



Dr. Manuel Antonio B. Datiles III, is an ophthalmologist-researcher, a tenured physician-scientist and former Chief of Cataract and Cornea at the National Eye Institute (NEI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD. He also serves as Adjunct Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the Wilmer Eye Institute of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD. He has been collaborating closely with Dr. Walter Stark of The Wilmer Eye Institute of Johns Hopkins Hospital and Dr. Rafat Ansari at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on a project using Space Lab Technology that will help detect early cataracts. He has been included in “Who’s Who in the World,” “Who’s Who in America” and other “Who’s Who” publications for the last 25 years. He has lectured around the world, from New York to Chicago, San Francisco and Osaka, Helsinki and Munich among others.

Datiles was born in Manila, Philippines to general surgeon Dr. Roberto Datiles, a graduate of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, who trained in surgery in New York. Upon his return to the Philippines, Datiles, Sr. founded a mission hospital in Mindanao. His friends and supporters from New York called him the “Dr. Tom Dooley of the Philippines”. He passed away at just age 52.

The younger Datiles followed in his father’s footsteps and also studied at UST, graduating *cum laude* from both B.S. Pre Med and Medical School. He was a University scholar in Pre Med and a Winthrop Stearns Scholar in Medical School. He was a board toponotcher (top ten examinees list) in the Philippine Medical Board examinations. He was an active student leader, becoming President of Pax Romana, the Student Catholic Association of UST, in both Pre Med and Med School. He was an editorial staff member and wrote for the UST *Varsitarian* newspaper and magazine, and the UST College of Science Journal. He later became president of the Interns Association and was Most Outstanding Intern of the Year at the Dr. Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital in Manila. He completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH) in Manila where he began conducting his first basic and clinical research studies on cataracts at UP’s Philippine Eye Research Institute.

In 1979, he came to the US to do fellowships at Johns Hopkins Hospital and the U.S. National Institutes of Health as a cornea and cataract surgeon and scientist. He was then offered a tenured physician-scientist position at NIH to conduct what would become his life-long clinical research to find a cure for blinding cataracts. In 1986, he became the Chief of the Cataract and Cornea Section of the Clinical Branch of the National Eye Institute of NIH.

Datiles has published over a hundred papers and book chapters, and his research has advanced researchers' understanding of the cataract development process. He is the Lens Section Editor for Duane's Clinical Ophthalmology multi-volume textbook, a standard reference text for ophthalmologists in training and in practice. He serves as Editorial Board Member and manuscript reviewer for most of the major national and international eye journals. He has been given awards by the American Academy of Ophthalmology, U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, National Eye Institute - NIH, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Association of Philippine Ophthalmologists in America, UP-PGH Department of Ophthalmology and Jose Rizal Eye Institute, and the UST Medical Alumni Association (both US and Philippine chapters). He has performed numerous complex sight saving eye operations, and helped train many well-known ophthalmologists, including two presidents of the Washington DC Philippine Medical Association: Dr. Teddy Gancayco and Dr. Benny Magno. He was awarded a

Certificate of Appreciation by Washington DC Cardinal Hickey for his service to indigents through the Archdiocesan Health Care Network.

Dr. Datiles met his beloved wife of forty years, Atty. Jacqueline Romero, at UST, where both were student leaders. Datiles served as President while Romero was Vice President for Cultural Affairs of the UST CS Pax Romana. They worked so well together that they decided to make the partnership permanent! Romero finished at UST and went on to study at Ateneo de Manila U. Law School (where she co-founded the first Ateneo Law Sorority, Lex Athenia) while Datiles continued at UST for med school. After law school, Romero worked for Justice Cecilia Munoz Palma, the first female Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines.

The next generation is very promising and inspiring. Their 6 children include Michelle, a lawyer who has practiced in New York and Washington, DC and is working for Catholic University while pursuing her doctorate in late medieval/early modern European history; Joyce, an award-winning film director as well as a doctoral student in her final year at University College London (UCL), with previous masters degrees from Georgetown, Oxford and Cambridge, engaged to Robert, an Oxford classmate and now a corporate lawyer in London; Margaret, a lawyer and a published legal bioethicist who graduated *magna cum laude* from Catholic University and is a Phi Beta Kappa awardee, now married to Jordan, a professor at Loyola, who also obtained his doctoral degree from Catholic University. They have a two-year old son, Blaise and a daughter on the way. Jennifer is a doctoral student and scientific researcher at the US Smithsonian Museums, with graduate degrees from the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health and University College London (*summa cum laude*); Manuel IV is a physician who graduated *summa cum laude* from Johns Hopkins and is a Phi Beta Kappa awardee; he recently married Mu, who is also a physician and his Univ. of MD Med School classmate. Finally the youngest, Michael, graduated *magna cum laude* from Catholic U, and is currently pursuing a masters of science degree in Physiology from Georgetown. The family loves to spend their summer vacations in the beach, and like all families love to watch movies together and having barbeques in the backyard!

Dr. Datiles has advised and continues to guide many students and young people who come to him for guidance. His favorite personal quote and advice is: "It is not what you have that counts; but it is what you DO with what you have that counts."

