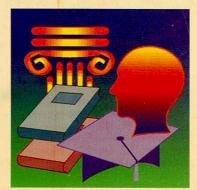


Philippine
Council for
Health
Research and
Development











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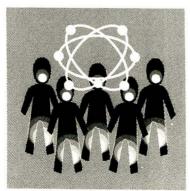


Philippine Council for Health Research and Development













## Chairman's Message

would like to commend the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) for its steady commitment in ensuring the health and well-being of all Filipinos through the years.

For 1996, PCHRD has concentrated its efforts in the development and commercialization of chiral drugs in time for the 1998 Philippine Centennial celebrations. Likewise, the Council has devoted considerable emphasis to make HERDIN, its online health information retrieval service, more accessible to an increasing number of potential users in government, academe, and industry.

The changing times demand that we exploit the potential of harnessing scientific knowledge and technological applications in achieving our national development objectives. As the lead agency mandated to chart and implement the course of health R&D in the Philippines, I congratulate PCHRD for persevering in its noble mission in support of the vision that is Philippines 2000.

Mabuhay ang PCHRD!

WILLIAM G. PADOLINA
Secretary, DOST and Chairman,
PCHRD Governing Council



attention that the country got from its hosting of the series of meetings for the Asia Pacific Economic Conference came the consciousness of the concept of globalization — of being aware what the rest of the world is doing, so we can, sensibly, figure out our place in the global picture.

We are pleased to note that this consciousness has seeped into the Council. Let me cite some examples.

One of our technology adopters of the production technology for *lagundi*, a medicinal plant used as anti-cough and anti-asthma, has successfully launched the product (trade name: *Ascof*) in the local market. This effort has not gone unnoticed abroad that this adopter-company is now ready to export *Ascof*.

We are also joining the world's race of producing chiral drugs,

# Executive Director's Message

starting with Ibuprofen. We were able to start with this undertaking because S&T (PCHRD) has joined forces with the industry and the academe. Even at this early stage, we are already reaping the benefits of working together and exchanging information.

In the area of producing recombinant vaccine for tropical diseases (e.g. malaria), we are looking for international partners. Teamwork has taken an international dimension and we have to take this route if we want our resources to go a long way.

In the use of information technology, PCHRD continued its lead. Last year, the PCHRD Homepage — the Council's window to the world — bested other DOST agencies as it won the first prize. We also embarked on producing our own HERDIN CD-ROM, another first, which we hope to sell to the international market.

These accomplishments would not have been possible if we did not have world-class professionals working with us. In fact, we honored two groups of fine researchers who won the *first* Outstanding Health Research Awards for biomedical and health services categories, respectively.

Philippines, rated world-class. This has been our running theme as we looked more closely into our own programs and our performance in 1996.

In the next years, we see ourselves continuing to adopt this theme, but with more vigor, as we want the world to keep its focus on the Philippines — of its world-class works, by world-class health researchers and managers.

For all these, we thank all our partners. Their help had been invaluable. We hope that they will continue to work with us as we carve our niche in the world's scheme of things.

Everytine Director

# What's Exciting for the Centennial Celebration in 1998

Before 1995 ended, the Council identified two research areas where it can generate research results of centennial impact -- vaccines and biologicals for malaria, and tuberculosis control. Thus, in 1996, PCHRD consolidated its resources behind these two programs for two major reasons. First, malaria and TB remain as the leading causes of morbidity and mortality. Second, globally, there were promising technological breakthroughs where the country can participate in to

address these public health concerns.

On vaccines and biologicals, the concentration in 1996 was on the land site development at UP Los Banos where the Biologicals Production Service of the Department of Health (DOH-BPS) has moved. A cGMP pilot production plant for recombitant technology for the production of vaccines and biologicals will be an integral part of the DOH-BPS facility.

The malaria research team benefited from the participation of Dr. Fidel Nayve (UP Biotech) and Dr. Wilfred Tiu (UP-College of Public Health) in the Workshop for Pharmaceutical Manufacturing last September spon-

sored by the Hong Kong Institute of Biotech, Ltd; as well as from the visit of two consultants: Dr. Howard Engers of the World Health Organization, and Dr. Alan Saul of the Queensland Institute for Medical Research in Australia.

The National TB Study Group, on the other hand, has gelled into a collegial body and has firmed up its research agenda to combat the TB problem. PCHRD funded several researches from this agenda. One was the study on the "Efficacy of Mycobacterium vaccae as an immunotherapeutic agent in the management of PTB," which aims to enhance the susceptibility of pulmonary TB (PTM) cases to therapeutic drugs using M. vaccae.

The other researches aimed to strengthen the TB control program by:

- 1. determining the drug resistance of *Mycobacterium* tuberculosis to different antibiotics of sputum positive PTB cases ("Community based-surveillance for drug resistance of <u>Mycobacterium tuberculosis"</u>).
- 2. finding a more efficacious PTB treatment regimen ("Compari-



son of quaruple vs triple vs. short treatment for PTB: a multicenter study"),

- 3. determining the compliance behavior of patients ("A study on patient compliance to PTB treatment regimen"), and,
- 4. determining the clinical, radiological, microbiological, and pathological characteristics, suceptibility and drug resistance patterns of Mycobacterium tuberculosis and other forms of Mycobacterium among HIV patients ("Clinical, radiological, microbiological, and pathological features of drug susceptible and resistant Mycobacterium tuberculosis and Mycobacterium other than tuberculosis infection in patients with HIV infections").

In the middle of the year, an exciting development in the international chiral drugs market gave PCHRD the opportunity to bring together expertchemists from the industry and the academe to join the world's race in producing enantiomerically pure drugs, starting with Ibuprofen, a commercial drug known for its non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory, and analgesic properties.

This industry-driven research on chiral drugs was

formally started in November with a signing of a Memorandum of Agreement. The partnership of S&T (PCHRD), industry (United Laboratories, Inc.), and the academe (UP System) has kept the upbeat mood of the project. With these three sectors working together and exchanging information, there's optimism as to the potential benefit that this leading edge technology can bring to the Filipinos - much safer and fast-acting drugs.

The industry-driven research on chiral drugs, a partnership of S&T, industry, and academe, can bring the Filipinos much safer and fast-acting drugs.

Chiral drugs are chemical compounds with both beneficial and harmful components. The objective of the technological race of splitting the compound is to remove the harmful, and enhance the beneficial effect of the drug.

## Research Output: How Did We Fare?

The National Health R&D Plan (NHRDP), which was formulated by the health research community, consistently adhered to the Science and Technology Agenda for National Development (STAND).

The Council's STAND priorities focus primarily on health products development on pharmaceuticals, vaccines, biological and biomedical devices, nutritional products and herbal drugs. Under the Traditional Areas of Concern (TAC), PCHRD focuses on the generation of information on the epidemiology, management, prevention and treatment, and socioeconomic and political concerns and priority diseases.

PCHRD directly handled 49 research projects — 36 under the PCHRD GIA, and 13 under DOST GIA. In terms of numbers, 73% were projects under STAND, and 27% under TAC.

The cost of the 49 projects stood at P44.423M, 83% of which were spent on projects under the STAND priority areas.

For the year, a total of four (4) health R&D projects were completed as follow:



Iron absorption from FVRice-Iron fortified. Iron bioavailability from unfortified and FVRice iron fortified based meals was determined by simultaneous determination of 55Fe and 59Fe in blood in 20 healthy human adult subjects. Considering the total non-heme iron content of the meals, there was a significant increase in the amount of iron absorbed from the FVRice-iron fortified rice based meal compared to the unfortified one, i.e. from 0.3 mg to 0.4 mg. On the basis of these results, estimation done for iron-deficient children revealed that consumption of 120-150 g rice daily may satisfy about 65-81% of the iron requirement of 1-3 year old children, thus exceeding the goal of 40-50% RDA for this age group. The use of ferrous sulfate as fortification iron to rice seems to be effective, supplying an appropriate amount of absorbable iron.

Effect of <u>Tamarindus indica</u> crude leaf extract on systemic blood pressure and hemodynamics of the rat superior mesentric microcirculation, in vivo. The effect of crude aqueous leaf extracts of <u>Tamarindus</u> indica (TI) was tested on 85 male Sprague-Dawley rats, weighing around 250 grams each. Results showed that aqueous leaf extracts of TI at concentrations of 0.1% did not



produce any significant changes in mean blood pressure readings or in mean arteriolar diameters of rat mesenteric resistance vessels.

Concentrations of 10% or 1% weight/volume produced a consistent reduction in mean systemic blood pressure of the rat when given after baseline measurements were made.

Seed gum from Leucaena leucocephala L. (Ipil-ipil) as an excipient in pharmaceutical dosage forms. Ipil-ipil seed gum (Leucaena) was found to be comparable with the imported gum (guar gum) currently used by the local pharmaceutical industry. Results also showed the plant's potential as an excipient in pharmaceutical drug formulations (e.g. syrups and suspensions).

High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) determination of serum Penicillin levels in Filipino children with rheumatic heart disease/rheumatic fever (RHD/RF). Serum levels of 37

patients < 18 years of age with rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease on a regular follow up for benzathine Penicillin G (BPG) were determined using the **HPLC** Waters Associate Liquid Chromatography System. Results showed that peak serum levels were noted on day 14 (8.70 ug/ml) which declined on day 21 (7.69 ug/ ml) and returned to baseline values on day 28 (5.15 ug/ml). No significant change was noted on day 14 and day 21 but a highly significant decrease from day 21 and day 28 (p< 0.05). Patients on day 21 had BPG serum concentrations >0.03 ug/ml in 90.7% and 59.4% on day 28. This trend seems to suggest that patients should indeed receive BPG every 21 days based on the pharmacokinetics of the drug.

## And the Winners Are...

Recognizing excellent research, this is one way wherein PCHRD brings into the attention of the user community the world-class works of Filipino health researchers. The award and the event are incentives in themselves for seasoned researchers to continue generating world-class works, and for the next-generation and beginning researchers to aspire for.

### The First Outstanding Health Research Award

The 1996 First Outstanding Health Research Award (OHRA) went to the Liver Study Group (LSG) of UP Manila, headed by Dr. Ernesto O. Domingo, for the biomedical research category; and Health Finance Development Project of the Department of Health (DOH), with Dr. Romeo M. Cruz as project manager, in the health services category.

The LSG's comprehensive study of hepatocellular carcinoma provided the basis for the DOH's policy on hepatitis B immunization, and, consequently, for the mass vaccination against HBV which is currently being carried out by the DOH Expanded Program on Immunization.

The technical
inputs of the
Health Finance
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RA7875 or the
National Health
Insurance Law.

The LSG also studied hepatitis A, hepatitis C, and hepatitis D. Results of their studies led to the development of the technology for the rapid epidemiologic assessment of the HBV carrier state and to the transfer of two other technologies, namely: the production of diagnostic reagents, and the prototype manufacture of HBV-DNA probes.

The Health Finance Development Project studied the economics of implementing a national health insurance program, and the feasibility of a provincewide health insurance program for those not covered by the Social Security System or the Government Service Insurance System's Medicare. These technical inputs were the bases for the crafting of RA7875 or the National Health Insurance Law.

## 1996 Marsman Professorial Chair

The 1996 Marsman Professorial Chairholder was Dr. Guillerma A. Manigbas, an Associate Professor of the De La Salle University College of Medicine (DLSU-CM). Dr. Manigbas holds a master's degree in Health Professions Education (MHPEd) at the National Teacher Training Center for Health Professions (NTTC-HP) at the University of the Philippines Manila. She finished her Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree at the Far Eastern University-Dr. Nicanor Reves Medical Foundation and her undergraduate degree in Medical Technology at Saint Louis University in Baguio City (cum laude).

### 1996 Student Research Awardees

Five of the 25 project proposals which vied for the Student Research Awards in Indigenous Sources of Medicine were chosen as the 1996 awardees of the PCHRD-Pharmaceutical and Health Care Association of the Philippines (PHAP) Award.

These projects were:

Neurophysiologic effects of the alkaloid component of mahogany seed extract, which aims to isolate the alkaloid component of mahogany seed extract;

The effect of <u>Ipomea aquatica</u>
<u>Forsk.</u> (Kangkong) leaf extract
on blood glucose levels of
alloxan-induced hyperglycemic
white mice, which will determine the effect of <u>Ipomea</u>
aquatica (Forsk) leaf extract on
blood glucose levels of alloxaninduced hyperglycemic white
mice;

An in vivo study of the effects of Apium graveolens Linneaus leaf extract on serum uric acid levels of potassium-oxanate induced albino rats, which aims to determine the effect on serum uric acid levels of Apium graveolens Linn. on albino rats;

An in-vivo study of the effect of 100% Orthosipon aristatum (Kabling-gubat) leaf extract on blood uric acid levels of pyrazinamide-induced hyperuricemic rabbits, which aims to determine the effect of Orthosipon aristatum leaf decoction on the blood uric acid levels of pyrazinamide-induced hyperuricemic male albino rabbits; and

An in vitro study on the effect of <u>Apium graveolens</u> seed (celery) extract on the isolated bronchial smooth muscle of cat, which aims to

determine the bronchodilator property of celery seeds.

## Winners of the 7th Scientific Poster Exhibit on Health and Related Technologies

The Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) and the University of Santo Tomas (UST) bested other entries in the professional and student categories, respectively. FNRI's study on "FVRice: Iron fortified rice for the prevention and control of anemia" bagged the first prize. The second place was won by the "Monoclonal antibody based detection technique for monitoring red tide toxin causal organism(s)" entry of BIOTECH, UP Los Banos. The third place went to "The development of immunodiagnostic test for the detection of antibodies against hepatitis B core antigen" entry of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine. The winners received P15,000, P10,000, and P7,000 respectively, plus a trophy each.

In the student category, the Institute of Physical Therapy, UST won the first prize with their



entry "An augmented auditory feedback footwear: a gait training device for diabetic patients." The second place winner was the entry "Bacterial cardiolipin for serodiagnosis of syphilis," of UST. "The Centers for Disease Control Nosocomial Infection Surveillance (CDC-NNIS), surgical patient risk index score and surgical site infection in UERMMMC" entry of the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center won third place. The groups were awarded P10,000, P7,000, and P5,000, respectively and a trophy each. An additional P5,000.00 cash and a trophy were given to the best-packaged technology, "Bacterial cardiolipin for serodiagnosis of syphilis."

## The Making of a Researcher

Who's going to do the research? Do we have enough people to do what's in our research agenda? Are we spending enough for the people who'll carry out the research tradition?

Since enticing and molding people into a research career is a long and risky process, PCHRD's responses to these questions may take time for people to appreciate.

However, with over a decade of its capability development program, the Council is proud to note of the world-class track record of some of the PCHRD grantees who have found excellent niches in their respective research fields.

To increase the country's research pool, and ensure a critical mass, PCHRD continued its efforts, and expanded some of its human resource and institution development program. Last year, PCHRD supported 36 scholars, 19 of them were new grantees. Including this present crop, a total of 75 scholars had been supported since 1982.

There were 15 newly approved thesis grantees. Of those ongoing, three dissertations and six theses were completed.

The Council also conducted 12 short-term courses for 422 researchers, medical practitioners, pharmacists, and information managers. The courses included biomedical research methodology, bioassay and phytochemical testing, research management, medical mycology, genetics and global import, and instrumentation, among other things.

A revitalized PCHRD Research Fellowship Program has been launched in November with bigger incentives for fellows and hostscientists alike. The program gives research opportunities for beginning researchers to work with mentor-scientists. The program



provides for a monthly stipend of P10,000 to the fellow; travel allowance from fellow's residence to the training institution (one round trip per year for those from the regions); financial support for the project not exceeding P200,000.00; and honoraria for the host scientist.

Other opportunities open for beginning researchers to undertake research (on a limited scale of P 50,000.00 per project) are through the Biomedical Research Methodology Courses conducted by PCHRD and through the Regional Research Fund.

For the year, a total of 16 biomedical projects submitted as partial fulfillment of the 4th Biomedical Research Methodology Course were approved. Under the Regional Research Fund mechanism, eight projects were approved.

## PCHRD Scholars, as Part of the PCHRD Family

PCHRD's interest in the career of its scholars and grantees does not start and end with a scholarship grant. As part of the PCHRD family, the Council seeks to

continuously dialogue with the grantees, even after graduation, to improve its programs.

A first time, the Council gathered together its scholars to a forum in July to get their feedbacks on the scholarship program. The consultation also served as a venue for the scholars to meet socially and to establish a support system.

On a more social footing, the scholars met again last December to celebrate Christmas together.

### Mini-PCHRD in the Region

The establishment of the Regional Health R&D Committees (RHRDCs) is a scheme implemented by PCHRD to decentralize decision-making on and implementation of projects that better respond to the needs of the region. Presently, there are six RHRDCs -- in Northern Luzon, Regions 6, 7, 8, 11; and the National Capital Region (Metro Manila Health Science Research Community).

The year 1996 saw the revitalization of RHRDC- 8. A concept paper for the establishment of a Tropical Diseases Research Center has been developed and the training aspect operationalized. Four seminars which provided information on the status of diseases endemic in the area were organized, while five proposals were generated and implemented.

## Research Philanthropy is Alive

The first link that Gruppo

Medica Inc. had with health S&T

was through the technology transfer

program of PCHRD — as one of the

technology adopters, in 1995, of



for cough and asthma. This year, Gruppo Medica extended its involvement in health research when it launched the Gruppo Medica Inc. Award for Outstanding Research on Herbal Medicine.

Gruppo Medica believes that a thesis is an excellent opportunity for students to contribute to national development. Thus, the company has earmarked rewards to relevant and innovative research on herbal medicine undertaken by undergraduate students of chemistry and pharmacy that

can lead to practical and/or commercial applications. The first prize winner will receive P30,000; second prize winner, P20,000.00; and third prize winner, P10,000.

## The People That Matters, the PCHRD Clients

PCHRD believes that all the efforts in health R&D is in vain if it does not benefit its clients, -- first and foremost, the Filipino people; and the people of the world.

## Marketable Products for Consumers

In October 1996. Pascual Laboratories. Inc., a Filipino pharmaceutical company, released into the market Ascof, the brand name of lagundi, a medicinal plant for cough and asthma. Effective and safe as other leading brands of cough remedies, brisk sales of Ascof had been reported. With a good market report, Pascual Laboratories is now poised to enter into the export market.

PCHRD also had initial talks with Bayer

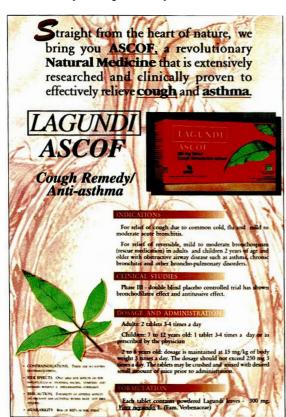
Philippines who had expressed interest to commercialize *atis* lotion as mosquito repellent. Bayer is not only looking at the Philippine market but an Asian market as well.

## So the Public May Know, a Healthy Advisory

The Council beefed up its quick response mechanism of providing the public, and the decision-makers, information from the S&T community that clarifies, and allays public fears on issues relating to the most pressing health concerns of the day.

Through its Hazard Watch, PCHRD released comprehensive reports and advisories on typhoid fever, cholera, dengue, red tide, potassium bromate on bread, puffer fish poisoning, pollution (heavy metals) from alcohol plants, hazards from electromagnetic fields, ebola virus from Philippine monkeys, Marcopper toxic waste, measles, and non-neonatal tetanus.

The world has a window to this information through the Internet-searchable PCHRD homepage.



## Listening to the Researchers and Keeping them Updated

The PCHRD, through its Health Research and Development Information Network (HERDIN), has been serving the information needs of the health research community since 1990. Yearly, the demand has been increasing.

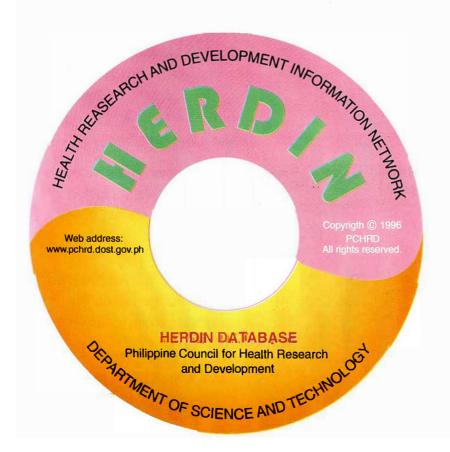
Despite a two-month break, when the PCHRD Library was closed for office renovation, 4,784 search requests from 2,230 clients were served during the year.

An alternative media, the HERDIN CD-ROM prototype, was launched in December and went into betatesting by 14 medical institutions in Metro Manila, Cebu, and Davao. HERDIN CD-ROM contains the bibliographic database of 21,000 records of published Philippine literature on health and related topics, in abstract format. Full text

version of selected 1994 articles were also included in the CD-ROM.

These HERDIN CD-ROM and databases were developed because of the Council's user orientation. Getting users' feedbacks was a regular part of the information servicing program of the Council. In 1996, PCHRD staff who were involved in the program went out to have face-to-face interviews with the users of HERDIN services.

The users' survey proved to be a good opportunity for PCHRD to know how satisfactory its HERDIN service was, what things were missing, and how improvements can be inputted into the service. Although the HERDIN clients were generally satisfied with the service, they believed the following



improvements will further enhance HERDIN offerings to wit: speeding up the turnaround time for full-text literature requests; making the database interfaces more user-friendly; enhancing the library collections; and making HERDIN accessible in the rural areas.

## The Means We Used to Reach Out to the Clients

The Council used traditional media like print and broadcast as part of its information dissemination activities. In 1996, the Council linked with independent account executives engaged in newspaper advertising, a costless strategy, to come up with a comprehensive feature on PCHRD in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*. Likewise, a link with



magazine publishers gave HERDIN media exposure in the maiden issue of *Rx Magazine*, the first magazine in the country exclusively designed for pharmacists.

PCHRD also undertook publishing activities on its own. The 1996 edition of *The National Guidelines on Biomedical/Behavioral Research* was launched during the National Science and Technology Week in July. An output of the National Ethics Committee, the book seeks to promote good ethical practice in

scientific research. It included new issues on ecological concerns, new technologies, and new diseases.

Through the Council's publication support program, the book entitled Capacities and Vulnerabilities - Disaster Health Management in the Philippines was published. The book records the recent developments of public health efforts addressing disaster related issues in the Philippines.

In broadcast media, the Council contributed three episodes in the Science and Technology segment of *Business and Leisure* aired over Channel 2. These episodes were on PCHRD, technology transfer and medicinal plants; HERDIN Online; and *atis* lotion and hemoglobinometer.

The Council also conducted several symposia in cooperation with the Metro Manila Health Science Community. The symposium on DNA Fingerprinting demonstrated how techniques in biotechnology are used in the country's criminal justice system.

The other symposia dealt on topics such as Ogawa culture technique for TB detection,



Women's Health Issues, Adolescent Health Sexuality, and Environment and Health. A symposium on the "Curative Power of Mahogany, Malunggay and Ampalaya" was held in coordination with Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science.

gum, and cerebrospinal fluid shunt were also featured in a regional techno fair in Cotabato City.

PCHRD also joined the Philippine Internet Expo in September to showcase its own



The National Science and Technology Fair served as venue for featuring the technologies on Ogawa culture technique, Continuous Passive Motion machine, diagnostic kit for syphilis, cytosieve technique, and photometer for blood chemistry for entrepreneurs, researchers, and general public alike. The technologies on cataract surgical set, hemoglobinometer, surgical bone implant, atis lotion, ipil-ipil seed

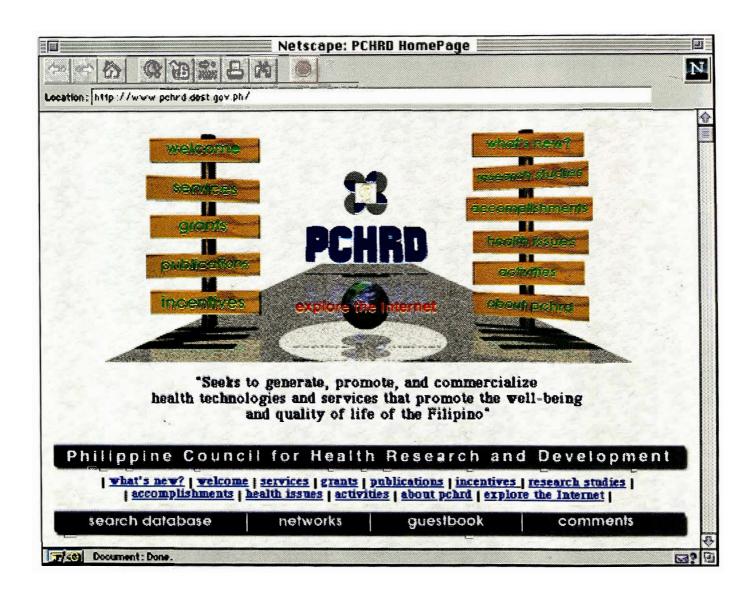
works that are now Internetsearchable, meaning -- services which people from the other parts of the world can access.

The 7th Scientific Poster Exhibit on Health and Related Technologies featured the research works of the 10 finalists in the professional and student categories at the Philippine General Hospital lobby. This annual event has provided a venue for researchers to share their work with potential

users of their results, aside from attracting would-be investors.

PCHRD has gone online in broadcasting what it is doing. People, in the country and throughout the world, who are interested to know PCHRD are encouraged to open the PCHRD Homepage at http://www.pchrd.dost.gov.ph.

The PCHRD Homepage bested other entries in the DOST Homepage competition held this year.



## The World is a Network, All We Need to Do is Find the Right Link

PCHRD participated in the National Consensus Workshop organized by the DOH's Essential national Health Research (ENHR) Program for the formulation of the health research agenda for 1996-2000. This PCHRD-DOST link ensures that there is a good match between the biomedical and health services R&D efforts.

The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), in cooperation with PCHRD, held the first research forum on sports medicine. The result was a draft research agenda for presentation to a larger sports medicine community. This is a new field that expands PCHRD's coverage as a national health R&D coordinator.

The Council also took part in the Second Schistosoma Japonicum Network in Molecular Biology and Vaccination meeting. The network is a loose association of researchers within and outside of the Western Pacific Region who are working on the molecular biology and vaccination aspects of the schistosome specie. The work of this group feeds

into related vaccine development programs of PCHRD.

PCHRD continued to be active in the biennial meetings of the World Health Organization-Western Pacific Region with health research councils and analogous bodies. The meetings serve as fora for exchanging information on the current research thrusts of the region as well as on research management strategies.

In the field of medicinal plants, three projects were prepared for consideration under the Republic of the Philippines-People's Republic of China 11th protocol. These projects were on: 1) Study on the development of capability on traditional medicine, 2) Human resource development on screening

and in-depths studies on medicinal plants, and 3) Study visit on the preparation of special dictary foods to promote good health.

Under this same bilateral agreement, a four-man team from Gunzhow province completed a 16-day visit in the country as part of the joint PROC-DOST project on the Base Establishment and Product Development of Fragrant and Medicinal Herb.

The visit resulted in the identification, and subsequent implementation, of the following programs: training in China of the technical staff of Pascual Laboratories on industrial scale production of herbal medicine; purchase by Pascual Laboratories of production equipment



from China; consultancy services of two Chinese herbal culinary experts for the Philippine Pacific Farms, Inc.; and information exchange on scientific, technical, and technological breakthrough on fragrant and herbal medicine.

In October, PCHRD hosted the 5th Management Board Meeting of the Asian Pacific Information Network on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants. The meeting came out with strategies that will help the network operate on a sustainable basis, to wit: 1) generating revenues by selling existing information products and services, engaging in consultancy, and other income-generating activities; 2) preparing product development proposals for submission to

funding agencies; and 3) developing newer resources that could generate revenues in the future.

In terms of its advisory role, the International Non-Clinical Assessment Research - Philippines (INARP) tapped the Council to provide technical advice on the establishment of an animal supply center in Batangas to ensure the availability of quality research animals.

## The People That Makes Up PCHRD

## People Movements Within the Governing Council

Newly-appointed DOH Secretary, Carmencita N. Reodica, became the vice chairman. Ms.

Asuncion Macalalag took over the post of Mrs. Elsa Bayani as an exofficio representative from the National Nutrition Council. Dr. Warlito C. Vicente, director of the Institute of Primary Health Care, Davao Medical School Foundation, joined the Council as Dr. Fernando Sanchez opted to work with PCHRD in a technical advisor capacity.

The other members of the Governing Council are DOST Secretary William G. Padolina as chairman; Dr. Abraham F. Pascual, President, Pascual Laboratories. Inc.; Dr. Josefina Poblete, dean, College of Medicine, Cebu Institute of Medicine; Dr. Ernesto O. Domingo, gastroenterologist; Dr. Perla Santos-Ocampo chancellor, UP Manila; and Dr. Pacita L. Zara, PCHRD executive director.

### **Two More Technical Advisors**

Aside from Dr. Fernando S. Sanchez of UERMMC, another new member joined the PCHRD Technical Advisors, Dr. Jane Baltazar of UP Manila.

The other technical advisors are Dr. Generoso F. Basa, Dr. Bonifacio C. Dazo, Dr. Adriano V. Laudico, and Dr. Victor C. Valenzuela.

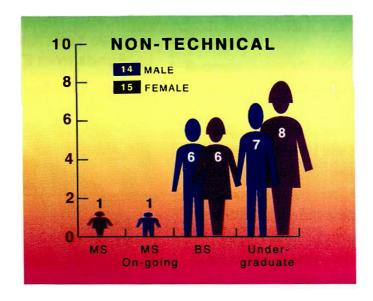


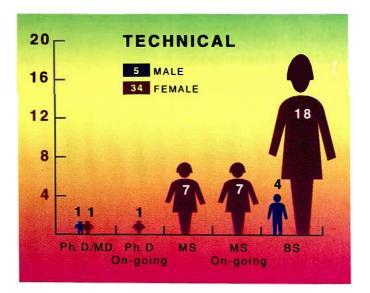
## The Secretariat

PCHRD's accomplishments are due largely to the complementary and synergistic efforts of the Council's personnel.

The total staff complement of the Council totals to 68, 39 hold technical positions while 29 hold non-technical positions.

The Council is moving towards having a highly competent human resource by encouraging staff to undertake higher level of studies.

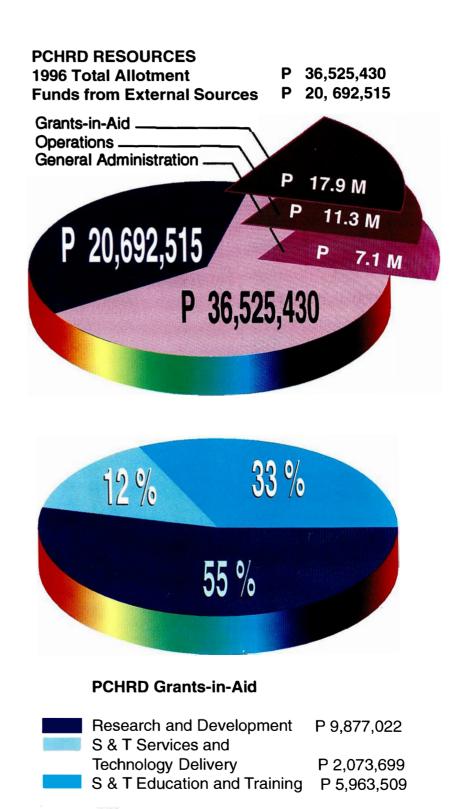




## Finance Talk

For 1996, the total allotment of PCHRD was P36.525.430. Aside from government appropriations for the Council, a total of P20, 692.515 was generated from external sources like the Department of Science and Technology, Department of Health, UNESCO, Technology Applications and Promotions Institute, Resins Inc., Pascual Laboratories, Foster Asia, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Zuellig Pharma Corp., Pharmaceutical Health Care Association of the Philippines (PHAP). United Laboratories Inc.. Electronics Information, Marsman Foundation. and United Nations Development Program.

Of the total PCHRD allotment, P36.3M had been expended. The Council's GIA budget of P17.9M supported projects on R&D (55%), technology transfer and S&T services (12%), and S&T education and training (33%). The rest of the PCHRD allotment was spent for the operations of the national health research system, and general administration.



## New Projects Undertaken by Beginning Researchers

## Training Program on Biomedical Research Methods

#### **NCR**

Microbiological and phytochemical screening of selected medicinal plants belonging to families leguminosae, euphorbiaceae, and compositae Prof. Imelda Pena University of the Philippines-College of Pharmacy

The antidotal effect of orallyadministered 50% Amaranthus spinosus (urai) leaves extract in paralytic shellfish poisoning in mice Prof. Corazon Santos UP-College of Medicine

Isolation and characterization of antibiotic producing bacteria from Philippine fruits Prof. Luisa Daroy UP-College of Public Health

Maternal role competence among post-partum adolescents in Metro Manila Prof. Amor Ballesteros UP-College of Nursing

The direct detection of rifampicin resistance mutations in the RPO-B gene the Philippine Mycobacterium tuberculosis isolates by polymerase chain reaction Prof. Jay Dalet UP-College of Art and Sciences

Evaluation of the anti-mutagenic potential of crude Capsicum frutescens Linn. (siling labuyo) fruit extract Prof. Luciana llao UP-College of Arts and Sciences The prevalence of chronic respiratory illnesses and reduced ventilatory function among garment workers exposed to cotton fibers Dr. Sonny Matias Habacon Far Eastern University-Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation

Effect of an extract from *Phyllantus* debilis on hepatitis B positive serum Ms. Constancia Obrero UP-Institute of Socio-Biomedical and Molecular Research

A descriptive study on the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of Quezon City Dental Society private practitioners on dental wastes management Dr. Jessica Santos UP-Dentistry

Degree of immunohistochemical expression of cytokeratin 13-its relation to survival of patients with squamos cell carcinoma of the cervix Dr. Ma. Lourdes T. Irao

Manila Central University

Comparison of ipil-ipil (Leucena leucocephala) seed suspension, papaya (Carica papaya) seed suspension, and pyrantel pamoate suspension as anti-helminthics among the MCU grade school students with ascariasis Dr. Catherine Gironella Manila Central University - Filemon D. Tanchoco Medical Foundation

An assessment of the effectiveness of the preventive incremental dental care program at the UP Integrated School
Dr. Elizabeth de Castro
UP - Dentistry

A study of knowledge, attitudes, and behavior towards reproductive health among women who had elderly pregnancy in Metro Manila Prof. Esmeralda Perez UP-College of Arts and Sciences

The knowledge, attitudes and behavior of the lower-middle class adult urban consumers of the Fifth Congressional District of the City of Manila with regards to the Generics Act of 1988, R.R.6675 Prof. Bernard Karganilla UP-College of Arts and Sciences

### **Region VII**

Comparison of the effect of simvastatin and avocado fruit flesh on the level of LDL-cholesterol among hypercholesterolemic rabbits

Dr. Melfer Montoya Cebu Institute of Medicine

## Regional Research Fund Projects

#### **REGION VII**

The prevalence of hearing impairment among school children at Cebu Central School
Dr. Arthur Dy
Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical
Center
AIDS: Knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and perceived risks among high school students in Cebu City
Dr. Cecil de Asis
Cebu Doctors College of Medicine

Use of permethrin treated curtains for dengue vector control Dr. Susan K. Madarieta DOH, Region 7

#### **REGION VIII**

**Foundation** 

The community-based under five clinic of Makapawa and health status of children Dr. Conchita Latoza Divine World University Hospital

The accuracy and reliability of rural health unit's microcopist laboratory team in the detection of malarial parasites Ms. Thelma Lim Remedios T. Romualdez Medical

Snail control using fungicide Mr. Roger Hambre Schistosomiasis Research and Training Division, Department of Health

Community-based approach in the control of schistosomiasis in newly discovered endemic areas Ms. Daisy Perez City Health Office, Ormoc City

Risk factors to iodine deficiency among patients at City Health Office, Ormoc Ms. Luz Calipayan City Health Office, Ormoc

## R&D Projects Under the Regular Program



### **PHARMACHEMICALS**

Technological development of processes for the production of high enantiomeric excesses of (S)-(+)-ibuprofen using physical methods Dr. Florentino C. Sumera UP Diliman Institute of Chemistry Ongoing

Technological development of processes for the production of high enantiomeric excesses of (S)-(+)-ibuprofen using chemical methods Dr. Eva Ratilla

UP Diliman Institute of Chemistry Ongoing

Technological development of processes to produce (S)-(+)-ibuprofen in high enantiomeric excess from the racemate using functionalized polymers
Dr. Leonorina Cada
UP Diliman Institute of Chemistry
Ongoing

Kinetic resolution of ibuprofen using commercially available lipases and proteases

Dr. Milagros M. Peralta UP Los Banos Institute of Chemistry Ongoing

Kinetic resolution of ibuprofen using local plant and crustacean lipases Dr. Milagros M. Peralta UP Los Banos Institute of Chemistry Ongoing

Kinetic resolution of ibuprofen using lipases and proteases from local microbial strains Dr. Ma. Jamela Revilleza UP Los Banos Institute of Chemistry Ongoing Chemistry of selected plants with antitubercular potentials Dr. Alicia Aguinaldo UST Research Center for Natural Sciences Ongoing

Preparation of ophthalmic grade hyaluronic acid from human umbilical cord Dr. Ramon Miranda UP Institute of Chemistry Ongoing

### **BIOTECHNOLOGY**

Cytogenetic characterization of childhood leukemias in selected tertiary hospitals in Metro Manila Dr. Ma. Luisa D. Enriquez St. Luke's Medical Center-Research and Biotechnology Division Ongoing

Development of an immunodiagnostic test for the detection of antibodies against hepatitis B core antigen (AntiHBcAg) in serum Dr. Bernadette L. Ramirez Research Institute for Tropical Medicine Ongoing

Development of cell lines from primary cultures of human cancer tissues

Dr. Gloria De Castro-Bernas UST-Research Center for Natural Sciences New

Establishment of a current good manufacturing practice (cGMP) pilot plant for research and development of recombinant vaccines and other biologicals

Dr. Emilio B. Cadayona

Department of Health - Biologicals Production Service Ongoing

Strengthening the Institute of Biology: Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Program, UP College of Science for studies using DNA technology - Development of diagnostic kit to detect pathogenic and non-pathogenic strains of Entamoeba histolytica
Dr. Filipinas F. Natividad
UP Diliman Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Program (MBBP)
Ongoing

#### MEDICINAL PLANTS

Establishment of quality control bioassay standards procedures for medicinal plant products Romeo F. Quijano, M.D. UP Department of Pharmacology Ongoing

Mutagenicity, clastogenicity and antimutagenity potential of drug preparations from Philippine medicinal plants Clara L. Syliangco, Ph.D. UP Institute of Chemistry Ongoing

Dosage forms from medicinal plant constituents Natividad de Castro, Ph. D. UP College of Pharmacy Ongoing

Clinical screening and validation studies of medicinal plant products used in traditional folk medicine in the Philippines Nelia C. Maramba, M.D. UP Department of Pharmacology Ongoing Pharmacologic, toxicologic studies of medicinal plants Dr. Horacia R. Estrada, M.D. UP Department of Pharmacology Ongoing

Phase III multicenter study of Vitex negundo L. (lagundi) syrup against placebo in pediatric patients with acute cough of moderate severity Estrella Paje-Villar UST, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery Ongoing

A randomized double blind placebo controlled cross-over trial on sambong tablet (Blumea balsamifera L.) in mild hypertension
Antonio L. Dans, M.D.
UP College of Medicine
Completed

Enhancement of the capability of a locally fabricated hemoglobinometer for analysis of other blood constituents
Dr. Fortunato B. Sevilla III
UST Research Center for Natural Sciences
Ongoing

Production of radiation-sterilized amnions for human application Ms. Zenaida de Guzman Philippine Nuclear Research Institute-DOST New

Effect of Tamarindus indica crude aqueous leaf extracts on systemic blood pressure and hemodynamics of rat mesenteric microcirculation, in vivo
Dr. Xenia Tigno
UP College of Medicine
Completed

Seed gum from Leucana leucocephala L. (Ipil-ipil) as an excipient in pharmaceutical liquid dosage forms Prof. Leticia Gutierrez UP College of Pharmacy Completed

## TRADITIONAL AREAS OF CONCERN

### Communicable diseases

Clinical, radiologic, microbiologic, and pathologic features of drug susceptible and resistant Mycobacterium tuberculosis and mycobacteria other than tuberculosis infection in patients with HIV infection Dr. Jaime Montoya Research Institute for Tropical Medicine Ongoing

Community-based surveillance for drug-resistance of Mycobacterium tuberculosis Dr. Tessa Tan-Torres UP Philippine General Hospital Ongoing

Food-borne bacterial pathogens of some selected processed foods sold in public markets in Metro Manila Dr. Aida Aguinaldo Food and Nutrition Research Institute - DOST Ongoing

Comparison of triple (2RHZ/4RH) versus quadruple (2RHZE/4RH) short-course treatment for tuberculosis in the Philippines: A multicenter study Dr. Charles C. Yu De La Salle University Ongoing

Efficacy of Mycobacterium vaccae as an immuno-therapeutic agent in the management of pulmonary tuberculosis

Dr. Jaime Montoya

UP Philippine General Hospital
New

A study on patient compliance to TB treatment regimen
Dr. Sandra C. Tempongco
UP College of Public Health
Ongoing

#### Maternal and Child Health

Prevalence of congenital hypothyroidism among newborns
Carmelita F. Domingo, M. D.
Department of Pediatrics - UP
Philippine General Hospital
New

## Degenerative and metabolic disorders

A comparison of the clinical scoring system and the rapid shallow breathing index in predicting success in weaning patients on mechanical ventilation Dr. Abundio A. Balgos UP Philippine General Hospital Ongoing

The practice of cancer pain management among physicians in the Philippines
Dr. Adriano V. Laudico
Surgical Oncology Society of the Philippines
Ongoing

Cancer pain severity and treatment survey: A study proposal for the Philippines Dr. Adriano V. Laudico Surgical Oncology Society of the Philippines Ongoing High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) determination of serum penicillin levels in Filipino children with rheumatic heart disease/rheumatic fever (RHD/RF) Dr. Christine Leonor Ma. M. Cruz-Conductu
Department of Pediatrics
UP Philippine General Hospital
Completed

Metabolic effects of local seaweed extracts in blood sugar level Dr. Leonora Panlasigue UP College of Home Economics New

### **Nutritional Products**

Iron-absorption from FVRice-Iron fortified Ms. Divinagracia Valdez Food and Nutrition Research Institute-DOST Completed

Updating of nutritional status of Filipino children at provincial level Ms. Gracia Villavieja Food and Nutrition Research Institute-DOST New

Establishment of nutritional food processing and supplementary feeding center in Barangay Concepcion, Alitagtag, Batangas Mr. Alejandro Martin, Jr. Food and Nutrition Research Institute-DOST New

Vitamin A fortification of coconut cooking oil Dr. Lydia Marero Food and Nutrition Research Institute-DOST New

### State-of-the-Art

Development of guidelines for the effective and efficient control of hypertension
Dr. Ramon Abarquez
Philippine Society of Hypertension
Ongoing

### **Policy Study**

Development of an interdisciplinary code of ethics in reproductive health research Prof. Cristina Torres UP College of Arts and Sciences Ongoing

### ENVIRONMENTAL/OCCUPA-TIONAL HEALTH

Somatic mutation in peripheral blood lymphocytes among Metro Manila residents: Indication of exposure to environmental pollution Ms. Ma. Teresa Yulo-Nazarea Health Physics Research Section, Philippine Nuclear Research Institute-DOST Ongoing

Risk assessment of major industries located at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone Ms. Gloria A. Asprer Environmental Division Industrial Technology Development Institute-DOST Ongoing

# PCHRD SCHOLARS 1996 Grantees



### **DOCTORAL DEGREE**

Ms. Benedicta Alava University of Santo Tomas Ph. D. Chemistry University of Santo Tomas

Ms. Erlinda Domingo Regional Health Office 3 Dr. Public Health University of the Philippines-College of Public Health

Ms. Socorro Ignacio
Department of Health
Ph.D. Public Health (Health Education)
UP College of Public Health

Ms. Jasmin Jiji Miranda UP-College of Science Ph. D. Molecular Biology and Biotechnology UP-College of Science

Prof. Buenalyn Teresita Ramos UP-College of Public Health Ph. D. Public Health (Health Education) UP College of Public Health

Ms. Elinor Sunico Research Institute for Tropical Medicine Ph. D. Clinical Psychology UP College of Social Sciences and Philosophy

Ms. Julieta Zabal Centro Escolar University Ph. D. Biology College of Science De La Salle University

### **MASTERS DEGREE**

Ms. Ana Maria Bacudio Manila Health Department MS Microbiology UP College of Public **Health**  Dr. Teresita Cajano Regional Health Office 8 MS Biostatistics UP College of Public Health

Ms. Ailyn Manglicmot UP College of Medicine MS Microbiology UP College of Medicine

Dr. Amelia Medina UP Philippine General Hospital MS Clinical Epidemiology UP College of Medicine (CEU)

Ms. Vicel Meregillano University of Immaculate Concepcion MS Pharmacy University of Santo Tomas

Mr. Leonido Olobia Regional Health Office 8 MS Microbiology UP-College of Public Health

Dr. Lucila Perez Manila Central University-Felimon D. Tanchoco Medical Foundation Ms Clinical Epidemiology UP College of Medicine (CEU Program)

Ms. Clariebelle Reynoso UP-College of Pharmacy MS Microbiology UP College of Public Health

Ms. Hyacinth Tagulo
University of Immaculate Concepcion
MS Pharmacy
University of Santo Tomas

Mr. Michael Valdez University of Santo Tomas MS Microbiology University of Santo Tomas

### LIST of COMPLETED THESIS/ DISSERTATION for 1996

#### **Dissertation**

Ms. Luisa D. Enriquez
De La Salle University
Ph. D. Zoology
Dissertation: Comparative mutagen
sensitivity of chromosomes from
lymphocytes of normal and cancer
individuals

Prof. Rafaelita Ong University of the Philippines Ph. D. Public Health Dissertation: Health education interventions to minimize defaulting of leprosy patients on multi-drug therapy

Prof. Jesus Sarol University of the Philippines Ph. D. Epidemiology Dissertation: Survey of HIV antibody infections and high risk behaviors among drug users

#### **Thesis**

Ms. Amy Calumpang
University of San Carlos
MS Pharmacy
Thesis: Vitro determination of the
anti-coagulant property of Auricularia auricula (hook) underwood

Ms. Yolanda Chua University of San Carlos MS Pharmacy Thesis: The antiseptic activity of santan (Ixora coccinea Linn, family Rubaceae) roots

Mr. Rogelio Cruz
Centro Escolar University
MS Microbiology
Thesis: Bacterial cardiolipin for serodiagnosis of syphilis

Ma. Cecilia Laurente
University of the Philippines
MA Nursing
Thesis: Effects of nurses caring
behavior on the anxiety of patients
in the emergency room

Ms. Lydia T. Manahan
University of the Philippines
MS Nursing
Thesis: Assessing the anxiety profile
of patients undergoing hysterectomy and mastectomy

Dr. Teresita Yambot
Manila Central University-Filemon
D. Tanchoco Medical Foundation
MS Optometry
Thesis: An appraisal of the approach to eradication of eye health problem of Filipinos by year 2000

## LIST of Thesis / Dissertation Grantees for 1996

Ms. Elmira Judy T. Aguilar University of San Carlos MA Health Social Science Thesis: Quality care: clients' perception on the package deal services

Mr. Jack Hess Baricuatro
University of San Carlos
MS Chemistry
Thesis: Isolation and characterization of bioactive metabolites of red
algahalymenia durvillae: bory

Ms. Lolita Cavinta
University of the Philippines
MS Public Health
Thesis: Antibodies to hepatitis C
virus major antigen associated with

center stages of hepatitis C virus infection

Mr. Francisco S. Chung Lung Center of the Philippines MS Biochemistry Thesis: P-glyco-protein in non-small cell lung center as a possible marker for anticoplastic drug resistance

Ms. Jayvee Cruz
University of the Philippines
MA Nursing
Thesis: Determinants of compliance
to therapeutic regimen among
selected Filipino juvenile diabetics

Ms. Phoebe Espinas
National Museum
MS Biological Science
Thesis: Medicinal plants and home
remedies of the Abellen Ayta

Ms. Esperanza Espino
Research Institute for Tropical
Medicine
Ph. D. Tropical Medicine
Dissertation: Indicators for evaluating the effect of a community-based malaria-control intervention in a low endemic area in the Philippines

Ms. Glomarie Gonzales
University of the Philippines
MS Chemistry
Thesis: Extraction and purification
of hyaluronic acid from human
umbilical cord

Mr. Howell T. Ho
University of the Philippines
MS Biochemistry
Thesis: A comparative study of the
collagenasic activity of the excretory
extract from pathogenic and none
pathogenic strain of naegleria sp.

Dr. Socorro Lupisan
Research Institute for Tropical
Medicine
MS Epidemiology
Thesis: Validity of the WHO recommended ARI case assessment in the
diagnosis of pneumonia in children
lower than five presenting with
cough and fever in malaria hyperendemic area in the Philippines

Dr. Susan T. Yanga-Mabunga University of the Philippines MS Dentistry Thesis: Social impact of oral diseases and disorder among workers

Ms. Preciosa Corazon Pabroa University of the Philippines MS Chemistry Thesis: Purification and biochemical characterization of the venom from the jellyfish chiropsalmus

Mr. Ronelio Rara
Research Institute for Tropical
Medicine
MS Microbiology
Thesis: Development and evaluation of vibrio cholerae antisera
containing Ogawa, Inaba, and
Bengal antibodies

Mr. Diosdado Sale
University of San Carlos
MS Chemistry
Thesis: Isolation and characterization of insecticidal and antimicrobial metabolites of red alga gledsiella acerosa (Forskal):
Feldman & Hamel

Ms. Sandra Tankeh-Torres Philippine Orthopedic Institute MS Clinical Epidemiology Thesis: Risk factors of hip fractures in Filipinos

## **PCHRD Officials**

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