



L-R : Asst. Prof. Susan G. Petilla, UAP, Dr. Bryan M. Paras, Dr. Lorielyn A. Salvador, Dr. Lyndon Q. Llamado, Ms. Elyn Centeno, Robelle Tanangunan, Dr. Julie T. Li-Yu, Dr. Elaine T. Venegas, Dr. Vivian D. Santos, Dr. Maricar A. Bayo-ang, Dr. Ramon Miguel M. Molina, Rev. Father Jesus M. Miranda Jr., O.P., Ph.D. and Asst. Professor Maria Cecilia A. Tio Cuison, MA.

18th Dangal ng UST Awards

“Gurong May Dignidad, Turong May Kalidad”

Every year, the University of Santo Tomas gives honor and recognition to their Tomasian faculty and mentors who have demonstrated exemplary service through teaching, research and community service, thereby uplifting the quality of education in our country.

With this year’s theme, “Gurong May Dignidad, Turong May Kalidad”, the annual awarding was held last May 11, 2017 at Saint Martin de Porres Medicine Hall. The “Gawad Santo Domingo” award for Community Service recipient for this year has been conferred to Faculty of Medicine and Surgery Section of Rheumatology in recognition of its People Empowerment for Arthritis and Lupus (PEARL) which aims at strengthening the support group of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus and those with different types of arthritis. The Head of Joint and Bone Center Dr. Julie T. Li-Yu, and Training Officer of the section Dr. Lyndon Q. Llamado, rheumatology fellows and patients Elyn Centeno, a rheumatoid arthritis patient for more than 50 years



L-R : Dr. Lyndon Q. Llamado, Rheumatology Training Officer, Dr. Leonid T. Zamora, a rheumatologist, patients Robelle Tanangunan, and Elyn Centeno, Dr. Sandra V. Navarra Section Head of Rheumatology and Dr. Tito T. Torralba, former Dean of UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and Chairman of UST Department of Medicine



and Robelle Tanangunan, a lupus patient for 10 years, all went up the stage to receive the prestigious award. UST Over-all Secretary, Reverend Father Jesus M., Miranda Jr., O.P. Ph.D together with two members of 18th Dangal ng UST panel, Faculty Union Assistant Professor Susan G. Petilla, UAP and Dean of Tourism and Hospitality Assistant Professor Maria Cecilia A. Tio Cuison, MA handed over the award.

Spearheaded by Rheumatology Section Chief, Dr. Sandra V. Navarra, the People Empowerment for Arthritis and Lupus has its humble beginnings as two small separate groups for arthritis and for lupus patients holding lay forums for patients. Through the years, Dr. Navarra has seen a growing number of patients with arthritis and lupus who needed more support. Some patients who, despite their debilitating and chronic illnesses, have managed to overcome the challenges that came their way and have become productive members of the society. This has become the catalyst for the birth of PEARL in 2012.

For five years, PEARL activities have included free consultations, workshops, lay forums, and other medical assistance to patients with arthritis and lupus. Every quarter of the year, patients gather together, share their stories, meet new and old friends, or simply enjoy half of their day in the company of people with similar disease conditions. Through these activities, patients' understanding of their diseases are deepened and hope instilled in their hearts.

By: Dr. Vivian D. Santos

This is the second Gawad Santo Domingo award received by the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery Section of Rheumatology for Community Service. The first award is the Lupus Inspired Advocacy (LuIsA) project in 2010 in recognition of its efforts to develop, promote and support activities for patients with systemic lupus erythematosus including studies and researches. Below is Ms. Elyn Centeno, a patient with Rheumatoid Arthritis who has been with PEARL for more than 5 years. She is seen holding the two trophies of Gawad Santo Domingo.



“Give your hands to SERVE and your hearts to LOVE.” – Mother Teresa

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS SECTION OF RHEUMATOLOGY

