

Carmencita David Padilla MD, FPPS, MAHPS

Academician, National Academy for Science and Technology
Professor 12, College of Medicine, UP Manila

UP Manila: Towards Excellence in Academics, Research and Public Service

My vision for UP Manila as the **National Center of Health Research and Development** for the Filipino people is anchored on UPs mandate to perform its unique and distinctive leadership role in higher education and development as stated in the UP Charter of 2008 or Republic Act 9500.

Under my continued leadership, UP Manila will move forward in pursuing its quest for leadership and academic excellence in the fields of health, natural sciences, social sciences, arts and the humanities. With a nurturing environment for accelerated change and innovation, UP Manila will continue to grow academically and keep its competitive advantage. UP Manila will be known for its **Excellence, Scholarship, Collegiality and Service**.

Excellence in Academics and Research to Support Policy Development for the Betterment of the Filipino people

UP Manila will solidify its role as the major academic partner of the Department of Health in responding to the health issues. For greater impact to the country, UP Manila will continue actively engaging in policy development through its academic units, PGH and NIH. Since 2015, the UP Manila Policy Hub has generated the following policy statements [*Defeating Deafness by Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Strategic Hearing Health Care Services, Reduction of Sugar Consumption among Public School Children in the Philippines, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis, Drug Resiliency, Redefining Counterfeit Medicines: Amendment of the Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs (Republic Act No. 8203, Gaps in Addressing Road Safety in the Philippines, Preparing for an Aging Philippines: Improving the Health Human Resource*]. The UP Manila Policy Hub has conducted Round-Table-Discussions on controversial issues [cannabis legislation, condom use as a strategy for reproductive health, aerial spraying and universal health care] bringing experts from various agencies for highly-engaging debates on these issues. Through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and various NIH Institutes and Centers, UP Manila has actively participated in the hearings of the Senate and the House to provide academic input to the discussion. A recent major breakthrough is the passage of the Rare Disease Act of 2016 with the Institute of Human Genetics and the Newborn Screening Reference Center as major lobby groups. Formal and active engagement of UP Manila with legislative processes involving health issues have far-reaching effects. UP Manila will continue gaining the trust of society such that the public will always defer to UP Manila for valued opinion on health issues that affect the Philippine society.

As the Health Sciences Center, UP Manila through PGH and its academic units, is committed to generate datasets that DOH can use for policy development. An excellent example is the Cancer

Genome Project, an upcoming joint project of the PGH with the Philippine Genome Center. This project will transform the management of cancer among Filipinos as it will generate data that will guide better management of patients. There are also ongoing projects in the field of dengue, tuberculosis, malaria, HIV, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases to name a few.

Even before the construction of the P1 billion 18-story building, NIH has made major contributions through its 10 institutes and 3 centers. In the past 3 years, NIH (through the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology) developed diagnostic kits that are affordable to the ordinary Filipino, starting with the dengue LAMP kit (now on a national roll-out) and followed by new kits on pilot or validation stages (tuberculosis, schistosomiasis, paragonomiasis, leptospirosis, filariasis, etc). Additional funding has been secured to ensure that the new NIH building is fully equipped at the time of its formal opening in mid-2019.

The animal research facility on the 18th floor of the new NIH building will be a state-of-the-art facility that will be home to experiments of both basic and clinical departments. This facility will be the gateway between scientific studies and human testing. It has the potential to attract continuing research endeavors from both the local and international scientific communities in a world-class facility.

Indeed, UP Manila, with the support of the Department of Science and Technology, Commission on Higher Education the Department of Health, will continue to focus on high impact research projects that will redound to the betterment of the Filipino people. UP Manila will continue to be an incubator of new ideas. UP Manila will indeed be a proponent for progress!

In 2015, the re-structured Research Grants Administration Office (RGAO) has been strengthened to allow the researcher to concentrate on the research and not on administrative matters. The newly established UP Manila Technology Transfer and Business Development Office (TTBDO) assists RGAO to seek and secure patentable ideas and assists the researcher to scale its product to serve more Filipinos through spin-off companies or licensing negotiations with industry.

There will be a conscious effort for collaboration and complementary research between/among people in the health sciences and those in the arts and sciences. The involvement of the social scientists in the health sciences researches will provide a more holistic societal milieu or even the humanistic perspective to health. The productivity of the faculty, reps and students will invariably result in an increase in the number of publications, patents and policies that will impact our Filipino population.

Excellence in Academics for National Relevance and Global Competitiveness

With the ASEAN integration in 2015, UP Manila is committed to prepare its academic community to produce graduates equipped for skills - solving problems and challenges of the future; unlocking and harnessing new knowledge; and creating new environments that advance dialogue

and debate on critical health issues that will be most needed by our country and its ASEAN neighbors.

With UP Manila's international engagement and activities, opportunities will continue to be available for our young members of the academic community. A matching program will be organized for our UP Manila faculty with distinguished faculty overseas. The matching program will be continued and will focus on curriculum enhancement programs or joint research project proposals for submission for both local and international funding.

Opportunities for short term and long term scholarships and attendance to local and international conferences will be continued and made available to more faculty, reps and students for re-tooling opportunities. Sister university programs with foreign universities will be encouraged to support joint research projects, faculty and student exchange programs, doctoral sandwich programs and postdoctoral research training programs.

The results of the rigid review of undergraduate and graduate programs will guide the academic units in improvements of the academic programs and for the continuous undersubscription, a possible abolition and creation of new programs that are more responsive to the needs of the country. UP Manila will continue preparing its academic community for new developments in the educational system i.e. Outcome-Based-Education program and the new GE program.

We will continue to pro-actively identify faculty who will pursue PhD programs overseas and the new UP Manila program on PhD by research to increase the PhDs by 100% in the next 5 years.

If we want to reach the status of a research university, we must recognize that the library is the heart of the university. We want the library to evolve into a more stimulating knowledge bank. We will change the image of the library. In addition to increase of journal subscription making it comparable with the ASEAN universities, the upcoming P200M University Library scheduled for construction in early 2018 will be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities that will provide space for individual study and group study. The library will complement the research endeavors of the faculty, students and reps. Remote access to the library will be further enhanced allowing research off campus. With the consolidation of the libraries in the Pedro Gil side, extended library hours will be regularly offered in 2019.

Strengthening SHS Palo, SHS Baler and SHS Koronadal

After rebuilding SHS Palo after Typhoon Yolanda, SHS takes the front seat again in demonstrating that the step-ladder curriculum is responding to the needs of the country. With a 90% retention rate of its graduates from its 3 campuses (Palo, Koronadal and Baler) in the country, UP Manila will further strengthen SHS with better facilities to respond to foreseen increase in enrollment. SHS is concrete operationalization of the University's mission of "service to the Filipino people." In addition to the new academic/administrative building in Palo, the gym in Koronadal and the new

administrative building in Baler, construction of dormitories in both Baler and Koronadal are now in the drawing board.

Empowering and Protecting the Assets of UP Manila

The faculty, students, reps and personnel will remain as the strongest asset of UP.

With an established pro-active approach to reaching out to those who passed UPCAT especially from far-flung areas, every student who passes UPCAT is given the opportunity to enroll in UP Manila regardless of social strata.

Opportunities for members of the UP Manila community for intellectual, personal and professional growth will be increased. The successful 'awakening seminars' hosted by the Human Resource Development Office will be brought down to the units for the personal growth of their employees.

The system for benefits, loans for both personnel and students, and assistantships will be expanded. In addition to eHOPE, the feasibility of an HMO for the UP Manila community and their immediate family members will be studied. In addition to the in-campus UP Manila student dormitory that will be opened in November 2017, housing opportunities for employees will also be explored.

The recently re-launched Philippine Journal for Health Research and Development can be expanded to ensure that knowledge created by our community will have an academic venue for dissemination.

Regular dialogues will continue to be conducted to listen to their issues and together we will find solutions. Every college will define its mentorship program following the success of the College of Medicine. Mentoring programs will be designed for faculty, student and administrative personnel.

On Heightened Individual and Institutional Extension Service

A strong sense of nationalism and a passion to serve the country will prevail in every UP Manila constituent- socially conscious, problem-solvers life-long learners and transformational leaders. Our dedication to public service will lead to social, economic and national development.

The 110-year old Philippine General Hospital is testimony that the national university is a public service university. Despite limited resources, it is able to respond to the needs of our patients. Known for having the biggest resource of specialists in the country, we will revisit the role of PGH in the training and provision of generalists, specialists & subspecialists in the different regional and provincial hospitals of the Philippines. We want a PGH graduate in every provincial and regional hospital of the country. We want PGH to spread its wings.

Extension service through the UP Manila *Pahinungod* will be strengthened beyond missions and disaster response. We will revive the *Gurong Pahinungod* and Affirmative Action Programs to serve as partner programs in preparing our UPCAT takers and UPCAT passers for UP life.

Many of our faculty and alumni serve as Think-Tanks in many government and international agencies like the Department of Health, Commission on Higher Education, Department of Science and Technology, World Health Organization, Asian Development Bank, to name a few. We thank all the faculty and reps who continually volunteer their time and expertise to the different agencies.

Working in a Collegial and Supportive Environment

The leadership style of my administration will be collegial, creative, innovative, participative and transparent. I will give emphasis on public trust and accountability.

To remain competitive, UP Manila will boost operational excellence and efficiency through technology solutions to maximize its limited resources. The Organic Office of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), an office that has streamlined procurement processes in UP Manila, will be further strengthened. These streamlined processes have made possible the implementation of major infrastructure projects during my term.

Last January 2017, UP Manila internet bandwidth increased by 800% or 1,200mbps (1.2gpbs) from 150mbps. With the completion of the upgraded fiber optic campus backbone by September 2017 and network devices delivered last April 2017, the campus network capacity will increase from 100mbps to 10,000 mbps (10gbps). SHS campuses also now have increased internet bandwidth allowing connectivity for some classes and conferences with UP Manila colleges at the main campus. With the secure and reliable network infrastructure, the necessary foundation for a number of efficiency-enhancing technologies and solutions has been installed i.e. UIS, UptoDate and other online resources for academics and research. UptoDate is an evidence-based, physician-authored clinical decision support resource which clinicians trust to make the right point-of-care decisions.

Collaboration will be made convenient through integrated voice, video, and data and wireless technologies. Video conferencing facilities will be made available in every college to facilitate local and international video conferences.

Physical safety from crimes and natural disasters will be addressed with prevention measures and disaster preparedness. UP Manila has strengthened the UPM Health and Safety Committee, including the Emergency/Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee which oversees regular disaster orientations and drills, such as earthquake, fire, bombings and related emergencies.

UP Manila will strengthen its relationship with UP Manila Alumni Association, as it nurtures the alumni network and friends who will be key partners in various activities of UP Manila, including teaching, research, extension, networking and resource generation.

UP Manila will maintain an environment-friendly campus. After completion of the infrastructure projects (gym, UP Manila dormitory, College of Public Health Zuellig Hall, NIH, College of Medicine Academic Center and University Library, all free spaces in the Pedro Gil side will be transformed into gardens, serving as a respite from the stressed setting of a hospital in the middle of the campus.

We will provide avenues for the expression of the arts by the faculty, students and other members of the UP Manila community. The arts allow us to be imaginative and likewise enhance our creativity. It also gives the opportunity to reflect and re-energize amidst our busy lives. In addition to the newly renovated 200-seat CAS Little Theater, the 500-seat NIH auditorium will be another venue for the arts. The NIH lobby has been designed to provide space for art exhibits of our UP Manila community.

Conclusion

In summary, I envision UP Manila to be a haven of **Excellence, Scholarship, Collegiality and Service**. My administration will be known for **Protecting** the rights of the students, faculty and administrative personnel. It will be known for **Partnerships** and **Professionalized Services**. It will be an administration that puts the **People** first before personal gains.

UP Manila will be a main force in **Nation-Building!**