

P C H R D
1993 Annual Report

PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR HEALTH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
Department of Science and Technology

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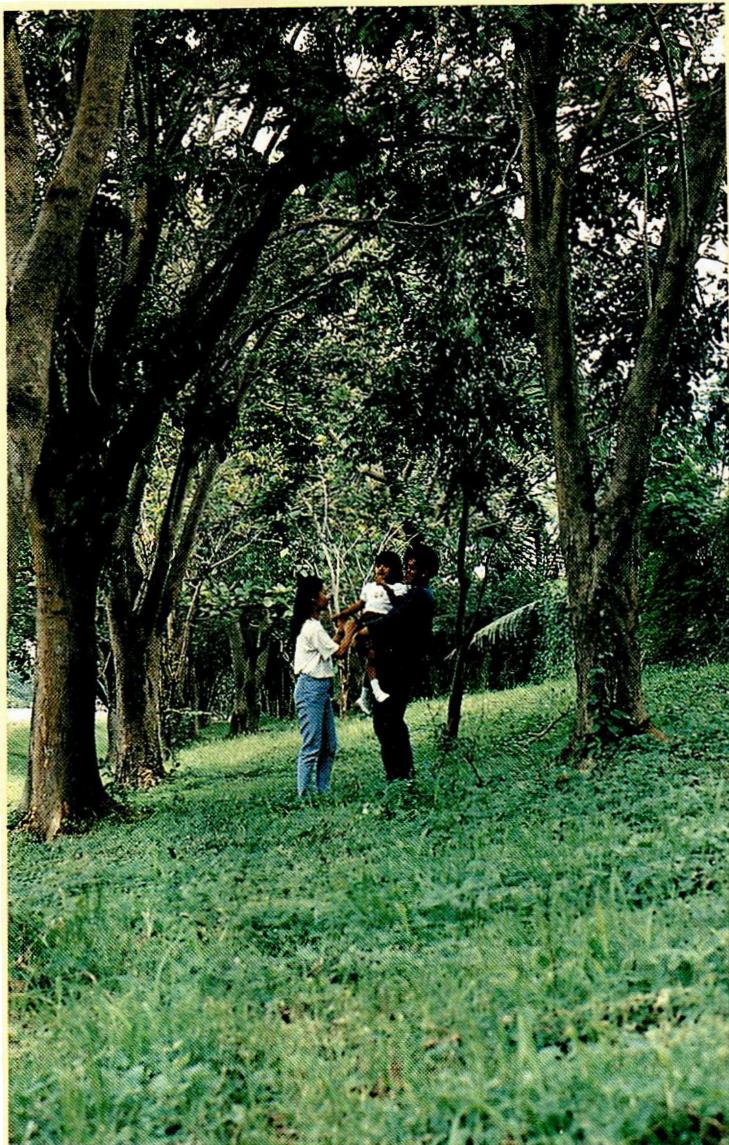
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Chairman's Message



The government's vision of industrialization by year 2000 is a productive Philippines with a healthy population which can be responsive to any call of responsibility and sensitive to opportunities for development.

I proudly acknowledge the role and efforts of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) in addressing the health problems in the country through a consolidated research program that could spell the difference in the lives of our people, our most valuable national resource.

The year that was highlighted the gains of PCHRD which are results of the complementation and synergy of the DOST and the various public and private institutions engaged in health-related activities.

As we carry on the Science and Technology Agenda for National Development (STAND) which has identified product-based technologies as one of its priority areas, I challenge PCHRD to accelerate the implementation of the National Health R & D Plan that addresses the concerns of STAND as well as the National Health Program.

Together, let us reinforce and improve our gains in the coming year and make sure that we truly uphold socially beneficial health programs-- for the country's progress and in the service of Filipinos.



RICARDO T. GLORIA

*Secretary, DOST, and Chairman,
PCHRD Governing Council*





Pres. Fidel V. Ramos launches his government's battlecry -- Philippines 2000.

Executive Director's Report

For the whole health research community, 1993 was marked by reorientation and radical shifts in policies and programs to coincide with the national goal of a newly industrializing Philippines by Year 2000.

Despite the changes in policies and orientation, we are proud to have maintained our lead in the health research arena.

It is indeed a pleasure to share with you what we have so far accomplished in the first year of our six-year march towards the Year 2000.

The entire Department of Science and Technology (DOST), of which PCHRD is one of the five sectoral councils, positioned itself right where the action is. DOST hosted the first Cabinet level multisectoral forum on 21 January 1993. In the same venue, no less than President Fidel V. Ramos launched his government's battlecry — Philippines 2000.

Thus, even before the rest of the Philippine society caught on this phrase, the science and technology community had geared itself to address the concerns of a newly industrializing Philippines.

The national technology agenda advocated by the participants of the multisectoral forum was further refined thru more focused group consultations, especially with the private sector. This resulted to the formulation of a Science and Technology Agenda for National Development — STAND Philippines 2000.

The Cabinet's approval of STAND in April 1993 signaled the



The locally developed hepatitis B diagnostic kit is one of PCHRD's product-based technologies that has been adopted, for commercialization, by the private sector.

national leadership's recognition that indeed science and technology is one of the engines that can propel economic growth.

The health R & D community, for its part, prepared itself to meet the challenge. This was quite an effort because health, being in the social services sector, is more often equated as a cost center rather than a profit center. Dealing with industry, and talking about markets and profits were alien to its orientation.

However, since the call of the times is to be relevant to what the user community needs, the Council, like the rest of the science and technology system, committed itself to generate world class products and services. Its particular listing of priority products and services complements the requirements of its partner in health care delivery, the Department of Health.

The Technology Transfer Continuum

As shared by a longtime US technology transfer (TT) practitioner, TT does not stop with the signing of a licensing agreement. Technology transfer management means nurturing the technology adopter, ensuring that he makes a success of his investment in technology-based industries.

The nurturing process guided technology adopters in their transactions with the Bureau of Food and Drugs as well as with the Bureau of Patents, Trademarks, and Technology Transfer (BPTT).

BPTTS's grant of a patent to hepatitis B diagnostic kit provided MEDTEST, the adopter of the technology, a tool that will help it avail of the Development Bank of the Philippines inventors guaranteed fund to finance its startup operations. Earlier, the hepatitis B diagnostic kit project was granted by the Board of Investment a pioneering status which entitles it to an additional two years of income tax holiday.

MEDTEST, which also adopted the antibiotic sensitivity disk production technology generated by researchers from the Infectious Diseases Program of the University of the Philippines Manila, formally launched the product in the market last May. It has now sold 24,725 disks. The availability of these disks to medical practitioners will contribute to more rational use of antibiotics.

While nurturing these adopters, the Council continued to prepare other research results for eventual adoption. Feasibility studies were undertaken to properly package technologies in the pipeline. These technologies include cataract surgical set, bone implant, calf serum, electromyograph, and electrocardiograph.

Feedbacks, especially from the private sector, on these technology packages helped reorient the Council's selling strategies.

Transporting Research Results into the Household

How to sink the message that science and technology is part of better health products and services into the consciousness of consumers, whether they are the ultimate users or the investors, continued to be one of the most challenging tasks of the Council.

The elitist image of research doubles the pressure of educating the users on the relevance of research and development.

The regular press conferences on pressing health issues, in a way, brought research results to the general public. The press, radio, and TV media helped enhance the recall process. A substantial number of press releases landed in major dailies, while many of our eminent researchers were able to reach the public thru radio and TV interviews.

Regular publications and scientific symposia were outputs and events that enabled scientists in the research community to maintain their links with their peers, thus enhancing scholarly interactions.

The annual national, regional, and provincial technology fairs brought greater visibility to the Council and its products, especially among investors. In the annual fair held second week of July in celebration of the National Science and Technology Week, there was perceived improvement and sophistication in how the S & T community presented itself to its users.

The Emerging Role of the Private Sector

Traditionally poles apart, the science community and the private sector, here equated as the business sector, are understandably wary of each other. The ups and downs of the market forces on which businessmen thrive on the one hand are, on the other hand, alien to men of science who are methodical, logical, and apolitical.



PCHRD recognizes the value of partnership with the private sector in addressing health issues thru R & D.

However, due to the exigencies of the situation the two have to forge partnerships to learn from each other, no matter how slow initially the process may be to jointly push the country up.

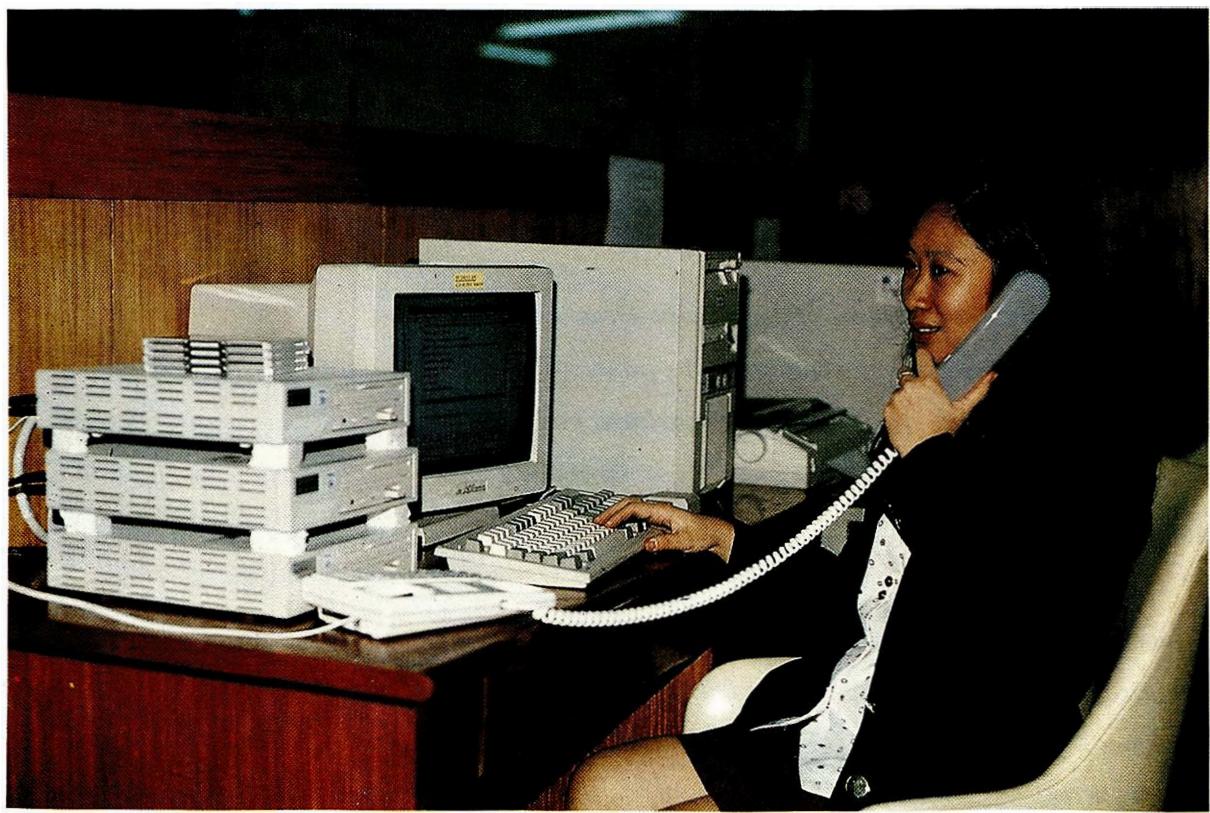
PCHRD, along this line, invited industry representatives to sit in the Technology Transfer Evaluation and Awards Committee to help evaluate investors interested to adopt PCHRD-developed technologies.

PCHRD also started encouraging companies, like Drugmaker's Laboratories Inc., to use their facilities for pilot production of trimethoprim, a pharmachemical, as soon as a benchmark laboratory scale had been established.

On the other hand, the colloquium on medical devices brought forth the industry's inputs on what dental materials, for example, have the more likely success in the market. As a result of discussions with Altripon Company, a supplier of dental materials, PCHRD will fund researches on the local production of selected bioceramics.

A dialog with representatives of the Filipino Drug Association pointed out some possible joint ventures in the production of quinine, an antimalarial, from the bark of Cinchona grown in the Bukidnon plantation of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

A clear indication of emerging private sector's commitment to research was seen in the Astra Fund for Clinical Research and Continuing Medical Education (AFCRCME). Now on its second year, AFCRCME supported three new researches out of this fund.



State-of-the-art information technologies enable PCHRD to provide only the best information services to its clients.

To start off a real government-private sector linkage, the DOST Secretary infused an initial one million pesos to the Fund.

Designed with the Users in Mind

How the services of the Health Research and Development Information Network (HERDIN) gained wider ground can be attributed to the Council's placing importance on the needs of the users. The bottomline is spelled out as providing the best information service through the use of information technologies.

Now over 100 Online subscribers, both individuals and institutions, in as far as the cities of Baguio, Cebu, and Davao, are able to access research information without leaving their homes or workplaces.

This facility is expected to provide value-added services with the connection now being worked out by DOST between Philippine users and the national and international scientific community. International links with Internet is a major come-on.

Internet is a global network of computer networks now accounting for close to two million hosts electronically connected to each other. Complementing this, PCHRD is also looking into being hooked to HealthNet, an international electronic network initiated by the Boston-based Satellife which uses satellite technology:

PCHRD, recognizing that there are more users aside



PCHRD expands the scientific base in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and traditional areas of concern to find solutions to local health problems.

PCHRD-Assisted Projects

Pharmaceuticals R&D

- Double-blind placebo-controlled comparison of *okapulko* lotion and crotamiton lotion in the treatment of scabies (Phase I: clinical trial) (Dr. Elena S.J. Tolentino, Dr. Lilia Villafuerte, and Dr. Nilo Y. Rivera, Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center)
- Dosage forms from medicinal plant constituents (Dr. Natividad F. de Castro, College of Pharmacy, UP Manila)
- Clinical screening and validation studies of medicinal plant products used in traditional folk medicine in the Philippines (Dr. Nelia Cortes-Maramba, Department of Pharmacology, College of Medicine, UP Manila)
- Efficacy of some Philippine botanical extracts against medically important mosquitoes in the Philippines (Prof. Iléana R.F. Cruz, College of Pharmacy, and Dr. Lilian A. de los Lagos, College of Public Health, UP Manila)
- Establishment of quality control bioassay standard procedures for medicinal plant products (Dr. Romeo F. Quijano, Department of Pharmacology, College of Medicine, UP Manila)
- Mutagenicity, antimutagenicity, and clastogenicity potentials of Philippine medicinal plants (Dr. Clara Y. Lim-Sylionco, Institute of Chemistry, UP Diliman)
- Pharmacognostical studies of selected Philippine medicinal plants (Dr. Celia V. Zamora, Institute of Biology, and Dr. Celia B. Amoroso, National Science Research Institute, UP Diliman)
- ◆ Use of *Moringa oleifera* (*malunggay*) seeds as water purifying agent for contaminated water (Dr. Celia C. Carlos, RITM)
- Pharmacologic and toxicologic studies of Philippine medicinal plants (Dr. Horacio R. Estrada, Department of Pharmacology, College of Medicine, UP Manila)

Legend: ■ New ● Ongoing ◆ Completed ♦ Terminated

Biotechnology for Health

from the 1,400 clients it services a year; started planning to put its 25,000 records (which is still growing) in compact discs. As a distribution medium, the disc is expected to find niches especially in places in the country where telecommunications is a problem. Aside from this, a potential world market can be tapped with the right marketing strategy and resources.

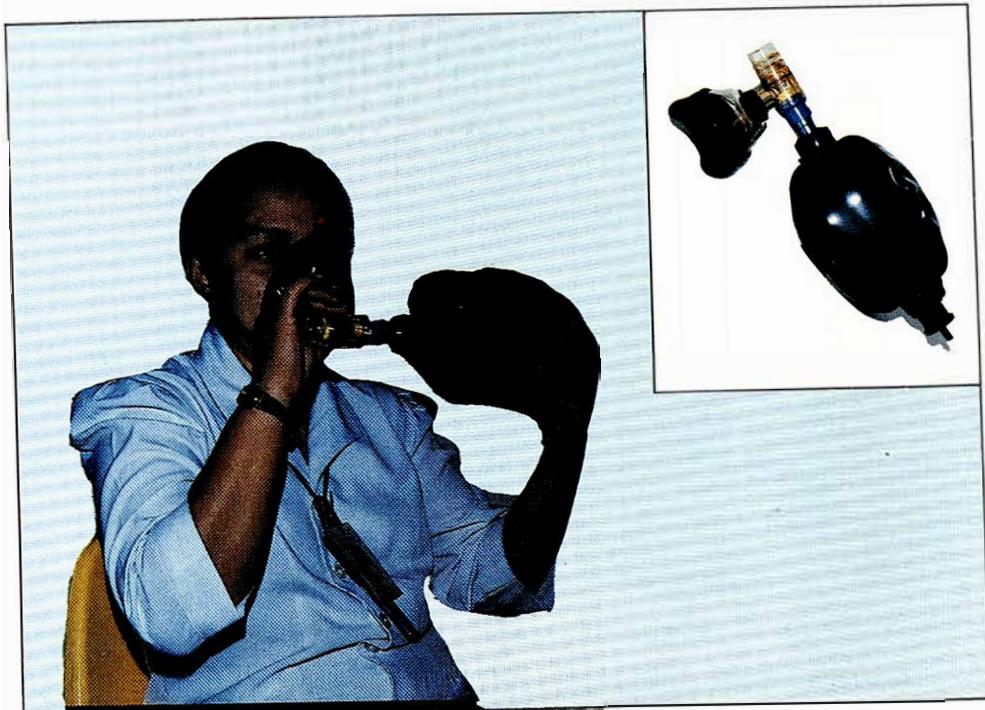
Being the regional secretariat of the Asian Pacific Information Network (APINMAP), PCHRD was able to widen its linkages and take part in the IDRC (International Development Research Centre)-sponsored project on the production of CD-ROM (compact disk-read only memory) on Asian medicinal resources. The 25,000 records contained in PCHRD's database will be inputted in the proposed CD-ROM together with the data resources of Bangladesh, HongKong, India, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand.

Years of experience on the use of the CDS-ISIS software also allowed PCHRD to develop inhouse experts who can be tapped to train beginning users from other institutions.

Strengthening the Supply Side of Research

A continuing supply of marketable researches is a must if the science community wishes to be in business. In the past year, the Council financed 37 R & D projects. Twenty-four percent of these projects was concerned with the improvement of health care thru biotechnological innovations, while 25% concentrated on pharmaceuticals R & D.. Researches on the development of biomedical devices, on the other hand, accounted for 11 %. Eight percent was devoted to the

- ◆ Cloning of the hepatitis B virus (HBV) deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and development of an HBV probe (Phase III) (Prof. Rhodora C. Estacio, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, UP Manila)
- Development of immuno-diagnostic test for the detection of antibodies against hepatitis B core antigen in serum (Dr. Bernadette L. Ramirez, and Ms. Fe Amor Vinculado, RITM)
- ◆ Development of cheap, stable serum/plasma standards for common clinical chemistry determinations (Prof. Rhodora C. Estacio, and Dr. Felicitas L. Lacbawan, College of Medicine, UP Manila)
- ❖ Development of pregnancy kit: Anti-beta HCG monoclonal antibody-based testing in urine (Dr. Felicitas L. Lacbawan, College of Medicine, UP Manila, and Dr. Richard Chu, College of Engineering, UP Diliman)
- Preparation of ophthalmic grade hyaluronic acid from human umbilical cord (Dr. Romon Miranda, and Dr. Benigno D. Pecson, Institute of Chemistry, UP Diliman)
- Production of serum and alternative culture media using coconut water and egg yolk for mammalian cell culture (Dr. Phom Binh Chay, BIOTECH, UP Los Baños)
- Development of a diagnostic kit to detect pathogenic and non-pathogenic strains of Entamoeba histolytica (Dr. Filipinas Natividad, College of Science, UP Diliman)
- Studies on the improvement of rabies vaccine: Phase 1 (Dolores Mercado, Biologicals Production Service, DOH)
- ◆ The use of latex agglutination test for the rapid diagnosis of tuberculous meningitis (Dr. Manuel Macapinlac, College of Medicine, UP Manila)



The development of the mechanically driven, volume-and pressure-regulated ambubag will make available an inexpensive respiratory support apparatus that can function even during power failure.

Biomedical Devices

- Cataract surgical set for Filipino ophthalmologists (Dr. Romeo V. Fajardo, UP-PGH)
- Development of a hemoglobinometry kit (Dr. Fortunato Sevilla III, Research Center for the Natural Sciences, University of Santo Tomas)
- Development of a mechanically-driven, volume- and pressure-regulated ambubag: Phase 1 (Engr. Alexander Paran, College of Engineering, UP Diliman)
- Development of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) shunt (Dr. Richard Chu, College of Engineering, UP Diliman, and Dr. Renato Sibayan, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, UST)

Other Priority Areas

Communicable Diseases

- A validation of the WHO case management protocol for pediatric patients with bloody diarrhea (dysentery) (Dr. Lulu C. Bravo, Department of Pediatrics, UP-PGH)
- Clinical, radiologic, microbiologic, and pathologic features of drug-susceptible and resistant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and *Mycobacteria* other than tuberculosis (MOTT) infection in patients with HIV infection (Dr. Jaime C. Montoya, RITM)
- Comparison of the efficacy of the Ogawa culture medium and Lowenstein-Jensen medium for the culture and isolation of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Dr. Myrna T. Mendoza, UP-PGH)

- Diagnosis of acid fast bacilli from body fluids using cytosieve technique (Dr. Agnes V. Barrientos, and Dr. Salvacion C. Quiepo, RITM)

- Prevalence of antibodies to hepatitis C virus (HCV) among risk groups in the Philippines: Development of alternative diagnostic procedure for HCVAb (Dr. Ernesto O. Domingo, Liver Study Group, UP-PGH, and Dr. Mary Ann D. Lansang, RITM)

Degenerative and Metabolic Disorders

- ◆ Modified WHO treatment for cancer pain: A multi-center open trial in the Philippines (Dr. Antonio H. Villalon, UP-PGH)

development of nutritional products.

Seventy percent of the total projects funded in 1993 supported the priority program areas of STAND Philippines 2000 while the remaining 30% focused on other priority areas such as metabolic and degenerative diseases and maternal and child health.

One of the promising technologies we funded last year was the development of a mechanically-driven, volume- and pressure- regulated ambubag. This device, when perfected, will ensure the availability of an inexpensive respiratory support apparatus which can function even during power failures.

Radical shifts were adopted in the evaluation of R & D projects. There is now a distinct requirement for projects to show marketability as well as technical viability before they are considered for funding. The Secretariat is now heavily engaged in market studies and technology assessment.

The Human Factor

Crucial to the Council's thrusts are the doers of research — generators of research results. Creating and keeping a critical mass, possibly in every region, is a continuing concern.

A policy change, that is, allowing scholars to study on a part-time basis, dramatically increased the number of takers of scholarship slots. The minimal availment in the previous years was due to an occupational competition. Before,

Environmental Health Problems

- Development of antiserum against saxitoxin and tetrodotoxin (Mo. Andrea S. Mendigo, Marine Science Institute, UP Diliman)
- Survey of work hazards and health status of laboratory workers in the Ermita Health Science Community (Dr. Benjamin C. Vitas, College of Public Health, UP Manila)
- ◆ Use of body fluids for the diagnosis of paralytic shellfish poisoning Phase 1: Urine (Dr. Ismael Pastor, Environmental Health Service, DOH, and Mo. Andrea S. Mendigo, Marine Science Institute, UP Diliman)

Nutrition Studies

- Application of N-15 glycine to study the protein requirements of Filipino children consuming local diets (Mo. Isabel Cabrera, FNRI-DOST)
- Clinical trials of FVRice-iron fortified (Ms. Regina Pedro, FNRI)
- Food-borne bacterial pathogens of some selected processed foods sold in public markets in Metro Manila (Dr. Alice Alma Bungay, FNRI-DOST)
- ◆ Nutritional Intervention in acute diarrhea: The use of coconut oil in the dietary regimen during acute phase (Dr. Elizabeth P. Gabriel, Department of Pediatrics, UP-PGH)
- Production of provitamin A and vitamin A for nutrition and health (Pham Binh Chay, BIOTECH, UP Los Baños)
- Technical feasibility study of iron-fortified (premix) rice production (Alejandro M. Martin, Jr and Geronima Reyes, FNRI)



Wilma Molano of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute receives from DOST Asst. Secretary Francisco P. Fellizar, Jr. (left) and UP Manila Chancellor Ernesto O. Domingo a cash prize of ₱10,000 and plaque of recognition as first prize winner in the 1993 Scientific Poster Exhibit. Her project is "Computer Software for the 1985 Reference Standards for Filipino Children."

medical doctors, who incur bigger opportunity losses if they go on full-time studies, had to forego the chance for scholarships.

Now, there are 16 new scholars, in addition to nine ongoing ones. Six of these scholars are pursuing masteral courses in clinical epidemiology. This is a move towards the creation of clinical epidemiology units especially in the seven centers of excellence.

Thesis and dissertation assistance were availed of by 15 graduate students. On the other hand, a modified training course on basic research methodology, designed for budding researchers, yielded 10 research proposals. Now with an increased amount of grant per project, participants undertake these projects as their reentry research work in their respective institutions.

Moves to make this course a regular part of the graduate curriculum is being studied. As well, a consortium offering postgraduate degrees is being formed to address the need for higher level S & T manpower. Right now, under DOST's Engineering and Science Education Program, only slots in pharmacology which must be taken in universities abroad are available.

The Rewards of Research

PCHRD rewards the long years and tireless effort devoted by researchers to scientific pursuits by way of awards as well as nominations to international and local fellowships and professorial chairs.

Ms. Rocquel Jadulco
MS Pharmacy major in Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Ms. Gerlie de los Reyes
MS Pharmacy major in Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Dr. Christine Tinio
MS Public Health major in Epidemiology

Dr. Bernadette Tumanan
MS Epidemiology major in Clinical Epidemiology

Dr. Joseph Molina
MS Epidemiology major in Clinical Epidemiology

Dr. Erle Castillo
MS Epidemiology major in Clinical Epidemiology

Dr. Solera Catapang
MS Biometry

Dr. Grace Villanueva
MS Epidemiology major in Clinical Epidemiology

Dr. Ronaldo Santos
MS Epidemiology major in Clinical Epidemiology

Dr. Petrina Zolomayor
MS Epidemiology major in Clinical Epidemiology

Dr. Oscar Cabahug
MS Epidemiology major in Clinical Epidemiology

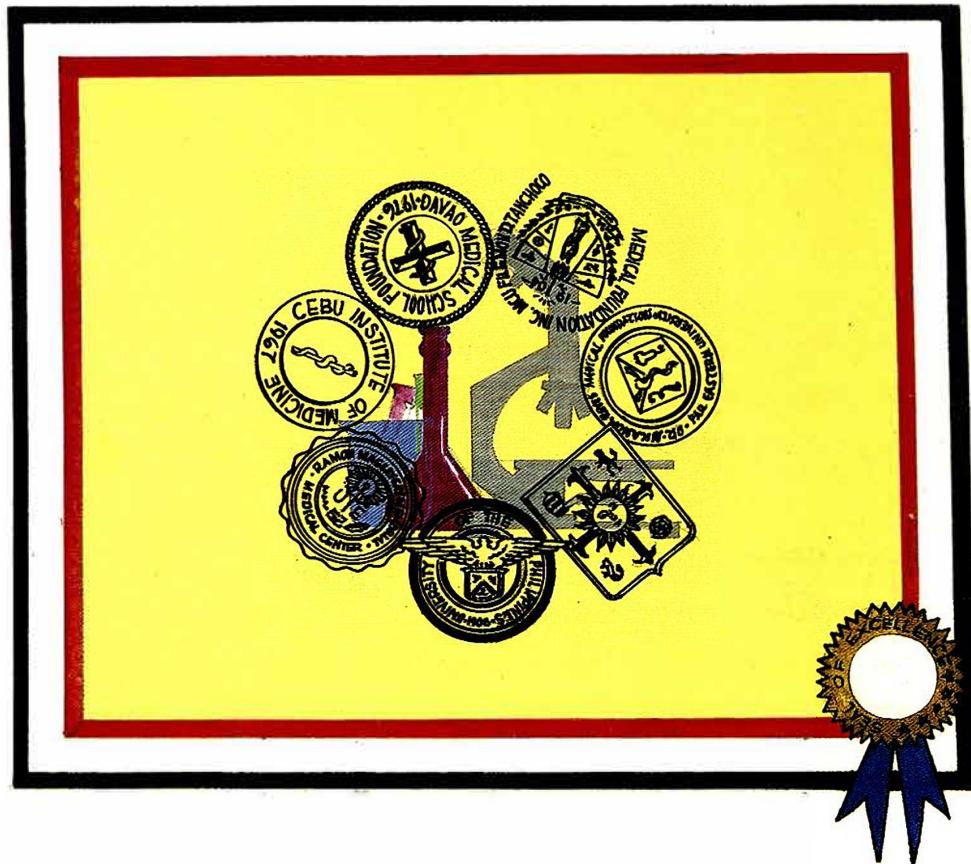
Dr. Edward Wang
MS Epidemiology major in Clinical Epidemiology

Dr. Herman Tolentino
MS Epidemiology major in Clinical Epidemiology

Dr. Lyde Alday-Magpantay
MS Epidemiology major in Clinical Epidemiology

Dr. Raul Martin Coching
MS Epidemiology major in Clinical Epidemiology

Dr. Lagrimas Moderes
MS Public Health major in Epidemiology



PCHRD is upgrading the facilities of the seven centers of excellence to create a conducive research environment.

Thesis/Dissertation Grants

Prof. Lydia Leonardo
(Parasitology, UP-CAS)

Prof. Laurie Ramiro
(Clinical Psychology, UPD)

Prof. Imelda Peña
(Industrial Pharmacy, UP-CP)

Prof. Julieto Zabal
(Biology, DLSU)

Prof. Lunesa Pinzon
(Chemistry, MSU-IIIT)

Prof. Nancy Hilario
(Chemistry, UST)

Dr. Mary Santos Regal
(Clinical Epidemiology, UP-CM)

Prof. Anthony Lee
(Biology, DLSU)

Prof. Monico Tenedor
(Chemistry, Lyceum of Aparri)

Prof. Arnold Hollare
(Biology, UPM)

Prof. Jesus Sarol
(Public Health, UP-CPH)

Prof. Nonita Peteros
(Chemistry, MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology)

Among the institutions tapped by the Council to sponsor fellowships and research awards are the Fogarty International Research Center thru the United States National Institutes of Health, the Marsman Foundation, and the Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association of the Philippines.

As an added incentive to researchers, the Council initiated the move to include private sector researchers in the scientific career system. This hopes to extend to these scientists the benefits enjoyed by public sector researchers.

A Conducive Research Environment

Creating a conducive research environment, with the needed facilities, has always been the cry of researchers. Slowly, PCHRD is addressing these concerns by upgrading the facilities of the selected seven centers of excellence.

Four medical schools received a total of P7.019 M equipment grants to improve and modernize their facilities. A big chunk went into the establishment of the Institutes of SocioBiomedical Research (ISBMR), a national facility, at the University of the Philippines Manila. ISBMR is envisioned to be the focal point of molecular and immunology research in the country.

The other recipients were University of Santo Tomas, Far Eastern University Nicanor M. Reyes Memorial Foundation, Cebu Institute of Medicine, and Manila Central University Filemon D. Tanchoco Medical Foundation.

A Community of Scholars

The Metro Manila Health Science Community (MMHSC)

Research Apprenticeship

Short course, low-dose intradermal hepatitis B vaccination using recombinant vaccine (Dr. Cecile Clovano-de Asis, Cebu Doctors Medical College)

The cost benefit of breastfeeding (Dr. Thelma Fernandez, Cebu Institute of Medicine)

KAP of diarrhea among mothers in Banilad, Mandawe City (Dr. Mirasol Cabije, UV Gullas College of Medicine)

A case control study of diarrheal diseases among children below one year old of Banilad, Mandawe City (Dr. Teresita Quisumbing, UV Gullas College of Medicine)

Malaria outbreak in non-endemic Cebu: Its epidemiology and transmission (Dr. Angelita Salardo, Department of Health, Region VII)

KABP survey on ARI in children under five in a rural setting (Dr. Susan Madarieta, Region VII)

Guava leaves decoction in the topical management of partial thickness burns (Dr. Warlito Vicente, San Pedro Hospital, Davao City)

Household teaching as a strategy in EPI: Evaluation study in Region II (Dr. Remedios Amistad, Regional Health Office No. II)

Acid fast microscopy in respiratory tuberculosis (Dr. Peter Gotiong, SWU-UHAM College of Medicine)

The naproxen test in the causative differentiation of prolonged fever (Dr. Eduardo Cagiao, UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery)

Variance in x-ray interpretation of primary Koch's infection among radiologists (Dr. Pamela Perlas, Manila Central University)

The protective effect of vitamin A in diarrhea of children 1–5 years old (Dr. Delia Lim, MCU)

The validity of darkfield examination and serologic test in leptospirosis (Dr. Lorna M. Ybañez, CIM)

*The effect of *kinchay* plant (*Apium graveolens*) decoction on the blood cholesterol levels of diet-induced hypercholesterolemic rabbits (Dr. Judith Songco, CIM)*

continued its efforts to foster collaborative researches and activities. Through the research fora conducted by the Research Promotion Committee of MMHSC on diarrhea, AIDS, and food safety, working groups composed of representatives from different institutions were organized to undertake studies on identified research gaps.

The symposia conducted last year by the Research Utilization Committee helped disseminate current trends and information on health issues pertaining to cardiovascular disease, midlife crisis, cooking oils, criminality, and degradation of the environment.

Years of nurturing MMHSC have helped develop the community's competence to operate on its own and be self-sufficient. The office of the MMHSC secretariat will soon be housed at the Institutes of SocioBiomedical Research building in UP Manila.

Towards an Equitable Distribution of Research Capability

The experience in the formation of Regional Health R & D Committees (RHRDCs) in Regions 6, 7, 8, 11, and Northern Luzon (1-2 CAR) showed that a research community's growth hinges greatly on the working team as well as its leader. The growth of RHRDC 7 continues to prove this observation.

Since its inception, RHRDC 7 has already undertaken 23 research projects which were funded mostly by the Council through the regional funding mechanism.

Research Apprenticeship

Effect of peanut supplemented diet on the cholesterol levels of cats (Dr. Remedios Hobacon,

For Eastern University–Nicanor Reyes Memorial Foundation)

Cord uric acid levels in predicting neonatal complications in the first seven days of life (Dr. Dolores Viliran, FEU–NRMF)

Cyanide content of selected plants in Iloilo (Dr. Gerard Penecillo, Western Visayas State University)

The bioactivity of aqueous extracts from soft corals (Dr. Marie Frances J. Nievoles, UP Visayas)

Determinants of work performance of primary health care workers (Dr. Milagros Viacrusis, Regional Health Office No. XI)

Comparative study using latin square design on the safety and efficacy of topical Cymbopogon citratus, Peperomia pellucida their combination, placebo and piroxicam on muscle joint pains (Prof. Mansuelo Yoplito, Western Visayas State University)

Most of these researches are concerned with the improvement of primary health care delivery systems within the region.

To ensure that the researches they generate are morally and ethically sound, RHRDC 7 also took the initiative to form its own ethics review committee. This committee is being tapped to review not only research proposals submitted by institutions within its sphere of responsibility but also proposals funded by pharmaceutical companies in the region.

Engaging all the players

The various seminars, symposia, and meetings conducted by the Council allowed people from all walks of life to interact with one another and share common experiences. In the process new and better ideas addressing vexing health problems evolved.



Through a round table conference sponsored by PCHRD, representatives from various government agencies were able to discuss the viability of locally producing quinine from the Cinchona plantation in Bukidnon.

In the discussion that ensued, pharmaceutical companies gain insights on the profitability of the venture.

Bohringer-Mannhein, a German pharmaceutical giant, is now pushing for a partnership agreement with the government in the processing of Cinchona bark.

Interest on the Cinchona Plantation in Bukidnon was rekindled by encouraging feedbacks from the Vienna-based experts who reviewed the proposal on establishing a local quinine production plant.

In support of the National People's Kabisig Movement, PCHRD also conducted a seminar-workshop on the proper use of medicinal plants for barangay health workers and extension workers in the provinces of Batangas and Cavite. The hands-on exercises gave these rural health workers a first hand experience on the propagation and correct preparation of medicinal plants and allowed them to share the same knowledge with their constituents.. Furthermore, the economic benefits which can be derived from the cultivation of these medicinal plants encouraged small groups of participants to set up a backyard medicinal plants garden in their respective barangays.

Local as well as international conferences served as venues for advertising PCHRD's expertise in information

sourcing and database management. As a result, the Council served as a frequent study visit site of WHO fellows.

Last year, the Council conducted and facilitated trainings for two WHO fellows, one from from the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and Vietnam. They were trained in health library management and services and in health research organization and methodologies.

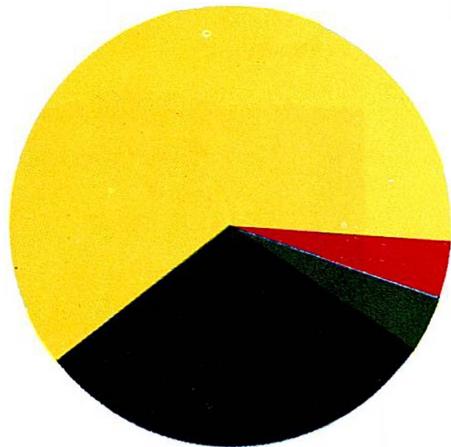
Several visitors from Singapore and Malaysia, also came last year to gain insights on how a local computer information network like HERDIN operates.

Through established contacts and networks, additional sources of funds for local researchers were identified.

The Roche Asian Research Foundation emerged as one of the privately-owned funding institutions which can be tapped to support researches on priority areas like HIV-related diseases, oncology, and malaria.

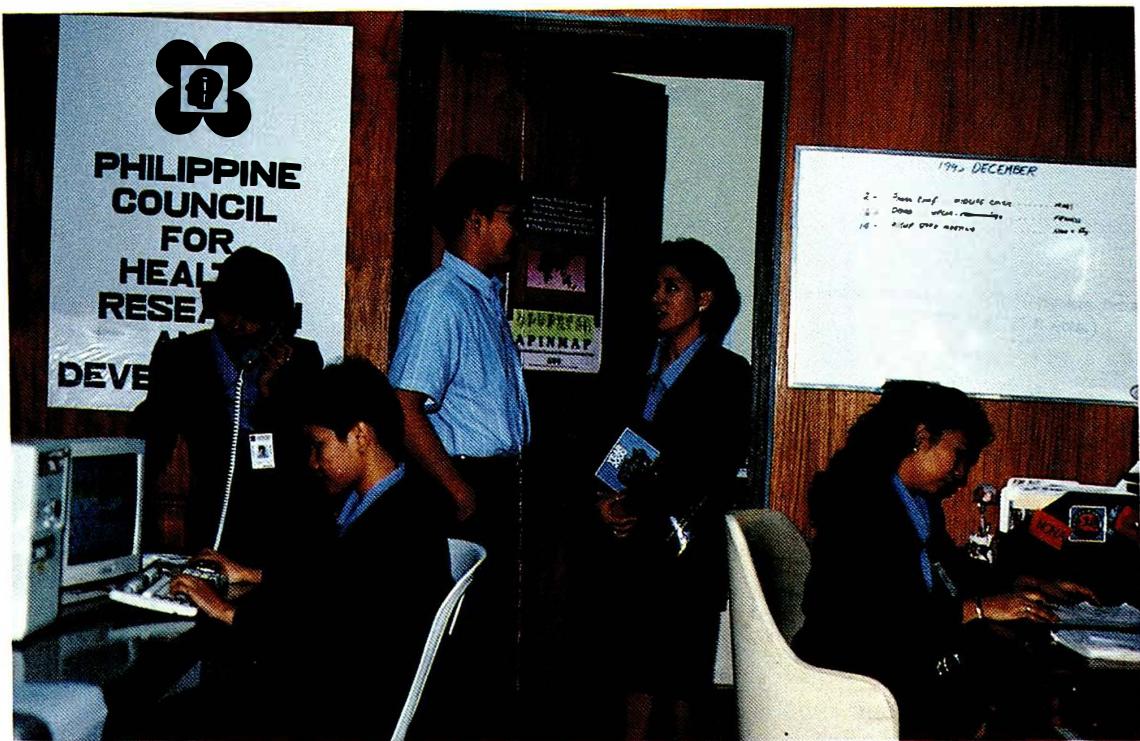
Resources

The Council had a total allotment of P17.55 M for calendar year 1993. In addition, P10.9 M was generated from other sources. Among the external sources of funds were the Department of Science and Technology; Technology Application and Promotion Institute; Science and Technology Information Institute; Fernando H. Lopez Biomedical Research Center; Mary Blythe Petersen Marsman Foundation; Eugenio Lopez Foundation; Medical Test Systems Inc.; Resins, Inc.; Herba Pharm Corpora-



Sources of Funding, 1993

PCHRD Allotment	P 17.5M
Trust Fund	P 8.5M
Direct External Grant	P 1.2M
Indirect External Grant	P 1.2M
Total Receipts	P 28.4M



A committed work force shares in the task of putting substance to PCIRD's vision of health for all through R & D.

tion; Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc.; Philippine American Life Assurance Corp.; Henares Foundation; Department of Health; International Development Research Centre of Canada; the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau; the government of Belgium; and the French government.

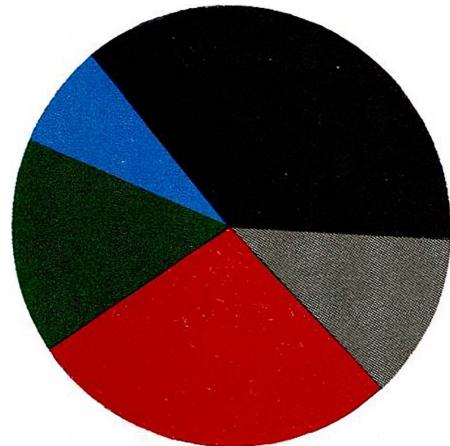
The P17.55M PCHRD allotment was distributed to the following S & T activities: Research and Development P2.144M (12%), General Administration P2.802M (16%), Network Coordination P6.429M (36%), S & T Services P1.350M (8%), and Education and Training P4.830M (28%).

People Minding the PCHRD Business

The Council's various tasks and responsibilities are efficiently carried out through the concerted effort of 71 staff members.

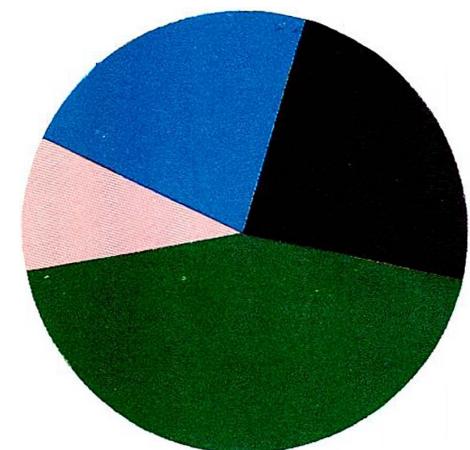
Of these, 57% performs technical functions which include research and development activities, S & T services, and education and training. The remaining 43% provides support services.

The whole work force employs, among others, two full-fledged medical doctors and nine masters degree holders.



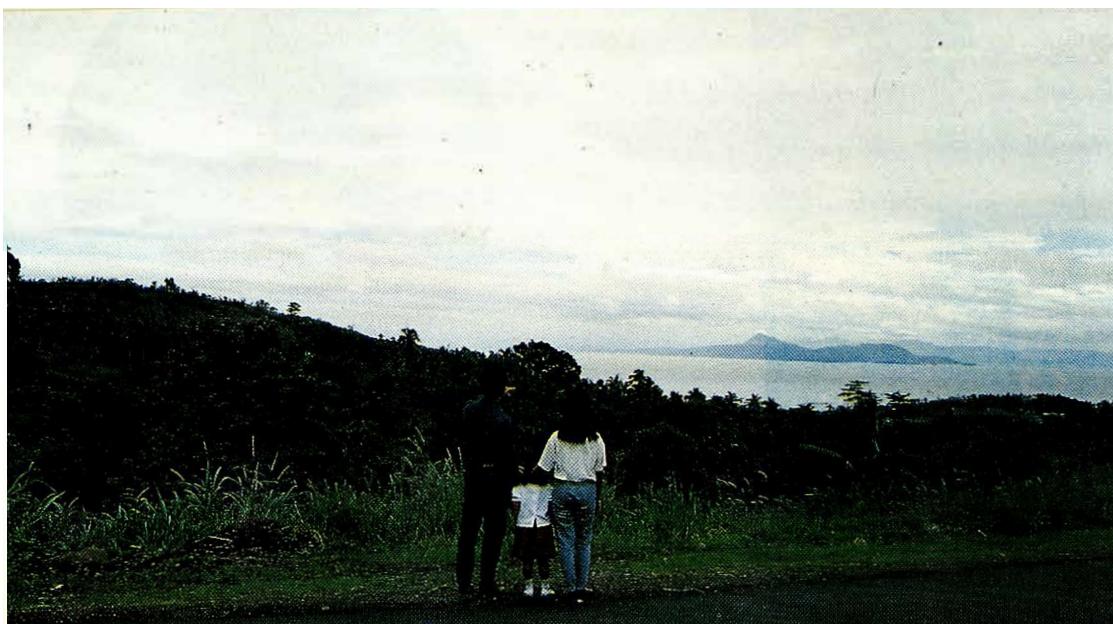
Allocation of PCHRD allotment
by S & T activity, 1993

Network Coordination	36%
S & T Services	8%
General Administration	16%
Research and Development	12%
Education and Training	28%



Distribution of PCHRD personnel
by S & T Activity, 1993

S & T Services	
Research and Development	23%
Education and Training	10%
Support Services	44%



For the coming year, we will continue to initiate and forge partnerships and cooperation with and among researchers, institutions, and private individuals. We are confident that by doing so, we can facilitate the rapid transformation of research concepts into utilizable products which are much needed in promoting better health and quality of life for the people.

Pacita L. Zara
PACITA L. ZARA, M.D.
Executive Director

Governing Council

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Secretary, Department of Science and Technology

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Vice Chairman
Undersecretary and Chief of Staff, Department of Health

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Chancellor, UP Manila Philippine Society of Gastroenterology

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Member
Chancellor, UP Manila Philippine Pediatrics Society

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President, Pascual Laboratories, Inc.

Dr. Fernando S. Sanchez,Jr.
Member
Head, Preventive Cardiology, Philippine Heart Center

Dr. Pacita L. Zara
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*Executive Director
Philippine Council for Health Research and Development*

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