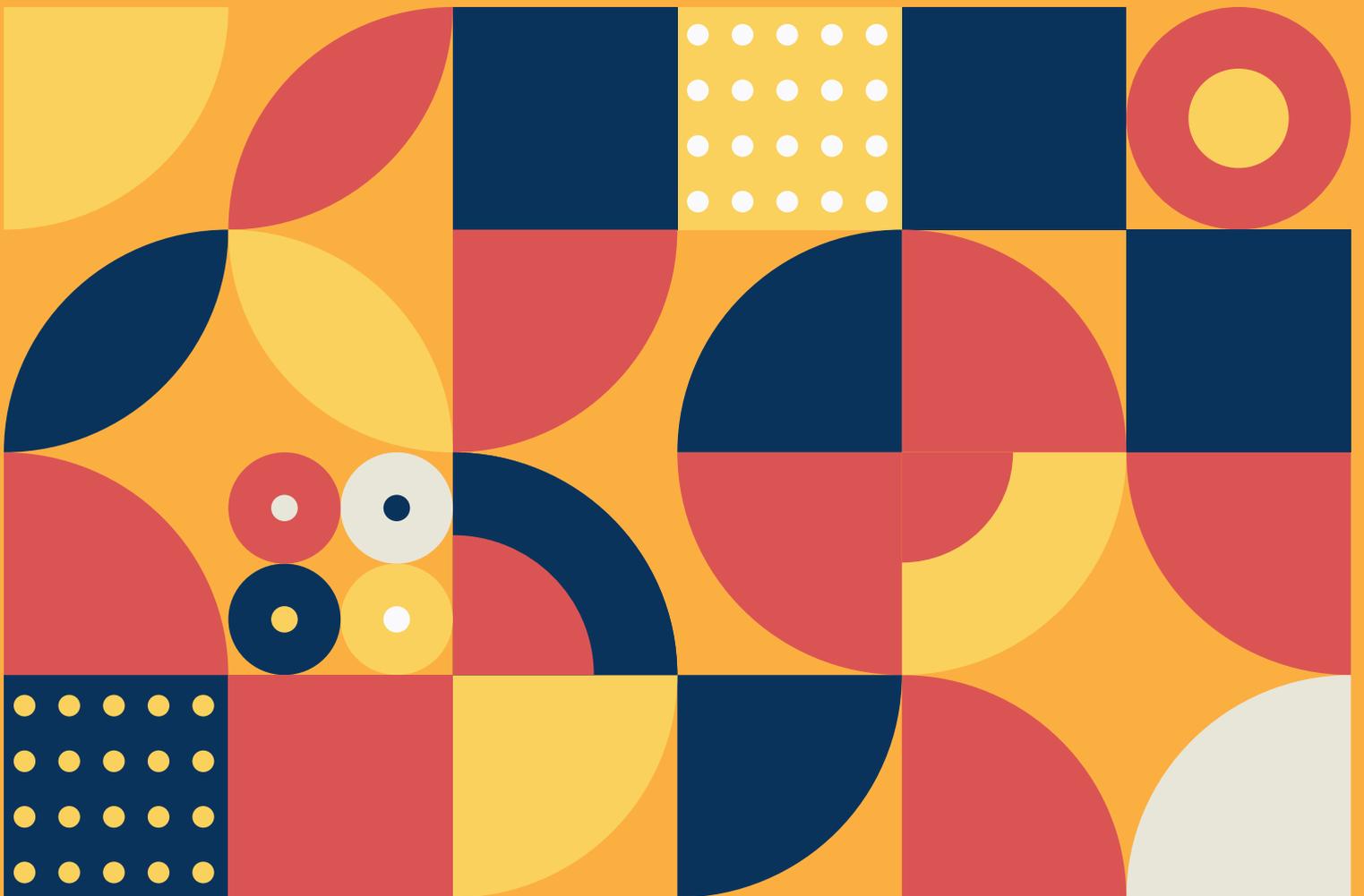


DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR HEALTH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

2021 PCHRD ANNUAL REPORT



Making lives better through health research.

The Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) is one of the three sectoral councils of the Department of Science and Technology. It is a forward-looking, partnership-based national body responsible for coordinating and monitoring health research activities in the country.

PCHRD was created on March 17, 1982 through Executive order No. 784. In 1987, Executive Order No. 128 reaffirmed its existence and relevance. This directive reorganized the National Science and Technology Authority into what is now the Department of Science and Technology.




VISION
The PCHRD as the recognized lead provider of research-based solutions and innovations to address health system needs by 2028.

MISSION
As the national coordinating body for health research, we provide central direction, leadership and coordination of health research activities



Passion for excellence and innovation in public service



Culture of teamwork and collaboration



High regard for work ethics and integrity



Responsive personal effectiveness



Dynamic involvement in quality management system



Executive Director's REPORT

Our partners in health and my fellow Filipinos—it is my pleasure to share with you the Council's work and accomplishments in 2021.

For the past two years, we have dedicated much of our work to aid the country's COVID-19 pandemic response—leveraging S&T-based solutions that will boost the country's testing capacity, support our healthcare workers, map the spread of the disease, serve as possible treatment regimens, and contribute to ongoing vaccine clinical trials, among other areas of concern.

This year, we supported a total of 25 COVID-19-related projects, including the trials on virgin coconut oil, Tawa-tawa, and Lagundi as possible adjunct therapies for COVID-19. The study on Lagundi successfully generated evidence that mild COVID-19 patients may take the tablet or syrup to alleviate their symptoms. We continued to participate in ongoing global initiatives to battle the pandemic by supporting the country's participation in the World Health Organization's (WHO) Solidarity Treatment and Vaccine Trials. We also have ongoing studies which aim to aid the development of evidence-informed guidelines on the use of COVID-19 vaccines.

Despite the challenges brought by the pandemic, we continued our thrusts to address healthcare burdens across our priority research areas. In fact, some of our initiatives this year carry lessons learned from or were built from our pandemic response. Recognizing the constant threat from diseases such as COVID-19, we expanded our Dengue and other Arboviruses research program to establish the Re-emerging and Emerging Diseases or RED Program. Meanwhile, our Tuklas Lunas Program continues to pursue drug candidates derived from our very own biodiversity, with promising leads for anti-diabetes, anti-cancer, and anti-pain compounds. To further build our capacities for drug discovery and development, we recently established a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Laboratory in Visayas—the first one outside of the NCR and the CALABARZON.

We also started the work to establish a new laboratory in UP Manila, which will serve as the home for the Surgical Innovation and Biotechnology Laboratory or the SIBOL Program for the development of medical device innovations. For the advancement of these projects and for all those you will read on towards the report, we have invested more than 650 million pesos this year alone.

We also put significant value into building the capacities of our own pool of researchers and partners in the field. In 2021, we supported and monitored a total of 182 scholars distributed under our MS, MD-PhD, and PhD programs. We also launched a new scholarship program—the Ph.D. in Health Research Program— in partnership with the University of Santo Tomas (UST). We continued to work with 14 Balik Scientists for 70 R&D projects and seven technologies. Congruent with our efforts to ensure that we keep health research ethical and safe, we also assisted the Philippine Health Research Ethics Board (PHREB) in accrediting 29 research ethics committees (RECs).

Our end goal, of course, is to make sure that all our initiatives will eventually reach our communities. To promote research utilization, we supported 24 projects for research dissemination, spanning activities for paper presentations, scientific events, and publication. This year, we also filed a total of 71 IP applications and launched new programs to support and boost technology transfer in health. Likewise, we advocated for evidence-informed policies for responsive healthcare solutions. This year, we provided inputs to 40 policy instruments and supported the passage of the Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines bill.

These are only examples of our accomplishments for 2021. By sharing this report, we hope to generate awareness on our initiatives and increase appreciation for the hard work of the people behind the Council and all our partners in health. Moving forward, the DOST-PCHRD commits to advancing R&D for healthcare solutions that will make lives better for our communities.

To our fellow countrymen, it is our honor and privilege to serve you.

Jaime C. Montoya
Dr. Jaime C. Montoya
 Executive Director
 Philippine Council for Health Research and Development,
 Lead Coordinator
 Philippine National Health Research System



DOST Secretary's MESSAGE

Even with the COVID-19 pandemic still looming, we are seeing rays of hope as the country rolled out vaccinations, first to our healthcare workers and frontliners, then eventually to the rest of the population.

It is safe to say that 2021 for health is the year of COVID-19 vaccines. With the various vaccines issued with Emergency Use Authorization available to us, the WHO Solidarity Trial Vaccine, which is finally underway, will allow us to find additional safe and effective vaccines for the Filipino people. At the moment, the Trials already signed 3,040 volunteers from five participating hospitals and two community-based sites, and we are expecting to sign up 15,000 people all over the Philippines to ensure its success.

In congruence with this study, a 12-month post-COVID-19 vaccine surveillance study was also supported by the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) to determine how effective the vaccines we have administered are and how long their effectiveness will last. Apart from this, Vaccine mix and match trials, now being conducted in five sites in Luzon including NCR and Davao, also aim to address challenges in the availability of vaccines for booster shots. The country is also taking steps, albeit small ones, towards independently producing our own vaccines as the Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines Act or the VIP Act has passed the third and final reading from Congress and is awaiting approval from the Senate. In addition, the Council recently supported a study on a potential candidate for the development of a COVID-19 vaccine under the Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines program by the Research and Biotechnology Group of St. Luke's Medical Center. Hopefully, once the VIP Act is passed, we will be

able to establish the institute on schedule and finally facilitate studies on the development of even more vaccines for different health concerns in the country. Other than vaccines, of course, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) with PCHRD continues to fortify ties with the Fondazione Italiana Fegato (FIF) to help our country fight one of our people's silent killers: liver disease. We were able to present the projects and points of collaboration with FIF during their annual scientific committee meeting, and the Foundation was more than thrilled with what our country has prepared in the pipeline.

Also, after the success of the Axis-Knee system, Orthopedic International, Inc. has once again partnered with PCHRD to develop several orthopaedic solutions such as a posterior cervical fixation system, a cementless hip replacement system, and a magnetic distal targeting device for intramedullary nails. These innovations in orthopaedic surgery would eventually lessen procedure and recovery time and lower risks and costs for the institutions, the surgeons, and our fellowmen.

An event worth mentioning is Executive Director, Dr. Jaime Montoya's recognition as Outstanding Physician of the Year by the Professional Regulation Commission. This award highlights the importance the work of the Council has been in the past two years under the pandemic and how science can truly be in the service of the people.

We are closing 2021 standing on much firmer ground and PCHRD will definitely be more ready to take bolder strides towards the future of health research for the country. In 2022, PCHRD's 40th year, we are looking forward to where the Council will steer Philippine health research and the health care system.

Congratulations and Mabuhay ang PCHRD!


Sec. Fortunato T. de la Peña
 Chair, PCHRD Governing Council
 Secretary, Department of Science and
 Technology



Every second week of August, the health research community celebrates the Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS) Week.

Hosted by the Zamboanga Consortium for Health Research and Development (ZCHRD) with the Department of Science and Technology IX (DOST IX), 14th PNHRS Week's theme is *"Health R and D in the New Normal: Moving towards Universal Health Care."*

Using a combination of live and pre-recorded materials through various media platforms, the celebration was held on August 3-13, 2021. It served as a venue for different stakeholders to share their best practices and experiences in pursuit of healthier lives for the Filipinos through health research and development.

A total of 3,352 participants attended the pre-conference while 4,879 participants attended the main conference. The event also featured new emerging partnerships to address the country's current challenges on health issues.



The Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS) is an integrated national framework for health research in the country. It is a convergence strategy that aims to promote cooperation and integration of all health research efforts and stakeholders in the country to ensure that research contributes to evidence-informed health policies and actions.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), with the Department of Health (DOH), established the Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS), by signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on March 17, 2003. In 2007, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and University of the Philippines Manila (UPM) joined as core agencies of the PNHRS.

HIGHLIGHTS

107.61%

budget utilization rate for health R&D

Php 659 million

research expenditures in support of health R&D projects in 2021



distribution of health R&D projects funded in 2021

PART

1

Research & Development

To ensure that research results support the development of affordable, accessible, and quality S&T-based solutions and innovations, the Council funds research aligned with the PCHRD's research priority areas in health.



ARCHER/ COVID-19

Addressing and Responding to COVID-19 through Health Research

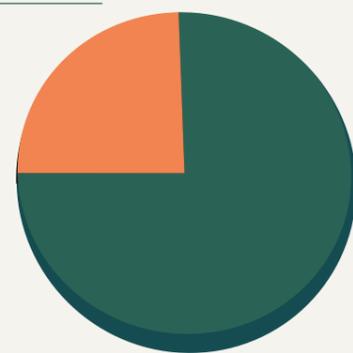
As the COVID-19 virus spreads worldwide, the Philippine healthcare system has been greatly challenged considering COVID-19's significant threat and impact in the country. The World Health Organization (WHO) emphasized the need to accelerate innovative research to help contain the spread of the virus and facilitate care for those affected.

In the Philippines, health research activities are coordinated by PCHRD. The Council has been

leading the efforts in the conduct and support of health research to come up with solutions that can contribute to addressing the pandemic. In 2020, PCHRD created the program entitled, "Addressing and Responding to COVID-19 through Health Research (ARCHER)" to augment the council's financial resources to support COVID-19 research projects that will contribute to pandemic response. Eight (8) specific topics aligned to the health priorities of the HRNDA have been identified as priority research areas for funding.

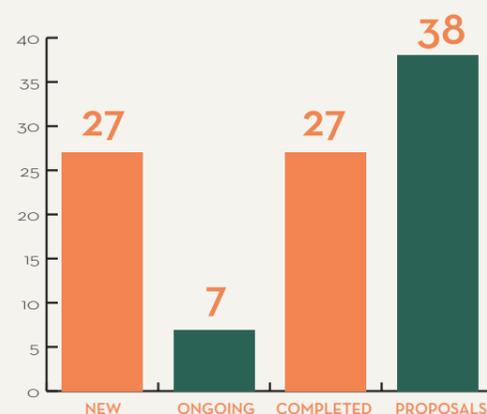
2021 Research expenditures

ARCHER
Php 80,252,520.07



Other COVID-19 Projects
PHP 242,706,422.16

Distribution of projects



For ARCHER-funded projects, six are still ongoing and eleven were completed as of December 2021. Most projects achieved their target number of participants, collected samples, and are still waiting for the analysis of their results.

In 2021, 25 COVID-19 projects were approved and supported by DOST-PCHRD. As of December 2021, 16 projects already completed their activities and one project is still ongoing.

Most COVID-19 projects were able to recruit participants for clinical trials, collect samples for biobanking, and analyze data.

Studies involving the development of diagnostic kits and assays are still in progress. Projects were able to foster collaborations to public and private institutions, hospitals, laboratories, and universities locally and internationally. Projects related to developing hospital equipment and devices were already completed. These locally-developed equipment and devices will be deployed to various COVID-19 hospitals.

Projects for developing devices for expanded COVID-19 testing and primary screening were already completed.

COVID-19 projects funded under ARCHER are expected to be completed before the end of 2022.

In 2021, all COVID-19 projects are expected to accomplish the following:

- publication of project manuscripts and application of patents, whenever applicable;
- submission of quarterly/ terminal reports to monitor the progress of the project or to formally close the project;
- acquire scientific data that can serve as basis for the use/ adoption of a certain technology/ strategy or to comply with regulatory requirements for clinical studies and eventually registration of a product;
- developed products/ technologies for COVID-19 such as diagnostics kits, ICT-tools, potential treatment/s and PPE, etc.;
- foster collaboration/ coordination with other DOST agencies, NGAs, LGUs, implementing agencies, foreign universities, and pharmaceutical companies;
- enhanced/ upgraded local laboratories/ facilities for conduct of COVID-19 studies; and
- draft of policy brief/ recommendations relevant for COVID-19 response.

Lagundi tablet/syrup and Tawa-tawa extract for mild to moderate COVID-19 patients

Clinical trial on the efficacy and safety of Lagundi (*Vitex negundo*) tablets/syrup (NIRPROMP formulation) with standard treatment compared to placebo with standard treatment in patients with mild COVID disease without comorbidities

Dr. Cecilia Maramba
University of the Philippines National Institutes of Health



Commonly used as a bronchodilator, or as a medication to open up the airways, the team of Dr. Cecilia Maramba from the University of the Philippines National Institutes of Health (UP NIH), explored Lagundi as a treatment for COVID-19.

The study evaluated the efficacy and safety of Lagundi tablet/syrup in patients without co- morbidities suspected or with confirmed mild COVID-19.

Through the clinical trial, the project team found the standard dose (600mg) of Lagundi to be as safe and efficacious as high-dose (1.2g) Lagundi. After the intervention, patients reported relief of symptoms, especially for anosmia

(loss of sense of smell) and overall

relief of discomfort due to other symptoms.

There was also no significant difference in adverse event grade and incidence between the intervention group (group who received Lagundi) and control (group who did not receive Lagundi). The research team concluded that Lagundi can be safely used for the symptomatic treatment of mild COVID-19.



Leveraging on natural resources abundant in the country, Tawa-tawa is being explored as an adjunctive or supplementary treatment for COVID-19. Led by Dr. Philip Ian Padilla of the University of the Philippines Visayas, the project aims to determine the efficacy of standardized aqueous *Euphorbia hirta* L. (tawa-tawa) spray-dried extract (SDE) – previously developed with the support of DOST-PCHRD Tuklas Lunas® Program – as adjunctive treatment for mild to moderate cases of COVID-19.

The team has completed the recruitment of patients, particularly, those aged 19-55 years old without comorbidities and suspected or confirmed to have mild to moderate COVID-19.

The patients were also recruited from isolation facilities in Negros Occidental (e.g., EB Magalona Hills Isolation Facility and Quezon City (Philippine Red Cross Hope 8 Isolation Facility).

In general, COVID-19 symptoms started to disappear between days 3 - 5. After this period, respondents exhibited no symptoms. Patients reported an increase in appetite, better bowel movement and urination, and alleviation of cough, after the intake of Tawa-tawa. Currently, the team is conducting extensive statistical analysis. Depending on the outcome of the study, the FDA registration status of the products can be re-evaluated. Furthermore, the concerned agencies may issue policy recommendations on the use of these products for COVID management or treatment.

Clinical trial on the efficacy and safety of Tawa-tawa (*Euphorbia hirta* L.) extract as an adjunctive treatment for mild to moderate COVID-19 patients

Dr. Philip Ian Padilla
University of the Philippines Visayas



Community and hospital trials on virgin coconut oil (VCO) for COVID-19 cases

Community trials on VCO for Suspect and Probable COVID-19 Cases

The Beneficial Effects of VCO among Suspect and Probable Cases of COVID-19

Dr. Imelda Angeles-Agdeppa
Food and Nutrition Research Institute

Following favorable results from the in vitro experiments on VCO as an antiviral for COVID-19, the DOST-PCHRD supported a study evaluating the effects of VCO for suspect and probable COVID-19 cases. The factors evaluated are the participant's CRP (c-reactive protein) level, all hematology tests (CBC differential count), pulmonary function, viral load or CD4+, lipid profile, diminishing/resolution of signs and symptoms, and number of days in the center.

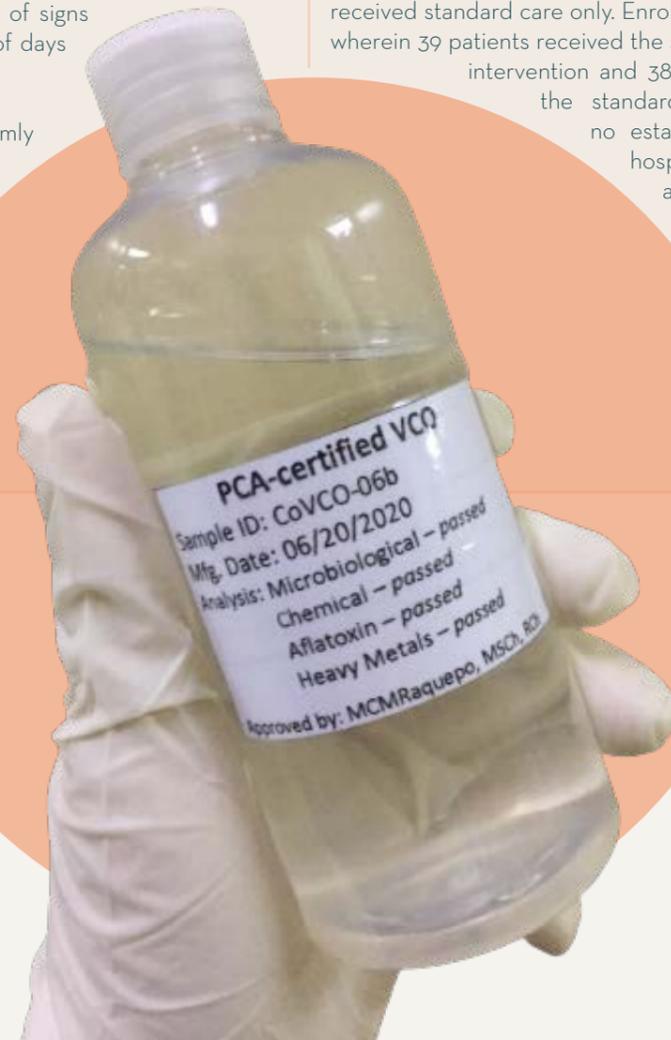
Participants were randomly allocated across two groups; the VCO group who received meals mixed with VCO, and the control group who received regular meals.

Hospital trials on VCO for Asymptomatic and Mild to Severe COVID-19 patients

Virgin Coconut Oil as Adjunctive Therapy for Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients

Dr. Marissa M. Alejandria
University of the Philippines- Philippine General Hospital

This trial aims to determine the efficacy and safety of VCO as an adjunctive therapy for hospitalized COVID-19 patients based on their recovery from symptoms and virus clearance, and laboratory parameters such as lipid profile, fasting blood sugar, and creatinine levels. Participants are randomly assigned into two groups where one received VCO intervention along with standard care, and one received standard care only. Enrolled a total of 77 patients wherein 39 patients received the standard care with VCO intervention and 38 patients have received the standard care only. There is no established benefit yet for hospitalized patients as analysis of trial results is still ongoing.



Community trials on VCO for Suspect and Probable COVID-19 Cases

Focuses on the beneficial effects on VCO in normalizing c-reactive protein level, hematology tests (CBC differential count, pulmonary function, COVID-19 viral load, lipid profile, relief of symptoms, number of days in the center.

Participants: suspect and probable COVID-19 cases

57 adults

Dosage: For days 1-3: 0.6mL of VCO /kg bodyweight, for days 4-28 1.2 mL of VCO /kg bodyweight

Duration of intake: 28 days

Update: The Sta. Rosa site has completed the trials and found that VCO can be used as an adjunct or supplementary treatment for suspect and probable cases. The team is proceeding with trials at the Valenzuela City with asymptomatic RT-PCR-confirmed COVID-19 patients and Muntinlupa City sites involving patients with mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19.

Hospital trials on VCO for Asymptomatic and Mild to Severe COVID-19 patients

Focus on the efficacy and safety of VCO as an adjunctive therapy based on the recovery from symptoms and viral clearance, laboratory parameters such as lipid profile, fasting blood sugar, and creatinine levels

Participants: COVID-19 patients admitted in a hospital, regardless of severity

77 adults

Dosage: 15 mL VCO thrice a day

Duration of intake 14 days

Update: Initial results showed that there is no established benefit yet on the use of VCO as an adjunctive therapy for hospitalized COVID-19 patients.



Convalescent plasma therapy as adjunctive therapy for hospitalized patients with COVID-19

Dr. Deonne Thaddeus Guiran
University of the Philippines- Philippine General Hospital

To generate evidence, this study evaluated the efficacy and safety of COVID-19 convalescent plasma as an adjunctive or supplementary treatment.

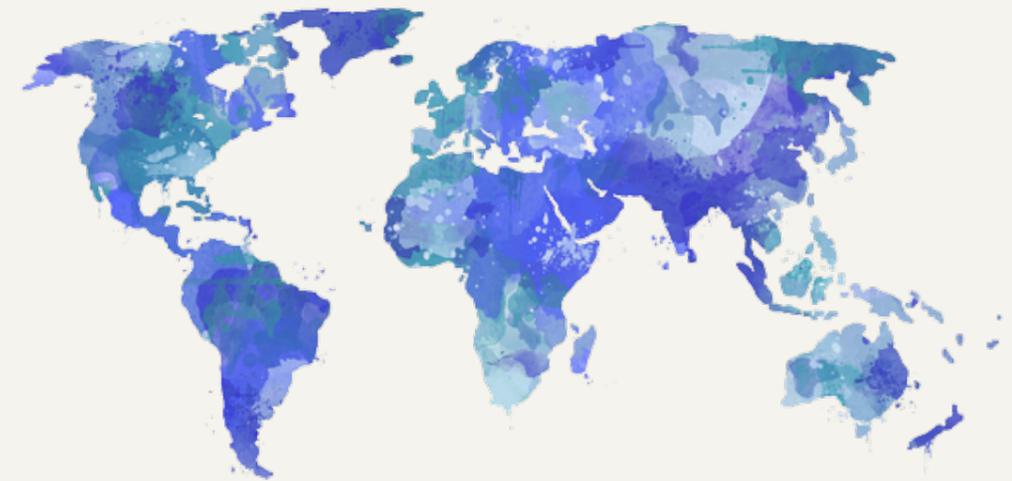
Results showed that there were no significant differences between patients who received convalescent plasma therapy along with standard of care from those who received standard of care alone.

Some limitations of the study were the small sample size and early termination of its implementation. It employed an open-label design with no placebo control which introduces a risk of reporting bias for adverse events and other outcomes.



SOLIDARITY Treatment Trial: Multicenter Randomized Trial of Additional Treatments for COVID-19 in Hospitalized Patients

Dr. Marissa Alejandria
University of the Philippines- Philippine General Hospital



One of the major efforts of the DOST-PCHRD towards generating COVID-19 treatments is its participation in the World Health Organization's Solidarity Treatment Trial, an international initiative that involves several countries across the world.

The trials began in March 2020 by evaluating four repurposed drugs: hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir-ritonavir, interferon beta 1a and remdesivir. Initial results showed that remdesivir, Hydroxychloroquine, Lopinavir and Interferon did not definitely reduce overall mortality, initiation

of ventilation, and duration of hospital stay for COVID-19 patients. Following these findings, and with the guidance of independent expert groups, the project identified a new set of repurposed drugs for the trial namely ARTESUNATE, INFLIXIMAB and IMATINIB in addition to the local standard of care. Currently, the Philippine team has secured institutional review board approvals for 12 out of 16 trials sites and enrolled 13 patients internationally. The first patient based in the Philippines was randomized on 25 October 2021 under Local Standard of Care.

The Filipino commuter experience amid COVID-19 pandemic: Disease transmission study among passengers of buses, LRT, the MRT

Dr. Joel T. Maquiling
Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU)



The COVID-19 pandemic directly affected the human aspect of the transportation system in the Philippines. Aiming to study the human expired airflow behavior and the aerosolization of the SARS-CoV-2 and assist transport operators in identifying significant risks of disease transmission among passengers of buses, the LRT, and the MRT, Dr. Joel T. Maquiling of Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU), conducted 3D-simulations using a commuter bus, LRT2 and MRT configurations.

Results of the study showed that the number of barriers, such as the backrests, acetate

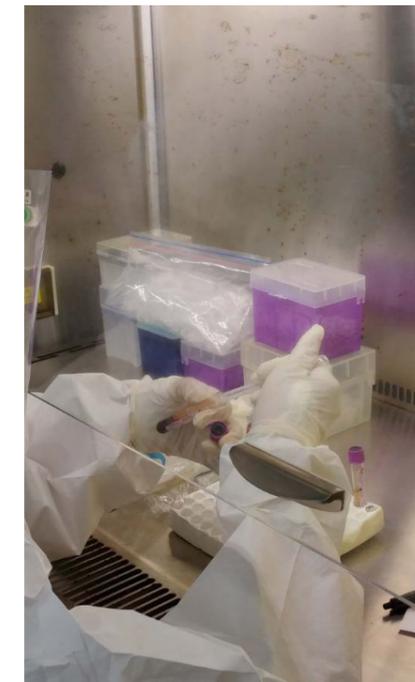
or plastic barriers, and face shields, among others, and their arrangement greatly affect the airflow within the vehicles. The current LRT and MRT configurations, where seats are arranged at the sides and passengers face each other, are found to cause better airflow within the vehicle compared to the current commuter bus setup. This arrangement also reduces the number of seats and limits the maximum passenger capacity.

Aside from barriers, additional inlets or outlets in the vehicles configured in an alternating open-closed-open manner will enhance the airflow and flush out any agents of infectious disease, like SARS-CoV-2.

Utility of Various Biomarkers in Detecting Cytokine Storm Syndromes and Predicting Disease Progression and In-Hospital Mortality Among Patients with Moderate to Severe COVID-19 disease

Felix Eduardo R. Punzala
University of the Philippines Manila

By looking into possible prognostic biomarkers of cytokine storm among patients with COVID-19, the study aims to develop a pathway in guiding the management and outcome monitoring of patients with COVID-19. They could then be screened for hyperinflammation which can identify a subgroup of high-risk patients for whom immunosuppression could improve outcomes, which can help increase awareness of the conditions or complications they are experiencing.



The project will identify biomarkers in detecting cytokine storm syndromes associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection and determine the utility of these biomarkers in prognosticating in-hospital mortality among patients with confirmed

SARS-CoV-2 infection in the University of the Philippines - Philippine General Hospital. In 2021, the team has already completed the chart review of clinical profile and demographics of confirmed COVID patients, blood collection, clinical and laboratory data and has recruited all 400 target participants. Currently, the team is analyzing the data and settling all the administrative aspects of the project.

Risk Factors, Clinical Characteristics and Transmission of COVID-19 in Non-Pregnant and Pregnant Women in Metro Manila, Philippines: A Multicenter Study

Dr. Erlidia Llamas-Clark
University of the Philippines - Philippine General Hospital, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Aiming to determine the exposure, risk factors, mode of transmission, and outcomes of COVID-19 in non-pregnant and pregnant women in the Philippines, the study hopes to find an explanation on the viral behavior of the COVID-19 in pregnant and breastfeeding women, who are assumed to be a vulnerable population.

In 2021, all the pregnant women who seek consultation in the selected hospitals were recruited to be part of the study. Non-pregnant and pregnant women were tested for COVID-19 and asked to read the participant information sheet and sign the informed consent for participation.

The project was able to use the socio-demographic information for the standard medical questionnaire and the project adapted the COVID questionnaire for screening.

The study is expected to help the medical profession in setting guidelines on how to manage patients appropriately once COVID-19 is diagnosed in pregnancy.



Clinical Characteristics and Transmission Patterns of COVID 19 in Confirmed Cases and their Contacts in the Philippines

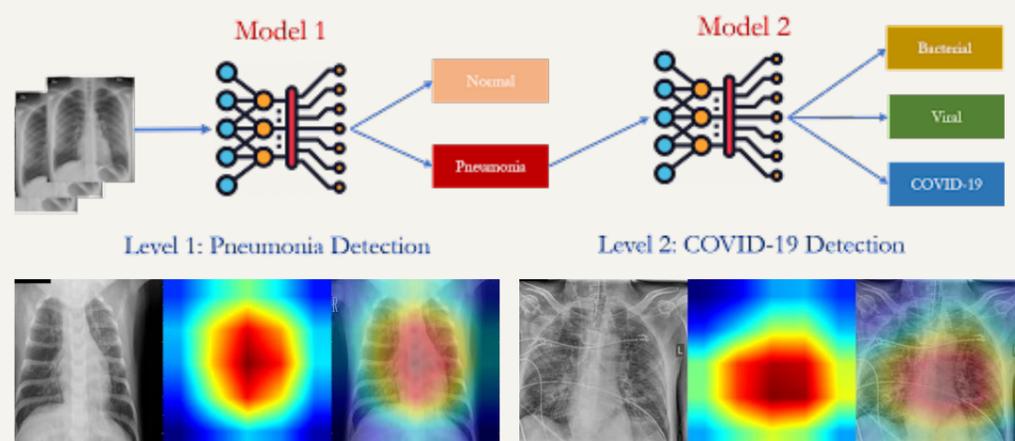
Dr. Mayan U. Lumandas
Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM)

This project studied the COVID 19 transmission pattern and disease severity and analyzed the spectrum of disease and impact on communities. In 2021, the study found out that the most common reported COVID-19 symptoms are: cough, fever, headache, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of appetite, runny nose, diarrhea, muscle aches, loss of smell and taste, fatigue. Cough, fever, headache, shortness of breath, loss of appetite, runny nose, diarrhea were associated with severity (Fisher's and chi square tests were done), while the most common complication is pneumonia followed by acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

The information gathered in this research helped guide the DOH and policy makers in formulating guidelines for case isolation, contact tracing and disease control and prevention. It helped understand transmission of COVID-19 to prevent further spread of the disease.

A Retrospective Study on the Accuracy of AI-Powered Reading of Chest X-Rays in the Diagnosis of COVID-19 Pneumonia in a Tertiary Hospital (CHERISH Study)

Dr. Beatrice Tiangco
The Medical City



One of the immediate challenges the country faced in the onset of the pandemic was the need for increased diagnostic capacity. In response to this, the team of Dr. Beatrice Tiangco from The Medical City sought to determine the diagnostic accuracy of AI-Powered chest x-ray reading for COVID-19 pneumonia. The study involved patients admitted at a tertiary hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic.

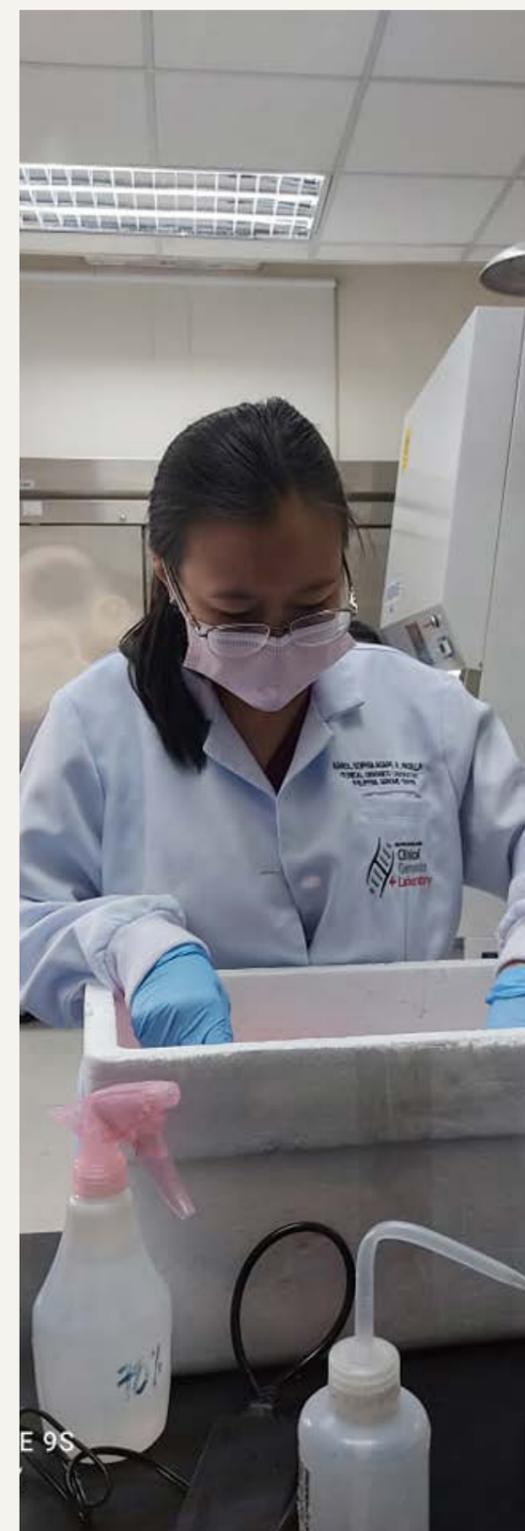
The completed study was able to develop a two-level detection scenario where level 1 detects the presence or absence of pneumonia; and level 2 detects if pneumonia was caused by COVID-19, bacteria or another virus. In addition, the model created in this study has an exceptionally high per class performance with 100% sensitivity, 99% specificity, 95% positive predictive value, and 100% negative predictive value.

In support to the diagnostic model, the research team also developed, an application prototype named the CHERISH COVID-19 Detection App, which can:

1. Allow radiologists to upload chest x-ray images and provide radiological findings
2. Provides an assisted diagnosis through the predictive model, i.e., probability value that the chest x-ray image belongs to a particular class.
3. Allow attending physicians to encode clinical data (case report form), view the chest x-ray image uploaded by the radiologist, view the AI's assisted diagnosis, and make their diagnosis based on this combined information.

There are also two main functionalities of the app that allow users to interact with the application: the unaided and aided diagnosis.

In the unaided track, the physicians will provide their diagnosis using the traditional way (i.e., analysis of clinical data and the impression of the radiologists), while the aided track incorporates predictions provided by the AI to assist the clinicians in providing their diagnosis.



Biosurveillance of COVID-19 in the Philippines through Whole Genome Sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 from Patients

Dr. Benedict A. Maralit
University of the Philippines - Philippine Genome Center

Aiming to provide a better and deeper understanding of the spread of COVID-19 in aid of tracing and containment of the disease, the team of Dr. Benedict A. Maralit from UP-PGH conducted a public health surveillance using a genomic epidemiology perspective.

In 2021, the team sequenced a total of 6,423 swab samples from the whole country obtained through the laboratory network of the DOH and 713 swab samples from collaborator biobanks. 83% of the total samples sequenced with high quality assembly metrics were assigned with lineages, of which 39% have complete genomes.

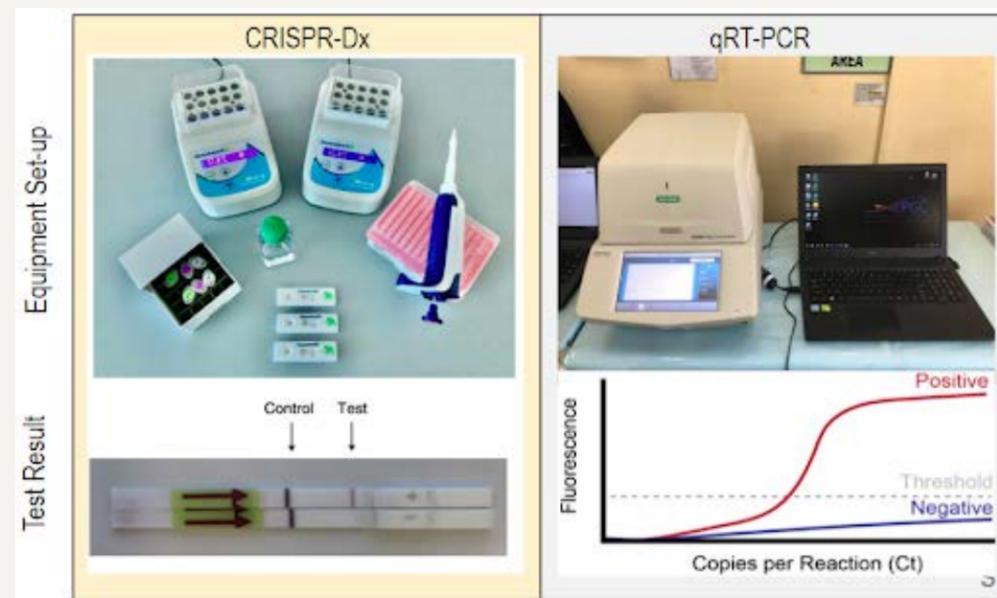
On April 18, 2021, 659 samples were classified under the B.1.1.7 variant; 695 samples under B.1.351; 2 samples under P.1; and 148 samples under the SARS-CoV-2 variant P.3 that was initially found in the Central Visayas region in January 2021. From the 713 swab samples collected from collaborator biobanks, 580 representative samples were chosen and included in the downstream phylogenetic analysis.

- The following major lineages were observed: B.1.1.63 (254 samples), B.1.1 (78 samples), B.1.1.263 (73 samples), B.1.1.28 (68 samples), B.6 (37 samples), and B.1.1.7 (16 samples).
- Samples from the NCR and CALABARZON were found to form various clusters, suggesting possible mixing of cases most likely due to physical travel in these adjacent regions.
- Distinct clades from other regions were also observed, particularly the B.1.1.28 clusters in Central Visayas and Northern Mindanao, B.1.1.263 in CAR, and B.1.1.63 in Cagayan Valley.
- The presence of the B.1.1.7 (Alpha) variant of concern from samples collected in January 2021 was noted, as well as a handful of P.3 (previously Theta variant of interest) samples collected from late January 2021 to early February 2021.

The results of all runs were reported to the DOH through official communications, PGC Bulletin Nos. 5, 6 and 7 were also published as part of PGC's public information dissemination through the project and the PGC's national COVID-19 sequencing updates. A training on Whole Genome Sequencing was also conducted for collaborators and team members of San Lazaro Hospital and Lung Center of the Philippines. Moreover, two journal articles were published that highlight the characteristics of some notable mutations and lineages from the study. The project was also able to formulate protocol recommendations on the method of extraction and selection of appropriate sequencing read lengths to get the best quality of sequencing data.

CRISPR-based diagnostics (CRISPR-Dx) for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 and TB

Dr. Ron Leonard V. Dy
University of the Philippines Diliman - National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology



CRISPR is a technology that can edit DNA and detect diseases by analyzing gene sequences. Exploring how the country can benefit from this tool, Dr. Leonard Dy and his team are conducting a project which aims to develop rapid diagnostic kits for infectious diseases endemic to the country based on the CRISPR.

In 2021, the project team successfully proved that the CRISPR-Dx can be developed to sensitively and accurately detect representative targets of SARS-CoV-2 and TB.

The team was also able to express and purify their own Cas12a, a component of CRISPR, that had activities at par with commercially bought equivalent enzymes, albeit requiring further purifications.

The local establishment of CRISPR-Dx will allow Filipino researchers to develop diagnostic kits that can detect relevant infectious diseases and possibly apply this to genotyping applications. CRISPR-based tests can also be easily redesigned in a matter of days to detect other diseases if genomes are available.

Once established, the detection platform can be converted into lateral flow strips which can be easily deployed in case of national health emergencies where rapid and early diagnostics are critical. The associated cost per test is significantly cheaper and requires minimal to no additional equipment to existing laboratory testing facilities.



Suitability of Saliva as an Alternative Clinical Specimen for the Detection of SARS-CoV-2

Mr. Alexander Sadiasa MSc
Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM)

Having the option to use saliva specimens will reduce the risk of viral exposure to healthcare workers while minimizing the use of personal protective equipment and other medical resources. Aside from enabling an easier sample collection, this will also support the implementation of high-volume testing. The project aims to determine the suitability of saliva as an alternative clinical specimen for the detection of SARS-CoV-2.

In 2021, a total of 1,661 patients were enrolled in the study from whom the following specimens were collected: nasopharyngeal swab, oropharyngeal swab and saliva. The patients were recruited from Las Piñas City, Malabon City, Mandaluyong City, Muntinlupa City, San Juan City, San Pedro City, RITM.

The PCR testing of saliva samples recorded a sensitivity of 79.94% and specificity of 98.94% with an overall percent agreement of 95.06%.

With these observations, the use of saliva specimens for PCR detection of SARS-CoV2 may have a significant impact on the country's pandemic response.

Development of a Cell-Based Immunoassay for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Serologic Testing

Dr. Fresthel Monica M. Climacosa
University of the Philippines Manila

One of the key aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic response is the early diagnosis of the disease to avoid further transmission, which also highlights the critical importance of the availability of test kits.

Recognizing this need, Dr. Fresthel Monica M. Climacosa leads a project which aims to develop a novel cell-based immunoassay. As of December, the research team already made significant progress in using a cell-surface engineered yeast in an agglutination-based immunoassay for the detection of antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 in human serum samples.

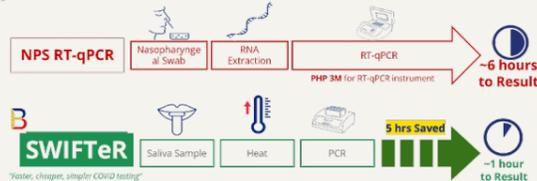
Once completed, the project will benefit communities, researchers, and clinicians determined to address the local and global burdens of COVID-19, specifically in improving access to diagnostic tools for mass disease surveillance.

'SWIFTeR': A rapid, simple and efficient isothermal COVID-19 testing technology

Ms. Marie Jennifer Y. Reolo, MSc
Ateneo Research Institute for Science and Engineering (ARISE)
Ateneo de Manila University



Aiming to address the key rate- and cost-limiting bottlenecks in the current COVID-19 testing, Ms. Marie Jennifer Reolo's team from AdMU conducted a project that will enable rapid, simple and efficient isothermal COVID-19 testing technology. Specifically, the project aims to: (1) simplify biospecimen collection by minimizing the invasiveness of sample collection by using saliva instead of a nasopharyngeal swab; (2) simplify sample pre-processing by developing an 'extraction-free' method that eliminates the need for laborious extraction and purification of RNA from the sample; (3) enable simpler and cheaper cDNA detection by removing the need for complex and expensive thermocycling RT-qPCR instruments; and (4) minimize personnel, OPEX (consumable) and CAPEX (hardware) costs.



In 2021, partnerships with other ARISE institutions (BlueSwab and AMPLify) were formalized, which allowed the collection of 300 bona fide clinical saliva samples. At least one of the prototype assays was tested on these samples.

The methods developed are compatible with a more distributed testing environment. In the course of the project, two publications published in the Journal of Biomolecular Techniques.

Given 14 months, the project was able to develop a LAMP assay that was foreseen to be faster, cheaper and simpler compared to the currently available SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic tests. While still in the early stages, the SWIFTeR assay has shown decent clinical sensitivity and specificity, which can still be improved further."

At least two new research personnel and three interns were trained to perform (1) various RNA extraction-free ('heat and treat') methods from saliva; and (2) LAMP-based detection of SARS-CoV-2. Two papers were published in

2021 via the Journal of Biomolecular Medicine, namely the "Saliva 'Treat and Heat' Triplex Reverse Transcription Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification Assay for Sars-Cov-2" and the "Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification Detection of SARS-CoV-2 and Myriad Applications." The team has also established formal relations with the Ateneo Clinical Pathology Laboratory (AMPLify), with the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM), and with New Mount Sinai Medical Center.

ADDS: Amplified DNA Detection System for SARS-Cov-2 based on the thermocycler output of FDA-approved COVID-19 RT-PCR kits

Mr. Joseph P. Sonio
Ateneo Research Institute for Science and Engineering (ARISE), Ateneo de Manila University

Led by Mr. Joseph P. Sonio, the project aims to enable expanded COVID-19 testing and primary screening by developing a cost-effective, scalably manufactured, and readily deployable nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) platform using FDA-approved qPCR test kit reagents (e.g. the UP COVID-19 kit).

Two devices/kits will be used for detection of the amplified PCR products (or loss of substrates): (1) a lateral flow diagnostic (LFD) strip; and (2) a 96/384-well ELISA/ELONA kit. Both are user-friendly and considered as familiar technologies that require no specialized training.

The project's approach is designed to be compatible with any thermocycler and FDA cleared RT-PCR test kits being imported as well as the locally developed GenAmplify™ COVID-19 rRT-PCR Detection Kit.

miPCR: Development of a Microfluidic Miniaturized PCR Device (miPCR) for SARS-Cov-2 RNA Amplification via FDA-approved COVID-19 RT-PCR kits

Dr. Ricardo Jose S. Guerrero
Ateneo Research Institute for Science and Engineering (ARISE) - Ateneo de Manila University

Led by Dr. Ricardo Jose S. Guerrero, the project aims to develop a cost-effective, scalably manufactured, and readily deployable nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) platform. The platform will comprise a microfluidic PCR device for portable DNA/RNA amplification that is relatively smaller but has the same functionalities as a typical PCR device. Due to its size and lower projected cost, the miPCR will enable COVID-19 testing closer to the point of care.

As of December 2021, the project has developed a prototype capable of SARS-CoV-2 amplification and detection. At least ten (10) biologists and engineers were also trained in the systems development and integration and development of multidisciplinary point of care systems.

The project team had initial discussions with partners for commercial deployment of the developed technology. Private industrial partners for commercialization also declared interest to show local support on domestically funded research and development (R&D) projects.



Surgical Innovation and Biotechnology Laboratory

SIBOL



Dr. Edward Wang
University of the Philippines Manila

The SIBOL COVID Task Force was formed to respond to the urgent need for medical device innovations that will protect healthcare workers amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The task force is composed of engineers from UP Diliman and clinicians from UP Manila. To date, the Council supports a total of 12 projects under the SIBOL program, eight of which are dedicated to COVID-19.

SIBOL Personal Protective Equipment - Design and Development of Locally-Manufactured, Reusable, Powered, AirPurifying Respirator

Dr. Samuel Arsenio Grozman
University of the Philippines Manila

Medical procedures such as intubation, endoscopies, and sample collection for testing pose significant risks of COVID-19 transmission among healthcare workers. To provide additional personal protective equipment (PPE) for our frontliners amid the pandemic, Dr. Samuel Arsenio Grozman leads a project to develop an innovative powered, air-purifying respirator (PAPR) for chemical and biological protection. The project will develop a reusable prototype compliant with the standards of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and activate the supply chain towards the production and testing of PAPR.

The project team successfully completed the design and development of twenty (20) SIBOL PAPR units. It is available in two main models: Belt Model and Helmet Model. There are seventeen (17) units of belt models and three (3) units of helmet models, both have similar operational characteristics, and the usage of which depends on the user's work setting and needs.

Belt Model is composed of a Hood Unit with Breath Response Sensor, a Fan Unit, and a Hose to direct air from the Fan Unit to the Hood. The Helmet Model eliminates the need for the hose since the fan is integrated into the Hood.

Disinfection of N95 respirators using UV and hydrogen peroxide vaporization

Dr. Emmanuel Estrella
UP Manila

The fabricated devices are expected to make the standard process of cleansing and disinfection of laryngoscope blades safer and faster for the medical personnels. In addition, the fabricated medical device will still be applicable and helpful for medical personnels, especially for anesthesiologists performing intubation procedures, even after the pandemic. Respirators are among the personal protective equipment used by healthcare workers. To support this need, Dr. Emmanuel Estrella leads a project which aims to fabricate and characterize disinfection and decontamination devices for N95 filtration facepiece respirators. This could prolong the shelf-life of N95 masks and can decontaminate small to medium size medical devices, which can be useful for resource-limited hospitals, and even disaster areas needing facemasks.

Currently, the project has completed the revision of the design of UVGI Cabinet, controllers and trays are added to its feature. Disinfection methods using the prototype have been proven to inactivate bacteria even at the most rapid treatment setting. The research team is now planning to deploy the developed prototypes at smaller DOH hospitals/ clinics, and move on to the next phase which will focus on improving the design aesthetics.

1

SaniPod: Self-contained disinfecting cubicle

Dr. Edward Wang



Led by Dr. Edward Wang of the University of the Philippines Manila, the project aims to design and fabricate a cost-effective self-containing low-level disinfection cubicle called the SaniPod. The SaniPod is similar to air showers which will sanitize healthcare workers as they exit COVID-19 patient wards.

In 2021, the project has already completed the five (5) prototypes of the device. All of which are deployed to various hospitals in the National Capital Region near covid wards for use by healthcare workers.

The SaniPod units will also provide additional disinfection for healthcare workers, in addition to wearing the recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) and good hygienic practices.

2

CleanIntubate: Laryngoscope Disinfection Blade

Catherine Co



Cleaning and disinfecting blades used in medical procedures also pose a risk of transmission among medical personnel. Recognizing this risk, Dr. Catherine Co and her team are working to develop a device called the "CleanIntubate" that will cleanse and disinfect laryngoscope blades faster and safer.

The study completed its implementation on April 2021, and has developed one non-portable device and four portable devices that will be deployed to COVID-19 referral hospital in the Philippines.

In collaboration with the University of the Philippines Diliman, DOH Hospitals, the DOH, PGH, and the NIH, the prototypes were validated in a dry laboratory for their efficacy against microbial pathogens.

3

Reusable face mask with biodegradable nanofibers



The project aims to develop reusable face masks employing biodegradable non-woven nanofiber filters, which are thought to have the capability to filter out pathogens of submicron sizes, like SARS-COV2.

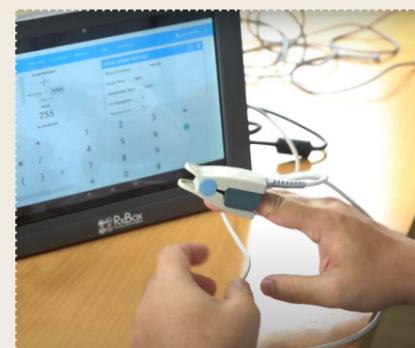
To date, the project has finalized the filter patch design and mask frame. The team also completed the assembly of the filter membrane and the fabric cutting, and are currently waiting for the results of the bacterial testing. The filter used is a multi-layer design with pinya fibers, PCL Film, and cotton, to maximize bacterial filtration.

The project has a research collaboration agreement with a private company, Vaquiform, to continue the development and marketing of the product.

4

Telemetry system for COVID-19 PGH response

Dr. Geohari Hamoy



This project aims to optimize the PCHRD-supported technology called the RxBox to include a telemetry system for monitoring COVID-19 patients. The RxBox is a biomedical and telemedicine device that can diagnose patients using sensors attached to a computer box, sending data wirelessly to a remote medical professional for interpretation. The diagnostic accuracy of the sensors has been tested and validated in ambulatory patients and has the potential to be used for admitted patients.

With the identification of UP-PGH as one of the COVID-19 referral centers since March 30, 2020, the present complement of RxBox is useful to manage COVID-19 patients. This project has optimized the RxBox medical device units with a telemetry feature and additional sensor of respiratory rate through a thermistor for COVID-19 wards in UP-PGH.

5

Telepresence terminals for COVID-19 response

Dr. Nathaniel Orillaza Jr.



When admitted in isolation, COVID-19 patients are rarely visited by nurses and doctors to avoid contamination and conserve PPE. This device will allow basic video communication and may help in the assessment and provide assurance for the patients. Called the MyBeshie or "Bot Ensuring Safety and Health in Isolated Environment" allows teleconferencing and remote-control applications, which connects patients to nurses, doctors, and even their loved ones.

In 2021, two initial prototypes of the device are deployed in the COVID-19 wards of the UPM-PGH. The team is also working to optimize eight more prototypes based on the evaluation of the earlier versions of the technology.

To capacitate healthcare workers on the use of the device, the team is currently conducting training activities and working to produce an electronic training manual.

6

Electronic Stethoscope Prototype

Dr. Michelle Cristine Miranda



Developed by Dr. Michelle Miranda and her team, e-steth is a low-cost acoustic-electronic stethoscope that will enable healthcare workers to listen to the patients' breathing sounds at a safe distance. The final output of the medical device is anticipated to achieve performance comparable to electronic stethoscopes, 10% lower than the usual cost of stethoscopes currently available in the local market.

The final prototype measures 43.18mm x 60.96mm; and equipped with a volume controller (by external device), one coin cell battery, LED Power indicator, Switch Frequency (300 Hz-heart; 2000 Hz-Lungs), External jack connector; and a Button Holder.

The project team is now preparing for commercialization.



SiglaVent : Design optimization and clinical testing

Engr. Joel John Martinez
Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP)

SiglaVent is an innovative automated Ambu bag with ventilator features for emergency use developed by the Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP), in collaboration with Vents for Philippines with funding from DOST-PCIEERD. The device is intended for emergency use on patients requiring brief durations of assisted ventilation, such as during medical transport, or those awaiting for mechanical ventilators.

Engr. Joel John Martinez of the TIP and his team aim to conduct design optimization and perform clinical tests on SiglaVent in light of the COVID-19 crisis and the insufficiency of ventilators in Philippine hospitals.

Since the commencement of this new phase of the project in November 2021, the team has been able to review and make revisions to the current design. The new prototype is currently being manufactured in preparation for the upcoming clinical tests, to be conducted at the Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP).

Low-cost ventilation system in tropical regions for risk reduction of infectious aerosol and virus transmission

Dr. Edward Querikiol
University of San Carlos, Cebu

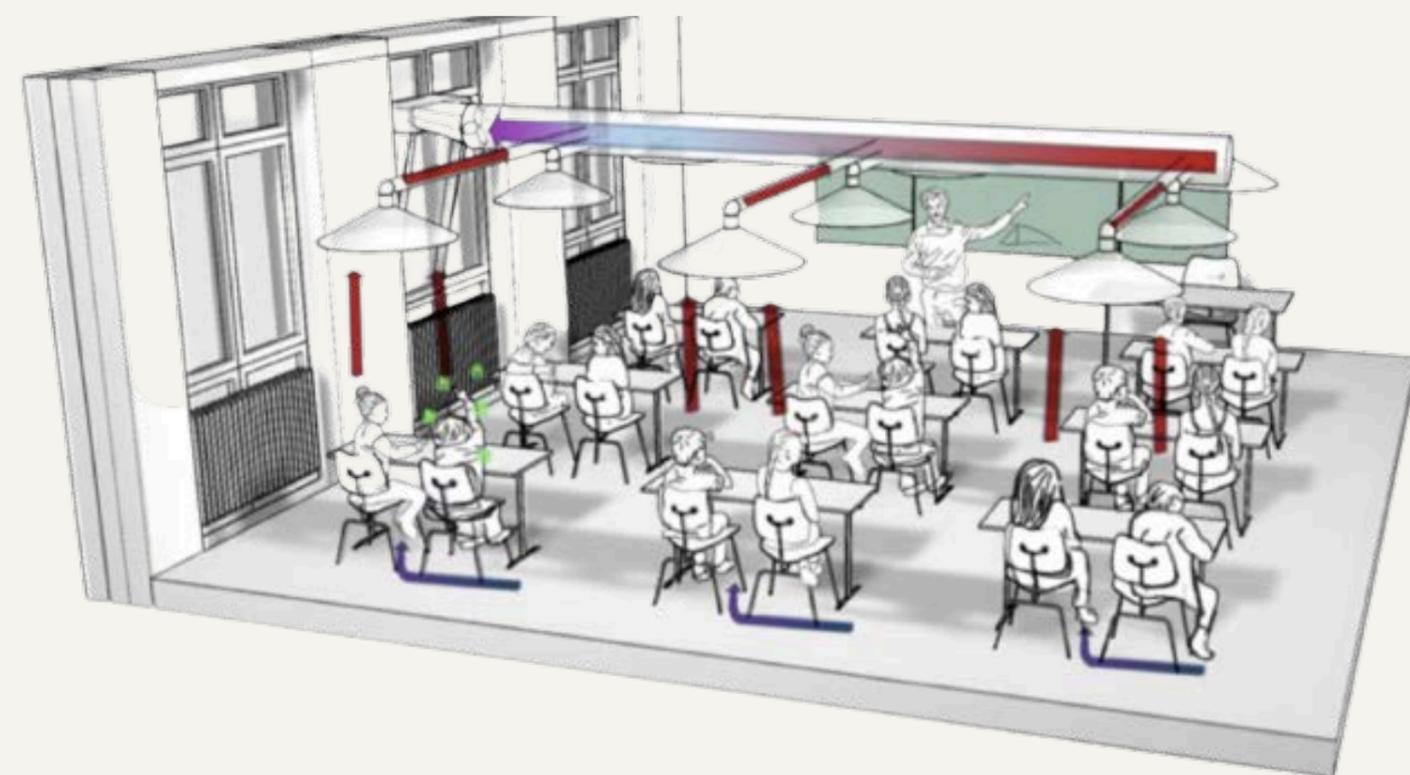
The project aims to develop and demonstrate the effectiveness of a low-cost ventilator system for tropical indoor environments to curb the further spread of airborne viruses. The ventilator system is developed by Dr. Frank Helleis of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry (MPIC) in Germany, which will be modified to fit indoor tropical environments in the Philippines.

The project will redesign the low-cost ventilator system, in collaboration with its inventor Dr. Frank Helleis of MPIC, and

modify it to fit indoor tropical environments in the Philippines such as in:

- typical classrooms in both public and private institutions, at various levels of education (primary, secondary, tertiary) involving various age groups; essential
- business offices such as banks and government agencies;
- public transport vehicles such as jeepneys and buses; and
- small manufacturing facilities.

Currently, the project team consisting of three outstanding engineers of different fields (Bioprocess Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering) from the University of San Carlos, Cebu, have already departed to MPIC, Germany, to study, train, and learn the process, design, and engineering behind the low-cost ventilator, and how it would be modified and adjusted to fit the country's local indoor tropical environment.



Solidarity Vaccine Trial in the Philippines: Randomized trial of candidate vaccines for COVID-19



Eight hospitals and two community-based sites have conducted recruitment activities.

A total of **7,064** were vaccinated with first dose and **6,009** participants already completed the two-dose schedule.

(NOTE: Numbers subject to change based on progress of study)

The WHO Solidarity Trial Vaccine (STV) is a large, international, randomized controlled clinical trial which aims to determine the efficacy and safety of candidate COVID-19 vaccines that underwent rigorous technical, ethical and regulatory review and approval in the Philippines. Recruitment will be done in 20 identified hospital and community-based sites across the National Capital Region (NCR). Moreover, the possibilities of expanding the trial sites on the different regions will be based on the WHO and DOH Epidemiology Bureau's monitoring and analyses of COVID-19 high attack rates. The said trial is also designed to provide sufficient evidence of safety and vaccine efficacy against COVID-19 to support decision-making about global vaccine deployment, which may include licensure and/or WHO pre-qualification.

Participation of the Philippines to the STV through its Inter-agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (Resolution No. 47) is significant as part of its commitment to identify other highly efficacious COVID-19 vaccines with longer protection, fewer doses, and easier to administer and manufacture locally, specifically, for the Filipino population.

To date, the Philippines, Mali, and Colombia have reached the target number of primary endpoints and are currently validating and analyzing the initial data while awaiting instructions from the WHO regarding the administration of the second study vaccine.



TUKLAS LUNAS[®]



The Tuklas Lunas[®] Program is the drug discovery and development program of the DOST and PCHRD which envisions to “produce world-class medicines derived from the Philippine biodiversity, leveraging on local expertise”.

Recognizing that significant resources are needed to bring one (1) successful drug from discovery to commercialization, the program has adopted a strategic framework that pursues two tracks of development: (1) Shorter track: development of standardized herbal drugs, (2) Longer/Standard track: the identification of high-value compounds that can be offered for early licensing for further development as drugs. In the process, several outputs may be produced such as functional food, standardized herbal supplements, standardized herbal drugs, and pure drug candidate compounds.

The Tuklas Lunas program supports the following:

- Building institutional and human capacity for discovery and development of natural products through R&D grants;
- Developing bioresources (unique in the regions) into natural products; and
- Bringing candidate substances/compounds to a stage where they are sufficiently de-risked and ripe for early licensing (not necessarily for full product development).

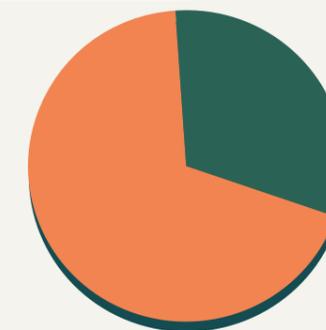
In 2021, the program supported 71 (ongoing and new) projects implemented by more than 20 institutions with total funding of PhP 380.6 M from DOST and PCHRD. These included multi-year projects that continue to pursue the development of candidates both under the herbal track and drug track, and the completion of the implementation of clinical trials of tocilizumab, tawa-tawa and lagundi for COVID-19.

Key new projects for the year include:

- Phase 2/3 clinical trial of the fixed-dose combination of three plants for symptoms associated with dengue
- Establishment of the Visayas Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Laboratory
- Formulation and standardization plants that were established to be top tier in diabetes, inflammation and cancer assays
- Structure identification of anti-inflammatory, anti-pain and anti-diabetic compounds from top tier priority extracts
- Formulation and standardization of priority plants identified by University of San Carlos Tuklas Lunas Development Center (USC-TLDC).

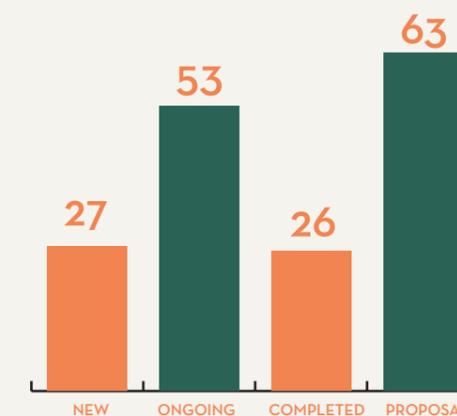
2021 RESEARCH EXPENDITURES

PCHRD
Php 120,271,710.00



DOST
PHP 260,347,309.20

DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS



1 Establishment of the first NMR laboratory in the countryside

The establishment of the first Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) laboratory outside NCR and Calabarzon will forge a stronger collaboration among TLDCs within Visayas and Mindanao.

2 Bridging Efficacy and Safety: IND-enabling Suite of ADMETox Assays

Established and optimized various assays to evaluate physicochemical properties and cell-based toxicity of synthesized lead compounds. Several compounds were also analyzed in vivo to assess their pharmacokinetic properties.

3 Discovery and Development of Health Products - Synthesis Program (Phase 2)

Synthesized around 200 compounds that are already characterized. Second-generation compounds have been submitted for MTT assay, while COX-2 active and selective compounds are forwarded for ADMETox testing.

4 Anti-Dengue Herbal Drug Candidate Phase 2/3 Clinical Trial

Prepared the study drug, the facility, and trial supplies for the clinical trial proper. The project team has submitted the clinical trial and other regulatory requirements to FDA.

5 Development of Anti-inflammatory Herbal Products from Iluko Indigenous Plants

Set-up of laboratory (New lab for COX and LOX assay and TLDC) and one of the five (5) plants for formulation collected.

6 Myko-mining and Myko-pharming of Wild Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms in Luzon Island, Philippines for their Medicinal Properties (Phase II)

- Optimized culture conditions of 9 mushrooms for the evaluation of fruiting body production, with 19 mushrooms still under incubation.
- For the in vitro enzyme-based screening of mushrooms, 105 samples are active in α -glucosidase test, 11 samples for COX tests, and 3 samples in ACE assays.
- 297 mushrooms are molecularly identified out of the 501 collected fruiting bodies of mushrooms.
- 7 out of the 69 ethanolic extracts tested for MTS proliferation assay are classified as second-tier.
- 4 out of 46 hot water extracts are classified as second-tier.

7 Development of Health Products from Ferns

Establishment of pteri-nursery and screening, formulation, and optimization of fern-based products.

8 Chemical and Biological Characterization of Pure and Bioactive Compounds from Kadios (*Cajanus cajan*) Seeds and its Topical Formulation Studies

Performed bioassay-guided fractionation of defatted extracts from Kadios seeds. HPLC purification of the target active fraction exhibited <95% inhibition against multidrug-resistant *S. aureus* ATCC BAA-44.

9 Documentation, Standardization, and Formulation of Dosage Forms from the Indigenous Plants and Microorganisms with Bioactivities (CAR)

- **Project 1:** Five (5) anti-infective ointment formulations against resistant strains. The cream formulation including its different concentrations from the four top plants were tested against MRSA and SA.
- **Project 2:** Fourteen (14) pure fungal isolates are molecularly identified with possible epipolythiodioxopiperazine (ETP) biosynthetic gene clusters that can be induced. Three (3) epigenetic inducers used by the project team were 5-azacytidine, valproic acid, and sodium butyrate. To date, 31 (out of 56 max) crude extracts have been produced, 21 of which have been fractionated using the flash chromatography system.
- **Project 3:** Website for Cordillera Medicinal Plants Database has been published and made accessible to the general public. It can be accessed using the URL: <https://cartldc.upb.edu.ph/>.
- **Project 4:** Five (5) bioactive plant extracts and 5 bioactive fractions with resistance modifying activity. Ongoing fractionation for resistance modifying activity of the other five (5) samples.
- **Project 5:** Tea for Diabetes; All samples except for TLDC-CAR-BSU-0911, showed consistently high % Alpha-glucosidase Inhibition. Based on these results, the tea extracts of the other samples showed high antidiabetic activity.
- **Project 6:** At least 3 standardized preformulated dosage forms for diabetes (either capsule or tablet forms). Safety tests and encapsulation are ongoing.

10 Discovery and Development of Natural Products from Mindanao Marine Resources

The program team has worked on the Phase 1 priority two (2) active extracts and one (1) fraction. Phase 1 sub-fractions were prepared and screened against cell apoptosis and cell migration. Phase 2 top eight (8) extracts and fractions have undergone anti-proliferative activities. Further, a photographic guide to common seahorse and pipefish species found in Mindanao was constructed.

Discovery of cardiometabolic bioactives from plants in Central Philippines

University of San Carlos Tuklas Lunas Development Center

Despite the increasing number of commercial and synthetic medications for cardiometabolic disorders, many of the Filipino population still opt for alternative medicine to cope. For instance, in some places in the country, there are people who would prefer to consult with their respective herbolarios and ask for herbals to alleviate their condition or cure their illnesses. The popularity of herbal medicine rests on the perception that it is natural with no long-term complications, unlike synthetic medicines.

Relative to this, the University of San Carlos - Tuklas Lunas Development Center (USC-TLDC) pursues the herbal track for the development of herbal supplements for diabetes and other cardiometabolic disorders such as hypertension, obesity, and hypercholesterolemia.

There are two projects under the program:

- Project 1: Screening for Cardiometabolic Bioactives from Herbal Plants
- Project 2: In Vitro Toxicity and Orthogonal Assays for Cardiometabolic Bioactives



Project 1: Screening for Cardiometabolic Bioactives from Herbal Plants

Prof. Queenie Marie A. Maquilang

The project aims to screen cardiometabolic bioactives from plant extracts used by traditional herbalists in Cebu. In 2021, the project screened for the cardiometabolic bioactivities of 44 plants. This includes analysis for the inhibition of α -glucosidase, lipase, angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE), and hydroxymethylglutaryl coenzyme A (HMG CoA) reductase, indicating their antihyperglycemic, antihyperlipidemic, antihypertensive, and antihypercholesterolemic potentials. Confirmed extracts are listed below:

- Six antihyperglycemic extracts - Six ethanol extracts at 1 ppm that have greater than 50% inhibition of α -glucosidase activity.
- Three antihypertensive extracts - Three ethanol extracts at 100 ppm that have greater than 70% inhibition of ACE activity.
- One antihyperlipidemic extract - One ethanol extract at 10 ppm that has greater than 50% inhibition of lipase activity.
- Eight antihypercholesterolemic extracts - Eight ethanol extracts at 10 ppm that have greater than 50% inhibition of HMG CoA reductase activity.

Project 2: In Vitro Toxicity and Orthogonal Assays for Cardiometabolic Bioactives

Dr. Paul John L. Geraldino

The project aims to perform toxicity and orthogonal assays on bioactive extracts. In 2021, the project team was able to conduct the following activities:

- Cell differentiation and culture system, including cell cryopreservation and revival - Protocols for cell differentiation and culture, including their cryopreservation and revival are established. Five cell lines maintained in the USC TLDC include HepG2, HK-2, H9C2(2-1), HCT 166 human colorectal carcinoma, and 3T3 L1 mouse embryonic fibroblast.
- Cell-based safety information of 44 plants - Cell-based toxicity of ethanol extracts from the leaves of 44 plants are known. This includes their toxicity or lack thereof towards HepG2 liver hepatocellular carcinoma, HK-2 human renal proximal tubule epithelial, and H9C2(2-1) myocardium cell lines.
- Cell-based bioactivity information of 44 plants - Orthogonal or secondary assays are employed to obtain information on glucose uptake, ACE activity, triglyceride quantification, lipid accumulation, cholesterol uptake (Filipin), and LDL uptake (BODIPY) for ethanol extracts from 44 plants.
- Authentication of plants, including DNA barcoding - Twenty-five plants that have non-toxic extracts have complete DNA barcoding information. Taxonomic identification is completed and voucher specimens kept for all 44 plants.
- Services for enzymatic assays and cell-based toxicity and orthogonal assays - Optimized and validated methodologies for four enzymatic assays (i.e., antihyperglycemic, antihyperlipidemic, antihypertensive, and antihypercholesterolemic potential), three cell-based toxicity (i.e., hepato-, renal, and cardiotoxicity), and three cell-based assays (i.e., glucose uptake, ACE activity, and triglyceride quantification)



Anti-diabetic, anti-obesity, and anti-hypertensive activities and in vitro toxicity evaluation of plant extracts

Bicol University

The Bicol University - Tuklas Lunas Development Center explores biodiverse sites in the region to search for endemic and indigenous plants, discover non-toxic bioactive hits and to locally develop herbal drugs with pharmacological activity against diabetes, obesity, and hypertension.

In 2021, the research team collected 13 plant samples from Mt. Malinao and Mt. Mayon Nature Park (MMNP), and 10 plant samples from Bulusan Volcano Natural Park (BVNP)--all of which were successfully extracted.

Based on the evaluation of the extracts through enzyme-based assays, five extracts have potential anti-hypertensive properties, 14 extracts have potential antidiabetic properties, and seven extracts have potential anti-obesity properties. These extracts are currently undergoing orthogonal assays to confirm their bioactivity.

Potential anti-cancer activity of plants from Region XII

University of Southern Mindanao

The University of Southern Mindanao - Tuklas Lunas Development Center specializes in the discovery of anticancer agents derived from plants in Region 12. The project aims to generate priority non-toxic bioactive anticancer plant extracts from at least 29 endemic or indigenous plants.

To date, a total of 32 crude extracts from 23 plant samples were already subjected to toxicity assays. The conducted assays show that all crude extracts were safe for liver cells and are recommended for further studies through orthogonal assays. Aside from one sample, all extracts were also classified as non-cytotoxic.

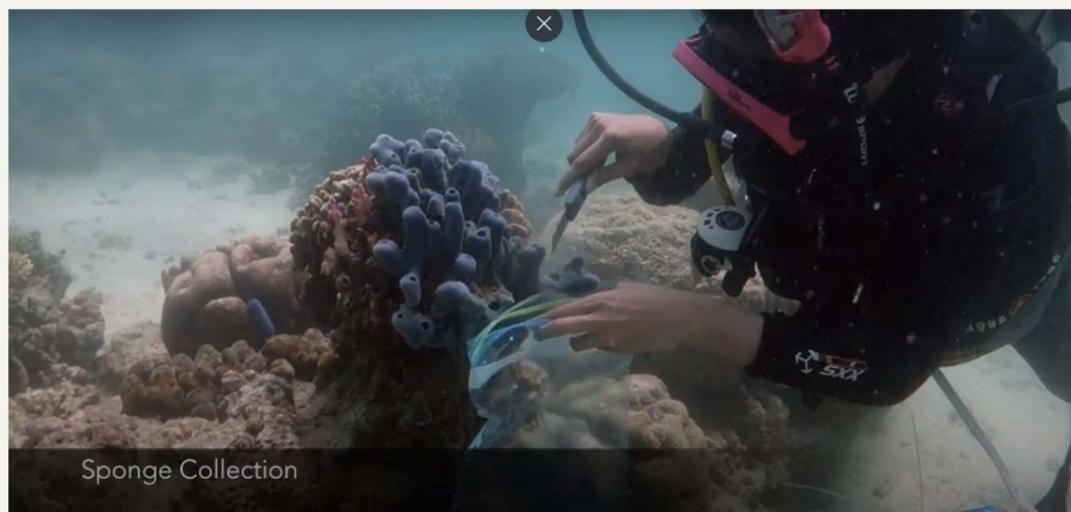
The research team is currently preparing for the cell-based bioassays and the scratch wound healing assays of the crude extracts.

Once completed, results of the study will guide which bioactive plants will be further subjected to bioactivity-guided isolation and purification. The TLDC will also serve as a venue for collaborative work between the faculty and student researchers in the university.

Discovery and Development of Health Products: Marine Component (Phase 2)

Building on the accomplishments of the first phase of the program, Phase 2 of the DDHP-Marine pursues two projects dedicated to the discovery and development of anti-pain, anti-neurodegeneration, anti-infective, and anti-cancer drug candidates.

Through these projects, the program will pursue further characterization and development of promising compounds discovered in Phase 1; significantly increase the current pool of novel compounds for screening, scale up the screening effort, and capitalize on new assay technologies and approaches to enhance detection of a range of bioactivities; and further develop the program's capability and infrastructure to undertake more efficient, effective, productive and sustained drug discovery and development campaigns.



Anti-Pain and Anti-Neurodegeneration Drug Candidates: Discovery and Development

University of the Philippines - Marine Science Institute
Dr. Arturo Lluisma

The project aims to characterize and develop anti-pain and anti-neurodegeneration priority compounds from Philippine conoideans and test their efficacy.

In 2021, the research team characterized and performed structure-activity relationship (SAR) studies on isolated neuroactive peptides. Four (4) priority peptides were optimized for large-scale synthesis. The project team was also able to assess 13 semi-pure, pure native, and synthetic peptides from Phase 1 priority snails for their specific neuroactive effects in mice using the intracranial mouse bioassay.

Anti-Infective and Anti-Cancer Drug Candidates from Marine Microorganisms and Sponges: Discovery and Development

The project aims to discover and develop anti-infective and anti-cancer compounds from Philippine marine sponges, other marine macroorganisms, and their associated microorganisms.

In 2021, a total of seven (7) priority compounds have undergone bioactive characterization. Sponge mariculture methods were also evaluated for increased production of bioactive compounds from priority sponges and the determination of factors that influence compound production.

Discovery and Development of Health Products: Hits (Phase 3)



The DDHP Hits program focuses on isolating and elucidating bioactive compounds sourced from terrestrial organisms as potential sources for the production of drug lead candidates. Now on its third phase of implementation, the program aims to isolate and elucidate bioactive compounds from priority bioactive extracts against specific diseases, such as hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, diabetes, inflammation, pain, infections, gout, and cancer.

Implemented by a total of six institutions, there are 11 ongoing projects under the program:

- University of the Philippines Diliman - Institute of Chemistry
 - Project 1: Anti-Diabetic Bioactive Hits from Priority Bioactive Extracts
 - Project 2: Anti-Hypertensive and Cholesterol-Lowering Bioactive Hits from Priority Bioactive Extracts
 - Project 3: Anti-Inflammatory and Anti-Pain Bioactive Hits from Priority Bioactive Extracts
 - Project 11: De-replication with LC-MS Based Metabolomics of Philippine Flora
- University of the Philippines Manila - College of Arts and Sciences
 - Project 4: Anti-Infective Bioactive Hits against Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* from Priority Bioactive Extracts
 - Project 5: Potential Anticancer Bioactive Hits from Priority Bioactive Extracts against Breast Cancer Cell Lines
- University of the Philippines Baguio - College of Science
 - Project 6: Anti-infective Hits from Priority Bioactive Extracts from Indigenous and Endemic Plants of the Cordillera against *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
 - Project 7: Anti-infective Hits from Priority Bioactive Extracts from Fungi
- Benguet State University
 - Project 8: Anti-diabetic Bioactive Hits from Priority Bioactive Extracts from Plants Indigenous to Benguet
- University of the Philippines Mindanao, College of Science and Mathematics
 - Project 9: Anti-lung Cancer Bioactive Hits from Priority Bioactive Extracts
- R&D Herbal, Pascual Laboratories, Inc.
 - Project 10: Antihyperuricemic Bioactive Hits from Priority Plant Extracts

In 2021, a total of 223 extracts were produced from the priority samples obtained under the program. Out of these extracts, 181 were confirmed to be bioactive and deemed to be non-toxic fractions. These non-toxic fractions were produced from the purification of bioactive alcoholic plant extracts. The extracts were further subjected to the battery of primary and toxicity assays against disease indications such as diabetes, inflammation, hypertension, gout, and obesity. Of these, 87 fractions have already been submitted for secondary assays.

Metabolomics-driven Discovery of antimicrobial drug Leads and anticancer Screening of Extracts from Marine Sediment-Derived Actinomycetes of Iloilo

University of San Agustin (USA)
Dr. Jonel P. Saludes and Dr. Doralyn Dalisay

The University of San Agustin - Tuklas Lunas Center explores promising marine sediment-derived Actinomycetes from Iloilo to detect and identify novel compounds with antimicrobial and anticancer activity. Conducting the study will contribute to the antibiotic and/or anticancer arsenal derived from "truly Filipino-discovered new chemical entities" and reduce the country's dependence on expensive antibiotics and anticancer agents.

The team was able to isolate and purify eight (8) possible new compounds with antimicrobial and anticancer activities. Several active fractions are already in the pipeline for purification where possible compound leads are anticipated, in addition to the two (2) that were already identified.

FUNCTIONAL FOODS



Taking advantage of the abundance of agricultural resources in the country, the Functional Food program explores the possible health benefits of local crops and food products for the prevention of non-communicable diseases. This year, the program supported research on a range of diseases from hypertension to metabolic disorders, among others.

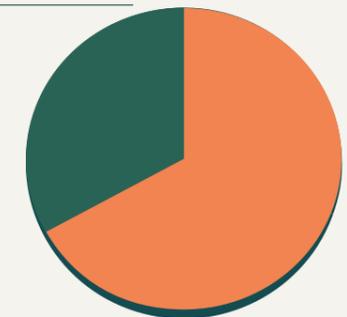
The program has nine (9) priority commodities namely: edible mushrooms, local berries, root crops, seaweeds, turmeric, moringa, pili, VCO and other coconut products, and unpolished and pigmented rice.

In 2021, the program focused on the results of studies on VCO which was used as adjunct therapy for COVID-19. The program also received results from studies on edible mushrooms and ferns, which will be useful in the next phases of their research for the efficacy of their properties targeting certain health indications. Lastly, research study on pili and local berries showed significant results.

For next year, the program aims to start working on the guidelines for local products to be claimed as Functional Food. This will help consumers to be smarter with their purchases and will boost a product's value. Also, a review on the research gaps will be made to determine remaining needed studies on the program's priority commodities. Additional priority commodities will also be announced during the call for research proposals.

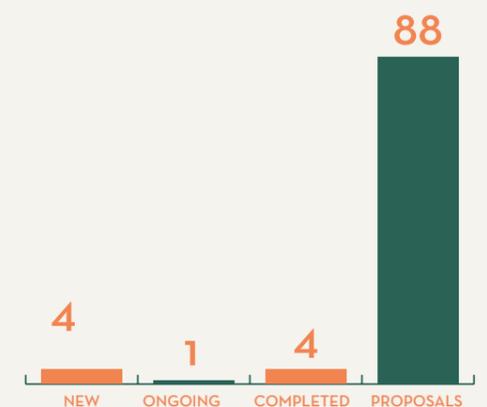
2021 RESEARCH EXPENDITURES

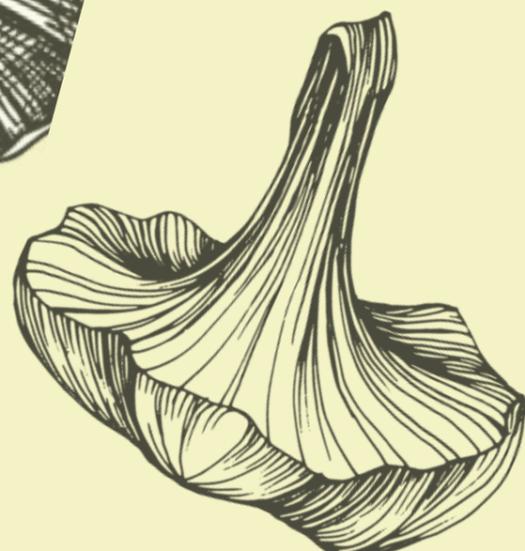
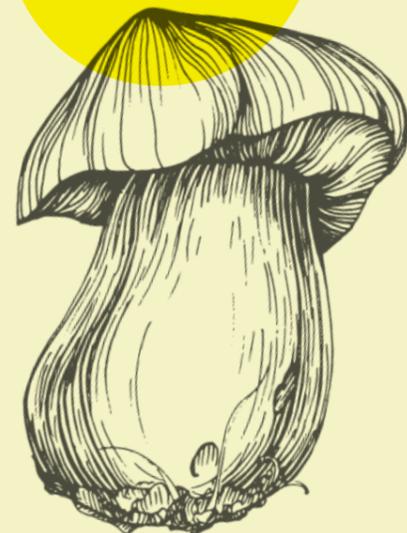
PCHRD
Php 6,589,676.88



DOST
PHP 13,501,102.96

DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS





Mushroom-based functional foods

*Dr. Renato Reyes
Central Luzon State University*

The study demonstrates how research can transform underutilized local wild mushrooms into healthy functional foods. Building from previous research showing potential antidiabetic and antihypertensive activities of wild, edible mushrooms, the project entitled “Development of Mushroom-Based Functional Foods” is an effort to bring these health benefits closer to Filipinos.

Dr. Reyes’ team successfully developed a total of five (5) food products in 2021, specifically: 1) RTD mushroom-infused soy coffee, instant mushroom tea, furikake flakes paste, mushroom chips, and mushroom shing-a-ling. Proximate, amino acid, and elemental composition analysis for the products were also conducted.

To further support its commercialization, the research team also entered a research collaboration agreement (RCA) with the company Nagaño’s Farm which specializes in cultivation of local



mushrooms, as the tech adopter of the products. Packaging and label design were also completed, along with various market studies.

The project elevates the status of wild, edible Philippines mushrooms, and in turn, allows mushroom farmers to increase the value of their products. This may also inspire the development of other mushroom-based products among the industry.

BerryPinoy

Dr. Katherine C. Israel and Dr. Liezl M. Atienza
University of the Philippines Los Baños



While lipote and bignay are commonly used to produce wine in some provinces in the Philippines, there remains little studies on its nutritional value and health benefits. This is the gap that the team of researchers from the University of the Philippines Los Baños aims to address through their project entitled “BerryPinoy: Exploring the Potentials of Philippine Indigenous Berries as Functional Foods.”

Composed of two sub-projects, BerryPinoy aims to: 1) identify the bioactive components and nutritional properties of lipote and bignay, and 2) investigate the oral toxicity of the berries and their applications on obesity and metabolic disorders. In 2021, the project team has identified the biochemical composition as well as physical



and chemical properties of the berries such as pH, color, water activity, soluble solids, and sugar content. Nutritional content and antioxidant levels were also measured to confirm potential health benefits. Following the studies on the properties of the berry samples, oral toxicity tests were conducted. Animal trials on the effect of the berries on metabolic disorders such as obesity, inflammation, dyslipidemia or unhealthy levels of fat in the blood, and oxidative stress or imbalance of free radicals and antioxidants in the body were also conducted.

Aside from these health benefits, the project is expected to increase the value of local berries in the market, helping boost the livelihood of local berry farmers.

OPTIFern: Functional food products from ferns

Dr. Jose Valmorida
Central Mindanao University

The Philippines is rich in agricultural resources that are yet to be explored for their health and nutritional benefits. One of these are local edible ferns which are highlighted by this research study.

The project, “OPTIFern: Optimization, Packaging, Technology, and Innovation of Functional Food Products from Ferns,” explores the anti-inflammatory and antioxidative properties of local ferns. It also aims to standardize the production of fern powder, determine its appropriate packaging and storage stability, and lastly, study its potential in the market.

In 2021, the project team was able to produce the fern powder to be used in generating various fern-based products. Tests on the chemical compositions and properties of the fern powder were also conducted, however, the team is still analyzing results to conclude on its anti-inflammatory and antioxidative activities. Should the study draw positive results, it would help increase the value of local ferns and impact fern farmers and businesses using ferns as raw materials. It is also expected to initiate further studies on the use of local ferns as a functional food among Filipinos.

Sulong PILipinas! Exploration of Promising Health Potentials of Pili

Dr. Elizabeth Arenas
University of Santo Tomas

The pili pomace would usually be discarded as a waste product from pili processing. However, through a research study led by Dr. Elizabeth Arenas, the pili pomace may be repurposed into a food product with health benefits.

Entitled “Oplan: Sulong PILIPinas! An Exploration of Promising Health Potentials of Pili,” the program, aims to provide evidence on the health benefits of pili pomace, as well as develop ready-to-drink (RTD) beverages and burger patties utilizing the pili by-product.

In 2021, the Program formulated three (3) flavored RTD pili pomace tea. The formulations showed antioxidant activity that is at par with commercially available RTD teas. To evaluate the marketability of the products, consumer acceptability studies were conducted along with oral toxicity tests and storage stability tests, among others. The formulation for burger patties with pili pomace, its consumer acceptability, and shelf life assessments were also conducted. Once successfully introduced to the market, the products may be an additional option for sources of dietary antioxidants and phytochemicals that promote the regulation of metabolism, weight, and chronic diseases.

By providing evidence on the health benefits of products using pili pomace, the project boosts the local pili industry. It also serves as reference for further studies exploring other uses of pili pomace as a functional food.



FERN-BASED NORI



FERN-BASED NUTRITION BAR



FERN CRACKERS



PILI TEA

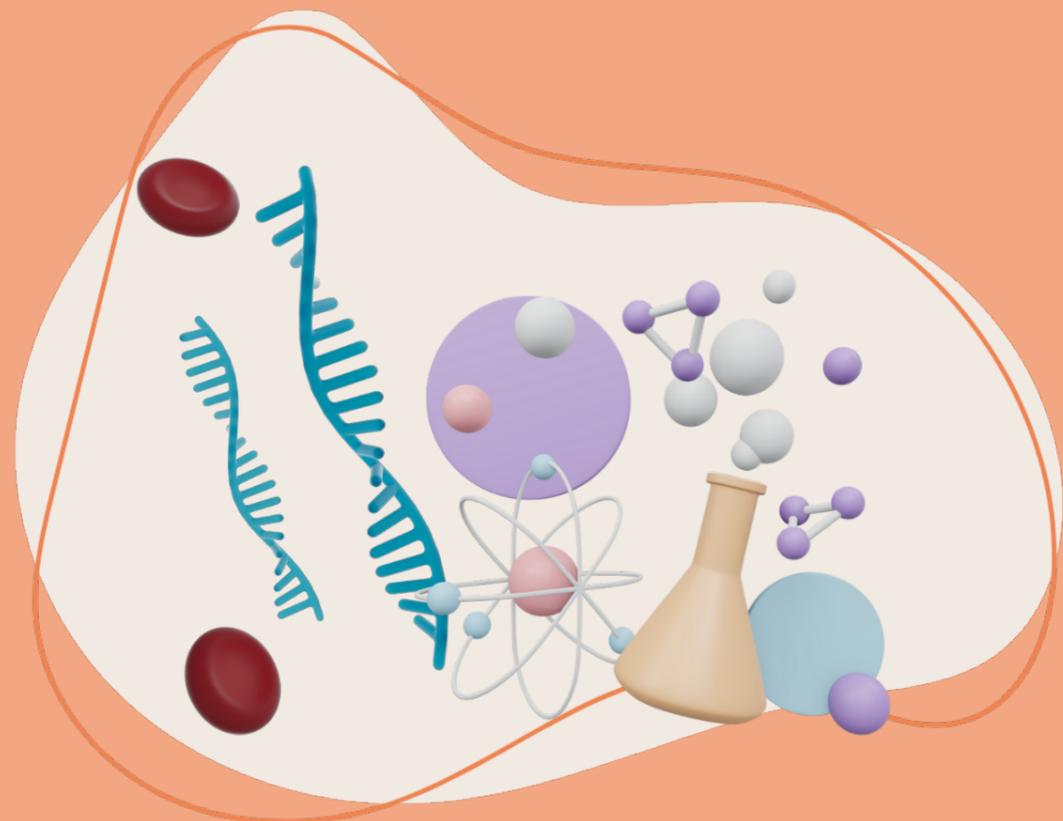


PILI TEA



PILI BURGER

OMIC TECHNOLOGIES FOR HEALTH



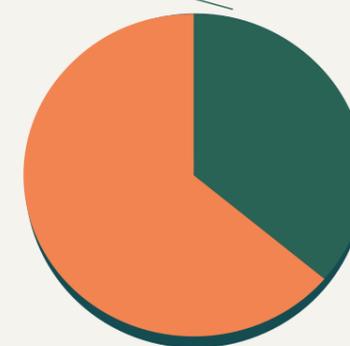
The OMICS program utilizes "OMIC" technology platforms in generating meaningful information as input into development of personalized/ precision medicines, diagnostics, therapeutics, other technologies, and as support to health & clinical practice guidelines and policies of the Philippines.

The year 2021 saw the commencement of various programs under this priority research area:

- Philippine Program for Diagnostic Biomarkers, Disease Modeling and Nutraceutical Product Development (Phil-DIAMOND): Initial Focus on HIV-related Neurocognitive and Metabolic Complications
- Breast Cancer in the Philippines: Gene Expression Profiling of Breast Cancer Among Filipinos and Development of Breast Cancer Mammosphere Assay Toward Individualized Cancer Management
- The Philippine Virome Database Project
- The NICER on "Center for Applied Modeling, Data Analytics, and Bioinformatics for Decision Support Systems in Health" or "AMDABiDSS-Health"
- Vaccine Immune Response and Outcome Monitoring with Epitope Sequences (VIROMES)
- Program on "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Immuno-Genomic Surveillance Program"
- In 2021, we also inaugurated the PGC Protein Proteomics and Metabolomics Core Facility.

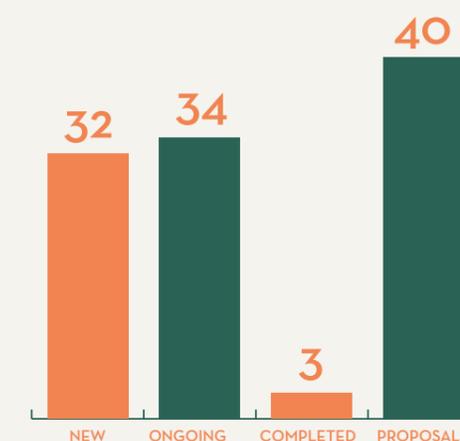
2021 RESEARCH EXPENDITURES

PCHRD
Php 144,850,995.75



DOST
PHP 255,626,465.95

DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS



"Fourteen promising novel and unstudied mutations were identified to be related to disease risk and development of colorectal cancer among Filipinos."

T

he Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) signaling pathway is one of the most important cellular processes in Cancer studies. Mutations in the proteins involved in this pathway are usual prime suspects in the proliferation of cancer cells, such as colorectal cancer. In particular, a protein component of the EGFR pathway called KRAS is an important target of different cancer drugs and treatments, as mutant forms of this protein is the usual cause of many types of cancer, such as colorectal cancer.

However, it is noted that some patients do not respond to standard anti-EGFR therapy, despite targeting the mutated KRAS protein. This is due to other proteins that are part of the downstream pathway also being involved or mutated. This results in continuous proliferation of the cancer despite treatment because there are other deficient proteins involved in the disease that are not sufficiently targeted by usual therapy. These other causes of drug resistance to cancer therapy, and cancer persistence must be studied, especially in Filipinos with colorectal cancer. Overall, the program aimed to screen mutations in the following genes involved in these downstream pro-oncogenic signaling pathways: KRAS, NRAS, PIK3CA, BRAF, and PTEN in colorectal cancer patients and conduct

functional analysis on novel mutations identified through the program in order to provide clinically relevant biomarkers that can be translated to commercial test kits for predicting drug response to anti-EGFR therapy.

Upon looking at mutations in the aforementioned genes (i.e. KRAS, NRAS, PIK3CA, BRAF, and PTEN) of 90 Filipino Colorectal Cancer (CRC) patients, results discovered the existence of ethnicity-specific nuances in the mutational landscape of CRC patients, strengthening the need to look at specific treatment strategies depending on the type of mutations seen in a patient. Moreover, 14 promising novel and unstudied mutations have undergone functional assays and were identified to be related to disease risk and development of colorectal cancer among Filipinos.

Results from the program are seen to pave the way towards the development of diagnostic tests that can predict drug response/ efficacy prior to actual treatment. Data from the program can also potentially be valuable in developing new therapeutic technologies specifically for Filipino colorectal cancer patients.

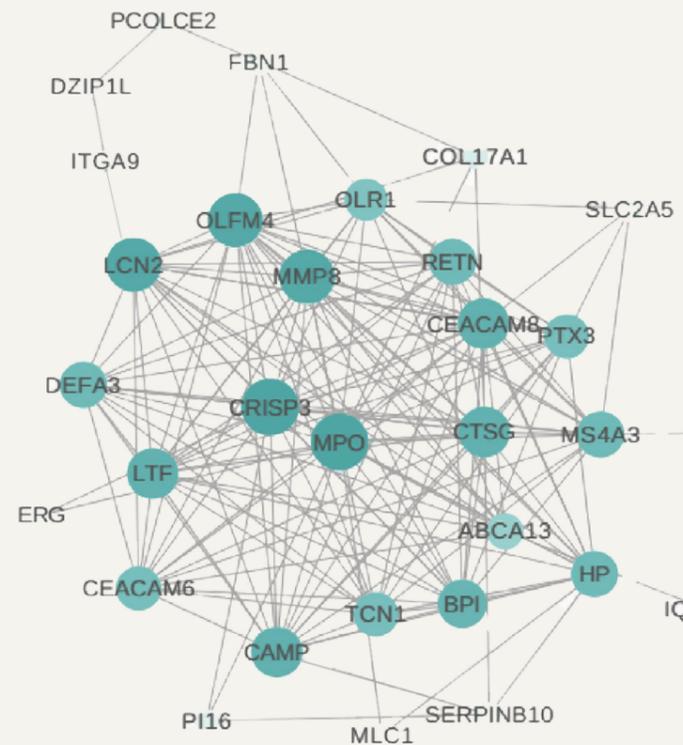
Detection and Functional Characterization of KRAS, NRAS, PIK3CA, BRAF, and PTEN gene mutations in Filipino Colorectal Cancer Patients

*Dr. Reynaldo Garcia
Philippine Genome Center and
National Institute of Molecular Biology and
Biotechnology-University of the Philippines Diliman*

*Dr. Eva Maria Cutiongco-dela Paz
Philippine Genome Center*

Blood and Placental Gene Expression in Gestational Diabetes Mellitus: Potential Identification of Early Biomarkers

Dr. Maria Ruth Pineda-Cortel
Department of Medical Technology,
Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Santo Tomas



Protein-protein interaction network of genes belonging to purple module of GDM cohort in second trimester samples

Aiming to analyze gene expression and potential genes associated with Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM)- a condition wherein pregnant women suffer from diabetes during pregnancy, the team of Dr. Pineda-Cortel launched a project that will screen the presence of and analyze GDM-related Short Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs) to determine their viability for early diagnosis compared with that of standard diagnostic tools such as the oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT). The project also eyes to fill significant gaps in our understanding of GDM, and provide baseline prevalence of GDM among pregnant Filipino women.

In 2021, the team has already enrolled a total of 627 pregnant women, out of which 196 have GDM, indicating an estimated 31% prevalence of GDM. The project is currently performing laboratory procedures/ activities on remaining samples as well as analysis of data obtained.

The team also published an article in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences as well as present papers at the First Digital International Research Conference 2020. Moreover, paper and poster presentations were accepted in several conferences/ events such as the International Congress on Collaboration Education and Research in Health Care (UST Manila), International Network of Research Management Societies (INORMS) 2021 at Hiroshima Japan, and the National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines (NAST PHL).

The project also hosted eight (8) M.S. Medical Technology students, three (3) of which have already defended their thesis and graduated Cum Laude, four (4) about to defend their theses this year, and one (1) student will be presenting in an international conference. In terms of partnerships, the team was able to establish collaboration with hospitals/ clinics.

NICER “Center for Applied Modeling, Data Analytics, and Bioinformatics For Decision-Support Systems in Health” or AMDABiDSS-Health



AMDABIDSS HEALTH

IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES



COOPERATING AGENCIES



GOVERNMENT AGENCIES



The NICER on “Center for Applied Modeling, Data Analytics, and Bioinformatics for Decision Support Systems in Health” or “AMDABiDSS-Health” is being implemented by the University of the Philippines Mindanao (UP Mindanao) and Malayan Colleges Mindanao (MCM) as part of the DOST’s NICER Program. The center is led by Dr. May Anne E. Mata of UP Mindanao. As the first research center in the region that uses interdisciplinary quantitative approaches and improved disease surveillance techniques, the AMDABiDSS-Health Program has four (4) component projects:

Project 1: “Predictive Modeling and Viral Phylodynamic Analysis on the Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Disease Outbreaks with considerations for Control and Logistics applied in Mindanao region (PPASTOL)”

Dr. May Anne E. Mata

The project will make precise projections of the number of cases, deaths, recoveries, the level of control, and the logistical operations to implement (per site) with Project 3 and Project 4 while utilizing genomic data, for sustainable epidemic preparedness. The study will also project the impacts of the recommended interventions of Project 2 based on simulation scenarios.

Project 2: “Risk Management and Enhanced Survival Analysis Integrated through Longitudinal Infectious Disease Data and Statistical Epidemiological Model using Clinical Risk Factors”, or RESILIEMC,

Dr. Gernelyn T. Logrosa

The project aims to create a decision support system platform to better equip COVID-19 referral hospitals in Mindanao, specifically for Southern Philippines Medical Center and Davao Regional Medical Center, in terms of enhanced triaging and prioritization of corresponding interventions. The study will also produce health risk maps suggesting a hierarchy of controls for immediate implementation to be utilized by the LGUs. The study will also produce categorical drivers of the population (barangay-level) based on associated risk factors.

Project 3: “Vulnerability Assessment Tool: A Decision Support System for Pre-Emptive Preparedness on Emerging Infections Among Animal Reservoir in Urban Green Spaces”, or VATAS

Mr. Von Carlo P. Dela Torre

It will develop a pre-emptive action tool plan for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases targeted to wildlife management, utilization of urban green spaces, routine surveillance strategies and other proactive measures.

Project 4 “Integrated Wastewater-Based Epidemiology and Data Analytics for Community-Level Pathogen Surveillance and Genetic Tracking: Proof-of-Concept” or iWAS

Dr. Lyre Ani Espada-Murao

It will produce an alternative surveillance system and a cost-effective early-warning tool for barangay health workers as they identify communities whose disease cases are underreported. To do this, the study is utilizing data analytics to enhance detection of the presence of viral pathogens from water samples collected from sewer sheds in different sites.

Overall, the program will develop the Intelligent Decision-Support System (IDSS) which will act as a virtual planning tool and integrative platform for epidemic management. The IDSS will have 3 key features for strategic implementation of interventions: 1) Forecasting Epidemic and Describing Impacts, 2) Epidemic Damage Control, and 3) Models for the Surveillance and the Dynamics of COVID-19.

The program will also benefit Mindanao in various ways as it will conduct and support research activities that promote health among local communities in the region. The center will complement existing local and national current approaches for disease surveillance, disease data analysis, and disease risk management. Training activities through online webinars or hands-on workshops will enhance critical thinking and analytic skills of practitioners in interdisciplinary study of infectious diseases in the region. Since the program will capitalize on the use of genomic approaches for disease prevention efforts, new insights will be revealed about the disease dynamics and how it will be mitigated with minimal cost. The program will also highlight the use of advanced quantitative methods and analysis that will help make efficient decisions for the local government units to use without neglecting the needs of the communities they govern, and for the public to be well-educated and be well-informed about infectious diseases.

Currently, they are also actively collaborating with Southern Philippines Medical Center, Davao Regional Medical Center, Mindanao Development Authority, various LGUs and NGOs, and the Department of Health in gathering COVID-19 case data in the Mindanao Region for the development of Surveillance Models. The Center regularly publishes Mindanao COVID statistics on its Facebook account, in coordination with the DOH.

Early diagnosis and prognosis of complicated leptospirosis and sepsis using molecular markers

Dr. Jose B. Nevado Jr.
UP Manila College of Medicine



Complicated leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is usually transmitted by the entry of the pathogens from contaminated water such as food water to mucus membranes or wounds. Early diagnosis and prognosis of leptospirosis, that is, treatment at early phase of the disease will help reduce risk for complications, disability, and deaths

The project looked into Filipino patients and their molecular cues, specifically how the immune system response can provide clues by looking at biomolecular cues and signals on the disease diagnosis and development. By looking at RNA to see and measure what genes are activated/ inactivated during the course of the disease, these gene expression markers can be used for early diagnosis and intervention of leptospirosis and its complications, and possibly targets for therapy. The project also assessed the feasibility of using qPCR as a cheaper, faster diagnostic process to measure these markers.

Results showed that:

- Increased expression of genes called alpha-defensins is a possible early indicator of renal failure, even at the early stages of leptospirosis
- Decreased expression of genes called complement factor I (CFI) is a possible early indicator of pulmonary complications.
- Analyzing the interaction of different immune system-related gene expression implied the involvement of alternative complement pathway activity and downregulation of the Type 1 interferon signaling for leptospirosis and organ damage.

The overall results of the study implicate the significant role of the immune system in the development of complications in leptospirosis. The project has filed for a patent application through DOST-TAPI. Follow-up projects are currently being proposed and under review of PCHRD, on the validation of these markers for diagnostic use.

Complicated sepsis

Sepsis is a condition due to the overreaction of a patient's immune response to certain infections. Without immediate and appropriate treatment, sepsis can lead to multiple organ failure, and even death. There is reported high prevalence and high rates of complications of sepsis in the Philippines, therefore, there is a need for preventive and preemptive measures for early septic patients, as interventions at the early stages of the disease will help reduce risk for complications and death.

The project looked into Filipino patients, and their molecular cues, as a possible, complementary assessment tool to diagnose simple sepsis from patients who will need more critical medical support. Similar to the previous project on leptospirosis, this project used transcriptional profiling as a possibly more efficient tool to discover these molecular cues. The project also assessed the feasibility of using qPCR as a cheaper, faster diagnostic process to measure these markers.

In 2021, the project was able to:

- Identify differentially-expressed genes with the potential as biomarkers for septic complications, for septic shock, multiorgan dysfunction, and death.
- Identify MicroRNAs (miRNAs) that were significantly associated with sepsis and its complications; in particular, miRNA markers which can differentiate septic individuals with those who are just febrile (with fever but not septic).

Overall, the project identified multiple potential gene targets and pathways for sepsis and the development of different clinical outcomes. These findings can potentially guide ongoing efforts to develop molecular-based diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic strategies for sepsis.

Both of these projects have been presented in various local and international conferences such as the IDWeek in USA (2019), and the Asia-Pacific Conference in Human Genetics, Manila (2019).



Launching of the Philippine Genome Center - Protein Proteomics, and Metabolomics Facility (PGC - PPMF)

Dr. Neil Andrew D. Bascos, Protein, Proteomics and Metabolomics Facility

On October 4, 2021, the University of the Philippines together with the DOST-PCHRD inaugurated and officially launched the Philippine Genome Center -Protein Proteomics, and Metabolomics Facility (PPMF) as an addition to the existing genomic research capacities of the UP Philippine Genome Center (PGC) in Quezon City. With UP's support on infrastructure development and DOST's support in the acquisition of laboratory equipment, the new facility is ready to serve R&D institutions both in the government and in the private sector in the coming years.

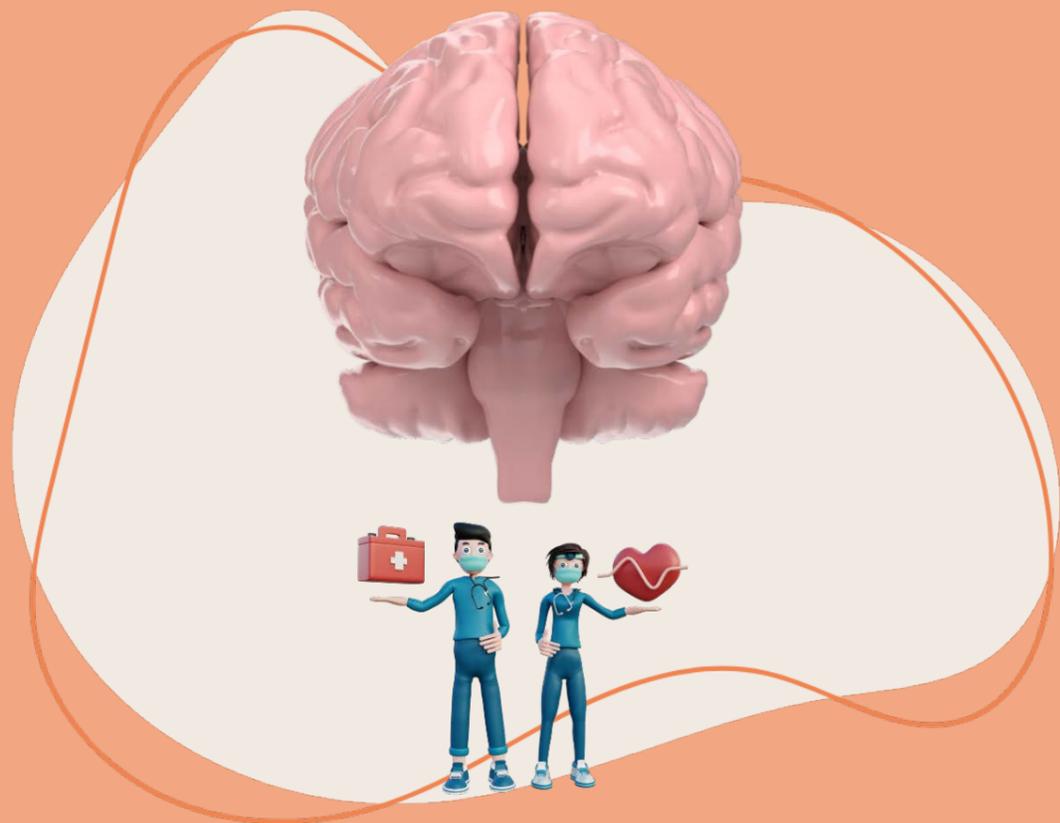
Proteomic and Metabolomic analysis provides a direct assessment of the proteins expressed and the metabolites produced by a particular organism, which provide the necessary traits that allow organisms to have specialized functions. Differences in their proteomes and metabolomes can provide the difference between normal and cancerous tissue, and provide the characteristic traits of different organism varieties. Proteomic and metabolomic analysis may be used to uncover the key components for desired traits, and therefore provides the opportunity to harness these traits for practical applications. Despite these benefits, there was initially no available protein,

proteomic nor metabolomic analysis service laboratory available in the country. Hence, the project aimed to enhance the research and service capacity of the Philippines in Omics-level technologies through the establishment of the Protein, Proteomics and Metabolomics (PPM) Facility in the Philippine Genome Center in order to provide a venue for researchers of all levels to access facilities for their work with a full spectrum of services, from basic protein-based experiments (e.g. Protein Purification, PAGE, Western Blots, ELISA, etc.) to more in-depth analysis of target proteomes and metabolomes. In addition to the establishment of a research facility, the long-term thrust of the PPMF is the training of researchers for the generation of the critical mass of scientists needed to realize the applications of OMIC technologies for the Philippines.

Some of the top of the line laboratory equipment available at the PPMF include a High and Ultra Pressure Liquid Chromatography System and a High-Resolution Mass Spectrometer, which are both used in identifying, quantifying, and purifying compounds. The PPMF is also envisioned as a platform for collaborative work on proteomics and metabolomics research and a training hub for those who are conducting OMICS-type research. Interested researchers/ clients may go to the website of the PPM Facility at <https://pgc.up.edu.ph/services/protein-proteomics-and-metabolomics> for more information on the services provided by the facility.



MENTAL HEALTH

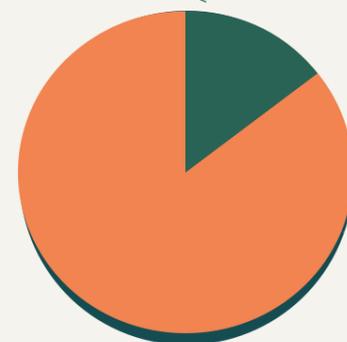


Since the passing of the Mental Health Act or R.A.11036 last 2019, we have seen significant improvements on how the government and the public see mental health as a priority health topic. We have seen and participated in the development of the frameworks and guidelines, we have attended multiple conferences and fora where baseline studies were presented, and most importantly, we have observed how multiple sectors expressed interest and forwarded recommendations on how to move forward in tackling mental health.

The Mental Health Program aims to assist our local research in the development and implementation of quality, effective, and culture-appropriate mental health Research and Development innovations.

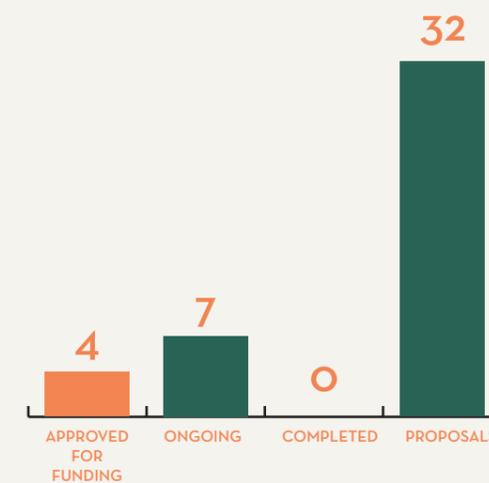
2021 RESEARCH INVESTMENTS

PCHRD
Php 10,991,506.45



DOST
PHP 71,151,406.00

DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS



RUGBY ADDICTION IN ADOLESCENTS

Cessation of toluene (Rugby) addiction in adolescents: Using a rodent model to test novel pharmacological and behavioral treatments for overcoming withdrawal and craving

Dr. Rohani Cena-Navarro
UP Manila - National Institutes of Health (UP-NIH)

The chronic abuse of inhalants leads to fatigue, depression, brain damage, and increase in crimes to fund addictions. Aiming to address this issue, the team of Dr. Rohani Cena-Navarro of the UP Manila - National Institutes of Health (UPM-NIH) eyes to develop new treatments that will reduce inhalant abuse and its associated societal problems through testing novel pharmacological and behavioral treatments for overcoming toluene withdrawal and craving.

The project aims to develop a rodent model of inhalant addiction that will be used to strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse in the Philippines

In 2021, the team has undergone local training, online webinars and conferences, and established an affiliation with the Society for Neuroscience. A temporary animal facility for the pilot study was secured while the NIH Animal Facility renovations are ongoing. The team has also created a detailed workflow for the method validation.

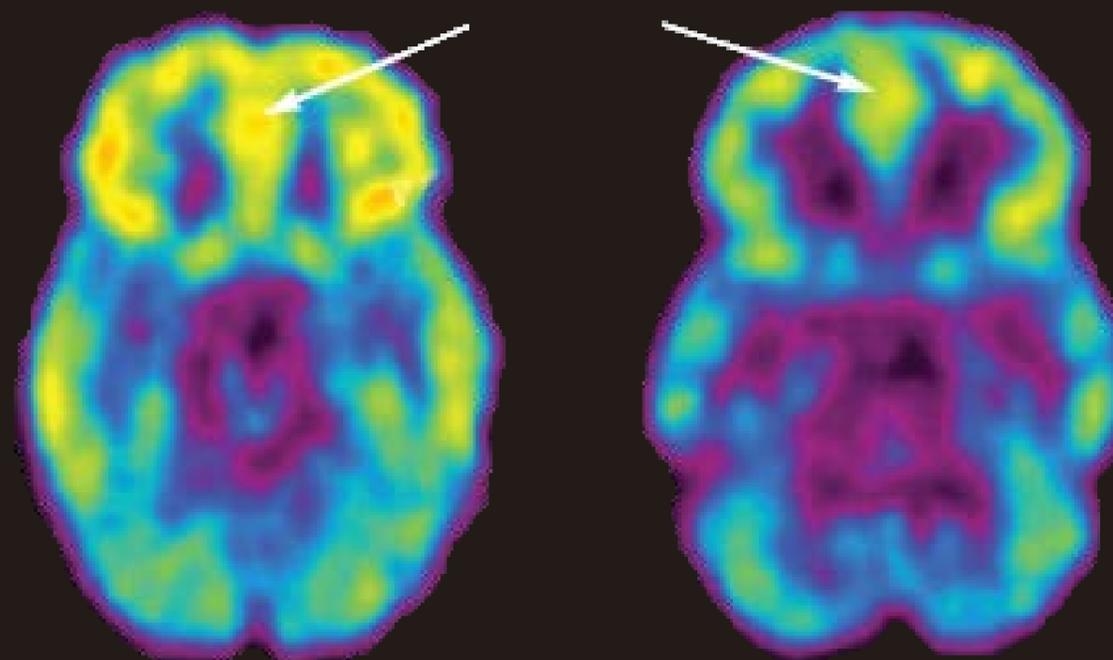
The co-investigators of the study are Dr. Gregory J. Quirk renowned neuroscientist from the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine; Dr. Cynthia Grace Gregorio, Associate Professor from the UP Diliman Institute of Chemistry; Dr. Joselito Pascual, Clinical Associate Professor from the Department of Psychiatry, UP College of Medicine; Dr. Maria Stella Giron, Associate Professor from the UP College of Medicine, and Dr. Jesus Emmanuel Sevilleja, Head of the National Center for Mental Health Research Unit.



Laboratory work



Toluene Vapor Administration System



PET scan of cocaine abusers' brain showing the reduced metabolism in the orbitofrontal cortex. Healthy subject (left) and a cocaine abuser (right)

Source: Fowler, J. S., Volkow, N. D., Kassed, C. A., & Chang, L. (2007). Imaging the addicted human brain. *Science & practice perspectives*, 3(2), 4-16. <https://doi.org/10.1151/spp07324>

Development of a manual: Quality Mental Health Research in the Philippines Conceptualizations, Designs, and Implementation

To develop research proposals that are consistent with the language and mindset for mental health research in the Philippines based on the Mental Health Law, the PCHRD and the Mental Health Research Advisory Group (MHRAG) launched the Quality Mental Health Research in the Philippines: Conceptualization, Design, and Methods manual on 14 July 2021.

Developed based on the discussions from the PCHRD-hosted writeshop entitled, "Capacity Building in Technical Writing for Mental Health Research Proposal Development," on 24 November 2020 and 5 December 2020, the working manual serves as a compilation of the essential discussions exchanged between the lecturers and participants during the writeshop.

The manual is publicly available for download on the PCHRD website or through bit.ly/MHManualDownload. The document aims to serve as a working manual to guide mental health researchers in the submissions of their proposals to PCHRD and other research organizations, and to record the rich discourse on mental health concepts and research framework generated from the mental health writeshop held last year. As a relatively new field of research in the country, the development of the manual will be instrumental in the improved development of mental health research, especially for less experienced researchers.



A Study on Depression Anxiety Self-Harm Suicidality in Students

Mapping of Socio-Cultural Factors and Determinants Associated with Depression, Anxiety, Self-Harm and Suicidality among Students in Higher Education Institutions

Prof. Alejandro C. Baroque II
University of Santo Tomas



A longstanding issue in mental health studies is its inability to address the widening gap between the theoretical approach and the lived experiences of individuals from different socio-cultural backgrounds. Localizing the understanding of health systems allows for a more relevant approach to the users and practitioners within that ecosystem. This project aims to explore the socio-cultural determinants of mental health illness (MHI) among university level students enrolled in Higher Education Institutions.

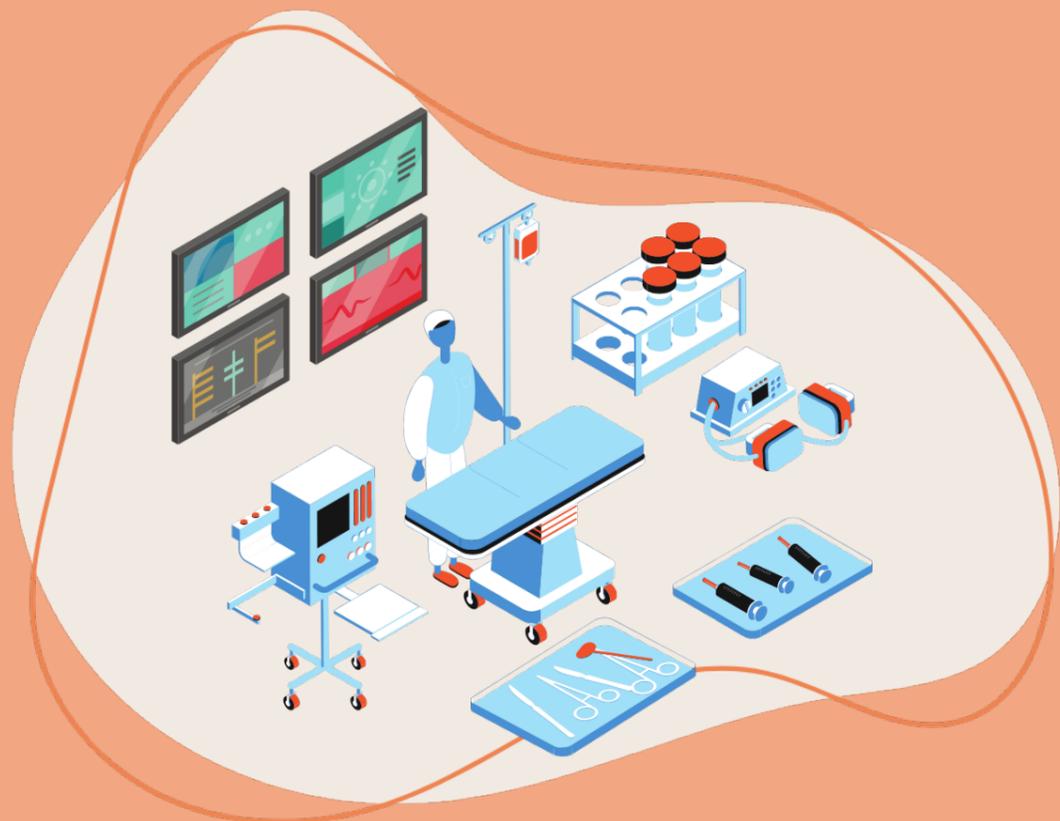
In 2021, the team conducted and completed 60 key informant interviews (KIIs) with students from UST Manila, and 54 KIIs for the collaborating universities. Two manuscripts for the project are currently being finalized.

The authors intend to submit an executive summary along with evidence-based recommendations on the evaluation and intervention of mental health conditions among college students.

Results of the study is also intended to contribute to the mental health program design and implementation for other higher education institutions in the country which may have parallel socio-demographic contexts.

The project began on June 20, 2021 and was conducted at the UST Manila, Saint Louis University, Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology, Palawan State University, UST Legazpi, and UP Visayas (Tacloban).

BIOMEDICAL DEVICES ENGINEERING FOR HEALTH



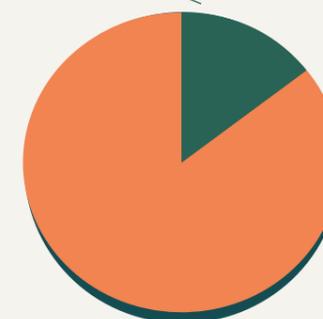
The Philippines continues to rely heavily on imported biomedical equipment and materials, which affects the affordability and accessibility of healthcare services for Filipinos. Recognizing the need to lead and support initiatives that will advance the biomedical devices industry in the country, the Council implements the Biomedical Devices Engineering for Health Program.

The program aims to:

1. develop accessible, affordable, good-quality, and innovative biomedical devices that consider the sustainability of materials, manufacturing processes, and products;
2. develop skills and expertise in biomedical engineering and related areas, and;
3. contribute to establishing and strengthening support systems towards a Philippine Biomedical Devices Industry.

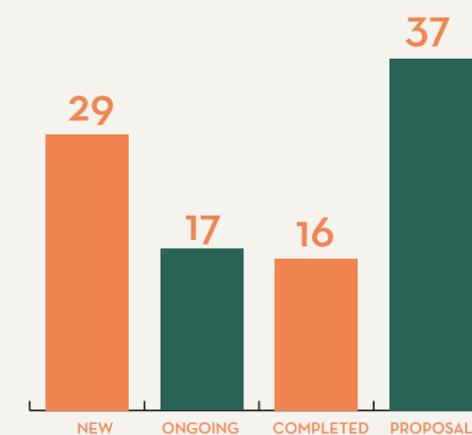
2021 RESEARCH INVESTMENTS

PCHRD
Php 12,212,784.94



DOST
PHP 71,151,406.00

DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS



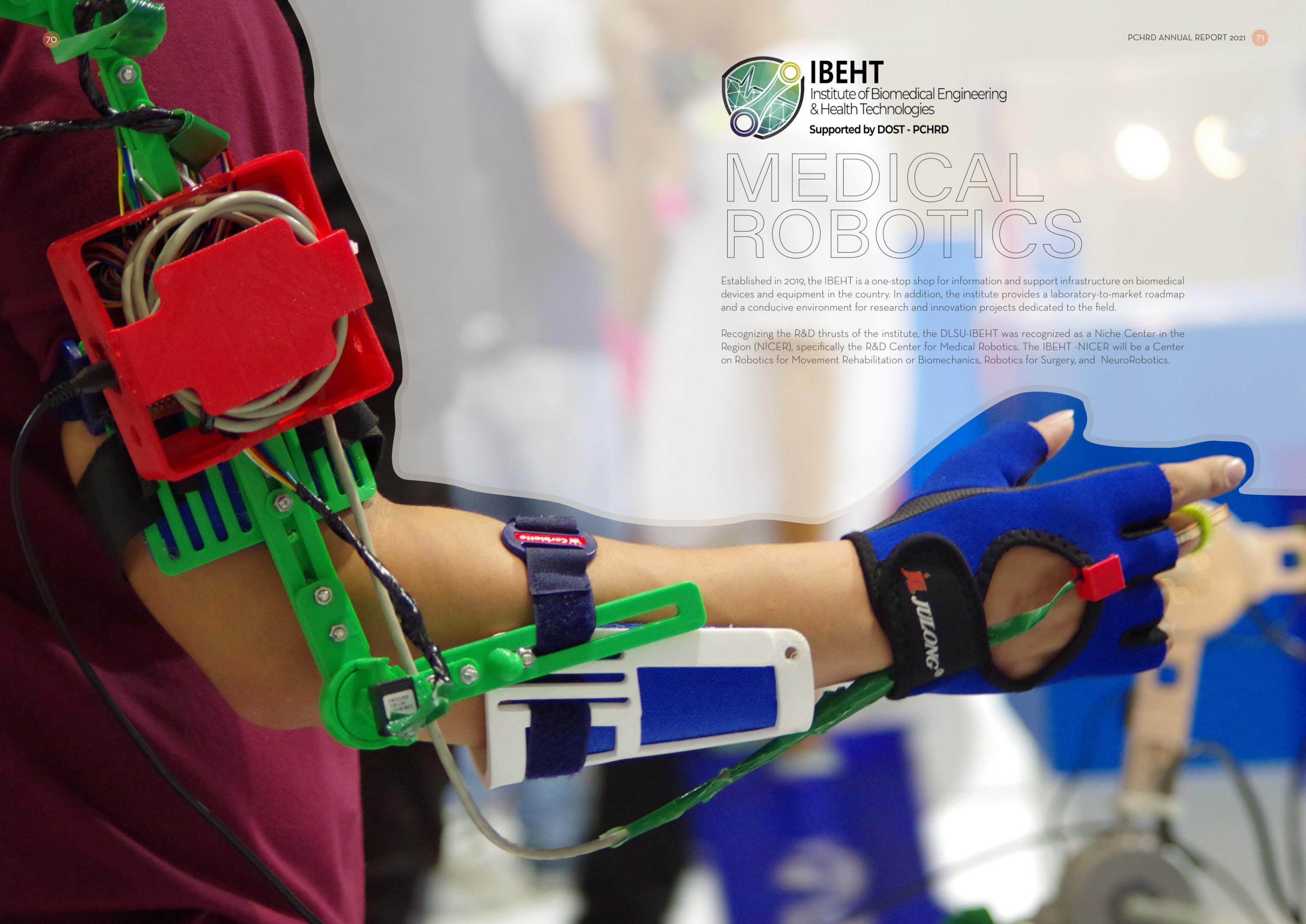
**IBEHT**Institute of Biomedical Engineering
& Health Technologies

Supported by DOST - PCHRD

MEDICAL ROBOTICS

Established in 2019, the IBEHT is a one-stop shop for information and support infrastructure on biomedical devices and equipment in the country. In addition, the institute provides a laboratory-to-market roadmap and a conducive environment for research and innovation projects dedicated to the field.

Recognizing the R&D thrusts of the institute, the DLSU-IBEHT was recognized as a Niche Center in the Region (NICER), specifically the R&D Center for Medical Robotics. The IBEHT -NICER will be a Center on Robotics for Movement Rehabilitation or Biomechanics, Robotics for Surgery, and NeuroRobotics.





LAPARA Project

The LAPARA project aims to develop a robotic and articulating laparoscopic instrument for surgeons that is easy to use and maneuver, which will help in minimal scarring for patients and a shorter healing time.

The initial prototype of the device features a patient-side manipulator, which adopts the movement of the surgeon's arm while using the laparoscopic tool, and a surgeon-side manipulator with a parallel mechanism. Currently, the project is in its pre-clinical trial phase, where the research team is evaluating the prototype's performance by using a laparoscopic box and pig cadaver models.



AGAPAY Project

The AGAPAY Project aims to develop a wearable robotic exoskeleton that will provide motor rehabilitation and physical therapy to post-stroke and injured patients. This robotic exoskeleton is envisioned to aid the patient's upper limbs to perform his/her range of motion eventually regaining motor control.

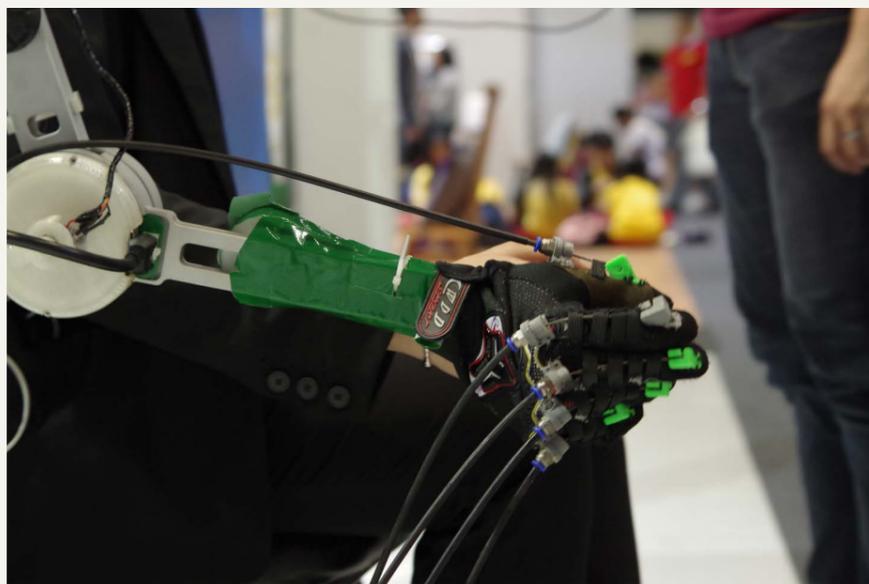
AGAPAY will have a 7-degree-of-freedom (DoF), which will provide better control and movement precision. The devices will also have an active biofeedback control system and guided user-interface to promote rehabilitation of brain-muscle control. The proponents have already developed a prototype that has undergone preclinical safety tests and certifications.



TAYÔ Project

TAYÔ is a multifunctional rehabilitation device for early mobilization designed to rehabilitate stroke patients, helping them gain strength, be more mobile, sit and stand. The project aims to complement and assist therapists and physiatrists in physical therapy. The device will follow Filipino adult measurements for ankle rehabilitation and will be equipped with surface electromyography (sEMG) for biofeedback.

The project team already built the prototype, which is currently in Phase 2 of trials involving healthy human participants. This ongoing study focuses on compliance testing to device industry safety standards.



Technology Transfer Initiatives:



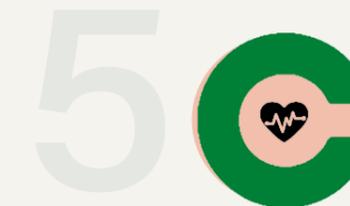
KANDILI

Establishment of an Intellectual Property Management System for the Institute of Biomedical Engineering and Health Technologies (IBEHT) Project

The KANDILI project aims to develop a competitive intellectual property management system to effectively and efficiently facilitate the commercialization of biomedical devices, hospital equipment, and health technologies through the IBEHT Projects.

The project team has created technology assessments to determine and communicate the technical and commercial maturity of IBEHT technologies, as well as determine the areas that require attention or improvement.

The team also pursued collaborations with other sectors, such as hospitals, insurance, manufacturers, investors, and government agencies to gain insights on how these industries view IP protection as a commercial strategy and learn how they manage their internally generated IP. The team was able to establish the baseline on the technology transfer readiness of researchers and institutions directed to biomedical devices and health technologies.



CAPACITA

Capacity Building for Researchers, Inventors and Technology Transfer Personnel in Commercializing Biomedical Devices and Health Technologies

Project CAPACITÀ aims to equip researchers, inventors, technology transfer officers, and other related personnel with the skills and knowledge in the commercialization of biomedical engineering and health technologies. The project will delve into the unique and specific issues concerning biomedical devices and the healthcare industry, which include, among others, issues on clinical trials and government regulatory requirements.

In 2021, the team was able to identify institutions, researchers, and technology transfer professionals that could facilitate the translation of early-stage biomedical devices, hospital equipment, and health technologies into commercialized products and services.

In partnership with the KANDILI project, the team organized its first webinar series entitled, "CAPACITA Lecture Series on Commercializing Biomedical Devices and Health Technologies," to inspire researchers to push for the commercialization of their technologies and create an avenue for sharing experiences and insights.

The project also led several conferences, including DITECH Fair 2020 and DLSU-IPOPHL IP and Technology Research Conference 2020 held on December 3-4, 2021 and the 1st Annual Philippine Biomedical Engineering and Health Technology Conference and Exhibit was presented virtually on August 25-27, 2021.

POWer: Mobile biomedical device unit to enhance access to prosthesis and orthosis devices

Dr. Josephine Bundoc
Physicians for Peace, Inc.



Using a mobile assistive device workshop, the Physicians for Peace, Inc. aims to develop prosthesis and orthosis devices that is comparable with those developed in a facility-based workshop.

A mobile workshop will enhance access to quality assistive biomedical devices for persons with mobility impairments, especially for low-resource LGUs. The provision of these devices will enhance the functional capacity of persons with mobility impairment and enable them to resume activities of daily living.

The project team will determine the cost-effectiveness of a community-based service delivery model through a mobile assistive device workshop, and generate a development-to-commercialization plan for the mobile unit and biomedical devices.

Commenced in 2021, the project team has successfully provided assistive devices to the entire target study population:

- Among prosthesis recipients, 25 patients have been casted and discharged from the mobile van, while 25 were casted in the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, Inc. (UERMMMMC), of which 24 were discharged.
- Among orthosis recipients, 25 patients have been casted and discharged from the mobile van, while 25 have been casted in the UERMMMMC, of which 23 were discharged.

The team is also working to determine how the devices can be covered by PhilHealth.



Development of Posterior Cervical Fixation System (PCFS)

Dr. Jude L. Sasing
Orthopaedic International, Inc.

When tumors or infections affect the cervical spine, posterior cervical instrumented fusion is performed to protect and enhance the neurologic function of the patient. However, the devices used for these procedures can be expensive, which leads to their limited use. In some instances, treatment using older techniques is performed in favor of cost-effectiveness, but at the risk of poor results.

Relative to this, the Council supported the project to develop a posterior cervical fusion instrumentation system that will allow

more patients to be treated properly. The system will address clinical issues that are present in current products in the market as well as the very high cost of posterior cervical implants in the country. It was designed and manufactured according to internationally accepted quality standards.

As of 2021, the research team is already waiting for FDA registration approval for commercialization.

Development of Oil-Based Thermal Disinfection Technology to Treat Infectious Waste from Healthcare Facilities"

Dr. Jude L. Sasing
Orthopaedic International, Inc.

Currently, the country has a limited number of treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities for the proper handling of infectious medical wastes. Most of these facilities employ the usage of autoclave, hydroclave, and microwave methods which operate at high pressures, have less volume and mass reduction. While these methods are effective, there remains to be a tendency for recurrence of infectious bacteria a few days after treatment.

In 2019, Dr. Ramer Bautista of the UP Visayas led a project to develop an oil-based thermal disinfection technology for the treatment of infectious wastes. The technology uses heating as a mechanism and kills the pathogens at 170-200°C. The

treatment system has a simple design, operates at atmospheric pressure, entails low treatment cost, gives up to 75% mass and volume reduction, and impedes the recurrence of infectious bacteria up to 30 days after the treatment. The technology can be used onsite and can operate at atmospheric pressure. As the technology uses vegetable oil, it also avoids the emission of toxic gas. Moreover, this treatment system offers an almost 31% energy savings relative to the autoclave treatment.

Concluded in April 2021, the project team generated two prototypes at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 6. The team is currently working on improving the prototypes for installation and demonstration for use in partner hospitals.

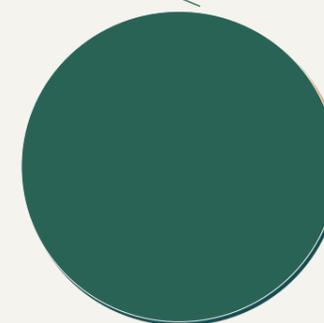
RE-EMERGING AND EMERGING DISEASES



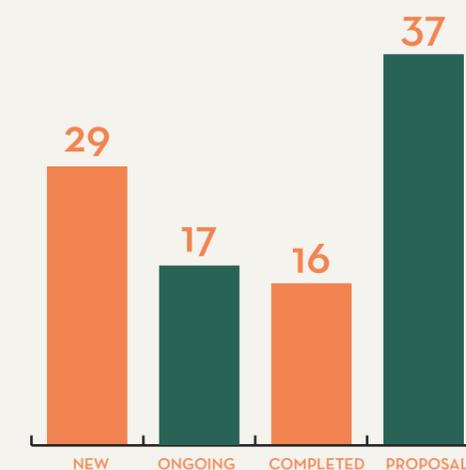
The Re-emerging and Emerging Diseases or RED program was created in 2021 as an expansion to the Dengue and Other Arboviruses program of the DOST-PCHRD. Building from the previous program on arboviruses, RED focuses on the development of local and novel technology platforms, therapeutics, preventive measures, surveillance, and control and management protocols against re-emerging and emerging diseases.

2021 RESEARCH INVESTMENTS

PCHRD
Php 353,506,867.07



DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS



Dengue

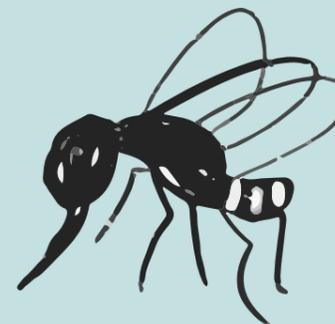
As a disease endemic to the country, the RED program supports projects that will provide evidence to support the country's dengue control programs.

Aedes Adaptation Genomics Program

This program is composed of 3 projects that aim to investigate the adaptive capability of *Aedes spp.* depending on varying traits and external factors. By understanding these variables, authorities are guided in developing more effective strategies in managing the incidence of dengue among Filipinos.



The results showed that temperature has a great influence on the mosquito population and disease transmission by directly affecting the scarcity of breeding sites, rate of mosquito development, reproduction and survival.



Project 1: Assembly and Annotation of *Aedes* Genomes from Philippine Samples

Dr. Arturo Luisma
University of the Philippines Diliman

Using sequencing technologies and bioinformatics, the first project under the *Aedes* Adaptation Genomics Program aims to generate high-quality genome assemblies or groups of genome sequences joint together, for *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus*. Samples from both species produced long reads or smaller sections of DNA from the genome sequences.

This showed that there is a higher possibility for successful assembly of the genomes which are important resources in identifying genes linked to certain traits of the species, genes that are useful in population studies, and the role of these genes in the adaptive capability of the species.

Project 2: Phenotypic and Genetic Adaptation of *Aedes aegypti* to Hot or Cold Conditions in the Philippines

Dr. Frances Edillo
University of San Carlos

To determine whether these frequent changes in temperature and photoperiod or the length of day/night affects the hatching behavior of *Ae. aegypti* eggs, *Ae. aegypti* eggs collected from selected highland and lowland areas across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao were exposed to different environmental chambers (18 °C, 25 °C and 38 °C) for six weeks.

Based on the observations, the temperature and origin of the sample had significant effects on the hatching behavior of the egg samples. Other findings suggesting significant effects were interactions between temperature and photoperiod or length of day/night in dry season.

The team concluded that temperature has great influence on mosquito population and disease transmission. This is due to its effect on the scarcity of breeding sites, rate of mosquito development, reproduction, and survival. Thus, the study suggested considering the year-round implementation of the national 4S strategy (Search and destroy mosquito-breeding sites, secure Self-protection measures, Seek early consultation, and Support fogging/spraying) against dengue which is currently implemented only during the wet season.

Project 3: Functional genomics of *Aedes aegypti*: gene expression and adaptation to heat

Dr. Jose Enrico Lazaro
National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
University of the Philippines Diliman

It has been learned from previous studies that egg hatching could be affected by various environmental cues to ensure the survival of the mosquitoes in unfavorable conditions.

Building from this knowledge, the third project aims to identify and study the genes affecting heat adaptation in eggs collected from lowland (Quezon City) and highland (Baguio City) areas.

The study produced results in 2021 which showed that the samples from Baguio exhibited adaptation towards unfavorable conditions, also called embryonic dormancy. However, the trends were not consistent. Understanding the genetic basis for heat adaptation of *Aedes* species can help inform prevention, mitigation, and reduction programs to control mosquito outbreaks.

Assessing the effectiveness of InDAI Trap

Horizontal Auto-Dissemination of Pyriproxyfen Larvicide (AD-FPF) For Dengue Mosquito Control Trials in the Philippines Program



As an effort to mitigate the spread of dengue-carrying mosquitoes, researchers explored the use of Innovative Auto-Dissemination of Insecticides or (InDAI) traps. These traps contain pyriproxyfen, a type of larvicide, and are meant to control the increase of mosquitoes. Once a mosquito rests in an InDAI trap, it carries the larvicide and can contaminate natural breeding sites. To assess the effectiveness of this technology, the Horizontal Auto-Dissemination of Pyriproxyfen Larvicide For Dengue Mosquito Control Trials in the Philippines (AD-FPF) Program conducts three (3) research projects.

Project 1: Performance of an Innovative Auto-Dissemination of Insecticide (InDAI) for Dengue Mosquito Control in the Philippines

Dr. Lilian de las Llagas, University of the Philippines Diliman

Following the deployment of the Innovative Auto-Dissemination of Insecticide (InDAI) in select dengue endemic cities in the country, this project aims to evaluate the impact of the trap in reducing the number of dengue-carrying mosquitoes. Overall, the study showed that the technology was indeed effective in reducing carriers, making it a promising method to help mitigate the spread of the disease. From baseline data, there was a notable reduction of mosquito-infested drums.

Project 2: Efficacy of Auto Dissemination in Reducing Dengue Incidence in the Philippines

Dr. Antonio Ligsay, St. Luke's Medical Center

While the first project studied the effect of auto-dissemination in controlling mosquito populations, this project directly studies its efficacy in reducing the rate of new dengue cases among people within 200 meters from auto-dissemination stations.

Within 3 months of the deployment of the auto-dissemination traps, it was found that the likelihood to be infected with dengue decreased and continued to do so after four months of exposure. However, the result was not statistically significant. Despite this, the use of Auto-Dissemination to reduce dengue incidence may be explored and studied further with a larger population and longer duration.

Project 3: Factors Affecting the Acceptability of an Innovative Auto-Dissemination of Insecticides for Reducing Dengue Incidence in the Philippines

Dr. Elena Pernia, University of the Philippines Diliman

Community participation is an essential factor in effective dengue control programs. This is why the DOST-PCHRD-supported research program on the auto-dissemination intervention for dengue conducts a study on its acceptability and success rate factors on the household level. Using information, education, and communication materials, the project highlighted the financial impacts of dengue to a household to encourage participation in dengue control activities in their communities. The study showed how well IEC materials can be integrated in a campaign tailor-fitted for a specific community.

Project 4 Effect of Auto-Dissemination-Pyriproxyfen (AD-FPF) on the Dengue Incidence through the Use of Den NS1, IgG, IgM, Rapid Test

Controlling the vector or carriers is the only reliable means to prevent the dengue virus from being transmitted to humans which may eventually lead to outbreaks. With the recent studies showing promising benefits to the use of auto-dissemination in preventing the increase of dengue carriers, this study aimed to provide evidence on the efficacy of AD-FPF larvicide in reducing the rate of probable dengue cases.

The research team conducted the study in 1 intervention site where auto-dissemination was deployed, and 1 control site with no interventions deployed. Results showed that among dengue suspects tested, 42% had current dengue infection and most of these cases were found in the control sites. In addition, the mean attack rate, or the number of dengue positive individuals among the number of individuals at risk, per week was found to be significantly lower at intervention sites (0.41 per 10,000 population) than at the control sites (1.19 per 10000 population).

Dengvaxia: A dengue communication study

Dengue Communication: Discovering Prevailing Perceptions Toward Dengue and Dengvaxia

Dr. Elena Pernia

University of the Philippines Diliman

An individual's perceptions on a disease and the available treatment options is a factor that determines one's possible health choices. To assess the current perceptions of Filipinos on Dengue and Dengvaxia, the University of the Philippines Diliman conducted the study "Dengue Communication: Discovering Prevailing Perceptions Toward Dengue and Dengvaxia" through the leadership of Dr. Elena Pernia.

The evaluation looked into the demographics and media consumption of respondents, and how these factors affected health outcomes:

Effects of Demographic on Health Outcomes

Higher hospitalization was observed among respondents with higher education. Hospitalization rate is reported to be lower among male compared to female respondents. Hospitalization rate is also higher in high dengue incidence areas but lower in non-pilot areas for dengvaxia rollout.

Effect of Media About Dengue on Health Outcomes

Incidence of every vaccination among children is positively correlated with exposure to media content on dengue. Hospitalization of children is not associated with exposure to media content on dengue from various platforms and sources.

Effect of Media About Dengvaxia on Health Outcomes

Hospitalization of children is not associated with access to media content on dengvaxia except for measles (negative) and influenza (positive). While, incidence for polio vaccination is positively associated with contents on dengvaxia from media content.

While campaign materials from the Department of Health are disseminated in the communities, information about Dengvaxia was reported to come from the media. Due to certain controversies, health workers found a significant decline in vaccination, not only for dengue but for other diseases as well. Despite this, health workers continue to agree that vaccination is essential and scientifically proven safe and effective. Through the findings of this research, the team is set to provide recommendations to the design, content, and implementation of a risk communication campaign and collaterals.



Due to certain controversies, health workers found a significant decline in vaccination, not only for dengue but for other diseases as well."



Seasonal arboviruses of *Aedes albopictus* in selected highland and lowland sites in Cebu City

Dr. Frances Edillo
University of San Carlos

Due to climate change, there has been significant changes in the epidemiology or the spread of a variety of arboviruses impacting humans. Thus, studying seasonal arboviruses in *Ae. Albopictus* is relevant in providing insights into the timing of vector control interventions to avoid potential outbreaks. The study "Seasonal Arboviruses of *Aedes albopictus* (Diptera: Culicidae) in Selected Highland and Lowland Sites in Cebu City, Philippines" led by Dr. Frances Edillo of the University of San Carlos aims to detect arboviruses present in *Ae. Albopictus* populations in Cebu City.

Mosquito eggs were collected using traps and tests were done to determine the significant differences in the number of positive pools infected with chikungunya virus (CHIKV), dengue virus (DENV), and zika virus (ZIKV). The relationship between the minimum infection rate to the weather parameters used in the study (monthly average humidity, rainfall, and temperature).

Overall, 20 out of 72 pools of *Ae. albopictus* tested positive for CHIKV across all sites in Cebu City during the dry season. April 2021 had the highest number of CHIKV-positive pools in the same season, and lower MIR for March 2021 and May 2021.

All sites had CHIKV-infected mosquito pools except for Babag 1 highland site. Highland Taptap and lowland Talamban had the highest number of CHIKV-positive pools, both with an MIR of 8.02 per 1,000 mosquitoes.

The same trend on MIR for DENVs detected from *Ae. aegypti* was observed in Cebu city, where mid-summer month had the highest number of positive pools, suggesting that *Ae. albopictus* plays an important role in viral maintenance during this period of the year.

Land use change in Makiling Forest Reserve and its impact on dengue transmission in the area

Land use change, along with vegetation and hydrological characteristics or the characteristics of water distribution and circulation, are often related to the abundance of mosquitoes in a certain area. This calls for studies on the abundance of mosquitoes and diversity of viruses present in areas with different forms of land use.

Project 1: A Study of Mosquitoes of Makiling Forest Reserve Areas with Characteristic Land Use and Survey of their Arbovirus Diversity through Vector-enabled Virome Sequencing (VEVS)

Dr. Ma. Anita Bautista, National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology-University of the Philippines Diliman

This project aims to characterize the mosquitoes and arboviral diversity in the Makiling Forest Reserve (MFR) areas with different land-use to generate the necessary impact of anthropogenic environmental modification vector and pathogen diversity. It is also expected to identify vertebrate species that contribute most to viral epidemiology and the risk of transmission to man and domestic animals.

Project 2: Detection and Characterization of Arboviruses from Mosquito Samples

Dr. Ma. Anita Bautista, National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology-University of the Philippines Diliman

Detection of the virus from mosquitoes located in an area will help warn communities on possible health risks and enable them to take preventative actions. Building from the first project, Project 2 will use an oligonucleotide-based nanobiosensor to detect dengue and Japanese encephalitis virus, a virus that can cause a viral brain infection, from mosquito samples.

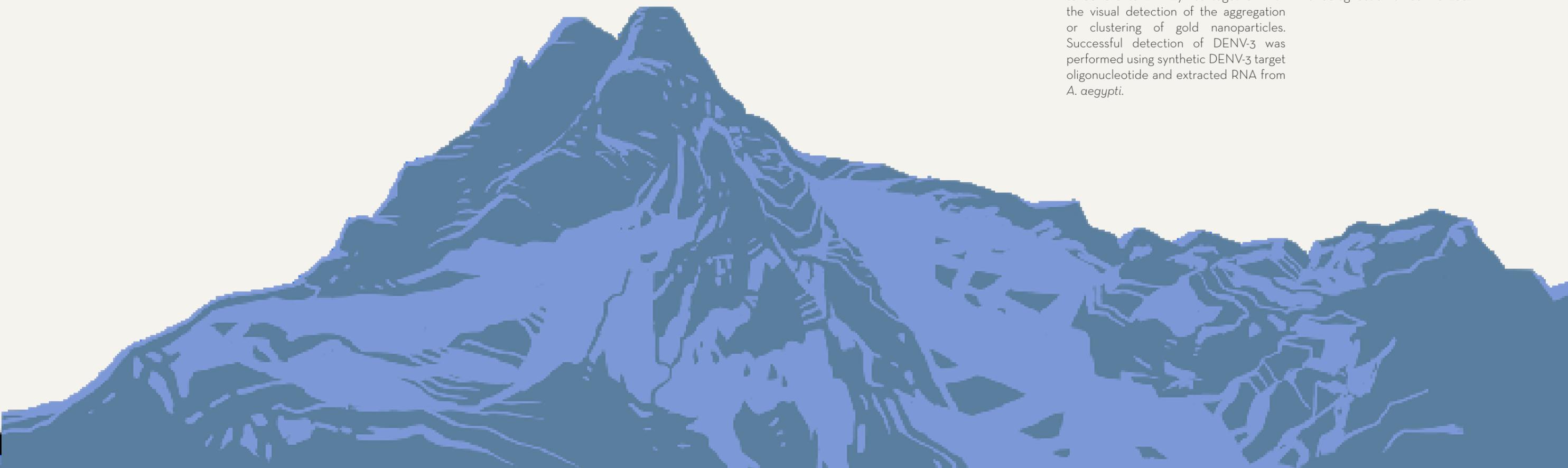
The detection device was fabricated using DNAzyme-functionalized dextrin-capped gold nanoparticles to detect the presence of dengue virus serotype-3 (DENV-3) in *Aedes aegypti*. It utilizes the ability of ribonucleic acid (RNA) to adhere to DNAzymes together with the visual detection of the aggregation or clustering of gold nanoparticles. Successful detection of DENV-3 was performed using synthetic DENV-3 target oligonucleotide and extracted RNA from *A. aegypti*.

Project 3: Development of a Portable Nanodiagnostic Kit for the Detection of the Dengue and Japanese Encephalitis Virus in Mosquitoes

Dr. Divina Amalin, De La Salle University

Having confirmed the ability of the nanobiosensor to detect dengue virus in mosquito samples, the program undertakes research to develop a portable nanodiagnostic kit for dengue and Japanese encephalitis virus.

In 2021, field testing of the project was conducted in Makiling Forest Reserve which provided necessary data in improving the diagnostic kits. Through the field tests, the triage technique using magnetic nanoparticles was optimized as a screening method in the detection system and designed probes were functionalized onto synthesized nanoparticles, among other refinements done. Following this, a prototype for the nanodiagnostic kit was finalized.



Prospective Urban and Rural Epidemiologic (PURE) Study

Dr. Antonio L. Dans
University of the Philippines- Philippine General Hospital

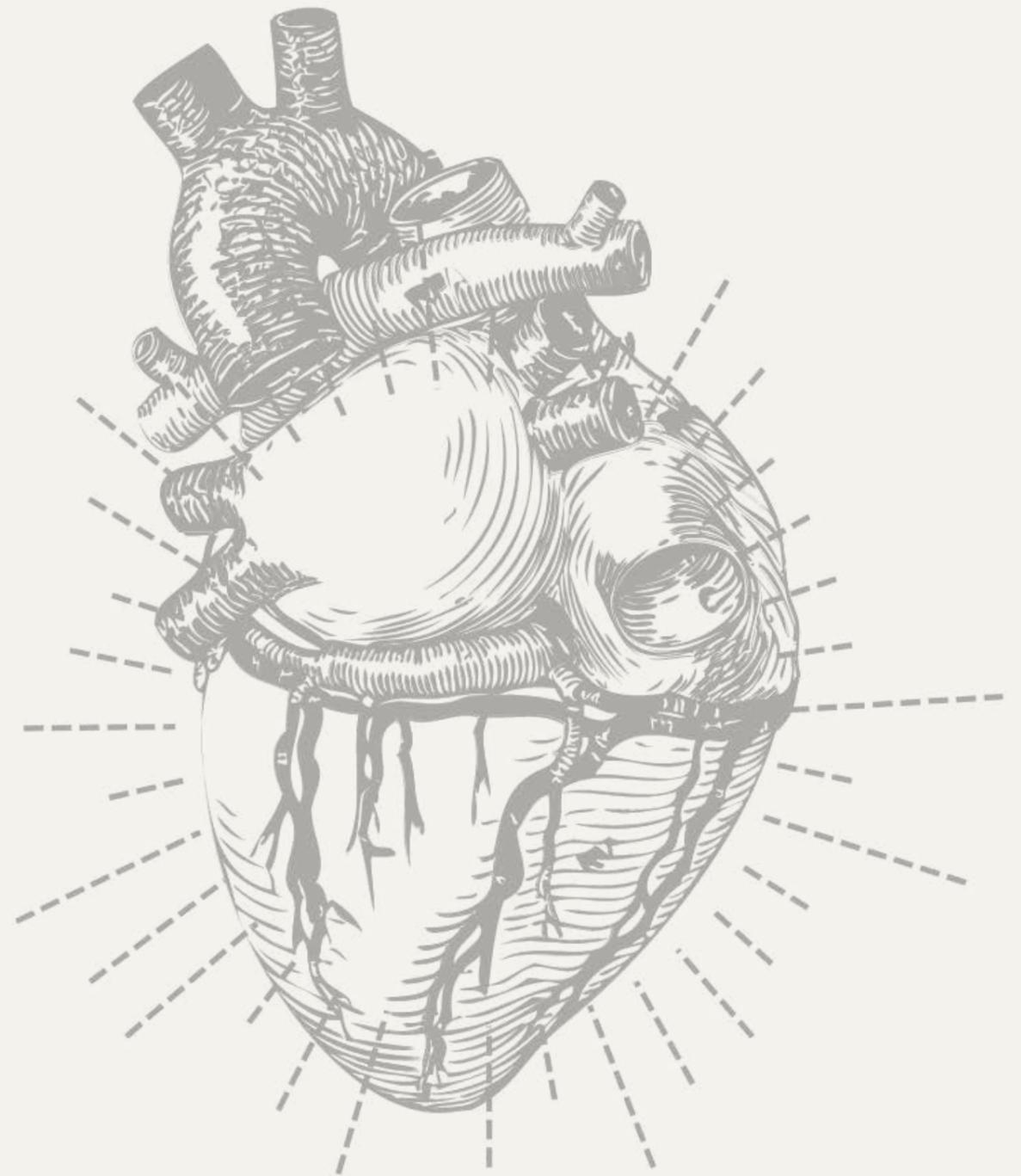
Cardiovascular disease is one of the leading causes of mortality worldwide. The increase in CVD is partially explained by the increased proportion of older adults, but it is also influenced by broader societal factors such as urbanization, policies affecting activity, nutrition, tobacco, and more.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to understand how changes within and across different societies in low income countries (LIC), medium income countries (MIC) and high income countries (HIC) lead to a variety of health transitions, which affect biologic risk factors, behaviors, and CVD.

Initiated by the Section of Adult Medicine and Medical Research Unit of the UP Philippine General Hospital under the leadership of Dr. Antonio Dans, a cardiovascular risk calculator that is specific for Filipinos, will be developed

through the Prospective Urban and Rural Epidemiologic (PURE) Study. Incorporating traditional and emerging risk factors the project attempts to develop a technology that will help define the cardiovascular risk of individuals and populations.

A total of 1,695 individuals have been followed up for the sixth-year implementation in 2021. Data encoding is also regularly done by the study coordinators from both urban and rural sites. The project has also expanded and launched a PURE COVID sub study which has started conducting surveys and collection of blood samples for data gathering.

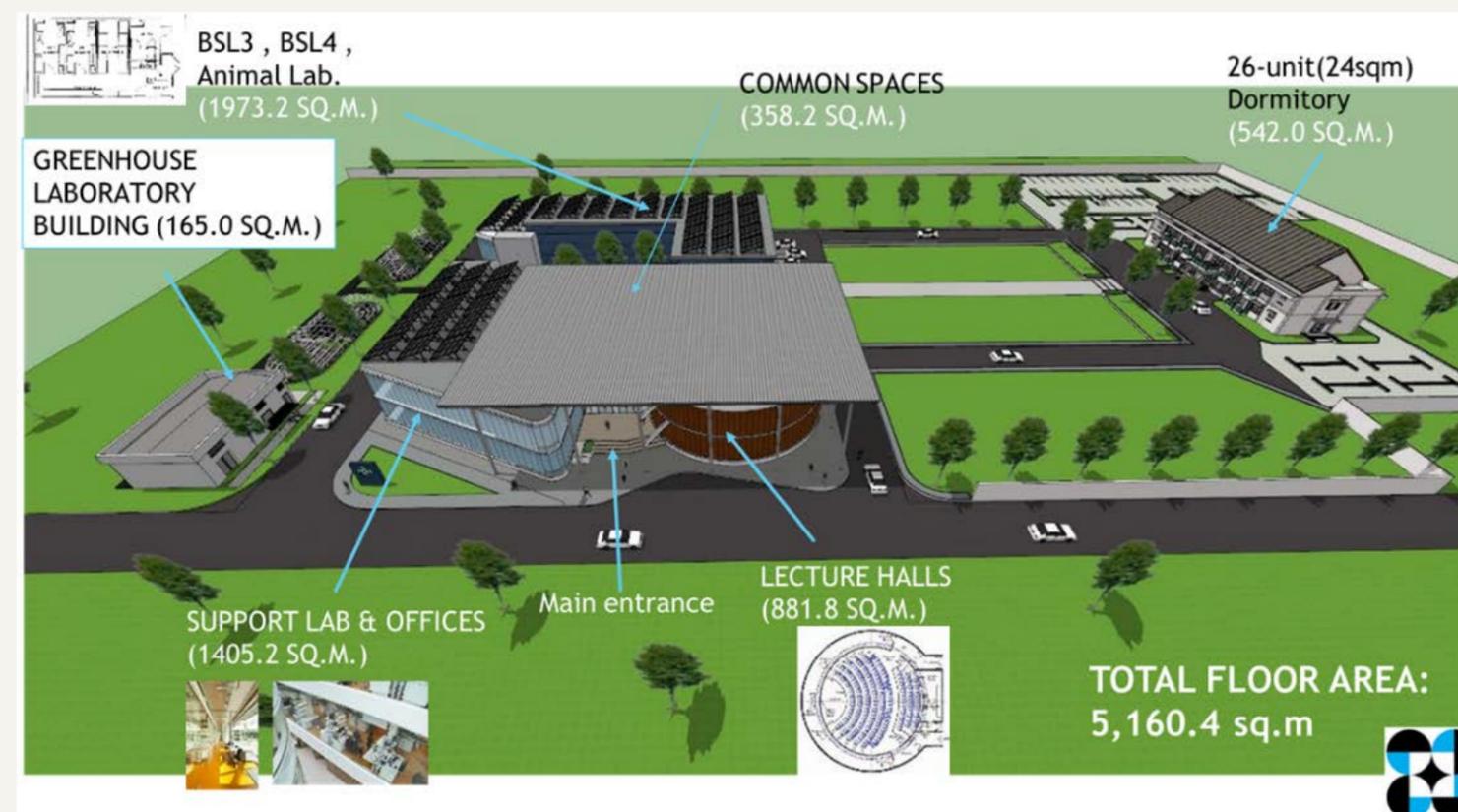


The Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines (VIP) is envisioned to be the country's premiere research and development institution that will undertake studies on novel, emerging and re-emerging viruses affecting not only humans but animals and plants as well. It will provide science-based information and develop technologies on diagnostics to detect and limit the spread of the existing viruses; develop vaccines to provide long term protection; and treatments to save lives in the shorter term. VIP will also undertake policy and social science research to understand the behavioral and societal implication of these viral diseases.

VIP
VIP
VIP

With the DOST-PCHRD as the monitoring agency, the DOST has initiated several R&D projects through the Industrial Technology Development Institute (ITDI) as the program lead of the VIP. The projects are expected to contribute in addressing a wide range of disease, as follows:

- **Isolation and purification of Philippine common viruses with medical importance and pandemic potential for antigen-antibody studies**- focuses on the production of antigen-antibodies from isolated coronavirus and avian virus for potential use in diagnostics and vaccines.
- **Combination Therapy: Lytic Bacteriophages and Plant Extracts against Multidrug-Resistant Bacteria**- targets to isolate and characterize bacteriophages, viruses that has the ability to infect bacteria, from the environment and screen them for their bactericidal and antibiofilm activities against multidrug-resistant (MDR) bacteria.
- **Detection of Food and Water-borne Bacterial Pathogens Using Phage-based Diagnostics**- aims to screen for local bacteriophages implicated in food and water-borne pathogens and to explore an alternative method to quantify the isolated bacteriophages.
- **De novo synthesis of a non-Infective Flaviviridae Pseudovirion: Initial development of a template for a safer conduct of Zika-related diagnostics research in the Philippines**-explores the use of pseudoviruses, viruses that cannot reproduce, in diagnostic tools and vaccines for Zika virus.
- **Antigenic Peptide VLPs as Potential Candidates for Covid-19 Vaccine Development**- aims to develop a potential vaccine candidate utilizing a Virus-Like Particle (VLP) platform that can elicit both humoral and cellular immune responses and most importantly, will be able to mount immune protection from the identified SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern.
- **Development of Antibody Test Kits for COVID-19 using Enzyme Immunoassay**- study aims to develop a locally made enzyme-linked Immunoassay (ELISA) test kit for the detection of ongoing infection antibodies (IgM) and immunization antibodies (IgG) in COVID-19 patients using human serum samples.



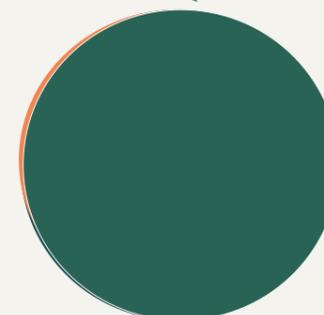
DIGITAL AND FRONTIER TECHNOLOGIES FOR HEALTH



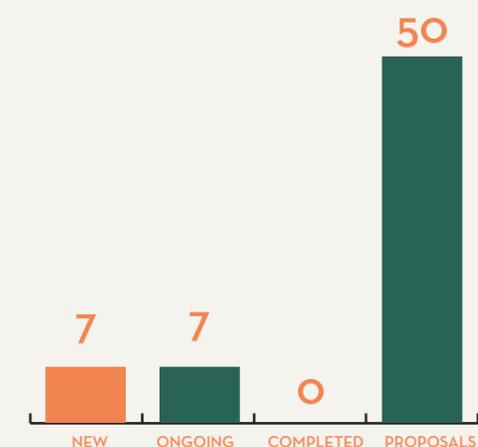
Digital and Frontier Technologies for Health (DFTH) is an important tool to achieve Universal Health Care (UHC). Enabling access to and delivery of cost-efficient healthcare services, it is identified as one of the research priority areas of the DOST-PCHRD in 2021. The program covers research on data science and eHealth solutions for recording and utilizing patients' information, mapping of health risks and health resources, telemedicine, and health promotion among others.

2021 RESEARCH INVESTMENTS

PCHRD
Php 30,736,670.83



DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS



Virtual reality game for dementia and cerebral palsy

*Dr. Jaime Caro
University of the Philippines Manila*

Immersive technologies may be a turning point for the Philippine healthcare industry. With promising potentials shown through small-scale international studies, the team of Dr. Jaime Caro from the University of the Philippines Manila set to explore immersive technologies for health in 2021. Entitled "Immersive Technology Applications in Health" Dr. Caro's research program, composed of 2 sub-projects:

Project 1

- Aims to create an immersive technology system, integrating a virtual reality game, for managing behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia.
- In 2021, the team initiated the development of the virtual reality game and conducted consultations with developers, graphic and user interface (UI) designers, and sound engineers.
- The storyboard for the VR game has been completed.
- The partial alpha version for the head-mounted device was also completed and tested by the team.
- Focus group discussions among testers to consolidate feedbacks were conducted.

Project 2

- Aims to develop an immersive gamification technology system for the management of cerebral palsy patients.
- In 2021, the team initiated the development of the virtual reality game and conducted consultations with developers, graphic and user interface (UI) designers, and sound engineers.
- The storyboard for the VR game has been completed.
- The partial alpha version for the head-mounted device was also completed and tested by the team.
- Focus group discussions among testers to consolidate feedbacks were conducted.

Once the initial tests for both projects are completed, the team is set to proceed with clinical validations. The outputs of the immersive technology program may provide a cost-efficient, alternative therapeutic method for patients with dementia and cerebral palsy.





Building eHealth-capable LGUs towards Universal Health Care

UHC LeHNS: Local Government Unit-mandated eHealth Networked Services for Universal Health Care

Dr. Dennis Batangan

Ateneo de Manila University - Institute of Philippine Culture

The Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act mandates the DOH and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to develop a National Health Information System (NHIS).

Specifically, Section 36 of the UHC Act mandates development and/ or funding of a Health Information System as the NHIS is a provision of the UHC Law with functions for health service delivery to be maintained by health service providers, and insurers. In line with this, LGUs must be assisted in developing their local health information system owing to the devolved nature of healthcare in the Philippines

Responding to this need, the Ateneo de Manila University - Institute of Philippine Culture implemented the Local Government Unit-mandated eHealth Networked Services for Universal Health Care (UHC LeHNS).

It aims to partner with LGUs in developing Local Health Information System (LHIS) models to support the NHIS provisions of the UHC. The output of the partnership is an interoperability layer (IOL) platform that will enable efficient data exchange among HISs. It is expected to function as an intermediary between the health centers, LGUs and national agencies like DOH and PhilHealth. In 2021, the research team signed a partnership with the Pangasinan Health Office as the pioneering LGU for the study. Together, they were able to assess an initially developed IOL for further recommendations for improvement. Aside from building the platform, the team of Dr. Batangan also conducted capacity-building activities on the concepts of UHC and its implementation guidelines. This included training on Local Health Information Exchange to capacitate end users in managing the technology.

Once the platform is successfully developed and implemented, the Pangasinan LGU, the technology may be scaled up to other provinces and help more LGUs become UHC-ready.

Rapid Assessment of Health Information Systems Towards Pandemic Resiliency and UHC in Two Provinces

Aside from assisting LGUs in creating eHealth-enabled information systems, it is also important to assess the current health information management systems to support the implementation of UHC. Initially implemented by Dr. Lester Sam A. Geroy, before project leadership was transferred to Dr. Miguel Dorotan of the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes (AIHO), the project team undertook the research study entitled, "Rapid Assessment of Health Information Systems Towards Pandemic Resiliency and UHC in Two Provinces." The project aims to assess the health information status of Aklan and Leyte, and in turn, strengthen the health information systems of the provinces.

Currently in the data collection phase, the team has finalized the Rapid Assessment Tool to be deployed

to chosen health facilities. In the process, the team managed to engage stakeholders in both provinces, and elicited positive feedback on the expected outputs. The project team has also been able to gain inputs from stakeholders from the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT). Also collaborating in this project is the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), to provide strategic guidance in the perspective of science, technology and innovation.

The outputs of the research study will be beneficial in refining the provinces' interoperability and interface systems in preparation for UHC.

POWer App

Dr. Josephine R. Bundoc
Physicians for Peace - Philippines



Healthcare accessibility, especially in remote areas, continues to hinder Filipinos from receiving immediate, quality care. This is why the team of Dr. Josephine Bundoc from the Physicians for Peace, Inc. sought to develop a mobile application for mobility impairment screening among children.

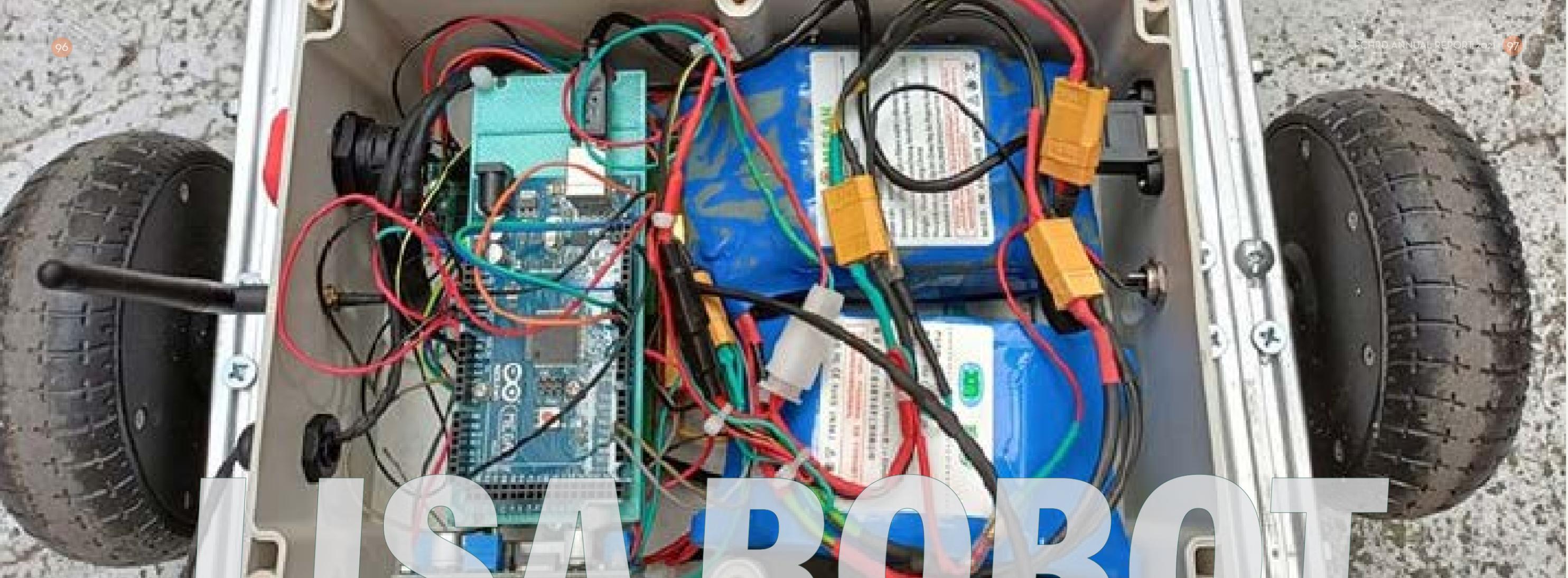
Through the project "POWer App: Mobile Health Application Development for Remote Screening & Early Detection of Children with Mobility Impairment," the team aims to generate an application featuring an assessment tool for possible mobility impairment, anxiety, motor disturbance, and nighttime behaviors among pediatric patients. The application may be accessed through phone, tablet, and computers, to make it easily accessible for users.

The tool to be integrated in the application is the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Washington Group Child Functioning Module. It will help assess a

patient's vision, hearing, mobility, communication and comprehension skills, behavior, and more. Currently, the initial design and study protocol of the application is being reviewed and the logo is being developed. Once POWer App is completed, pediatric patients may receive early health interventions for possible mobility impairments.

The UNICEF Washington Group Child Functioning Module was considered as the assessment tool to be integrated in the application as it is able to assess a patient's vision, hearing, mobility, communication and comprehension skills, behavior, and more. Aside from this, the study protocol has been developed and is currently undergoing review. The development of the application logo is also ongoing.

Once POWer App is completed, pediatric patients may receive early health interventions for possible mobility impairments.



LISA ROBOT

*Dr. Anthony James Bautista
University of Santo Tomas*

Due to immediate need of health care workers to communicate with COVID-19 patients without exposing themselves for possible cross contamination, the project entitled, “The LISA Robot: Logistic Indoor Service Assistant Telepresence Robot” introduces the concept of employing a robot remotely controlled in order to operate mundane tasks, allowing lesser exposure and lesser burden on healthcare workers in a hospital setting. It aims to develop a hospital service-telepresence robot that can autonomously deliver items such documents, samples or medicines within hospital premises and communicate with patients.

In 2021, the team was able to fabricate one unit of the initial design of the LISA robot based on the suggestions of the previous users of the older version of the LISA robot. The overall

structure of the robot has been scaled and restructured for improved robustness. New electronics have been installed on the robot, such that the robot can be enabled to operate more smoothly and responsively, and that it will be easier to integrate with autonomous navigation using the Robot Operating System (ROS).

It was also tested with the Android application deployment system and can be controlled remotely using an Android device. The initial navigation test on a smaller prototype of the LISA robot showed promising results in its ability to detect and avoid static and dynamic obstacles, and that it shall be integrated to the newly fabricated LISA robot design to be recalibrated and tested again.

RabCast: Forecasting tool for Rabies spread in Davao City

*Dr. May Anne E. Mata
University of the Philippines Mindanao*

Rabies is a fatal disease that kills more than 60,000 people every year and threatens 15 million people due to incurred animal bites. In Davao City, animal rabies monitoring and control is currently a challenge due to limited resources and manpower. A forecasting tool that predicts the possible spread of rabies in the city may help the City Veterinarian's Office (CVO) in managing their resources and formulating effective programs. Led by Dr. May Anne Mata of the University of the Philippines Mindanao, the study “RabCast: Proof-of-Concept for a Forecasting Tool for Rabies Spread in Davao City Through Combined Genomic and Mathematical Approaches to explore scientific and mathematical solutions that will help mitigate and control the rabies cases in Davao.

In preparation for the development of the forecasting tool, the team conducted observations on the transmission of rabies in the city in 2021. Initial observations suggested that there is a

significant clustering of the rabies cases and the interventions implemented. High rabies cases were observed in Tugbok and Talomo districts during the dry season while clustering was observed in Talomo district during the wet season. Initial results suggest that rabies cases count is found to be significantly impacted by vaccination and impounding implemented by the government. These preliminary results can be shown in the draft of the rabies dashboard that is constantly under development by the dashboard team.

The development of the predictive tool RabCast in the next phases of this program will provide a pragmatic and powerful strategy for rabies control as it will allow the local government to strategize a pro-active rabies control program by identifying high-risk areas in advance and targeting them for intensive campaigns.

DIAGNOSTICS



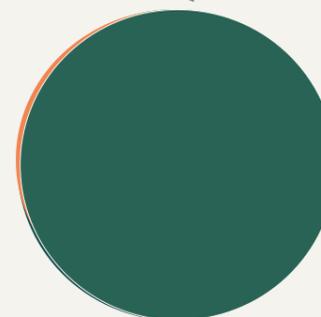
As demonstrated by the COVID-19 pandemic, early and proper diagnosis plays a critical role in the success of disease management and intervention. Even before the pandemic, the Council already invested in the development of rapid, reliable, and efficient point-of-care diagnostic kits, tests, and devices for the early detection and monitoring of diseases under its Diagnostics program. It also credits the utilization of current and or novel technologies to improve and or validate existing diagnostic kits, tests, and devices.

Specifically, the program focuses on the following:

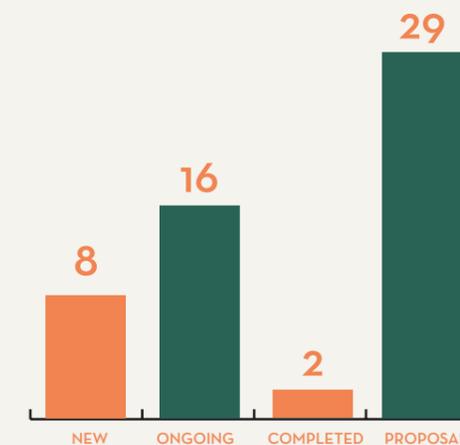
1. Communicable diseases: studies on HIV, hepatitis, and respiratory diseases such as acute respiratory tract infection (upper and lower), pneumonia, bronchitis, tuberculosis, influenza, and COVID-19
2. Non-communicable diseases: studies on diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular diseases
3. Neglected tropical diseases: studies on leptospirosis, rabies, and soil-transmitted helminthiasis

2021 RESEARCH INVESTMENTS

PCHRD
Php 109,753,057.40



DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS



Responding to the Philippine HIV Epidemic

An HIV Drug Resistance Surveillance Library and Development of Molecular Diagnostics for Drug Resistance Detection Part 3: Development of Rapid Diagnostics for Detecting Lamivudine Resistance

Dr. Edsel Maurice T. Salvaña U
P National Institutes of Health (NIH)



One of the many challenges in managing HIV cases is the risk of developing resistance to medication even at the onset of treatment. Detecting resistance to HIV drugs is crucial for doctors to determine the best course of treatment for their patients.

To support the successful management of HIV cases, Dr. Edsel Salvaña of the UP National Institutes of Health initiated a project in 2018 to

develop an affordable and accurate near point-of-care diagnostic kit or platform for the rapid detection of HIV resistance to lamivudine and other antiretrovirals.

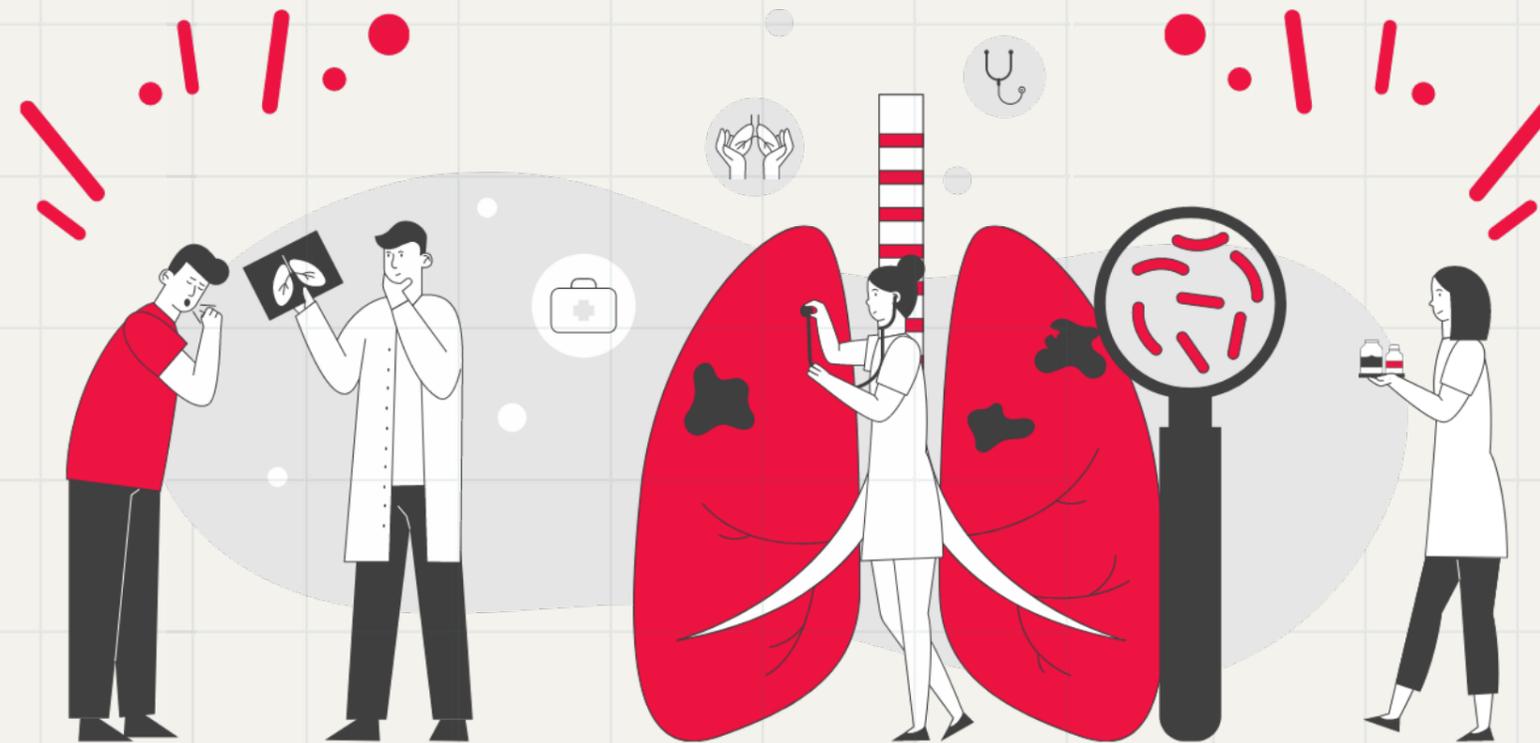
In 2021, the project made significant progress in contacting patients for biannual viral load determination and optimizing the depth and sequencing conditions for the MinION platform.

The MinION platform is a sequencing tool that can help detect mutations of the disease that are resistant to drugs.



Through the project, treatment failure and development of further drug resistance will be prevented by detecting the resistance early and preserving the limited antiretroviral agents available. The project is expected to conclude by 2022.

Philippine TB Research Landscape in the Midst of the Pandemic



The De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute (DLSMHSI) together with the Philippine TB Research Network (PhilTriNet), Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis (PhilCAT), and UP National Institutes of Health (UP NIH), in cooperation with the Philippine Council for Health Research Development (PCHRD) and US National Institute of Health (US NIH), conducted the first (1st) International Colloquium and Workshop entitled, "Philippine TB Research Landscape in the midst of the pandemic." Held via Zoom last August 28-29, 2021, the workshop aimed to provide an update on the current status of Philippine TB research in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Resource speakers include Dr. Anna Marie Celina Garfin of the DOH National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTP) for the current TB situation in the country, and Dr. Marissa Alejandria, and Dr. Charles Yu for the two (2) projects under the RePORT consortium supported by DOST-PCHRD. Other ongoing TB studies and future studies open for collaboration were also discussed. Foreign researchers from India, USA, Brazil, Singapore, and Indonesia also attended the workshop as presenters or panelists.

Long Term Outcomes of Diagnosed Tuberculosis Cases in the Philippines

Dr. Marissa M. Alejandria
University of the Philippines Manila -
National Institutes of Health

Led by Dr. Marissa Alejandria, the project aims to determine the long-term outcomes of tuberculosis (TB) cases in the Philippines, at least two years after diagnosis. The project is part of the Regional Prospective Observational Research for Tuberculosis (RePORT), an international initiative, which aims to advance research activities dedicated to the disease.

In 2021, the project team continued with the recruitment of study participants divided into three cohorts: Cohort A with TB patients, Cohort B, and Cohort C with previously treated TB patients. The team also collected and provided specimens to other RePORT consortium researchers and collaborators to achieve a better understanding of the prognosis of TB and the pathogenesis on the progression from exposure to TB disease.

Once completed, the study may contribute to the development of policies and strategies, specifically on: (1) evaluating the effectiveness of current treatment regimens on long-term outcomes of TB, (2) identifying populations at risk to develop TB relapse, re-infection, or progression of TB infection to disease, and (3) identifying populations who may benefit from preventive therapy.



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FOR HEALTH



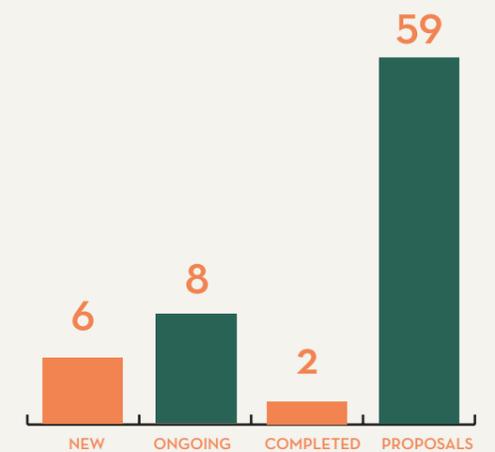
Disaster Risk Reduction is the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systemic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters by reducing exposure to hazards, lessening vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improving preparedness for adverse events (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction). Concrete actions to ensure that development gains are protected from disaster risk are enumerated in the Sendai Framework to which the Philippines is a signatory. Climate Change Adaptation, on the other hand, is the adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities in relation to climate change.

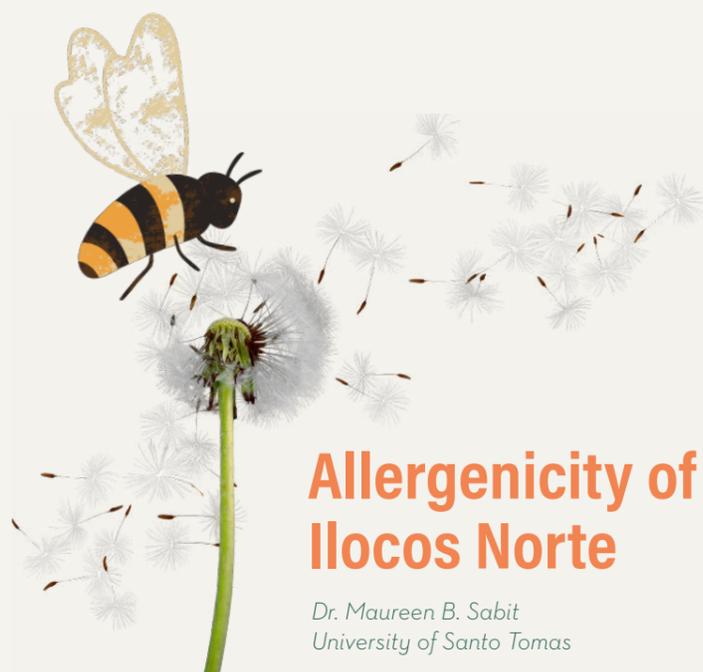
Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DRR-CCA) in health is a significant contributor in inclusive and sustainable development of a nation such as the Philippines which is one of the many countries that experience natural disasters. Hence, scientific and technological activities and innovations in DRR-CCA in Health are part of the priorities of the government with the aim to address the following gaps: Identification and characterization of climate-sensitive and/or climate-related diseases; Food security and nutrition during disasters especially for the vulnerable populations; S&T based innovations in building resilient health systems during disasters.

2021 RESEARCH INVESTMENTS

Php 15.5M

DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS





Allergenicity of airborne pollen in Ilocos Norte

Dr. Maureen B. Sabit
University of Santo Tomas

Among the effects of climate change is the early flowering of plants which causes extended periods of pollen production and airborne pollen dispersal. Communities are more exposed to possible pollen allergens, resulting in an increased risk of allergic respiratory diseases.

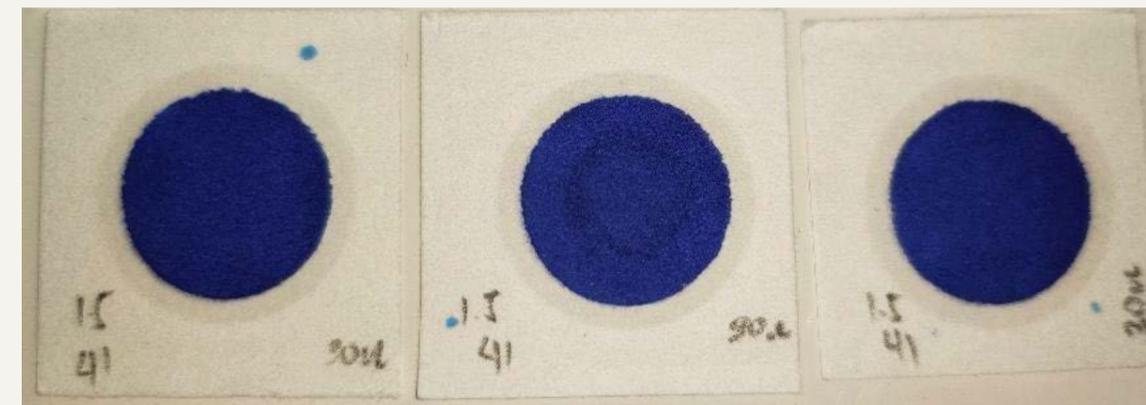
To address this, the team of Dr. Maureen B. Sabit of the University of Santo Tomas aims to develop technologies that will forecast airborne pollen concentrations, enabling accurate diagnosis and creation of preventive measures for pollen allergies. This will generate information about airborne pollen and educate the public on the possible

causes and sources of pollen-related allergies and serve as a guide in managing allergic diseases.

In 2021, the research team identified 92 plant species to be included in the study through a vegetation survey or the identification of plants present in a specific area. These plants were observed for a three-month period for their flowering and fruiting cycles. Initial observation showed that most plants that underwent flowering were weeds. In another survey conducted in agricultural farms in Batac, Ilocos Norte, 15 plants were identified. In these agricultural sites, November was noted as the month for planting while January to March as the month for harvesting. The team is currently completing the vegetation survey to proceed with the collection of pollen samples. Sample collection will be done by installing pollen traps across Ilocos Norte.

Paper-based analytical devices (uPADs) for the detection of diarrhea-causing pathogens in water

Dr. Lori Shayne Busa
Nueva Vizcaya State University.



Trials of the drop volume test of the S&R zone of uPAD template 4 using 30 μ L of methylene blue solution

Access to safe drinking water can easily be jeopardized by a natural hazard. Communicable disease outbreaks can be prevented by ensuring that waters, especially the source of drinking water, are free from potential vectors of infections.

Detection of causative pathogens before onset of outbreaks is crucial in reducing incidence of diarrhea-related morbidities and mortalities. Recognizing this, the Council supported the development of microfluidic paper-based analytical devices or uPADs to detect pathogens in water as a disaster-risk preventive tool aiming to mitigate diarrheal outbreaks. The analytical device is a low-cost and easily coated paper. With reported applications in E. coli detection, developing microPADs with the capability to detect target pathogens will mitigate risks of diarrheal outbreaks, common in communities affected by natural disasters

In 2021, the research team fabricated, and mass produced four μ PAD templates using silkscreen wax printing that will be validated using a proposed alternative silicone-based inkjet printing. The fabricated μ PAD templates were optimized through biochemical based and immunoassay-based detection systems. The performance of optimized μ PAD templates was evaluated against conventional detection methods consequently toward field-testing of these devices.



uPADs Laboratory and Office after Phase II Refurbishment

Analysis of leptospirosis incidence in Davao City

Dr. Rvin John T. Servillon

University of the Immaculate Conception

The Department of Health reported a 13% increase in leptospirosis cases in January to June 2021 (589 cases), compared to the same period in 2020 (520 cases).

This study aims to identify the *Leptospira spp.* present in the soil and water samples of areas in flood-prone areas as well as where reported past incidences of human leptospirosis were in Davao City in order to produce a geospatial analysis of the incidence of human leptospirosis in the region.

In 2021, the research team was able to determine the frequency of the non-pathogenic and intermediate *Leptospira spp.* through 16s sequencing and to identify the pathogenic species-specific *Leptospira* from the environmental samples in Davao City. The study also

determined the association of the socio-economic characteristics, the environmental characteristics of the location of the samples collected, and the frequency of pathogenic *Leptospira spp.* to the incidences of leptospirosis in Davao City

A predictive risk map of leptospirosis will be produced for an effective geotagging of the occurrence of the disease, prioritizing flood-prone areas which have high vulnerability and may have low resources for leptospirosis. The findings will become the basis for formulation of policy briefs which may include interventions to prevent reemergence of disease, provision of prophylactic drugs and antibiotics to hotspot areas with high risk of infection.



Post-Siege Levels of Genotoxic Hazards in Marawi City by Micronucleus Assay

Dr. Fema A. Abamo

Mindanao State University-Marawi

Environmental pollution and the significant negative impact that such pollution will cause to the health of the people are among the silent consequences. This study aims to determine the presence of post-war genotoxic hazards in the aquatic environment through micronucleus assay among the slow-moving gastropods *Vivipara angularis* thriving in Lake Lanao.

The study will also evaluate if the munitions residues in the environment of Marawi City are genotoxic to the returning inhabitants of the city and will estimate the effects of exposure of such residues to the aquatic gastropods of Lake Lanao using

potential carcinogens from entering the food chain which will ultimately affect humans.

Results revealed that MN frequency was higher in snails sampled from lake water fronting Marawi City at Ground Zero where the battle was heaviest, than those sampled farther away from the Ground Zero. Ignoring Madalum site, there was a decreasing trend of MN frequencies from Ground Zero to sites farther away from it.

The study also revealed that heavy metals from munition residues may probably cause the high micronucleation counts in the adult *Vivipara* snails in Marawi site. Madalum on the other hand, had different pattern, in which the micronucleation was significantly higher in juveniles than in adults.

The study concluded that the post-siege genotoxic hazards posed by the war contaminants in Lake Lanao near ground zero and unexpectedly near Tugaya is quite alarming.

Thus, local leaders must be informed of the results for the possible intervention and course of actions to protect the health and well-being of Marawi and Lake Lanao populace.

Information derived from this investigation is also seen to serve as basis for possible public health intervention and other risk mitigation measures to reduce probability of incurring genetic damage and the risk of serious illness like cancer.



the data on the frequency of micronucleus (MN) formation in the hemocytes of freshwater gastropods. The MN data in gastropods provides information on the health hazards posed by the presence of genotoxic agents in the aquatic environment so that mitigation measures must be undertaken to prevent

WATER FEMAH

Several studies confirmed the presence of heavy metals, endocrine disrupting chemicals, and other environmental toxins in Metro Manila's water sources.

This program will give clues as to the environmental status of Metro Manila's drinking water in relation to the reported high frequencies of fetal abnormalities, infertility problems, and pregnancy complications in the region. This project will use microbial communities as sentinels of environmental pollutants in Metro Manila's drinking water resources and distribution system.

Since the fetal stage of development is one of the most critical periods of an organism's life, identifying the possible correlation between water contaminants and the occurrence of certain birth defects would allow people living in highly polluted areas to better assess their living conditions and how it may affect their unborn children.

Project 1

The component Project 1 of WATER-FeMaH program is investigating the water samples using functional diversity of microbes to indicate the presence of heavy metals and endocrine disrupting chemicals in Metro Manila's drinking water resources and distribution system.



In 2021, the team had a water sampling activity in the identified sites of Greater Metro Manila Area to extract the DNA from the available water samples and to assess the bacterial sensitivity to heavy metals.

The project also continued the analyses on community metabolic diversity in the available water samples and continued generating the data on the metabolic diversity profiles; the presence of heavy metals (cadmium, lead, arsenic, and mercury), Organochlorines Pesticides (OCPs), and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs); the bacterial sensitivity to heavy metals; and the RNA used in In situ Reverse Transcription (ISRT) trials for the analysis on microbial response to heavy metals.

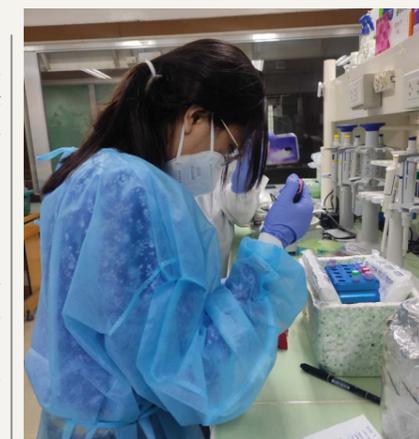
Project 2

The general objective of this project is to identify if water samples from different regions of NCR could have detrimental effects on developmental processes. The water samples acquired from different regions of NCR through Project 1 are tested for teratogenic potential through the mDarT assay.

The detection of malformations in Zebrafish using cartilage staining and In situ hybridization is essential to fully visualize the teratogenic effects of different substances found in the water samples.

In 2021, the optimization of positive control dosage, cartilage staining, and the whole embryo - in situ hybridization (WISH) for the detection of biomarker signals were continued by the team. It was analyzed that the detection of malformations is essential to fully visualize the teratogenic effects of the different substances found in water samples.

Upon evaluation of the areas of the heart the team concluded that there are enlargement malformations observed when the Zebrafish are exposed to higher concentrations of cyclophosphamide.



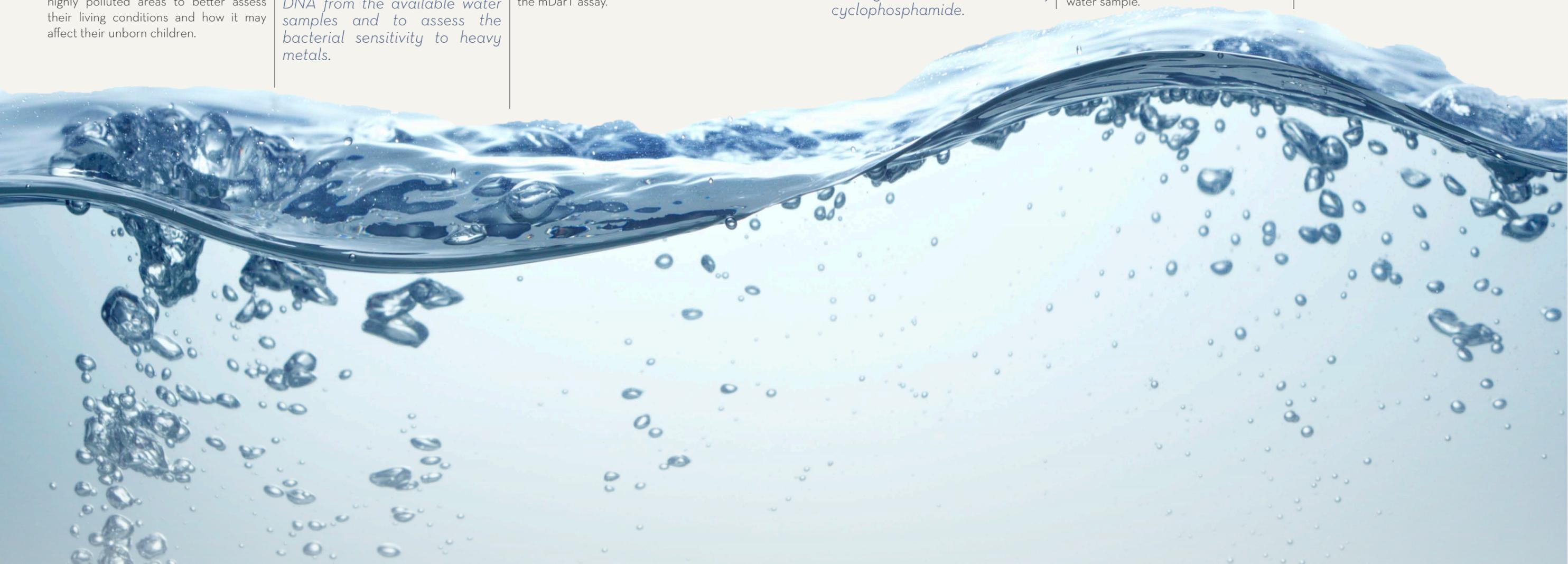
Project 3

This project will specifically determine if the water samples from Project 1 can affect estrogen and androgen activities using human cell culture-based assay. Using this bio-assay may help detect EDCs without the need for measuring the amount of every single EDCs in a given water sample.

Water Assessment of Teratogens and Endocrine Disruptors on Fetal-Maternal Health Project:

In 2021, the project team coordinated with the Institute of Chemistry to test some of the water samples collected from Laguna Bay. Using the available samples, they were also able to proceed with the optimization of the Estrogen Response Element and Androgen Response Element luciferase reporter assay to generate data on the status of Endocrine-disrupting chemicals in the Laguna bay area.

The review article entitled "Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as contaminants of emerging concern in Asia's freshwater resources" has also been published in Elsevier's Environmental Research, with an impact factor of 5.7.



HIGHLIGHTS

the total number of scholars we have supported is

76 in 2021

we have assisted PHREB in accrediting



RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES

we welcomed

15 new Balik Scientist awardees

(12 short-term, 1 medium-term, 2 long-term)

under our Regional Research Fund, we have

24 NEWLY-APPROVED PROJECTS	59 ONGOING PROJECTS	3 COMPLETED PROJECTS
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PART

2

Institution Development

To ensure equity in research capacity, the Council supports institutional development initiatives in line with the thrust of developing and strengthening institutional research capacities.

SCHOLARSHIP

Supporting the growth of the country's pool of health researchers is also critical to create an enabling health research system. Accordingly, the Council works to provide scholarship grants and fellowship programs across different fields in health for Filipino researchers.

At present, the Council implements the MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine Program, MS Molecular Medicine Scholarship Program, PhD Program in Molecular Biomedicine, and partakes in the implementation of the DOST - Accelerated Science and Technology Human Resource Development Program (DOST-ASTHRDP). Under the DOST-ASTHRDP, the Council monitors 126 on-going scholars (32 MD-PhD, 19 PhD, 75 MS). On the other hand, there are 55 on-going scholars (36 MD-PhD, 2 PhD, 17 MS) and 13 new scholars (7 MD-PhD, 2 PhD, 4 MS) under the PCHRD scholarship program.

In 2021, the Council also launched the PhD in Health Research Program, which will start by 2022.

MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine Program



Dr. Maria Llaine J. Callanta



Dr. Criselda Jean G. Cruz



Dr. Francis James A. Gordovez



Dr. Ana Joy P. Padua



Dr. Jerico R. Santos



Dr. Ian Kim B. Tabios

The PCHRD scholars who graduated with MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine degrees in 2021

The Council together with the UP Manila implement the MD-PhD Molecular Medicine Program, the first and only dual MD-PhD course offered in the Philippines that trains aspiring physician-scientists. The program seeks to develop MDs with a strong background in basic and applied research. The PhD aspect of the combined program aims to provide students with an advanced graduate education while completing a medical degree.

In 2021, the program welcomed seven new scholars, its 12th batch since it was established in 2010. To inspire the newest batch of scholars, the annual MD-PhD summit was held on September 11, 2021 with the theme: "Hiraya: Tungo sa Bagong Umaga." The event also provided recognition to selected MD-PhD students who have shown exemplary

performance in the area of academics and research, such as winning awards in academics-related competitions or research presentations and publishing in refereed journals.

The annual summer immersion program was also conducted last August 2021 to provide an opportunity for the scholars to familiarize themselves with the DOST set-up, thrusts, and activities, and visit research institutions to help guide them in conceptualizing and developing their intended research proposals and shape their future research paths.

To date, the MD-PhD Molecular Medicine Program has a total of 21 graduates, of which six (6) obtained their dual degrees last year.



MS Molecular Medicine Scholarship Program

Implemented in partnership with the St. Luke's Medical Center College of Medicine William H. Quasha Memorial (SLMCCM-WHQM), the MS Molecular Medicine Scholarship Program aims to strengthen and upgrade the skills of allied health professionals and researchers capable of pioneering innovative health research in the field of applied biomedical research. The program aims to provide its students with an opportunity to train and enhance their skills through the fully-equipped research laboratories of St. Luke's Research and Biotechnology Division.

In 2021, the program welcomed four (4) new scholars through a virtual MOA signing event held on September 1.

PhD in Molecular Biomedicine Program

The PCHRD, University of Trieste (UNITS), and Fondazione Italiana Fegato (FIF) entered into an agreement to develop and implement a program focused on molecular hepatology within the PhD Program in Molecular Biomedicine of UNITS. The Fellowship Program integrates basic research and clinics focusing on the study of molecular approaches to cancer biology, genetics, jaundice, and metabolic diseases.

In 2021, two (2) new scholars were accepted into the program, namely: Mr. John Paul S. Llido and Mr. Allen Anthony P. Laraño. Both scholars traveled to Italy last 29 November 2021 for their PhD program.

On the other hand, the two (2) ongoing PhD scholars, Ms. Loraine Kay D. Cabral and Noel C. Salvoza, have successfully completed their second year of the PhD program at FIF and UNITS. Ms. Cabral published her work in the peer-reviewed journals: Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute (MDPI), Hepatoma Research, and World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology. She also attended an International BioBanking Course (Basic and Advanced) on September 16-24, 2021 at Medical University of Graz, Graz, Austria. Meanwhile, Mr. Salvoza, presented his research entitled "Translational Approach for The Study of Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD): A Wide Spectrum Disease" during the Digital Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) Summit on September 16-17, 2021.

PhD in Health Research Program

In 2021, the Council partnered with the University of Santo Tomas to launch the PhD in Health Research Program. The three-year program aims to provide its scholars with foundational coursework focused on research methods. It aims to assist researchers in developing methodologically sound research projects and devoting more time to research proposal writing, project implementation, publication, and presentation.

The first batch of scholars under the program are set to enroll by 2022.

Support for Early Career Researchers Program

The PCHRD's Support for Early Career Researchers Program aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of early career researchers by providing opportunities for activities such as participation in training and workshops abroad, paper/poster presentation for conferences, and publication.

In 2021, two grantees, Dr. John Carlo Malabad and Ms. Lorraine Kay Cabral, completed their training under the program. Dr. Malabad, an MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine graduate, completed his six-month certificate training entitled "Introduction to Clinical Research Training (ICRT)," offered by the Postgraduate Medical Education of Harvard Medical School. Ms. Cabral, an ongoing PhD in Molecular Medicine scholar, completed her training entitled "International Biobanking Course (Basic and Advance)" at the Medical University of Graz, Graz, Austria.

Under publication, one (1) MD-PhD graduate-scholar, Dr. Sheriah Laine De Paz-Silava, was granted publication support for her dissertation project entitled "In Vitro Antiviral Activity of Mentha cordifolia Plant Extract in HIV-1 Latently Infected Cells Using an Established Human Cell Line." Her study was published in the AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses journal, which is indexed in ISI, Scopus, and PubMed. The research output is essential to the new demands on therapeutic strategies against human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) relative to the increasing emergence of drug resistance to HIV.

Distribution of scholars monitored and funded by DOST-PCHRD

Status	PCHRD-funded	PCHRD-monitored
COMPLETED		
MS	-	2
PhD	-	-
MD-PhD	-	6
ONGOING		
MS	17	75
PhD	2	20
MD-PhD	36	32
NEW		
MS	4	-
PhD	2	-
MD-PhD	7	-
TOTAL	68	127

HEALTH RESEARCH ETHICS

As the lead coordinating agency for health research in the country, it is part of the DOST-PCHRD's mandate to ensure that health research activities uphold universal principles on the protection of human participants at all times. This is carried out through the Council's role as the technical secretariat of Philippine Health Research Ethics Board (PHREB).

During the past year, the PHREB responded to the urgent need for health research solutions through several initiatives that strengthen ethics review processes in the country.



Ethics in the time of COVID-19

Even during a global health crisis, the ethical conduct of health research remains an utmost priority. This is why the PHREB approved the resolution on the Ethics of Vaccination Against COVID-19 in March 2021. The resolution:

1) Guides stakeholders in the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials and the use of COVID-19 vaccines for emergency use application (EUA), and;

2) Guides the public on the benefits and risks of COVID-19 vaccination to the health and safety of individuals (Etika ng Bakuna")

PHREB also released the Statement on the Upholding of Ethical Standards in Research on 06 July 2021 and the PHREB Guidance on the Use of Placebo for COVID-19 Vaccine Trials on 06 October 2021. Other efforts of the PHREB include trainings and webinars during the Philippine National Health Research System Week and the PHREB National Conference with the theme "Thriving in the New Normal."

Ethics Sessions During the PNHR Week

The PHREB had two sessions for the 14th PNHR Week event. The Research Ethics Forum entitled "Research in Global Health Emergencies" conducted on 10 August 2021 presented the report of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on the Ethics of Research in Global Health Emergencies. The report's overarching findings were made by the collaborative effort of an international working group aimed to guide researchers, funders, governments, and international organizations in the challenging task of conducting research ethically within contexts of global health emergencies. The session on "Practical Training for REC Members and Staff" held on 11 August 2021 is a one-day hands-on training that aims to enhance the understanding of members and staff of Level 1 and Level 2 RECs of their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis the mandate, role, and function of the REC and, thereby, perform their tasks effectively, diligently, and efficiently. The whole-day session provided the participants the opportunity to learn and develop important skills in managing and supporting the operations of the REC. Aside from three (3) didactic inputs, there were six (6) exercises designed to address the common problems of RECs identified by the PHREB accreditors.

A total of 762 participants attended the Ethics Forum while 71 identified participants attended the hands-on training via the Zoom platform.

ETIKA NG BAKUNA
Philippine Health Research Ethics Board

KOMITENG ETIKAL
Sumusunat sa mga protocol na nagasabi kung papano isasagawa ang pananaliksik sa kalusugan ng tao at isasagawa ang kaligtasan ng mga katahak.

INFORMED CONSENT FORM
Buo at makatotohanang impormasyon. Kusang loob na pagpapahayag ng katahak.

PROTOCOLS ON VACCINE
Nagasaabi kung papano isasagawa ang pananaliksik sa kalusugan ng tao.

CLINICAL TRIAL
Covid-19 Vaccine

FDA
Food and Drug Administration PHILIPPINES
Emergency Use para sa maddalagang aksiyon sa gitna ng health emergency.

Mahalaga ba ang bakuna para masagap o mabawasan ang problemsang dala ng COVID-19 sa lipunan?

Malaki ba ang benepisyo ng indibidwal sa pagpapabakuna?

Sulit ba ang panganib kapalit ng benepisyo na makakamit?

BAKIT MAHALAGA ANG PAGBABAKUNA?

- Pinakamabisang panangga laban sa mga sakit na nakakawala.
- Para makabaliwili sa pagpapabakuna - sa pambabaling kasaysayan, kontrolasyon, kalidad, ebidensya, seguridad, lugar, kaligtasan, at iba pa.
- Para magitiing ang mga lockdown at quarantine.
- Nakaprotekta na sa buong mundo ang mas mabigat na uti (variant) ng eus.
- Para mabalik ang kita at sahod at mabawasan ang nagugutom.
- Masyadong lagap na ang COVID-19.
- Para makabalik ang mga guro at estudyante sa paaralan.
- Para makabalik sa ibang bansa ang maraming OFW.

BAKUNA PANGANIB at KUSANG LOOB

- Unawain ang maaaring panganib.
- Timbangin kung sulit ang panganib para sa benepisyo.
- Tiyaking kusang loob ang desisyon.
- Komunsulta sa pinagkakatiwalaang doctor - lakas loob na gawin ang karapat-dapat.

ethics.secretariat@pchrd.dost.gov.ph | https://ethics.healthresearch.ph | (02) 8837-7334 to 35 local 403

HEALTH RESEARCH IN THE NEW NORMAL: MOVING TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

Ms. Katharine Wright
Assistant Director Nuffield Council on Bioethics

Prof. Sharon Kaur
University of Malaya Faculty of Law and Master of Health Research Ethics

Research in Global Health Emergencies: The Nuffield Council Moral Compass and Good Participatory Practice

Responding to Global Health Emergencies: The Importance of Values in Research and Community Consultations

14th PNHR WEEK

ETHICS FORUM

August 10, 2021 | 8:00 AM - 12:00 NN via Zoom, Facebook Live

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW

PHREB National Conference

The PHREB National Conference is a biennial event organized by the PHREB hosted by the PCHRD, which contributes to discourses and discussions on ethical issues in human health research.

The 3rd PHREB National Conference with the theme “Thriving in the New Normal” held on November 9-10, 2021 via Zoom and Facebook live-streaming, consisted of five (5) plenary and three (3) parallel sessions.

The first plenary session entitled “Research Ethics During the Pandemic: Lessons Learned and Recommendations for the New Normal” was in coordination with the COVID-19 Clinical Research Coalition Ethics Working Group. Other sessions of the conference included Previews on the 2022 National Ethical Guidelines for Research; Confronting Issues in Technical and Ethical Review; COVID Vaccine Research and Ethics; COVID-19 Research and Ethics; Experiences in Ethical Review and Implementation for Clinical Trials; Intellectual Property Rights, and Privacy of Indigenous Peoples; and Clarifying Accreditation Requirements.

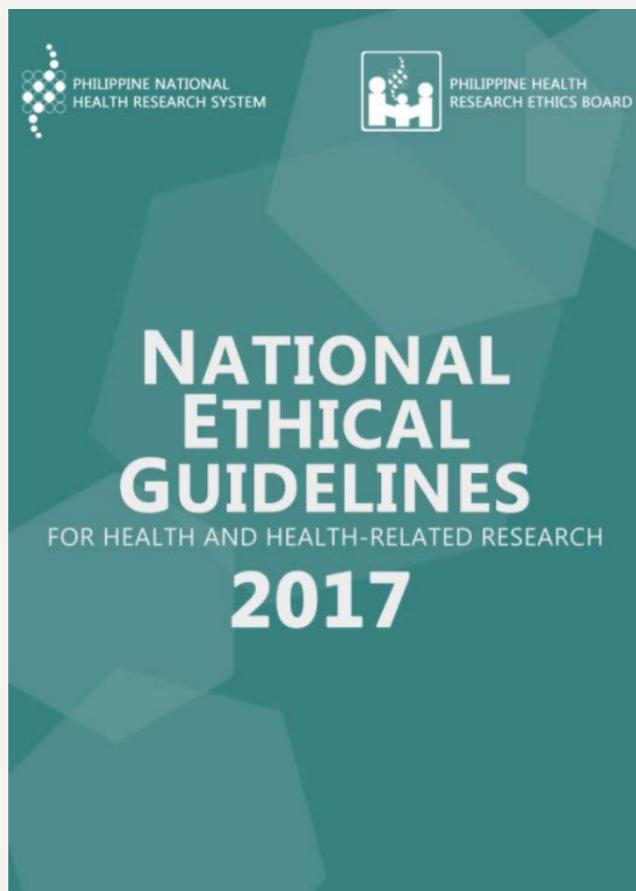
A total of 1867 Zoom and Facebook Live participants attended on the first day and 1179 participants on the second day.

Ad Hoc Committee for the Updating of the 2017 National Ethical Guidelines for Health and Health Related Research (NEGHR)

The PHREB created the Ad Hoc Committee for the Updating of the 2017 National Ethical Guidelines for Health and Health Related Research (NEGHR) to improve and update the 2017 NEGHR, as mandated by the PNHR Act of 2013.

The Committee invited expert consultants, who reviewed and revised existing guidelines, as well as experts who drafted new guidelines. The Committee also held consultation meetings with resource persons from various sectors, specialty organizations, and government agencies while drafting the revised guidelines. In addition to these consultation meetings, the ad hoc committee conducted an online public consultation from November 04 to December 02, 2021.

Some of the major changes in the 2022 National Ethical Guidelines are the change of the title from National Ethical Guidelines for Health and Health-related Research to National Ethical Guidelines for Research Involving Human Participants, revision of the titles of several chapters, and the addition of new chapters, such as the chapters Health Policy and Systems Research and Research Used in Health Economics and Outcomes Research.



Committee on Standards and Accreditation

The PHREB-Committee on Standards and Accreditation (PHREB-CSA) evaluated the accreditation applications of Research Ethics Committees (RECs) in NCR, and Regions I, III, IV-A, VI, VII, X, and X, XII, AND XIII. It has accredited 29 RECs as of December 31, 2021.

PHREB-CSA held an Online Awarding of Certificates for accredited RECs for the period July 24, 2020 to January 28, 2021 during the PCHRD anniversary on March 17, 2021. The online awarding of certificates for RECs accredited during the period of January 29 to July 15, 2021, during the PNHR Week celebration on August 9-13, 2021 via Zoom and Facebook live.

In addition, the Committee conducted online accreditation visits to 10 RECs, nine (9) of which were in coordination with the Forum for Ethical Review Committees in Asia and the Western Pacific Region (FERCAP).

Committee on Information Dissemination, Training, and Advocacy

The PHREB Committee on Information Dissemination, Training, and Advocacy (PHREB-CIDTA) conducted a total of 63 online training-workshops consisting of Basic Research Ethics Training, Good Research Practice Training, Continuing Research Ethics Training, and Standard Operating Procedure Workshop across Regions 1-13, except Region 8, as well as BARMM and NCR.

A total of 1,584 participants consisting of researchers, research advisors, consultants, faculty members, staff, practitioners, REC members, and other stakeholders attended the aforementioned training-workshops.

Committee on Networking

IAC Meeting

The Inter-Agency Committee on Ethics in Research involving Culture and the Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples, composed of the PHREB Committee on Networking, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, National Museum of the Philippines, and the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, convened on June 03, 2021 to discuss possible improvements on the policies and processes of each agency in pursuit of its objectives of ensuring ethical conduct of research involving culture and ICCs/IPs. An addendum to its Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted to address such issues.

Dialogue Between PHREB and the Department of Education

The Philippine Health Research Ethics Board held a meeting with the Department of Education representatives to introduce PHREB and its mandate and clarify matters regarding research being conducted in schools under the jurisdiction of DepEd. Both parties agreed to pursue further partnership to ensure the ethical conduct of research of and among DepEd stakeholders.



Ethics research proposals funded by PCHRD

PCHRD approved the seminar-workshop entitled “Seminar-Workshop for Stakeholders Towards Building Gender Competent Ethics Review in the Philippines” led by Professor Fatima Castillo and Professor Ernesto Gregorio of UP College of Public Health. The seminar workshop is a follow-through activity from the findings and recommendations of the PCHRD-funded study that was completed in 2019. It brought together 30 resource persons and representatives from stakeholder groups, such as RECs, researchers, and policy-makers, to discuss and formulate concrete and specific proposals on training and policy reforms to build competence in ethics review in the country in regard to identifying and addressing gender issues that pose risks of harm to study participants.

The seminar workshop held on October 6-7, 2021, produced a report of the summary of recommendations containing specific guidelines on how to incorporate gender competence in the area of accreditation, training, institutional support, REC review checklist and Standard Operating Procedures, which was submitted to the Philippine Health Research Ethics Board for review and consideration.



National Ethics Committee

The National Ethics Committee accepted 26 protocols for ethical review, two (2) of which were exempted, 12 were approved, one (1) was disapproved, while 11 are under ongoing review. Most of the studies were social/behavioral and health operations research. The NEC was re-accredited as a Level 2 REC by the PHREB-CSA on June 15, 2021 with a three-year validity until June 14, 2024.



Committee on Patient, Family and Community Engagement

The PHREB-Committee on Patient, Family and Community Engagement (CPFCE) conducted a webinar entitled “Engaging Civil Society, Communities, and NGOs” on December 10, 2021, via Zoom and Facebook Live Stream. The webinar was attended by 182 participants on Zoom and 135 live viewers on Facebook. During the webinar, resource speakers and panel reactors from research and academic institutions, health sector, and patient groups disseminated information on health research and clinical trials, discussed the social activities that surround these activities, clarified common concerns and issues on Data Privacy and delineated roles of Non-Government Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, and Communities in health research and clinical trials.

Engaging Civil Society, Communities, and NGOs in Health Research
December 10, 2021 | 1:30-5:00 PM

Register here: <https://bit.ly/3dtCWpr>

Dr. Robert Louie P. So Head for Special Projects, Pacific Health Science Inc.	Dr. Tam Adrian P. Aya-ay Consultant, Makati Medical Center	Dr. Clemen C. Aquino Professor, University of the Philippines Diliman
Dr. Rolando R. Lansigan Consultant on Data Privacy Compliance for Multinational and various organizations	Ms. Cecilia C. Sison Country Coordinator, Medicines Transparency Alliance Philippines	Dr. Nina Castillo-Carandang Health Sociologist and Professor, University of the Philippines Manila
EMCEE - MODERATOR Ms. Menchie A. Sarmiento Chair, PHREB Committee on Patient, Family, and Community Engagement		

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The PHREB approved the Committee on Patient, Family, and Community Engagement’s Bill of Rights in Health Research, Studies, and Clinical Trials. The infographic will guide research participants of their rights before, during, and after joining clinical research/study.



BALIK SCIENTIST

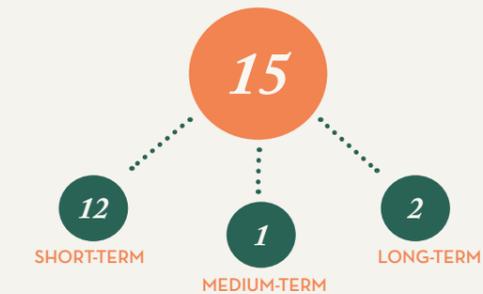
The Balik Scientist Program (BSP) has been a key driver of growth of the Philippine health R&D human resource over the past year. With the 15 newly-approved awardees and 14 continuing Balik Scientists, the Program assisted 70 R&D projects and seven (7) technologies in collaboration with host institutions across the country.

On the Road to Recovery

During the 7th Annual Balik Scientist Convention with the theme “Balik Scientist: Tugon sa Hamon ng Panahon” held on 19 November 2021, the BSP showcased significant contributions of Balik Scientists in various areas of research in the new normal. Supported by the Supplemental Guideline and Risk Management Plan of the Program, Balik Scientists, together with their host institutions shared their experiences in conducting R&D amid the challenges of the pandemic.

Initially released in 2020, the document was amended and updated in September 2021 to allow more flexible arrangements such as remote activities or a combination of remote or on-site arrangement for short-term engagements.

The Balik Puso Compendium, a compilation of notable contributions of Balik Scientists and host institutions, and the BSP Online Application Platform were also launched during the Convention.



BALIK SCIENTIST: Tugon sa Hamon ng Panahon
19 November 2021 | 9:00 AM

Register Now! | SCAN ME

ethics.secretariat@pchr.dost.gov.ph | www.dost.gov.ph | @ethicscenter

Exploring Opportunities for PH Neuroscience Research

In partnership with the Society for Pinoy Neuroscience Enthusiasts (SPiNE), the Balik Scientist Program explored possible opportunities in neuroscience research in the country through the “Bridging Opportunities for Neuroscience Research in the Philippines” webinar held on 25 September 2021. The DOST-PCHRD presented the current landscape of neuroscience R&D in the country, as well as how interested abroad-based Filipino researchers may join the BSP to both local and abroad health researchers.

Through this, the event served as a venue to encourage neuroscientists abroad to join the BSP and share their knowledge and expertise to Philippine-based experts. The event was attended by 427 participants both from Zoom and Facebook live.

BRIDGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH IN THE PHILIPPINES
PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES
25 September 2021 | 9:00 AM
zoom LIVE
Register Now: tinyurl.com/bspispine25

- 09:00 AM - 09:05 AM: Neuroscience research and development landscape in the Philippines. **MR. PAUL ERNEST DE LEON**, Director, Division Office, Division of Health Research and Development, Department of Science and Technology.
- 09:05 AM - 09:15 AM: Sharing of Balik Scientist Experience. **DR. JONEL P. SALUDES**, Lead for Health Sciences Awards Unit, Health Research and Development Division.
- 09:15 AM - 09:25 AM: Sharing of Balik Scientist Experience. **DR. ROMULO DE CASTRO JR.**, Director, Division Office, Division of Health Research and Development.
- 09:25 AM - 09:35 AM: Open Forum Facilitated by: **DR. JAIME C. MONTOYA**, Director, Division Office, Division of Health Research and Development.
- 09:35 AM - 09:45 AM: Closing Remarks. **DR. ROWENA CRISTINA L. GUEVARA**, Director, Division Office, Division of Health Research and Development.
- 09:45 AM - 09:55 AM: Welcome Remarks and An Introduction to SPiNE. **DR. CHARLES JORDAN F. REYES**, Secretary for Health Sciences (S440), Society for Pinoy Neuroscience Enthusiasts (SPiNE).
- 09:55 AM - 10:05 AM: About the Balik Scientist Program. **MS. ANICIA P. CATAMEO**, Executive Director for Health Research and Development, Health Research and Development Division.

REGIONAL RESEARCH FUND

The Regional Research Fund (RRF) Initiative is a small grant initiative which aims to encourage beginning researchers to be actively involved in health research activities without having to compete with more experienced researchers. This strategy enables building the capacity of beginning researchers in designing, implementing and managing health research projects that are aligned with the National Unified Health Research Agenda (NUHRA), Regional Unified Health Research Agenda (RUHRA) or Harmonized National Research and Development Agenda (HNRDA).

24 NEWLY-APPROVED PROJECTS

59 ONGOING PROJECTS

3 COMPLETED PROJECTS



Comparative antidiabetic properties of red rice and black rice extracts and germinated brown rice (*Oryza sativa*) using diabetic mice models: basis for drug formulation and optimization

*Dr. Geraldine C. Sanchez
Pampanga State Agricultural University*

Diabetic patients are advised not to eat too much rice primarily because of its high glycemic index. Since rice is the Filipino's staple food, they have no other choice but to spend on rice, particularly on white rice that has a higher glycemic index. This research aimed to compare the antidiabetic properties of red mold rice extract, black rice extract and germinated brown rice, identify the best dosage, formulate and optimize capsules as antidiabetic drugs.

Completed in 2021, the project formulated capsules out of the rice extracts, and optimized and standardized these as source of antidiabetic drugs to complement the conventional way of managing and treating diabetes mellitus. The team also formulated, standardized, and optimized germinated brown rice cereals in collaboration with PhilRice.

The outputs of this research will be beneficial for our poor Filipinos who are suffering from diabetes mellitus and cannot afford expensive medicines. Furthermore, it can be beneficial as preventive medicine for those with high risk of developing this disease associated with heredity and lifestyle.



Isolation and Characterization of Antibiotic Producing Endophytic Microbes from Weeds in a Previous Dumpsite in Pampanga

*Mona Lisa B. Lacson
Angeles University Foundation*

Aiming to find alternative novel antimicrobial agents that can be used against common and resistant strains of pathogenic microorganisms from weeds found in a major dumpsite in Pampanga, the team of Dr. Mona Lisa B. Lacson from the Angeles University Foundation conducted the study on the Isolation and Characterization of Antibiotic Producing Endophytic Microbes from Weeds in a Previous Dumpsite in Pampanga.

In 2021, A total of 72 weeds were collected in a previous dumpsite in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga. Results revealed several compounds from the isolated endophytes have very promising activity as antibacterial compounds. Upon completion, the team produced antibacterial compounds from the collected weeds, which can be used for future antibiotic development. It is foreseen that the isolation of microbes producing antimicrobial compounds can provide opportunities for developing novel antibiotics that can be added to the diminishing effective antibiotic pool.

During the project, AUF was able to host Balik Scientist Dr. Andrea Roxanne Anas from Nagoya University, Japan. She was consulted during the partial isolation and characterization phase of the study.

HEALTH RESEARCH AWARDS



Undergraduate Thesis Grant in Natural Products

The DOST-PCHRD Undergraduate Thesis Grant in Natural Products provides fund support to all undergraduate students who will conduct their thesis on natural products.

The program aims to sustain a research culture in natural products to increase the number of research and later on build a pool of researchers/experts specializing in the field. The program supports the *Tuklas Lunas* (Drug Discovery and Development) program of the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD) which aims to develop safe, effective, and affordable alternative drugs from the country's natural resources.

Thesis grants are given to two undergraduate entries per region (subject to availability of funds). After completion of the projects, a competition will be held for six (6) selected qualified students to recognize their innovative work on natural products. For 2021, a total of seven (7) grantees were able to receive the grant from DOST-PCHRD:

- Mr. John Joshua Bellen, *Southern Luzon State University*
- Moyanrose B. Edding, Shaina Mae S. Evangelista and Yusof K. Ortiz, *Western Mindanao State University*
- Mr. Wenzell E. Perian, *Western Mindanao State University*
- Mr. Jason C. Alcano, *Central Mindanao University*
- Ms. Ivy Jane M. Natavio, *University of Southern Mindanao*
- Mr. Mc Lin G. Data, *University of Southern Mindanao*
- Ms. Amerah D. Samporna, *Mindanao State University- Main Campus*

Gelia Castillo Award for Research on Social Innovations in Health (GCARSIH)



In the Philippines, access to quality healthcare services and adequate resources for health continue to be a challenge for the health care system. To address these pervasive and persistent health problems, a multidisciplinary movement known as social innovations in health have emerged in recent years. Social innovation in health is described as novel solutions created and implemented by a range of actors in response to a priority health need within a geographical context. This solution has enabled healthcare delivery to be more inclusive, affordable, and effective.

Central to this movement in the Philippines is the Gelia Castillo Award for Research on Social Innovations in Health (GCARSIH) which has identified outstanding social innovations in its first cycle in 2020-2021. These social innovations have provided significant impact in communities through addressing health challenges in these communities and were developed by Filipino social innovators for Filipino communities. GCARSIH seeks to give recognition to outstanding social innovations that address persistent, societal and health systems challenges. It acknowledges that experiences of social innovators can lead to better understanding of how and why social innovations

create impact on health in communities. GCARSIH also seeks to help social innovators to further develop and upscale their innovations and possibly adapt in other communities that face similar problems with their health systems.

GCARSIH sought social innovations throughout the country through utilization of the national networks of DOST-PCHRD and DOH. Primarily, the Regional Health Research and Development Consortium were tapped to promote the GCARSIH in their networks and conduct eligibility checks for submitted entries within their region.

The winners of the first cycle of GCARSIH were identified and recognized at the 39th DOST-PCHRD Anniversary event. The identified innovations were Holistic Water Systems for Pumping Water Uphill by the Alternative Indigenous Development Foundation (AIDFI), University of the Philippines Diliman Psychosocial Services (UPD PsycServ) by University of the Philippines Diliman, and Kalinga Health: A Hub-and-Spoke Social Enterprise Model in Engaging the Private Sector for Improved Tuberculosis Care initiated by Innovations for Community Health.

Alberto G. Romualdez, Jr. Outstanding Health Research Award (AROHRA)

The Alberto G. Romualdez, Jr. Outstanding Health Research Award (AROHRA) encourages researchers to be sensitive to the scientific and technological requirements of the health delivery system and rewards those whose research have contributed significantly to addressing prevalent health issues.

The Award gives recognition to a research program or project that has demonstrated the link between research and practice through the utilization of research findings in the health delivery system. Given by the DOST-PCHRD in collaboration with the DOH, the award has two (2) categories, namely: Biomedical Research and Health Services Research.

This year, the Molecular Diagnostics and Cellular Therapeutics Laboratory of the Lung Center of the Philippines won under the biomedical research category for their program entitled "Autologous Dendritic Cell Vaccine as Innovative Therapy for Cancer." The said program, headed by Dr. Ma. Teresa Barzaga, offers a promising complementary therapy for cancer. The program also gives patients an option for an innovative and safe therapy in a form of active immunotherapy using dendritic cells which is derived from patients' own blood stem to trigger the

immune response against the disease and poses minimal to zero adverse effects.

On the other hand, the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-FNRI) won under the health services research category for their program entitled, "Malnutrition Reduction Program (MRP): Moving towards Sustained Implementation." The MRP program, headed by Dr. Mario V. Capanzana, contributes to address the malnutrition problem among young children across the country especially in rural areas. The two components of the program are technology transfer of complementary food or bringing the technology to the regions to address the supply side of the program which also generates livelihood for the local government units (LGUs) and state universities and colleges (SUCs) and the DOST PINOY (Package for the Improvement of Nutrition of Young Children) intervention strategy or the combining of feeding of rice-mungo-based complementary foods and nutrition education which creates the demand for the nutritious products. It is envisioned to be sustained and institutionalized in the LGUs.



Project Team of the Molecular Diagnostics and Cellular Therapeutics Laboratory of the Lung Center of the Philippines



Project Team of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute - Department of Science and Technology

Best Mentor in Health Research Award

The DOST-PCHRD recognizes the vital role of the research mentor who selflessly shares knowledge and skills, instills values and attitudes, and inspires those involved in the research process, thereby creating an enabling environment and contributing to capacity-building in research.

The Best Mentor Award is offered biennially to recognize and reward mentors in health research who have built the capacities of researchers in the health sector and, in the process, propelled significant advances in the Philippine National Health Research System's (PNHRS) thrusts as identified in the National Unified Health Research Agenda (NUHRA). The Award also recognizes excellence in mentorship that results in productivity of mentees in health research.

For 2021, the Cluster Winners of the Best Mentor in Health Research Award are as follows:



Best Mentor in Health Research Award
EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS CATEGORY

Dr. Jonel Saludes
University of San Agustin

Dr. Erna Arollado
University of the Philippines Manila

Best Mentor in Health Research Award
UNDERGRADUATE CATEGORY

Ms. Carol Joy Remanese
Aklan State University

Rev. Fr. Alfredo Corpuz
University of Northern Philippines

Best Mentor in Health Research Award
GRADUATE CATEGORY

Dr. Julius Capili
Cagayan State University

Dr. Rheajane Rosales
Samar State University

Best Mentor in Health Research Award
GRADUATE CATEGORY

Dr. Mylene Uy
Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology

Dr. Agnes Castillo
University of Santo Tomas

HIGHLIGHTS

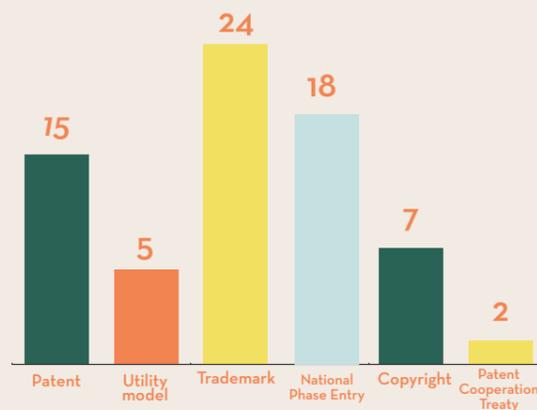
In 2021, we participated in formulating policy recommendations and instruments to support

40 legislations

Through our Intellectual Property Protection and Management Program, there are

71

Intellectual property applications filed in 2021



This year, we also reached



70,000

Facebook followers

46

HERDIN PLUS ONLINE LEARNING ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

PART

3

Research Dissemination and Utilization

PCHRD supports translation of research to policy to deepen public understanding, and engages stakeholders in the research dissemination processes. It also advances technology adoption by guiding researchers and investors as they go through each step of idea generation to utilization.



RESEARCH TO POLICY

The DOST-PCHRDR recognizes the significant role of advocating for and supporting evidence-informed policies for responsive and accessible healthcare solutions. To this end, the Council leads and supports several initiatives that identify key policy issues and examine ways in which research outputs can be integrated into health policies or solutions. Initiatives supported by the Council include the conduct of capacity-building activities for researchers, and the development of policy instruments as inputs for program development, proposed health-related legislations in Congress, and materials for dissemination to target stakeholders.



APPROVED ON SECOND READING
BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 9559
**Virology Institute
of the Philippines
Act**

The bill seeks to establish the Virology Institute of the Philippines,
a state-of-the-art research laboratory for virology and vaccine development
in the Philippines.

Supporting the passage of the Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines bill

The Council supports the institutionalization of the Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines (VIP) which will serve as the country's premiere and pioneering research institute on virology.

Accordingly, the Council provided presentations and updates on the proposed establishment of the VIP for the Congress. The House of Representatives already passed a bill on the third and final reading establishing the VIP. The bill is under review by the Senate of the Philippines.

Inputs to Policymaking

The Council participated in formulating policy recommendations and instruments to support the following legislations in 2021:

Policy instruments and recommendations for 2021

- National COVID-19 Vaccination Program
- DOST Policy Development Process
- IP Code Amendment
- Science for Change Program Bills
- Forensic Science/Genomics Bill
- Senate Bill No. 2042 (Procurement of COVID-19 Vaccines)
- Senate Bill No. 2057 (Procurement of COVID-19 Vaccines)
- Substitute VIP Bill
- House Resolution No. 1536
- Commuter Bills
- Substitute VIP Bill
- Trans Fat
- DOST MC on Food Safety
- Draft Substitute CDC Bill
- Health Security Senate Bills
- CDC Senate Bills
- Medical Reserve Corps Senate Bills
- STI and SDG 3 (CSTD24)
- DOH Health Economics Unit Bill
- Promotion of Animal Biotechnology Bill
- Climate Change Bill
- Forensic Science Capacity Enhancement Bills
- Noise Pollution Bills
- Harmonized Forensic Science Bills
- DOST-PCHRDR's assistance to DOH-Health Technology Assessment Council
- Traditional and Alternative Medicine Bills
- National Evaluation Policy Bills
- Smoke-Free Environment Bills
- Participatory Action Research for Health Promotion Bills
- Technology Commercialization of Herbal Supplements and Drugs
- Startup Venture Fund
- Nutrition Facts and Information Bills
- Bills Regulating Practice of Microbiology in the Philippines
- Bills Regulating Practice of Physical Therapy in the Philippines
- Philippine Nursing Act
- Philippine Physician's Act
- Bill on Establishment of PRC Office in Bacolod
- Senate Bills on Virology and Vaccine (VIP)
- Production of Bananas in Davao Region
- House Resolutions on No Vaccine, No Work Policy



3-Minute Pitch to Policymakers

Every year, the 3-Minute Pitch to Policymakers Competition was held during the PCHRD's 39th Anniversary in March and the 14th PNHRs week celebration in August.

The competition engages representative researchers from the 17 regions of the country to hone their skills in communicating research findings to policymakers. Cultivating their academic presentation and research communication skills will help facilitate the translation of research to policies or programs by target policymakers.

Participants were tasked to present their completed research in a three-minute, one-slide presentation to a non-specialist audience. Each presentation was graded and subsequently ranked according to Comprehension (35%), Communication Style (35%), and Engagement (30%).

The following are the winners of the 3MP competition in 2021:

39th PCHRD Anniversary (March 2021)

1st Place	Dr. Gina Itchon (NorMinCHRD)	The Web-GRID Project: Helping LGUs Make Better and Faster Decisions during Emergencies
2nd Place	Dr. Mary Joy Sande (Region 5)	Antenatal Care: Every Pregnant Mother's Right for Quality Care
3rd Place	Mr. Noriel P. Calaguas (Region 3)	9 Ways to Improve Gay and Bi-Men's HIV Testing Rates

14th PNHRs Week (August 2021)

1st Place	Dr. Glory V. Baltazar (Region 3)	BGHMC-HCPN: Charting Bataan's Future in Healthcare
2nd Place	Mr. Michael A. Casas (Region 11)	Positioning the Philippines as the Traditional Medicines Hub of the World with Chromatography
3rd Place	Dr. Dessa Jean Casalme (Region 4A)	Video-observed therapy: Reinventing the Future of MDR-TB Treatment Adherence Monitoring



Introduction to Evidence-Informed Policymaking for Health: 2nd DOST-PCHRD Webinar/Virtual Workshop for Early-Career Researchers

Launched in 2020, the workshop aims to provide an avenue where researchers can effectively advocate for evidence-informed policymaking. Further, it aims to raise awareness and increase appreciation among the general public on how health research affects and contributes to policy implementation. The Council held the second installment of this webinar for early-career researchers among two clusters for this year.

The webinar for the Luzon cluster was held via Zoom on July 21 and 23, 2021, participated by 12 early-career researchers. The live broadcast through Facebook generated a cumulative view of 4,079, reached 9,990, and engaged 597 users.

Meanwhile, the second leg of the webinar for the Visayas and Mindanao cluster was held last November 15, 17, and 19, 2021, and was participated by 22 early-career researchers from the said regions. The Facebook broadcast for this session has a cumulative view of 1,253, reach of 2,982, and a total of 147 engagements.



TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

The end goal of the Council's every initiative is to ensure that health research outputs are ultimately utilized to make lives better for the Filipino people. To support this goal, the Council, through its Intellectual Property and Technology Management (IPTM) unit, assists researchers and institutions in advancing technology transfer through services that include IP protection, licensing assistance, and technology matching events, among other activities.

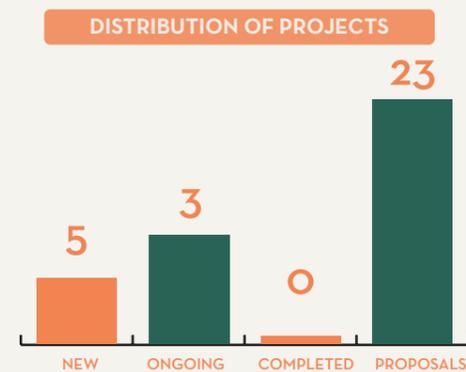


SGP

PCHRD Startup Research Grant Program

The Startup Research Grant Program (SGP) aims to support the research activities of and promote an enabling environment for Filipino-owned startups in the health sector. The program provides funding support to startups to help them overcome R&D roadblocks, strengthen their intellectual property (IP), establish initial market traction, refine their business model, and/or scale up the production.

In 2021, the program launched its first call for proposals, where three startup companies were approved for funding. Two more startups were accepted in the program in the second round of call for proposals in August 2021, to be implemented by 2022.



Development and enhancement of an interactive analytics platform for health facilities to provide assessment of telemedicine option

Startup: SeeYouDoc Corp.

Duration: 12 months

Led by Mr. Noel Del Castillo, SeeYouDoc is a startup company that provides an online platform where doctors and patients can schedule appointments or consultations. The platform is also integrated with other services such as e-prescriptions, medical notes, and digital payment for healthcare providers.

With the grant, SeeYouDoc will develop an enhanced interactive analytics platform that medical facilities can access to measure performance, guide operations and policies, and monitor metrics to justify return on investment (ROI).

In 2021, the team already started to gather and validate the requirements, business metrics, and KPIs of the medical facilities that will be used for the project through a series of meetings with consultants, collaborating agencies, and other partners. Once completed, the enhanced platform is expected to strengthen the value proposition of SeeYouDoc to its target market segment including medical facilities, multi-specialty clinics, rural health units, lying-in units, and medical clinics, among others.

Enhancement of the Design and Field Testing of an Electronic Referral (E-Referral) system for Service Delivery Networks (SDNs) in support of Universal Healthcare (UHC)

Startup: Pivotal Peak Digital Health Solutions, Inc.

Duration: 12 months

Headed by Balik Scientist Dr. Arnulfo Rosario, Jr., Pivotal Peak Digital Health Solutions, Inc. is the first digital health start-up of UP-Manila which was launched in 2020. The company is a spin-off from the telemedicine project "Community Health Information Tracking System" (CHITS).

Developed with support from the DOST-PCHRD, CHITS is a PhilHealth-certified electronic medical record (EMR) used for efficient data encoding and records retrieval in the Rural Health Unit (RHU) level. This platform is also incorporated with an early prototype of an e-Referral system named the "Mag-Ina Telereferral System (MInTS)" built by the National Telehealth Center (NTHC) of UP Manila in 2015.

To support the implementation of the Universal Healthcare (UHC) Law, the project team aims to enhance MInTS and broaden its use-case to allow referral of emerging and re-emerging infectious and non-communicable illnesses. The enhanced platform will enable quick and safe access to

the patient's information and help monitor the patient's treatment progress. In turn, the whole process of referrals will be streamlined, and access to healthcare services will be improved.

In 2021, the project team already created a UHC-related literature summary and city healthcare situational analysis, conducted a key informant interview (KII) to identify the gaps in the current city referral network, created the first version of the Context Design and User Access Matrix based from the situational analysis and KII, and developed a data dictionary using the DOH's Konsulta standard.

The team also successfully set up the system server and Gitlab repository for code management of the web and mobile app of the e-referral system. The web-based alpha version of Patient Registration and Referral Modules now has a working front-end and back-end infrastructure.

Field testing will start once the alpha version is completed and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the partner sites are accomplished.

Utilizing MedHyve Intelligence's Forecasting and Product Recommendation Engine to Improve MedHyve Marketplace using Recurrent Neural Network and Hybrid Recommender - an Artificial Intelligence approach for Predictive Procurement

Startup: Agora Digital Technologies, Inc.

Duration: 12 months

Led by Mr. Nigel Lirio, MedHyve is a digital procurement platform that addresses ineffective medical supplies procurement practices due to the inaccessibility of supplies to rural facilities and the lack of training and knowledge among procurement staff which could lead to overbuying or underbuying. As it provides a more transparent procurement process, the platform can also prevent corrupt practices and ensure the availability of supplies.

Currently, MedHyve serves private Level 1 and 2 hospitals and clinics. Based on the feedback received from its users, the project team aims to develop more sophisticated tools and improve its usability. With the startup grant, the team will incorporate a suite of AI-powered (RNN and Clustering) procurement tools and dashboards into the platform, called the MedHyve intelligence. This addition will help hospitals and clinics improve their operations for better healthcare outcomes.

In 2021, the team conducted internal and external procurement surveys and met with hospitals and direct stakeholders in procurement to assess the pain points in the current processes. Building on the results of the surveys, the project team will digitize past hospital procurement data from project officers and receipts to create the platform's initial dashboard data.

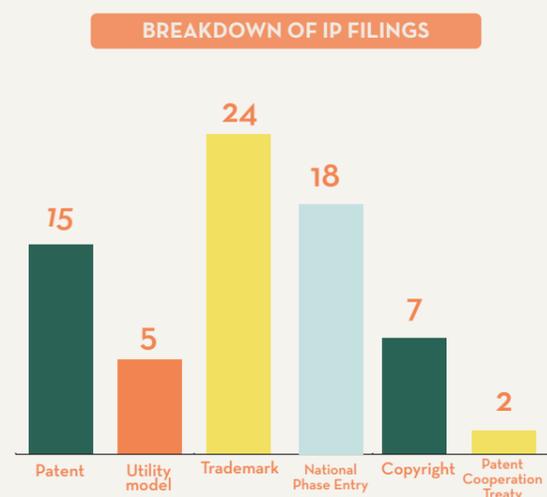


Intellectual Property Protection and Management of Health Research Outputs Program

The Intellectual Property Protection and Management of Health Research Outputs Program or IPROTECH aims to provide IP-related services to the regional health research and development consortia (RHRDCs) that have successfully generated IPs in the field of health. The program provides assistance to a range of activities, including the development of institutional IP policies, IP protection, and technology licensing assistance.

Specifically, the program aims to assist eligible RDIs in:

- Developing their own institutional IP Policies in accordance with RA 10055 and the DOST IP Policy;
- Securing protection for their health IPs;
- Establishing institutional technology transfer processes;
- Securing valuation and freedom-to-operate (FTO) reports; and
- Drafting licensing agreements.



Impacting Every Juan's Health through Technology Transfer (Phase 1): IP Protection of 20 DOST-Funded UPM Technologies

Initiated in 2020, the project was implemented by the UP Manila - Technology Transfer and Business Development Office (UPM-TTBD) to facilitate the protection of UPM-generated health-based technologies funded by PCHRD and DOST in preparation for commercialization/technology transfer. By protecting the IPs, the partnership aims to make the UPM-led innovations more accessible to the public.

Out of the 71 IPs filed by PCHRD in 2021, 24 IPs were filed through this initiative. The project ended on September 30, 2021.

SciTech Superhighway Program

The Council is also taking part in the SciTech Superhighway Program jointly implemented by the DOST, DTI, and IPOPHL that aims to fast-track the registration of intellectual properties that were developed through DOST funds.

Since the start of the program's implementation in 2021, IPTM has already endorsed a total of 18 IP applications for health-based technologies under the program, six of which are trademark applications, 10 are patent applications, and two are utility model applications.



Capacity Building Activities

The Council also works to ensure that technology generators are equipped with the necessary skills to properly protect, assess, and utilize/commercialize their health technologies.

In 2021, the IPTM conducted several trainings and webinars for technology transfer offices, startup companies, and technology generators supported by the PCHRD, such as trainings on advanced valuation and the formality examination process of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL). The Council also supported two projects on capacity building under the program IBEHT of the De La Salle University namely the: CAPACITÁ and KANDILI projects.

Advanced IP Valuation Training:

Held on September 3, 7, 9, 14, and 22, 2021 through the Zoom platform, the advanced valuation training was organized to capacitate inventors and technology transfer officers within the PCHRD network in valuing their respective technologies. Through the five-day training, the participants were tasked to

produce valuation reports which they can use as a guide in their licensing negotiations.

A total of 38 participants from technology transfer offices, inventors, and startups attended the training.

Formality examination process of IPOPHL

In 2020, the DOST, DTI, and IPOPHL signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to establish the IP Superhighway Program. To support this initiative, the IPOPHL and the DOST jointly organized and conducted two-day online training sessions for the DOST Technical Working Group (TWG) on April 5-6, 2021 and for the PCHRD network on April 19-20, 2021 to capacitate the participants on the basics of intellectual property (IP) and examining IP applications.

Sessions were participated by TWG members from the three sectoral DOST Councils, TAPI and DOST regional offices, and technology generators from the Councils' networks.



COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

01



Talakayang Health Research and Technology (HeaRT) Beat

Talakayang HeaRT Beat serves as a venue to promote the Council’s initiatives, programs, advocacy, and partnerships with the media and key stakeholders. This year, eight (8) virtual sessions were organized by PCHRD starting May 2021.

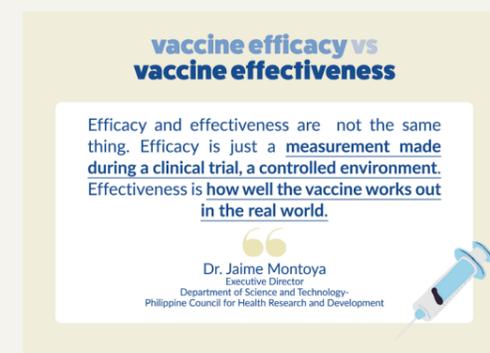
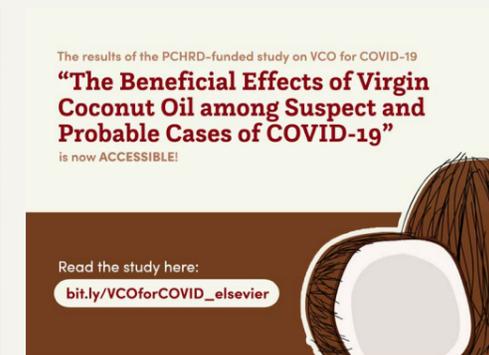
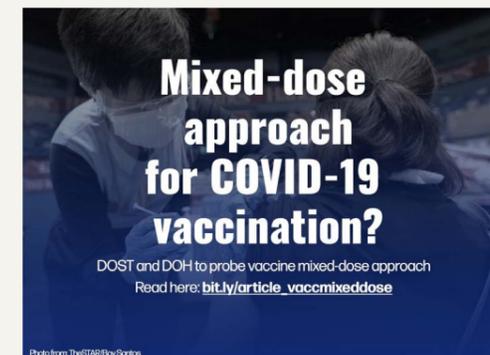
Date	Topic	Zoom	Facebook insights
May 17, 2021	COVID-19 Projects	76 participants	In total, the live broadcast was able to generate 3,672 in reach and 131 in engagements.
June 28, 2021	Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DRR-CCA) in Health Program	105 participants	In total, the live broadcast was able to generate 4,203 in reach and 217 in engagements.
July 26, 2021	Functional Food Program	154 participants	In total, the live broadcast was able to generate 1,034 in reach and 123 in engagements.
August 26, 2021	OMICS in Health	195 participants	In total, the live broadcast was able to generate 3,103 in reach and 154 in engagements.
September 29, 2021	ICT for Health	207 participants	In total, the live broadcast was able to generate 2,207 in reach and 105 in engagements.
October 26, 2021	Lagundi and VCO	175 participants	In total, the live broadcast was able to generate 2,511 in reach and 214 in engagements.
November 26, 2021	Tuklas Lunas	60 participants	In total, the live broadcast was able to generate 1,458 in reach and 74 in engagements.
December 9, 2021	DOST Big Ticket Projects	60 participants	In total, the live broadcast was able to generate 1,277 in reach and 109 in engagements.



WE ARE NOW
VERIFIED

Facebook

In January 2021, the DOST-PCHRD Facebook page was verified. It also reached 70,000 followers last year. Continuing efforts from 2020, Facebook was utilized to disseminate COVID-19-related advisories and information.

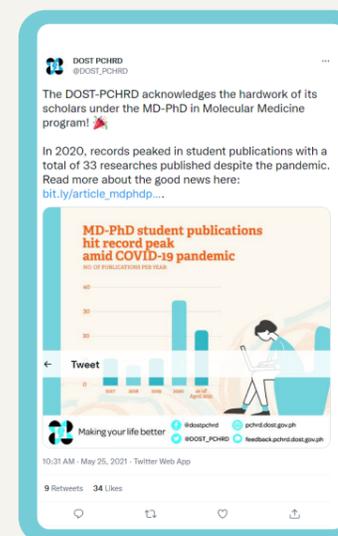


Twitter

Aside from Facebook, the DOST-PCHRD also used Twitter to reach out to its stakeholders. Through the platform, the Council provides announcements, health research updates, as well as real-time tweets on major events and press conferences.

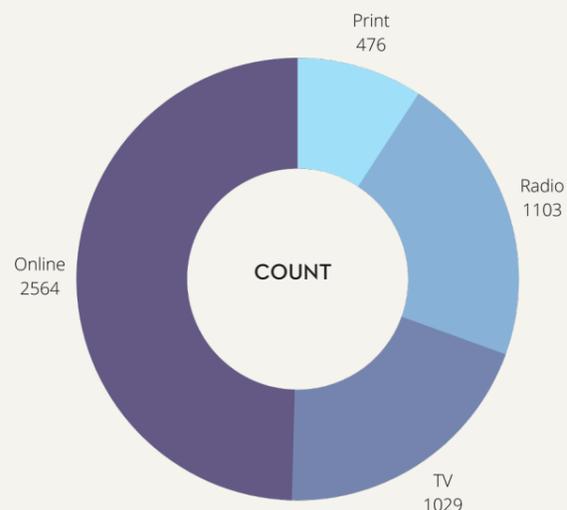
02 Social Media

As part of its research information dissemination channels, the DOST-PCHRD shares the latest updates on its supported projects and health research activities through social media. Through its presence on Facebook and Twitter, the Council aims to provide up-to-date and accurate information to every Filipino.

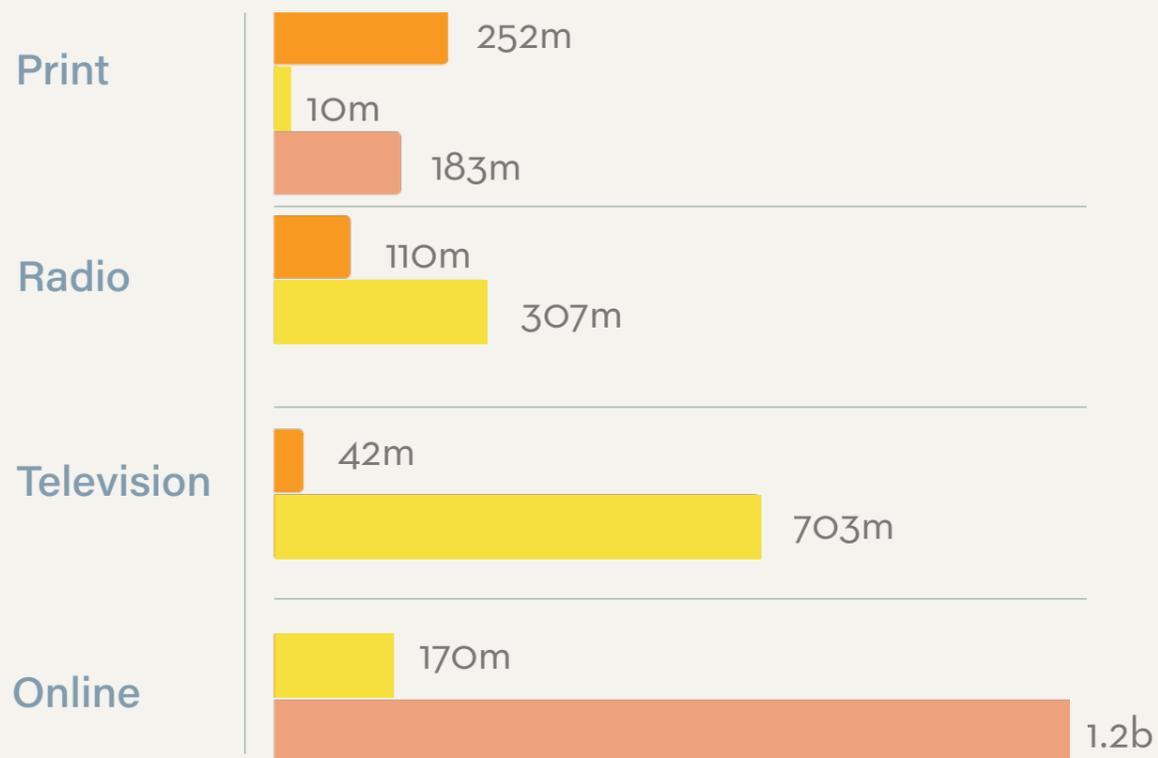


03 Media Mileage

As part of its information dissemination activities, the Council monitors its media mileage in print, radio, television, and online media.



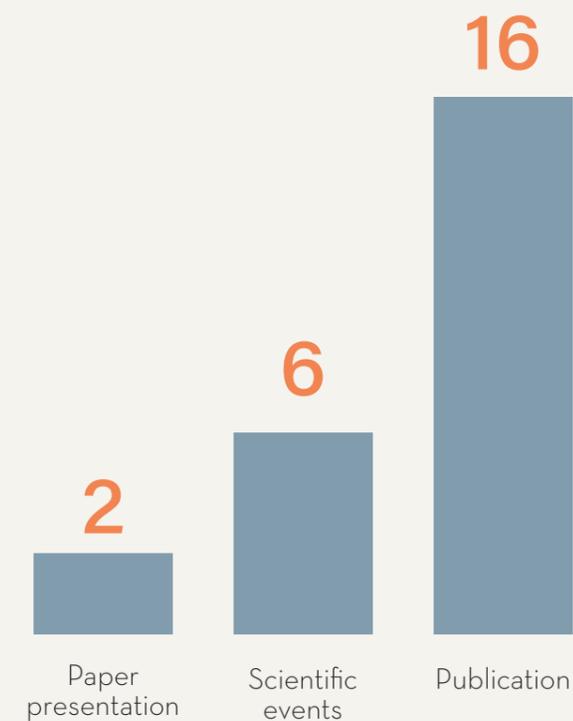
Readership/Viewership PR Value/Ad Value (PhP) Reach



04 Support to Research Dissemination

The Council supports projects and activities on research dissemination, including, but not limited to support to publication, paper presentation, and events.

In 2021, the Council approved twenty-four (24) requests for Support to Research Dissemination (SRD) of which sixteen (16) were requests for publication, six (6) for scientific events, and two (2) for paper presentation.



ROAD TO RECOVERY THROUGH R&D



ALUSUGA



National Biotechnology Week OVERCOMING HEALTH CHALLENGES THROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY

25 November 2021 | 10AM - 12PM

REGISTER HERE

https://bit.ly/NBW_BiotechnologyForHealth

KEY GUESTS:



Sec. Fortunato T. de la Peña
DOST Secretary



Dr. Jaime Montoya
Executive Director
DOST - PCHRD



Dr. Maria Terrese Dimamay
Research Scientist
St. Luke's Medical
Center



Dr. Pia Bagamasbad
Associate Professor
NIMBB-UP Diliman



Dr. Marilen Parungao Balolong
Associate Dean
Research and Public
Service, College of Arts and
Sciences
UP Manila



Dr. Edsel Salvaña
Director
Institute of Molecular Biology
and Biotechnology
UP - NIH



Dr. John Carlo Malabed
Assistant Scientist
DOST-PCHRD
MODERATOR

05

National Events

6th National Research and Development Conference (NRDC)

Organized to promote coordination and collaboration among stakeholders of research and development (R&D) and innovation, the 6th National Research and Development Conference (NRDC) with the theme, "PANANALIKSIK at PAGPAPAUNLAD: Daan Tungo sa Pagbabago," highlighted ongoing and completed R&D projects and programs that are aligned to the priority areas of the Harmonized National Research and Development Agenda (HNRDA) that are geared towards the benefit of society and /or contribute to economic development.

During its online celebration on 10 and 17 November 2021, the DOST-PCHRD presented the current updates of the HNRDA for Health. Aside from this, the Council was also able to produce videos that featured the following projects it supported:

1. The Beneficial Effects of Virgin Coconut Oil among Suspect and Probable Cases of COVID-19
2. Development of Ready-to-Drink Pili (Canarium ovatum, Engl.) Pomace Tea
3. AMPLIFIED: miPCR: Development of a Microfluidic Miniaturized PCR Device (miPCR) for SARS-Cov-2 RNA Amplification via FDA-approved COVID-19 RT-PCR kits
4. ADDS: Development of an amplified DNA detection system for the detection of SARS-Cov-2 based on the thermocycler output of FDA-approved COVID-19 RT-PCR kits.
5. 'SWIFTeR': A focused study to validate a rapid, simple and efficient isothermal COVID-19 testing technology
6. SIBOL COVID Task Force - Telemetry System for COVID-19 PGH Response Team
7. SIBOL COVID Task Force - Telepresence Terminals for COVID19 Response Team
8. Validation Study of A Locally-Developed Electronic Stethoscope Prototype "E-Steth" Using A Phantom-Based Simulation System in the Auscultation of Lung Sounds
9. SIBOL Personal Protective Equipment - Design and Development of Locally-Manufactured, Reusable, Powered, AirPurifying Respirator (PAPR)
10. SIBOL: CleanIntubate: Laryngoscope Blade Disinfection Device
11. SIBOL SaniPod: Self-Contained Disinfecting Cubicle
12. Development of Health Index and Vulnerability Reduction System for Region 4B (D-HIVE 4B Capital)

17th National Biotechnology Week (NBW)

This year's National Biotechnology Week celebration banners the theme: "Kapit-bisig na Pagtutulungan, Bioteknolohiya Ating Paghusayan!" Parallel to this message, the DOST-Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD) conducted the "Overcoming Health Challenges through Biotechnology" webinar on 25 November 2021. The webinar aims to showcase how research on biotechnology can contribute to building our capacities against the following diseases: COVID-19, HIV, and cancer.

The webinar featured the following projects:

1. Antigenic Peptides as Potential Candidates for COVID-19 vaccine development
2. Promoter-Based Drug Screen for Prostate Cancer Therapy
3. Development of a Safe Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB)-

based Biofunctional Health-promoting Product as an Adjunct Intervention for the Management of HIV-associated Metabolic Complications

4. Responding to the Philippine HIV Epidemic: An HIV Drug Resistance Surveillance Library and Development of Molecular Diagnostics for Drug-Resistance Detection Part 3: Development of Rapid Diagnostic for Detecting Lamivudine Resistance

A total of 171 unique viewers joined the webinar on the online platform. The published video on Facebook reached more than 3,000 users and gained 126 engagements.

The four DOST-PCHRD-supported projects were also featured on the online exhibit organized by the DOST-TAPI for this year's NBW.

National Science and Technology Week

The National Science and Technology Week is an annual event held by the DOST and its line agencies to create awareness and encourage adoption, technology transfer, and commercialization of locally-developed technologies. This year's main celebration was held from 22 - 28 November 2021 with the theme, "Agham at Teknolohiya: Tugon sa Hamon ng Panahon." It featured all the research and development (R&D) outputs as well as innovative products and services developed and offered by DOST agencies and regional offices that helped address the challenges brought about by the pandemic and climate change.

During this year's virtual celebration, the Council led the 2021 NSTW Opening Ceremonies held on 22 November 2021. It featured DOST Secretary Fortunato de la Peña as the keynote speaker where he shared the agency's accomplishments that contributed to national development in the past six years.

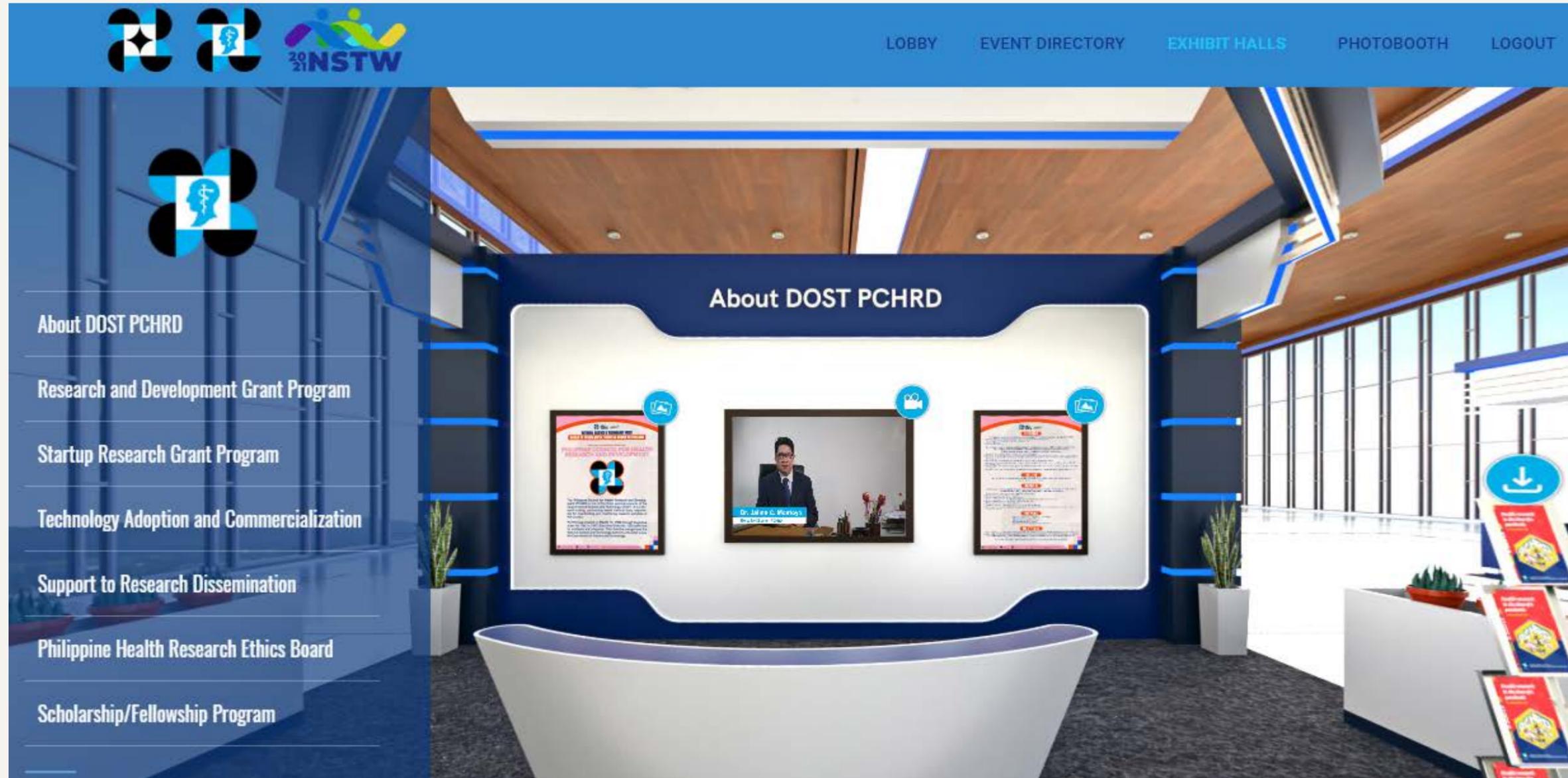
The Council also showcased its services and supported health R&D projects through the DOST-PCHRD NSTW Virtual Platform (nstw2021.dostpchr.com) and several webinars as follows:

Debunking Cultural Myths through Health R&D (15 November 2021)
 Zoom participants (attendees and panelists): 350
 PCHRD Facebook stream: 821 views

Balik Scientist Program Annual Convention (19 November 2021)
 PCHRD Facebook stream: 3,747 total views

Call to Action: Infodemic Management (23 November 2021)
 Zoom participants (attendees and panelists): 161
 PCHRD Facebook stream: 6,100 views

Repurposing Natural Resources for COVID-19 (25 November 2021)
 Zoom participants (attendees and panelists): 212
 Total Facebook views (PCHRD and NSTW FB page): 1,602



1st NICER Summit:
Conference on Accelerating STI in the Country through a Regionally Inclusive R&D

"Inclusive Innovation towards Attaining Sustainable Development Goals"

3 December 2021 | 8:30 AM - 12:00 NN

zoom LIVE

SCAN & REGISTER

Register Now: bit.ly/NICER-Events-2021

1st Niche Centers in the Regions (NICER) Summit

The 1st NICER Summit entitled, "Conference on Accelerating STI in the Country through a Regionally Inclusive R&D" with the theme: "Inclusive Innovation towards Attaining Sustainable Development Goals" aimed to spread awareness on how the established Niche Centers in the Regions for R&D or NICER under the Science for Change Program steer the Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) ecosystem of the country towards progress and prosperity. Held on 3 December 2021 via Zoom and Facebook Live stream, the Summit featured scientists and experts from different regions of the country and their respective research centers aimed to accelerate capacity building and industrial competitiveness, and regional development.

The summit was attended by 1,000 participants on Zoom and 836 (peak) live viewers on Facebook. It highlighted presentations on the current R&D landscape of the country from DOST officials and messages of support from the Regional Leaders and LGUs/industry partners.

The summit was composed of three sub-plenary sessions: Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology R&D, Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources R&D, and Health R&D. Six PCHRD-supported NICERs were featured under the Health R&D session, namely:

1. Center for Innovations for Cost-Effective Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Health
2. Center for Applied Modeling, Data Analytics, and Bioinformatics in Health
3. Integrated Protein Research Development Center
4. Biomaterials for Therapeutics and Diagnostics R&D Center
5. R&D Center for Medical Robotics
6. Center for Vector of Diseases of Public Health Importance

The summit was co-organized by PCHRD, together with the DOST-Science for Change - Program Management Office, PCAARRD, and PCIEERD.

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
PCHRD
PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR HEALTH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

1st Virtual Project Completion Ceremony

November 9, 2021 | 9:00-11:00 AM | Via Zoom
Meeting ID: 956 7632 9415 Passcode: 511588

1st Virtual Project Completion Ceremony

The 1st Virtual Project Completion Ceremony was held on 9 November 2021 to recognize researchers who completed target deliverables and complied with the required outputs of PCHRD-supported projects. Only 17 completed projects supported by the DOST-PCHRD from 2017 to 2018 were included in the graduation.

Town Hall

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trials

To inform partners of their role in conducting the vaccine clinical trials, specifically the local government units and healthcare workers, the DOST-PCHRD in partnership with the Department of Health conducted a series of town hall meetings on 29 January and 1-2 February 2021. The sessions served as a platform to reiterate the critical importance of following the protocols on-ground, upholding the rights of participants, and ultimately, adhering to scientific standards. The event also served as an opportunity for the partners to raise and address the pressing questions on the conduct of the clinical trials in the country.

DOST-PCHRD Executive Director Dr. Jaime Montoya and Coordinator of Forum for Ethical Research Committee in Asia and Western Pacific Region (FERCAP) Dr. Cristina Torres served as resource persons. Dr. Montoya provided an overview on the conduct of the clinical trials in the country, and emphasized the important roles of the Health Care Workers and the LGUs for the successful conduct of the Clinical Trials. Dr. Torres, on the other hand, tackled the do's and don'ts in conducting clinical trials and discussed the rights of every participant.

Date	Audience	Zoom	Facebook	Facebook Insights
January 29, 2021	Local chief executives in selected sites	53 participants composed of barangay captains, barangay councilors and city representatives	A total 526 of participants watched through FB live broadcasted through the DOST-PCHRD and the DOH pages. Majority of these participants are based in Metro Manila Trial Sites.	The live broadcast was able to generate 149,092 in reach and 1,868 engagements.
February 1, 2021	City health officers, health center staff, and barangay health workers in selected sites	A total of 377 participants joined via zoom, composed of physicians (32%), registered nurses (23%), barangay health workers (12%), city/municipal health care workers, medical technologists, and pharmacists.	At its peak, a total 574 of participants watched through FB live broadcasted through the DOST-PCHRD and the DOH pages. Majority of these participants are based in Metro Manila Trial Sites.	In total, the live broadcast was able to generate 3,618 in reach and 85 in engagements.
February 2, 2022	Health care workers based in hospitals	A total of 173 participants joined via zoom	At its peak, a total 563 of participants watched through FB live broadcasted through the DOST-PCHRD and the DOH pages. Majority of these participants are based in Metro Manila Trial Sites.	In total, the live broadcast was able to generate 3,618 in reach and 85 in engagements.

Townhall on Dealing with COVID-19 Delta variant

A Town Hall Meeting on Dealing with the COVID-19 Delta variant was held on August 10, 2021 to inform the DOST Community about the variant of concern, the Delta virus, and what measures can be done to stay safe and protect family members. This virtual event was an opportunity for the DOST personnel to raise questions and seek clarifications regarding the new strain and the COVID-19 vaccines. A total of 377 DOST employees participated in the Zoom meeting and the live broadcast in Facebook was able to reach 12,288 Facebook users and 553 engagements.



Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Training for Community Health Workers

In preparation for the conduct of vaccine clinical trials, the PCHRD, together with the Department of Health (DOH), organized an online Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training program. The GCP training aims to capacitate community healthcare workers (CHWs) in upholding and safeguarding the rights of participants in vaccine clinical trials, and to provide a platform where the CHWs may raise their questions and concerns on the upcoming trial. The training followed a “flipped classroom” format, where the participants may access the modules at their own time and pace from March 29 to May 31, 2021. A live Q and A session was held on April 23. A total of 864 community health workers participated in the online training. In total, the live broadcast was able to reach 4,235 users on Facebook and 171 engagements.



<https://www.herdin.ph>

Information services

The Information Products and Services unit offers information products such as Information Systems and platforms to increase access to health research information. IPS also provides services such as Document Delivery Service and capacity building activities to provide assistance to institutions in managing/organizing their health research information.

HERDIN PLUS

Health Research and Development Information Network
Platform of Unified Research Information Management Systems

With HERDIN PLUS, you can:

- Manage health and health-related research information for free
- Disseminate health & health-related research to a wider audience
- Generate comprehensive reports to help evaluate your institutional research performance

DOST CALABARZON
June 10, 2021

Ang Health Research and Development Information Network (HERDIN) PLUS ay isang information management system na dindevelop ng Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD) kasama ang Department of Health (DOH) at University of the Philippines Manila. Layunin nitong mangolekta, mag-organisa, at magbahagi ng iba't ibang impormasyon ukol sa health research.

Ayon sa RA 10532, ang HERDIN ay ang itinalagang National Health Research Repository kung saan iniimb... See more

Ano ang HERDIN PLUS?

Ang HERDIN PLUS ay isang information management system na layuning mangolekta, mag-organisa, at magbahagi ng iba't ibang impormasyon ukol sa health research. Bisitahin ang herdin.ph ngayon para sa karagdagang impormasyon.

#TechnoThursday

HERDIN Plus: Strengthening partnerships and building capacities

The Health Research and Development Information Network (HERDIN) PLUS focused on strengthening partnerships and capacitating partners in the dissemination of health research in 2021.

Throughout the year, HERDIN PLUS signed 36 memoranda of understanding (MOU) with higher education institutes (HEIs) and medical institutions across the regions to enable easier publication of health research outputs through the System. Under the MOU, the DOST-PCHRD will provide support, and capacitate partner institutions in using HERDIN PLUS as a research dissemination platform while partner institutions will ensure contribution of research articles in the platform.

In support of these partnerships, the DOST-PCHRD conducted the HERDIN PLUS Flipped Learning (HPFL) and HERDIN PLUS Online Learning (HPOL) training programs. Through the HPFL, partner institutions receive training modules on how to manage and disseminate health research outputs through HERDIN PLUS, enabling self-paced, flexible learning for users. On the other hand, the HPOL facilitates real-time learning through a virtual classroom setup.

HERDIN PLUS conducted a total of 16 HPFL trainings and 46 HPOL trainings in 2021.



How does HERDIN PLUS help you in research?

Dr. Bianca Edora
Licensed physician

of full-text articles, ongoing research papers and clinical trials





PART 4 *Collaborations*

The Council values national and international partnerships in health research and development. It continues to forge collaborations with health, research, and academic institutions to bring forward its mission as the lead coordinating body for health R&D.

National Collaborations

AHEAD-HPSR



Advancing Health through Evidence-Assisted Decisions
with Health Policy and Systems Research



The Advancing Health through Evidence Assisted Decisions with Health policy and Systems Research (AHEAD-HPSR) program is a partnership between the DOST-PCHRD and the Department of Health established to address the country's need for evidence-based and informed policies and programs in health.

With the goal to create an enabling environment for health policy and systems research in the country, and to place our country as an expert contributor to the global health scene; the program executes various project management, capacity building, and research utilization.

For the year 2021, the Evidence Assisted Decisions with Health Policy and Systems Research (AHEAD-HPSR) Program was able to complete 49 out of 73 projects from the 2017 and 2018 funds, with 34 ongoing projects.

Flagship projects of the program focused on COVID-19 research. One of these is the Rapid Review of the Evidence on Prioritized COVID-19 Technologies and Interventions by Dr. Marie

Carmela M. Lapitan. A collaboration between the Institute of Clinical Epidemiology of the University of the Philippines National Institutes of Health (UP NIH), and the University of the Philippines Manila College of Medicine, it aims to generate systematic reviews and evidence summaries on prioritized COVID19 technologies and interventions. In 2021, it was able to submit nine (9) evidence summaries to HTAC, with three (3) summaries updated after 2-4 weeks. A second round of topics for review were requested by HTAU and these were assigned to the evidence reviewers on September 1, 2021. These included reviews on novel vaccines such as BBV152 (Bharat/Covaxin), Sinopharm and Sputnik Light.

Other COVID-19 supported projects are "Cost Effectiveness Evaluation Modeling of Different Covid 19 Vaccines in the Philippines, For Emerging Variant of Concerns," "Evidence Review on Selected Non Pharmaceutical Interventions for COVID 19," and the "Rapid Review on Covid 19 Mobile Health Technologies in the Workplace"

PhilHealth STUDIES

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) has been implementing strategies and programs to achieve Universal Health Care (UHC) since its establishment in 1995. In 2014, PhilHealth promulgated the Governing Policy on Research Engagement Guidelines and established the PhilHealth Research Agenda centered on generating knowledge for health policy reforms in pursuit of Universal Health Care. To carry out the PhilHealth Research Agenda, the Corporation partnered with the DOST-PCHRD the following year to implement the PhilHealth STUDIES project, which stands for "Supporting the Thrust for Universal Health Care through Data, Information, and Knowledge Exchange Systems."

01 Research Services

Technical Assistance on Comprehensive PhilHealth Benefits for Acute Cardiac Condition for ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI)

Considering the burden of ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) in the country, there is a need to strengthen financial risk protection for this disease. A comprehensive benefits package that covers the different levels of service delivery is yet to be created. The Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes (AIHO), led by Dr. Lester Sam Geroy, assisted the Benefits Development and Research Department of PhilHealth in the development of benefit packages for STEMI. The project involved a review of practice guidelines and published studies, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions. The results were then integrated into a pathway of services and the proposed inclusions, of which both were used as the basis for the development of benefit packages for STEMI.

02 Capacity Building

The PhilHealth STUDIES program conducted a six-month training course that equipped PhilHealth technical staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to formulate effective policies guided by research. From October 2020 to May 2021, the University of Santo Tomas held the 2nd iteration of the LEAD Capacity Building Program for 30 technical staff from the PhilHealth Main Office.

The participants produced seven research studies along with accompanying policy briefs and infographics. The training was led by Dr. Maria Carinnes Alejandria of the University of Santo Tomas in collaboration with PhilHealth's Corporate Planning Department as the proponent office and PCHRD as the monitoring agency. Engagement of Research Associates were also done to provide technical support in reviewing and developing key health financing policies and programs based on the Universal Health Care Act.

03 Research Dissemination

The 5th PhilHealth STUDIES Virtual Forum was held from November 9-11, 2021 with the theme "Re-examining Health Care Systems towards a New Normal with UHC." The technical sessions featured presentations and discussions on topics related to eHealth, primary health care, and implementation research. The three-day forum was attended by 735 participants represented by PhilHealth Officers and Staff, Government and Non-Government Organizations, Academe and Hospitals.

International Collaborations



London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

The Council works with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and UP-Manila to provide various capacity-building activities for Filipino researchers, such as research fellowship programs, scholarship grants, post-doctoral training, research enrichment (sandwich) programs, and staff training.

1st Collaborative Webinar Series on Health Research

Under this partnership, the LSHTM and the UP-Manila held the first Collaborative Webinar Series on Health Research on July 23, 2021.

The webinar served as a platform for researchers from the Philippines and UK to discuss possible collaborative undertakings on different priority areas such as infectious diseases, immunology, genomics, bioinformatics, and mathematical modeling. Possible opportunities for local researchers such as the Research Enrichment Training (Sandwich Program) for DOST-PCHRD MD-PhD Scholars in UP Manila, PhD program, post-doctoral and short-term training for both UPM Faculty and MD- PhD Scholars were also discussed.

Faculty of Tropical Medicine (FTM), Mahidol University (SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand)

On December 13, 2021, the Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Faculty of Tropical Medicine (FTM), Mahidol University (SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand) to advance and implement capacity building activity for health researchers.

Under the MOU, the partnership between the two institutions will develop and implement a scholarship program and promote collaboration between other relevant scientific institutions and organizations from the Philippines and Thailand. The partnership will cover the following priority research areas: tropical diseases epidemiologic studies, endemic and emerging diseases associated with changing environment, diagnosis of tropical infections by immunological and molecular biological methods, and tropical medicine and public health.

The virtual signing ceremony was attended by officials from both countries, including Philippine Ambassador to Thailand Her Excellency Millicent Cruz-Paredes, SEAMEO TROPMED Secretary General Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon, SEAMEO Secretariat Director Dr. Ethel Agnes Pascua- Valenzuela, DOST Assistant Secretary for International Cooperation Dr. Leah J. Buendia, DOST-PCHRD Executive Director Dr. Jaime C. Montoya, and Mahidol University-FTM Dean Assoc. Prof. Weerapong Phumratanaparin.



Fondazione Italiana Fegato (FIF)

In 2019, the Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Fondazione Italiana Fegato (FIF) for collaborative work and initiative on liver diseases. Specifically, the partnership covers the following areas of collaboration:

- Establishment of Philippine Liver Network;
- Enhancement of the existing Clinical Research Fellowship Program;
- PhD in Molecular Biomedicine in University of Trieste, with research training from FIF; and
- Sandwich Research Training in FIF for the current MD

To formalize their commitment to this cause, the DOST-PCHRD, FIF, and UP Manila signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on August 18, 2021, via Zoom. Under the MOU, the collaboration will carry out scientific and technological cooperation on translational hepatology through joint research and development, capacity building, the establishment of the Liver Research Program, and the organization of the Philippine Liver Network, among other initiatives.

Following this event, the three institutions started to work together to lay down the groundwork for the Philippine Liver Network, which will become the natural hub of collaboration among the three parties and other relevant stakeholders to support the development of stronger and more sustainable liver research. As a platform for collaboration, the network will bring together teams of experts that are focused on speeding up the science needed to find new diagnostic tools, understand the genetic reasons for liver diseases, and deliver new treatment options for liver diseases. Ultimately, the network will enable shared learning, provide new research opportunities, establish new research projects, allow joint applications for funds, and facilitate technology transfer.

The DOST-PCHRD also continually provides scholarship/fellowship opportunities for Filipino



researchers through the PhD in Molecular Biomedicine Program and Sandwich Research Training Program in FIF, University of Trieste, and University of Pisa. Upon the return of the scholars in the country, they are expected to work with the liver network.

Further, the UP-Manila already launched the liver research program, with 19 research projects in the pipeline covering various research areas such as Liver Disease Registry and Biorepository, Liver Cancer, Viral Hepatitis and Other Infections, Fatty Liver Disease and Chronic Liver Disease, Pediatric Liver Diseases, and Public Health and Policy.

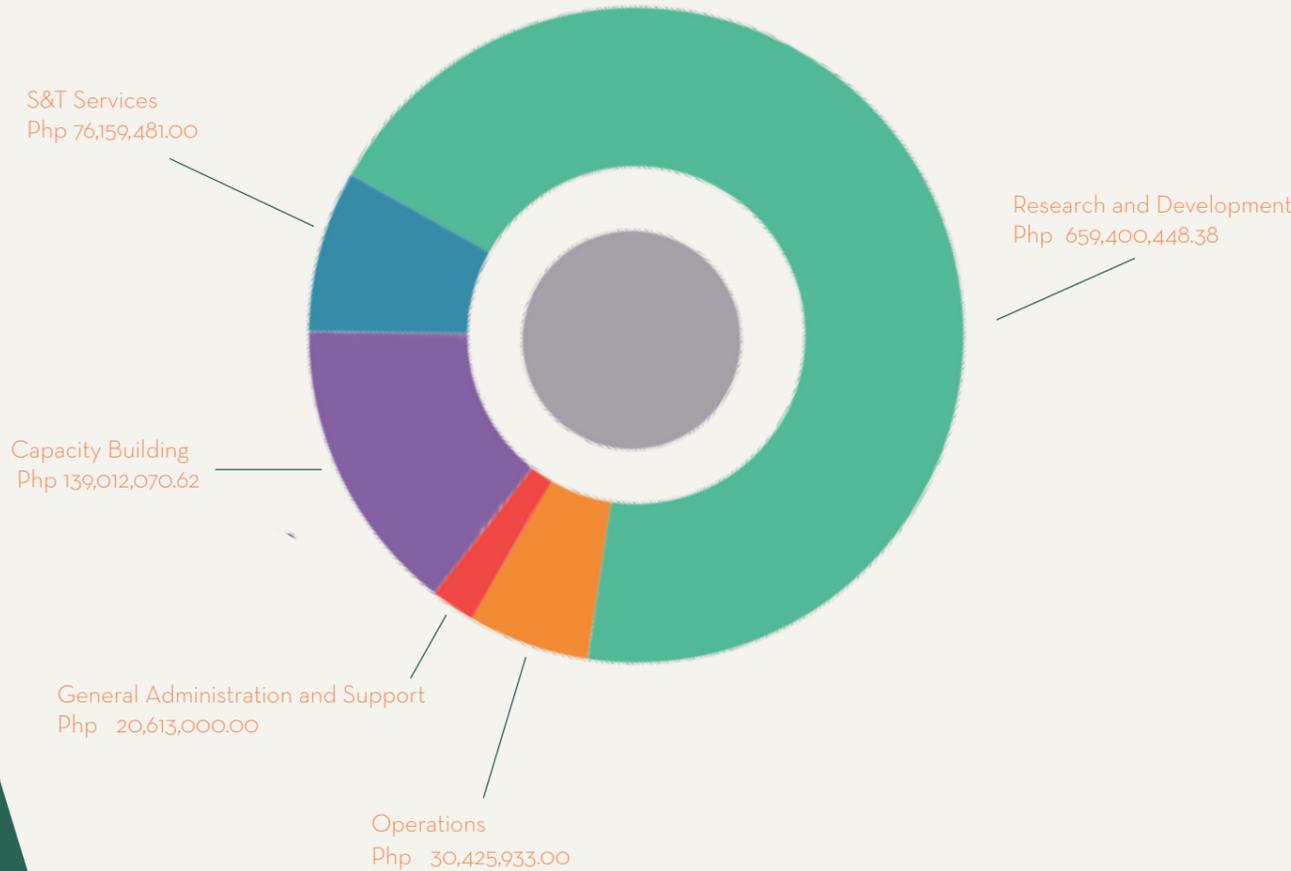
In his lecture for the 15th Annual Meeting of the Scientific Committee of FIF entitled: "Accelerating Medical Research and Knowledge Breakthroughs Through International Collaboration: The Liver Collaboration Example," DOST Secretary Fortunato de la Peña presented the latest developments on these activities and ongoing initiatives of the Philippines dedicated to liver research. Held on November 18, 2021, the meeting was attended by scientists from FIF's network and the Filipino DOST-PCHRD scholars in Italy.

Financial Highlights

INSIDE PCHRD

01 Expenditures in 2021

Source: General Appropriations from Government and Grants-in-Aid



- PARTICULARS** →
- Source of Funds
 - Allotment
 - Expenditures
 - Utilization Rate

02

Resource Mobilization

PCHRD Status of Funds 2021

PARTICULARS	ALLOTMENT	EXPENDITURES	UTILIZATION RATE
General Appropriation from Government (GAA-RA No 11465)			
General Administration and Support	26,662,000.00	20,613,000.00	77.31%
Operations	60,432,000.00	57,454,000.00	95.07%
Grants-in-Aid			
Research and Development	612,753,564.26	659,400,448.38	107.61%
Capacity Building	170,215,030.90	139,012,070.62	81.67%
S & T Services	91,603,404.84	76,159,481.00	83.14%
Total Fund from National Government	961,666,000.00	952,639,000.00	99.06%
Funds from Other Sources ()			
FUNDING SOURCE/PROJECT TITLE	AMOUNT*	EXPENDITURES	UTILIZATION RATE
DOH - 2021 Advancing Health Through Evidence Assisted Decisions with Health Policy and Systems Research Program	13,510,096.50	12,064,184.55	89.30%
DOH - 2018 Advancing Health Through Evidence Assisted Decisions with Health Policy and Systems Research Program	82,666,020.12	33,913,862.63	41.03%
DOH - 2017 Advancing Health Through Evidence Assisted Decisions with Health Policy and Systems Research Program	35,928,305.71	26,463,100.40	73.66%
DOST - Balik Scientist Program	37,532,069.39	16,482,582.01	43.92%
DOST - Addressing and Responding to COVID-19 through Health Research (ARCHER)	31,028,954.10	25,931,570.68	83.57%
DOST - Creation of Tuklas Lunas Program Management Team	3,418,020.44	2,442,473.18	71.46%
DOST - Dengue Vector Control Research Program	49,546,734.29	6,801,037.97	13.73%
DOST - Indirect Cost of Various Projects	39,231,066.37	16,104,143.27	41.05%
Food and Drug Association - Development of FDA Clinical Trial Regulatory Management Plan	1,746,521.18	1,596,377.20	91.40%
Science Education Institute - Accelerated Science and Technology Human Resource Development Program Scholarship Grant	26,259,721.27	22,413,324.12	85.35%
Philippine Health Insurance Corp. - Strengthening the Thrust for UHC through Data, Information, and Knowledge Exchange Systems	23,786,200.63	21,404,054.96	89.99%
Total Trust Fund from Other Sources	344,653,710.00	185,616,710.97	53.86%



The DOST-PCHRD Executive Director Jaime Montoya is awarded by the Professional Regulation Commission as Outstanding Physician of the Year.

Dr. Montoya is a highly-skilled infectious disease expert and seasoned health researcher. He is the lead convenor of the Philippine National Health Research System and the current president of the Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology.

The 2021 Outstanding Professional Awards is organized by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) together with the Foundation of the Outstanding Professionals Inc.

It is anchored on the theme "Role of Filipino Professionals in Sustaining National Development and International Collaboration amidst Global Challenges."

03 PCHRD Personnel

As of 31 December 2020, the Council has employed 135 technical staff, 44 administrative and 9 support staff - 3 with doctorate degrees, 31 with master's degrees, 145 with bachelor degrees, 2 with post highschool diplomas, and 4 with high school diplomas.

04 ISO 9001:2015

PCHRD maintained its ISO 9001:2015 certification after passing the Annual Quality Audit conducted by Certification International Philippines, Inc. in 2021.

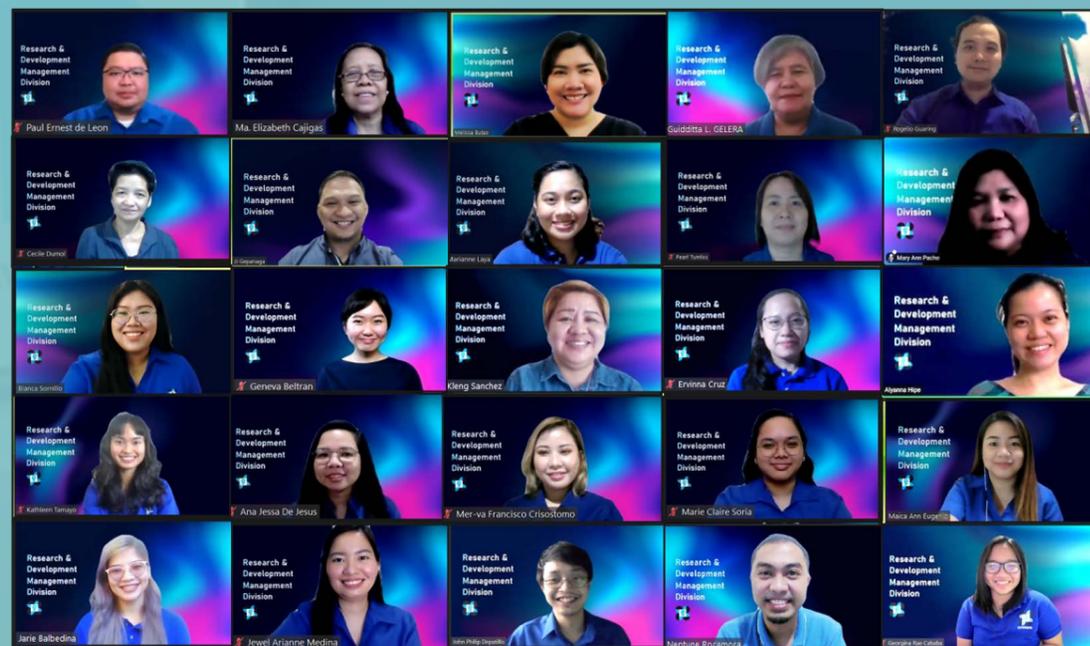
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (OED)



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION (FAD)



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT DIVISION (RDMD)

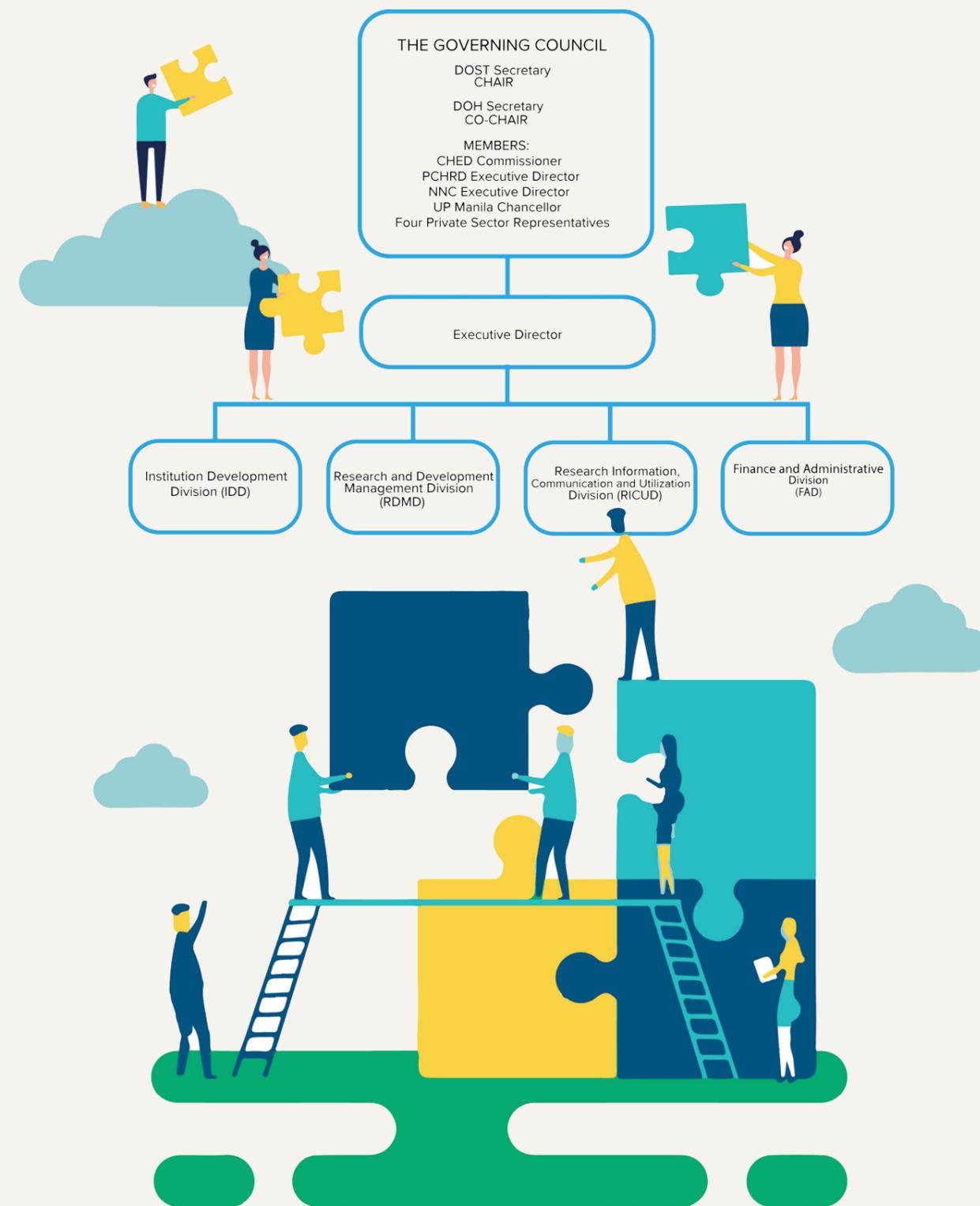
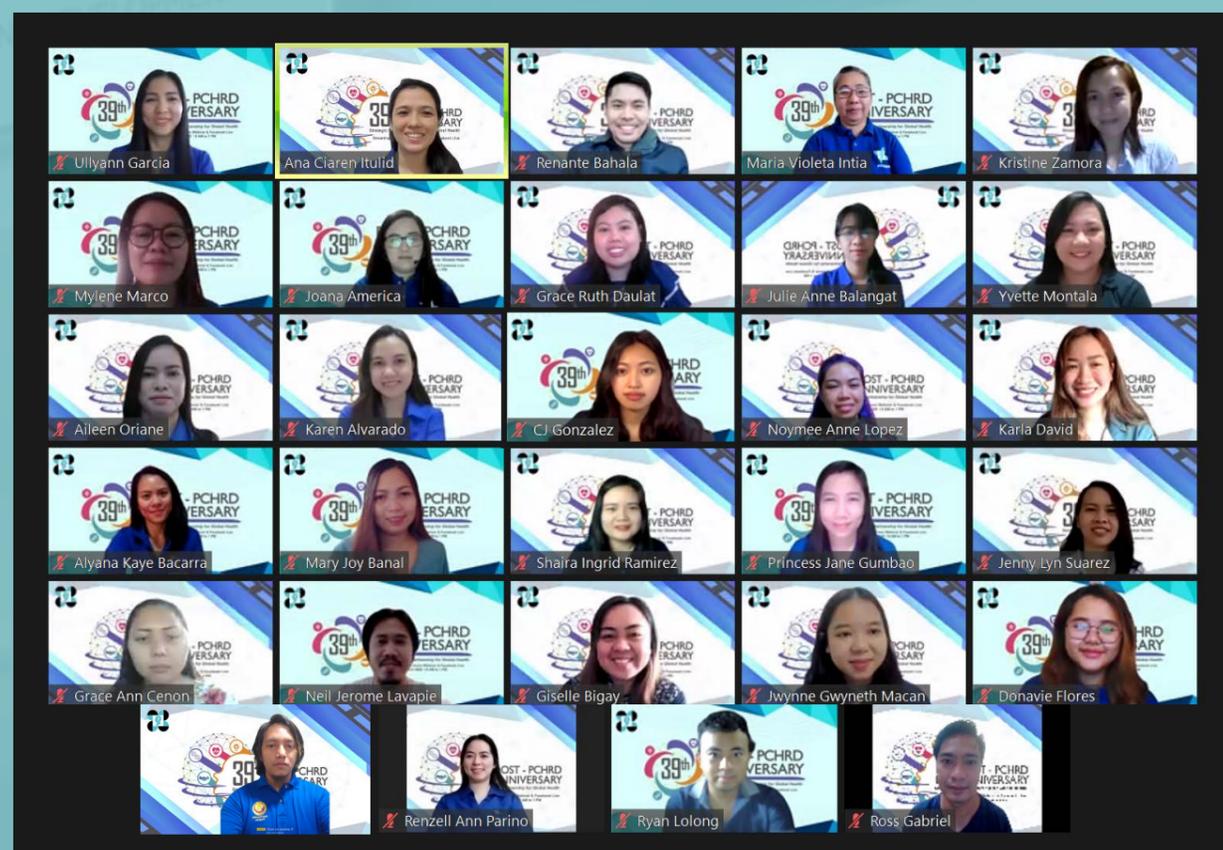


INSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (IDD)



05 Organizational Structure

RESEARCH INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND UTILIZATION DIVISION (RICUD)





ANNEXES

Funded Projects

COMPLETED

COVID-19

Validation Study of A Locally-Developed Electronic Stethoscope Prototype “E-Steth” Using A Phantom-Based Simulation System in the Auscultation of Lung Sounds

SIBOL Personal Protective Equipment - Design and Development of Locally-Manufactured, Reusable, Powered, AirPurifying Respirator (PAPR)

SIBOL: CleanIntubate: Laryngoscope Blade Disinfection Device
SIBOL COVID Task Force - Telemetry System for COVID-19 PGH Response Team

SOLIDARITY Treatment Trial: Multicenter Randomized Trial of Additional Treatments for COVID19 in Hospitalized Patients
Convalescent Plasma Therapy as Adjunctive Therapy for Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19

SIBOL SaniPod: Self-Contained Disinfecting Cubicle

Two-stage, Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial on the efficacy and safety of Lagundi (*Vitex negundo*) tablets/syrup (NIRPROMP formulation) with standard treatment compared to placebo with standard treatment in patients with mild COVID disease without co-morbidities.

Biosurveillance of COVID-19 in the Philippines through Whole Genome Sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 from Patients

SIBOL COVID Task Force - Telepresence Terminals for COVID19 Response Team

The Beneficial Effects of VCO among Suspects and Probable Cases of COVID-19

Intravenous Tocilizumab as Treatment for Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19

Clinical Characteristics and Transmission Patterns of COVID 19 in Confirmed Cases and their Contacts in the Philippines

Community-based surveillance of COVID-19 with rRT-PCR Using Pooled Specimens Testing Technique

Virgin Coconut Oil as Adjunctive Therapy for Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients

"Modeling Embarkation-Disembarkation Behavior and Configuration Settings in Philippine Commuter Buses, Light Rail Transit, and Metro Rail Transit using Theoretical and Computational Fluid Dynamics as Analytical Tools in the Mitigation of SARS-CoV-2 Airborne Transmission"

Melatonin as Adjuvant treatment for Covid-19 in Patients Requiring hospitalization

SIBOL CoVID PPE- Reusable Face Mask Employing Biodegradable

Non-Woven Nanofibers Membrane

ADDS: Development of an Amplified DNA Detection System (ADDS) for the Detection of SARS-Cov-2 based on the thermocycler output of FDA-approved COVID-19 RT-PCR kits.

miPCR: Development of a Microfluidic Miniaturised PCR Device (miPCR) for SARS-Cov-2 RNA Amplification via FDA-approved COVID-19 RT-PCR kits
'SWIFTeR': A focused study to validate a streamlined COVID-19 testing technology

A randomized controlled clinical trial on the efficacy and safety of Tawa-tawa (*Euphorbia hirta* L.) extract as an adjunctive treatment for mild to moderate COVID-19 patients

SIBOL Fabrication and Characterization of UV and Hydrogen Peroxide Vaporization for Disinfection of N95 Respirators
Suitability of Saliva as an Alternative Clinical Specimen for the Detection of SARS-CoV-2

TUKLAS LUNAS

Discovery and Development of Natural Products from Mindanao Marine Resources - Project 2. Seahorses and Pipefishes with Pharmaceutical Potentials from Selected Areas in Mindanao, Philippines

Discovery of Cardiometabolic Bioactives from Plants in Central Philippines (USC-TLDC Phase 2) - Project 1: Screening for Cardiometabolic Bioactives from Herbal Plants

Discovery and Development of Health Products: Disease-Specific Bioactive Hits from Terrestrial Organisms
Confirmatory and Orthogonal Assays to Eliminate Artefactual Drug

Bioactivities (Phase 2): Expanded Suite of Assays to include Multiple Hallmarks of Cancer

Philippine Biorepository Network
Embarking on the Establishment of a DNA/RNA Repository for Philippine Medicinal Plants

Development of the Philippine Medicinal Plant Biobank Data Management System

Seed banking for Long-term Sustainable Conservation and Utilization of Philippine Medicinal Plants

Discovery of Cardiometabolic Bioactives from Plants in Central Philippines (USC-TLDC Phase 2) Project 2: In Vitro Toxicity and Orthogonal Assays for Cardiometabolic Bioactives

Pharmafern: Development of Health Products from Ferns

Project 1: Pteri-Nursery: Mass Propagation of Selected Ferns for Development of Health Products

Project 3. Development of Topical Anti-inflammatory Formulations from Ferns

Project 4. Chemical Profiling and Standardization of Developed Herbal Products and Establishment of Metabolite Extraction Laboratory

FUNCTIONAL FOODS

Myko-mining and Myko-pharming of Wild Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms in Luzon Island, Philippines for their Medicinal Properties Program

Project 4. Development of Mushroom-Based Functional Foods

PHARMAFERN: Development of Herbal Products from Ferns
Project 2. OPTIFern: Optimization, Packaging, Technology, and Innovation of Functional Food Products from Ferns

BerryPinoy: Exploring the Potentials of Philippine Indigenous Berries as Functional Foods

Project 1. Philippine Indigenous Berries: Bioactive components and in vitro biochemical activities

Project 2. Philippine Indigenous Berries: In Vivo Studies on Toxicity and Effects on Biomarkers of Obesity and Associated Metabolic Disorders (Dyslipidemia, Inflammation, and Oxidative Stress)

Product Development, Validation of Hypoglycemic Effect, Pilot Testing and Assessment of Business Potentials of the Guava Leaf-based Probiotic Beverage Ingredient

NUTRITION AND FOOD SAFETY

Prevalence and Associated Risk Factors of Impaired and High Fasting Blood Glucose among Filipino Adults, 18 years old and over: Expanded National Nutrition Survey 2018

DIAGNOSTICS

Development of Novel Radiopharmaceuticals for Management and Detection of Early Stage Prostate Cancer

RE-EMERGING AND EMERGING DISEASES

Field Validation Study on the Diagnostic Utility of Biotek-M™ Dengue Aqua Kit for 2019 Dengue Outbreak in Regions 6 and 4A

Dengue Communication: Discovering Prevailing Perceptions Toward Dengue and Dengvaxia

Anthropogenic Landscape Transformation in Makiling Forest Reserve and Its Impact on Dengue Transmission in the Area

Development of a Portable Nanodiagnostic Kit for the Detection of the Dengue and Japanese Encephalitis Virus in Arthropods

Performance of a dengue anti-NS1 assay for the determination of dengue serostatus among children in the Philippines

OHRPA

Shabu Profile Mapping Using Nuclear and Isotopic-based Analytical Techniques

ONGOING

COVID-19

Solidarity Vaccine Trial in the Philippines: Randomized Trial of Candidate Vaccines for COVID-19

A randomized controlled clinical trial on the efficacy and safety of Tawa-tawa (*Euphorbia hirta* L.) extract as an adjunctive treatment for mild to moderate COVID-19 patients

Intravenous Tocilizumab as Treatment for Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19
Melatonin as Adjuvant treatment for Covid-19 in Patients Requiring hospitalization

Convalescent Plasma Therapy as Adjunctive Therapy for Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19

Evaluation of Plasma Therapy for Retarding Progression and Preventing Complications in COVID-19

SOLIDARITY Treatment Trial: Multicenter Randomized Trial of Additional Treatments for COVID19 in Hospitalized Patients

Clinical Characteristics and Transmission Patterns of COVID 19 in Confirmed Cases and their Contacts in the Philippines

Biosurveillance of COVID-19 in the Philippines through Whole Genome Sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 from Patients

miPCR: Development of a Microfluidic Miniaturised PCR Device (miPCR) for SARS-Cov-2 RNA Amplification via FDA-approved COVID-19 RT-PCR kits

ADDS: Development of an Amplified DNA Detection System (ADDS) for the Detection of SARS-Cov-2 based on the thermocycler output of FDA-approved COVID-19 RT-PCR kits.

Immune Cell Phenotype Characterization of Moderate to Severe Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Patients at the Philippine General Hospital

Utility of Various Biomarkers in Detecting Cytokine Storm Syndromes and Predicting Disease Progression and In-Hospital Mortality Among Patients with Moderate to Severe COVID-19 disease at a Philippine Tertiary Hospital

'SWIFTeR': A focused study to validate a streamlined COVID-19 testing technology (for approval)

Suitability of Saliva as an Alternative Clinical Specimen for the Detection of SARS-CoV-2

SIBOL SaniPod: Self-Contained Disinfecting Cubicle

SIBOL: CleanIntubate: Laryngoscope Blade Disinfection Device

An Experimental Study on the Development of a Liquid Medium for On-Site Inactivation of SARS-CoV-2 for RT-PCR Testing

Association of Abnormal Coagulation Parameters with Adverse Clinical Outcomes among Patients with Moderate to Severe SARS-CoV-2 Infection Admitted in the University of the Philippines -

Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH)

Assessment of the Gut Microbiome for COVID-19 Diagnosis and Prognosis

TUKLAS LUNAS

Discovery and Development of Health Products (DDHP): Disease-Specific Bioactive Hits from Terrestrial Organisms

Project 4. Anti-infective Bioactive Hits Against Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* from Priority Bioactive Extracts

Project 5. Potential Anticancer Bioactive Hits from Priority Bioactive Extracts against Breast Cancer Cell Lines

Project 6. Anti-infective Hits from Priority Bioactive Extracts from Indigenous and Endemic Plants of the Cordillera Against *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

Project 7. Anti-infective Hits from Priority Bioactive Extracts from Fungi

Project 8. Anti-diabetic Bioactive Hits from Priority Bioactive Extracts from Plants Indigenous to Benguet

Project 9. Anti-Lung Cancer Bioactive Hits from Priority Bioactive Extracts

Project 10. Anti-hyperuricemic bioactive hits from priority plant extracts

Project 11. De-replication with LC-MS Based Metabolomics

Synthesis and Derivatization of Disease-specific Bioactive Hits and Lead Compounds (Phase II)

Project 1. Lead Optimization, In Silico Prediction, Molecular Docking and Determination of ADMETox Properties of Small Molecules as Antidiabetic Drugs

Project 2. Molecular Docking and ADME-Tox-guided Synthesis of Azole-Based Anti-Infective Agents

Project 3. Synthesis of Deguelin, Rotenone, and Small Molecule Derivatives as Anticancer Agents

Project 4. Lead Optimization, Molecular Docking and Determination of ADME-Tox Properties of Benzimidazoles with Antihypertensive Activity

Project 5. Lead Optimization of Acrylated Cyclopentenone Derivatives with Anti-Inflammatory and Anti-Cancer Activities: Synthesis, Characterization, SAR and ADMETox Studies

Project 6. Computer-Aided Drug Design of Natural Products-Based, and Synthetic Antidiabetic, Antifungal,

and Anticancer Lead Compounds and Derivatives

Bridging Efficacy and Safety: IND-enabling Suite of ADMETox Assays
Project 1. Optimization of Physico-Chemical Drug Properties

Project 2. Cell-based ADMET assays

Project 3. HPLC and Mass Spectral Studies to Support Various ADMET assays

Project 4. Metabolite Profiling Using Imaging Mass Spectrometry

Project 5. Determination of Pharmacokinetic Properties

DDHP: Marine Component Phase 2

Project 1. Anti-Pain and Anti-Neurodegeneration Drug Candidates: Discovery and Development

Project 2. Anti-Infective and Anti-Cancer Drug Candidates from Marine Microorganisms and Sponges: Discovery and Development

Philippine Biorepository Network - Development of Biobanking Facility for Plant Extracts/Compounds for Drug Discovery

Development of Anti-inflammatory Herbal Products from Iluko Indigenous Plants

Project 3. Formulation Dosage Forms from Standardized Non-toxic Bioactive Extracts from Indigenous Plants

Metabolomics-driven Discovery of Antimicrobial Drug Leads and Anticancer Screening of Extracts from Marine Sediment-Derived Actinomycetes of Iloilo

PHARMAFERN: Development of Health Products from Ferns
Project 5. Anti-inflammatory Compound/s from Select Ferns in Mindanao

Discovery and Development of Natural Products from Mindanao Marine Resources

Project 1. Anti-Cancer Drug Leads from Marine Sponges Collected Off the Coasts of Mindanao

Semi-Purification of Crude Plant Extract: An Essential Step for the Production of Pharmaceutical-Grade Ingredients

Standardized and Safe Tawa-tawa: Filling in the Final Gaps for a Clinically-proven Nutraceutical Product

Nanostructured Herbal Extract of *Momordica charantia* (Bitter Melon/Ampalaya), *Allium sativum* (Garlic) and *Curcuma longa* L. (Turmeric) as Antidiabetic Agents

DIAGNOSTICS

Field Integrated Novel Diagnostics for Flaviviruses (FIND-Flaviviruses)

Project 1: The ArboChip Project: Molecular Arboviral Detection

using Microfluidic Chip Technology

Project 2: Field Integrated Novel Diagnostics for Flaviviruses
Microfluidic Diagnostic Assay

Development of Paper-based Diagnostic kit for HIV Drug Resistance using Recombinase Polymerase Amplification

Aptamer-Based Multiplex Assay for the Early Detection of Leptospirosis

Development of an Animal Model for Use in Radiation Research and Establishment of the Radiation Research Center: Core Facility for Radiobiological Research

Volatile Organic Compounds Detection in Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis Using Multi-array Metal Oxide Gas Sensor

SinoPhil CHARRME: China-Philippines Cooperation for Harnessing and Accelerating Research and Resources on Microvesicles and Exosomes (Development of Exosome Probe Chip as Potential Diagnostic for Autoimmune Diseases)

OMICS

Early CANcer Detection in the LivEr of Filipinos with Chronic Hepatitis B Using AI-Driven Integration of Clinical and Genomic Biomarkers (CANDLE Study)
Project 1: Establishing a Clinical and Genomic Profile of Filipinos for Early Detection of Liver Cancer

A Proposal to Establish the Philippine Genome Center - Protein, Proteomics and Metabolomics Facility (PPMF)
Installation and Operation of the Philippine Genome Center -Protein Proteomics, and Metabolomics Facility (PPMF)

Enhanced Capability Building in R&D in Genomics
Establishment of Genomics Consortium and Core Facility in Mindanao
Establishment of Genomics Consortium and Core Facility in Visayas
Program Management Coordination

Clinical Proteomics for Cancer Initiative: A Proteomics-Based Discovery of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Biomarkers and Drug Targets in the Philippines

Project 1: Assembly and Archiving of Clinical Samples for Proteomic Analysis

Project 2: Sample Processing for Proteomic Analysis and Functional Characterization and Early Clinical Confirmation of Biomarker Application"

Project 3: Proteomic analysis of aberrant protein expression in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC)

RE-EMERGING AND EMERGING DISEASES

The Clinical and Demographic Profile of Dengvaxia Vaccinees with Suspected Acute Dengue Infection

Autopsy Evaluations of Pathological and Immunological Events in Fatal Infections Caused by Arboviruses and Emerging Infections

Seasonal Arboviruses of *Aedes albopictus* (Diptera: Culicidae) in

Highland and Lowland Sites of Cebu city, Philippines

OHRPA

The Philippine COPD Profile and Survival Study (CPASS): A Multicenter, Prospective Cohort, Observational Study

The International Polycap Study 3 (TIPS3)

Prospective Urban and Rural Epidemiologic (PURE) Study

Regional Prospective Observational Research for Tuberculosis (RePORT)

Community Approach to Control and Halt Drug-Resistant TB (COACH DRTB)

Long Term outcomes of Diagnosed Tuberculosis Cases in the Philippines

Assessment of Diagnostic Algorithms and Tools for Multidrug Resistant and Drug Sensitive Tuberculosis in the Philippines Part II (TB-FIT 2)

Institutional Grant for Invigorating Basic Research on Health Sciences Phase II

Cataloging Possible Philippine Strains of Zika and African Swine Fever Viruses and Coconut Cadang-Cadang Viroid through Genome Sequencing

NEW

COVID-19

Repurposing of Existing Drugs, Supplements and Other Formulation and Clinical Trials of Candidates Drugs/ Formulations

Anti-Coronavirus Therapies to prevent progression of COVID-19 (ACT), a randomized trial

Technical Battle Against COVID

Project 1: Design and Synthesis of SARS-COV2, ACE2, SARS-COV2:ACE2 Destabilizing Compounds

Project 2: Rational Design and Structural Modifications of ACE2 Inhibitors from Terrestrial Plants

SOLIDARITY Treatment Trial PLUS: An International Randomized Trial of Additional Treatments for COVID-19 in Hospitalized Patients Who Are All Receiving the Local Standard of Care

A Study Evaluating the Safety and Immunogenicity of Mixing Different COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccine Platforms in Filipino Adults

Philippine Vaccine Effectiveness Project: A Post-COVID-19 Vaccination Surveillance Among Filipino Adults

Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Randomized Controlled Trial to Assess the Efficacy, Safety, and Effect on Viral Clearance of Ivermectin in Asymptomatic and Non-Severe COVID-19 Patients Confined in Isolation Facilities

Diagnostics and Kit Validation Studies

Collection and Archiving of Patient Sera and Plasma for Immunochemical Analysis to Detect Antibodies Against Infectious Pathogens

Durability and extent of protection of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies among patients with COVID-19
CRISPR-based Diagnostics (CRISPR-Dx) for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 and TB
Development of a Cell-Based Immunoassay for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Serologic Testing

COVID-19 Behavior Studies

Seroprevalence of SARS COV2 in Communities in the Philippines

Vaccine Immune Response and Outcome Monitoring with Epitope Sequences (VIROMES): Application to Philippine WHO SOLIDARITY COVID-19 Vaccine Trial

TUKLAS LUNAS

Formulation Quality Control and Stability Studies on Immediate-Release Tablets of Fixed-Dose Combinations of Clostazol and Aspirin

Discovery of Cardiometabolic Bioactives from Plants in Central Philippines (USC-TLDC Phase 2)

Project 3: Chemical Standardization of the Raw Material, Spray-dried Extracts and Dosage Forms from Selected Plants with Antihyperglycemic Activity

Project 5: Formulation Studies of Spray-dried Extracts from Plants with Antihyperglycemic Activity

Discovery and Development of Health Products: Disease-Specific Bioactive Hits from Terrestrial Organisms

Confirmatory and Orthogonal Assays to Eliminate Artefactual Drug Bioactivities (Phase 3): Continuing Needs of the Tuklas Lunas Program

Securing the health of the Filipino for the Next Millennium: The National Institutes of Health Clinical Research (NIH-CR)

Project 1: Science-Based Clinical Research Management Practices

FUNCTIONAL FOODS

Philippine Program for Diagnostic Biomarkers, Disease Modeling, and Nutraceutical Product Development (Phil-DIAMOND): Initial Focus on HIV-Related Neurocognitive and Metabolic Complications

Project 3: Development of a Safe Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB)-based Biofunctional Health-promoting Product as an Adjunct Intervention for the Management of HIV-associated Metabolic Complications

NUTRITION AND FOOD SAFETY

Relationship of body composition to the functional capacity and quality of life of older Filipinos in selected provinces in the Philippines

Assessment of trans fat content of selected processed food

DIGITAL FRONTIERS FOR HEALTH

Immersive Technology Applications in Healthcare
Developing Immersive Technology System for the Management of Patients with Dementia and Behavioral and Psychological Symptoms (Phase 1)

Developing Immersive Technology Gamification System for Rehabilitation Management of Pediatric Patients with Cerebral Palsy and Mobility Limitations

Local Government Unit-mandated eHealth Networked Services for Universal Health Care (UHC LeHNS)

The LISA Robot: Logistic Indoor Service Assistant Telepresence Robot

RabCast: Proof-of-concept for a Forecasting Tool for Rabies Spread in Davao City Through Combined Genomic and Mathematical Approaches

Rapid Assessment of Health Information Systems towards Pandemic Resiliency and UHC in Two Provinces

POWer App: Mobile Health Application Development for Remote Screening & Early Detection of Children with Mobility Impairment

MENTAL HEALTH

Novel Approaches to Treatment of Addiction and Depression Using Animal Models

Cessation of toluene (Rugby) addiction in adolescents: Using a rodent model to test novel pharmacological and behavioral treatments for overcoming withdrawal and craving

Depression, Anxiety, Self-Harm and Suicidal Behavior among Students in Higher Education Institutions: Sociocultural Determinants, Detection and Intervention towards Social Emotional Learning - A Collaborative Study

Mapping of Socio-Cultural Factors and Determinants Associated with Depression, Anxiety, Self-Harm and Suicidality among Students in Higher Education Institutions

Development and Effectiveness of Fully Automated Conversational Agents (Chatbots) for Enhancing Public Mental Health: From Pilot Study to Randomized Controlled Trial

DIAGNOSTICS

Development of Novel Detection Tools for the Integrated Surveillance and Monitoring of Helminthic Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) of Mutual Public Health Importance in the Philippines and China

SinoPhil CHARRME: China-Philippines Cooperation for Harnessing and Accelerating Research and Resources on Microvesicles and Exosomes (Development of Exosome Probe Chip as Potential Diagnostic for Autoimmune Diseases)

OMICS

Philippine Program for Diagnostic Biomarkers, Disease Modeling and Nutraceutical Product Development (Phil-DIAMOND): Initial Focus on HIV-related Neurocognitive and Metabolic Complications
Biomarkers of Immune Dysfunction in HIV - associated Metabolic and Neurocognitive Complications

Development of HIV Disease Models and in vitro Investigation of HIV-related Neurocognitive and Metabolic Complications

Breast Cancer in the Philippines: Gene Expression Profiling of Breast Cancer Among Filipinos and Development of Breast Cancer Mammosphere Assay Toward Individualized Cancer Management
Next Generation Sequencing -based expression profiling of Breast Cancer among Filipinos and Prediction of

Response to Neoadjuvant Therapy for Locoregionally-Advanced Breast Cancer in Filipinos

Development of Breast Cancer Mammosphere Assay for Chemotherapy Screening

Center for Applied Modeling, Data Analytics, and Bioinformatics for Decision-Support Systems in Health

PPASTOL: Predictive Modeling and Viral Phylodynamic Analysis on the Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Disease Outbreaks with considerations for Control and Logistics applied in Mindanao region"

RESILIEMC: Risk Management and Enhanced Survival Analysis Integrated through Longitudinal Infectious Disease Data and Statistical Epidemiological Model using Clinical Risk Factors

CUSOG: Vulnerability Assessment Tool: A Decision Support System for Pre-Emptive Preparedness on Emerging Infections Among Animal Reservoir in Urban Green Spaces

WAGAS: Integrated Wastewater-Based Epidemiology and Data Analytics for Community-Level Pathogen Surveillance and Genetic Tracking: Proof-of-Concept

Early CANcer Detection in the LivEr of Filipinos with Chronic Hepatitis B Using AI-Driven Integration of Clinical and Genomic Biomarkers (CANDLE Study)

Project 2. AI-driven Integration of Genomic, Ultrasound, Serum Biomarkers, and Clinical data for Early Diagnosis of Liver Cancer

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING AND HOSPITAL TECHNOLOGY

Surgical Device Innovation Research and Development (R&D) Infrastructure, Capacity Building and Incubation Program: Proposal for Establishment of the University of the Philippines Manila (UPM) College of Medicine (UPCM) - Philippine General Hospital (PGH) Surgical Innovation and Biotechnology Laboratory (SIBOL)
iFIX: Design and Fabrication of External Fixator

Operating Room Programmable Electronically Targeted Active Lighting System (OR PETALS)

iBlood: A Compact Device for Measuring Intraoperative Blood Loss in Used Surgical Gauze and Laparotomy Packs

Establishment of the University of the Philippines Manila College of Medicine (UPCM) - (PGH) Surgical Innovation and Biotechnology Laboratory (SIBOL)

Nanotexturing of Stainless Steel 316L by Electrochemical Etching for Biological Implants

RE-EMERGING AND EMERGING DISEASES

Epidemiology, Evolutionary Dynamics and Phylogenetic Analysis of Rabies Virus in the Philippines

Persistence of immunological memory to malaria infection in areas of declining transmission

Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines (VIP) Program
P1: Isolation and purification of Philippine Common Viruses with medical importance and pandemic potential for Antigen-Antibody Studies"

P2: Combination Therapy: Lytic Bacteriophages and Plant Extracts against Multidrug-Resistant Bacteria"

P3: Detection of food and water-borne bacterial pathogens using phage-based diagnostics

Project 8 : DEVELOPMENT OF ANTIBODY TEST KITS FOR COVID-19 USING ENZYME IMMUNOASSAY

List of scholars

MD-PHD IN MOLECULAR MEDICINE

NEW

Alcazar, Renne Margaret U.
MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine, UPM

Bacong, Junelle Rey C.
MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine, UPM

Capistrano, Nhel John L.
MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine,
UPM

Catral, Charlene Divine M.
MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine,
UPM

Falcon, Robbi Miguel G.
MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine,
UPM

Guda, Justin V.
MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine,
UPM

Remucal, Mark Joseph R.
MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine,
UPM

COMPLETED

Callanta, Maria Llaine J.
MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine,
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Cruz, Criselda Jean G.
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Gordovez, Francis James A.
MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine,
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Padua, Ana Joy P.
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Santos, Jericho R.
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Tabios, Ian Kim B.
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UPM

ONGOING

Abrilla, Aedrian A.
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Altavas, Patrick D.K.
MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine,
UPM

Aquino, Inah Marie C.
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UPM

Asis, Joannes Luke B.
MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine,
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Badua, Christian Luke D.C.
MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine,
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Baldo, Karol Ann T.
MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine,
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Bal-lyang, Kenworth Bryle A.
MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine,
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Barcena, Allan John R.
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Bolinas, Dominic Karl M.
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Bongon, Patricia Ann G.
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UPM

Buan, Ara Karizza G.
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Cabungcag, Nica
MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine,
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UPM
Cruz, Joana Marie C.
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De Galicia, Bryan Paul D.
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De Sagon, Scott Dean P.
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Dela Rosa, Jared Gabriel L.
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Llagas, Julia Patricia B.
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Reyes, Nico Alexander L.
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UPM

Teh, Treena Rica D. A.
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MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine,
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Uy, Mary Nadine Alessandra R.
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Velasco, Adrian Jonathan D.
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MD-PhD in Molecular Medicine,
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PHD IN MOLECULAR BIOMEDICINE SCHOLARS

NEW

Allen Anthony Larano
PhD in Molecular Biomedicine

John Paul Llido
PhD in Molecular Biomedicine

ONGOING

Cabral, Loraine Kay D.
PhD in Molecular Biomedicine

Salvoza, Noel C.
PhD in Molecular Biomedicine

DOCTORAL DEGREE

ONGOING

Ang, Mary Jean C.
PhD Medical Microbiology,
UPM

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PhD Epidemiology, UPM

Bacudio, Ana Maria A.
PhD Medical Microbiology,
UPM

Bonifacio, Julie Charmain O.
PhD Biology, UPD

Cruz, Rogelio S.
PhD Biological Science, UST

Cuarto, Ceazar Ryan U.
PhD Chemistry, UST

Dimaguiba, Justin Rachele P.
PhD Biology, SLU

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PhD Health Promotion and
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Maramag, Cherry C.
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Miranda, Sheila De Vera
PhD Pharmacy, UST

Ongpoy, Romeo C. Jr.
PhD Pharmacy, UST

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PhD Nutrition, UPD

Sabinay, Stephen G.
PhD Molecular Biology and
Biotechnology, UPLB

Safra, Sheila Arelli G.

PhD Health Promotion and
Education, UPM

Sucol, Yusuf A.
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Varona, Gracia F.
PhD Parasitology, UPM

MASTER'S DEGREE

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De Guzman, Raphael Joshua C.
MS Molecular Medicine, SLMC

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Limpoco, Anna Guia O.
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Balce, Roderick D.
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MS PH Epidemiology,

UERMMMC	Dicdican, Isabel D. MS Chemistry, MSU-IIT	Manansala, Teddy S. MS Biochemistry, UPM	MS PH Epidemiology, UERMMMC
Bernabe, Enrique-Rene G. MS Pharmacy, UST	Dimafelix, Paul Raymond S. MS PH Epidemiology, UERMMMC	Manuel, Kaycee G. MS PH Epidemiology, UERMMMC	Rosario, Mary Rose D. MS Clinical Epidemiology, UPM
Botabara, Isagani B. MS Biological Sciences, UST	Diño, Maria Patricia H. MS Molecular Medicine, SLCM	Marzan, Emil G. MS PH Epidemiology, UERMMMC	San Valentin, Erin Marie D. C. MS Molecular Medicine, SLCM
Branzuela, Sandra Mei M. MS in Molecular Medicine, SLCM	Fernandico, Adrian G. MS Molecular Medicine, SLCM	Maynes, Tricia L. MS Molecular Medicine, SLCM	Sarabia, Katherine Pearl B. MS Molecular Medicine, SLCM
Buhain, Rose Mabell C. MS PH Epidemiology, UPM	Galino, Jeffrey R. MS Applied Physics, UST	Mendoza, Lei Lanna C. MS Medical Microbiology, UST	Sayson, Alton John T. MS PH Epidemiology, UERMMMC
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Caulan, Juan Jhonny M. MS Pharmacy, UST	Hernandez, Maria Christa A. MS Pharmacy, UST	Napulan, Roderick M. MS Biostatistics, UPM	Soriano, Simonette C. MS PH Epidemiology, UPM
Chi, Jean Pauline C. MS Asian Health Practices, UERMMMC	Intal, Ma. Verna Y. MS Nutrition, UPD	Oco-Panganiban, Maria Michelle Joy P. MS Family Medicine, UPM	Tayco, Crimson C. MS Molecular Biology And Biotechnology, UPD
Concepcion, Maria Gracia R. MS Molecular Medicine, SLCM	Javier, Anna Katrina A. MS PH Epidemiology, UPM	Pagarigan, Geraldine MS Tropical Medicine, UPM	Teh, Davidson B. MS PH Epidemiology, UERMMMC
Contreras, Patrice Melody C. MS Molecular Medicine, SLCM	Ladion, Wendell Lou B. MS Biology, MSU-IIT	Pataray, Celia Amour B. MS Applied Physics, UST	Teruel, Patricia Lyanne A. MS Molecular Medicine, SLCM
Cruz, Anna Krizzia A. MS Molecular Medicine, SLCM	Lamac, Maria Ruby L. MS PH Epidemiology, UPM	Perez, Jean H. MS Chemistry, USC	Toledo, Franklin U. MS Applied Physics, UST
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Dagohoy, Marites S. MS Pharmacy, UST	Landicho, Shenjira A. MS PH Epidemiology, UPM	Quingking, Cherie Grace G. MS Clinical Epidemiology, UPM	Usman, Lourdes Consolacion R. MS Pharmacy, UPM
David, April Joy G. MS PH Epidemiology, UERMMMC	Lao, Raphaella G. MS Molecular Medicine, SLCM	Ravelo, Celia R. MS Pharmacology, UPM	Uy, Hilda T. MS PH Epidemiology, UERMMMC
David, Xenia P. MS Pharmacology, UPM	Limbaga, Lorenzo Gabriel C. MS Molecular Medicine, SLCM	Rebugio, Jesamine F. MS Environmental Science, UPLB	Valenzuela, Madonna M. MS Biostatistics, UPM
De Jesus, Christopher C. MS Pharmacology, UPM	Lucero, Jennifer L. MS Molecular Medicine, SLCM	Resurreccion, Michael M. MS Clinical Epidemiology, UPM	Velasquez, Dethalee Gabrielle R. MS in Molecular Medicine, SLCM
De Leon, Rochee M. MS PH Epidemiology, UERMMMC	Mabeza, Gaiselle F. MS Chemistry, UPD	Reyes, Ruth Irene N. MS Population Studies, UPD	Visda, Ann N. MS Molecular Medicine, SLCM
Del Rosario, Glenn Sandee C. MS PH Medical Microbiology, UPM	Macatangay, Sheila H. MS PH Epidemiology, UERMMMC	Romano, Christopher T. MS Molecular Medicine, SLCM	William, Karmille-Allyson D. MS PH Epidemiology, UERMMMC
Delicana, Reuel C. MS Molecular Medicine, SLCM	Malenab, Ma. Christina T. MS Environmental Science, UPD	Romero, Daryl Colanta	Yap, Kristine Jeanne A. MS Medical Microbiology, UPM

Zimmer, Mary Christine G.
MS Molecular Medicine, SLCM

Regional Research Fund

COMPLETED

Region III
Comparative Antidiabetic Properties of Red Rice and Black Rice Extracts and Germinated Brown Rice (*Oryza sativa*) using Diabetic Mice Models: Basis for Drug Formulation and Optimization
Pampanga State Agricultural University

Region III
Analgesic Activity of *Canaga odorata* (Lam.) Hook F & Thomson Leaves Decoction
University of the Assumption

Region III
Isolation and Characterization of Antibiotic Producing Endophytic Microbes from Weeds in Major Landfills in Pampanga
Angeles University Foundation

ONGOING

Region I
Assessment of Organizational Cultures of Health Workforce in DOH- Retained Hospitals, Region 1
Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center

Region I Platelet Augmenting, Nephroprotective and Hepatoprotective Activities of sweet potato leaf (*Ipomoea batatas*) extract
Virgen Milagrosa University Foundation Inc.

Region I
Anti-Thrombocytopenic Activity of Formulated Papaya (*Carica papaya*) and Guava (*Psidium Guajava*) Capsule on Sprague Dawley (*Rattus Norvegicus*) Rat
Virgen Milagrosa University Foundation Inc.

Region I
Hearing Screening Protocol Among Pupils With Special Healthcare Needs in Ilocos Norte
Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center

Region I
Serologic SARS CoV 2 Antibody Level and Factors Affecting Its Production After COVID-19 Vaccination Among Employees of Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center
Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center

Region III
Detection of *Staphylococcus aureus* and its Methicillin-Resistant Strain: A Basis for a Proposed Effective Infection Prevention and Control Program of Selected Government Hospitals in Pampanga
Pampanga State Agricultural University (PSAU)

Region III

The Anti-oxidant and Histo-protective Potentials of Balakat Tree (*Ziziphus talanai* (Blanco) Merr.) against Monosodium Glutamate-induced Neurological Aberrations in Male CD-1 Mice
Pampanga State Agricultural University (PSAU)

Region III
Probiotic Potential of Lactic Acid Bacteria from Fermented Market-Scrapped Fruit and Vegetable Materials and its Antagonistic Activity against Selected Food and Water Borne Pathogens
Central Luzon State University (CLSU)

Region V
In vitro and In Vivo Anti-hypercholesterolemic activity of *Alocasia macrorrhiza* (Araceae) and its Food Products
Partido State University

Region VI
FightBac: Virtual Screening for Quorum Quenchers from Natural Product Database and their Synergistic Antibacterial Study
UP Visayas

Region VII
Microplastic and Its Public Health Implications in Select Key Tourist Destinations in Cebu, Philippines
Cebu Technological University

Region VII
Nutritional Composition of *Halymenia durvillei* and its Potential Use as a Food Ingredient
University of San Carlos

Region VII
Developing a Tool to Measure the Decision-Making Processes in Sex Practices among Men-who-have-sex-with-men anchored on Protection Motivation Theory (PMT)
Cebu Technological University

Region VIII
Assessment of the Prevalence of Foodborne Pathogens from Meat-based Street Foods in Selected Cities of Leyte
VSU - Baybay Leyte

Region VIII
Clinico-Demographic Profile of Reported Child Injury Cases in Selected Rural Municipalities in N. Samar (2014 - 2016)
University of Eastern Philippines VIII
Chips Consumption as a Risk factor for UTI Among School Children in Tacloban City
Eastern Visayas State University

Region VIII
Awareness and Extent of Utilization of Health Services among Persons with Disability in Eastern Samar
Eastern Samar State University

Region VIII
Child Injury Among Patients Seen in All District Hospitals of Leyte
Leyte Provincial Hospital

Region VIII
Compliance to Department of Health Licensing Standards for Quality Water in Hospital and Non-Hospital Based Hemodialysis Clinics in Region VIII
Department of Health - Eastern Visayas Center for Health

Development

Region VIII
Prevalence and Nature of Antibiotic Residues in Pork and Poultry Meats Collected from Public Wet Markets and Private Meatshops in Leyte
VSU Baybay

Region VIII
TAMBALAN: An Ethno-botanical Study Traditional Healing Practices and Herbal Medicines in Sitio Pena 2, Calbayog City
NwSSU

Region VIII
Level of Health-Seeking Behavior of Dengue Patients and Carers During COVID-19 Pandemic in the Municipalities of Kawayan and Naval, Biliran Province"
BiPSU

Region IX
Synergistic Anti-Urolithiatic Activity Of Potassium Citrate And *Blumea Balsifera* Extract On Calcium Oxalate Stones
Universidad de Zamboanga

Region IX
Determination of chlortetracycline residue in chicken (*Gallus gallus domesticus*) meat products from public markets of Zamboanga City
Universidad de Zamboanga

Region IX
Antioxidant and Anti-Arthritic Activity of the Extract from Peels of Citrus Fruits "
Universidad de Zamboanga

Region IX
The Presence of Microplastics in the five most commonly sold fishes in Zamboanga City
Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology

Region IX
Waste Optimization of Calamansi Peels: Essential Oils and Biodegradable Microbeads
Universidad de Zamboanga

Region IX
Systematic Review on Philippine traditional plants with inhibitory properties against SARS- COV-2 and other viruses
Western Mindanao State University (WMSU)

Region X
Mathematical Models for Predictions and Preparedness (MMOPREPARE) Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology

Region XI
Evaluation of the Antibacterial Properties of Cocoa (*Theobroma cacao*) Husk Extracts
Davao Doctors College

Region XI
Survey of ectoparasites of avian species visiting fruit orchards of Davao City: Detection of possible zoonoses
San Pedro College

Region XI
Plant mediated synthesis of silver nanoparticles using mangosteen pericarp and their antimicrobial potential
University of the Philippines Mindanao

Region XI
Evaluation of Philippine Mango pectin as tablet binder for formulated Sambong tablet
University of Immaculate Conception

Region XI
Carotenoid Extraction and Characterization from Davao Carrots as a Potential Pharmaceutical Colorant
University of Immaculate Conception

Region XI
Health-risk Behaviors and Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) in Mindanao, Philippines
University of Mindanao

CAR
Predictive Risk Mapping of Leptospirosis in Benguet using Environmental and Socioeconomic Data
University of the Philippines Baguio (UPB)

CAR
Quantification of Antibiotic Resistance Genes of Enterobacteriaceae from an Organic Farm and their Products in Benguet
University of the Philippines Baguio (UPB)

CARAGA
Ultrastructural Characterization of Snail-associated Digenic Parasites in Ricefields Surrounding Lake Mainit, Philippines: Implications for Transmission and Control of Schistosomiasis and Snail Transmitted Diseases: Phase I (Collection and Isolation of Trematodes)
Caraga State University

CARAGA
Factors Associated with Acceptability of Mass Drug Administration for Morbidity Control of Schistosomiasis
Father Saturnino Urios University

CARAGA
Understanding and Assessing COVID-19 Situation in Caraga Region, Philippines using Statistical Models and Analyses (UnCoV Caraga/ PH using Stats 2020)
Caraga State University

CARAGA
Health Risk Management Practices in Flood-Prone Public Elementary Schools in Caraga Region
Caraga State University

Region II
Bioassay-Guided Isolation of Antibacterial Compounds from *Mikania cordata* Flower against Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) Clinical Isolate
St. Mary's University

Region II
Comprehensive Evaluation of the Molluscicidal Activity of *Euphorbia splendens* Latex against *Oncomelania quadrasi*
St. Paul University Philippines

Region II

Assessment of Infection Prevention and Control in Different Levels of Health Care Facility in Cagayan Valley (Region II) C a g a y a n State University

NCR
Determination of the Efficacy of Okra Seed Powder in Aqueous Solution as Glucose Lowering Agent Compared to Acarbose in STZ Diabetic Rats
University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, Inc.

Region III
Green Synthesis of Metal Oxide Cellulose Nanocrystals (MO-CNC) for Health-related Applications Phase 1 Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology

Region V
Screening for New Antimicrobials and Antioxidants from Penicillium and Talaromyces Species Isolated from Various Sources in Bicol Region, Philippines
Bicol University

Region VII
Molecular Detection of Selected Tick-borne Pathogens in dogs, dog owners and veterinary clinicians/technicians in Cebu, Philippines
Cebu Technological University - Main Campus

NCR
Associations of Physical Activity, Screen time and Sleep with Health and Developmental Outcomes among Filipino Preschool Children
University of Santo Tomas

Region XI
Bacteriocin from Fermented Durian Rinds to Prevent Food Safety Issues
University of Southeastern Philippines

Region XI
Screening and Quantification of Antimicrobial Residues in Chicken Meat and Tissues in Davao City using Microbial Inhibition Assay and Enzyme-Link Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)
San Pedro College

NCR
Effects of Face Mask Use to Physiologic Parameters during Exercise
University of Santo Tomas

NCR
Telehealth on Hypertension Management among Adults: A Systematic Review
University of Santo Tomas

NCR
Effectiveness of Ultrasound Guided Interfascial Hydrodissection with the use of Saline Anesthetic Solution for Myofascial Pain Syndrome of the Upper Trapezius: A Single Blind Randomized Control Trial
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital

Region XI
COURAGE: The Correlation between CYP3A5 Gene Polymorphisms and Tacrolimus Concentration-to-Dose Ratio among Kidney Transplant Recipients in Mindanao Southern Philippines

Medical Center

Region II
Extraction, Characterization and Bioactivity Evaluation of the Essential Oils of Fruit Wastes
Cagayan State University

Region II
Development and Evaluation of Herbal Skincare Products infused with KaPaMa Plant Extracts for Infections
Cagayan State University

Region X
Perceived Effectiveness of Community-based Drug Rehabilitation Program in Valencia City, Bukidnon: Perspectives and Experiences of Drug Responders and other Stakeholders
Central Mindanao University

Region VI
Maternal and Child Health Service Utilization in Selected Municipalities in Iloilo Province Before and During the COVID-19 epidemic, Western Visayas, Philippines: A Retrospective Cohort Study
University of the Philippines Visayas

NEW

Region I
Serologic SARS CoV 2 Antibody Level and Factors Affecting Its Production After COVID-19 Vaccination Among Employees of Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center
Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center

Region III
Detection of Staphylococcus aureus and its Methicillin-Resistant Strain: A Basis for a Proposed Effective Infection Prevention and Control Program of Selected Government Hospitals in Pampanga
Pampanga State Agricultural University (PSAU)

Region III
The Anti-oxidant and Histo-protective Potentials of Balakat Tree (Ziziphus talanai (Blanco) Merr.) against Monosodium Glutamate-induced Neurological Aberrations in Male CD-1 Mice
Pampanga State Agricultural University (PSAU)

Region III
Probiotic Potential of Lactic Acid Bacteria from Fermented Market-Scrapped Fruit and Vegetable Materials and its Antagonistic Activity against Selected Food and Water Borne Pathogens
Central Luzon State University (CLSU)

Region VII
Developing a Tool to Measure the Decision-Making Processes in Sex Practices among Men-who-have-sex-with-men anchored on Protection Motivation Theory (PMT)
Cebu Technological University

Region IX
Systematic Review on Philippine traditional plants with inhibitory properties against SARS- COV-2 and other viruses
Western Mindanao State University (WMSU)

CARAGA
Health Risk Management Practices in Flood-Prone Public Elementary Schools in Caraga Region
Caraga State University

Region II
Bioassay-Guided Isolation of Antibacterial Compounds from Mikania cordota Flower against Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) Clinical Isolate
St. Mary's University

Region II
Comprehensive Evaluation of the Molluscicidal Activity of Euphorbia splendens Latex against Oncomelania quadras
St. Paul University Philippines

Region II
Assessment of Infection Prevention and Control in Different Levels of Health Care Facility in Cagayan Valley (Region II) C a g a y a n State University

NCR
Determination of the Efficacy of Okra Seed Powder in Aqueous Solution as Glucose Lowering Agent Compared to Acarbose in STZ Diabetic Rats
University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, Inc.

Region III
Green Synthesis of Metal Oxide Cellulose Nanocrystals (MO-CNC) for Health-related Applications Phase 1
Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology

Region V
Screening for New Antimicrobials and Antioxidants from Penicillium and Talaromyces Species Isolated from Various Sources in Bicol Region, Philippines
Bicol University

Region VII
Molecular Detection of Selected Tick-borne Pathogens in dogs, dog owners and veterinary clinicians/technicians in Cebu, Philippines
Cebu Technological University - Main Campus

Region XI
Bacteriocin from Fermented Durian Rinds to Prevent Food Safety Issues
University of Southeastern Philippines

Region XI
Screening and Quantification of Antimicrobial Residues in Chicken Meat and Tissues in Davao City using Microbial Inhibition Assay and Enzyme-Link Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)
San Pedro College

NCR
Effects of Face Mask Use to Physiologic Parameters during Exercise
University of Santo Tomas

NCR

Telehealth on Hypertension Management among Adults: A Systematic Review
University of Santo Tomas

NCR
Effectiveness of Ultrasound Guided Interfascial Hydrodissection with the use of Saline Anesthetic Solution for Myofascial Pain Syndrome of the Upper Trapezius: A Single Blind Randomized Control Trial
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital

Region XI
COURAGE: The Correlation between CYP3A5 Gene Polymorphisms and Tacrolimus Concentration-to-Dose Ratio among Kidney Transplant Recipients in Mindanao Southern Philippines
Medical Center

Region II
Extraction, Characterization and Bioactivity Evaluation of the Essential Oils of Fruit Wastes
Cagayan State University

Region II
Development and Evaluation of Herbal Skincare Products infused with KaPaMa Plant Extracts for Infections
Cagayan State University

Region X
Perceived Effectiveness of Community-based Drug Rehabilitation Program in Valencia City, Bukidnon: Perspectives and Experiences of Drug Responders and other Stakeholders
Central Mindanao University

Region VI
Maternal and Child Health Service Utilization in Selected Municipalities in Iloilo Province Before and During the COVID-19 epidemic, Western Visayas, Philippines: A Retrospective Cohort Study
University of the Philippines Visayas

List of Research Ethics Committeess (RECs) Accredited in 2021

LEVEL 1
REGION VII (Central Visayas)
Southwestern University PHINMA - Institutional Review Board (Jan 28, 2021)

REGION XIII (CARAGA)
Mindanao State University-General Santos City - Institutional Ethics Review Committee (IERC) (Apr 08, 2021)

REGION I (Ilocos Region)

Northwestern University - Research Ethics Committee (REC) (Apr 15, 2021)	(Jan 11, 2021)
REGION III (Central Luzon) Tarlac State University - Research Ethics Review Committee (RERC) (Apr 30, 2021)	REGION III (Central Luzon) Holy Angel University - Institutional Review Board (IRB) (Mar 24, 2021)
REGION XI (Davao Region) Cor Jesu College, Inc. - Research Ethics Committee (REC) (May 10, 2021)	REGION XII (SOCCSKSARGEN) Cotabato Regional And Medical Center - Research Ethics Committee (REC) (Apr 20, 2021)
REGION X (Northern Mindanao) Amai Pakpak Medical Center - Research and Ethics Committee (May 12, 2021)	REGION XI (Davao Region) Davao Medical School Foundation Inc. - Research Ethics Committee (REC) (Apr 20, 2021)
NCR (National Capital Region) Las Piñas General Hospital And Satellite Trauma Center - Research Ethics Committee (REC) (Jun 10, 2021)	REGION VII (Central Visayas) University Of San Carlos - Research Ethics Committee (REC) (May 18, 2021)
NCR (National Capital Region) University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Pharmacy - Research Ethics Committee (REC) (Aug 02, 2021)	REGION VII (Central Visayas) Cebu Institute Of Medicine-Cebu Velez General Hospital - Institutional Review Board (IRB) (May 12, 2021)
REGION VII (Central Visayas) Velez College - Ethics Review Committee (ERC) (Sep 16, 2021)	REGION XI (Davao Region) Compostela Valley State College - Research Ethics Committee (REC) (Jun 21, 2021)
REGION V (Bicol Region) Bicol Medical Center - Research Ethics Committee (REC) (Sep 02, 2021)	REGION XI (Davao Region) St. Mary's College Of Tagum, Inc. - Research Ethics Committee (REC) (Jun 11, 2021)
REGION VII (Central Visayas) Cebu South Medical Center - Research Ethics Committee (REC) (Oct 18, 2021)	REGION VI (Western Visayas) Dr. Pablo O. Torre Memorial Hospital - Research Ethics Review Committee (RERC) (Jul 15, 2021)
REGION X (Northern Mindanao) Bukidnon State University - Research Ethics Committee (REC) (Nov 18, 2021)	NCR (National Capital Region) Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital - Research Ethics Committee (REC) (Nov 16, 2021)
REGION V (Bicol Region) Bicol Region General Hospital and Geriatric Medical Center - Institutional Review Board (IRB) (Dec 24, 2021)	LEVEL 3
LEVEL 2	REGION VI (Western Visayas) St. Paul's Hospital of Iloilo - Institutional Review Board (IRB) (Jan 13, 2021)
REGION VI (Western Visayas) Western Visayas Medical Center - Ethics Review Committee (ERC)	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON) Batangas Medical Center - Research Ethics Review Committee (RERC) (Mar 03, 2021)

NCR (National Capital Region) Food and Nutrition Research Institute - Institutional Ethics Review Committee (IERC) (Jul 10, 2021)
NCR (National Capital Region) Manila Doctors Hospital - Institutional Review Board (IRB) (Dec 08, 2021)
NCR (National Capital Region) Makati Medical Center - Makati Medical Center Institutional Review Board (Sep 02, 2021)

BSP Awardees

NEWLY APPROVED

SHORT TERM

Dr. Emmanuel Lorenzo C. De Los Santos (SO 0415)
Dr. Elpidio Cesar B. Nadala, Jr. (SO 0415)
Dr. Teodoro M. Fajardo, Jr. (SO 0415)
Dr. Christina Lora M. Leyson (SO 0415)
Dr. Myra DT. Hosmillo (SO 0415)
Dr. Lourdes M. Nadala (SO 0415)
Dr. Leodevico L. Ilag (SO 0415)
Fr. Nicanor Austriaco (SO 0415)
Dr. Jhalique Jane Fojas
Dr. Rodrigo S. Jamisola (SO 0415)
Dr. June Bryan De La Pena (SO 0415)

MEDIUM TERM

Dr. Julius Adam V. Lopez

LONG TERM

Dr. Rommel Andrew Santos
Dr. Redante D. Mendoza

CONTINUING

SHORT TERM

Dr. Heidie Frisco-Cabanos
Dr. Gerard Bryan Gonzales
Dr. Fidela L. Moreno
Dr. Andrea Roxanne Anas

MEDIUM TERM

Dr. Annabelle P. Villalobos

LONG TERM

Dr. Jesus Felix Valenzuela

HERDIN Plus

HERDIN PLUS INSTITUTIONS WITH MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING 2021

Visayas State University	University of Southern Mindanao	Western Mindanao State University
The Medical City	University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, Inc.	Mindanao State Univeristy - General Santos
Ateneo De Zamboanga University	University of San Carlos	Saint Louis University
Bulacan State University	Western Mindanao State University	Manila Central University
Cardinal Santos Medical Center	Cebu Normal University	UST - Center for Health Research and Movement Science
Cebu Doctor's University	Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center	Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology
Holy Trinity University	Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center	Bataan Peninsula State University
Mindanao State University-General Santos City	Liceo de Cagayan University	St. Alexius College
Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology	Manila Central University Filemon D. Tanchoco Sr. Medical Foundation, Inc.	Cebu Doctors' University
Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology	Marinduque State College	Cebu Normal University
Region II Trauma and Medical Center	Northern Mindanao Medical Center	University of Southern Mindanao
St. Alexius College (AGNARU journal)	Notre Dame University	University of San Carlos UERMMCI
St. Alexius College (Faculty research journal)	Samar State University	Ateneo de Zamboanga University
St. Louis University	Occidental Mindoro State College	Cardinal Santos Medical Center
	Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center	Baguio General Hospital & Medical Center
	Batangas Medical Center	PCMC
	Department of Health Center for Health Development-Northern Mindanao	Department of Health CHD Northern Mindanao
	Mountain View College	Mountain View College
	Philippine Dental Association	Central Mindanao University
	Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital	UP PGH
	Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-HEAd and Neck Surgery Inc	Cagayan de Oro College -PHINMA
	Unibersidad de Sta. Isabel	Benguet State University
	Iligan Medical Center College	Northern Mindanao Medical Center
	HERDIN PLUS ONLINE LEARNING	Bukidnon State University
	Samar State University	Xavier University
	Leyte Normal University	Capitol University
	Visayas State University	Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center
	Caraga Regional Hospital	Ospital ng Makati
		University of San Jose - Recoletos

Western Philippines University	Agusan del Sur State College of Agriculture and Technology
Notre Dame University	Philippine Normal University - Mindanao
Occidental Mindoro State College	Philippine Rice Research Institute Region 3
Marinduque State College	Far Eastern University
Palawan State University	Trinity University Asia
Mindoro State University	Philippine Neurological Association
Romblon State University	Ateneo de Manila University
Bulacan State University	Department of Health Cordillera
POGS-CREED	
RII Trauma and Medical Center	
PGH-OB GYN	
Holy Trinity University	

HERDIN PLUS FLIPPED LEARNING

Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital Davao Medical School Foundation	"DOST: Sinopharm wanted PH to finance Pandemic vaccine clinical trial January 1 Trending PH http://trendingph.net/dost-sinopharm-wanted-ph-to-finance-covid-19-vaccine-clinical-trial/ "
Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital	"Duque denies receiving letter from Sinopharm regarding request for clinical trials January 1 GMA News Online https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/770086/duque-denies-receiving-letter-from-sinopharm-regarding-request-for-clinical-trials/story/ " "PH urged to tap VCO vs coronavirus, its variants January 2 Cebu Daily News Inquirer https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/357597/ph-urged-to-tap-vco-vs-coronavirus-its-variants/amp " "Clinical test ilibre! PH bet gulangan ng Sinopharm January 2 Abante https://www.abante.com.ph/clinical-test-ilibre-ph-bet-gulangan-ng-sinopharm/ "
Batangas Medical Center De La Salle Health Sciences Institute	
Universidad de Sta. Isabel Lyeum - Northwestern University	
Virgen Milagrosa University Foundation	
DOH Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center	
Northwestern University Western Visayas State University	
West Visayas State University Medical Center	
THE MEDICAL CITY ILOILO	

Media Mileage

"PH urged to tap VCO vs coronavirus, its variants January 2 Philippine Daily Inquirer https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1378738/ph-urged-to-tap-vco-vs-coronavirus-its-variants " "PH denies getting Sinopharm request for clinical trials January 2 Panay News http://www.panaynews.net/ph-denies-getting-sinopharm-request-for-clinical-trials/ " "Low efficacy vaccine may discourage Filipinos from getting vaccinated – Robredo January 3 Trending PH http://trendingph.net/low-efficacy-vaccine-may-discourage-filipinos-from-getting-vaccinated-robredo/ " "PH urged to tap VCO vs coronavirus, its variants January 3 Cebu Daily News Inquirer https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/357597/ph-urged-to-tap-vco-vs-coronavirus-its-variants " "Low efficacy vaccine may discourage Filipinos from getting vaccinated – Robredo January 3 Philippine Daily Inquirer https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1378916/low-efficacy-vaccine-may-discourage-filipinos-from-getting-vaccinated-robredo " "COVID-19 vaccine mula Biotech at Oxford-Astrazeneca, aprubado na rin sa India January 4 Bombo Radyo Philippines https://www.bomboradyo.com/covid-19-vaccine-mula-biotech-at-oxford-astrazeneca-aprubado-na-rin-sa-india/ " "DOH itinangging inupuan ang paglahok ng bansa sa Sinopharm clinical trial January 4 ABSCBN News https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/01/04/21/doh-itinangging-inupuan-ang-paglahok-ng-bansa-sa-sinopharm-clinical-trial " "DOST to focus R&D on agri, health, energy sectors in 2021 January 4	Philippine News Agency https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1126327 " "DOST pushes vital R&D work in Covid-19 response January 4 Business Mirror http://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/01/04/dost-pushes-vital-rd-work-in-covid-19-response/ " "Philippines urged to explore coconut oil as therapeutic for Covid-19 January 4 New Straits Times https://www.nst.com.my/world/region/2021/01/654337/philippines-urged-explore-coconut-oil-therapeutic-covid-19 " "DOST: R&D initiatives, COVID-19 response palalakasin ngayong 2021 January 5 Bombo Radyo Philippines https://www.bomboradyo.com/dost-rd-initiatives-covid-19-response-palalakasin-ngayong-2021/ " "Bawat bakuna, may iba't ibang lebel ng safety at efficacy – DOST January 6 RMN https://rmn.ph/bawat-bakuna-may-ibat-ibang-lebel-ng-safety-at-efficacy-dost/ " "Each vaccine will have different degrees of safety and efficacy – DOST January 6 Manila Bulletin http://mb.com.ph/2021/01/06/each-vaccine-will-have-different-degrees-of-safety-and-efficacy-dost/ " "PCHRD chief allays fears on Covid-19 vaccines' safety January 6 Philippine News Agency https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1126589 " "Galvez: 15,000 volunteers to join WHO vaccine trial January 6 CNN Philippines https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/1/6/WHO-vaccine-trial-PH-participants.html " "Technical working group binuo ng IATF vs COVID-19 variants January 6
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ph/2021/01/08/duterte-okays-additional-p384-4-million-funds-for-solidarity-vaccine-trial/"

"Gamaleya Institute, magpapasa na rin ng emergency use ng COVID-19 vaccine sa PH" January 8 Bombo Radyo Philippines <https://www.bomboradyo.com/gamaleya-institute-magpapasa-na-rin-ng-emergency-use-ng-covid-19-vaccine-sa-ph/>

"Public told to trust vaccine screening in PH" January 8 PTV News <https://www.ptvnews.ph/public-told-to-trust-vaccine-screening-in-ph/>

"Karagdagang hakbang upang matugunan ang bagong variant ng coronavirus" January 8 Abante <https://www.abante.com.ph/karagdagang-hakbang-upang-matugunan-ang-bagong-variant-ng-coronavirus/>

"FDA: 2 COVID-19 vaccines, Janssen and Clover Biopharma, approved for PHL clinical trial" January 8 Eagle News <https://www.eaglenews.ph/fda-2-covid-19-vaccines-janssen-and-clover-biopharma-approved-for-phl-clinical-trial/>

"Russia humirit ng EUA sa virus vaccine" January 8 Abante <https://www.abante.com.ph/russia-humirit-ng-eua-sa-virus-vaccine/>

"Russia's Gamaleya Institute applies for COVID-19 vaccine emergency use but documents incomplete -- FDA" January 8 ABSCBN News <https://news.abs-cbn.com/amp/news/01/08/21/russias-gamaleya-institute-applies-for-covid-19-vaccine-emergency-use-but-documents-incomplete-fda>

"FDA accepts applications for Covid-19 vaccine clinical trial" January 8 Philippine News Agency <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1126839>

"VCO study in PGH to include COVID-19 patients with comorbidities" January 8 CNN Philippines <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/1/8/VCO-study-PGH-COVID-19-patients-comorbidities.html>

"Wanted: Volunteers for COVID-19 vaccine trials in Metro Manila" January 8 ABSCBN News <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/08/21/wanted-anti-coronavirus-vaccine-volunteers-in-metro-manila>

"Covid-19 vaccines in PH: What to know" January 8 Philippine News Agency <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1126678>

"Tawa-tawa, lagundi vs COVID-19? Study on traditional herbs vs pandemic out in Feb" January 8 ABSCBN News <https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/01/08/21/tawa-tawa-lagundi-vs-covid-19-study-on-traditional-herbs-vs-pandemic-out-in-feb>

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"Russia's Gamaleya applies for emergency approval of its COVID-19 vaccine in PH" January 8 Rappler <https://www.rappler.com/nation/russia-gamaleya-applies-emergency-approval-covid-19-vaccine-philippines>

"Russia's Gamaleya drops clinical trial application, eyes emergency approval in PH" January 8 Rappler <https://www.rappler.com/nation/gamaleya-drops-clinical-trial-application-eyes-emergency-approval-philippines-covid-19>

"Results of trials on lagundi, tawa-tawa as COVID-19 treatment out by end of

February – DOST January 8 24 Pilipinas <http://www.24pilipinas.com/national/results-of-trials-on-lagundi-tawa-tawa-as-covid-19-treatment-out-by-end-of-february-dost/201838-news>

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"DOST nanawagan sa publiko sa mga nais lumahok sa solidarity trial ng WHO" January 8 DWIZ 882AM <https://www.dwiz882am.com/index.php/dost-nanawagan-sa-publiko-sa-mga-nais-lumahok-sa-solidarity-trial-ng-who/>

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"Pag-aaral sa VCO vs COVID-19, palalawigin pa ng DOST" January 8 Bombo Radyo Philippines <https://www.bomboradyo.com/pag-aaral-sa-vco-vs-covid-19-palalawigin-pa-ng-dost/>

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"Russia's Gamaleya to submit Pandemic vaccine EUA application in PH – DOST" January 8 Trending PH <http://trendingph.net/russias-gamaleya-to-submit-covid-19-vaccine-eua-application-in-ph-dost/>

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news/2021/7/13/solidarity-trial-letter-of-agreement-signed-who.html"	vax-solidarity-trial-deal"	COVID-19 pandemic	July 17	July 21	dost-bares-completion-of-phs-clinical-trial-on-convalescent-plasma-therapy-for-covid-19/"	"Clinical trial sa convalescent plasma para sa COVID nakumpleto na - DOST	"DOST, may pitong bagay na nais marinig sa huling SONA ni Pangulong Duterte
"Why are clinical trials for COVID-19 vaccines important?"	"Paghahanap ng pinakapektibong bakuna laban sa COVID-19, mapapabilis sa tulong ng WHO Solidarity Trial - DOST	July 15	Manila Bulletin	RMN	"Will there be a need for booster shots for those vaccinated with Sinovac vaccines?"	July 24	July 26
July 13	July 14	July 15	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/13/why-are-clinical-trials-for-covid-19-vaccines-important/"	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/15/ph-scientists-researchers-call-for-adoption-of-whole-of-govt-society-approach-to-address-covid-19-pandemic/"	July 23	Remate Online	RMN
Manila Bulletin	RMN	Manila Bulletin	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/13/why-are-clinical-trials-for-covid-19-vaccines-important/"	"DSWD, other gov't agencies urged to promote consumption of locally developed plant-based food	Manila Bulletin	https://www.remate.ph/clinical-trial-sa-convalescent-plasma-para-sa-covid-nakumpleto-na-dost/"	https://rmn.ph/dost-may-pitong-bagay-na-nais-marinig-sa-huling-sona-ni-pangulong-duterte/"
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July 13	"DOST, tiniyak na hindi maaapektuhan ng isasagawang clinical trials ang supply ng COVID-19 vaccines	July 15	ABSCBN News	Manila Bulletin	July 24	RMN	July 26
https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/07/13/21/philippines-who-covid19-vaccines-solidarity-trial"	July 14	Manila Bulletin	https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/07/13/21/philippines-who-covid19-vaccines-solidarity-trial"	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/15/dswd-other-govt-agencies-urged-to-promote-consumption-of-locally-developed-plant-based-food/"	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/24/will-whos-solidarity-vaccine-trial-in-ph-start-soon/"	https://rmn.ph/clinical-trial-ng-convalescent-plasma-therapy-para-sa-covid-19-natapos-na-dost/"	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/26/will-whos-solidarity-vaccine-trial-in-ph-start-soon/"
July 13	RMN	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/15/dswd-other-govt-agencies-urged-to-promote-consumption-of-locally-developed-plant-based-food/"	https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/07/13/21/philippines-who-covid19-vaccines-solidarity-trial"	"Investigator's brochures on 4 vaccine brands to be used in WHO Solidarity Trial under review --DOST	"PH study on 'effectiveness' of COVID-19 jabs on fully vaccinated Filipinos already started	"DOST 'happy' with Duterte's call on Congress to pass bill creating PH Virology Institute	"DOST 'happy' with Duterte's call on Congress to pass bill creating PH Virology Institute
https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/07/13/21/philippines-who-covid19-vaccines-solidarity-trial"	https://rmn.ph/dost-tiniyak-na-hindi-maaapektuhan-ng-isasagawang-clinical-trials-ang-supply-ng-covid-19-vaccines/"	July 16	"Supply of COVID-19 vaccines in PH will not be affected by clinical trials - DOST exec	July 16	July 23	July 26	Manila Bulletin
Manila Bulletin	"DOST's expert panel not yet recommending COVID-19 vaccine mixing, booster shots	Manila Bulletin	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/13/supply-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-ph-will-not-be-affected-by-clinical-trials-dost-exec/"	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/16/investigators-brochures-on-4-vaccine-brands-to-be-used-in-who-solidarity-trial-under-review-dost/"	Manila Bulletin	RMN	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/26/dost-happy-with-dutertes-call-on-congress-to-pass-bill-creating-ph-virology-institute/"
https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/13/supply-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-ph-will-not-be-affected-by-clinical-trials-dost-exec/"	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/14/dost-expert-panel-not-yet-recommending-covid-19-vaccine-mixing-booster-shots/"	July 17	"DOST eyes 3K participants, 8 sites for COVID-19 vaccine 'mix and match' trials	July 17	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/23/ph-study-on-effectiveness-of-covid-19-jabs-on-fully-vaccinated-filipinos-already-started/"	https://rmn.ph/1380-fully-vaccinated-filipinos-naka-enroll-sa-immunosurveillance-para-sa-bisa-ng-covid-19-vaccines/"	"DOST eyes start of COVID-19 vaccine mix-and-match trial in August
Manila Bulletin	July 14	Manila Bulletin	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/13/supply-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-ph-will-not-be-affected-by-clinical-trials-dost-exec/"	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/17/can-ph-indigenous-berries-prevent-communicable-diseases-2/"	July 24	July 24	August
https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/13/supply-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-ph-will-not-be-affected-by-clinical-trials-dost-exec/"	Manila Bulletin	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/16/investigators-brochures-on-4-vaccine-brands-to-be-used-in-who-solidarity-trial-under-review-dost/"	"DOST eyes 3K participants, 8 sites for COVID-19 vaccine 'mix and match' trials	"Bignay, iba pang 'indigenous berries' pinag-aaralan ng DOST-PCHRD - REMATE ONLINE	RMN	DWIZ 882 AM	July 26
"DOST eyes 3K participants, 8 sites for COVID-19 vaccine 'mix and match' trials	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/14/dost-expert-panel-not-yet-recommending-covid-19-vaccine-mixing-booster-shots/"	July 16	Manila Bulletin	July 17	https://rmn.ph/1380-fully-vaccinated-filipinos-naka-enroll-sa-immunosurveillance-para-sa-bisa-ng-covid-19-vaccines/"	https://www.dwiz882am.com/index.php/ivermectin-clinical-trial-sa-pinas-sisimulan-na/"	Manila Bulletin
Manila Bulletin	"DOST's expert panel not yet recommending COVID-19 vaccine mixing, booster shots	Manila Bulletin	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/13/dost-eyes-3k-participants-8-sites-for-covid-19-vaccine-mix-and-match-trials/"	Remate Online	"Ivermectin clinical trial sa Pinas sisimulan na	https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/26/2115331/9-delta-variant-cases-got-covid-19-jabs-showed-mild-symptoms-doh"	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/26/dost-eyes-start-of-covid-19-vaccine-mix-and-match-trial-in-august/"
https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/13/dost-eyes-3k-participants-8-sites-for-covid-19-vaccine-mix-and-match-trials/"	July 15	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/16/dost-to-break-ground-for-ph-virology-institute-by-fourth-quarter-of-2021/"	"WHO Solidarity Trial in PH to help find 'most effective' COVID-19 vaccines for Filipinos - DOST	https://www.remate.ph/bignay-iba-pang-indigenous-berries-pinag-aaralan-ng-dost-pchrd/"	July 24	http://edgedavao.net/latest-news/2021/07/25/dost-wants-virology-research-institute-set-up-in-mindanao/"	"DOST eyes start of COVID-19 vaccine mix-and-match trial in August
"WHO Solidarity Trial in PH to help find 'most effective' COVID-19 vaccines for Filipinos - DOST	Philippine Canadian Inquirer	"PH, India to conduct research projects on agri biotech, vaccine dev't, AI	Manila Bulletin	"Marian, binansagang 'asawang adik sa kili-kili!' - REMATE ONLINE	July 24	Edge Davao	July 26
Manila Bulletin	https://canadianinquirer.net/2021/07/ph-gears-for-who-solidarity-vaccine-trial/"	July 16	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/13/dost-eyes-3k-participants-8-sites-for-covid-19-vaccine-mix-and-match-trials/"	July 17	https://www.edgedavao.net/latest-news/2021/07/25/dost-wants-virology-research-institute-set-up-in-mindanao/"	https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/26/2115331/9-delta-variant-cases-got-covid-19-jabs-showed-mild-symptoms-doh"	Manila Bulletin
https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/13/dost-eyes-3k-participants-8-sites-for-covid-19-vaccine-mix-and-match-trials/"	"Vaccine Experts Panel, hindi pa inirerekomenda ang COVID-19 vaccine mixing at booster shots	July 16	"DOST eyes 3K participants, 8 sites for COVID-19 vaccine 'mix and match' trials	Remate Online	https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/26/2115331/9-delta-variant-cases-got-covid-19-jabs-showed-mild-symptoms-doh"	"DOST wants virology research institute set up in Mindanao	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/26/dost-eyes-start-of-covid-19-vaccine-mix-and-match-trial-in-august/"
"DOST eyes 3K participants, 8 sites for COVID-19 vaccine 'mix and match' trials	July 15	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/16/dost-to-break-ground-for-ph-virology-institute-by-fourth-quarter-of-2021/"	Manila Bulletin	https://www.remate.ph/2-nakuhanan-ng-p1-3m-shabu-sa-navotas-buy-bust/"	July 25	July 25	"9 Delta variant cases got COVID-19 jabs, showed mild symptoms -- DOH
Manila Bulletin	Philippine Canadian Inquirer	"PH, India to conduct research projects on agri biotech, vaccine dev't, AI	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/16/dost-to-break-ground-for-ph-virology-institute-by-fourth-quarter-of-2021/"	July 22	July 25	July 25	July 26
https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/13/dost-eyes-3k-participants-8-sites-for-covid-19-vaccine-mix-and-match-trials/"	https://canadianinquirer.net/2021/07/ph-gears-for-who-solidarity-vaccine-trial/"	July 16	"DOST eyes 3K participants, 8 sites for COVID-19 vaccine 'mix and match' trials	Manila Bulletin	https://www.dwiz882am.com/index.php/ivermectin-clinical-trial-sa-pinas-sisimulan-na/"	https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/26/2115331/9-delta-variant-cases-got-covid-19-jabs-showed-mild-symptoms-doh"	Manila Bulletin
"DOST eyes 3K participants, 8 sites for COVID-19 vaccine 'mix and match' trials	"Vaccine Experts Panel, hindi pa inirerekomenda ang COVID-19 vaccine mixing at booster shots	July 16	Manila Bulletin	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/22/covid-19-vaccines-in-ph-dont-have-live-virus-dost-expert-panel/"	https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/26/2115331/9-delta-variant-cases-got-covid-19-jabs-showed-mild-symptoms-doh"	"DOST wants virology research institute set up in Mindanao	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/26/dost-eyes-start-of-covid-19-vaccine-mix-and-match-trial-in-august/"
Manila Bulletin	July 15	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/16/dost-to-break-ground-for-ph-virology-institute-by-fourth-quarter-of-2021/"	https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/13/dost-eyes-3k-participants-8-sites-for-covid-19-vaccine-mix-and-match-trials/"	"COVID-19 vaccines, walang live virus ayon sa vaccine experts panel	July 26	July 25	"9 Delta variant cases got COVID-19 jabs, showed mild symptoms -- DOH
https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/13/dost-eyes-3k-participants-8-sites-for-covid-19-vaccine-mix-and-match-trials/"	Philippine Canadian Inquirer	"PH, India to conduct research projects on agri biotech, vaccine dev't, AI	"WHO Solidarity Trial in PH to help find 'most effective' COVID-19 vaccines for Filipinos - DOST	July 23	July 26	July 25	July 26
"WHO Solidarity Trial in PH to help find 'most effective' COVID-19 vaccines for Filipinos - DOST	https://canadianinquirer.net/2021/07/ph-gears-for-who-solidarity-vaccine-trial/"	July 16	Manila Bulletin	Manila Bulletin	https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/26/2115331/9-delta-variant-cases-got-covid-19-jabs-showed-mild-symptoms-doh"	https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/26/2115331/9-delta-variant-cases-got-covid-19-jabs-showed-mild-symptoms-doh"	Manila Bulletin
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"DOST eyes 3K participants, 8 sites for COVID-19 vaccine 'mix and match' trials	Philippine Canadian Inquirer	"PH, India to conduct research projects on agri biotech, vaccine dev't, AI	Manila Bulletin	July 23	July 26	July 25	July 26
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 Magdales, Ma. Sarina I. ***
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 Ulmido, Ma. Leslie B.*
 Vios, Christian Anthony B.
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* PhilHealth-deployed

** FDA-deployed

*** DOH-deployed

QUALITY POLICY

We are committed to provide research-based solutions and innovations in health, based on the balance scorecard set by the Council, within the highest standards of professionalism, within our core competency and available resources, in accordance to customer requirements, and in adherence to ethical standards, applicable regulatory and statutory requirements.

We commit to continually improve the effectiveness of our QMS to enhance customer satisfaction.

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR HEALTH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

2021

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