



Meningitis, appropriately tagged as a “dream killer” remains to be a growing malady not only amongst the pediatric age group but to the other end of the spectrum as well. Vulnerable are the very young, the elderly and the immuno-compromised. Statistics have it at greater than 1.7 million people are affected by meningitis every year translated to 4,651 people a day and more than 190 people per hour. For those who contract the disease, approximately 10% will die and another 20% will be left with a permanent disability.

In the Philippines, meningitis is still one of the top 10 leading causes of childhood mortality. Early diagnosis and prompt treatment to prevent complications cannot be over-emphasized. Unfortunately, increasing resistance to major antibiotics secondary to inappropriate use and poor compliance has resulted to morbidity.

It is with the alarming statistics worldwide that the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination has taken steps to cascade disease awareness and be at the forefront in the control of the “dream killer” through primary prevention. Dr. May Book Montellano, the incumbent president of the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination and a strong advocate of disease prevention through immunization conducted a lecture on Meningitis on April 24 in celebration of the World Meningitis Day at Mary Chiles Hospital. The half day affair was attended by the members of the Department of Pediatrics, the hospital staff, parents and patients who joined hands in the global fight against meningitis with the take home message: Meningitis is a vaccine preventable disease!



As part of this advocacy, “join hands against meningitis” button pins were distributed to all hospital personnel. Likewise, free Hib vaccines were administered on the same date, benefitting 25 children from the Mary Chiles out-patient department and 25 indigent patients from Barangay Loyola Heights, our adopted community.

