



THE ASCLEPIAN VOICE

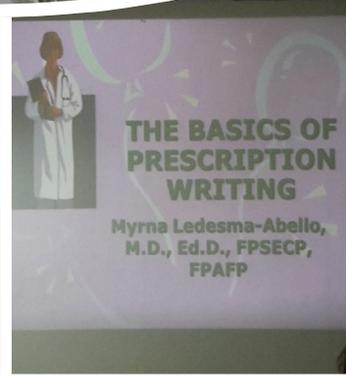
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ORDER OF ASCLEPIUS : WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY – COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

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THE 4P'S

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In consonance with the thrust of the Order of Asclepius which is to foster excellence in medicine through service, the resident members organized an enrichment seminar on the basics of prescription writing. The said activity seeks to increase the participants' knowledge regarding prescription writing with emphasis on the basic principles as well as on the rational prescribing.

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PILLAR

As a 2nd year medical student in WVSU, when I hear the word pharmacology, one name that stands out is Dr. Myrna Abello. Not only is she loved by students for her warm smile and gentle demeanor, but she is established as an expert and pillar in pharmacology here in Roxas Hall. Dr. Abello, an honorary member of the Order of Asclepius graced us with her presence and was the speaker for the said event.

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PRESCRIPTION

In making a prescription, it is essential to know the basics. Dr. Abello likened the prescription to a letter which has several parts which would make it easy to remember. She highlighted the importance of a well written prescription so as not to cause

confusion and avoid miscommunication with the pharmacist and the one being prescribed.

With her love for analogies, she likened the prescription to our very own "batchoy", because like this local delicacy, there are ordinary and special prescriptions. She also mentioned the various prescriptions of prohibited drugs and that not all doctors are allowed to prescribe these types of drugs.

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P-DRUG

Prescription writing would not be complete without mentioning the word "P-drug". This would refer to personal drug, or the particular drug that you select for the patient. Dr. Abello stressed the importance of being rational in selecting the most appropriate drug for our patients. It entails a more individualized approach which is still guided by the physician's knowledge of pharmacology.

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PRACTICE

Dr. Abello explained that prescription writing is not something that you learn in a day. In fact, it is part of a year-long course in Therapeutics which is being taught in the 3rd year and our knowledge of the different drugs including their mode of action, adverse and side effects as well as the different drug interactions among others will be useful in making a rational prescription. Lastly, she emphasized the need for medical students and physicians for that matter to be critical in appraising the quality or level of evidence of our sources of information.

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As physicians, the nature of our practice is both a privilege and a responsibility. We are not perfect and there will come a time when we will make mistakes. What is important is that we learn from our experiences and that our actions would be for the best interest of our patients.#