

Welcome to the Conference

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Good afternoon Lt. Governor Blas, Archbishop Apuron, Trustee Taitano, distinguished guests. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, I would like to welcome you all to the Guam Toxic Seaweed Scientific Conference. Last year attention was focused on Guam because of several tragic deaths. These individuals apparently had one thing in common: they had eaten a local seaweed prior to the onset of their illness. Physicians and other health professionals went beyond the call of duty in providing care for those patients at that time. The purpose of today's conference is to discuss the findings of research activities that have taken place since then and are related to that event. Information and discussion today will play a major role in the development of a medical management program in the event there is a reoccurrence of similar illness. We would like to extend our thanks to each of the conference participants for their contribution.

I would like to recognize Guam's medical and scientific community for their effort in improving the quality of care for our people. I would also like to thank Dr. Eduardo Cruz, GMHA Medical Director, and his assistant Aurora Cabanero for their effort in organizing today's program. I would also like to express our appreciation to Bristol Meyers-Squibb (Guam), the Guam Memorial Health Plan, Staywell, National Office Supply, Calvo's Life and Health Plans and Calvo's Insurance for their contributions to making this conference a reality. Thank you.