

FOREWORD

The **MONOGRAPH ON LUNG CANCER REGISTRY DATA OF 2009–2017** by the Clinical Research Department (CRD) at the Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP) is the second installment in the continuing effort to understand the burden of lung cancer in our country. The data comes from the Lung Cancer Registry of the LCP, an apex national specialty center for chest and lung diseases. Building on the foundation laid by the first registry spanning 2000–2008, this edition advances the LCP's commitment to collect high-quality and locally grounded evidence that can refine clinical practice guidelines, make policies, and ultimately improve patient outcomes in the Philippine setting.

Lung cancer remains a formidable challenge in pulmonary medicine and oncology. Aside from its high prevalence and mortality, its behavior is dynamic, shaped by an evolving interplay of environmental exposures, lifestyle factors, and the complex biology of cancer itself—including, but not limited to, the emergence of diverse genetic mutations that influence treatment response, survival, and prognosis. With increasing global knowledge comes the insight that countries must understand their local epidemiologic and molecular landscapes. Only through local data can we truly appreciate how lung cancer manifests among Filipinos, tailor treatment more precisely, and develop preventive and risk-reduction strategies grounded in our national context.

This work faced considerable challenges. Preparing the registry demanded perseverance and meticulous effort in the face of missing or incomplete data fields, the tedious retrieval of physical medical charts, and the limitations imposed by aging or fragmented medical records. Inaccuracies had to be verified by finding patients, securing their consent, and coordinating with their overwhelmed doctors. New policies governing personal medical information and data privacy, essential as they were, added layers of complexity. All of these were navigated with limited resources, time, and personnel.

Despite these challenges, this monograph represents the scientific rigor, dedication, and resilience of the entire research team. The results provide a valuable insight into lung cancer in the Philippine setting. It stands as a testament to what can be achieved with institutional commitment and collaboration. As we navigate an ever-evolving disease landscape marked by advances in diagnostic modalities, therapeutic targets, and shifting risk profiles, continuous local surveillance becomes indispensable. We need to collect data in both directions: forward as patients come in, and backward to fill in the gap caused by the revised TNM classification in 2018.



I commend the whole research team: no less than Executive Director Dr. Vincent M. Balanag, Jr., and Deputy Executive Director Dr. Sullian S. Naval, who served as Department Manager of Research and Development from 2009 to 2017, the period covered by this Monograph; to all the staff who painstakingly participated and contributed, Dr. Guia Elena Imelda Ladrera, Dr. Rogelio Velasco, Jr., Ms. Krizia Chloe Rivera, and Ms. Michaela Roque; and the current Lung Cancer Registry Committee led by Dr. Dominador San Andres. We hope that the insights provided in this monograph will contribute meaningfully to improving lung cancer care in the Philippines and further strengthen our collective efforts toward earlier diagnoses, longer survival, and better outcomes for our Filipino patients.

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