

# Brainwaves

*Educational Surgical Mission 2018, ESM Moments, Equipment Donations, Chef's Supper Club*

Friends of NOF Newsletter

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## Educational Surgical Mission 2018: Updates in Care of the Neurosurgical Patient

ESM 2018 had the biggest delegation to date with Dr. H. Gordon Deen of Mayo Clinic, Dr. Ricardo Hanel of Baptist Health, Dr. Karen Lidsky of Wolfson Children's/UF, Mrs. Melanie Boree (Board Director) and guest Nurse April Sabangan (Mission:BRAIN) rounding it off. Leading the delegation was Dr. Philipp Aldana and his wife, Carmina. The Jacksonville team of physicians landed in Cebu, Philippines mid-June ready to share knowledge, teach new surgical techniques, and treat some of the city's indigent patients. Compared to previous missions, ESM 2018 covered a wide range of topics: neuro-vascular, spine, pediatric, critical care, and nursing practices. Outreach visits to the community were also part of the week-long schedule. Day one consisted of lectures and hands-on training on PED techniques. Rest of the days were for surgeries with two ORs running simultaneously at Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center. This mission also brought in more donations than before; surgical equipment, instruments and funds raised to establish a neurosurgical patient assistance fund. The success is attributed to NOF's collaboration with Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center's Department of Neurosurgery and the Academy of Filipino Neurosurgeons. Overall, the feedback has been positive and there was an overwhelming sense of gratitude. The Jax team came back with plenty of stories to tell but more importantly, they came back with a determination to do more in advancing neurosurgical care and treatment. Thank you, team, for your sharing your talent and time. Thank you also goes to KLS Martin, K2M, and Florida Surgical for lending or donating equipment and instruments for our mission use. And thank you Jacksonville for your continued support.



Check out [The Florida Times Union](#) July 5 Edition featuring NOF's ESM 2018.



## ESM 2018 Team Thoughts

"...was about providing medical care, helping others, making new friends, and building bridges with the great people of the Philippines." ~Dr. H. Gordon Deen

"...mission trip to the Philippines was simply amazing. A full display of service above self, teaching and treating the less privileged, sharing ideas and resources." ~Dr. Ricardo Hanel

"Helping the less fortunate with friends is a dream come true." ~ Dr. Philipp Aldana

"I would return in a heartbeat!" ~ Dr. Karen Lidsky

"My time spent in the Philippines with NOF left an indelible mark on me. To be a part of something so much bigger than myself may have done as much for me as those we served. Never underestimate the value of serving others and it's potential to heal the world." ~ Ms. Melanie Boree



# The Chef's Supper Clubs

*A special project with Jax Filipino Chefs*

As a collaborative effort, NOF and Jax Filipino Chefs joined forces to raise awareness for each other's causes. Both groups are home-grown with ties to the Philippines. Through pop-up dinners, NOF provides opportunities for showcasing the talents of Jacksonville Filipino-American Chefs and promoting Philippine culture through food. By way of these events, NOF can highlight a need and raise some funds for it. Kicking off summer was an intimate Modern Filipino dinner with Chef Wesley Nogueira, formerly executive chef at bb's and now, owner of Khloe's Kitchen, and Pastry Chef Leni Rose Magsino of Valley Smoke. They were assisted by Chef

Jojo Hernandez of The Florida Yacht Club. Soon after, another popped up at Blue Bamboo where they were joined by fellow chefs John Magsino (The Preserved), Melanie Cuartelon (Sawgrass Marriott), and James Victorino (One Ocean Resort). The Jax Filipino Chefs gave the Jacksonville community a glorious display of Filipino dishes and a chance for NOF to be highlighted. Missed both events? No worries, the future is bright! Keep an eye out for event notices @nofjax (Instagram) and in your inbox!

For more information on Jax Filipino Chefs, go to [www.jaxfilipinochefs.com](http://www.jaxfilipinochefs.com)



## ESM 2018 Moments



Several moments during ESM 2018 are worth sharing. Here are a couple that will warm your hearts. Through a series of serendipitous contacts, Tom was brought to NOF's attention by Dr. Gigataras of VSMMC just in time. In the care of Children's Shelter of Cebu, he has had several health issues but the past few years had

hydrocephalus that was causing complications. His guardians were very concerned and were thankful to have been seen by Dr. Aldana who immediately scheduled surgery for Tom. It was the interaction between the orphan, his guardians, and NOF team that was remarkable. They speak of the indescribable peace that came over them during their

initial meeting suggesting that it was meant to be. The visit from Dr. Lidsky a few days later resembled a reunion seen only in close-knit families. Tom was doing well.

Another is the story of the teacher newly diagnosed with a brain aneurysm who had a difficult choice: have her aneurysm treated and wipe out her savings or leave it to chance to live out her retirement. Her doctor had exhausted his connections in finding financial assistance for her. At that point, the only thing left was to have faith in God. Within a few weeks, her prayers were answered. NOF announced its arrival with one of the world's renowned neurosurgeons, Dr. Hanel, who was able to secure donation for a flow diverter device to cure her aneurysm. Beyond her local neurosurgeon's dreams, NOF also brought with them aneurysm clips, not a few but a drawer full. Both of their prayers were answered. The teacher received the innovative treatment. She was overwhelmed by the generosity and prospect of living her retirement cured of her aneurysm. holds.



## Forward Thinking

**10 Year Anniversary Gala** - Can you believe it? Slated for August 2019, planning has started for the big celebration. Interested in being a committee member, a sponsor, or for more information please contact [caldana@neurosurgeryoutreach.org](mailto:caldana@neurosurgeryoutreach.org).

**Educational Award** - Hosted in Japan, this year's AAACPN is scheduled for early November. Applications for an educational award to attend

AAACPN 2018 is now open. Go to [www.neurosurgeryoutreach.org/educational-award/](http://www.neurosurgeryoutreach.org/educational-award/).

**NOF Advisory Board** - Are you available for us to pick your brains? NOF is currently building an advisory board to assist in consultations and inquiries received from communities in finding neurosurgical solutions. Please email [caldana@neurosurgeryoutreach.org](mailto:caldana@neurosurgeryoutreach.org) for more information.

## Board of Directors and Officers

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Inquiries on how to donate or volunteer, please email us at [info@neurosurgeryoutreach.org](mailto:info@neurosurgeryoutreach.org).