

# MEDICAL OBSERVER

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WHAT WE STAND FOR

MEDICAL OBSERVER believes that information is power—that it empowers people to take control of their lives and bring about positive change in themselves and the community in which they belong. In reporting and communicating health information, our commitment is to truth, integrity, fairness, professionalism, and excellence so that we may help establish a responsive and responsible health-care system.

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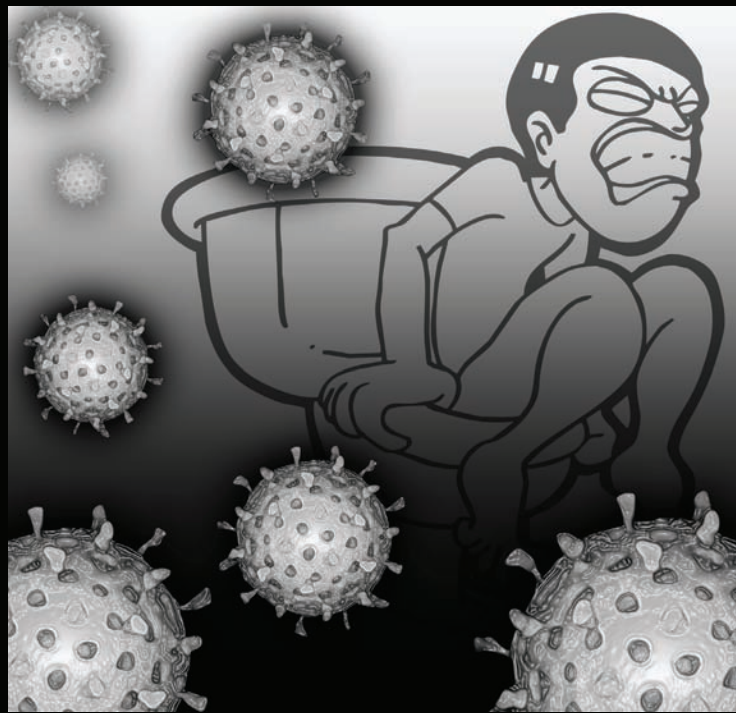
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G.C. Escarlan

**“Rotavirus is a democratic virus and affects all children regardless of class, whether rich or poor.”**

—DR. ERNEST SMITH, regional director for epidemiology and safety of GSK Biologicals AP, underscoring the health impact of rotavirus and the need for vaccination, in a speech before the first scientific meeting of the Vaccine Availability for All Children in Asia (VAACA).

**“All children, in fact, will have rotavirus whether they like it or not, whether they’re clean or dirty, whether they are hygienic, whether they are in the developing or developed world. And it’s not just once, or twice, or thrice. It will be five times in the first five years. This is definitely a cause for alarm.”**

—PROF. LULU BRAVO, executive director of the University of the Philippines–National Institutes of Health, on the burden of the rotavirus on children, in a speech before the first VAACA scientific meeting.

**“Sometimes I treat my customers like my patients. I try to make them comfortable and at ease. More than anything, I love seeing them very satisfied.”**

—DR. JONAS DEL ROSARIO, pediatric cardiologist, sharing one of the philosophies behind the success of his *Pacio’s Pares and Grill*.

**“Before I went into medicine, I was considering fine arts or architecture, but then again, I was told that I can be an artist anytime but I cannot be a doctor anytime. And it’s true. I had no regrets.”**

—DR. Marichu Liwag-Carstensen, on why she chose to be a doctor first before answering the call of the arts and putting up her business, *Doc’s Candles*.

**“It’s time to pay girls and women back, to make sure that they get the care and support they need to enjoy a fundamental human right at every moment of their lives, that is their right to health.”**

—DR. MARGARET CHAN, director general of the World Health Organization, at the launch of the WHO report *Women and Health*, which laments that women are often deprived of health care in the crucial years of adolescence and old age due to social inequalities and neglect.

**“[Using] biologics is not a walk in the park. Knowing the side effects requires vigilance.”**

—DR. JANUS ONG, a clinical associate professor of at the UP College of Medicine, stressing the need for doctors to use biologics with caution, at the UP–NIH monthly research forum.

**“There are no barriers now, that if it’s made in the Philippines you wouldn’t buy it—that’s b.s. As long as the quality is there, the design aesthetics is there, and the price is correct.”**

—DR. ROMMEL BAUTISTA, glaucoma specialist, on having penetrated the US market with his *Fino* leather goods.