

## Neurosciences foundation honors Dr. Joven Cuanang

It aims to reduce the occurrence of disabling neurologic diseases among QC residents

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Of 100 people who suffer a stroke, one-third will die, one-third will remain with physical disability and only one-third will recover. This translates to a big part of the population dying or getting handicapped during their productive years, and families losing their breadwinners. The mental health issues that come after these are even more difficult to measure.



While most diseases of the brain and heart can be prevented by addressing behavioral risk factors, such as tobacco use, unhealthy diet, obesity, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol, the great majority of health care resources are geared for the treatment of patients when they are already ill. Clearly, prevention should be top priority.

The EAMC-JOVEN R. Cuanang Neurosciences Foundation Inc. was founded by a group of East Avenue Medical Center-based neurologists led by Dr. Deborah Bernardo who witnessed the plight of stroke patients. Its other officers are Dr. Levi Rejuso, vice president; Dr. Marissa Chua, secretary; and Dr. Evelyn Chua-ley, treasurer. The Foundation aims to reduce the occurrence of disabling neurologic diseases among Quezon City residents through lay education, in partnership with barangay health centers.

Its initial projects include printing educational materials to be distributed to the communities, and audiovisual presentations to be played in patient waiting areas.

It will also conduct refresher courses on common diseases of the brain, spinal cord, muscles and nerves which Quezon City frontline doctors and barangay health workers may require.

The Foundation eventually plans to deploy telemedicine, where a primary care doctor from any Quezon City barangay health center or local government hospital can consult a neurologist in East Avenue Medical Center to provide emergency response, especially in cases where "Time Is Brain."

The foundation is named in honor of their teacher, Dr.

Joven Cuanang, a foremost neurologist and patron of the arts who served as the first neurologist of the hospital when it was still called the GSIS Hospital. Buntong Chua of Great Harvest Enterprises is the first major benefactor of the foundation.

The foundation was launched in a painting exhibit in partnership with the Pinto Art Museum and Boston Gallery, and the debut exhibit of Emme Daquioag, at East Avenue Medical Center.

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte attended and pledged her support and commitment to improving the health of her constituents.

Also around were Cuanang and Buntong Chua, Daquioag, the medical executives and department chairs and medical staff of the hospital.