and approachability.

Market yourself to effectively market your practice. Create a unique brand which will identify who you are.

It is not just about payments, it is also about ensuring patient satisfaction and generating referrals. Being presentable and professional enhances the trust and comfort of your patients.

After all, their referrals are the best compliment you can receive. ■

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- Brand Yourself

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- PDA La Union Chapter's "Little Doctors Program" Bags the Smile Grant by the World Dental Federation (FDI)



Dr. Artemio Licos, Jr.



## PDA La Union Chapter’s “Little Doctors Program” Bags the Smile Grant by the World Dental Federation (FDI)

**P**DA La Union chapter wins the 2025 FDI Smile Grant and the Little Doctors Program was recognized on the world stage. The PDA La Union Chapter proudly celebrates a significant milestone as its flagship community-based initiative, “The Little Doctors Program,” has been selected as a recipient of the prestigious 2025 FDI Smile Grant by the FDI World Dental Federation.

This international recognition affirms the chapter’s unwavering commitment to advancing preventive oral healthcare through grassroots education, particularly in underserved and remote communities. The Little Doctors Program is a school-based, peer-led initiative that empowers Grade V students of Siysiwan Elementary School, a Geographically-Isolated and Disadvantaged Area (GIDA) in La Union, to become health mentors and role models.

Young students were trained in oral hygiene, preventive dental care, and basic first aid, equipping them to guide Grade I pupils in daily toothbrushing drills, health demonstrations, and community awareness activities. Their efforts extend beyond the classroom, creating a ripple effect of health promotion within their families and communities.

The program has successfully trained 10 Little Doctors per year, supported by 20 volunteer dentists from the PDA La Union Chapter, under the leadership of PDA La Union President Dr. Christian Neberes and guided by Dr. Artemio Licos Jr., author and visionary of the program since its inception in 2006. The initiative was further strengthened through the collaboration of dentists from the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center (ITRMC), ensuring high standards of health education and clinical practice.

Special recognition was extended to Ms. Clemencia M. Vergara, Principal of Siysiwan Elementary School, along with her dedicated teachers, students and parents, whose active participation, commitment, and enthusiasm have been instrumental in the successful implementation and continuity of the program. Their school has served as a model of how education and community can come together to advance health literacy and wellness. The successful grant application was made possible

through the formal endorsement of the PDA President Dr. Ronaldo P. Nuñez, with the full support of the PDA Executive Board, and the invaluable assistance of Regional Coordinator Dr. Ramarie Dickson-Case and the PDA Executive Secretary Dr. Loretta Buenaventura Cabrera, who facilitated the timely preparation and submission of all required documents to the FDI World Dental Federation.

In its congratulatory message, the FDI stated, “Congratulations on winning the FDI Smile Grant! We are looking forward to supporting your project titled “Little Doctors Program, in GIDA area, promoting preventive oral care in the Philippines.” The awards ceremony will take place during the General Assembly of the FDI World Dental Congress, where the PDA La Union Chapter will be formally recognized on the global stage for its outstanding contribution to community oral health.

This recognition highlights the power of grassroots health promotion and reaffirms the PDA’s mission of reaching underserved populations through prevention, and empowerment.

The Little Doctors Program stands as a sustainable model, inspiring other PDA chapters and health organizations to invest in youth leadership as a long-term solution to improving public health.



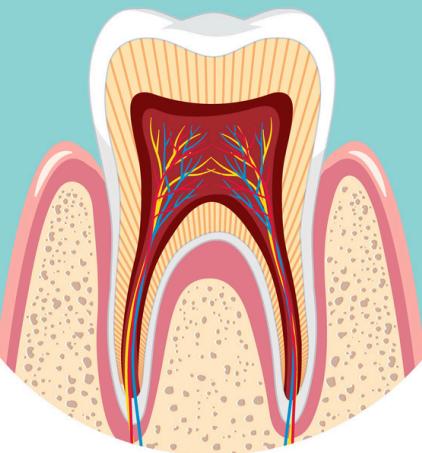
# DENTAL TRENDS

Ezra Emmanuel B. Ching, DDM, MSc



## About the Author:

He is an oral surgeon and educator with advanced training in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery from Mahidol University, Thailand. He is the Director for Dental Science and Continuing Education at Insights Diagnostic Imaging Solutions, Inc., and a part-time lecturer at Centro Escolar University, Makati. He also serves as a consultant in various clinics and institutions, including Metropolitan Medical Center. Passionate about education and research, he recently published a study on suture materials in the Journal of International Science of Community and Preventive Dentistry. Outside of dentistry, Dr. Ching enjoys playing tennis and long walks with his two Labrador retrievers.



## Complex Odontoma With an Impacted Tooth

A complex odontoma is a benign odontogenic tumor consisting of a disorganized mass of dental tissues (enamel, dentin, cementum, and pulp), typically without resembling normal teeth. It's most often diagnosed in children and young adults during routine radiographs due to delayed tooth eruption.

Zyra Maegan Delapa, a 16-year-old female, presented with a chief complaint of difficulty chewing on the right side of her mouth. She reported that approximately three years prior (2016) to consultation (PTC), She began feeling a hard structure on the upper right quadrant (quadrant 1), which gave her a sense of relief as it improved her ability to chew on that side. She noted that her molars in that region had never erupted.

Over time, particularly in the last six months, she observed that the structure had grown significantly, eventually causing a slight bulge in her right cheek. Despite this growth, she reported no associated pain or discomfort. This was her first dental consultation. She had no previous dental treatments and reported no history of dental trauma or interventions.

Her medical history had no significant findings. She is generally healthy and not on medications. A clinical exam revealed slight facial asymmetry on the right side, corresponding to a firm, buccal swelling in the upper right posterior region. Intraorally, there was mild crowding in the upper posterior teeth, presence of calculus deposits on the lingual surfaces



Radiographic findings →

# Radiographic Findings

**B**ased on radiographic findings, tooth #18 and #23 are unerupted. A well-defined radiopacity, measuring approximately 3 cm by 2 cm, was observed in the posterior region of quadrant 1, accompanied by displacement of tooth #15 and absence of bone on its distal and occlusal margins. Tooth #63 remains present with partially resorbed roots.

Additionally, teeth #28 and #38 are unerupted. Tooth #36 shows destruction of more than half of its crown and exhibits a periapical radiolucency, which is more

pronounced around the distal root. There is no contact between teeth #43, #44, and #45. Tooth #46 has been extracted.

Based on diagnosis, the patient have generalized moderate gingivitis.

Teeth #18 and #23 are impacted, while tooth #63 is identified as an over-retained deciduous tooth.

Tooth #36 shows signs of total pulpal necrosis with asymptomatic periapical periodontitis. The provisional diagnosis for radiopacity in the posterior region of quad-



Radiographic findings



rant 1 includes considerations of complex odontoma, osteoma, fibrous dysplasia, and osteoblastoma.



Pre-operative procedures



Retrieval using Kelly forceps



Post-operative procedures



Extraction of tooth #18 using E90

## Treatment Plan

The proposed treatment plan included scaling and polishing to improve overall oral hygiene, followed by the surgical removal of the radiopacity and tooth #18.

Additionally, tooth #36 will be extracted. Once the affected areas have healed, prosthodontic rehabilitation will be undertaken to restore the edentulous area previously occupied by the radiopacity.

Finally, orthodontic treatment involving the extrusion of tooth #23 will be carried out to improve alignment and function.

## Discussion and Conclusion

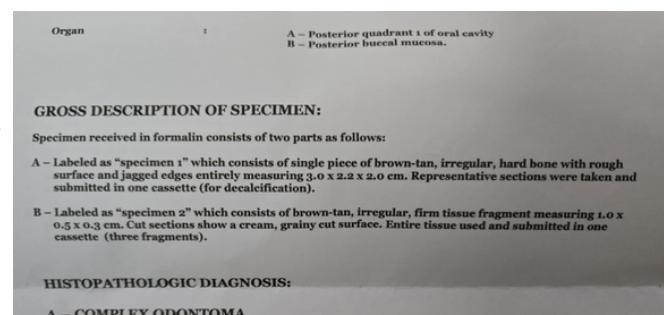
This case illustrates the importance of early dental consultations and regular monitoring, especially for unerupted molars and other anomalies in young adults.

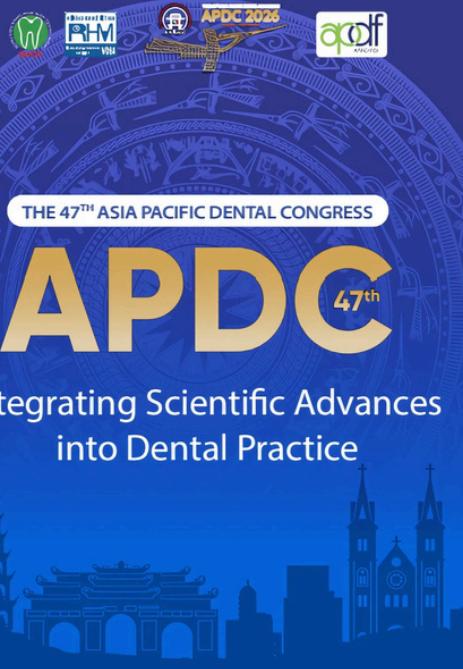
The patient's adaptation to the abnormal growth underscores the need for awareness about asymptomatic lesions, which may go unnoticed until significant enlargement occurs.

The presence of a slow-growing, non-painful mass in the maxillary region with associated facial asymmetry, raises differential diagnoses such as complex odontoma, benign odontogenic tumors, or developmental anomalies.

Radiographic evaluation plays a crucial role in establishing a definitive diagnosis and guiding appropriate treatment.

This case shows the role of early diagnosis in asymptomatic oral pathologies and the importance of educating the public on routine dental care. Comprehensive assessment and radiographic imaging are critical tools in modern dental practice, especially in identifying potentially serious yet silent conditions.

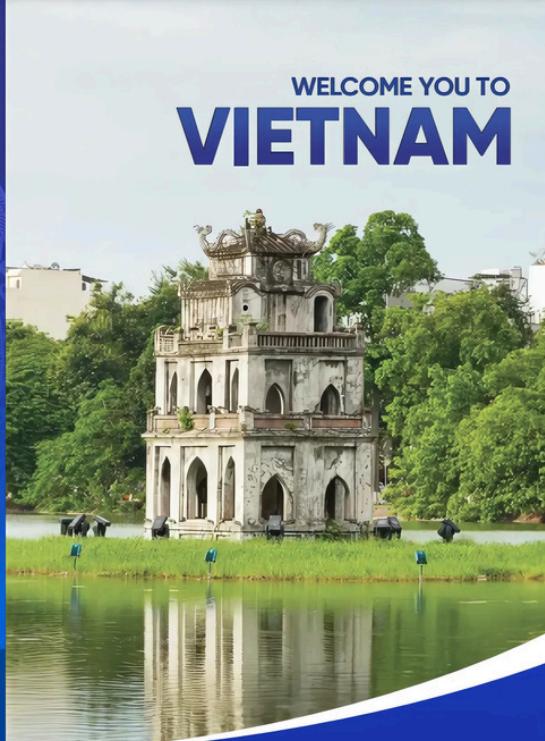




**HANOI, VIETNAM**  
May 11 – 14, 2026



OUR WEBSITE



#### Vietnam Odonto - Stomatology Association

40B Trang Thi Street, Hoan Kiem District, Hanoi  
+84 867 702 939  
apdc.conference2026@gmail.com

SCAN QR



REGISTER NOW

## WELCOME MESSAGE

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE 47<sup>th</sup> APDC

Dear distinguished guests and colleagues,

It is our pleasure to announce that the 47<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Dental Congress (APDC 2026) will be held by the Vietnam Odonto-Stomatology Association (VOSA) from May 11 to 14, 2026 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

With the theme "Integrating Scientific Advances into Dental Practice," under the support of APDF/APRO, APDC 2026 is a great opportunity to promote connection between all dental professionals from various countries in the Asia Pacific region, participating and strengthening knowledge in the field of Dentistry. The 47<sup>th</sup> APDC, organized in Vietnam for the first time, will be combined with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hanoi International Dental Exhibition and Congress (HAIDEC 2026), a prestigious dental event that helps us to enrich experiences in daily practice by integrating scientific advances in Dentistry.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the 47<sup>th</sup> APDC, I would like to welcome all delegates to attend the event. I also warmly invite you all to visit Hanoi, the capital of thousand years of civilization, the city of peace having distinctive Southeast Asian charms with the hospitality of Vietnamese people.

Your strong support is highly appreciated and is indispensable for the success of the Conference.

I look forward to greeting you in Hanoi!

Assoc. Prof. Tran Cao Bin, DDS, PhD  
President, Vietnam Odonto-Stomatology Association (VOSA)  
Director, National Hospital of Odonto-Stomatology, Hanoi (NHOS)

## TOUR GUIDE

*Duong Lam*  
Ancient Village

Explore the architecture of Vietnamese traditional houses and see the way of life of the rural people in Hanoi.

*Trang An*  
Scenic Landscape Complex

A UNESCO World Heritage site in Ninh Binh, famous for its karst formations, caves, and waterways.

*Van Phuc*  
silk village

An ancient village retains the beauty of a thousand-year-old traditional craft village.

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2024–2025

# About the Philippine Dental Association



115<sup>th</sup> PDA Strength in Unity

PDA  
BULLETIN  
2024–2025



The PDA is a professional organization for dentists in the Philippines. Its roots trace back to 1908, with the founding of Sociedad Dental de Filipinas. Following World War II, on August 12, 1945, this group merged with the National Dental Association, which had been established in 1924, leading to the formation of the PDA.

It was officially inaugurated on September 7, 1945. Its official publication, the Journal of the PDA, released its first issue in January 1948. In 1961, Dr. Luz C. Macapanpan made history as the organization's first woman president.

See you in  
**SHANGHAI**

Early bird registration deadline:

2 June 2025



**fdi**   
World Dental Congress  
SHANGHAI 2025



9–12 September 2025