



THE THOMASIAN MIDYEAR REUNION



By : Sephora J. Matilos, MD



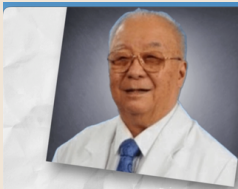
SOME REUNIONS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN POLITE SMILES AND BRIEF NOSTALGIA. BUT EVERY NOW AND THEN, THERE COMES A GATHERING THAT REMINDS US WHO WE ARE, WHERE WE CAME FROM, AND THE PURPOSE THAT CONTINUES TO DRIVE US FORWARD.

THE THOMASIAN RHEUMIES MIDYEAR REUNION WAS ONE SUCH NIGHT, NOT JUST A MEETING OF COLLEAGUES, BUT A CELEBRATION OF A SHARED CALLING AND A LEGACY THAT CONTINUES TO UNITE GENERATIONS.

LAST OCTOBER 17, 2025, THOMASIAN SPIRIT FILLED THE HALLS OF SEDA MANILA BAY AS GENERATIONS OF THOMASIAN RHEUMIES CAME HOME TO ONE ANOTHER. ALUMNI EMBRACED COLLEAGUES THEY ONCE SHARED ROTATIONS, SLEEPLESS DUTY NIGHTS, AND LIFE-DEFINING MEMORIES WITH.

A NIGHT OF HOMECOMING

THE OG RHEUMIE AND HIS PROTEGE



The Original Rheumie 1965

Dr. Tito Torralba



The Protege Rheumie 1988

Dr. Sandra Navarra



THE PILLARS WHO BUILT US

THROUGH NOSTALGIC PRESENTATIONS TITLED "GENERATIONS OF THOMASIAN RHEUMIES THRU THE YEARS," ATTENDEES WERE REMINDED OF THE STRONG LINEAGE FROM WHICH THEY CAME, ONE ROOTED NOT ONLY IN CLINICAL EXPERTISE BUT ALSO IN COMPASSION, HUMILITY, AND SERVICE TO PATIENTS.

THE EVENING WAS FILLED WITH WARMTH AS ALUMNI PAID TRIBUTE TO TWO PILLARS OF UST RHEUMATOLOGY: DR. TITO TORRALBA, REMEMBERED FONDLY AS THE ORIGINAL RHEUMIE, WHO PAVED THE WAY FOR THE SPECIALTY IN THE INSTITUTION SINCE 1965; AND DR. SANDRA NAVARRA, REVERED AS THE PROTÉGÉ RHEUMIE SINCE 1988, WHOSE LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY HAVE SHAPED BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RHEUMATOLOGY PRACTICE.

AS THE NIGHT DREW TO A CLOSE, ONE SENTIMENT SHONE CLEARLY: THE SPIRIT OF BEING A THOMASIAN RHEUMIE DOES NOT END WITH GRADUATION, IT CONTINUES TO INSPIRE, CONNECT, AND UPLIFT THROUGH EVERY CHAPTER OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY.

UNTIL OUR PATHS CROSS AGAIN, FELLOW THOMASIAN RHEUMIES.

