

# Multifaceted Doctor in the Footsteps of a Hero

## JOEL CARPIO MENDOZA, MD, DPSBNM, CCD

It is with deep sorrow that the members of the University of the Philippines extend condolences and prayers to the family and friends of Dr. Joel Mendoza, UP College of Medicine Class 2001. Joel passed away on April 4, 2020 due to COVID-19 in his birthplace in Laguna.

People who know him well are struck by his similarities to our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, due to the vastness of his intellect, sharpness of his wit, tenacity of his will, resilience, diversity of his interests, and intensity of his passion to educate and serve his countrymen.

After graduating from UPCM, Joel returned to his hometown and taught at UP Los Baños for three years. He completed his Nuclear Medicine specialty training at the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City in 2013 and worked as a bone densitometrist for five years. He worked in four different hospitals in Pampanga while commuting back and forth to the National Kidney and Transplant Institute in Quezon City.

While excelling in both research and the clinics, Joel also immersed himself in choral music, singing with the UP Manila Chorale and the UP MedChoir, while also performing as a founding member of the Manila Chamber Singers.

Above all these, Joel found time to nurture relationships with his family and friends while mentoring students and patients interested in pursuing a medical career. In his spare time, he played volleyball, badminton, and billiards. It was this dynamism and vivacity that leaves a huge void in the places and lives that he saved, enriched, and blessed.

He is survived by his parents.

