

# MIDYEAR CONVENTION



## RHEUM PULSE 2025: WHERE RHYTHM MEETS RHEUMATOLOGY

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The **pulse of Philippine rheumatology beats stronger than ever**. As twilight paints the Manila Bay skyline, the halls of Seda Hotel come alive with laughter, music, and the unmistakable buzz of reunion. The much-awaited PRA Midyear Convention 2025 begins not with solemn lectures or sterile slides, but with rhythm, connection, and celebration — a fitting prelude to a gathering built on passion and purpose.

### DAY 1: THE PULSE AWAKENS

On **October 16, 2025**, the **Philippine Rheumatology Association (PRA)** opened its much-anticipated **Midyear Convention** with a burst of color and energy. Dubbed “**Rheum Pulse: Public Health, Updates, Leadership, Solutions, and Excellence**,” this year’s convention captures the very **heartbeat of the rheumatology community** — **vibrant, unyielding, and in sync with the ever-evolving landscape of science and compassion**.

The day began with the **Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Workshop**, held in cooperation with the **Philippine Society of Clinical Musculoskeletal Ultrasonography (PSCMU)**. It was a hands-on pre-convention course that drew both seasoned rheumatologists and fellows eager to refine their skills. Guided by experts, participants explored the subtleties of ultrasound imaging—seeing in real time the anatomy and inflammation that textbooks can only describe. The hum of focused discussion and the click of probes against screens set the convention’s first heartbeat: precision, curiosity, and collaboration.



In the afternoon, accredited training institutions convened, followed by registration and the much-awaited Welcome Dinner, which transformed the evening into a neon-lit celebration. Under glowing lights and rhythmic beats, attendees gathered for an unforgettable night of music, laughter, and camaraderie. There were raffle prizes, cocktails, and spontaneous jamming sessions that blurred the lines between colleagues and friends. It wasn’t just a welcome dinner—it was a **reunion, a reminder that beyond the science lies a shared humanity and joy**.

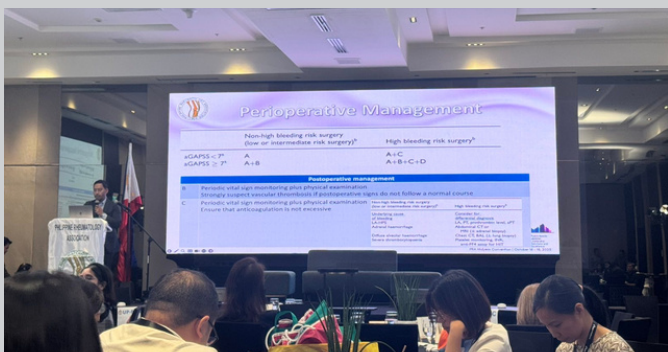
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## DAY 2: THE BEAT OF KNOWLEDGE AND LEADERSHIP

The next morning, the tempo shifted from social rhythm to intellectual rhythm. The day opened with Dr. Reinald Francisco's special discussion on PhilHealth's Disease Related Groupings (DRG)—a timely dialogue that linked clinical excellence with public health policy.

The scientific sessions that followed struck every note of innovation and insight. Symposium 1, moderated by Dr. Neil Eullaran, delved into Biologic Factors and Rheumatic Diseases. Talks from experts like Dr. James Harold Barte and Dr. Antonio Quibamba explored gender, metabolism, and molecular pathways, painting a picture of rheumatology that is as scientific as it is human.



The Plenary Sessions deepened the conversation. Dr. Ramon Molina's talk on Perioperative Management of the APAS Patient and Dr. Genevieve Katigbak's lecture on Avoiding Inertia in Spondyloarthritis Treatment reminded attendees that decision-making in rheumatology requires both confidence and compassion.



Then came one of the most spirited highlights of the convention—the **Dr. Tito P. Torralba Learning Initiative for Fellows in Training (TPT LIFT)**.

Far from a typical lecture, TPT LIFT brought a burst of friendly competition as **fellows from the five accredited rheumatology training institutions** faced off in an **inter-hospital quiz bee** that tested both knowledge and teamwork. The room buzzed with energy as teams tackled real-world cases and clinical challenges, with **MMC** emerging as champions, followed by **USTH** in second place and **UP-PGH** in third.

A fitting **tribute to the Dr. Tito P. Torralba**, the event celebrated his **legacy of excellence, camaraderie, and lifelong learning**—proving that when education meets fellowship, rheumatology stays vibrant and alive.

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## DAY 3: THE RHYTHM OF INNOVATION AND CARE

The final day opened with renewed energy. The morning plenaries resonated with fresh ideas and practical challenges. Dr. Charis Chan opened with *Is It Time to Change How Lupus Nephritis Is Managed?*—a question that sparked thoughtful dialogue across generations of practitioners. This was followed by Dr. Mae Collante's engaging session, *PROM for Kids*, moderated by Dr. Eloisa Generoso, which highlighted the power of patient-reported outcomes in pediatric care.

The discussions crescendoed with Dr. Ronald Ramirez's talk on *Difficult Decisions in Osteoporosis Care*, a sobering yet empowering reminder of the art and ethics behind clinical judgment.

Technology then took center stage. Dr. Mike Muin's session on *Electronic Medical Records (EMR) and Universal Health Coverage* offered a clear, data-driven view of how digital systems can transform patient care. This was followed by Dr. Rachael Bong's presentation, *Locally Available EMRs: How to Choose*, which provided clinicians with practical insights into adopting health tech in real-world practice.

Each talk, each question, each shared idea was a reminder that **innovation in medicine isn't just about the next breakthrough—it's about the next connection, the next collaboration, the next act of care.**



## MORE THAN A MEETING

Beyond the lectures and symposia, Rheum Pulse pulsed with something deeper—the enduring spirit of community. The laughter that filled the hallways, the excited conversations over research updates, and the spark in a fellow's eyes as they listened to a mentor's story—these were the true moments of resonance.

The convention closed not with silence, but with gratitude—a shared understanding that **rheumatology is as much art as it is science, and that every clinician adds a beat to this growing rhythm of progress.**



## THE BEAT GOES ON...

The **PRA Midyear Convention 2025** wasn't just an event; it was a **movement**—an affirmation that the field of rheumatology in the Philippines continues to evolve with heart, harmony, and hope.

And as the delegates packed their bags and prepared to return to clinics, hospitals, and research centers across the country, one truth resonated louder than ever: **the pulse of Philippine rheumatology is steady, strong, and ready for the next beat.**