



FDA APPROVES COVID-19 TEST KIT DEVELOPED BY UP SCIENTIST

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has officially announced its approval of GenAmplify™ Corona Virus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) RT-PCR Detection Kit on its advisory dated 3 April 2020. This is the first locally-made, PCR-based COVID-19 test kit for commercial use. It was developed by Dr. Raul V. Destura and the scientists of the UP Manila National Institutes of Health (UPM-NIH), with funding from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). The testing kits will be manufactured by the Manila Health Tek, Inc.

This is great news as

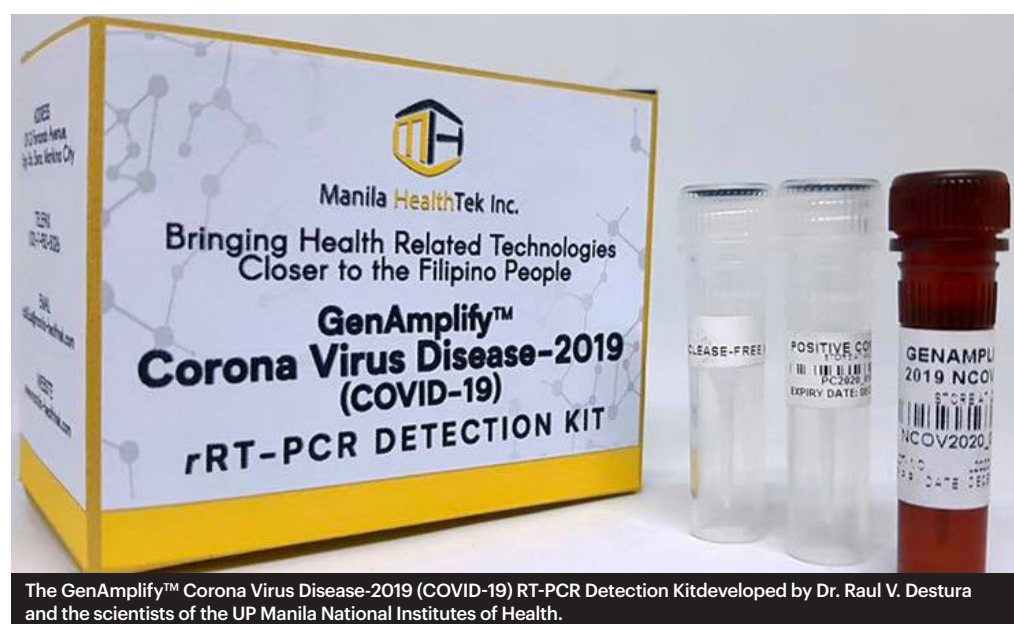
the country aims to conduct mass testing of suspected COVID-19 cases starting on April 14. The mass testing will prioritize Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) and Persons Under Monitoring (PUMs), according to the Department of Health (DOH).

The field validation for the COVID-19 testing kits finished on April 1. The requirements for CPR Certification were submitted to the FDA on the same day.

The Manila Health Tek, Inc., reported that the first batch of reagents had arrived which will enable them to start the

manufacturing process to create testing kits that can accommodate up to 120,000 tests. A certain number of testing kits that can do up to 26,000 tests will be prioritized by the DOST for field implementation and distribution to the Philippine General Hospital, Makati Medical Center, The Medical City, Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center, Southern Philippines Medical Center, and Baguio General Hospital.

From April 4 to 25, there will be a field implementation for the 26,000 tests funded by the DOST and UPM-NIH Project.



The GenAmplify™ Corona Virus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) RT-PCR Detection Kit developed by Dr. Raul V. Destura and the scientists of the UP Manila National Institutes of Health.

The remaining testing kits that are good for around 94,000 tests will be sold commercially by Manila Health Tek at around

P1,300 per kit which is cheaper than the units currently being used in hospitals which cost about P8,000. The Manila Health Tek said it has enough

orders from the private sector which then intend to donate them to the Department of Health (DOH) and other hospitals.

PGH ADMITS COVID PATIENTS AS A REFERRAL HOSPITAL

With just more than a week of preparation, the University of the Philippines Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH) has formally opened its doors as a COVID-19 referral hospital on March 30, 2020. The opening jibed with the launch of the UP-PGH COVID-19 Bayanihan Na! Operations Center on the same day. The Center will entertain COVID-19-related inquiries and donations.

PGH Director Gerardo Legaspi stated during the launch that an initial 130 beds were allotted for confirmed COVID-19 patients. With the help of private and government organizations, six wards were redesigned within one week for the needs of the patients. He thanked D.M. Consunji Inc. and Architect Dan Lichauco for retrofitting two wards despite the hospital's tight deadline.

Private and government sectors have given financial and material support such as PPEs and other supplies needed for the wards. He lauded St. Luke's Hospital for its donation and transport of 48 electronic beds to PGH. These beds, which are now distributed in the wards, will help ease the burden of health workers in manually controlling the beds. PGH will also implement a three week rotation schedule for volunteers as a precaution and to lessen their job's psychological effects on them.

Director Legaspi said that help continues to pour in for PGH. Mr. Ed Cabangon offered all 200 beds of the City State Tower Hotel along Mabini Street for the

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UP-PGH COVID-19 Bayanihan Na! Operations Center launched

The UP-PGH COVID-19 Bayanihan Na! Operations Center located at the Nurses Home within the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) compound was formally launched on March 30, 2020 with its major players in attendance. Conceptualized by UP President Danilo Concepcion, UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla, and PGH Director Gerardo Legaspi, the UP-PGH Bayanihan Na! Operations Center is equipped with **Hotline Number 155-200** dedicated for UPs response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Operations Center has

2 main objectives: 1) to formalize a system to facilitate the University's provision of support for its frontline workers and patients; and 2) to enable a simple response through a hotline number for patient queries about COVID and non-COVID medical concerns. The Hotline Number has 2 arms: **Donation Arm** and a **Patient Query Arm**.

UP-PGH COVID-19 Bayanihan Na! Operations Center complements UP Manila's efforts in the COVID-19 pandemic with the active participation of its 2 units – PGH as a COVID

Referral Center and National Institutes of Health (NIH) as testing center. NIH is also tasked to do the field validation of the locally developed kit. PLDT thru its president and CEO Mr. Manuel Pangilinan donated a hotline number 155-200 with its 20 phone lines. The PGH Medical Foundation (PGHMF) will be the sole conduit for monetary and donations-in-kind.

The call center is available 24/7 and is manned by 60-70 student volunteers in 3 eight-hour shifts who will answer questions and advise callers with regards COVID-19 and

direct donors to PGHMF. There is active recruitment of volunteers from the UP Manila community.

Director Mahar Lagmay of UP Resilience-Noah Center has mobilized a team of volunteer developers from his office and UP CSI, a student organization from the UP Diliman Department of Computer Science, in developing a patient query and donations dashboard for quick reference and overall situationer. This is complemented by an app that captures patient information,

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155-200
FOR DONATIONS, VOUNTEER APPLICATION,
AND OTHER COVID-19-RELATED INQUIRIES

UP students given options in complying with course reqs, safety nets against failing grades

In light of the global pandemic and enhanced community quarantine declared across most of the country, the University of the Philippines has decided to end the second semester of AY 2019-2020 on April 30, 2020, instead of the original May 23, 2020.

This decision was made during a meeting of the UP Board of Regents (UP BOR) held on April 16, after deliberation of a proposal submitted by the President's Advisory Council, a committee composed of the UP System vice presidents and the chancellors of all UP constituent units.

With this decision, UP students in all constituent units are given two options. They can choose to complete their course requirements until May 31, 2021, and upon compliance shall be given a numeric grade under a "deferred grade" scheme. Instead of receiving a failing grade, students who find themselves unable to complete their course requirements by May 2021 will be considered dropped

and will have to retake the course in the succeeding semester.

However, students whose circumstances allow them to work on course requirements during quarantine, can choose to complete these requirements, following the adjusted syllabus and the deadlines set by their constituent university. They will then be given a numerical grade based on faculty assessment of their performance.

Moreover, students who enrolled in a course that is a prerequisite to a higher course will be allowed to enroll in the latter for credit, despite the "deferred grade" for the prerequisite course. To help students catch up with their courses, departments, units and institutes shall offer bridging programs during the first semester of AY 2020-2021.

Departments and faculty have been urged to prepare necessary course requirements that will allow them to assess academic performance, taking into

consideration the crisis conditions the students are working in. These adjusted course requirements must be communicated to the students by May 1, 2020.

For postgraduate students, their departments, units and institutions shall determine how best to proceed with the courses and how to assess students' academic performances, in consultation with the students and in consideration of the current crisis situation.

UP is also waiving academic rules as well as policies on scholastic standing and student financial assistance.

Specifically, the deadlines for the dropping of subjects and for filing Leave of Absence for the second semester of AY 2019-2020 are lifted. As for the maximum residency rule, residence for this semester shall not be counted in the years of residence of a student.

A student who incurred a grade of incomplete (INC) during the second semester

of AY 2018-2019 shall be allowed to remove the INC until first semester AY 2020-2021. Similarly, a student who incurred a grade of 4.0 during the same period shall also be allowed to remove the 4.0 until first semester AY 2020-2021.

Rules on scholastic standing (delinquency), including rules on warning, probation, dismissal and permanent disqualification, are suspended for the second semester AY 2019-2020. Policies on student financial assistance, which are tied to scholastic standing, are similarly suspended.

The University will continue to explore alternative modes of instruction, requirements and assessment methods that are consistent with its mandate as national university, and with the principles of honor and excellence, all while taking into account the extreme conditions, unequal life circumstances, and high levels of anxiety, stress and suffering that UP faculty and students are enduring.

UP MANILA RECOMMENDS ADDITIONAL MEASURES ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The University of the Philippines Manila and National Institutes of Health Technical Working Group submitted to the National Economic Development Authority on March 30 a position statement on the "Urgent Scaling-up Needs for a National Coordinated Response for the Covid 19 Pandemic Whole-of-Society Approach."

The statement was based on the collective inputs and wide-ranging experiences and expertise of key representatives from different UP Manila colleges and component units of the NIH and is an update to a previously issued statement dated Feb. 4, 2020.

The statement reiterated UP Manila's and NIH's strong support to the current initiatives of the Philippine government and recognition of the role of the Department of Health (DOH) in the control and management of the disease.

Apart from supporting the DOH Circular 2020-0049 on the general guidelines for health facilities for COVID-19, the national health university is urging the following additional measures: for hospital staff to also practice physical isolation even during mealtimes and be tested every three weeks, for DOH-identified COVID-19 referral hospitals to be provided funds in converting existing facilities to handle expanded numbers of intensive care unit patients in terms of structural improvement, additional equipment, supplies, and trained manpower; and an intercity-wide service delivery network for the sharing of medical personnel in order to meet the "1-week duty with 2-weeks off" rotation of health workers which requires a round-the-clock Infectious Disease and Pulmonary specialist in all COVID-19 cases.

The health experts of UP Manila also called on DOH to ensure the use of only FDA-approved test kits and full compliance with biosafety procedures. They are asking the health department to collaborate with academe/research institutes to assess the cost effectiveness of expanding facility based molecular test kits vs. standalone (point of care) test kits, vs. rapid test kits, or a combination thereof.

As of DOH's March 31 announcement, five kinds of Covid 19 rapid test kits have been approved by the FDA on March 30. The rapid test kit detects the presence of antibodies that may not be present in the early stage of the infection, thus, it needs confirmatory testing as compared to the Polymerase Chain Reaction test that detects the presence of the virus.

The FDA has also announced its approval of the **GenAmplify™ Corona Virus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) RT-PCR Detection Kit**, the first locally-made, PCR-based test kit for commercial use. It was developed by a team of NIH scientists led by Dr. Raul V. Destura with funding from the Department of Science and Technology. According to the DOH, the mass testing of suspected COVID-19 cases that will use this kit will start on April 14 to prioritize Persons Under Investigation and Persons Under Monitoring.

The Manila Health Tek, Inc. reported that the first batch of reagents had arrived which will enable them to start manufacturing the test kits that can accommodate up to 120,000 tests. A certain number of testing kits that can do up to 26,000 tests is being prioritized by the DOST for field implementation and distribution to the Philippine General Hospital, Makati Medical Center, The Medical City, Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center, Southern Philippines Medical Center, and Baguio General Hospital.

As per the statement, also being recommended for immediate formulation by the DOH is an algorithm for the clinical diagnosis and management of COVID-19 patients for use by physicians in the country following the latest Philippine Society of Microbiology and Infectious Disease guidelines (2020), specially for level 1 and 2 hospitals and rural health units.

For a projected surge in the number of cases in the next weeks due to the planned mass testing, the statement enjoined the DOH and the national government to increase the stock of ICU beds, mechanical ventilators, and antivirals.

It further urged DOH to ramp up local COVID-19 clinical trials and consider allowing limited compassionate use of off-label but potentially effective medicines being studied by the Chinese, Japanese, American, and French national ministries of health.



UP SOARS TO 70TH AMONG TOP UNIVERSITIES FROM EMERGING ECONOMIES

The University of the Philippines is now at the top 70 notable universities from emerging economies in 2020. This is according to the 2020 Times Higher Education (THE) Emerging Economies University Rankings, where the University had steadily risen from the top 201-250 bracket in 2017, to the top 166 in 2018, and to the top 87 in 2019.

De La Salle University is the only other Philippine university in the 2020 rankings, figuring in for the second year. As it did last year, China leads the rankings with its universities claiming the top four places. It is also the one represented best, with 81 institutions. India is still second with 56 institutions, while Brazil is third with 46.

THE used London's Financial Times Stock Exchange Quality of Markets criteria in classifying economies as

"advanced emerging, secondary emerging, or frontier." These include: advanced emerging economies, Brazil, Malaysia, South Africa, and Taiwan; secondary emerging markets, China, India, the Philippines, and Russia; and, frontier economies, Argentina, Malta, Romania, and Vietnam.

UP's rise in the ranking is remarkable, given an increase in the number of eligible institutions, from 442 last year to 533 this year. The rankings use the same 13 performance indicators as the THE World University Rankings (THE-WUR) to judge institutions, but recalibrate them "to reflect the development priorities of universities in emerging economies."

Jo Lontoc
UP Media and Public Relations Office
From up.edu.ph

NTTCHP marks 45th founding anniv with forum on technology in education

The National Teacher Training Center for the Health Professions (NTTCHP) celebrated its 45th founding anniversary on January 27, 2020 at the UP Manila Museum of A History of Ideas.

“NTTC-HP was envisioned as part of a grand plan of the World Health Organization (WHO) to elevate the effectiveness of education in the health sciences worldwide and was established in the University of the Philippines Manila,” said NTTCHP Dean Dr. Melflor A. Atienza. The UP Board of Regents approved its creation on January 30, 1975.

“A reputable university needs teachers to continuously train its faculty. It is



CAPTION

something that I believe that every university must have and we are very lucky that in UP Manila we have the National Teachers Training for the Health Profession,” stated Chancellor Carmencita Padilla in her message.

She stated that being a WHO Regional Educational Development Center in the Western Pacific Region, NTTCHP’s responsibility is training not only the faculty in the Philippines but also other teachers in the world.

Chancellor Padilla challenged the NTTCHP to be more relevant, to make sure it is ten steps ahead than the rest of the world, and produce hundreds more of students in the next decade who are trained in Universal Health Care.

For her part, former NTTCHP Dean Erlyn Sana declared that the NTTC-HP has become responsive and a pioneer in innovations in the health profession education setting as she presented the milestones in the NTTCHP history. She announced that by the next school year with the final approval of the UP Manila University Council and UP Board of Regents, NTTCHP will be facing a new track of its ladderized curriculum; a reconfigured Master of Health Profession Education which is a blended learning platform, and a new outcome-

based PhD program in health professions education. She added that the new track is a testimony to the usefulness of the original program.

“We would like to say that even if we don’t have a building yet, in 45 years, we have built individuals and persons with character,” Dr. Sana emphasized, citing the NTTCHP’s total of 290 diploma and master’s degree graduates and a retention rate of 93.73% as of the end of AY 2019-2020.

The conference that marked the celebration discussed technology in education. Former dean and Prof. Nemuel Fajutagana talked about the virtual learning environment. Dean Atienza discussed iTuro, a Blended Learning course under the Academic Program Improvement Project of

the UP Manila Interactive Learning Center while Dr. Antonio Miguel Dans tackled the topic “Managing Online Resources.”

During the celebration, NTTCHP recognized the organizations and institutions that assisted in fulfilling its goals and achievements. These are the Association of Philippine Medical Colleges, Philippine Tuberculosis Society Inc., Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis, Cebu Institute of Medicine, Health Human Resources Development Bureau of the Department of Health (DOH), UP-PGH Child Protection Unit, Philippine Council for Health Research and Development, Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau of DOH, Dr. Corazon Paulino Gonzalez Memorial Foundation Inc., and World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific Office.

As part of its 45th anniversary, the NTTCHP also revived its official newsletter, the “Health Professions Educator” that will be published quarterly. Formerly named the “Health Professions Teacher,” the newsletter’s name was changed to signify its faculty members’ passion for their craft as educators.

CHARMAINE LINGDAS

Draft guidelines on COVID-19 hospital care tackled in online forum

An online conference aimed at presenting to the stakeholders the initial draft of the ethics 19 guidelines for Covid 19 hospital care that was organized by UP Manila and UP Diliman faculty members was held on April 3, 2020.

The guidelines are intended to serve as a reference for health care facility administrators, clinicians, as well as affected patients and their families in the current COVID-19 epidemic. The stakeholders in attendance represented different sectors and groups and were those fully involved in the process of drafting the guidelines that will be used by the UP Manila Development Foundation, Inc (UPMDFI).

The UPMDFI aims to produce interim ethical guidelines and a general framework for healthcare institutions and facilities managing COVID19 patients and persons under investigation (PUI) and addressing the following domains:

1. Ethics in the triage, admission, and allocation of critical care resources for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients;
2. Ethics in the administration of drugs for off-label use in a fatal pandemic scenario brought about by COVID-19;
3. Ethics in rendering resuscitation for COVID-19 patients in cardiopulmonary arrest;
4. Guidance (if not template) for advanced directives for COVID-19 patients;

5. Ethics in the disposal of the bodies and organs of the dead who got sick of COVID19; and
6. Ethics in conducting research and clinical trials in the context of COVID-19 critical care.

In her message, UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla emphasized the integral role of ethics in research. She stressed the urgency of finalizing the guidelines at this time when the Covid 19 pandemic is wreaking havoc in the life of the country and our people.

“As the Health Sciences Center, UP Manila is being looked up to to take the lead in looking for solutions and to carry a significant part of the burden in terms of patient care. We are answering these calls in collaboration with the government and the private sector,” she stated.

The UP Manila chancellor cited measures taken by UP Manila in response to the Covid 19 pandemic, such as accepting the Department of Health’s designation of the Philippine General Hospital as one of the Covid 19 referral centers, development of a local testing kit for the virus and getting the testing kits ready for widespread use and creation of the PGH Bayanihan Na! Covid 19 Operations Center that was launched on March 30, 2020.

“As we work together to confront the COVID-19

pandemic, difficult decisions have to be made that may raise ethical issues and concerns on varied aspects of care. Already, we are hearing of countries and specific communities facing delicate situations, such as rationing limited health care resources, imposing restrictions to individual movement and liberties, and upholding professional duty to treat in the face of personal danger.”

At present, health professionals and other frontline workers rely on their own day-to-day experiences and knowledge generated from different sources in managing cases. The past three months have witnessed the difficulties they endure in managing Covid 19 cases, such as inadequate Personal Protective Equipment, long and continued hours of work due to a reduction in their ranks by deaths and positive cases of Covid 19, an overly burdened and weak health system, and discrimination. These conditions put the healthcare workers under massive physical, mental, and emotional stress.

The forum served as a venue for the proponents of the study to generate inputs and ideas for the revision and finalization of the guidelines for Covid 19 hospital care. The presentation of the draft guidelines was followed by a panel discussion and open forum with the stakeholders.

CYNTHIA VILLAMOR



Caption

RESEARCH INTEGRITY WORKSHOP

The University of the Philippines Manila, with the goal of ensuring that its faculty, students and staff across all disciplines conduct their researches responsibly, held an orientation workshop on research integrity last February 03, 2020 at the UP Manila Social Hall.

This activity, led by the Committee on Research Integrity, was attended by UP Manila deans, associate deans for research, department chairs and assistant chairs for research. The topics covered were

Introduction to Research Integrity, Epidemiology of Research Misconduct, and the Need for an Office of Research Integrity. The activity was interactive which included scenario discussion with the participants.

The Committee on Research Integrity is headed by Dr. Edward Wang. Other members are Dr. Jacinto Blas Mantaring, UPMREB chair; Dr. Jean Anne Toral, head of the PGH EHRO; Dr. Kathryn Reyes, CPH Associate Dean for Research;

and Prof Marilen Balolong, CAS Associate Dean for Research.

The objectives of the orientation workshop were:

1. To provide a uniform foundation for all activities regarding research integrity;
2. To create a pool of facilitators and advocates among our constituents across all UP Manila Units; and
3. To arrange for a year-long schedule for our planned caravan to involve as many units in UP Manila as possible.



UP Manila assists Taal eruption evacuees

UP Manila's efforts to provide assistance to affected families in the AMIGA communities (Alfonso, Mendez, Indang, General Emilio Aguinaldo, and Amadeo) continued through the UP Manila Community Health and Development Program (CHPD).

Since the Taal volcanic eruption last January 12, U.P. teams have been coordinating

with the municipalities' officials and point persons during visits to the different communities and evacuation centers.

Medical consultations, services for persons with disabilities and elderly persons, children's activities for psychosocial support and distribution of relief goods to the evacuation centers' camp managers were implemented. In particular, the UP Manila

College of Allied Medical Professions provided services to PWDs and the elderly on January 18, 2020. UP Manila distributed relief goods to the various evacuation centers.

The highlights of recent outreach activities: January 22 – The group was divided into 2 teams. One team went to 5 evacuation centers in Alfonso and attended to 15 patients who needed to be

referred to physicians, physical therapists and occupational therapists. The other team went to 4 other evacuation centers in Mendez.

These visits were initial health assessments carried out in coordination with the Mendez Municipal Health Office and Rural Health Unit staff. The team saw a total of 63 patients.

January 23 – A team went

to an evacuation center in Bailen. Coordination was done with the school and barangay officials and other evacuation center officials for the provision of services.

January 24 – Two teams were deployed, one was in evacuation centers in Alfonso and the other team was in Bailen. Eleven patients in Alfonso were referred to physical therapists/

occupational therapists. In Bailen, several patients were referred to physicians after a preliminary health assessment was completed by the Bailen Rural Health staff.

The team was composed of faculty members from the UP Manila College of Nursing who were coordinating the deployment of UPCN students to eight barangays in Bailen starting January 28.



PGH FROM PAGE 1...

health workers' accommodation. Other hotels around the vicinity also donated rooms for the hospital's other personnel assigned to the wards. Other private groups are providing food for the frontliners, the allocation of which is being organized by the PGH Dietary.

The PGH Director mentioned that arrangements have been made with the City of Manila to set up a 47-bed quarantine facility in Delpan Street that will provide services to PUIs that PGH will no longer accept.

He said PGH will reciprocate all the support the hospital is receiving with its best level of care. Dr. Legaspi asked the public to also give PGH time to organize the right deployment system for testing so that patients that were thought to be positive can be discharged as well as to slow down the spread of the virus.

Even as a COVID-19 referral center, Dr. Legaspi assured everyone that PGH will continue providing essential services for confined and outpatient non-COVID-19 patients. He admitted that the employees, staff, doctors,

nurses, paramedical staff, and the janitorial and security services of PGH all felt a sense of dread as the day has come for PGH to fulfill its promise. Despite their fears, the Director said they are ready to continue this leadership role in serving the country.

He stressed that it will not be easy to run the hospital, but with the help of the government, private sectors, and the community, PGH will be able to fulfill its mandate of providing high quality health service to the Filipinos in this time of COVID crisis.

ANNE MARIE ALTO

BAYANIHAN NA! FROM PAGE 1...

shared by Mr. James Mercado of NowheretogobutUP Foundation Inc. in cooperation with Unexus Medical Solutions, Inc.

In his message during the program, UP President Concepcion mentioned the various efforts, notably the help from the government and donations from the private

sector, which were necessary to equip this Operations Center. He expressed hope that this Center's operations will be instrumental in continuing PGH's long tradition of offering excellent service to the country. For her part, Chancellor Padilla outlined the myriad of tasks and the numerous people, organizations, and offices who contributed to this Center's complete fruition.

She expressed her gratitude to them and exhorted everyone to work together for the fight against COVID-19 to be successful. Director Legaspi capped the program by also listing quite a number of important contributions of equipment and the crucial help of his team and other personnel.

Mr. Manuel Pangilinan of PLDT and PGHMF President

Dr. Telesforo Gana sent AVPs greeting to the attendees and promised to support and work closely with the UP-PGH COVID-19 Bayanihan Na! Operations Center.

All in all, it was a memorable event which started with the taped invocation from the UP Medical Alumni Society Chorale and ended with the singing of "UP Naming Mahal."

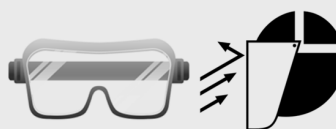
CYNTHIA VILLAMOR

EYE AND COVID-19

A public service information bulletin from the
PHILIPPINE EYE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
National Institutes of Health - University of the Philippines Manila



1 The use of protective goggles and/or face shields is recommended for healthcare workers.



Conjunctival mucosa may be an alternative site of transmission for corona virus.

2 Red eye may be associated with COVID-19.



Conjunctivitis is seen in 1 out of 100 COVID-19 positive patients.
Conjunctival congestion is seen in 5 out of 100 COVID-19 positive patients.

3 Ocular Toxicity of Chloroquine (CQ) and Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ).



Reversible corneal deposits and/or irreversible retinal toxicity are seen in 7 out of 1,000 patients on long-term use of CQ and HCQ. Consider the **potential life saving benefit** over the potential side-effects in deciding the use of these drugs for COVID-19.



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8th Wound Care Basic and Intermediate Course 2020



In partnership with the Philippine Air Force, the UP Manila College of Nursing conducted the WoundPedia Wound Care Course to Filipino health care providers on January 27-28 and January 30-31 at the UP Manila College of Nursing.

The activity was attended by military and civilian health care professionals from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, health care professionals from the different government and

private health care institutions in the Philippines, and faculty members from the different nursing institutions.

The WoundPedia Wound Care Basic Course is an INTERPROFESSIONAL course designed to introduce physicians, nurses and other health professionals to the essentials of skin and wound care. Its aim was to provide introductory educational experience for all health care providers.

During the two-day course, the participants were able to:

1. Integrate basic wound healing physiology into clinical assessment and design a care plan for skin / wound treatment
2. Assess the skin in a structural manner
3. Demonstrate appropriate chronic wound preventative measures (pressure injuries/ulcers), diabetic foot complications, lower limb edema and other etiologies);
4. Simulate clinical practice to

develop skin- and wound care-related basic skills

The WoundPedia Intermediate Wound Care Course, on the other hand, is also an inter-professional course for physicians, nurses and other healthcare providers, but meant for those who have either completed the WoundPedia Basic Wound care course or have knowledge beyond the basic wound and skin care.



The UP College of Nursing sealed partnership with the Philippine Airforce last Wednesday, 29 January 2020, with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU seeks to foster collaboration between the two institutions in areas of education, training, and research. Part of training collaboration is the co-hosting of WoundPedia Basic and Advance Course in Woundcare which seeks to advance collaborative wound care practice. Signing for UP Manila is Chancellor Carmencita Padilla while MGen Pelagio Valenzuela signed for PAF. Dean Sheila Bonito of the College of Nursing, Col. Rudith Vivienne Villanueva, Chief Nurse of PAF, and Dr. Gary Sibbald of WoundPedia signed as witnesses.



The College of Arts and Science held the CAS Workshop Series 2: Revisiting the Role of Ethics and Values in Institutional Strengthening last Jan. 20, 2020 at the Bayleaf Intramuros. This is the second in a series of workshops in the college that focuses on non-academic concerns that are nevertheless highly relevant to the personal and professional well-being of its faculty. While the first workshop focused on how members of the academe can become more effective mental health allies to students, this second workshop's goals were to ground and orient the College

CAS Ethics Workshop

faculty on the role of ethics and values in nation – and institution – building.

Three speakers graced the event. Dr. Jose Florencio Lapeña, University Scientist III and Professor at the Dept. of Otorhinolaryngology, PGH, talked about **Ethics Considerations in the Academe**, including categories of behavior spectrum in unethical conduct in academia and the need for moral consistency and academic integrity. Dr. Pacifico Eric

Calderon, Chair of the Dept. of Medical Ethics and Humanities, St. Lukes Medical Center College of Medicine discussed two topics that are highly relevant in the current era: **Social Media Comportment in Higher Education Institutions**, and **Self – Care: What it Means and Why it Matters Morally**. Finally, Dr. Ma. Faina Diola of the National College of Public Administration and Governance, UP Diliman, led a lecture – workshop on **Cultivating Good Citizenship Values and Ethical Leadership**.

She discussed the core Filipino values as enshrined in the Philippine Constitution and how members of the academe, as well as all Filipinos, can contribute to nation – building.

The workshop was attended by full-time faculty members of the College, and was also graced by Chancellor Carmencita Padilla, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Nymia Simbulan, and Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development Michael Tee, who also updated the CAS faculty on the ongoing renovations in the college.

FORUM REVIEWS BURDEN AND DRIVERS OF COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES

UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla was the focal person and facilitator of a policy forum on counterfeit and substandard medicines conducted by the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) in partnership with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on January 30, 2020.

The event was attended by representatives from the government, academe, hospitals, NGOs, professional organizations and private institutions. As stated by Chancellor Padilla, the objectives of the forum were to review the global burden and the Philippine burden of falsifying substandard medical products and the policy efforts of the government in safeguarding public health and safety; hear the perspectives from the academe, industry, and other stakeholders; and identify their roles.

Health Undersecretary and Food and Drug Administration OIC Dr. Rolando Enrique Domingo stated that the forum is a good venue to raise awareness on the existence of such products and their risks to the health of Filipinos. He emphasized that the FDA's mandate is to ensure the safety, efficacy and quality of health products and that the agency is continuously taking measures to enforce the law and penalize violators through the Republic Act No. 8203.

Dr. Soccoro Escalante, Regional Coordinator for Essential Medicines and Health Technologies of the World Health Organization, explained the reformatted definitions of the WHO in terms of counterfeit medical products. A substandard product means that this product is out of the specification that is in the national or international pharmacopoeia. These are authorized medical products that fail to meet either their quality standards or their specifications. This could be caused by manufacturing error or expired or degraded medicines in the supply chain. Falsified products are medical products that are deliberately and fraudulently misrepresented in terms of their identity, composition, or source. Unregistered and unlicensed products are medical products that have not undergone evaluation and/or approval by the national medicines regulatory authority for marketing.

She stated that based on a WHO study, an analysis of 48,000 samples collected across the world through 88 countries indicated that 10.5% of all the samples had failed the quality specifications of medicines and around 64.5% of the samples of falsified products were antimicrobial.

Recognizing the need to determine the driving forces of substandard and falsified medicines, WHO has identified that constraints in access to medicine is an important driver. She asserted that WHO is trying to initiate a global political will in order to translate the global burden to local impact. She pointed out the need for sound investment strategies: investment in strengthening regulatory capacity and system as a key step to safeguard the manufacture distribution and supply of medical products and cooperation and coordination within the country and across the countries for reporting systems greater transparency and effective multi-stakeholder engagements.

Other speakers and topics were **Mr. Ramonito Tampus, President and Chairman of the Board, Merck Business Solutions, Anti-Counterfeiting Technologies of Merck**; **Dr. Yolanda Robles**, former dean and professor, UP College of Pharmacy, *Role of Academe*; **Atty. Katherine Austria-Lock**, OIC Center for Drug Regulation and Research-Food and Drug Administration, *Counterfeit Drug Product Monitoring*; **Atty. Emilio Polig**, OIC FDA Field Regulatory Operations, *Enforcement- How Successful Are We?*; and **Atty. Bu Castro**, Philippine Hospital Association Past President and current Treasurer, **Dr. Theodoro Padilla**, Executive Director, Pharmaceutical and Health Care Association of the Philippines; and **Dr. Oscar Tiño**, Chairman, Commission on Legislation, *Roles of Various Stakeholders*.

NIH anniv confab tackles health effects of climate change, disasters, and outbreaks

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) conducted its 22nd anniversary conference with the theme, “**Health Amidst Climate Change, Disasters, and Outbreaks**” on March 2-3 at the Bayanihan Center, UNILAB, Pasig City.

The conference aimed to enlighten the participants and the general public about the intersections of climate change and health. It discussed the present healthcare challenges and opportunities amidst future climate change scenarios, disasters, and disease outbreaks and network-building among various and diverse stakeholders toward future healthcare systems.

Recognizing its broader roles, the conference tackled the health impact of increased heart-related morbidities and

mortalities; higher risks of exposures to vector-borne diseases and pathogens; reduced food availability and quality for daily nutritional needs; increased risks of physical and mental health issues associated with demoralized and displaced populations resulting from climate-induced dislocation, environmental decline and conflict situations; greater frequency of infectious disease epidemics and physical injuries following storm-induced floods, landslides and droughts; and other climate change related consequences to health.

“The theme aptly captures the broader societal role of NIH. The clarion call for us is to go into more impactful research and for collaboration and networking with more institutions and sectors on health as affected by climate



change, disasters, and outbreaks,” stated UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla in her message.

She called on health and public health providers to be ready to play an active role in the prevention, early detection and mitigation of

the health effects of climate change by including climate and health content in the curricula and continuing education courses.

Understanding and staying abreast of the new strategies for the early detection of emerging disease risks and

outbreaks that will likely be driven by a changing climate, will help health and public health professionals be prepared and respond.

Apart from the plenary lectures, discussions on urban planning and health infrastructures in response to

the current climate scenarios was held. Workshops were also conducted on Disaster Preparedness by the Institute of Health Policies and Developmental Studies (IHPDS) and Manuscript Writing for researchers.

Poster presentations and exhibits depicting the theme were also part of the anniversary commemoration.

The NIH was enacted through Republic Act 8503 (Health Research and Development Act of 1998) on 13 February 1998 to serve as the coordinating and integrating body of existing researches in UP Manila.

From a handful of institutes, the NIH has since grown to include ten institutes and three centers, and at least 24 study groups, along with vital supporting units.

LOOKING BACK: UP DURING THE AMERICAN PERIOD

With an initial budget of one hundred thousand pesos, the University of the Philippines embarked on an ambitious venture of molding and guiding the youth of the country in the arts, the sciences, the humanities, and the intricacies of democracy.

On June 18, 1908, Act. No. 1870 established “a University for the Philippine Islands.”

Then Governor General James F. Smith was also authorized to establish in Manila or at some other convenient location what was to be known as “The University of the Philippines,” organizing it as a corporation with public funds for its maintenance. The new university was to provide instruction in literature, philosophy, the sciences and the arts, and give professional and technical training to anyone regardless of age, sex, nationality, religious belief, or political affiliation.

The UP was patterned after American state universities in organization and administration. For instance, its government was vested in a Board of Regents which, in turn, elected the president and secretary of the University. Under the original charter, the Treasurer of the Philippine Islands was ex-officio treasurer of the University, and the Insular Auditor audited its accounts and expenses.

Scholarships and Grants

The fourth president of the University was Rafael Palma, noted journalist, scholar, and national leader. Continuing the work planned by Dr. Benton, the University established the Graduate School of Hygiene and Public Health, established the Northern Luzon College, a branch of the College of Liberal Arts in Vigan, attached the School of Surveying to the College of Engineering; and established the School of Business Administration as a separate unit.

Faced with mounting financial problems, President Palma, together with some alumni, worked on the enactment of a land grant of at least one hundred thousand hectares. However, only 10,000 hectares in Mindanao were awarded them with the passage of Act No. 3608. Donations from outside helped alleviate the situation. Scholarships were established by such wealthy Filipinos as Mariano Limjap, Dr. Ariston Bautista, and Dolores de la Rama Bailon.

When President Palma went on a foreign tour in 1927, Dean Jorge Bocobo assumed the presidency. He was appointed

in 1934. During his administration, a tight watch over expenditures was enforced due to the precarious financial situation of the university. The use of buildings for dances and banquets was prohibited. Enrolment, which before had been restricted through rigid entrance tests and requirements, was slowly increased. His administration put a high priority on quality of instruction, student health, and discipline, beautification of the campus and elimination of frivolity in campus activities.

Permanent Faculty of Filipino Scholars

The first president of the UP was Murray S. Bartlett and its first secretary was McQueen S. Wightman. Dr. Bartlett assumed office on June 1, 1911.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Bartlett said, “There is no more important duty before us than the training of a permanent faculty of Filipino scholars for this University. This essential spirit of initiatives must be developed in them by close contact and association with trained research workers.

During those days, lack of suitable buildings for classrooms was already a problem. The University had to make use of old buildings and temporary structures. According to the President in his first annual report, suitable buildings were “the greatest need of the university.”

A temporary building was erected in Los Baños to house the College of Agriculture. School work began in 1909. At the same time, the School of Fine Arts began holding classes in a rented house on R. Hidalgo Steet in Quiapo. In the following year, the government school known as the Academy, and Junior College of Liberal Arts became the College of Engineering.

In 1910, the College of Veterinary Medicine was established and the Philippine Medical School, already organized under Act No 1415, was made part of the University as the College of Medicine and Surgery. A sixth unit was added to the burgeoning university in 1911, when the Young Men’s Christian Association Law School, the first English law school founded in the country, became the College of Law with 108 first year students.

It was also in this year that the first annual University Commencement was held. Ten degrees were conferred, and the

first honorary degree given to Chief Justice Cayetano S. Arellano.

The following year, the 2nd annual University Commencement Exercises were held in the Marble Hall of the old Ayuntamiento. Thirty degrees were conferred and the College of Medicine and Surgery graduated Miss Maria Paz Mendoza the first Filipino woman doctor.

By 1914, a veterinary clinic and hospital, and a School of Education had been established, and courses in Pharmacy and Dentistry offered at the College of Medicine.

Political Dissension

In 1934, the University experienced one of its most severe crises. Earlier, a break between the University and legislature had occurred due to dissensions over university participation in political questions and the growing hostility of the students against government policy. The students that year were aggressive and partisan. President Bocobo tried to halt the conversion of The Philippine Collegian, the official student organ, into an instrument of any group with partisan political leanings. This entailed the suspension of some issues of the publication in the face of what President Bocobo believed was the persistence of political groups to use the Collegian for their purposes.

In his annual report that year, he stated, “there is evident necessity of persisting in our efforts to remove the university from political interference and partisan influence, or guarding against the constituencies of this institution (from) indulging in activities which might prejudice the best interest and welfare of the university...”

Even as this growing threat to the University was being vigilantly controlled, a greater obstacle soon loomed into view.

Over the years, enrolment had skyrocketed. In 1928, there were 7,849 students crammed in the campuses in Manila and Los Baños. Many students were refused admission to the University for lack of rooms. By 1937, the University was seriously considering the transfer of the College of Engineering Los Baños and the splitting of colleges.

In 1939, the Board of Regents appropriated P17,500,500 for a 450-hectare site in Quezon City. By 1949, the Oblation and most UP units had moved to the new campus in Diliman.