



PERI Director and National Vision Screening Program Head Dr. Leo Cubillan screens a kindergarten pupil for vision disorders during a pilot study conducted by his team.

National Vision Screening Program for kindergarten pupils signed into law

President Rodrigo Duterte has signed into law Republic Act 11358 establishing a National Vision Screening Program (NVSP) that aims to screen the vision of kindergarten pupils and identify early childhood visual problems.

Signed on July 31 and with Senator Pia Cayetano as lead author, the law mandates the Department of Education (DepEd) to lead in the implementation of the

NVSP in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Philippine Eye Research Institute (PERI) of UP Manila's National Institutes of Health.

The law provides for the conduct of a simple vision screening test on kindergarten pupils through trained teachers and health personnel using a Vision Screening Kit that includes charts with symbols or numbers, occluders, and transparent

response key.

The law further stipulates the provision of immediate attention to visually impaired kindergarten pupils and the creation of a referral system so that they may be checked by ophthalmologists. It is expected that after the vision screening of the kindergarten pupils, a vision screening results database will be developed containing the results of the screening per child and the diagnoses by the

eye specialist.

During the past four years, PERI conducted pilot studies and trainings across the country on vision screening for kindergarten pupils. Under the NVSP, PERI shall be mainly responsible for the training of Vision Screening Trainers for purposes of quality assurance. It shall likewise recommend the appropriate screening material to be used.

A policy brief prepared by PERI states that nationwide, four pupils in a class of 40 have vision problems with three of them possibly having errors of refraction and one having amblyopia or lazy eye. This eye disorder has a prevalence of 2-5% in children, making it one of the causes of visual impairment and preventable blindness.

Out of 863 pupils screened from 19 schools included in the pilot studies that his team conducted during the past four years, 150 or 17% failed the screening. From this number, 75% were diagnosed with errors of refraction while 25% were found to have amblyopia. As an immediate intervention, pupils who failed

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ACTA'S 80TH YEAR CELEBRATION RECOUNTS ITS HISTORY AND LEGACIES IN HEALTH

Acta Medica Philippina, the National Health Science Journal, celebrated its 80th anniversary with a short program held on July 17, 2019 at the Buenafe Auditorium, College of Medicine.

The journal was first published in July 1939 under the editorship of Dr. Antonio G. Sison. It was then the official medical publication of the UP College of Medicine and Institute of Hygiene (now College of Public Health).

Acta Editor-in-Chief Dr. Joven Tanchuco said that this is really the time to celebrate the 80th birthday of Acta as it was the 3rd oldest scientific journal in the Philippines with the Philippine Journal of Science as the oldest, followed by the Philippine Agriculture Scientist.

Chancellor Padilla congratulated Acta because the journal has actually raised the bar for the whole of UP. In fact, the ranking of the UP System went up because of UP Manila's publications.

Philippine Council for Health Research and Development Executive Director Jaime Montoya, in a video message, congratulated the Editorial Board, members, and contributors of Acta. He mentioned that Acta has published researches that were relevant to the pressing needs of the nation.

"In a way, it serves as a narrative of our journey in health research and development by documenting crucial findings that can be used in policy-making for target institutions towards a healthier Filipino community. Recognizing the need to constantly seek research-based solutions and address the current needs of our communities, the Department of Science and Technology through the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development provides funding for health researches that are in-line with the National Unified Health Research Agenda," he stated.

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TEKNOLUSUGAN: Health innovations and inventions for Filipinos by Filipinos

From *Yerba Buena* for post-operative pain control to a mobile application for hip fracture detection, UP Manila has inventions and innovations in health which can benefit Filipinos. But its researchers and innovators need industry partners to progress—ranging from further research to development to licensing to expansion. To help the group, a one-day event was held where industry and government agencies were invited to listen to the scientists pitch their work.

Called "TEKNOLUSUGAN: Shaping UP Juan's Health Through Innovations and Partnerships", it was held on 28 August 2019 at the University of the Philippines-Bonifacio Global City as part of the UP Manila Science and Technology

Week celebration held on Aug. 27-30, 2019.

Organized by the UP Manila Technology Transfer and Business Development Office (TTBDO) under the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, seven medicinal plant products and six biomedical devices and innovations were pitched to guests from the industry and government agencies.

Chancellor Carmencita Padilla described the event as the "start of a series of conversations with industry. The researches of the faculty and researchers will be no good if they do not move on to policy or industry." She apprised the audience that part of what UP Manila does in this area is to dialogue with the Department of Health (DOH)

to ensure that the government will be open to adopt a product once it is finished and its clinical trials completed.

For universities which have several ideas in research, but lack the numbers for clinical trials, the chancellor assured them that UPM and PGH are willing to help. "Any progress in health research will mean much for the country," she said.

Dr. Jaime Montoya, Executive Director of the DOST's Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) and described by Chancellor Padilla as one of the reasons why research in the country is moving forward, gave an update of what his agency offers researchers with regard to the product development



cycle--from Proof of Concept to Market (whether industry or community-at-large).

He mentioned the following: Grants-in-Aid for research projects; Prototype Development; and Technology

Transfer Offices (from policy orientation to capacity-building). He also said that the following will have a big impact on research: creation of the Health and Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) which will advise government

which technologies it could acquire (this could be placed under the PCHRD); a proposal for UP Manila to establish a Clinical Trial Center under the PCHRD's NICHE Center for Excellence Program; and a

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UPCM-PGH urged to reorient health profs' education, work in teams for UHC implementation



Dr. Zorayda Leopando

The full implementation of Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act will not take effect until 2029 since public consultations are still being held and the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) need consolidation. The Department of Health is hoping to finalize the IRR by August and is still open for further comments. Once consolidated, the Congress and Senate will have to approve the IRR. However, there will be a pilot implementation of the UHC in 33 provinces and highly urbanized cities.

In line with the UHC Act that automatically enrolls all Filipinos in the National Health Insurance Program and prescribes complementary health system reforms, the Philippine General Hospital held forums to discuss the role of PGH in the UHC

implementation.

"We as a hospital should lead in crafting or suggesting ways to make universal health care more meaningful to our patients and easier to implement. The topic caused us to think about what we do here. We realized that our education in UP is community medical-oriented, but when we get to PGH, we orient ourselves with the highest specialty that we can, forgetting our community orientation. This made us realize that maybe, it's about time we renew the way we train our residents in line with Universal Health Care," PGH Director Gerardo Legaspi stated.

The first forum entitled "Training Doctors for Universal Health Care: The Role of UPCM and PGH" was held on 18 July 2019 with **Professor Emeritus Dr. Zorayda Leopando** of the PGH Department of Family and Community Medicine as speaker. "We anticipate that the UHC law will be the game changer in terms of health care and not just medical education but all health professions education," she stated.

Dr. Leopando identified the needed reforms in medical education to strengthen UHC implementation as follows:

- 1) Education should focus on the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that include targets for health and well-being; 2) Training should be aligned with Transformative Education, giving emphasis on the country's health needs and social determinants of health; 3) Health literacy should be increased with focus on reducing non-communicable diseases and implementation of population-wide health promotion programs and activities across the social determinants of health; 4) Improvement of health communication; 5) Development of a culture of quality care and patient safety through appropriate use of clinical practice guidelines/clinical pathways; 6) Adoption of an appropriate referral and back referral system and participation in quality circles.

"Health professionals must be part of a health care provider network. We need to know the roles of professionals and the mandates and governing laws because we are working as a team," Dr. Leopando affirmed.

CM Associate Dean for Academic Development Dr. Coralie Dimacali concurred. "We can work together harmoniously in the delivery of healthcare; and good collaboration is one of the key components for successful UHC implementation. Interprofessional health care teams should be created in hospitals similar to the

interprofessional practice of medical interns with other UP Manila colleges in their Community Health Development Program trainings in barangays." She added that the university should develop in medical students analytical and organizational skills which are also essential under universal health care.

PGH Coordinator for Training Dr. Stella Marie Jose urged PGH to form linkages with primary health facilities acting as catch areas to provide primary health care to patients and refer complicated patients to PGH. "PGH should assist in the training and certification of the primary health care physicians by offering courses and review classes."

World Health Organization Consultant for Health Systems Strengthening Dr. Albert Francis Domingo maintained that PGH should forge formal agreements with primary care providers and provincial hospitals in terms of referrals and transfer of health records.

In closing, Dr. Leopando emphasized the need to inspire medical graduates to take primary care as a lifelong career and to know by heart the definition of primary care and services provided. "Make all doctors realize that they are not only doctors of the sick but are doctors for health. They should help improve the health literacy of Filipinos, thereby enhancing health promotion and maintenance."

CHARMAINE LINGDAS

PGH identified as apex and model hospital in UHC implementation

"As a leader in healthcare education and research, the role of the UP-PGH is vital in the impending reforms related to the Universal Health Care program," stated Health Secretary Francisco Duque during a forum on the role of UP-PGH in Universal Health Care held on 26 July 2019.

"The shift to UHC necessitates us to shape the future physicians to be not just clinicians but physicians who are also managers and administrators. In other words, a clinical leader who wears many hats and the DOH looks up to UP-PGH to explore the possibility of a medical curriculum that defines what it takes to be a human resource for health tailored for universal health care," stressed Sec. Duque.

The health secretary emphasized that the UHC, in its current state, has no prescribed financing models for teaching and training institutions; these institutions and PGH will now have to take the lead and demonstrate to other teaching and training institutions the ways to success. DOH looks up to the PGH to explore options in pioneering and improving terminal hospital processes such as service training or service rationing and share to other apex hospitals. As an apex hospital, PGH's active engagement will be required for national coverage through its various facilities.

"By cutting down the health risks of Filipinos, health becomes much more manageable and sustainable," he explained. The UHC focuses on promoting preventive care and making Filipinos health literate which will translate to very good health-seeking behavior. It ensures population-based health services such as family planning, nutrition programs, mental health programs, vector control and disease surveillance and health promotion, campaigns, additional health measures through legislations, and health impact assessment.

"In taking care of Filipinos, as we transition to the new system, your deal should be investing in primary care providers to carry out essential services such as cultivation diagnostics, screening diagnosis and treatment, and public health services." He added that UHC will accommodate the needs of Filipinos by covering all bases and providing access to quality and comprehensive primary care through a coordinated primary care network and expanded primary care benefits.

He cited several health reforms

in UHC such as making primary care physicians (PCPs) digital health ready to ensure a clear and well-coordinated health system for vertical and horizontal referrals across all levels, ensuring that all hospitals will be able to accommodate patients by dedicating necessary bed space, requiring partner drug outlets to have the generic drugs listed in the primary care formulary available to the public, devising a new payment scheme where providers are prepaid through a diagnosis related group (DRG)-based budget but with mandated phased co-payments for facilities and physicians and performance-based financial incentives, and support to providers by giving preferences for licensing and augmentation of health human resources for those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas.

Dr. Antonio Dans of the PGH Department of Medicine Section of Adult Medicine was in agreement and said PGH needs to lead the country into changing our thoughts about primary care as the lowest rank in the healthcare ladder.



Secretary Francisco Duque III

"When you ask other countries about what's the most important thing that brought primary care forward; Australia, New Zealand, UK, it will answer it was when they began to regard primary care as a specialty," he explained.

"PGH has always been a leader in the field of research and we anticipate that UHC will generate more demands for quality research and we also hope to capitalize the research generated by the institution to help us rethink the way we deliver care, make more informed decisions, and influence the health policies to be shaped or developed," added Sec. Duque. He urged PGH to create a research-enabling environment for both the clinical and inter-disciplinary studies and become an innovator of medical research processes. His advise was to create spaces for special items and funding for dedicated research and development thereby fostering a new era for advancement in clinical medicine as well as public health.

CHARMAINE LINGDAS



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Previous Acta editors Dr. Augusto Litonjua, Dr. Cynthia Valencia, and Dr. Jose Ma. Avila (2nd to 4th from left) after being given their Certificates of Appreciation with CM Dean Charlotte Chiong, Chancellor Carmencita Padilla and Dr. Joven Tanchuco.

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For her part, **CM Dean Charlotte Chiong** sees a stronger future for Acta because of its role in UP's elevated rankings and its important role in the health of the people. "When you see the history of Acta, you also see the history of medicine in the country. All the burning issues, advocacies, and breakthroughs in medicine can be seen in Acta. The 'Rotor' Syndrome by Dr. Arturo Rotor, Dr. Lourdes Manahan, and

Dr. Angel Florentin were first described in the pages of Acta."

She thanked PGH Director Dr. Gap Legaspi for supporting Acta by publishing two issues each year. She modified the business plan of Acta by increasing the publication fee for institutional issues from Php 100,000.00 to Php 250,000.00 to augment publication expenses.

In recognition of the dedication and invaluable contributions

of former Editors-in-Chief, certificates of appreciation were given to those who were present during the event: Dr. Augusto Litonjua (1964-1978), Dr. Cynthia Valencia (1994-2002) and Dr. Jose Ma. C. Avila (2003-2017). Other Editors-in-Chief were Dr. Antonio G. Sison (1939 - 1951), Dr. Agerico B. M. Sison, (1952 - 1959), Dr. Benjamin Barrera (1962 - 1963), Dr. Benigno S. Agbayani, Jr, (1978 - 1989), and Dr. Romeo R. Gutierrez, (1989 - 1994).

New CPH, CP deans gear up for national health challenges

Two new deans of UP Manila appointed by the UP Board of Regents during its meeting on June 10, 2019 bring their wide health leadership, academic and research experiences, and qualifications to the governance of their respective colleges to fulfill their vision and goals in the next three years. They are **Dr. Vicente Belizario, Jr** as dean of the College of Public Health and **Prof. Bienvenido Balotro** as dean of the College of Pharmacy.

Dr. Belizario, a medical parasitologist and researcher, served as Undersecretary for Technical Services of the Department of Health from 2015-2016; Technical Officer (Neglected Tropical Diseases) Malaria, Other Vector-borne and Parasitic Diseases Unit at the World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office in 2014; and Member, Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases; and Member, Research Strengthening Group, WHO-TDR from 2008-2013.

At UP Manila, he served as Vice Chancellor for Research and Executive Director of the National Institutes of Health from 2011-2014 and is currently Professor and University Scientist III. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Global Health, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Dr. Belizario is also a member of

the following: Soil-transmitted Helminthiasis Advisory Committee, Task Force for Global Health/ Children without Worms, USA; Steering Committee, Forum for Ethics Review Committees in Asia and the Western Pacific (FERCAP); Editorial Board, Geospatial Health; and Editorial Board, Acta Medica Philippina. He is Editor of the Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public Health.

Among other plans, the new dean is keen on enhancing the relevance and contributions of CPH as a leading public health academic, research, and service institution in the country and region by promoting interdisciplinary public health policy researches focused on issues of national and regional importance such as the health-related UN Sustainable Development Goals and Universal Health Care (UHC).

To help him achieve this goal, his administration will pursue the active recruitment of local and international students for the PhD in Health Sciences by Research being offered by UP Manila since 2017.

CPH, as a contributor to national public health goals, will bank on rationalization and strengthening of its academic programs, particularly the graduate programs in order to fully respond to national and regional needs. At present, CPH is the academic partner of DOH in implementing the Master of Public Health for its

Doctor to the Barrios program, Health Leadership Governance, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, Public Health Emergency Management in Asia and the Pacific, and Health Policy and Systems Research program.

Significantly, CPH is also the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Tropical Medicine (SEAMEO-TROPMED) Regional Center tasked with training and capacitating public health workers from Southeast Asian countries.

Dr. Belizario is a recipient of various national and university awards for excellence in teaching, research, and publications, among which are Distinguished Parasitologist from the Philippine Society of Parasitology, Outstanding Research in Tropical Medicine from the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Outstanding Young Scientist Award from NAST, and many others.

Balotro as new CP dean

Dean Balotro is an Assistant Professor of the Department of Industrial Pharmacy where he has taught pharmaceutical dosage forms and drug delivery systems, pharmaceutical product development, and pharmaceutical marketing. He is completing his Doctor of Business Administration degree at De La Salle University (DLSU). He obtained the Master of Science in Pharmacy (Industrial Pharmacy) from UP Manila in 2010; Master



CPH Dean Vicente Belizario, Jr and CP Dean Bienvenido Balotro are being sworn into office by UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla at the UP Manila Boardroom before a Chancellor's Advisory Council meeting.

of Business Administration from DLSU in 1990; and BS Industrial Pharmacy from UP in 1981.

In the next three years, his plans are geared towards addressing the needs of the College as identified in the Internal Academic Assessment Development System report in three performance areas namely: Teaching, Research, and Extension Services.

There is a need for close monitoring of the implementation of the revised undergraduate BS Pharmacy and BS Pharmaceutical Science programs by using appropriate measures to ensure that intended outcomes are attained and the high quality of graduates maintained.

Another of his thrusts is to obtain approval from the University Council and UP Board of Regents to offer the PharmD-MS Clinical Pharmacy and MS Pharmaceutical Sciences degrees. For the quality

assurance for its programs, the College will apply as a Commission on Higher Education Center of Excellence in Pharmacy Practice and/or Pharmaceutical Sciences and push for international assessment (ASEAN University Network-Quality Assurance). It will tap the DOST PCHRD-Niche Center in the Region for Research and Development (NICER) to fund the above projects.

To strengthen CP's research contributions, the following measures will be taken: encourage the faculty and students to conduct basic and applied researches that are translatable to patents, policies that can be published in peer reviewed ISO/Scopus publications; channel the research agenda towards the expertise of the faculty as each faculty is expected to develop his/her research focus; utilize agreements/MOUs with local and international institutions while establishing new ones relevant to the research agenda

of the College; and establish research mentoring program between senior faculty with PhDs/MS, junior faculty members, alumni, and former faculty members who have the graduate degree and experiences.

Dean Balotro believes that sustaining partnership and leadership in professional and international organizations and encouraging the participation of the junior faculty in this area is important because the contributions will have significant positive impact on professional pharmacy organizations, the industry, health institutions, and the regulatory agencies.

Another area that will be strengthened is the clinical pharmacy services of the PGH. Compounding preparations for the hospital as an income generating operation of the College will be explored.

CYNTHIA VILLAMOR

WITH INPUTS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS AND CURRICULUM VITAE

NVSP FROM PAGE 1...

the screening test will be asked to sit in the front row of the class and will be referred to ophthalmologists for comprehensive examination and further management.

"For preschoolers, amblyopia often goes unnoticed since one eye is absolutely normal. Without intervention, children would later suffer from visual impairment that will affect the quality of their learning and productivity," explained PERI Director Dr. Leo Cubillan in a previous article published in the UP Manila Health Ripples magazine.

With the full implementation of the K to 12 program, the early preschool entry in the public school system at age 5 or 6 would allow for vision screening to detect amblyopia when treatment is still possible. Without timely

and appropriate intervention, amblyopia will lead to educational, occupational, and safety restrictions later in life.

Under the Act, PERI will conduct studies on childhood-related eye vision ailments. Subsequently, the DOH and PERI will provide evidence-based recommendations to the DepEd on matters pertaining to the NVSP.

"Our active partnership with DOH, DepEd, Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology, and other stakeholders will hopefully step up efforts to provide a clearer vision for the country's young generation and contribute to a healthier and more productive citizenry," stated Dr. Cubillan.

The law envisions to benefit 2 million kindergarten pupils yearly and will greatly reduce preventable and treatable blindness in Filipino children.

Project Beyond Vision: Helping the blind, visually impaired to 'see' Museum pieces

Guests with vision loss can now 'see' some of the exhibit pieces at the UP Manila Museum of a History of Ideas (UPM-MHI). This experience was made possible through the donation of the Jesse Robredo Foundation (JRF) on 15 August 2019 of several podia which contain both tactile illustrations and Braille captions of some of the exhibits as well as audio guides.

The JRF also turned over slates, styluses, and canes to representative teachers and students of the Philippine School for the Blind (PSB) who were there as guests.

The Museum donation is part of the "Beyond Vision" project of UPM-MHI and Touch the Artist's Vision (TAV) which was launched in October 2018 during the World Blindness Month. Under this project, the blind and visually-impaired are



Blind and visually impaired students from the Philippine School for the Blind read from the podia containing tactile drawings with braille caption to supplement the Museum's permanent collection.

given equal opportunity and accessibility that will lead to their increasing participation and inclusivity in society.

This development is very welcome as can be observed in the way the PSB students eagerly traced the raised lines of the illustrations and dots of the captions for cholera bacteria, façade of the PGH building, etc. As the date was

also three days away from the death anniversary of former DILG Secretary Jesse Robredo, a PSB student named Matthew read a Braille version of "Inay, Ano Ang Bayani?" to the audience. Another student named Hannah 'read' the image and text for Dr. Maria Paz Mendoza (the first woman to be accorded a medical degree in the country).

Both UPM-MHI and TAV are committed to making the Project grow. TAV is a pioneering program of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila which was launched in 2007 to help museum guests with vision loss appreciate and experience Philippine modern and contemporary art. It also provides professional development workshops for museum staff and educators of other institutions.

For UPM-MHI, this form of community service expands its mission to advance the appreciation and understanding of the University's history in relation to the emergence of the Filipino nation and citizenry. It is also in keeping with the spirit of RA 7277 or "The Magna Carta for Disabled Persons", which envisions the improved well-being of the disabled in the country.

FEDELYNN JEMENA



The participants, trainers, and organizers of the 2nd Course on Forensics for Mass Casualty Identification with Chancellor Carmencita Padilla (seated, center), Vice Chancellor for Research Dr. Armand Crisostomo (seated 5th from right), and CAS Dean Leonardo Estacio (seated 4th from left).

2nd Course on Forensics for Mass Casualty Identification held

Forensics experts spanning multiple disciplines such as pathology, medicine, dentistry, anthropology, and disaster management gathered on July 22-26, 2019 for the “2nd Short Course on Forensics in Mass Casualty Identification.” It was organized by the UP Manila College of Arts and Sciences, College of Medicine, and College of Dentistry.

Among the lecturers were forensic pathologist and UP Manila professor Dr. Raquel Fortun, anthropologist Francisco Datar, anthropologist and CAS professor Teresita De Guzman, National Sciences Research Institute Research Laboratory DNA Analysis Laboratory Director Maria Corazon de Ungria, forensic

archaeologist Dr. Ame Garong from the National Museum of the Philippines, Dr. Irineo Lit Jr., representatives from the Department of Health and Bureau of Fire Protection, and other professors from 3 campuses (Manila, Diliman, Los Baños).

Fortun stated in her lecture entitled “Identification of a Victim’s Identity Based on Forensic Pathology” that without science such as DNA tests and matching dental records, investigators can get clues from personal effects such as engravings on wedding bands, initials stitched onto underwear, ID cards in wallets, and ornaments on mobile phones. She added that “fresh” is best because it will become

harder as the body decomposes. Should registration be required for SIM cards, this will also provide clues on the identity of the dead, she explained.

For his part, Datar who specializes in identifying dead bodies through their bones said that we need to be able to know the language of the bones to understand them.

De Ungria stated that drawing blood and muscle from dead bodies before they are embalmed can help in DNA tests. Teeth can also be used, with molars as the best source for DNA. Hair cannot be used, unlike saliva. Bones are the “last resort” because investigators have to saw through them.

Meanwhile, anthropologist and CAS professor Teresita de Guzman pointed out that it is not just about counting dead bodies and body bags but emphasized the need to respect the culture and dignity of the individuals.

In her welcome message, Chancellor Carmencita Padilla stated that as the national health university, UP Manila takes on this very challenging and great responsibility of training specialists and enlightening the public on the forensics of mass casualty identification. This second course, she added, will provide a deeper understanding of the tasks of forensic experts in capacitating emergency and disaster management teams and workers.

TEKNOLUSUGAN FROM PAGE 1..

proposal for the establishment of a Government Pharmaceutical Organization (GPO) which will support Philippine health technologies for Filipinos. Thailand has a GPO and it was able to bring down the prices of anti-retroviral drugs which in turn lowered the country’s HIV cases significantly. He thanked everyone for the work they have been doing.

Since August 28 was also the day the UP Board of Regents approved into law the creation of UPM-TTBDO, past heads of the unit were invited to be honored. First was **Atty. Zaldy Docena** (1 Feb. 2006 – 21 Feb. 2010) who is now a Regional Trial Court Judge. Under his term as Chief Legal Counsel of the UP Manila Legal Office the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), TTBD0 was conceptualized and he penned document creating the office. The other heads were **Atty. Elizabeth Pulumbarit** (22 Feb.- 21 Oct. 2011) who put together the TTBD0 at the UP System level; the late **Atty. Anunciacion Ayo** as Officer-in-Charge of IPO (11 Nov. 2011-31 Dec. 2013) who was represented by her nieces Frances and Diane Barcena; **Atty. James Dennis Gumpal** as IPO’s OIC (1 Apr. 2014-30 June 2015); and **Dr. Alvin Valeriano Marcelo** also as IPO’s OIC (1 July-24 Aug.

2015), then Director of UPM-TTBDO (25 Aug. 2015-31 Dec. 2018). He was represented by his children, Andres Artemio and Athena Andrea Marcelo. **Dr. Lourdes Marie Tejero** is the current head of the unit.

Dr. Cecilia C. Maramba-Lazarte of the Institute of Herbal Medicine presented the medicinal plant products. She mentioned that all had rare to no side effects, were made from locally-sourced materials (hence, will benefit farmers), are cheaper than the synthetic ones in the market, and will boost the Philippine Pharmaceutical Industry. The following products were highlighted: (1) **Yerba Buena** tablets for relief of various types of pain, including post-operative ones; (2) **Tsaang Gubat** tablets for pain from gastrointestinal colic and biliary colic pain; (3) **Ulasimang Bato** or **pansit-pansitan** for the treatment of hyperuricemia and gout; and (4) **Sambong** as a diuretic and for treating urinary tract stones.

Other important presentations were the following:

- **Dr. Gracia Fe B. Yu** of UPCM Department of Biochemistry - **Anti-Dengue Virus Preparations** for the treatment and prevention of dengue disease and outbreak;
- **Dr. Erna Arollado** of NIH Institute of Pharmaceutical Science - **Mosquito Repellent Oil** that is highly potent yet non-toxic,

cheaper, and longer-lasting than leading brands; and **Hemoxyther** for iron deficiency anemia;

- **Dr. Jose B. Nevado** of UPCM and NIH Institute of Human Genetics - **DEFA1 and CFI Marker** are diagnostic and decision-making tool kits for the prevention of occurrences of leptospirosis-related death and complications through medical intervention;
- **Dr. Geohari Hamoy** of the National Telehealth Center - **Community Health Information Tracking System (CHITS)** is a proven efficient electronic medical records (EMR) for patients’ record management, reports generation, claims processing;

- **Dr. Ruby Anne N. King** of Biomedical Innovations Research for Translational Health Science (BIRTHA) Laboratory, Dept. of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, UPCM - **PEPTHEMATICS** are Peptides and Modified Blood Products for Diagnosis and Treatment of Coagulopathic, Inflammatory, and Infectious Conditions;
- **Dr. Emmanuel Baja** of NIH Institute of Clinical Epidemiology - **Battle in the Blood (BitB)** is an HIV digital advocacy gaming application currently available for free on Google Play and App Store; and

- **Prof. Marvin John C. Ignacio** of the Department of Physical Sciences and Mathematics, College of Arts and Sciences -

AcquilaVR is a virtual reality application which complements existing autism therapies to help lessen the unpredictable behavior of school children with Autism Spectrum Disorder; and **COXA** or **Deep Learning for Hip Fracture Classification** is a mobile application for hip fracture which can be used in areas without internet or in the temporary absence of a radiologist with teleconsultation functionalities.

Chancellor Padilla revealed that UP Manila has 60 other inventions/innovations in the pipeline. These do not include the biomedical devices from its training institution, the Philippine General Hospital. She intimated that another event may be organized by the OVCR and UPM-TTBDO devoted solely to PGH products.

Other highlights of the fora were the researchers’ interests on intellectual property rights, international licensing, and most especially on funding. Guests from the DOST and the IPOPHEL gave succinct answers on what to do, especially on filing your patent early, but it was clear that the researchers in the audience were hungry for more in-depth discussions.

For inquiries, please visit the TTBD0 website: <http://ttbd0.upm.edu.ph>. **FEDELYNN JEMENA**

S&T WEEK SHOWCASES HEALTH INNOVATIONS OF UP MANILA RESEARCHERS

The week-long celebration of the Science and Technology Week at UP Manila opened on August 27, 2019 at the College of Nursing Auditorium which was highlighted by an event dubbed as TeknoLusugan held on August 28 at the UP Bonifacio Global City Auditorium (*see separate article*).

In his message, Vice Chancellor for Research Dr. Armand Crisostomo mentioned that the researchers who would be showcasing their studies and innovations during the S and T event can be regarded as heroes. “You will recognize and foresee that those presenters will be heroes who are doing at least initially small deeds that will eventually go down to the benefit and health of our people,” Dr. Crisostomo declared as he noted that the S & T event will help UP Manila move its research agenda forward.

He added that his office created the Office of Research Integrity which is tasked with ensuring that the conduct of research is of the highest order and mandate a code of conduct that will govern all researches in the university.

He recounted other milestones in the history of research at UP Manila such as the creation of the Office of Research Services in the 1990s to make known that research is a function of the university, the legislation of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 1998 during the term of Chancellor Perla Santos Ocampo, and the separation of the functions of the Vice Chancellor for Research and NIH director in 2018 under the administration of Chancellor Carmencita Padilla. All of these milestones pushed the research outputs of the faculty further.

DOST Undersecretary Rowena Cristina Guevara, in her keynote speech emphasized that health care is one of the most important areas of concern not only of health workers but also of policymakers and every institution since our country needs healthy citizens to pursue development and seek positive progress in other equally important areas.

“This year’s theme, *Innovations and Interventions in the Health Sciences for the Filipinos*, reminds us of two equally important aspects in our study and practice of health care: What we do and who we do it for,” she stated. Driven by the complex and varied nature of human health, she added that the health sciences have been proven to be one of the scientifically progressive fields in the area of research.

“In the Philippines, we have local health innovations supported by the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Health Research and Development. These local innovations post immediate and practical solutions to some of the country’s most pressing health problems and would serve as an inspiration most especially to our young innovators who are with us today.”

The science and technology undersecretary identified several health innovations and discoveries including the Biotech-M Dengue aqua kit, RxBox, and *Lagundi* and *Sambong* tablets that were pioneered in UP Manila.

“In the Philippines we have not yet started talking about the impacts of these technologies on health. I hope that UP Manila can spearhead this kind of conversation with the policy makers in government, the industry, and of course, the academe.” She urged researchers to make their research go beyond citations and recognitions by creating innovation-driven markets.

She mentioned that proof of DOST’s belief in UP Manila researches are its investments amounting to P770 million from 2014 until this year with P400 million as investment in 2019.

Apart from TeknoLusugan, the celebration consisted of forums on Community Health, Herbal Medicine, Education, Health Policy, Machines and Tests, Biochemical and Molecular Studies, and Patient Interventions; and workshops on Preventing Research Misconduct.

CHARMAINE LINGDAS



University officials and participants of the 2nd International Health Promotion Conference sign the "Manila Declaration: Universities as Centers of Health and Wellness." Photo by Fred Dabu.

ASEAN University Network members recommit to creating healthy universities in Asia

With the shared goal of promoting health among members of the education sector from all parts of the world, the ASEAN University Network-Health Promotion Network (AUN-HPN) held its 2nd International Health Promotion Conference with the theme *Moving towards Healthy Universities in Asia* on August 19-22, 2019 at the Novotel Manila Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City.

The four-day event served as a venue for faculty, students, officials, experts, and researchers to exchange knowledge and best practices and foster collaboration in health promotion programs, projects, and activities.

In his opening message, UP President Danilo Concepcion, represented by Executive Vice President Teodoro Herbosa, emphasized the significance of the event with the signing of the historic Manila Declaration for Healthy Universities among member universities which was held on the third day of the conference. The Declaration, a vital and historic output of the conference, aims to enhance the development of health-promoting universities and the implementation of programs on the "Healthy University Framework"

AUN Executive Director Dr. Choltis Dhirathiti announced an increase in the abstract submissions for this year's conference, numbering 170 from 74 universities and agencies in eight countries. He said that this demonstrates how much the faculties and researchers are actively promoting health in their respective universities and countries.

Dr. Nopraenue Sajjarax Dhirathiti, Vice President for International Relations and Corporate Communications of Mahidol University in Thailand, hoped that with the development of the ASEAN Rating on Healthy University, it can be utilized as a friendly tool and benchmarking goal to make the university environment and ecosystem healthier for the staff

and students. She added that the ultimate goal of the AUN-HPN is to see the framework echoed among member universities and embraced as one of the university's pillars and core vision and mission.

In his message, Commission on Higher Education Chair Dr. J. Prospero de Vera III stressed that in the Philippines, the past two years witnessed significant increases in investments in higher education such as the provision of free public higher education. He noted the importance of the event because these investments will not have returns if their young beneficiaries are not healthy both in the mental, psychological, and physical senses.

"The measure of health promotion is not just the knowledge but the values system instilled in the students and staff..."

Keynote speaker and DOH Secretary Hon. Francisco Duque III recognized that health promotion encompasses all sectors. He said that with the Universal Health Care law, a new era of health promotion will be ushered in in the Philippines.

In the afternoon, the first plenary discussion on Health Promotion in Universities in Asia was held introducing a framework that would help universities move towards what is deemed to be a healthy university. According to Prof. Teo Yik Yang, Dean of Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health National University of Singapore, "the measure of health promotion is not just the knowledge but the values system instilled in the students and staff." He explained that for a very long time, the university is seen as a place where students pick up the necessary skills to build their careers and to advance their country. The shift he is encouraging is the nurturing of the health and wellness mindset and lifestyle among the students and staff.

Dr. Guia Tan of the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health gave an example of how a mentoring scheme practiced in the School can also be used

as a program or intervention to help protect mental wellness and promote the mental well-being within a university. Dr. Wiwat Rojanapithayakorn, AUN-HPN Executive Director, gave a better understanding of the mission of the universities using the ASEAN University Network Health University Framework. The framework involves potential initiatives for student, staff, and community wellness. Areas that should be covered in a health-promoting university are Curriculum, Environment, Health Promotion Programmes, Policies and Provision on Healthy Eating, Smoke-free Area, Alcohol and Drugs, Student Induction Programmes, Investing in Staff, and Research.

The second plenary discussion talked about Teaching and Learning Health Promotion. Ateneo School of Medicine Public Health Dean and former Health Secretary Dr. Manuel Dayrit discussed health promotion from his perspective as former health chief. He identified the iodization of salt, measles immunization, and the signing of the Generics Act as among the milestone accomplishments. He also mentioned the crucial role of mass media in health promotion especially in this day and age. Dr. Dayrit mentioned that aside from creating good messages to propagate, the challenge in health promotion includes managing controversies. As an example, he cited the Dengvaxia controversy which eroded the public's trust in vaccines that led to a huge drop in immunization coverage followed by outbreaks in many provinces in the country.

UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla presented the health promotion endeavors of the university through its teaching, research, and public service functions. Among these are the Psychosocial Wellness Network, Community Health and Development Programs, the extension programs per college, Lift UP app, Awakening Seminars,

UP Med Webinars, and the policies developed from researches conducted by the National Institutes of Health. The latter include the Newborn Screening Act, National Hearing Screening Act, Rare Diseases Act, and the recently-enacted National Vision Screening Act.

Apart from the plenaries, a total of 75 parallel sessions were held on specific topics on health promotion while 48 posters on a wide range of health promotion themes were exhibited at the lobby. The parallel sessions were on the following topics: *Integrating Well-being Competencies and Mental Health Promotion Initiatives in an Inclusive College (CSB), Healthy Settings and Healthy Behaviors, Health Promotion in Different Life Stages, Mental Health in Academic Settings, Alcoholic Beverage Consumption in the School and in the Workplace Settings: A Situationer, Use of Technology in Health Promotion, Health Promotion in Healthcare Settings, and Mental Health in Special Situations.*

One of the studies presented was entitled "Evaluation of the UP Manila Staff Development Program: The Awakening Seminars" delivered by Human Resource Development Office Director Richard Javier.

ANNE MARIE ALTO

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DEV'T PROGRAM CONDUCTS INTERNAT'L CONFAB ON INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

The UP Manila Community Health and Development Program (UPCHDP) conducted a two-day seminar with the theme "Collaborate for Health: Developing Competencies for Interprofessional Education" last May 25-26 in partnership with the UP College of Nursing (UPCN).

The seminar was intended for faculty members and health practitioners interested in learning about interprofessional education (IPE) and interprofessional collaborative care (IPCC). Discussions were held on basic principles of IPE, strategies on how to implement IPE, designing an IPE workshop utilizing an interactive case-based approach, and how to assess learning outcomes from IPE.



The participants of the "Collaborate for Health: Developing Competencies for Interprofessional Education" course representing different institutions and health professions.

A total of 71 participants that included 64 from 12 health professions (Dentistry, Medical Technology, Medicine, Midwifery, Nutrition, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Public Health, Social Work, and Speech Pathology) coming from 11 academic institutions and 3 private facilities attended the seminar.

There were six foreign participants from Cambodia, Japan, Myanmar, and Vietnam led by Dr. Hideomi Watanabe from Gunma University. He is also the director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training on Interprofessional Education. The foreign delegates' attendance was facilitated by the UPCN as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Leadership in Nursing Development.

Speakers for the event were all from UP Manila including former CHDP director Dr Elizabeth Paterno who started the event with a lecture on the "Need for Collaborative Competencies in Healthcare." Ten other CHDP members served as lecturers with Dr. Amiel Villanueva of UP PGH who spoke on the topic "Extracurricular IPE." UPCN Dean Sheila Bonito gave the opening remarks and current CHDP Director Dr Anthony GH Cordero closed the event.

DR. ROSE ANNE Q. ROSANES

SHS holds Quality Assurance Conference

The School of Health Sciences (SHS) held a Quality Assurance Conference on June 27-29 at the View Park Hotel in Tagaytay City to assess and consolidate the gains and address the gaps and challenges identified in the SHS Strategic Plan of 2015-2018.

The program review and strategic planning was facilitated by National Teachers Training Center for Health Professions Dean Dr. Melflor A. Atienza and College Secretary Prof. Erlyn A. Sana. SHS Dean Filedito

Tandinco led the participants of 22 faculty members, 14 administrative personnel, and student representatives from the three satellite campuses – Palo, Baler, and Koronadal. Special guests/resource persons were Vice Chancellor for Research Dr. Armando C. Crisostomo, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Leslie Michelle Dalmacio (who represented Chancellor Padilla), and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Nymia Simbulan.

During the conference, evaluation was done on the revised ladder-type outcome-based curriculum, increased infrastructure requirement, and external proposals to establish extension campuses in Tarlac

and Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur.

As a result of this conference, there were major outputs in the following areas: Institutional Self-Assessment using the ASEAN University Network-Quality Assessment 11-point criteria; Individual Performance Assessment (by each faculty/administrative staff who attended the conference); approved final version of the Vision and Mission statements; defined Key Result Areas for Teaching, Research and Public Service; approved Organizational Chart for the entire SHS; formulation and critiquing of the Research Agenda; and development of Standard Operating Procedures for Public Service activities.

Three physicians of the Philippine General Hospital were conferred their respective awards by the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) during a program that capped the NAST 41st Annual Scientific Meeting held on July 10-11, 2019.

One of the awardees was **Dr. Rody G. Sy**, former chair of the PGH Department of Medicine who was conferred the rank and title of Academician in the field of Cardiology/Internal Medicine. He joins a distinguished list of 58 other NAST Academicians conferred their titles in different years and in different fields.

Dr. Sy was recognized for his pioneering work on cardiogenomics which contributed to an understanding of the genetic basis of cardiovascular conditions among Filipinos, including genetic variants associated with drug tolerability and treatment response. His extensive research on epidemiology highlighted the clinical importance of risk factors in heart disease, one of the country's top killers.

The Nationwide Survey on Cardiovascular Risk Factors, which he initiated, has become a regular component of the National Nutrition and Health Survey of the Department of Science



Dr. Rody Sy as 2019 NAST Academician, Dr. Raymond Sarmiento and Dr. Nathaniel Orillaza as 2019 NAST Outstanding Young Scientists.

and Technology-Food and Nutrition Research Institute, which in turn, has become the basis of the cardiovascular program of the Department of Health and the crux of treatment guidelines of Philippine medical societies.

As a global and national leader in the field of lipidology, he has spearheaded numerous research works on lipids and related topics. As a research fellow of the New York Heart Association and Rockefeller Foundation, he contributed immensely to diagnostic exercise electrocardiography which became the basis for the current exercise stress testing.

The other two awardees were **Dr. Raymond Francis Sarmiento** and **Dr. Nathaniel S. Orillaza, Jr.** who were conferred the **Outstanding Young Scientist Award** in Public Health Informatics and

Orthopedics, respectively.

Dr. Sarmiento, director of the UP Manila National Telehealth Center, was honored for his notable contributions in the field of biomedical and health informatics that have improved the welfare of Filipinos. His leadership and excellence have made him a role model and mentor to others and has put him in a unique position to help improve the Philippine health care system.

He completed a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical informatics from 2012-2014 at the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, National Library of Medicine at the U.S. National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. He returned to the Philippines in 2016 as a Balik (Returning) Scientist of the Department of

Science and Technology. Upon returning, he became heavily involved in health data science and health information systems interoperability work.

Dr. Orillaza was recognized for his outstanding research contributions directed towards better comprehension of the hand and upper extremity and the different conditions that compromise their functions. He has evaluated different methods of surgical repair and reconstruction of bone and soft tissues in order to help patients return to full function. He has provided opportunities for Filipinos to be actively involved in the evaluation and management of their upper limb disabilities from different causes. His active involvement in scientific and educational programs continues to enhance basic and clinical knowledge of hand and upper extremity concerns in the country.

Health Organization, Framework Convention Alliance on Tobacco Control, Philippines where she is vice president and various diabetes groups. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Philippine Coalition for the Prevention and Control of NCDs or the Healthy Lifestyle Coalition in 2004. An active member and current adviser of the Association of Diabetes Nurse Educators of the Philippines, she contributed to the development of the diabetes nurse educator training. Her advocacies including tobacco regulation and the passage of Sin Tax Law in 2012 also influenced her work as a noted professor, researcher, and speaker.

As UPCN Dean (Sept. 2004-Nov. 2010), Dr. Tuazon was also Director of the WHO Collaborating Center for Leadership in Nursing Development. She headed the Secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Emergency and Disaster Nursing Network (2013-2015) where she is a founding member from 2007; Adviser, Global initiative for Asthma (1998-2001); NCR Chapter President of the Association of Deans of Philippine Colleges of Nursing (2008-2010); and founding

President of the PCHRD Scholars Society in 2009 - 2016.

Currently, Dr. Tuazon is a Consultant for the Disaster Nursing Project of the Philippine Red Cross (2016 - 2019); Member, International Advisory Board of the American Journal of Nursing and the Japan Journal of Nursing Science; Board Member, International Council of Women's Health Issues; and Convenor of the Executive Committee of the East Asia Forum of Nursing Scholars (2018-2020), and other international linkages.

Dr. Tuazon received many awards and citations such as the Metrobank Foundation Inc. Outstanding Teacher in 2000; MBFI Award for Continuing Excellence and Service in 2009; featured as Metrobank's Ten Outstanding Filipino Teachers (2012); Julita V. Sotejo Medallion of Honor from UPNAAI (2008), highest award presented to outstanding nursing alumni; One UP Professional Chair in Nursing for Outstanding Teaching and Public Service (2016-2021); and Centennial Professorial Chair (2009).

FEDELYNN JEMENA

UP MANILA CHORALE, CONDUCTOR BAG AWARDS IN TOKYO



The multi-awarded University of the Philippines Manila Chorale has represented the country well again as it brought home awards and trophies in various categories throughout the 2nd Tokyo International Choir Competition last July 26-28 in Harumi, Tokyo.

Thirty-two members of the choir competed and bested 56 other choirs from all over the world as they emerged **First Place** and won the **Gold Prize Diploma** in the **Category**

G Contemporary Music and Second Place with the **Gold Prize Diploma** in the **Category F Mixed Choir**. **Mr. Emmanuel de Leon, Jr.**, the conductor and musical director of the team for seven years, also won the **Outstanding Conductor Award**.

Additionally, the team won the **Best Interpretation for the Obligatory Piece Yamano Anata** and was a **finalist** in the Grand Prix Rounds in the said competition.



Two faculty from the Department of Physical Education (DPE) of the College of Arts & Sciences represented the Philippines in the 5th Asian Veteran Fencing Championships last 18-19 August 2019 in Taipei, Taiwan. Each won several awards. **Asst. Prof. Lenita Otdoy** won the Gold Medal in the Women's Foil Team Division, Gold Medal in the Women's Saber Team, and Bronze Medal in the Saber Individual category. **Asst. Prof. Aurea D. Dioquino** on the other hand, won the Gold Medal in the Women's Saber Team and Silver Medal in the Women's Epee Team.



ANGELES FAMILY: UPAA 2019 MULTI-GENERATIONAL FAMILY AWARDEE

This year's UP Alumni Association awardees yielded 33 individuals, 13 families, and an alumni chapter. The recognition ceremony was held on 24 August 2019 at the Ang Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman. One of the 13 families is the Family of Atty. Ciceron Baro Angeles, Sr. (Law 1937) which has produced 8 out of 10 children and 10 grandchildren as UP alumni, several of whom graduated with honors. One of his children is **Dr. Josefina Angeles-Tuazon**, faculty and former Dean of the College of Nursing, and **Dr. Eufrosina A. Melendres**, pediatric hematologist, retired faculty of Medicine, and former Section Head of PGH Blood Bank.

The Angeles Family has a tradition of service to the nation and commitment to UP principles and values which are the two requirements for the award. The late Atty. Angeles' father, **Pablo Angeles y David**, was a Senator of the Philippines and longtime Governor of Pampanga. Atty. Angeles served at the Central Bank of the Philippines, retiring as Director of its Legal Department. Five children and one grandchild currently serve as UP faculty. The late matriarch, **Eufrosina A. Angeles**, served as a community leader and helped found the Philippine Science High School Foundation. They also have a family foundation called Datu, Angeles, David, Mallari Memorial Foundation that serves the indigent people of Bacolor, Pampanga starting in 1994 after the lahar devastation. (FMJ)



DR. JOSEFINA TUAZON IS "2019 INTERNATIONAL NURSE" AWARDEE

For her decades of dedicated work in fighting Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) and promoting health in the country, Dr. Josefina Angeles Tuazon, faculty and past dean of the College of Nursing is the recipient of the "2019 International Nurse" award of the UP International Nursing and Health Care Forum (UPINHF).

Dr. Tuazon received her award on August 10 at the UPINHF International Forum in Glendale, California. Her citation read, "For her leadership, commitment, and implementation of a multi-pronged approach to the prevention of

chronic illnesses generally known as Noncommunicable Diseases."

Dr. Tuazon's multi-pronged approach to fighting NCDs encompass her work as researcher, educator, and administrator. She ardently campaigns for a healthy lifestyle involving minimal-to-zero substance use (hence, her involvement in tobacco and alcohol control advocacies), regular physical activities, proper nutrition, and education for diabetes and asthma management. Dr. Tuazon achieves these through collaboration with the Department of Health, World