



Dr. Lourdes A. Manahan Batch 1943 of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine laid the groundwork for the subspecialty of Rheumatology in the Philippines in the 1960s. She established the Section of Rheumatology in 1971, now known as the Division of Rheumatology of the Department of Medicine of the University of the Philippines Manila-Philippine General Hospital.

During those early years, as the only rheumatologist in the country, she multitasked as clinician, teacher, researcher and mentor. She represented the country in various international forums, putting the Philippines and the University of the Philippines in the international Rheumatology community.

In 1981, a formal two-year fellowship program in rheumatology at PGH was established, the first of its kind in the Philippines. From there, the Section of Rheumatology grew by one trainee every 3-5 years. By the late 1980, the section had graduated five rheumatologists, all of whom stayed in the country to render service. On its 50th year, the Division which was started by two rheumatologists has produced more than 80 astute specialists to serve patients with rheumatic diseases throughout the country. Its continuing patient advocacy has led to various programs and publications targeted to improve the lives of patients. Its contribution in the field of research has been recognized in local and international venues. It is recognized as, and will continue to be, a significant contributor to the growth of Rheumatology in the Philippines in decades to come.

We hope to honor the legacy of Dr. Lourdes Manahan through this special issue. The Division is eternally grateful for the passion for teaching, service, and research of Professor Clemente Amante and Professor Ester Gonzales-Penserga who continue Dr. Manahan's work. To my colleagues in the Division, Professor Bernadette Heizel Manapat-Reyes, Professor Michael Tee, Associate Professor Jose Paulo Lorenzo, Associate Professor Eric Jason Amante, Associate Professor Angeline-Therese Santiago, and Associate Professor Geraldine Zamora, the challenge to keep the fire burning lies with us. To all who train and trained in the Division and contribute to the research we share, congratulations!

Prof. Evelyn Osio-Salido, MD, MSc

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