

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2011

As we head towards the end of another Fiscal year, let us reflect on the product of our endeavor as a service entity. For the past 28 years the UERMMMC Alumni Foundation USA, Inc. has faithfully served alumni and friends as a vehicle for charitable giving to support and advance the UERMMMC. The Foundation has continued to provide faculty and student scholarships and financial aids and improved community relation with the Medical Center. This year, the Foundation provided \$23,600 in scholarship funding to 50 deserving medical students.

Despite the rough road that we have trod during the last few years, the role of the Board of Trustees along with their fiduciary responsibilities will remain unchanged. We will continue to support the Medical Center's needs in accordance with donors' wishes. We can and will continue to receive donations from our alumni and friends and maximize our assets with wise investment strategies through our able Treasurer and the Financial, Budget and Investment Committee. Our investment policies are in place along with our budget process. The Five Year Framework Budget adopted in 2002 is implemented to ensure the continuation of different projects backed up by future fund raising activities, thus securing the viability and long term survival of the Foundation.

It is refreshing to report that we have been in compliance with IRS regulations since the Foundation's inception and that AFUSA "has never been audited". We have used our resources responsibly. For example, we created an AFUSA Policies and Procedures in Processing Grant Requests particularly for Faculty Development whose grantees include clinical and basic science departments. We work with committees of the Medical Center and College of Medicine to implement our programs that coincide with the missions of the UERMMMC.

Enhancement of library assistance has been more visible during these past few years with the collaboration of the Library Committee and the UERMMMC librarian. AFUSA will continue to work with the UERMMMMCAAA, Inc. in the realization of these efforts.

As your Foundation Chairman, I make biennial visit to the Medical Center. The structure of such visit consists of meeting with administration officials, department heads, and hospital educational authorities. The conference with administration is most often attended by the UERMMMC Vice- Chairman of the Board, Mr. Wilson Young; President/Hospital Administrator, Dr. Romeo Divinagracia; Dean of the Medical School, Dr. Retta Tan Reyes; Comptroller-Vice-Treasurer Ms. Iris Militar and Vice President for Finance Ms. Carmencita Valdez. Here, we discuss and clarify issues affecting the quality of education of graduates, particularly, how to improve it.

My last visit to the Medical Center was on March 29, 30 and 31 this year. The following items were discussed:

- 1. The challenging and learning experience of the MARVADC (GIK) donation. Few weeks after the meeting, the Administration issued a Guideline on Donations which was polished by AFUSA later.**
- 2. Request was made to the Medical Center/ Hospital to submit written policy and procedures for all requested grants implemented by hospital or Medical School.**
- 3. Observe proper Grant Applications Steps when requesting for funding especially for faculty members. “Only grant requests approved by the Dean will be evaluated by AFUSA” The grant steps algorithm was discussed.**
- 4. Acknowledgement problem: They were reminded again to acknowledge all donations in a timely manner. It’s preferable to encourage the recipient or final grantee to send the acknowledgement to AFUSA.**
- 5. The group was updated on the U.S. IRS Rules pertaining to New Requirements of Donations. The Vice- President for Finance was advised to Google and familiarize herself with recent USA IRS requirements and regulations for Publicly Supported Non- Profit Organization which now require more strict compliance.**
- 6. The Vice-Chairman in consonance with the UERM BOT is not in favor of the “Wish list” program of the convention. It appears that they desire larger**

donations from alumni and that the UERMMM Administration can take care of the smaller items of such wish list.

7. Had one-to-one discussion with the Dean pertaining to other issues of interest.

The following day I gave a lecture on “Functional Endoscopic Dilatation Surgery (Balloon Sinuplasty), attended by medical students, otolaryngology residents, and several practicing otolaryngologists in the area.

On the last day, I had a tour of the Library and the hospital wards, attended a lunch party given by the Past Medical Director Tito Sarmiento and had a chance to discuss few issues with several attending staff.

Finally, I would desire to especially express my personal gratitude to the President of the Foundation, Dr. Vickie Casibang for her hard work, tenacity and perseverance, to our Newsletter Editor, Dr. Sam Piga for his excellent journalistic acumen, and, to all the members of the AFUSA Board of Trustees for the hard work they have done in pursuit of our mission and vision. They all have worked within the framework of an excellent fiduciary practice and responsibilities.

*“It is a universal law. You have to give before you get.
You must plant your seeds before you reap the harvest.
The more you sow, the more you will reap.
In giving to others you will find yourself blessed.
The law works to give you back more than you have sown”.*

Submitted:

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Chairman, AFUSA

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