

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS HOSPITAL

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE –SECTION OF RHEUMATOLOGY FELLOWSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

September 21, 2023



The University of Santo Tomas Hospital (USTH) Section of Rheumatology is one of only 5 accredited Rheumatology training institutions in the country.

The regular accreditation of the Rheumatology fellowship training program, overseen by the Philippine Rheumatology Association (PRA) ensures that the program develops and upkeeps a learning environment to train fellows to become competent, compassionate and ethical rheumatologists committed to deliver the highest standards of efficient and effective healthcare to Filipinos with rheumatic diseases.



The half-day on-site activity was the culmination of an intensive online evaluation of patient census, physician and patient sessions including conferences, audits, lay educational forums and other training-related activities since the last program accreditation conducted in 2018. Dr. Roberto and Dr. Rivera-Go opened last Sept. 21's session with objectives of the accreditation process. This was followed by presentation of the Section's list of faculty, curriculum and teaching methods, clinical training facilities and resources, research and scholarly activities and patient care outcomes. A discussion ensued on submitted documents pre-evaluated by the board of accreditors. The accrediting team was then led on a tour of the hospital facilities including outpatient and ward areas, consultants' clinics, hospital research unit (HRU), and the USTH Rheumatology Center showcasing its range of diagnostic and therapeutic services including bone densitometry/ DXA, MSK ultrasound, polarizing microscopy, infusion center etc. The facility tour provided an overview of the learning resources of each trainee to develop and enhance their competence and skills in key aspects of Rheumatology practice i.e. patient care, education and research throughout their training.

The final round of the accreditation process included individual and group interviews with fellows and consultants to discuss additional insights and recommendations on areas which can be further improved.



On September 21, 2023, the USTH Section of Rheumatology completed the on-site evaluation headed by the PRA accreditation team: Dr. Linda Charmaine Roberto (chair), Dr. Liza Marie Maceda-Galang (co-chair), Dr. Carien Carvajal-Gulay, Dr. Ivy Catherine Rivera-Go (lead accreditor for USTH), Dr. Raoul Feliciano, Dr. Shanida Camomot, and Dr. Helmar Soldevilla.



October 25, 2023 notice:

“...the PRA Committee on Accreditation is pleased to inform (USTH Section of Rheumatology) that... the Fellowship Training Program in Rheumatology has PASSED the accreditation visit conducted by the committee last September 21, 2023 and is hereby granted a FOUR (4) YEAR ACCREDITATION effective 01 January 2024 until 31 December 2027”.

UST Rheumatology renews and reinforces its commitment to educate young individuals to develop and enhance the necessary knowledge and skills, as well as shape positive attitudes to prepare them for a fulfilling career in Rheumatology.

