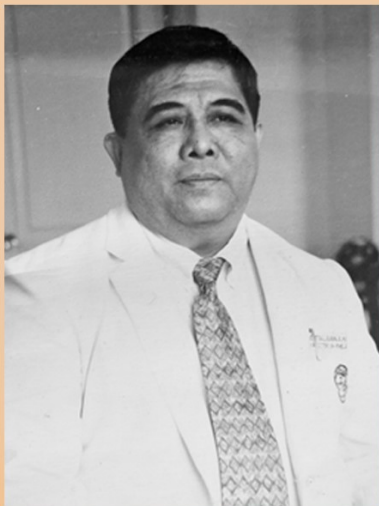


# Dr. Antonio M. Montalban: A giant and pillar in health education, research, and patient care



The officials, faculty, alumni, staff, and students of the UP community extend their condolences and sympathies to the family of Dr. Antonio M. Montalban (UPCM Class 1969) who passed away on July 7, 2021.

For the orthopedic community, Dr. Montalban is one of its giants, a pillar in health care, and a model teacher and mentor in the classroom, clinics, and in life. His greatest and most cherished contributions and legacies in health are those fulfilled during his long and distinguished years of service at the Philippine General Hospital and at the national level.

After his graduation at the UPCM in 1969, residency at the PGH Dept of Orthopedics and fellowship in pediatric orthopedics at the Nuffield Hospital in Oxford, United Kingdom, he organized the Pediatric Orthopedic Service at PGH and took on other roles and tasks. He later became the department chair, then PGH Asst Director for Health Operations, and later its director.

He served the Philippine Orthopedics Association as president and in the regional level by co-founding the ASEAN Orthopedic Association that began his wider journey and experiences as an orthopedic surgeon practitioner and leader.

His great passion for learning and service led him to obtain relevant graduate degrees such as Master in Hospital Administration, Master of Health Professions Education, and Master of Public Health. He advocated lifelong education for his residents and students, helping them acquire scholarships and grants in their pursuit of fellowships and further studies.

As PGH director, he envisioned better emergency care for patients by putting up the Dept of Emergency Medicine and making sure it would flourish not only at PGH but in the rest of the country. He founded the Philippine Society of Emergency Care Physicians that attracted many specialists nationwide and put its own scientific journal, the only emergency journal in the Philippines.

He was instrumental in the setting up and approval of the PGH Emergency Medicine Program and the Emergency Medicine Residency program whose trainees are now the frontliners in the Covid-19 fight and that became a model for the practice of emergency medicine in government hospitals.

Dr. Montalban encouraged, valued, and supported research by appointing a Hospital Research Coordinator, initiating the Annual Ortho Research Forum that is being regularly held until now, publishing the first PGH Handbook on Medical Research, and founding and serving as Editor of the Philippine Journal of Orthopedics.

He endeared himself to the rank and file, making himself available and approachable everytime and anytime he was needed. He spent his free time giving free clinics in Malate with his residents.

He loved and was loved in return by the PGH community, undertaking projects for employee welfare and making himself available and approachable everytime and anytime he was needed. He created the PGH Medical Foundation, Inc, and implemented the Magna Carta for Health Workers and the PGH Bayanihan Multipurpose Cooperative, among others.

Dr. Montalban treasured his roots and his homeland in Butuan, coming back for visits and medical missions. He was a lover of nature, history, and culture, often spending his time in his farm in Calatagan.

