



Testimonial Dinner for PIDSP Past Presidents

By **Fatima Gimenez, MD***

The Presidents dinner last August 23, 2013 held at the EDSA Shangrila Hotel was definitely a bipolar celebration. Bipolar? Let us be clear that this was meant in a very good way.

Dr Betty Quiambao, giving the opening remarks, was the emotional catalyst, while Dr Soriano with her inspirational message provided the much needed nostalgia. Further complemented with a short well documented history of PIDSP via an AVP presentation, which was a tireless collaboration of Dr Joanne de Castro and her group , not one individual was left dry-eyed.

Each president was presented with a specially made mother and child statue as a token of appreciation. An acceptance speech was delivered by all past presidents. After this their portraits were ceremoniously unveiled. Dr. Sally Gatchalian, as vice president of the society gave the closing remarks.

Everyone went home with a lot of food for thought that night . Let us enumeratesaying thank you with meaning and feeling, giving due credit to both the visible and invisible players, and being generous with compliments while we are still around to say it and receive it. Maybe these are things that we can add to what we all learned in kindergarten. We know as pediatric infectious disease specialists, it's not all about just remembering how to wash our hands. As Dr Jimmy Santos aptly said "People always remember you for what you are and not what you did."

The best times are only labelled BEST, when remembered with the heart. The best lines? If we were to choose the best speech, everyone had their moment. There was no contest, because everyone said it straight from the heart.

Hands down, it was one of the best celebrations PIDSP ever had.

