

MESSAGE from the FOUNDING PRESIDENT

These *Guidelines for the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Brain Attack* is the output of the seven Stroke Congresses on Brain Attack organized by the Stroke Society of the Philippines.

Aware of the many advances in research toward the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of brain attack, the Stroke Society of the Philippines initiated the First Congress with the theme, “Thinking Globally, Acting Locally,” in October 1999. Since then, six more congresses have tackled the issue of organizing stroke services, and subsequently, intracerebral and subarachnoid hemorrhage.

We worked on the principles that stroke is preventable through ways that may be implemented across all levels of society; that stroke is a “brain attack” needing emergency management where no allowance for worsening is tolerated; and that in the Philippine setting, the treatment should be optimal through proven, affordable, culturally acceptable and ethical means.

With the panel of experts of the Stroke Society of the Philippines consisting of neurologists, internists, neurosurgeons, vascular surgeons and physiatrists, we worked with the practitioners in the field, identified by the Department of Health.

The *Guidelines* were subjected to close scrutiny by experts and practitioners in the field, whose recommendations and comments were embodied in the final output.

We realize that this is not a perfect document, but the Society is proud to present to our public these guidelines, which embody our best efforts to gather the latest, evidence-based data, and the opinion of experts in the Philippines.

We continue to update the *Guidelines* as new knowledge comes to the forefront. We dedicate the *Guidelines* to our patients, students, practitioners and our health workers, that we may in our small way, contribute to the vision of “Health for All” in our beloved country.

JOVEN R. CUANANG, MD
Founding President
Stroke Society of the Philippines