



## **Cedars-Sinai Spearheads Cancer Awareness Research Study for Filipino-American Community in SoCal**



*Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz (rightmost) with the officials of Cedars-Sinai, Mr. Zul Surani (leftmost), Ms. Peachy Hain (4<sup>th</sup> from left), Ms. Josie De Jesus (5<sup>th</sup>) and Ms. Shane Esmundo (6<sup>th</sup>). Also in photo are Consul Rea G. Oreta (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and Cultural Officer Maria Dolores Sales (2<sup>nd</sup>).*

16 August 2019, Los Angeles - Filipino-American officials of the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center namely, Ms. Josie De Jesus, Hospital Administrator on Duty and Ms. Peachy Hain, Executive Director of the Department of Nursing, called on Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz on 14 August 2019. Also present during the call were Consul Rea G. Oreta, Cultural Officer Maria Dolores C. Sales, Mr. Zul Surani, Cedars-Sinai's Associate Director for Research Center for Health Equity and his research assistant, Ms. Shane Esmundo.

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center is a nonprofit academic healthcare organization serving the diverse Los Angeles county community and nearby regions.

During the call, the officials informed the Consul General of the hospital's ongoing cancer research program focusing on Filipino-Americans in the United States. An initial survey was conducted with around 500 respondents from across Southern California from May to July 2019. The results of the said survey will be announced during a Filipino Cultural Event being arranged by Cedars-Sinai on 05 October 2019.

According to the officials, the study was specially designed to promote cancer awareness among Fil-Ams, which is one of the largest and diverse immigrant populations in the

United States. They added that the increasing rate of breast cancer fatalities among Asian ethnicities is alarming considering that said disease can be cured if detected at an early stage. Cedars-Sinai plans to conduct another batch of the survey in October 2019.

Consul General Cruz lauded the medical center's cancer awareness program and assured them of the Consulate General's assistance in disseminating the research survey to the Fil-Am community. He also encouraged the officials to explore the possibility of establishing a partnership with a leading cancer institute and/or healthcare facility in the Philippines on training and sharing their best practices. Filipino nurses comprised around 50% of the total population of nurses at Cedars-Sinai. END.