Inaugural Address

It is with a mixture of feeling that I accept the position of Presidency of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery—pride and honor for the singular opportunity to be elevated to the rank of our great and previous elders who have occupied the much coveted post; and a great deal of awe and trepidation because of the seemingly formidable and daunting spectre caused by the growing needs of our ever expanding membership and its varied interests.

The tasks facing the Board and the society are multiple and have grown complex over the past years because of the formation of our multiple chapters and interest groups. Now more than ever, there is the dire need for the reorganization, rationalization, harmony and unity among the study groups and their members. Because of this, the Board has decided to make this task our number one priority, the first item in the agenda and the order of business this year.

We confess and admit, that we will be needing your valuable help, your input and your guidance so that we will not be waylaid from our direction. The board by itself, although vested with powers and with your trust, can achieve only so much without the Fellows' help.

But even now, I am specially elated and my spirits are buoyed up by the offer of support from many of the Fellows, young and old, from various quarters I have met and who have approached me, even immediately after our election.

The tasks that need to be done:
1. Continue to conduct worthwhile conventions, both annual and midyear, local and/or international, to really achieve the vision and mission of our society to be a “global leader in the care of the ear, nose, throat and head and neck conditions.”
2. Promote the best interests and welfare of the Fellows, in Metro Manila, the provinces and in the chapters.
4. Engage in the relentless pursuit of excellence and relevance in service, training, research and advocacies.
5. Continue the advocacies started in the past, like, the KENT, the tree-planting nationwide in conjunction with the Luntian Pilipinas program of Senator Loren Legarda.
6. Tie up with other local and international societies in the conduct of post-graduate courses, seminars or conventions to promote the advancement of learning.
7. Help develop future ORL-HNS surgeons by developing the various training programs of the accredited institutions in the country in coordination with the PBO-HNS.
8. Unify even more the society by developing camaraderie and friendship and by forgetting the past in order to move ahead and forge onward. Healing has started and now it is time to remove the remaining “stitches” that cause irritation, ill-will and the absence of well-being.

One of our junior fellows aptly noted that our PSO-HNS has become a microcosm of the bigger and problematic Philippine society that we are in, evincing to some extent the various ills that plague it, like the “me-first” attitude, inconsideration for the other’s interest, crab mentality, one-upmanship and the like. Perhaps, not to a great extent, but sadly are glaringly apparent.

My prayer for us and the Society is that the God Almighty grant us all wisdom to discern the truth; humility to accept our limitations and consider others better than ourselves; gentleness in dealing with people whose views may differ from ours; patience and long-suffering to make us stick to our objectives in the face of hardship and obstacles; forbearance and love for one another as we diligently pursue our goal of unity and peace in the body, the Society and its goals.

God bless the PSO-HNS. God bless us all.

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President, PSOHNS