

MESSAGE

The **Monograph of the Lung Cancer Registry (2009–2017)** in the **LCP Scientific Proceedings** marks an important milestone in the history of the Lung Center of the Philippines, contributing significantly to the literature and manifesting our collaborative spirit.

We recall the pioneering efforts of the past Executive Director of LCP, Dr. Calixto Zaldivar, and the prominent cancer expert, the late Dr. Robert Montevirgen, in establishing the Lung Cancer Registry in the early years of our institution, cognizant of the importance of accurate data in developing policies to manage this prevalent and deadly disease. Their vision was further expanded by the Research and Development Department in the years that followed, culminating in 2016, when the first **Monograph** on the Lung Cancer Registry (2000 to 2008) was published. The second **Monograph** cements this institutional tradition.

This second edition is the product of the collaborators' many, many hours spent collecting, encoding, organizing, cleaning, and analyzing the data, before writing, editing, and finally publishing the final form. Recent changes in the classification and staging of lung cancer, new diagnostics and therapies, the rapid turnover of staff, and new data privacy policies were some of the challenges encountered and hurdled during the process.

We recognize the leadership of Dr. Sullian Naval and Dr. Norberto Francisco, previous Department Managers of Research and Development (reorganized in 2018 into the Clinical Research Department). We acknowledge as well the recent contributions of the newbloods, so to speak, of the Department, namely Dr. Racquel Ibañez, Dr. Miriam Lalas, and Dr. Rogelio Velasco, in the completion of the current **Monograph**.

The quest for improved outcomes and survival among lung cancer patients continues. We are encouraged by new screening and diagnostic tests, the use of biomarkers, and the emergence of personalized medicine in the field of oncology. These, together with robust and accurate information on lung cancer, the dream of longer survival and lasting cure in lung cancer will become a reality in the very near future.

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