Summary: Virtual Meeting between representatives of DOH, Philippines, SPSA and PCS Sure Commission: Friday, August 16, 2024 (8:00 pm Manila; 8:00 am ET; 5:00 am PT)

DOH Participants: Director Dr. Johanna Banzon, Dr. William, Jr - DOH Resident Deployment Program

PCS Sure Commission: Dr. Beda Espineda, Chairman

SPSA: Drs. Hernan Reyes, Bayani Ignacio, Philip Chua and Ed Barcelona

**PURPOSE**:

Explore the possibility of developing a partnership with DOH Resident Deployment Program with the SPSA-PCS Sure Commission Outreach Program specifically, to incorporate a three month rotation of a designated General Surgeon enrolled in the DOH program to serve as General Surgeon for the SPSA-PCSRural Surgery Outreach Program at a designated Hospital venue, during which time, he/she will receive a grant on top of the salary received from the Government.

**DOH Deployment Program**:

Surgical residents in a Public Hospital who have completed their residency enters into a contractual arrangement with the DOH deployment program for a year and assigned for a period of twelve months to a specific hospital as agreed upon by the surgeon and DOH. This contract precludes an extraneous rotation outside of the contract. Further, the surgeon is not allowed to receive any renumeration from any source other than the salary he/she receives from the government.

**Recommendations**:

1. Explore ways of getting around this contractual agreement with the DOH deployment program.

**Other Discussions**:

1. Offer Travel fellowship grants to public hospital residents in surgery to attend PCS Annual Convention or other Continuing Medical Education programs or Specialty Fellowship programs locally or abroad.
2. Current ratio of General Surgeons in practice in the Philippines in Urban and Rural communities.
3. Reasons for lack of General surgeons practicing in the Philippines. A. Not enough Residency Programs in General surgery; B. Maldistribution (Graduates prefer to practice in Urban communities rather than in rural areas).
4. Government support of Graduate Medical Education to increase number of teaching hospitals in all medical and surgical disciplines.
5. Philip Chua suggested the development of Private/Public partnerships between DOH, Provincial Governors and local leaders of the Business community.

Submitted by:

Hernan M. Reyes, MD, FACS

Chair, SPSA Oversight Committee, Rural Surgery Outreach Program

August 20, 2024