

# ASAD Newsletter

October 2020

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## ASAD in the COVID Pandemic

The year 2020 has been marked with unprecedented disruption in human interactions due to the COVID pandemic. ASAD and its members have endured these hardships with resilience and perseverance in our mission to foster academic exchange. We would like to share with members what's been happening in the past year and what will be happen in the coming year.

1. We were deeply saddened by the passing of Prof Simeon Mina Marasigan, one of the key founders of ASAD.



Prof Marasigan was born in the plains of Isabel, a province in northern Philippines on April 21, 1949. He completed his primary education at San Manuel Central School in his home province and secondary education at the La Salle in the province of Aurora. He pursued his Bachelor of Science Degree at University of Santo Tomas and medical education at the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery in the same university; earning his degree as Doctor of Medicine in 1976. He trained in Neurology and Psychiatry at the Santo Tomas University Hospital; upon completion in 1982 he pursued his fellowship training in Dementia at Hyogo College of Medicine in Osaka, Japan. Dr. Marasigan was the first Filipino neurologist to train in this subspecialty. He went back to the Philippines in 1984 to take the Specialty Board Examination in Neurology becoming the 40th fellow of the Philippine Neurological Association. He was likewise a fellow of the Philippine Psychiatric Association. He was appointed Training Officer of the Department of Neurology in Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center from 1989-2004, later becoming assistant chairman from 2005-2013. He became President of the Philippine Neurological Association in 1995, where he initiated the PNA Midyear convention. In that same year Professor Marasigan also became the first President of the Asean Neurological Association (ASNA) and was instrumental in the formation of the Stroke Society of the Philippines. In 1999, he was elected president of the Philippine Psychiatric Association. In 2002, he supplemented his training in Dementia at the Alzheimer's Disease Center in Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

Professor Marasigan's passion for memory-related disorders led him to establish the Dementia Society of the Philippines in 2002 where he served as President until 2016. He

was one of the founding members of the Asian Society Against Dementia in 2006 and served as member of the Executive Committee representing the Philippines.

Professor Marasigan was chairman of the Department of Neurology & Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery from 2004-2010 and in the University Hospital from 2004-2009. He retired with the rank of Professor II in 2015. On February 23, 2019, Dr. Marasigan founded and launched VasCog Philippines despite his illness. Even until his last breath, he continued his *affaire de coeur* with the Neurosciences, particularly dementia, a lifelong passion.

Professor Marasigan was a towering figure in Philippine Neurology and Psychiatry but to many, he was “Tito Mon” (Uncle Mon) or simply “Dr. M”. He embodied many things to many people whose lives he touched and influenced dearly. He was simple, kind-hearted, witty, humble, caring; above all, a loving son, self-less uncle, true friend, assiduous mentor, tenacious scholar and a magnanimous leader.

(obituary by Johnny K. Lokin and Arnold Angelo M. Pineda from *Neurology Asia* 2020; 25(2) : 231)

2. Due to global lockdown and restrictions in travel, the 14th International Congress of the ASAD 2020 has been conducted online from 8 to 10 October 2020. It was co-hosted by the Buddhi clinic in Chennai, India and ASAD. Four hundred and ninety five participants from 31 cities/countries registered for the conference, speakers from 14 countries shared their leading research in dementia through this 3 days conference. The best oral presentation awardees are Mandy Liu (Hong Kong), Ji Fang (Singapore) and Ng Kok Pin

(Singapore). The Best Poster Award goes to Vismitha Rajeev (Singapore).

Congratulations!



3. The 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of ASAD is scheduled to be held from 8 to 10 November 2021 in Sendai Japan. We are aiming for the resumption of a face-to-face physical meeting. Prof Kenichi Meguro, the President of the Congress has invited you to join this meeting. Please visit the following website for updated announcements.

<http://www.congre.co.jp/asad2021/>