



# THE ASCLEPIAN VOICE

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## CLEAR PERSPECTIVE

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Ever since we were young, we were bombarded with the ever popular analogy of the glass with water filled midway. Pessimists would say that it is half empty while the optimists would argue that it is half full. This has even evolved in such a way that people who would see that the glass is filled with water consider themselves as realists. Regardless of whether your view is at the opposing ends of the spectrum or somewhere in between all depends on your perspective.

Perspective, or point of view, as some would say pertains to a particular attitude or way of regarding something. As Asclepians we are called to go beyond the confines of the college and use whatever knowledge and skills that we have for the better of our fellow citizens who are in need of our help. Not only that, no matter where we are in the world, we are solidified and unified by our bonds as brothers and sisters; Frater, Medica, Servia.

This has been something that has been recently reiterated to us in the person of Dr. Alexander G. Sangrador, an ophthalmologist by profession, and an Asclepian by heart. Our brief encounter with him has somehow inspired us to see things in a better light. Since his humble beginnings as a graduate of this humble institution, and a member of batch 25 of the Order of Asclepius, he has come a long way in making strides in his profession as well as being able to look back at his roots and building bridges for the future.

Dr. Sangrador has had numerous accomplishments in his field of specialization. He was part of the Global Alliance for Blindness Prevention, a two-week program sponsored by the American Academy



of Ophthalmology last October 2014, and was the first Filipino to ever participate in the 15-year history of the program. The said program is a cultural, social and educational exchange which seeks to widen the perspectives of ophthalmologists on the current practice as well as the trends and updates in the said field.

What caught his attention was not only the opportunity to see how ophthalmology is practiced in the “ideal” set-up but how the program was affiliated with the different international ophthalmology advocacy groups such as ORBIS International which was popularly known for operating the world’s only flying eye hospital and made a landing here in Iloilo some years back. Dr. Sangrador also had his own local advocacies such as conducting regular health teachings to the lay people. One of which is on debunking eye myths and misconceptions.

With such remarkable credentials, his take home message for all of us is to have a clear perspective which entails being able to enterprise and seize opportunities. We should not wait for things to be handed to us; instead we have to take the initial step. The Order of Asclepius is an excellent avenue for this. Recently, the organization, through the project entitled Order in Action: Video for Health Skills (OA-VHS) has been one of the national finalists for the search for the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO) and won the Most Innovative Project award.

With its increased recognition, the organization continues to flourish and established external linkages making us able to realize our goal of pursuing excellence through brotherhood and sisterhood in medicine through service. With the continued support of all the members of the Order of Asclepius, we will be able to reach greater heights and beyond. This all begins with a clear perspective.#