



"LUISA-PEARL Christmas Fiesta in October"

Sunday, 13 October 2019

14th Floor Auditorium, CHBC, St. Luke's Medical Center, Quezon City

By: *Bethlehem C. Mula, MD*



In the Philippines, Christmas season kicks off at the start of the so-called "BER months". For this year, the annual Christmas party of People empowerment for arthritis and lupus (PEARL) was held on 13 October 2019 at the 14th Floor Auditorium, CHBC, St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC), Quezon City with the theme "PEARL Christmas Fiesta in October. This traditional festive get-together was organized by Rheumatology Educational Trust Foundation, Inc (RETFI) in partnership with University of Santo Tomas and SLMC Rheumatology.

The activity was introduced with a warm up exercise "Christmas Zumba" which set the mood, followed by an opening prayer in thanksgiving for another year of success & unending support for PEARL, LUISA and other projects of RETFI. This was followed by a remarkable song performance by the rheumatology fellows in training from University of Santo Tomas Hospital (USTH) and St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC).



The participants doing the Christmas Zumba

There were "fiesta games" that everyone has truly enjoyed. Participants were divided into 4 groups, the first 2 games "nips color separation" and "shoot-out" indeed ignited the fun and thrill. This was followed by another 2 famous games being played at town

fiestas, the "coin toss" and "build me up tower cup". But the fiesta experience will not be completed without the "piñata", as the final game, cheers and yells filled the auditorium as the blindfolded participants threw their chances in breaking the PEARL-inspired "piñata" filled with lots of surprises inside. In the end, group with highest number of points went home with the grand prize. While everyone is relishing their simple snacks and sorbetes, intermission numbers came next with beautiful song and dance numbers by the selected participants.



The participants playing "nips color separation", "coin toss", and build me up tower cup".

The over-all program was spearheaded by Rheumatology fellows from SLMC and USTH, with master of ceremonies Drs. Nicolo Abadillo and Bryan Dolfton Perez, while other fellows Drs. Gerald Natanauan, Dominic Dela Cruz, Annabel Yap, Bethlehem Mula, Elbert Mendez, Daniel Castillo, Martin Carbonel, Honeyjril Badiang, Brigitte Yu, Anthea Tan, Ivy Alberca, and Jasper Borrromeo on worked busily at their

posts, all under the supervision of USTH Rheumatology chief Dr. Sandra Navarra.



Participants trying to break the “piñata”

Raffle give aways was definitely one of the activity’s highlights. The day ended with a song from rheumatology fellows and participants entitled “Precious Gem” with Teacher Cath. Indeed, the activity was thoroughly enjoyed filled with fun & excitement.



Fellows and participants with Teacher Cath and Dr. Navarra singing “Precious Gem”.



Participants performing song and dance numbers.



PEARL group poses at end of the program

As always, thank you to the staff who put their invaluable support for this event.... Robelle, Louie, Haydee, Grace, Irene, Gile, Romelie and Frances with Marlon, Ace, Carlo and Barry.

A total 180 participants attended the Christmas PEARL, Get Together and Thanksgiving 2019. The supporters and advocates of this organization look forward to PEARL 2020.

Photo Gallery:









