



The Department of Neurosciences is one of the youngest units in the University of the Philippines College of Medicine (UPCM) and the Philippine General Hospital, having brought together the sections of Adult Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Pediatric Neurology under one umbrella just 25 years ago in 1999. The Department of Neurosciences is also one of the smallest, having only 42 faculty members and medical specialists who train and work together with 47 residents and fellows. All are expected to teach the growing number of medical students and to address the nervous system ailments of a likewise increasing volume of patients.

Despite the numbers challenge, it is among the best departments in terms of teaching. In its early years, it was voted the best clinical department by UP medical students. The most outstanding teachers in the UPCM in the last five years are neurologists or neurosurgeons, products of the Department's training programs and who now teach neurosciences under the Basic Sciences. In recent years, the faculty and physician trainees have churned out numerous research papers that have garnered top prizes in competitions, here in the country and abroad. The number of peer-reviewed publications in national and international journals emanating from such a small department every year is something it is so proud of.

This academic fervor is matched with an expansion of specialized patient services in the past years despite the global pandemic. These include deep brain stimulation, high-intensity focused ultrasound, awake craniotomy, intraoperative radiotherapy, thrombolysis, and thrombectomy—treatments that are now being provided to underserved Filipinos. New training programs in neuro-oncology and neurosurgical oncology have also been recently offered.

We celebrated our silver anniversary in 2024 with an art exhibit and a gala evening entitled *"From Neurons to Networks."* While rejoicing in the triumphs of the Department, we honored its past chairs—selfless giants who inspired us to latch on to our collective dream. It is but fitting to also crystallize the scholarly achievements of the Department to the field of neurosciences in the Philippines with a special issue of *Acta Medica Philippina*, now indexed in PubMed Central and Scopus. On the occasion of the Department's Silver Year, we dedicate this special edition to our esteemed mentors who are a source of inspiration for all of us.

Congratulations to the Department of Neurosciences! Let us move towards the next 25 years for the Department with greater ardor and fervor, as we strive for better brain health for all Filipinos. Padayon!

Carissa Paz Dioquino, MD

*25th Year Chair of the Department of Neurosciences
Philippine General Hospital
University of the Philippines Manila*