

**In Honor and memory of the late Dr. Gina Villanueva Panuncialman from the University of Santo Tomas Hospital in Manila , Philippines, an initiative is being undertaken by a Task Force at UT MD Anderson Cancer Center lead by Dr. Thomas Feeley, VP and Chair of the Dept. of Anesthesiology and Dr. TJ Liu, Director of the Global Academic Programs, together with Cherry Sloan-Medrano, Case Manager at MDAPN, Riza Mauricio, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at UT MDACC Children's Cancer Center and Notch Brydges, Adult Nurse practitioner, ICU at UT MDACC, to establish a "sister" organization relationship between UST Hospital and UT MDACC.**

**The initiative intends to train residents, fellows and nurses from UST at MDACC for at least six months on protocols, research and other treatment modalities at MDACC.**

**Funds are needed to subsidize this initiative which will not only benefit the sister hospital in the Philippines besides having an honor to partner with MDACC but will make the cancer care of Filipinos more up to date and in parallel with the treatment guidelines at MDACC. The quality of care from a #1 Oncology center in the world will become more accessible to Filipinos without a costly travel to the US should this endeavor become a success.**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
MD ANDERSON  
CANCER CENTER

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January 13, 2009

Dear friend:

We are writing to you to introduce a new initiative inspired by a dedicated and respected physician and colleague, Dr. Gina Panuncialman, who passed away at the end of last year after a battle with brain cancer.

In her honor, the Gina Panuncialman Memorial Fund was established this month at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. The purpose of the fund is to promote and support academic collaborations between the University of Santo Tomas Hospital [Benavides Cancer Institute](#) and MD Anderson Cancer Center with a goal to improve the care of the cancer patient in the Philippines.

Dr. Panuncialman was the first director of the Benavides Cancer Institute in Manila, Philippines. She was an inspiration to many faculty and staff at MD Anderson Cancer Center when she traveled to Houston in June of 2008, while in the midst of her own treatment for brain cancer. Dr. Panuncialman worked closely with our hospital in the hopes of having her center become a sister institution. Sister institutions share in MD Anderson Cancer Center's educational and research programs which are aimed at improving global cancer care. Dr. Panuncialman and several of her colleagues met with hospital leaders to develop plans for collaborations between our two organizations during the annual conference with our global sister institutions. Her courage and determination to make Benavides Cancer Institute a sister institution with MD Anderson Cancer Center was apparent even as her own health was failing. After returning to Manila, she worked on developing funding mechanisms so that her faculty and staff could continue the educational exchange.

The Benevides Cancer Institute started operations on August 7, 2006, at the University of Santo Tomas Hospital in Manila. The University of Santo Tomas, which was founded in 1611, is the oldest university in Asia. The medical school began training students in 1871, and continues to train outstanding physicians and residents in all major specialties including oncology. The university also has a large college of nursing which trains many outstanding nurses. The Benavides Cancer Institute has designed its clinical operation to be organized in Multidisciplinary Care Centers similar to MD Anderson's clinical operation. The cancer center hopes to begin to operate its own inpatient beds in the University of Santo Tomas Hospital later this year.

Your contribution will be directed to supporting the visiting physicians, nurses and other staff from Benavides Cancer Institute, as well as developing research programs of mutual interest between our two centers with the aim of improving the overall care of the patient with cancer in the Philippines.

We greatly appreciate your support and ultimately hope that this will lead to fulfilling Dr. Gina Panuncialman's dream of seeing Benavides Cancer Institute become a sister institution of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Your generosity to this mission is greatly appreciated.

Please send your contribution in any amount to:

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Gina Panuncialman Memorial Fund  
Development Office-Unit 70  
P.O. Box 301439  
Houston Texas 77230-1439  
USA

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Thomas. Feeley, M.D.

Ta-Jen (TJ) Liu, Ph.D.

Reisha Virata