

EBJIS Abroad Initiative

Nilo Paner, Manila, Philippines

The Philippine Orthopaedic Association (POA), led by the North Luzon Chapter, held its 29th POA Midyear Convention last 24-27 April 2019. The venue was at the Vigan Convention Center, Vigan, Ilocos Sur. Vigan is a Spanish-colonial town almost 500 kilometers north of Manila (capital of the Philippines). The theme for the meeting was **“Debugging the Bug: Discussions on Fracture Related Infections”**. This was a first, for the POA to have musculoskeletal infections as a topic for a convention. The 3-day meeting was composed of lectures from orthopedic surgeons and infectious disease physicians. It was quite a comprehensive program with lectures on the diagnosis and management of Fracture Related Infections, the problem of soft tissue and bone loss, and proper wound care. Judging by the full house attendance, the awareness and interest of Filipino orthopedic surgeons in bone and joint infections is really growing.

EBJIS Abroad member, Jan Geurts, was kind enough to travel almost half way around the globe to Manila, Philippines. Then he endured a 12 hour road trip from Manila to Vigan, just to give his lectures. Kevin Tetsworth also flew in from Brisbane, Australia to give talks. Dr Ramon Gustillo graced the meeting with his presence and gave inspiring words as well.

The meeting was well attended with more than 400 participants, composed of consultants, residents and fellows and their families. Each night of the meeting was a social event. Our foreign guests got to sample local delicacies and of course, Philippine beer. They also enjoyed some site-seeing as a side trip. It was truly a learning and leisure experience.



Photo op with Dr Ramon Gustillo



Jan Geurts delivering his lecture



From left: Danny Dungca (POA North Luzon, program director), Kevin Tetsworth, Jan Geurts, Nilo Paner





Paoay Sand Dunes, Ilocos Norte



San Agustin Church of Paoay, a UNESCO World Heritage site