



**Philippine Rheumatology Association  
Special Interest Group Meeting on “Second Line Treatments For  
Difficult-to-Manage Rheumatic Diseases”**

Saturday 24 November 2018  
Manila Diamond Hotel, Roxas BLvd, Manila

*By Bethlehem C. Mula, MD*

The Philippine Rheumatology Association (PRA) successfully held the Special Interest Group (SIG) Meeting on Second Line Treatments for Difficult-to-Manage Rheumatic Diseases on Saturday, November 24, 2018, at Manila Diamond Hotel. The event was headed and formally opened by Dr. Julie T. Li-Yu, the PRA president. A meeting highlight was the interim report on the Prevalence of Rheumatic Diseases in Hospitals with Rheumatology Fellowship Training which was facilitated by Dr. Evan Glenn S. Vista.

Subsequently, the morning session was jump-started by Dr. Bernadette Heizel M. Reyes who lectured on Quick Teaching and Rapid Evaluation Method in Rheumatology Training Program. She elaborated some tools and techniques on how to be effective medical educators to the present generation. This was followed by an interesting talk on Plasma Rich Protein Therapy for Osteoarthritis and Soft Tissue Rheumatism by Dr. Eric Jason B. Amante. To end the morning session, another lecture was delivered by Dr. Bernadette Heizel M. Reyes on Tofacitinib, an oral Janus kinase inhibitor for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

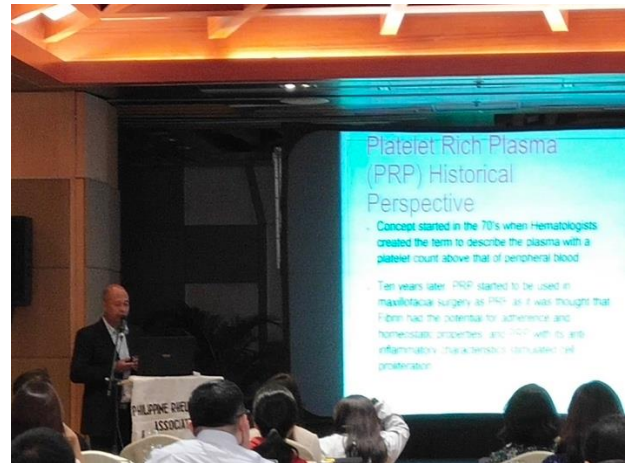


Dr. Julie T. Li-Yu, PRA president delivering her Opening remarks.

The afternoon activity further gained momentum with Dr. Michael L. Tee discussing the Biologics for Primary Vasculitides followed by a discussion on the use of IVIG in SLE and other rheumatic diseases by Dr. Pauline Remalante. It was emphasized that IVIG might play a role in thrombocytopenic SLE patients who failed to respond to conventional treatments, however, recent studies were still insufficient to support its use in other rheumatic conditions such as Scleroderma and ANCA-Associated Vasculitis. Other interesting topics discussed during the afternoon session were Therapy for Scleroderma Lung Disease by Dr. Ester Penserga and Decision Aids in Rheumatology by Dr. Lia Palileo-Villanueva.



Dr. Bernadette Heizel M. Reyes discussing Quick Teaching and Rapid Evaluation Method in Rheumatology Training Program.



Dr. Eric Jason B. Amante presenting Plasma Rich Protein Therapy for Osteoarthritis and Soft Tissue Rheumatisms.



Dr. Pauline Remalante lectures on IVIG in SLE and other rheumatic diseases.



Dr. Iris Isip-Tan discussing “Social Media and Medicine: Does this mix match current Healthcare needs?”

The last lecture was delivered by Dr. Iris Isip-Tan, an endocrinologist, *Dok Bru blogger* and social media influencer, with a prolific discussion on the essentials of Social Media and Medicine and was able to impart her journey of becoming an accomplished health informatics experts advocating patient education and health literacy.

To wrap up the one-day activity, Dr. Evelyn O. Salido acknowledged everyone who attended the final Special interest group (SIG) meeting for 2018. She concluded by reiterating the meeting objectives to sustain, advance and promote knowledge, skills & research in Rheumatology among the members of Philippine Rheumatology Association.