

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MANILA HEALTHSCAPE



ISSUE 373 • MAR-APR 2019



Prof. Jennifer Paguio of the UP Manila College of Nursing delivering a plenary lecture entitled "Promoting Healthy Professional Practice Environments" during the Congress.

2nd Patient Safety Congress highlights key issues and challenges

Building, promoting, and institutionalizing patient safety from theory to practice was the core theme of the 2nd Patient Safety Congress held on March 28-29, 2019 that tackled the framework, principles, elements, implications, problems, and other issues.

A collaboration among the UP Manila College of Medicine (CM), College of Nursing and College of Pharmacy, the conference's theme reflected the complexity and challenging nature of patient safety as a system and culture.

The conference included expert inputs and case studies with interactive discussions and research presentations, including best practices and innovative strategies in different settings on different sub-themes. It followed the first congress that gave an overview on patient safety and posed a challenge to actively start safety initiatives in healthcare institutions and across healthcare professionals and advocates.

"This partnership reflects the nature of patient safety that is preventable harm in health care that requires a coordinated team approach among doctors, nurses, pharmacists, administrators, relevant stakeholders, and even officials," stressed CM Dean Charlotte Chiong.

Dean Chiong pointed out that the Tokyo Declaration on Patient Safety dated 14 April 2018 strengthens the 2002 World Health Assembly Resolution reaffirming the commitment to improving patient safety globally in

order to reduce all avoidable harm and risk of harm to all patients during their interaction with the healthcare systems by 2030. The declaration recognizes among others that patient safety is one of the most important components of healthcare delivery which is essential to achieve universal health coverage.

"The theme of this event is timely as we have recently made significant strides in passing landmark health laws that seek to improve access of our countrymen to quality health care services. The challenge for all of us now in the health sector is to translate these laws into more tangible reforms and programs that can positively impact our citizens," stated Senator Risa Hontiveros in her message delivered by Dr. Joseph Anthony Lachica, Consultant for Health Policy and Public Health.

Principles and elements

"Patient safety is the cornerstone of high quality health care," Philippine Academy of Family Physicians National Director Dr. Limuel Abrogena quoted Mitchell in an article entitled "Defining Patient Safety and Quality Care" in *Patient Safety and Quality: An Evidence-Based Handbook for Nurses: Vol 1*. The fundamental principles for patient safety, according to Dr. Abrogena, are patient engagement at all levels of health care provision; a just and trusting culture; respectful, transparent relationships between and among those who deliver and those who receive healthcare; recognition that health care providers work in a complex system; appropriate responsibility and accountability at all

levels of the healthcare system; and continuous learning and improvement.

In her lecture entitled "Building a Strong Team: Teamwork and Communication Strategies for Patient Safety," Dr. Lynn Panganiban, professor at the UPCM, mentioned the following driving factors toward establishing a patient safety culture: leadership, evidence-based practice, teamwork, communication, learning culture, just culture, and patient-centered culture. Citing a study by Dingley C, et al in 2008, she mentioned that in the acute care setting, communication failures lead to increases in patient harm, length of stay, and resource use, as well as more intense caregiver dissatisfaction and more rapid turnover in multi-site studies of intensive care units, poor collaborative communication among nurses and physicians, among other specific factors contributed to as much as a 1.8% fold increase in patient risk-adjusted mortality and length of stay.

Ensuring patient safety, for UPCM nursing professor Jenniffer Paguio, entails examining the professional practice and work environments of health professionals, of which 60-80% are nurses, under a context-specific lens that covers the structures and processes vis-à-vis patient, provider, and health care organization outcomes. It also demands developing long-term solutions and strategies to address health human resource limitations and growing healthcare demands and exploring innovations at the hospital and unit levels. **PAGE 5**

UP ACHIEVES TOP 100 RANKING IN THE ASIA

The University of the Philippines is now in the top 100 for Asia in two of the world's most influential university rankings, after placing 95th in the newly released 2019 Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings.

Since 2017, the national university has featured in the THE rankings for Asia but this is the first time that it made the top 100. UP soared 61 places from its 156th position in 2018 to sit in the upper 23 percent of 417 universities from 27 countries for 2019. It is one of only five universities from Southeast Asia in the top 100, with two from Singapore and the other two from Malaysia. UP remains the highest ranked university from the Philippines.

The Asia University Rankings use the same 13 indicators of the World University Rankings, though "recalibrated to reflect the priorities of Asian institutions," to gauge the performance of research-intensive universities across the region. The indicators are grouped into five areas: teaching (the learning environment), research (volume,

income and reputation), citations (research influence), international outlook (staff, students and research), and industry income (knowledge transfer). Citations and research are the biggest determinants of scores at 30 percent each. UP secured a place in the top 600 in the 2019 THE World University Rankings announced in October last year. Its rise in the global rankings has been consistent, from its debut at the 801-1,000 bracket in 2017 to its jump to 601-800 in 2018 and to 501-600 in 2019.

Earlier this year, London-based THE also published the rankings for universities in emerging economies where UP made a 79-place leap to 87th, and in the Asia-Pacific region where UP edged into the 101-110 bracket from 150-160 in the previous year.

For the fifth year running, UP was in the top 100 of the QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) Asia University Rankings, holding the 72nd spot in 2019. The rankings published by British company QS are also among the most recognized in the world.

Source: ovpaa.up.edu.ph

College of Pharmacy ranks 1st among top schools in the March 2019 licensure exam

Fifty-three (53) BS Pharmacy and BS Industrial Pharmacy graduates of the UP College of Pharmacy passed the recent Pharmacist Licensure Examination held on March 6-7, 2019, placing the school as the Top 1 Performing School and with a 100% passing rate in the said licensure exam.

Seven (7) of these passers landed into the list of Top 10 examinees. They are: Julianne Nicole Dela Cruz, 1st place; Jonas Aquino, 3rd; Patricia May Arellano and Sarah May Obmaña, 5th; Alison Mary Docena, 6th; Lance Gerik Chan, 7th; and Karl Ian Maliwat, 9th.



SMEC institutions explore partnerships with UK univ on priority areas



Chancellor Carmencita Padilla (seated, 3rd from right) with Ambassador Antonio Lagdameo and other officials from the different SMEC institutions during a courtesy visit and meeting at the Philippine Embassy in London, United Kingdom.

UP Manila participated in the recent international partnership visit organized by the British Council for the member schools of the South Manila Educational Consortium (SMEC).

SMEC is a group of higher educational institutions composed of the following: Adamson University, De La Salle - College of St. Benilde, De La Salle University, Emilio Aguinaldo College, Lyceum of the Philippines

University, Philippine Christian University, Philippine Normal University, Philippine Women's University, Santa Isabel College, St. Paul University Manila, St. Scholastica's College, and

the University of the Philippines Manila.

The primary purpose of the consortium is to collaborate actively to effect social transformation by promoting the cause of education and by

making quality and relevant learning accessible to as many as possible.

This second international visit held last March 13-24, organized by the British Council, was participated in by officials from nine SMEC universities. The UK universities visited were the University of Glasgow, Manchester Metropolitan University, Birmingham City University, Aberystwyth University, University of Wales Trinity St. Davies, and Cardiff and Valle College.

The goal was to meet universities in the United Kingdom with interest

to partner with SMEC institutions in the following priority areas: Health, Nursing and Medical sciences; Gender Studies; Music; Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management; Digital Designs and IT; Academe-Industry Partnership (UPM lead); Employability (UPM lead); International Conference on Aeging (SPMU lead); dProf Programme at University of Aberystwyth (PNU lead); International Arts Festival (DLSU lead); Sports Science Conference (EAC lead); and Project Reducing the City's Traffic Woes for a Liveable Manila (AdU Lead).

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE



Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Nymia Pimentel-Simbulan with the members of the GE Council and faculty participants.

GE workshop on educational research and evaluation of instruction

A total of 75 faculty members from various UP Manila colleges, together with the General Education (GE) Council members, participated in the last installment of a four-part GE workshop held on 26-27 February 2019 at the Heritage Hotel Manila.

The fourth module entitled "Educational Research and Evaluation of Instruction towards Continuous Development of the GE Program" focused on providing knowledge and information to GE teachers on how they can improve the design and implementation of instruction in their respective GE courses. It also centered on giving the participants a broader perspective of GE and its impact on the University's vision for its graduates.

In her presentation on educational evaluation concepts, Prof. Maria Elizabeth Grageda talked

about measurement, assessment, testing, grading, evaluation, and research. The approaches to evaluation and application of its results and the issues surrounding educational evaluation were discussed by Prof. Nemuel Fajutagana.

Moreover, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs Alyssa Peleo-Alampay presented the challenges and future directions for GE in UP. She explained that the GE program evaluation was meant to ascertain the magnitude and depth to which the expected outcomes of the program are being achieved. She expounded on the evaluation matrix, where course exit survey and focus group discussions (FGDs) were highlighted.

Prof. Alampay also tackled the concerns and priorities in implementing the GE program, such as the continuing development of

course packages, conduct of faculty workshops on effective teaching, updating of course content based on scholarship in the field/discipline, reflective exploration of subject pedagogies, setting of course delivery principles and standards, collaborative teaching, providing an adequate number of GE electives for students to choose from in each constituent university, and ensuring course quality.

At the end of the two-day activity, the participants were able to develop an evaluation plan for a given GE course; formulate a research agenda for the UP Manila GE program; and create a research plan for the GE courses.

The GE workshop series, organized by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and UP Manila GE Council, is part of the University's faculty development program and

efforts to ensure the best academic courses. "The four modules provided a channel for faculty members to acquire proper training and expertise in the implementation of various teaching-learning strategies to achieve the GE learning outcomes," Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Nymia Pimentel-Simbulan said.

It can be recalled that the first module focused on the uniqueness of teaching within the GE framework, highlighting the different kinds of learning that it wants to develop among the students. Module 2 concentrated on the various teaching-learning methods most appropriate within the GE courses. The third module was on the creation of relevant and appropriate instructional materials which would supplement the teaching-learning strategies to be utilized in the GE classroom.

Anne Loren Claire Santos

62 FUTURE RESEARCHES ON VARIED HEALTH TOPICS PRESENTED IN GRAD STUDENTS COLLOQUIUM

A total of 62 ongoing researches and proposals covering various topics, such as rehabilitation science, nursing and health care, public health and policy studies, clinical audiology, health professions education, natural products, microbiology and infectious diseases, and molecular and cell biology were presented during the third Graduate Students Colloquium conducted on April 10-12, 2019 by the National Graduate Office for the Health Sciences (NGOHS).

The activity aimed to enhance the culture of research at UP Manila; provide a sense of community where students interact with their peers and mentors and with a panel of experts; improve the quality of the students' thesis/dissertation designs as well as data analyses; and help in reducing the rate of attrition and eventually increasing the rate of graduation in some UP Manila colleges.

During the opening ceremony, NGOHS Director and Graduate Management Team Chair Dr. Arnold Hallare stressed the critical role that a university-organized colloquium plays in securing UP Manila's efforts as a graduate and research university. He also stated that the activity provides an easier way to track and monitor the progress of graduate students. Based on the data gathered, it was found that those who participated in the colloquia were the same students who have become more motivated to finish their degrees.

Thirty experts including content experts and biostatisticians/epidemiologists guided the students in improving the research designs of their proposals and provided tips on how to analyze and benefit more from their obtained data for those with ongoing researches.



Chancellor Carmencita Padilla and NGOHS Director Arnold Hallare with the Graduate Management Team.

UPM RENEWS PARTNERSHIP WITH MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY



Prof. Patrick McNeil of Macquarie University Australia

Officials from the Macquarie University Australia composed of Prof. Patrick McNeil, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Medicine and Health and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in Health Sciences; Prof. Jeffery Braithwaite, Founding Director of the Australian Institute of Health Innovation, Miss Joanna Holt, Institute Coordinator and Center Coordinator, National Health and Medical Research Council Partnership Center for Health; Dr. Welly Firmanto, Faculty General Manager and Chief Operating Officer of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, and Ms. Hope Tancinco, Regional Director of Macquarie International, visited UP Manila on April 15, 2019.

UP Manila and Macquarie University have an existing partnership with the College of Medicine.

The Memorandum of Understanding was undertaken previously to enhance relations through student exchange programs, joint research activities, joint conferences and other academic meetings, and exchange of academic materials and information.

“Macquarie university is a relatively young university. It was established in a period of time I suppose to be a different university in Sydney, different from the “Sandstone Universities” of Sydney that take a different approach in learning and teaching,” said Professor McNeil. He added that this collaboration is a unique initiative for a university in Australia.

“This has been a significant step forward and has proven to be a vital milestone for closer academic collaboration,” affirmed Chancellor Padilla

in her message read by Vice Chancellor Nymia Simbulan. The UPM chancellor stated that the areas identified for collaboration include research in the health sciences, faculty exchange programs, joint programs at the graduate level and short courses. Specific areas covered in the collaboration include inter-professional education in Family Medicine, the use of big data in e-health and research areas on health innovation, health delivery and health financing. She emphasized that the latter fields are highly relevant to the Philippines in view of the recent enactment of the Universal Health Care Act and that collaboration in these fields will provide valuable inputs for its successful implementation.

Prior to the meeting between UP Manila and Macquarie University, a symposium was

held with the following topics:

- *MQ Health – an Australian first* by Dr. Patrick McNeil. MQ Health is Australia’s first integrated medical center, combining world-class care, teaching and research;
- *Australian Health Reform* by Jeffrey Braithwaite, Founding Director of the Australian Institute of Health Innovation
- *World-class research/Real-world impact: creating the evidence to drive improvements in health service performance and collaborating with health partners to implement change within complex health systems* by Ms. Joanna Holt, Institute Coordinator and Centre Coordinator of NHMRC Partnership Center for Health
- *UP Manila National Institutes of Health (NIH)* by Dr. Eva Cutiongco- De La Paz
- *Service Delivery Networks: Making Systems Work for People* by PGH Director Dr. Gerardo Legaspi

Charmaine Lingdas

Anniversary Celebrations



College of Nursing's 71st Foundation Anniversary

The UP Manila College of Nursing celebrated its 71st founding anniversary on 8-12 April 2019 that kicked off with the inauguration and blessing of the newly renovated first floor of the Sotejo Hall.

Renovations started in 2018 which include the lobby which is now facing Pedro Gil Street, the Nursing Clinics that were modernized and the Office of the College Secretary that was moved in order to be more accessible to the students. Other upgraded facilities include the Computer Laboratory, library, and the auditorium with better seating and acoustics and with state of the art LED screen. In the afternoon, the UP College of Nursing Foundation Inc. had its annual general assembly.

Part of the foundation celebration was the awarding of professorial chairs to five faculty members for their exemplary performance in teaching and research in various fields. The recipients were **Prof. Arnold B. Peralta**, Theresa Ancheta Aquino Professorial Chair; **Prof. Josefina A. Tuazon**; Dr. Francisco Mamaril and Aurora Pizana Mamaril Professorial Chair; **Prof. Floreliz V. Ngaya-an**, Juan and Juana Angara Professorial Chair; **Prof. Luz Barbara Dones**, Nelinda Untalan Sajor Professorial Chair; and **Prof. Peter James Abad**, Eva Cruz Labadan Centennial Professorial Chair.



NIH's Institute of Child Health and Human Development's 20th Anniversary

The Institute of Child Health and Human Development of the National Institutes of Health celebrated its 20th anniversary on April 11 through a symposium entitled “Nurturing Children through Health Research.” The symposium highlighted the role of research and its translation to improve children’s lives. The future of vaccination was discussed by Dr. Xiaojun Wang, Team Leader of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) from WHO Country Office in the Philippines.

Previous researches conducted by the ICHHD were presented and how these researches were applied to improve child health. Three main research subjects were presented: Vaccine-preventable Diseases by ICHHD Director Dr. Anna Lena Lopez, Effect of Environmental Toxicants on Child Growth and Development by Wayne State University professor and previous ICHHD Adjunct Professor Dr. Enrique Ostrea, and Safe Schools: Prevention of Sexual Abuse in Philippine Public Schools by Child Protection Unit Director and Child Abuse Neglect and Exploitation Study Group Convenor Dr. Bernadette Madrid. Dr. Mariella Sugue-Castillo, Maternal and Child Health Specialist from UNICEF Philippines discussed briefly the topic on investing in research for children’s health.



CAS Dept of Social Sciences' 46th anniversary

To celebrate the 46th year of the College of Arts and Sciences' Department of Social Sciences, the Area Studies Program, in cooperation with the Manila Studies Program and Organization of Area Studies Majors, held a lecture and book launch as a tribute to retired UP Manila Professor Cristina E. Torres on April 10, 2019.

The lecture entitled “Ethical Issues in Social Science Research in the Asia Pacific” was delivered by Prof. Torres. Reactors were Prof. Rolando G. Talampas, College Secretary of the UP Diliman Asian Center; Dr. Ma. Paula G. Sioco, CAS Associate Professor and former Associate Dean for Planning and Development; and Dr. Eva Maria Cutiongco-Dela Paz, Executive Director of the National Institutes of Health.

The book **“Social Sciences, Health, and Ethics: Papers Celebrating Cristina E. Torres,”** edited by Mary Dorothy dL. Jose, Jerome A. Ong, and Atoy M. Navarro, is a collection of papers written by people who, in one way or another, had the opportunity of working closely with “Mama Tina,” as she is fondly called by her colleagues. Prof. Torres now serves as Regional Coordinator of the Forum for Ethical Review Committees in Asia-Pacific. The event was capped by the relaunching of the Research Ethics Study Group by Dr. Jacinto Blas V. Mantaring.

Women's Month celebration tackles role of women in fighting HIV/AIDS

The celebration of International Women's Month has always been an opportunity to recognize and honor the achievements and contributions of women to nation-building and promote and uphold their rights as citizens and sector of society.

For this year, the celebration at UP Manila, led by the Center for Gender and Women Studies (CGWS), became more relevant with its focus on the role of women on HIV/AIDS prevention and control. The month-long activities kicked-off with the opening ceremonies held on March 4 at the UPMASA-PGH Science Hall.

In her opening remarks, Chancellor Carmencita Padilla stated that the role of women as researchers, educators, clinicians, caregivers and advocates has to be maximized and strengthened. Women, as providers and scientists and activists and volunteers, have been involved since the beginning, in advancing knowledge, generating knowledge and innovations through research, advancing treatment, and waging information campaigns, particularly on HIV/AIDS. She commended the CGWS for organizing relevant activities that focus on varied issues on women's health.

UN Country Director for HIV/AIDS Dr. Louie Ocampo in



Chancellor Carmencita Padilla (front row, center) with UN Country Director for HIV/AIDS Dr. Louie Ocampo and UP Manila and PGH employee-advocates and champions of women's rights and gender equality.

his keynote speech entitled "Rethinking the HIV Approach in Girls and Young Women" noted the stigma and discrimination patients experience at the hands of family members, communities, workplace, and healthcare practitioners. He stressed the need for proper information dissemination specially to health workers dealing with HIV/AIDS patients.

Another guest speaker was Ms. Elena Felix who shared bits and pieces of her journey as a person living with HIV/AIDS, including the discrimination she felt from some health workers as a patient of PGH, as well as that of her friends and peers.

The other activities were grouped into three categories based on their goals:

- Those promoting public awareness on the vulnerability of women and other

marginalized sectors because of insensitivity and misogynistic attitudes of authorities, such as the lecture on violence against women organized by the College of Nursing, film showing on women empowerment by the College of Public Health (CPH), and a seminar on the Magna Carta for Women by the CGWS. Topics on culture competence, gender sensitivity, social accountability, Republic Act 103541 (Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health), and Republic Act 11210 (105-Day Expanded Maternity Leave Law) highlighted the commitment of the University to promote understanding of the issues related to gender and women's rights and uphold gender equity and equality among the constituents;

- Those celebrating the beauty and value of women, such as health and wellness seminars, poetry, and arts aimed at empowering the

UP Manila women and other constituents, and student-led activities, such as street art, street dancing, pride march and shows that created awareness and encouraged engagement on gender-related issues, namely the Health and Wellness booth set up the CPH, Make-

up Tutorial by the College of Nursing, Zumba Wellness Program and earthquake and fire drill by the School of Health Sciences (SHS)-Palo, lecture on mother's health and awareness on responsible parenthood by SHS-Koronadal; and

- Those raising awareness on gender-related issues, such as an inter-active mural painting and mobile photo booth organized by the College of Arts and Sciences, poster-making contest organized by the Gabriela organization of UP Manila, and an inter-active forum organized with the UPLB Babaylan and Bahaghari on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE).

The CGWS, headed by Dr. Leilanie Nicodemus, conducted and coordinated the various activities participated in by the different colleges and units in cooperation with the Gender Focal Persons.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

UP Manila participates in a sports event of the All Local Colleges and Universities



The UP Manila Varsity Team

UP Manila was among the 19 universities and colleges that participated in the All Local Colleges and Universities (ALCU) Event hosted by the University of Makati (UMak) on March 1-2, 2019. UPM athletes joined four events namely badminton, basketball, chess, and volleyball in this year's sportsfest with the theme "One Torch, One Goal and One in Victory."

The kick-off ceremony held

on March 1 was highlighted by the lighting of the torch by UMa athletes who competed and won medals in various international competitions.

The raising of the university and college flags was done by the presidents and head of delegation of the different ALCU members with UP Manila College of Arts and Sciences Dean Leonardo R. Estacio Jr. heading the UP Manila delegation (and as coach of the UPM Chess team.)

He is one of the prime movers in setting up of the UPM varsity program together with the CAS Department of Physical Education chaired by Prof. John Guillier Realin and Sports Coordinator Prof. Lenita Otadoy-Reyes.

At the said tournament, Trixie Co of the College of Allied Medical Professions snared the first medal for UP Manila, a bronze, in the women's badminton singles tournament.

CHED CHAIRMAN...

partnered for a pioneering study entitled "One Health: Innovations in Early Detection and Interventions in Human, Animal, and Plant Health." This study seeks to develop a web-based and mobile phone-based application which can be used by community health workers in human, animal, and plant disease surveillance. Data collected by the application will then be consolidated at the level of the municipal health officer (for human health), municipal agriculturist (for plant health), and municipal veterinarian (for animal health). Once proven successful in a test municipality, the system is expected to be replicated on a nationwide scale.

In his message, Mr. de Vera shared the optimism felt by the Philippine health sector with the recent passing of the Universal Health Care Act (UHC Act). The UHC Act mandates the provision of a comprehensive set of quality and cost-effective, promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services without causing financial hardship for all Filipinos.

Mr. de Vera tempered the optimism with the realization that challenges remain in delivering the promises of universal health care, including evolving threats to public health, increasing cost of medical services,

and the seemingly bottomless pit that is the health care needs of the Filipino people.

"The call for progressive realization of universal health care in the Philippines is a recognition of the fact that this country, a middle-income economy, faces considerable challenges in health financing, human health resources, health technologies, service delivery, information, and leadership and governance. At the same time, the rise of pandemics, emerging, and re-emerging diseases that cut across human medicine, veterinary medicine, and agriculture means that separate efforts by individual sectors alone to address these health concerns will not be successful," Mr. de Vera elucidated.

Mr. de Vera recognized the potential of One Health in general, and the study in particular, in addressing issues in surveillance, human health resources, and health information technology. He also foresaw the eventual roll out of the project to all municipalities nationwide consistent with the call for a people-oriented approach for the delivery of health services that are centered on people's needs and well-being. He concluded his message with a call to action for everyone to work together in making the dream of accessible, affordable, and comprehensive health care a reality for all Filipinos.

Donn Mc Angelo T. Valdez

VP ROBREDO...

Saying that she is not a fan of medical missions that are done for one time only, without any follow up, the Vice President also stressed the need to make health sustainable, especially for those living in areas with poor access to quality healthcare.

The conference featured plenary talks on community health by the following speakers: Dr. Gene A. Nisperos and Dr. Paolo Victor N. Medina on the Philippine Community Health Status Situationer; Dr. Ryan C. Guinanan on Indigenous Health; Dr. Vivien F. Fadrilan-Camacho on Occupational Health; Dr. Joan Rose G. Lampac, Life of a Community Health Care Worker; Windalyn G. Baluis, RN, MN on

Mental Health; Dr. Winlove P. Mojica on Sexual Health; and Dr. Joanne Karen S. Aguinaldo on Reproductive Health. Participants of the conference also engaged in small group discussions with current and former Doctors-to-the-Barrios physicians, barangay health workers, and community organizers.

Before her talk, Vice President Robredo met with UPCM Dean Dr. Charlotte M. Chiong, UPCM-Regionalization Program Committee (RPC) Chair Abdel Jeffri A. Abdulla, RPC Vice-Chair Dr. Edeline P. dela Paz, RPC Region V Adviser Dr. Cleotilde H. How, RSO officials and PCCH organizers. The vice president was briefed on the Regionalization Program of UPCM and how it aims to solve the inequitable

distribution of medical graduates in the various regions of the country.

The Philippine Conference on Community Health is now on its 6th year, and is being held with the aim of providing students with awareness on community medicine and its role in addressing the health situation of the Philippines through the promotion of health transformation and community-oriented practice. This year's conference aimed to shed light on the smaller problems on community health that remain relevant to Filipinos today, as well as recognize the public servants that tirelessly work for the betterment of their health and wellness.

Vince Maullon

Employees get basic Incident Command System training

Association of Philippine Volunteers Fire Brigades Inc-affiliated trainers Jester Wong, Terry Sy, Michael Joseph Manuel, Randy O. Pardo, Aldrin C. Cuña, Ma. Beverly E. Kiak, Bingson Ferrer, and Dominic J.G Mananghaya, conducted a three-day course on Basic Incident Command System (ICS) Level 1 for 24 UP Manila employees on April 24-26, 2019 at the UP Manila Social Hall. All officers are authorized by the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) to conduct classes and to certify

completion of the said course. The course aimed to explain the concept, principles and features of ICS; describe the ICS organization; determine the ICS facilities; learn how to manage planned events and major incidents; explain the principle of management by objectives; determine the essentials in managing resources in ICS and understand the considerations for incident and event planning. It also sought the use of

transfer of command, demobilization and close-out among the employees from different units of UP Manila and PGH. In his opening remarks, Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development Dr. Michael Tee urged the participants to take advantage of the learnings in order to help improve UP Manila's response capacity. The participants were taught and trained on seven modules as follows:

- Module I: Introduction

- to ICS given by Mr. Alvin Cuña who presented the legal bases on the use of ICS as the standard response coordination tool;
- Module II: Organization and Staffing by Mr. Michael Joseph Manuel who discussed the organizational structure of ICS, emphasizing that the officers led by the Incident Commander have main functions which are aligned with the international standards of ICS;
- Module III: ICS Facilities that include the Incident



Command Post as the location for primary command functions, Staging Area as the location for all the resources, Base as the location of out-of-service equipment and personnel who need to be treated, Camp as the temporary accommodation for responders, among others.

- Module IV: Managing Planned Events and Incidents
- Module V: Incident/Event Assessment and Management by Objectives
- Module VI: Organizing and Managing Incident Resources; and
- Module VII: Incident and Event Planning

PATIENT SAFETY CONGRESS...
“Temporary measures will increase burnout and push professionals away. We need to work things in a complementary way. We need to focus not only on the physical problems but also on how workloads are being addressed. Task shifting is common in the Philippines. We have an existing nurse patient ratio of 1:22 patients in general wards and 1:8 in Intensive Care Units and a ratio of 1 physician for every 3 wards and of one pharmacist for every 1 hospital. We need opportunities for professional training, development and career advancement,” the patient safety advocate urged.

undergraduate level as what some countries do in conducting patient safety education while students are still in medical school. In her lecture on *Innovations in Patient Safety Education: Best Practices*, Dr. Marishiel Mejia-Samonte emphasized the importance of teamwork and bedside rounds activities such as skills development for learners; observation and feedback; role modelling; team building among trainees, attending physicians and patients; improved patient care delivery through combined clinical decision-making and team consensus; and culture of medicine as a patient-centered care.

She also stressed the importance of optimizing digital technology and use of simulators to create a learning environment with a culture of patient safety and of care actors to provide opportunities to learn specific skills prior to actual patient contact.

Issues and problems
Dr. Abrogena cited the following as top patient safety issues in 2018: disparate electronic health records, hand hygiene, nurse-patient ratio, drug and medical supply shortages, quality reporting, resurgent diseases, mergers and acquisitions, physician burnout, antibiotic resistance, and opioid epidemic.

In addition, he identified the items below as the common contributing factors to patient harm which are categorized into medical/clinical complexity that includes multiple medications, complex medical conditions, and frailties; systems failures and processes that cover poor communication, lack of coordination, unclear lines of authority, drug names that look or sound alike, environment and design factors, infrastructure failure, reliance on automated systems, and fragmented reporting; and human factors such as variations in the training and experience of health professionals, inadequate training, fatigue, depression and burnout, and failure to acknowledge harm.

Cynthia M. Villamor and Charmaine Lingdas

Affirming Cook, Gaynor, Stephens and Taylor's findings in 2012 that “staffing improvements alone was found to be inadequate in improving patient safety but needs to be complemented with other approaches,” Paguio found in her study of tertiary and referral hospitals that in one government hospital, 15% of nurses are on job order and contractual status, 1 in 3 frontline nurses earns less than 15,000 a month, nurses engaged in an average of 3 continuing professional development activities per year, 30% of nurses plan to leave their units, hospitals and the country in the next six months, and that leadership and management support is the lowest rated dimension of the nurse work environment.

Meanwhile, UP Manila Vice Chancellor for Research Dr. Armand Crisostomo explained that patient safety is a complex, multifaceted goal that demands a multipronged approach. These approaches emphasize the importance of healthcare provider education to reduce inadvertent errors, as well as the importance of patients' expectations, perceptions and engagement.

“For many reasons, concern about the quality and safety of patient care is reaching new heights both locally and globally,” said Dr. Crisostomo. He urged that patient safety education be done as early as the

Provisions of Occupational Safety and Health Law explained



The passage of RA 11058, “An Act Strengthening Compliance with Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Standards and Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof” in August 2018 with its Implementing Rules and Regulations in December 2018 mandates workplaces to ensure worker safety and safeguard their health while at work.

To become familiar with the provisions of the IRR in order to properly align UP Manila's Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) initiatives, the College of Public Health's Department of Environmental and Occupational Health held a forum on 30 April 2019 attended by the UPM Health and Safety Committee members, faculty, graduate students and alumni as well as OSH personnel from corporate establishments.

Dr. Ma. Teresita S. Cucueco, Director, Bureau of Working Conditions, Department of Labor and Employment and a CPH alumna, stressed that the implementation of the Act will always uphold safety and health in all workplaces. This will cover all establishments, project sites and other places where work is being undertaken and all branches of economic activity with the exception of the public

sector since DOLE is the main implementing institution of RA 11058.

“If you have so much work-related disabilities, injuries, and even deaths, then there will be no one to invest and that would mean losses for the country,” Dr. Cucueco said. Quoting from the latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, she stated that the work-related accidents and illnesses are musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, occupational lung diseases and asthma, and skin diseases and that they are mostly under reported. Prior to the law, the main health and safety problems were non-adherence to reporting of work-related accidents and other OSH requirements, sustainability of compliance with labor laws and standards, and lack of commitment from management and workers.

“RA 11058 carries the same weight as the labor code and that is why compliance is one of the driving forces for this law,” the DOLE official stressed. “However, if you are in the government and you have private contractors such as security guards, janitors, and construction workers, they are covered because the contract with a private sector entails a solidarity liability.”

Dr. Cucueco discussed the personnel necessary to implement health and safety. She pointed out that first aiders must be present in any workplace and that they should have training with the Red Cross and any organization authorized by the DOLE. She added that safety officers should be regular employees of the company and trained by the DOLE or a DOLE-accredited training organization and should be categorized in different levels with the required number hours of training.

For micro establishments with less than 10 workers and low risk establishments with 10-50 workers, the OSH committee will be composed of three persons - the chairperson, who is the company owner or manager, the secretary, who is the safety officer, and at least one member. The company owner, manager or one of the workers shall undertake first aid training from the Philippine Red Cross or any DOLE-recognized organization.

For medium to high risk establishments with 10-50 workers and low to high risk establishments with 51 workers and above, the OSH committee will be composed of the Ex-officio chairperson, who is the employer or his representative; the Secretary, who is the safety officer; the Ex-officio members, who are the first aider, company nurse, dentist, or physician; and the members.

For two or more establishments housed under one building or complex, the health and safety committee organized in each workplace shall form themselves into a Joint Coordinating Committee composed of the Chairperson, who is the building owner or

representative; the Secretary, who is the safety officer of the building appointed by the chairperson; and Members, which is composed of at least two safety officers from any of the establishment and at least two worker's representative. The building administrator shall ensure that the joint OSH committee shall submit its organizational plans and minutes to the DOLE Regional Office, copy furnished the Bureau of Working Condition.

Dr. Cucueco stated that employers should provide a place of employment free from hazardous condition, with job safety instructions, ensure that the hazards are under control, provide the necessary training, medical examination, and provisions of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and safety devices, conduct proper drills, device evacuation plans and procedures to deal with emergencies such as fire and accidents including first aid. They should comply with all reportorial requirements.

In turn, workers should participate in capacity-building activities, properly use the safeguards and safety devices, comply with instructions, observe the prescribed steps in case of emergencies and report to the supervisor any work hazard.

“A worker can refuse unsafe work without threat or reprisal, if and imminent danger situation exists. Then of course the safety officer can also issue a work stoppage order as a preventive measure, again that is without fear of reprisal and a safety Officer cannot require the workers to return to work where there is continuing imminent danger,” she asserted.

Charmaine Lingdas



UP President Danilo Concepcion and UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla with the project leaders of the winning community service programs from the UP College of Medicine-Philippine General Hospital.

2 PGH programs awarded Gawad Pangulo for Excellence in Public Service

Two programs of the Philippine General Hospital were among the five programs in three UP constituent universities that got the Third Gawad Pangulo for Excellence in Public Service in a ceremony held on February 28, 2019 in the College of Science Auditorium, National Science Complex, UP Diliman.

These are the **Partners in Leprosy Action (PILA)** of the Department of Medicine and **Patient-Centered, Family-Focused, and Community-Oriented Care for Families Enrolled at the Family Health Unit (FHU)** of the Department of Family and Community Medicine.

The other awardees were the UP Los Baños Bee Program of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension; the Disaster Risk Reduction, Training, Education, and Advocacy for Children's Protection and Resilience Project (TEACH-DRR) of UP Visayas Center for West Visayan Studies; and the

Dayaw at Hanasan of the UPV Sentro ng Wikang Filipino.

The five were selected out of 11 nominees by a selection committee composed of UP Vice President for Public Affairs Elena Pernia, Professor Emeritus of Sociology Manuel Flores Bonifacio, Dr. Jaime Veneracion of the UP Diliman Department of History, and Padayon Public Service Office Director Jeanette Yasol-Naval.

According to President Danilo Concepcion, being a public servant is "perhaps the most honorable profession ever anywhere," providing an opportunity for improving the lives of many. He then extended the definition of excellent public service to an attitude of treating the public as "boss". "We must serve with a smile, with open hands, and gentle words," he said in Filipino.

"Public service initiatives, especially the brand that

characterizes the University of the Philippines, are implemented with high ethical standards, professionalism, and service to the country," Pernia said. "We must do projects that innovate, that are significant, progressive, and transformative. In the three years of the award, 21 public service initiatives have been recognized for excellence from a pool of over 50 nominations," she stated.

The PGH program on leprosy screens households in locations with reported cases of leprosy and other skin neglected tropical diseases, providing community awareness and training for barangay health units. Headed by Dr. Belen Dofitas, the PILA is a project of the Philippine Leprosy Mission which was awarded by the WHO as one of the top 24 projects in the Southern Hemisphere countries (Asia, Latin America, Africa) out of 179 applicants for the Social Innovation in Health initiatives.

The program for family health

provides comprehensive medical and psychosocial care for families with chronic diseases, developmental disabilities, lifestyle and wellness issues, mental health, alcohol/smoking/substance issues, through its individual and family interventions. The family health unit is an avenue for collaborations with other specialties and allied health professions, thus promoting inter-professionalism.

(With reports from www.up.edu.ph/index.php/programs-on-livelihood-health-children-and-culture-get-public-service-award)

CHED Chairman De Vera: One Health a Game Changer for Universal Health Care in the Philippines

"One Health is a game changer as the Philippines moves towards the realization of the noble aspirations of the Universal Health Care Act," Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chairman Prospero de Vera declared during the 3rd Pan-Asian One Health Conference held on March 26-27, 2019 at the GT-Toyota Auditorium, UP Diliman, Quezon City.

Mr. de Vera was the closing speaker of the two-day conference, which gathered national and international experts in human medicine, agriculture, veterinary medicine, nutrition, and information technology under the umbrella of One Health.

One Health is an approach to designing and implementing programs, policies, legislation and research in which multiple sectors communicate and work together to achieve better public health outcomes. One Health issues include climate change, environmental impacts from industry, food safety and security, and zoonosis, to name but a few.

Practical applications of One Health have been seen in addressing concerns that transcend human, animal, and plant health, such as pandemics, emerging and re-emerging diseases, and antimicrobial resistance.

The two-day conference was organized by the University of the Philippines (Diliman, Manila, and Los Baños) and the University of California Davis. Under the aegis of the Commission on Higher Education-Philippine California Advanced Research Institutes, the two universities have

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Dr. Rody Sy among 100 Asian Scientists for 2019



Dr. Rody Sy, former chair of the Philippine General Hospital's Department of Medicine, is one of the Asian Scientists 100 for its 2019 edition. He was chosen in the field of biomedical science.

One of the youngest to become Philippine Heart Association president, Dr. Sy has remarkable achievements as a researcher, educator, and physician. Being a global scientific leader in the field of lipidology, he has spearheaded numerous researches on lipids and related topics. He is also one of the leading lights of the first Food and Nutrition Research Institute study that led to future studies on the epidemiology of risk factors for cardiovascular diseases.

As a research fellow of the New York Heart Association and Rockefeller Foundation, he contributed immensely

to diagnostic exercise electrocardiography which he became the basis of present day exercise stress testing.

One of his recent studies is LIFECARE (LIFE Course Study in Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology) Philippines that is currently in recruitment phase for 3,000 subjects with planned follow-up visit in 4-5 years. This is part of a regional study with Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore.

Another is a study entitled "Genomics Researches on Hypertension, Coronary Artery Disease and Dyslipidemia Towards the Development of Individualized Diagnostic and Therapeutic Strategies." The research aims to ascertain the most important genetic variations in the population that predispose Filipinos to hypertension and coronary artery disease and their complications that lead to early death.

Dr. Sy will be conferred the rank and title of Academician by the National Academy of Science and Technology in July 2019.

Every year since 2016, Asian Scientist Magazine has been compiling a list of Asia's most outstanding researchers. Now into its fourth edition, the Asian Scientist 100: 2019 edition

celebrates the success of the region's best and brightest, highlighting their achievements across a range of scientific disciplines. To be acknowledged on this list, the honoree must have received a national or international prize in 2018 for his or her research. Alternatively, he or she must have made a significant scientific discovery or provided leadership in academia or industry. (With report from <https://www.asianscientist.com/as100/>)

VP ROBREDO STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY HEALTH



Vice President Leni Robredo delivers her keynote address. Photo courtesy of the Office of the Vice President.

Philippine Vice President Maria Leonor "Leni" Gerona-Robredo visited UP Manila last Saturday, March 2, to give her keynote address at the 6th Philippine Conference on Community Health (PCCH) organized by the Regionalization Students Organization (RSO) of the UP College of Medicine. With the theme, "ANINAG: Pagkilala sa

mga Usapin at Lingkod-Bayang Humuhubog sa Kalusugang Pangkomunidad," the two-day conference brought together around 200 medical and allied health professionals and students from all over the Philippines to discuss their role in helping resolve issues besetting community health in the country.

The Vice President shared her experiences as a lawyer and congresswoman in working with community health care workers and the marginalized in far-flung areas in the country. She emphasized the importance of collaborations with all sectors in solving the health issues that plague the country, such as financing, shortage of human resources, and poverty.

"Where poverty is high, malnutrition is worst. When [the marginalized] remain poor, you also incapacitate them," she quipped. "To solve community health problems, hindi lang doktor ang susi. It also needs the government and focused, driven officials."

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The UP Manila Healthscape is published bimonthly by the Information, Publication, and Public Affairs Office (IPPAO) of UP Manila.

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