



# Know Your USTMAAA President Gregorio (Greg) Tan, MD, '79

Your incoming USTMAAA president, Gregorio (Greg) Tan, MD was born on February 16, 1952 in Cotabato City. He is the oldest of 7 children, 2 of whom are deceased. His father was a merchant who dealt in buying and selling sacks to local businessmen and farmers. His mother was a stay-at-home mom. His father left China to escape forced conscription by the Nationalist government of Chiang Kai Shek fighting the young Communist movement under Mao Tse Tung. His parents did not finish any higher education but they always stressed the importance of education to become successful in life. All his siblings went on to college and are doing well in their chosen careers. He is the only one that became a physician.

From kindergarten to high school, he attended Cotabato Chinese High School, finishing 3rd in his graduating class of 1969. At 8 years old, his aunt brought him to a local children's singing contest "ala Tawag ng Tanghalan" style and won first prize. He played the trumpet for 6 years with his school band. It was in these early formative years that he realized he had a knack for music and singing. During the last 3 years of high school, he and 5 other schoolmates formed a musical group called "The AppleBees" that sang at parties and other special occasions. He realized early on though that pursuing a college education was more important than just being a singer.

He left Cotabato City and pursued his bigger dream of enrolling in a major university in Manila. He was accepted at De La Salle University where he finished with 2 degrees in 5 years -- Liberal Arts major in History and Political Science and Business major in accounting. During his last year at La Salle, he was recruited and offered a lucrative business job in Singapore but he declined it. His initial plan at that time was to pursue an MBA program from the Asian Institute of Management but fate had it that changed his life forever. His younger brother, who was supposed to become the doctor in the family, died of a ruptured cerebral aneurysm when he was a first year Med Tech student at UST. Greg's parents wanted him to become a businessman but he convinced them to let him become a doctor in memory of his deceased brother. From La Salle, he entered FEU to pursue his science subject requirements and in 1975, was accepted into UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery graduating in 1979.

After UST, he did Internal Medicine Residency and Pulmonary/Critical Care Fellowship at Makati Medical Center, finishing in 1986. The following year he married his wife Rose (then an ICU/CCU nurse practicing in the US) and subsequently moved to the US. He passed his ECFMG and Flex examination in 1988 and did one year of Pathology residency at the University of Kansas in Wichita before switching to Internal Medicine Residency, becoming a Chief Resident in Medicine followed by Cardiology Fellowship at Christ Hospital and Medical Center in Oaklawn, Illinois finishing in 1995. He then went on to train further in Nuclear Cardiology at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois graduating in 1996.

He's currently employed at Ascension Borgess Heart Institute in Kalamazoo, Michigan where he practices with 16 other cardiologists and 14 midlevels. He is an attending consultant at Ascension Borgess Medical Center and Sturgis Hospital. He also holds the position of Clinical Assistant Professor at Western Michigan University Dr. Homer Stryker School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Section of Cardiovascular Medicine in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

At Ascension Borgess Medical Center, he had held various departmental positions. He was Director of Cardiac Imaging, Section of Echocardiography and Nuclear Cardiology. He was also a member of the Cardiology Leadership Council that oversees the needs and growth of the cardiology department. At Ascension Borgess Heart Institute, he was a member of the Governance Committee and Co-Director, Physician Recruitment Committee. He was also a Research sub-investigator at Borgess Research Institute.

Prior to his current position at Ascension Heart Institute, he was employed at St. Francis Hospital in Escanaba, Michigan from 1996 to 2002 where he was an attending cardiologist, Co-Chairman, Critical Care Services Committee, Director of Special Care Unit and Cardio-Pulmonary Diagnostic Laboratory.

He is currently a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology and American College of Physicians. He's also a member of both societies, as well as American Heart Association, American Society of Echocardiography and the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology.

He was nominated by his class for the Professional Excellence award during the Sesquicentennial of USTFMS. During the National Doctor's Day in 2022, he was recognized by his peers at Ascension Borgess Medical Center and given the Excellence in Medicine award.

He has been a member of USTMAAA since 2012 and has been the CME chairman since 2018. He is thankful and grateful to the USTMAAA officers and board members for entrusting him the presidency of this prestigious organization.

He's happily married to his wife of 36 years, Rose, and they have 2 daughters and a son-in-law. Anjelica graduated from the Ross School of Business, majoring in finance at the University of Michigan and went on to pursue a Master's Degree in Journalism at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in Chicago. Currently she is a multiplatform editor of Washington Post. Abigail also graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Biopsychology, Cognition and Neuroscience and took her Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration at the University of Pittsburgh. She had one year of Fellowship in Healthcare Administration at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan and currently works with the Office of Compliance and Integrity at the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Abigail is married to Rick Stepanovic, an attorney-at-law with Jenner and Block, LLP in Chicago.

Life has many twists and turns. It can be challenging at times. But with a deepened faith and trust in God, somehow everything falls into the right places. The world is busy. Balancing life is very important, especially for the sake of their children. As a family, they traveled domestically and internationally and this gave their children the opportunity, knowledge and appreciation of the many cultural and culinary diversities of different places and countries. They shared good times at Broadway shows and musical concerts. One common ground was dining out. They love and enjoy experiencing different food varieties at different places. They became football fans from the time their children entered college at the University of Michigan. Yes, Go Blue! Singing of course was never forgotten. Given the opportunity, he sings to his patients on their birthdays. There are also karaoke nights with their friends. He records songs for the fun of it. And being a choir member of his local church gave him a sense of purpose! Life moves on. Time to let go of the kids, to let them soar in the sky and fly on their own wings. There is so much gratitude and utter happiness within their hearts for they know they did something right and all is through the grace of God.

He would like to end this article with a quote from Mother Teresa: "Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."

May this message of Mother Teresa provide us wisdom we can carry with us in our daily lives, fill us with hope, inspire and motivate us to keep going even when the road is rough and difficult.

