

Registration

You may register online at <https://www.ustnai.org/Annual-Convention>

MAIL-IN PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION FORM

Check/Money Order Payable To: UST Nurses Association International***

Mail-In Payment and Registration Form To: Roland Santos

Address: 1100 S Hope Street, Unit # 1109, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Refunds: Email registration refund requests to: roland.santos100@gmail.com (Roland Santos) postmarked by September 7, 2023, 11:59 pm Pacific Time.

No verbal cancellations will be accepted-NO REFUNDS ISSUED AFTER September 8, 2023.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

27th USTNAI Annual Convention and Leadership Summit



SEPTEMBER 21 - 24, 2023

WESTIN LONG BEACH HOTEL, LONG BEACH, CA

"Accelerating Excellence With Gratitude"

Travel Information

Distance from Airport/Venues:

Long Beach Airport: 19 to 20 minutes (6 miles).

Los Angeles International Airport: 35 to 40 minutes (23 - 25 miles).

Options include shuttle, UBER, Lyft, town car, SUV, and limo from quality providers such as Supershuttle, Groundlink, and Blacklane. A shared shuttle van is usually the cheapest ride to or from LAX Airport.

Hotel Accommodation

Register directly with The Westin Long Beach. The hotel web page address is

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1684436053189&key=GRP&app=resvlin.k>

Or call 1.562.436.3000 ext. 3303

Group Name: The University of Santo Tomas Nurses Association International Room Rate: \$229.00++/Night Cutoff Date: September 7, 2023, Thursday, by 5 pm.

***Guest rooms to be available three (3) days pre/post program dates based on same room type/rate availability. Please call Westin if there is an interest in pre/post-program dates; there may be cancellations and occupancy changes!

The Westin Long Beach Hotel Parking Information:

Self-Parking is offered at a discounted rate of \$25.00 per night/vehicle. Valet parking is available at \$38.00 per night/vehicle.

Accelerating Excellence with Gratitude

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 21, 2023, 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM

VENUE: ODESSA ROOM

ALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND ADVISORY COUNCIL ARE INVITED.

EDUCATION FORUM SEPTEMBER 22, 2023, FRIDAY

REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST DRINKS: 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM

THEME: "ACCELERATING EXCELLENCE WITH GRATITUDE"

VENUE: OCEAN BALLROOM: 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

WELCOME NIGHT SEPTEMBER 22, 2023, FRIDAY

THEME: "FIESTA TOMASINO"

ATTIRE: CASUAL - USE THE CLASS DECADE T-SHIRT

REGISTRATION: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

VENUE: SALON A: 6:00 PM - 12:00 MN

HEALTH & WELLNESS EXERCISE SEPTEMBER 23, 2023, SATURDAY

"ELEVATE YOUR BODY AND MIND - JOIN US ON THE FITNESS JOURNEY"

VENUE: OCEAN BALLROOM: 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL REGISTRANTS

TOWN HALL MEETING SEPTEMBER 23, 2023, SATURDAY

JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING TOWN HALL MEETING HOSTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, LED BY RONALD VERIAN, PRESIDENT 2023-2024! THIS IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR ALUMS TO CONNECT AND ENGAGE WITH FELLOW THOMASIAN NURSES WHILE LEARNING ABOUT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES FROM USTNAI. IN ADDITION, YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN INFORMATIVE SESSIONS, SHARE YOUR IDEAS AND INSIGHTS, AND CATCH UP WITH OLD FRIENDS. DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS FANTASTIC, INFORMATIVE, AND ENJOYABLE EVENT.

VENUE: OCEAN BALLROOM: 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL REGISTRANTS

GALA NIGHT SEPTEMBER 23, 2023, SATURDAY

RECONNECT? YES, RECONNECT WITH FORMER CLASSMATES AND PROFESSORS AND REMINISCE ABOUT OUR TIME AT THE COLLEGE. NETWORK WITH OTHER ALUMS AND ENJOY THE NIGHT WITH FUN ACTIVITIES, GREAT FOOD, AND ENTERTAINMENT, MAKING IT A MEMORABLE NIGHT FOR ALL ATTENDEES.

THEME - "HANDOG AT PASASALAMAT"

ATTIRE: FILIPINIANA

REGISTRATION: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

VENUE: SALON A: 6:00 PM - 12:00 MN

THANKSGIVING MASS SEPTEMBER 23, 2023, SUNDAY

VENUE: OCEAN BALLROOM 10:30 AM - 12:00 NOON

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL REGISTRANTS (PLEASE RSVP BY SEPT. 7)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

THE PLANNERS AND SPEAKERS HAVE DECLARED NO RELEVANT FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH INELIGIBLE COMPANIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS NURSING ALUMNI INTERNATIONAL (USTNAI): (I) RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY THE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE WITHOUT ADVANCED NOTICE; (II) ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERSONAL INJURY; AND (III) HEREBY NOTIFIES ALL ATTENDEES THAT THEIR REGISTRATION FEES DO NOT INCLUDE PERSONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE OF ANY KIND, WHICH IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH ATTENDEE.

Accelerating Excellence with Gratitude

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

We are delighted to present the 27th University of Santo Tomas Nursing Alumni International (USTNAI) Annual Convention and Leadership Summit. This prestigious gathering embodies the spirit of nursing excellence and gratitude. Set against the vibrant city of Long Beach, California, this event promises a dynamic platform for nursing professionals, alumni, and enthusiasts to convene, learn, and celebrate.

Our theme, "Accelerating Excellence with Gratitude," encapsulates the essence of the convention. It's a celebration of the exceptional accomplishments of Thomasian nurses and an opportunity to express gratitude to those who have contributed to our journey as nurses. With deep reverence for our alma mater, the University of Santo Tomas, and the legacy it has instilled in us, we come together to explore, engage, and elevate our commitment to nursing excellence.

Contact Hours

The USTNAI is an approved provider of continuing education by the California Board of Registered Nursing, CEP# 15843. This Education Forum is approved for 5.25 contact hours
The Planners and speakers have declared no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies.

EDUCATION FORUM OBJECTIVES

At the end of the Education Forum, the participants will be able to:

- Describe how gratitude can positively impact nursing practice and patient care and apply concepts of gratitude to real-life nursing situations, promoting enhanced patient outcomes.
- Identify the role of gratitude in advanced clinical practice and its impact on patient outcomes and summarize the key components of integrating gratitude into advanced clinical practice.
- Recognize the role of gratitude in effective leadership and organizational culture and explain how gratitude influences leadership styles and employee engagement.
- Apply design thinking methodologies to develop innovative solutions that promote gratitude among healthcare providers and patients.
- Apply lessons from nursing leaders' experiences to foster gratitude-driven leadership within alumni associations and develop strategies to nurture a sense of gratitude and inspiration among emerging nursing leaders.

7:30 am	Breakfast and Registration
8:00 am	Welcome Remarks Mindy Ofiana, MSN, RN <i>Executive Director, USTNAI</i>
8:05 am	State of USTNAI Address Ronaldo Verian, MPH, MOH, BSN, RN, PHN <i>President, USTNAI</i> Embark on a journey of reflection, progress, and aspiration as we present the eagerly anticipated State of USTNAI Address by our esteemed President. The State of USTNAI Address is not just a report; it's a celebration of achievements, an acknowledgment of challenges, and a vision for what lies ahead. He will provide a comprehensive overview of the association's accomplishments, highlighting initiatives that have further solidified USTNAI. In this address, the President will candidly address the challenges faced by our alumni community and present strategic insights into how USTNAI plans to address them head-on.

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Accelerating Excellence with Gratitude

September 22, 2023 (Friday) Education Forum Program

Keynote: Gratitude and Nursing Excellence

Franz Henryk Vergara, PhD, DNP, MAS, RN, CENP, CCM, ONC
Senior Director of Nursing Operations & Patient Care Services, Medstar Harbor Hospital

Dr. Vergara's keynote will explore the transformative power of gratitude in elevating the practice of nursing to new heights of excellence. Drawing from his extensive background, he will illuminate the profound impact of gratitude on individual nurses, healthcare teams, and the entire patient experience.

8:30 am

Through captivating anecdotes, research-backed insights, and practical strategies, Dr. Vergara will guide attendees in understanding how fostering a culture of gratitude within healthcare environments can lead to enhanced patient outcomes, improved staff satisfaction, and stronger inter-professional collaboration. He will address the challenges faced by healthcare professionals, particularly in high-pressure settings, and how cultivating gratitude can serve as a powerful coping mechanism to combat burnout and fatigue.

Dr. Vergara's keynote will resonate with nurses, nursing leaders, and healthcare administrators alike, offering a blueprint for infusing gratitude into the fabric of nursing practice. Attendees will leave this session with a renewed sense of purpose, armed with actionable takeaways to implement within their own healthcare institutions.

Gratitude in Clinical Advanced Practice

Danilo Bernal, DNP, APRN, PHN, CEN, CCRN, NP-C, FNP-BC
Assistant Professor, California State University Channel Islands

Sallie Poepsel, PhD, MSN, CRNA, APRN, FAANA
Owner-CEO, MSMP Anesthesia Services, LLC.

Dianne Roxborough, MSN, RN, APRN, FNP-BC, NP-C
Nurse Practitioner, CareSpot Urgent Care

Maridel Agnes Saldaña-Maulawin MSN, RN, CNL
Unit Clinical Nurse Leader, Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Moderator

9:30 am

This panel discussion invites attendees to engage with the panelists, exploring how gratitude acts as a catalyst for clinical excellence, self-care, and the advancement of nursing practice. Through their personal stories, research-backed insights, and actionable takeaways, the panelists will leave attendees inspired to integrate gratitude into their own advanced practice journeys.

Prepare to be inspired by these visionary voices as they illuminate the transformative potential of gratitude in shaping the future of advanced clinical practice. Don't miss this opportunity to engage in a thought-provoking dialogue that will deepen your understanding of the connection between gratitude and exceptional patient-centered care.

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Accelerating Excellence with Gratitude

10:30 am	Break
11:00 am	<p>Leading with Gratitude</p> <p>Alfredo Sagisi, MS, RN, FACHE <i>Senior Director of Nursing Operations & Analytics, Sheppard Pratt</i></p> <p>Roland Santos, MSN, RN <i>Chief Nursing Officer, Prime Healthcare Services – Sherman Oaks Hospital</i></p> <p>Ma. Arlene Azores, MSN, RN <i>Nurse, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset & Hunterdon Medical Center</i></p> <p>Moderator</p> <p>In a world of evolving healthcare dynamics, the role of gratitude in leadership stands as a beacon of inspiration and transformation. This thought-provoking panel discussion featuring esteemed nurse leaders who have harnessed the power of gratitude to shape their leadership styles and foster cultures of excellence within their organizations.</p> <p>Throughout the panel discussion, attendees will have the opportunity to engage with the panelists, gaining practical insights and actionable strategies for integrating gratitude into their own leadership journeys. From recognizing the contributions of their teams to promoting a culture of appreciation, the discussion will empower attendees to foster an atmosphere where gratitude thrives and leadership thrives in tandem. Prepare to be inspired by the real-world experiences of these nurse leaders who have harnessed gratitude to elevate their leadership impact and organizational cultures. This session promises a captivating exploration of the symbiotic relationship between leadership, gratitude, and employee engagement.</p>
12:00 pm	Lunch Break
1:00 pm	<p>Design Thinking Workshop for Creating Human-Centered Design on Gratitude</p> <p>Mary Dioise Ramos, PhD, RN, CNE <i>Associate Professor, Kennesaw State University</i></p> <p>This dynamic and interactive workshop will empower participants to apply design thinking methodologies in developing innovative solutions that promote gratitude. This session is designed to inspire participants to think beyond traditional approaches and embrace a human-centered design mindset.</p> <p>Through a combination of hands-on activities, collaborative discussions, and real-world case studies, participants will immerse themselves in the principles of design thinking while exploring the transformative potential of gratitude in healthcare. Join this session to harness the power of design thinking and gratitude, and leave with actionable insights to create lasting positive change in the lives of both healthcare providers and patients.</p>

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Accelerating Excellence with Gratitude

Gratitude and Inspiration: Journey of Nursing Leaders in Alumni Nursing Organization

Emily Danuco, BSN, RN
President, FEU-NAFI

Dino Doliente III, DNP, MBA, RN, FACHE
Founding President, SLUNAI

Mindy Ofiana, MSN, RN
Founding President, USTNAI

Marlon Saria, PhD, RN, AOCNS, NEA-BC, NPD-BC, FAAN
President-Elect, PNAA

2:00 pm

Peter-Reuben Calixto, BSN, RN, CNN
Advisory Council, PNAA-USTNAI-PNANC
Moderator

This enriching panel discussion brings together nursing leaders who have carved their paths of influence within alumni nursing organizations. This session offers a unique opportunity to delve into the personal experiences of these distinguished leaders as they share their insights on fostering gratitude-driven leadership and cultivating a culture of inspiration among emerging nursing leaders.

These leaders' journeys exemplify the transformative power of gratitude and how it can shape the destiny of nursing organizations. Through interactive discussions and engaging anecdotes, attendees will better understand how gratitude-driven leadership can lead to impactful change within alumni associations and beyond. The panelists will offer actionable strategies for nurturing gratitude, inspiring emerging leaders, and creating lasting connections that amplify the impact of nursing within the broader healthcare community.

3:00 pm

Closing Remarks

Sallie Poepsel, PhD, MSN, CRNA, APRN, FAANA
President-Elect, USTNAI

Evaluation



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
NURSES ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL
Nurses with Excellence & Heart



Moving Forward with Gratitude

<https://www.ustnai.org>

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Ma. Arlene Azores, called “Yen” by families and friends, was born and raised in Paranaque, Philippines. Always dreamt of being a nurse since childhood. Obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Santo Tomas (UST) in 1994. Migrated to New Jersey with family in 2004. Practicing postpartum and Level II NICU nurse at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset (RWJUH Somerset) and Hunterdon Medical Center (HMC). Finished Master of Science in Nursing in 2022 at William Paterson University of New Jersey (WPUNJ) and currently in school for Doctor of Nursing Practice, expected completion in 2024. Adjunct Faculty at William Paterson University of New Jersey (WPUNJ). President of Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey (PNANJ) Somerset County Subchapter 2016-2020. One of the active Board of Directors of PNANJ 2020 up to the present. Member of other professional nursing organizations like the American Nurses Association (ANA), New Jersey State Nurses Association (NJSNA), New Jersey League for Nursing (NJLN), and Sigma Theta Tau. The most recent recipient of the Philippine Nurses Association of America and New Jersey DNP Scholarship. She would like to inspire and motivate people to be their best version.



Dr. Danilo Bernal has been a registered nurse for over 30 years. He graduated from UST College of Nursing with his BSN in 1991. He has worked mostly as an Emergency Room, Critical Care, and Trauma Nurse in different training and teaching hospitals in Southern California. He has been actively practicing as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) in Emergency Medicine and Correctional Healthcare settings for the last ten years. He is working as full-time faculty and Assistant Professor of Nursing at the California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI). Dr. Bernal's scholarly work has focused on developing a program to assist and support inmates with Opioid Use Disorder detained in county jails. Dr. Bernal is currently enrolled for his Post-doctoral credential as Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP). His educational goals is to help effectively educate his students in the field of Psychiatric and Mental Health, continue his scholarly work on Opioid Addiction, and use this credential in professional and community service activities.



Peter-Reuben Calixto, a nephrology nurse throughout his nursing career, started as a dialysis nurse in Fort Lauderdale, FL, then as a kidney transplant clinical nurse, and retired as a kidney transplant coordinator with the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He has been involved with professional nursing organizations, including the American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA), where he has been a regional officer overseeing multiple chapters in the Western Region and as a board member of the ANNA's Continuing Education Approval Board (CEAB). He is a visionary leader who introduced the concept of the international nursing conference initiated by his chapter (PNA Northern California), and after this successful event, he challenged the PNA that this should be an undertaking by the national organization. He became the first male president of the Philippine Nurses Association of America in 2000-2002. During his term, the Philippine Nurses Association of America Foundation was established. He wrote the initial bylaws of the UST Nurses Association of America and eventually became its 8th president. He continues to render services to both the PNA and USTNAI in various capacities as a member of the Advisory Council of both organizations.



Emily Danuco is a seasoned healthcare professional with a passion for transformative nursing practices and equitable patient care. With a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Far Eastern University, Manila, Emily's journey in nursing began in 1991, setting the stage for a remarkable career. As a California-licensed Registered Nurse since 1996 and certified in various specialties, including oncology, her dedication to patient well-being is unwavering. With over two decades of service, Emily has left an indelible mark in the healthcare landscape. Her roles as a Transplant Coordinator at prestigious institutions like the University of California San Francisco and California Pacific Medical Center reflect her expertise in coordinating intricate medical procedures and her commitment to organ donation advocacy. Notably, Emily's leadership extends beyond the medical realm, as she actively engages with professional organizations such as the American Nephrology Nurses Association and the Philippine Nurses Association of America, where she serves on various committees. all.



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Dr. Dino Doliente III, an American-Filipino nurse, graduated from Saint Louis University, Baguio City, Philippines, in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. He later earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix in 2005 and a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Aspen University in October 2020. Starting as a Registered Nurse in New Jersey in 1995, he moved to Baltimore, Maryland. He served as the Vice President of Nursing and Patient Care Services at Levindale Lifebridge Health Center and Hospital. In January 2011, Dr. Doliente joined Genesis HealthCare, Inc. as the Divisional Director of Finance & Reimbursement Services, overseeing ten states on the West Coast. A community service advocate, Dr. Doliente is a recognized speaker on Finance, Leadership, Quality, and Innovation topics. He holds affiliations with prominent organizations, including the American Organization of Nurse Leaders (AONL). As a distinguished nurse leader, he was the former President of the Philippine Nurses Association of America, Inc. (PNAA) and the Founding President of the Saint Louis University Nursing Alumni Association International (SLUNAAI). He is a fellow of the esteemed American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).



Mindy Ofiana is an accomplished healthcare expert with an impressive career history. Mindy has held multiple high-level positions, including former Chief Operations Officer and Chief Nursing Officer, where she implemented process improvements, enhanced efficiency, and ensured top-quality patient care.

As an Adjunct Faculty member at the Charles R. Drew University Mervyn M. Dymally College of Nursing, Mindy shares her wealth of knowledge and experience with her students, providing them with the latest advancements and best practices in the healthcare industry, demonstrating her commitment to lifelong learning and professional development. She holds a Master of Science in Nursing Administration from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Santo Tomas.

Mindy is an active member of the Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAA), where she serves as Chair of the Legislative Committee and President-Elect of the PNAA Foundation. She is also the Founding President and current Executive Director of the University of Santo Tomas Nurses Association International and has previously served as the President of PNA Southern California. Mindy's dedication to nursing extends beyond her work with PNAA, as she was instrumental in obtaining 501C3 tax-exempt status for the Filipinx/a/o Community Health Association (Fil-CHA).



Dr. Sallie Poepsel has a broad-based experience in healthcare for 49 years encompassing clinical, education, research, and leadership. She has been providing anesthesia services in multiple settings for three decades. She founded the first all-CRNA anesthesia service business 23 years ago in central Missouri. She is a tireless advocate for her profession and for access to healthcare services in rural and medically underserved areas. She has served in many national and statewide committees and has given numerous presentations nationally and internationally to advance the profession. She has been appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and is the first CRNA to serve as a member of the National Advisory Committee for Rural Health and Human Services as one of the federal policy analysts for four years. She has been involved in system mergers for Accreditation for Hospitals and Health Systems in Chicago, Illinois. Currently she is serving as a board commissioner for the Domestic and the International Accreditation Commission for Healthcare. She has participated as a volunteer anesthesia provider overseas to provide much needed surgical and anesthesia services in developing countries. She has been a lifelong learner, completing her PhD in Public Policy and Administration in 2013.



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Dr. Mary Dioise Ramos is an Associate Professor at Kennesaw State University Wellstar School of Nursing, a funded Research Scientist by the Asian Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR) and Alzheimer's Association, and an Academic Research Collaborator of Georgia "Nayon" of the Filipino American Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (FAP-COR) network. She received her Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing from Georgia State University and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Arts in Nursing degrees from the University of Santo Tomas. Dr. Ramos has presented nationally and internationally and published several journal articles on aging, dementia, and health behavior. She received the Georgia Asian Times Valiant Award in 2019. The Philippine Nurses Association of America awarded her the 2020 Excellence in Research. The National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence recognized her as a Distinguished Educator in Gerontological Nursing 2021. The Philippine Nurses Association of Georgia, Inc. awarded her the Florence Nightingale Award 2022 for her commitment and dedication to the Filipino nursing communities. She recently received the Wellstar College Early Career Faculty Award from Kennesaw State University.

Dianne Roxborough is a nationally-certified Family Nurse Practitioner and licensed in the state of Florida and California. She is a mom of 2 children, wife, global entrepreneur and philanthropist. Currently, she is completing her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at Hawaii Pacific University. She completed her Master of Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner certificate at California State University, Long Beach and inducted at Phi Kappa Phi, International Honor society, and Sigma Theta Tau, Nursing Honor Society, for superior academic achievements. Dianne has completed her Bachelor of Nursing at University of Santo Tomas, Batch 2003, Magna Cum Laude and recipient of Santo Tomas Academic Excellence Scholarship consistently for 4 years. She ranked #11 at the Philippine Regulation Commission Nursing Board Examination. She has 20 years of clinical experience with the last 10 years as Advanced Practice Clinician in various specialties including Emergency Medicine, Urgent Care Medicine, Hospitalist Medicine and Family Medicine in Florida and California. She was a Critical Care Nurse for 8 years prior to advanced practice. Her lifelong passions are to empower communities and to promote breaking barriers to access of health and bamboo ceilings.



Alfredo Sagisi is a seasoned nurse Leader adept at overseeing multi-clinical facility operations, with strong team management, project coordination, and analytical problem-solving skills. He excels in optimizing resource utilization to achieve challenging targets and is skilled in team coordination and dispute resolution. With extensive experience in acute, outpatient, and various specialties, Alfredo holds a Master's in Nursing Informatics from the University of Maryland, a Post-Graduate Certificate in Business of Medicine from Johns Hopkins University, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice in Executive Leadership at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and a member of the Class of 1991 at the University of Santo Tomas. Recently, Alfredo joined Shepard Pratt as System Director of Nursing Operations and Analytics. Previously, he served as Director of Operations for Neurology at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital and held various management roles at Fresenius Kidney Care, Davita, and MedStar Franklin Square. His diverse background also includes roles as an educator, informatics nurse, and even a drug rep in the Philippines before migrating to the US in 1993.



Maridel Agnes Saldaña-Maulawin recently joined the Illinois Medical District area Jesse Brown Veterans Medical Center as a Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) with other strong Thomasian nurses. Finished her masters degree from Resurrection University now Oak Point University, she focuses on core measures and process improvement work based on current best practices that will influence clinical outcomes in different area settings. Formerly a Quality and Patient Outcomes Specialist at a community hospital Ascension Health System, in a diverse neighborhood of West Town Ukrainian Village in Chicago. She was the 1st associate of the Quarter in 2020, at the height of covid-19 response. Also a recipient of TJC Pioneers in Quality on eCQM 2019. She spent her early nursing career in Pediatric Cardiology at the Philippine Heart Center. Her soft skills were a product of a decade of work at Payatas, a landfill community, as a Nurse/Program Coordinator for children providing health programs and implementing early childhood care and education for the informal sector. With her experience and background, she aspires to give back to the community by finishing Ph.D. in Nursing Anthropology and running a weekend daycare for working families.



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Accelerating Excellence with Gratitude

Roland Santos is a seasoned professional with a career spanning decades. He embarked on his journey as a registered staff nurse within the Critical Care Units of a distinguished Teaching Medical Center, where his dedication to patient safety and fostering high-performing teams set the stage for his remarkable trajectory. Transitioning to a supervisory role, he found his passion for elevating clinical practices at the bedside and nurturing exceptional care.

From Manager to Director of Critical Care and other Service Lines, Roland's ascent was marked by his pursuit of a Master's Degree in Administration and active involvement in community projects and professional organizations. His appointment as Chief Nursing Officer marked a pivotal moment, empowering him to drive impactful change within the rapidly shifting healthcare landscape. Guided by his commitment to healthcare excellence and professional growth, Roland's journey continues to inspire, culminating in his collaboration with LECOM, where he imparts his wealth of leadership, management, and mentoring experience to shape the future of clinical nurse leaders.



Dr. Marlon Saria is the President-Elect of the Philippine Nurses Association of America. He is the Director of Nursing Professional Practice and Nurse Scientist at Providence Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, California. Dr. Saria also serves as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve and is currently assigned to the 452d Aeromedical Staging Squadron at March Air Reserve Base in California. Dr. Saria is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

Dr. Saria earned his bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of the Philippines and a Master of Science in Nursing and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of California Los Angeles. He received a Master's in Military Operational Art and Science from the Air University, US Air Force. He is board certified as an Oncology Nurse, Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist, Advanced Nurse Executive, and Nursing Professional Development Specialist.

Dr. Franz Henryk Vergara is a dual doctorate-prepared nurse leader with over 20 years of combined international and domestic experience in health system operations, education, & research. In 2003, Franz graduated from the University of Santo Tomas College of Nursing. He eventually completed his graduate programs at Barnes Jewish College and Johns Hopkins University. In 2021, Franz was the first Asian-American elected to serve as a National Director in the 45-year history of the National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses. Dr. Vergara has mentored more than a dozen nurse leaders and developed high-functioning, award-winning teams from at least six states. In 2021, he was the inaugural recipient of the "Young Alumni" Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Nursing Profession from the Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes Jewish College.

Dr. Vergara is also a published author with projects supported by the Federal Government and presented outcomes more than 50 times nationally and internationally. A long-time Maryland resident, Dr. Vergara is currently serving as Senior Nursing Director of Operations at MedStar Health, overseeing the emergency services, perioperative & surgical services, behavioral health, and maternal and infant services.



Ronaldo Gayrama Verian, the 13th USTNAI President, is a member of Class 1992 (magna cum laude) UST College of Nursing and a new alumnus, Class 2023 of the Yale School of Public Health for its inaugural Executive Master of Public Health. He is Unit Chief at the Audits and Investigations Program of the California Department of Health Care Services, with several years of professional experience in nursing administration, education, occupational, and public health nursing. He was the Past President of the Upsilon Beta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, leading the organization to its first Chapter Key Award in 2019. He is married to Zoy, a registered nurse with a certified specialty in Rehabilitation Nursing. He loves to travel with family and play tennis with friends. He believes that USTNAI is Moving Forward with Gratitude and is destined to do great things for communities.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

THE PLANNERS AND SPEAKERS HAVE DECLARED NO RELEVANT FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH INELIGIBLE COMPANIES

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