



UP MANILA NEWSLETTER

Search on for next UP President

Submission of nominations until September 23, 2016



The term of current UP Pres. Alfredo Pascual, here addressing UP Manila's first year, students, will end on Feb. 9, 2017

The UP Board of Regents (BOR) is now inviting nominations for UP President who will succeed the incumbent whose term will end on 9 February 2017. At its 1319th BOR meeting on 28 July 2016, the Board constituted itself as the Search Committee for the next UP President.

The Secretary of the Board shall accept nominations from 18 August 2016

until 5:00 p.m. of 23 September 2016. Each nomination shall include (1) the nominee's curriculum vitae, (2) his or her vision statement, (3) a statement of his or her willingness to serve, and (4) a brief justification (maximum of two (2) pages) for the nomination.

Two copies of nominations must be placed in a sealed envelope and

sent to the Office of the Secretary of the University and of the Board of Regents, GF05, University Hotel, Guerrero corner Aglipay Streets, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City.

Minimum requirements:

- Holder of a Master's degree; doctorate preferred;
- Substantial academic experience at the tertiary level
- Should be able to serve the full term of six (6) years before reaching the age of 70
- No conviction for administrative and criminal offenses

Qualifications:

Values and Perspective Cluster

1. Commitment to academic excellence and national development;
2. Political will and skills to defend and promote academic freedom and the University's Institutional autonomy;
3. Commitment to democratic governance in the University based on collegiality,

representation, accountability, transparency, and active participation of constituents;

4. Commitment to preserve the public and secular character of the University.

Academic Cluster

1. Commitment and ability to develop and implement effective, efficient, and technology-driven approaches to teaching, research, and public service
2. Capacity to develop and implement programs to upgrade the University's human resources (e.g., increase the proportion of the doctorates in the faculty)
3. Competence to enhance the internationalization of the University (e.g., research collaboration, exchange programs, joint degrees, participation in networks, adoption of international standards)

Leadership and Management Capability Cluster

1. Clear and inspiring vision of UP's role in the 21st century

(Search/page 4)

NIH groundbreaking: A giant leap for health research in PH

Eighteen years after its enactment through Republic Act 8503, the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) new 15-story state-of-the-art building will start construction at the area being occupied by the Sports Science and Wellness Center of UP Manila and the Old Science Centrum Building.

The groundbreaking of the new building was held on July 20, 2016. It was attended by UP President Alfredo Pascual; Chancellor Carmencita Padilla; National Scientist, University Prof. Emeritus and former chancellor Dr. Ernesto Domingo; former Chancellor and Professor Emeritus

Ramon Arcadio; former NIH Executive Directors Dr. Jaime Galves Tan, Dr. Vicente

Belizario, Dr. Lulu Bravo, and Dr. Generoso Abes; guests from the Department of Health, vice chancellors; deans and directors of UP Manila; and NIH institute directors.

"Today we are also making history, breaking new ground for the construction of the new NIH building, which (I must say) is also a giant leap for health research in the country," stated Vice Chancellor for Research and NIH Executive Director Dr. Eva Cutiongco-Dela Paz who hosted the event.

In her message, Chancellor Carmencita Padilla recounted three significant events a long way back that led to the creation of the NIH at UP Manila. These were the research integration efforts made by former UPM

(NIH/page 4)



UP President Alfredo Pascual and UPM Chancellor Dr. Carmencita Padilla, with Vice Chancellor Michael Tee, Vice Chancellor Eva Cutiongco-Dela Paz and Philippine Eye Research Institute Director Dr. Leo Cubillan during the groundbreaking.

WHO regional director meets UPM chancellor

World Health Organization Regional Director for the Western Pacific Region Dr. Shin Young-Soo paid a courtesy call to UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla on August 5, 2016. The two oriented each other on their respective institution's programs and services with a view to exploring more collaborations in the future, particularly in professorship exchange. WHO and UPM officials are known experts in different health fields.

Under the administration of Dr. Shin Young-Soo, the WHO designated the UP Manila College of Nursing (CN) as WHO Collaborating Center (WHOCC) for Leadership in Nursing Development. As WHOCC, CN pioneered the Cambodia Nursing Bridging Program where CN faculty members and PGH nursing specialists trained nursing faculty of the University of Health Sciences in Cambodia. This UPCN designation started in 2004.

(WHO/page 3)

Testimonial held for former Chancellor's Advisory Council members

As a way of paying tribute to the faithful service of former members of the Chancellor's Advisory Council (CAC) who served under her administration and whose terms had ended, a testimonial was held on Aug. 19, 2016 at the UP Manila Museum of a History of Ideas.

The 11 honorees were (based on date of end of term) **Prof. Erlyn Sana**, Dean, National Teacher Training Center for the Health Professions (Feb 2009-January 2015); **Dr. Michael Tee**, Director, Information, Publication and Public Affairs Office (IPPAO, Nov-2014-Feb 2015); **Prof. Teresita C. Mendoza**, Dean, College of Allied Medical Professions (May 2012-April 2015); **Dr. Jose C. Gonzales**, Director, Philippine General Hospital (Dec 2010-Dec 2015); **Prof. Alex C. Gonzaga**, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences (Jan 2013-Dec 2015); **Prof. Imelda G. Peña**, Dean, College of Pharmacy (July 2010-June 2016); **Dr. Vicente O. Medina III**, Dean, College of Dentistry (January 2010-July 2016); **Dr. Ericson L. Berberabe**, Director, IPPAO (February 2015-July 2016); and **Mrs. Tessie B. Merca**, Chief, Budget Office (Jan 1997-July 2016).

In her message to the former CAC officials, UPM Chancellor Carmencita Padilla said the collective tribute aimed to honor the faithful service of her colleagues and thank them for devoting their time with UP Manila in their respective posts.

"It was an honor and privilege to have worked with you towards fulfilling our shared vision for UP Manila to be the national leader in the health sciences. Your contributions toward helping us meet this goal have been significant and productive," she told the honorees.

A few months midway into her term, Chancellor Padilla stated that most of the goals set at the start have been achieved, particularly in the areas of infrastructure



The honorees, with former UPM Chancellor Dr. Ramon Arcadio, Chancellor Carmencita Padilla, and National Scientist and former Chancellor Dr. Ernesto Domingo (4th-6th from left) at the UP Manila Museum of a History of Ideas. They are, (from left) Prof. Arnold Esguerra, Prof. Erlyn Sana, Mrs. Tessie Merca, Prof. Teresita Mendoza, Dr. Vicente Medina III, Prof. Imelda Peña, and Dr. Michael Tee. Not in photo are four other honorees Prof. Alex Gonzaga, Dr. Jose Gonzales, Prof. Anna Theresa Santiago, and Dr. Ericson Berberabe.

development; rehabilitation of the School of Health Sciences in Palo, Leyte and strengthening of the SHS campuses in Aurora and South Cotabato; faculty, staff, and student empowerment; and enhancing academic and research programs.

"The hard work and commitment you have shown in helping us build and nurture the university to what it is today are much appreciated. There is so much work ahead but your assistance lightened the task and pushes us to work harder," she stated.

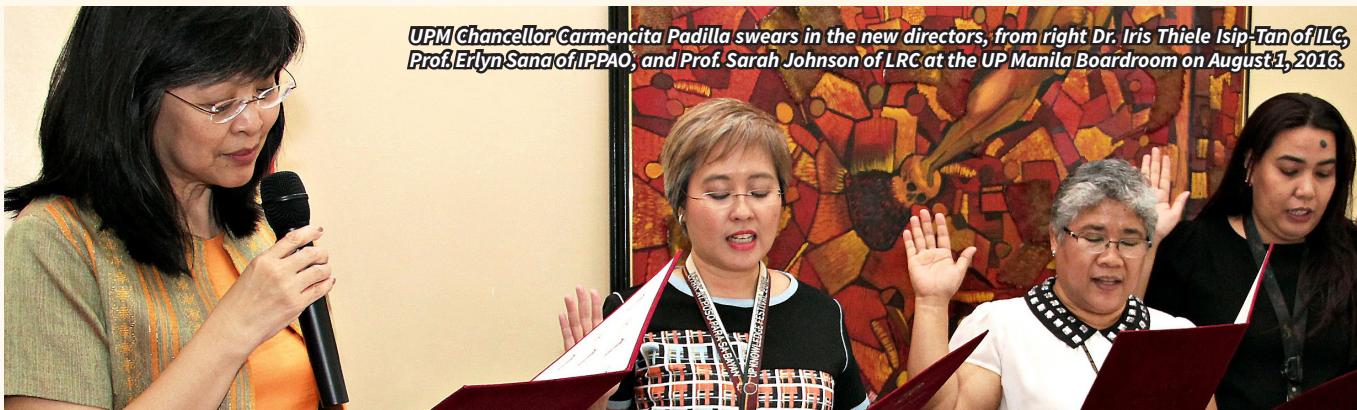
Responding on behalf of the honorees, former CP Dean Imelda Peña described their administration stints as learning, terrifying, exhausting, gratifying, and valuable. "We have tried our best to deliver what was expected in whatever way possible, through thick and thin, even in the midst of scarcity of resources. We had utilized our management-enhanced skills in sourcing out funds as well as home-grown talents in implementing programs and activities."

She added that they also had terrifying experiences, ranging from student suicide incident, to threats of fire,

earthquake, tsunami, and tornado. She recalled that spending sleepless nights to meet deadlines, attend to several meetings while discussing with different personalities with numerous concerns and varied interests were exhausting moments. But she conceded that the experience was, overall, gratifying and valuable. She thanked the administration for the trust and support and the entire UPM community and other partners who had helped in accomplishing their plans and programs. More than the tangible achievements and outcomes, she claimed that the experience had taught them to value relationships.

Rendering astounding musical numbers were PGH Director Gerardo Legaspi who played an old song, "You Don't Know Me" in the saxophone and Office of Alumni Affairs Director Dr. Melfred Hernandez who sang "Kailangan Kita." Earlier, Prof. Arnold Hallare delivered the doxology, a stirring rendition of the inspirational song, "Lead Me Lord." (Cynthia M. Villamor)

3 new directors appointed



UPM Chancellor Carmencita Padilla swears in the new directors, from right Dr. Iris Thiele Isip-Tan of ILC, Prof. Erlyn Sana of IPPAO, and Prof. Sarah Johnson of LRC at the UP Manila Boardroom on August 1, 2016.

Two faculty members were recently appointed as new directors of two academic support offices of UP Manila. They are **Prof. Erlyn Sana**, former dean and faculty, National Teacher Training Center for the Health Professions (NTTCHP) as director of the Information, Publication, and Public Affairs Office (IPPAO) and **Dr. Iris Thiele Isip-Tan**, endocrinologist and head of the UPM College of Medicine (UPMCM) Medical Informatics Unit, as director of the Interactive Learning Center (ILC).

Prof. Sana, holder of a PhD in Philippine Studies and Master of Arts in Teaching Social Studies both from UP Diliman, served for two terms as NTTCHP dean from February 2009 – January 2015. During these years, she steered the NTTCHP to greater heights of leadership in health professions education not only in the Philippines but in the Asian region. Her administration paved the way for collaboration with the World Health Organization, leading to the training of faculty from Cambodia and Lao-People's Democratic Republic and offering of the Master of Health Profession Education degree in Cambodia. The Center's increased collaboration with the Department of Health has led to various projects in the fields of disaster management and child protection, among others. With these accomplishments, NTTCHP was recognized as WHO Regional Education Development Center in the Western Pacific Region starting in 2012.

Prof. Sana is NTTCHP's first Most Outstanding Teacher

in 2001 and editor and primary author of the country's first textbook on health professions education. She served as consultant to various institutions and groups.

Dr. Isip-Tan, faculty for the Master of Science in Health Informatics, has more than 20 years of clinical, teaching, and research experience. She is into health informatics and has been a blogger since 2010. She is also a multi-awarded researcher for her work on diabetic foot infections and gestational diabetes.

She is one of the very few Filipino health professionals who uses social media and other information technology tools to educate her students and positively influence the general public about health issues. Her social media handles, Endocrine Witch and Doc Bru, reflect both her higher educational background and advocacies. Aside from being a faculty at UPMCM where endocrinology teachers are called "witches" due to their strictness, the health informatician in her loves to concoct new ways to present teachings with ICT. Doc Bru marked also Dr. Isip-Tan's decision to communicate in Filipino with her thousands of Facebook followers.

Dr Isip-Tan is the first recipient of the Gawad Pangulo: Competition for Progressive Teaching and Learning Award in 2015 given by the Office of the UP President.

The third director, **Prof. Sarah Johnson**, professor of physics at the College of Arts and Sciences, has been serving as Learning Resource Director starting in August

DENTISTRY, PHARMACY, AND CAMP GRADS ACE LICENSURE EXAMS

Graduates of three health colleges of UP Manila once again made the UP Manila proud by their exemplary performance in their respective licensure examinations.

All eight examinees from the UP Manila College of Dentistry passed both the Written (May 2016) and Practical Phases (June 2016) of the Dentist Licensure Examination given by the Board of Dentistry of the Professional Regulation Commission. Four of the examinees garnered top 10 places in the Practical Phase: **Ernest Joie Tactacan Guzman** (4th place / 82.90%); **Fidel Jacob Iran Katalbas** and **Saada Mariz Burahan Sarappudin** (8th place / 82.63%); and **Franz Kevin Francisco Agustin** (10th place / 82.36).

Meanwhile, all three UP College of Pharmacy examinees passed the **June 2016 Pharmacist Licensure Examination**, with one landing in the Top 10: **Anlorenze Mae Baura Conde** (10th, 90.82%). The other two passers were **Sheila Marie P. Aniñon**; and **Norman Rae T. Villarete**.

Not to be outperformed, graduates from the College of Allied Medical Professions passed the **OT-PT August 2016 licensure exams** with Occupational Therapy (OT) graduates posting an 80% (4/5) passing rate, while the Physical Therapy (PT) graduates had an 85.71% (6/7) passing rate.

Three were in the top 10: **Hans Dofiles Togonon** (2nd, 81.40%) and **Daryl Patrick Gamboa Yao** (3rd, 81.00%) in the OT exam and **Maureen Angela Dionson Codilla** (2nd, 89.35%) in the PT exam. (Compiled by Fedellyn M. Jemena).

2015. She took over the post from former director, Prof. Anna Theresa Santiago, who migrated to Canada. Prof. Johnson's specialization is Teaching, Training, and Development. She took both her Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in Physics at UP Diliman in 2003 and 2009, respectively. She is a member of the Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas. (CMVillamor)

Revised book on mental health programs in disaster-stricken communities launched

The revised edition of a book which has been the staple of training community health and social workers for the past three decades was launched this July by the Philippine Psychiatric Association (PPA).

The book, *Transforming Lives: Mental Health Care of the Community*, was unveiled by co-authors **Dr. Lourdes Ladrado-Ignacio** and **Dr. Anselmo Tronco** on 5 July 2016 at the Calderon Hall of the UP College of Medicine. The event was attended by health professionals, community workers, nongovernment organizations, and government agencies.

Change in perspective inspired the authors to revise the training materials and update the concepts of health and illness, particularly mental health. This book clarifies further the skills in mental health care that general health workers are expected to acquire.

Dr. Tronco, Chair of the PGH Department of Psychiatry (PGHDP) and a former student of Dr. Ignacio, said the latest edition comes with three major revisions: (1) among the four dimensions presented in the book, it recognizes the importance of spirituality in man's life; (2) a simplified checklist for trainees that will help identify the mental health problems they will be expected to attend to; and (3) the interconnectedness between the individual and his community as a necessity in the process of care.

Dr. Ignacio, PGHDP Professor Emeritus and PPA founding president, shared that writing the book had reaffirmed her commitment to continue serving the country. "When I finished my residency and fellowship in the United States, I had the big opportunity to earn dollars, buy a Jaguar, etc., [but] I dared not do that. I dared not to take my exams in the U.S. I dared to come home and held on to the idea that I can probably still succeed personally and professionally, practicing psychiatry in the Philippines," said Dr. Ignacio.

Dr. Ignacio was recently conferred the UP Alumni Association Lifetime Achievement Award. According to her, being in UP is home and producing something that might make a difference in the world gives her satisfaction. "It's not so much the whole material luxury, but it really is the luxury of the spirit with which you are going to involve truly your own self. Not only the professional point of view but the personal point of view, touching base with what has not yet been touched, reaching those who have not yet been reached, and somehow receiving the kind of thankfulness that you probably would not have imagined," she added.

"I represent one of the not so young but not so old psychiatrists who strongly believe that mental health will be central in the transformation of the world," Dr. Tronco said, stating his strong advocacy for creating programs for the families of the mentally ill.

"The language here seems to apply directly to the Filipino victims of disaster, [but] it can well be a language that can be used to help those beyond our shores," he stated.

Published in 2000, the earlier book, *Mental Health Care in the Community*, had been used for decades to provide psychosocial care in many communities that do not have access to this kind of care. The book has reached other countries and was translated into 4 languages – Mongolian, Khmer, Bahasa-Indonesia, and Vietnamese. It has been the main reference material in training health and social workers in the community.

"The people in the field would tell us that one of the best things that they could think of right away when all else fails is that there is spiritual life, their prayers. They're looking into the cosmic being," Dr. Ignacio claimed.

Praises and Reviews

Dr. Jaime Montoya, Executive Director of the Philippine Council for Health, Research, and Development, admitted that reading the book made him understand mental psychiatry more than how he understood it when he was in medical school. He also praised the book's bravery in including 'spirituality' which is considered 'unscientific' in the broad understanding of health.

"In the Philippines, it is a reality that we have to accept that we are a deeply spiritual people. We don't want to admit it but in our own small time, we are, in fact, spiritual," said Dr. Montoya.

Dr. Tronco on why they included spirituality in the concept of health: "It was time to put something that will create and steer another way of looking at health. We do not really know how to go about making people competent and responding to spirituality, we just have it."

Other prominent figures in the field of medicine, mental health, and community work also attended the launch and had their copies signed. **UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla** termed the book as a "constant reminder to the university to care more for the disabled."

"The reputation of the university is measured not only by the people it produces, not only the faculty and the students it graduates, but also the outputs – publications, books, and products. We are confident that the contents of this book are not only for the Philippines but for the rest of the world," Dr. Padilla said proudly.

According to her, this book will prepare our communities for more disasters and the challenges of the world. The Chancellor explained that she got in touch with the organizing committee of a forthcoming international conference to invite the authors to present the thoughts of this book to the international academic medical community. **Dr. Corali Dimacali**, UPCM Associate Dean for Academic Development, hopes that this book will



Authors Dr. Anselmo Tronco and Dr. Lourdes Labrido-Ignacio unveil the second edition book *Transforming Lives: Mental Health Care of the Community*

serve as a guide to health workers in restoring order in the communities after chaos. "As a nation in the earthquake belt, prone to typhoons and floods, an important and often missed aspect of relief efforts is maintaining the mental health and well-being of the persons and communities affected by such disasters," she explained that mental health and mental wealth are necessary to hasten recovery and rebuilding of community when such calamities happen.

Rainer Guetler, Christoffel-Blindenmission Regional Director, shared that as stigma and poverty prevents many Filipinos to reach out to psychiatrists, books such as this one helps reach those communities.

Lucita Lazo, President of the World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation-Philippines (WAPR-Phils), also praised the book saying that, "the authors have addressed the fundamental problems. What we now need to do is make the most out of this book."

"Precious few have had the courage to write on the challenges of undertakings in the much-needed mental health services and care in the community," a letter from PPA President, **Dr. Fareda Flores** read.

The book is made available in braille to allow access to the differently abled. Published by the PPA, copies are available at the PGHDP, 554-8400 loc. 2436 and Medical Center Manila (Rm. 318, Clinic of Dr. Ignacio), and WAPR-Phils. (525-1767 or 0922-8826949; ask for Ms. Jane Torres). It is also available on Amazon and Flipside. To request for Braille versions, please contact WAPR-Phils. (Anne Marie D. Alto)

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Dr. Shin Young-Soo is into his 2nd term as WHO Regional Director for the WPR. During his term in 2012, the world's remaining National Teacher Training Center for the Health Professions (NTTCHP) were recognized as WHO Regional Education Development Centers. The first was NTTCHP in UP Manila and the other one was the Seoul National University School of Medicine in South Korea. This led UP Manila to train health professions teachers in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos People's Democratic Republic.

Defeat Dengue Day launched at UP Manila



Student-leaders and administrators of the University of the Philippines Manila launched the "Defeat Dengue Day" (DDD) campaign on August 12, 2016 with the goal of controlling the incidence of dengue in the campus.

DDD is a campaign of the UP Manila University Student Council (USC) and the College of Public Health Student Council (CPH SC), with the support of the Office of the Chancellor.


Participants scoured the campus to locate the to-be

eliminated current and possible breeding sites for dengue-carrying mosquitoes. The identified sites will then be monitored regularly by a volunteer group of student organizations and administration personnel.

"Aware that prevention is better than cure, vector control becomes a key weapon to minimize disease outbreak. Research has shown that environmental management of dengue, a bottom-up community approach, is the most appropriate way," said Diony Flores, CPH Representative to the USC and one of the event organizers.

Dengue is spread by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito which breeds mainly in artificial water containers. Environmental management, especially in urban areas where such mosquitoes are prevalent, is considered an effective preventive measure. According to the Department of Health, the 200,415 dengue cases reported in the country in 2015 were a 65% jump from the previous year. The National Capital region registered the third highest number of cases.

DDD was also organized in cooperation with the different college student councils in the campus.



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EDITORIAL STAFF

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UPM role in achieving Sustainable Development Goals tackled



Incoming Health Secretary Dr. Pauly Jean Rossel-Ubial, Chancellor Carmencita Padilla and Dean Romeo Quizon during the awarding of the Certificate of Appreciation.

As a teaching, research, and public service university, UP Manila is faced with opportunities to help contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that took over the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the new approach to development.

In her keynote speech at the recent College of Public Health Alumni Society (CPHAS) Annual Convention, UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla discussed current mechanisms and programs of the university that builds on the unfulfilled MDG targets and are expected to step up efforts to realize the SDGs.

Based on an online compilation, MDGWatch, by the Philippine Statistics Authority (http://www.nscb.gov.ph/stats/mdg/mdg_watch.asp), of the eight MDG targets, the Philippines did well on #2 – achieving universal primary education, #3 – gender equality and women empowerment, #4 – infant mortality, and access to safe drinking water and sanitation under

#7 – environmental sustainability. The other MDG targets where the Philippines did not fare as well were 1) eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; 5) improving maternal health; 6) combatting HIV/AIDS, malaria & other diseases; and 8) developing global partnerships for development.

The SDGs take over the unfinished agenda of the MDGs but also aim to address other significant public health challenges and recognize their interconnectedness. They include 17 goals and their associated 169 targets that were committed by the heads of states at the 2105 UN General Assembly held in September 2015.

Apart from covering the MDG targets, the SDG goals include additional targets on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being; availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation; access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and clean energy; sustained and inclusive economic growth, full and productive

employment and decent work for all; resilient infrastructure and inclusive and sustainable industrialization; reduced inequality within and among countries; safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements; and combating climate change and its impacts. Chancellor Padilla stated that as a teaching university, UP Manila's recent shift to Outcome-based Education is hoped to carry out the desired learning outcomes expected of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, and other health professionals. This will lead to better health care delivery as they will apply their skills not only as clinicians but also as socially accountable leaders, team players, managers, and advocates.

She explained that in achieving Goal No. 3, Good Health and Well-being, the strategy for delivery of health care may need to be revisited. She quoted a proposal by Dr. Antonio Dans in a lecture he delivered at a forum of the Association of Philippine Medical Colleges to anchor health education and health delivery on primary care. This will entail a major reorientation of the way the health professionals are educated and nurtured. The roadmap to primary care has five milestones: recruitment, retraining, retention, regulation, and reassessment. This strategy is being eyed in the long-term as it would entail a major overhaul of the health education and delivery system.

The UPM chancellor also mentioned that the SDGs provide an opportunity for collaboration and partnerships in research. She said that the forthcoming construction of the a new, 15 story National Institutes of Health building inside the UPM campus will boost and strengthen collaboration in a wide range of health and socio-biomedical fields. Through the new NIH, it is envisioned that researchers will develop products that will enhance health

care in the form of better diagnostic kits for early diagnosis of more common diseases like tuberculosis, leptospirosis, malaria, schistosomiasis, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and many more.

"With genomics research available now in the country, we can design markers specific for Filipinos," Padilla stated.

She shared some recent and ongoing research projects of UP Manila, such as a dengue diagnostic kit developed by the Biotek M team of Dr. Raul Destura with a better sensitivity of 86-92% and specificity of 100% but which is cheaper than the commercially available kit.

According to the human genetics specialist, the proposed creation of a Center for Health Equity (CHE) at the College of Public Health (CPH) will make UP Manila the leading voice in advocating for change and innovations in the Philippine health care system to achieve social inclusiveness. The CHE will focus on studies to reduce health inequities. She urged the CPH alumni to lead in offering major contributions to realizing the SDGs, saying that their departments, such as health promotion and education, nutrition, environmental and occupational health will be major critical players on the background of the SDGs.

In the same forum, outstanding alumni were honored. The Distinguished Alumna were Health Undersecretary for Policy and Health Systems **Dr. Lilibeth David**, **Dr. Gerardo Bayugo** for the Master of Public Health; and Mindanao Central Sanitarium Chief of Hospital **Dr. Domingo Remus Dayrit** for the Master of Hospital Administration. The Outstanding Alumna awardee was **Sister Eloisa Lumanian David**, a nurse, doctor, social apostolate and Chief Executive Officer, Kakak Foundation. (Cynthia M. Villamor)

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Chancellor Ernesto Domingo during his term, such as the setting up of the Office of Research Services and the creation of the Institutes of Socio Biomedical Research (ISBMR) as part of the 1988 reorganization of UP Manila. She also recalled the conceptualization of the NIH by then Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development Dr. Alex de Leon and its approval by the Board of Regents during the administration of former Chancellor Perla Santos Ocampo. Republic Act 8503 was approved in 1998 institutionalizing the NIH and creating its various institutes.

"The NIH is a project of seven chancellors and I am proud of being the one to implement it," stated Chancellor Padilla. Apart from Chancellor Padilla and Drs. Domingo and Santos Ocampo, the four other chancellors who helped in envisioning the NIH were Chancellors Alfredo Ramirez, Marita Reyes, Ramon Arcadio, and Manuel Agulto.

Chancellor Padilla recalled that since the creation of the NIH, its offices and facilities had been housed in the old Bureau of Soils building that was not designed for the conduct of health researches. She narrated that during the NIH's first week in the building, she was the lone occupant because nobody wanted to stay in the antiquated facility, where, she said, there were spirits. She recalled that after one week, she left the

building and a spirit questor was invited to the building.

She shared the efforts of the past administrations to raise funds for a new building. With the help of UP President Alfredo Pascual, one billion pesos was allotted in the national government's 2012 budget for its construction.

"We are looking forward to a home where we can be in one roof, where we can interact with each other and with the technology we can use for our collaborations," she declared.

In his message, Pres. Pascual affirmed that after the approval of UP's budget in 2012, he allotted and prioritized 1 billion pesos for the construction of the NIH building. He acknowledged that the funds were from former President Benigno Aquino's Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP). The UP president added that in his six years as UP president, he was able to get a total of P9 billion for infrastructure projects and P3.15 billion for PGH equipment modernization. "When I was nominated as UP president, I saw UP as becoming a great university of the 21st century but for us to be able to achieve this, many things have to be undertaken, one of which is providing an enabling environment. There should be modern physical facilities and modern information system. That time, the budget of UP was

on a decline. Coming from the corporate sector, I was so convinced then that UP was saleable because it was declared as the national university in 2008," Pres. Pascual stated. He shared that the first opportunity to get money was at the end of 2012 when P1.2 billion was granted to the university of which P1 billion was allotted to the NIH building.

"The journey took 18 years and the steadfast stand that your academic leaders have taken has made this day a reality. Now we will have an NIH that is in a position to pursue higher value and higher impact research and enhance our country's research capabilities that will lead to the formulation and improvement of policies and programs and empowerment of our human resources. Through the various programs of NIH and its complex of institutes, we may be able to carry out the double task of achieving better health and over all wellness for all of us in this country," he stated.

After the messages, each of the NIH directors placed significant documents on their respective institutes in the time capsule before it was lowered. The groundbreaking followed. The construction is hoped to be finished in 2018 based on the estimates of the contractors. (Charmaine Lingdas)

SEARCH... from page 1

2. Ability to unify/harmonize the constituents of the University towards a common vision
3. Skills in strategic planning and fiscal management
4. Capacity to sustain the modernization of the University's information systems and infrastructure
5. Ability to articulate to internal & external audiences the value of supporting the University.
6. Capability to generate and raise funds from various internal and external sources (e.g., national government, private sector, international agencies, alumni, donors, University assets)
7. Necessary people skills (e.g., selection, delegation, motivation)

The search activities schedule is as follows: Preliminary evaluation of nominees by the Board of Regents, 27 Sept 2016; Uploading in the UP Website of the list of nominees including their CVs and Vision Papers, 28 Sept 2016; Nominees' Forum via livestreaming at the UP Theater, October 2016 (to be scheduled); BOR Meeting Shortlisting of top 5 nominees, 27 October 2016; Interview and election of the New President by the Board of Regents, 15 Nov 2016.

For more inquiries, please contact Ms. Jovita P. Fucio at 434-7815 or 981-8500 local 2535 or viaborsecretariat@up.edu.ph. (From the www.up.edu.ph)

UPM welcomes 291 first year students for AY 2016-2017



UP Pres. Alfredo Pascual, with Chancellor Carmencita Padilla, acknowledges former UP Student Regent Miguel Enrico Pangalangan who was the guest speaker during the opening program for first year students.

The Girl Scouts of the Philippines Auditorium was jammed full with 291 new *Iskos* and *Iskas* during the welcome ceremonies for first year students on 1 August 2016. The reduction in the number of first year enrollees was a result of the government's full implementation of the senior high school program this year.

Ushering the 'freshies' to the new academic year at the country's health sciences center were UP System and UP Manila officials, deans, faculty and staff, and old students. The venue was filled with the students' dynamic energy and vibrant spirits through yells and cheers when their respective deans introduced them per program. There were also various song and dance presentations from the different student organizations that helped exude a warm and welcoming atmosphere for the new students.

During her welcome remarks, UPM Chancellor Carmencita David Padilla awakened the students' consciousness of the University's rich, eventful past by briefly recounting its history and depicting UP Manila as

the University's birthplace. She then addressed the new enrollees as the "lucky batch." "Your batch is lucky because your batch is the first to benefit from several infrastructure projects," Padilla said.

As the country's one and only national university, UP makes certain that it admits the best and the brightest. UP President Alfredo Pascual congratulated the UP 'freshies' of 2016 for making it to the country's best university. "You are here because you have proved that you are the best minds of your generation," Pascual stated.

He introduced the new students to the University's guiding principles of honor and excellence. According to the UP President, these two virtues constitute 'Tatak UP'. "Honor is the stuff of heroes. It encompasses integrity, sense of service, sense of purpose, citizenship, relevance. Excellence is the stuff of success. It encompasses innovation, going beyond what others have achieved; it is making a difference. You must make a difference for the common good. That is honor and excellence combined," he underscored.

Pres. Pascual also pointed out that in becoming an *Iskolar ng Bayan*, a student realizes that one's family has grown. "Together with your nuclear family, millions of Filipinos are now supporting your studies. As much as your family's pride, you have become the embodiment of the people's hopes for the country's future," he uttered.

Student regent Miguel Enrico Pangalangan, the ceremony's guest speaker, prompted the new students to take the higher challenge, satisfying the demand of honor and excellence, and going beyond it. He emphasized that the students will not have to wait until graduation to be

shapers and leaders of society. "Today we take on the role to become the leaders of the society," he said.

He also enlightened the 'freshies' on the concepts of academic freedom and liberal education, which the University upholds. "Our education here in UP should be liberating, and it should put us in a position to liberate others from the chains of poverty, from the chains of oppression," Pangalangan added.

Aside from the first year students, transferees from different UP campuses and other schools also joined the welcome ceremonies. (ALC Santos & CA Lingdas)

New Dentistry dean to implement patient-based system of teaching



Dr. Danilo Magtanong, former chairperson of the UP College of Dentistry's (UPCD) Department of Clinical Dental Health Sciences (DCDHS), was appointed new UPCD dean by the UP Board of Regents at its July 28, 2016 meeting. He succeeds Dean Vicente Medina who served the college for two terms from January

2010-July 2016.

Dean Magtanong has served the UPCD for several years in various capacities. Apart from being DCDHS chair, he has been a faculty member of the College's Section of Prosthodontics since 1986 and former head, DCDHS' Section of Prosthodontics. At the national level, he was a member of Expert Panel for Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) on accreditation of Dental Technology and Dental Hygienist courses. He has served as resource person, panelist, convenor, or facilitator in over a hundred continuing education activities on dental health.

He recalled having proposed six years ago as DCDHS chair a change in the strategy in the clinical training of dental students from the requirement-based system to the patient care-based system. In the proposed system, clinicians work on cases available in the clinics, thus, stresses are minimized.

He said this approach is also congruent to the principle of "learning in context," a training experience much like the setting in dental students' future tasks as practitioners.

The new UPCD dean stated that under the patient-based system, students have more opportunities to learn and acquire more skills in caring for patients' needs. In the requirement-based training, clinicians usually discontinue working on a patient who needs more treatment upon satisfying the numbers required. They will rather work on other cases that they need to accomplish.

Unlike the existing system, the patient care-based clinical training is more conducive in promoting a true culture of learning, according to Dean Magtanong.

The requirement-based system has brought stress and anxieties on the part of the clinicians since they are expected to look for and find their own patients to work on to satisfy the numbers.

Dean Magtanong explained that a change in the training strategies and implementation of the patient care-based program is expected to address the very low graduation rate and attrition problem of the College. He considers the implementation of this new system the biggest challenge and responsibility for the next dean.

He recalled that the patient-based system was approved by the College Council at that time. Unfortunately, it was not implemented.

"It is long overdue," said the new dean.

NEW REPSA-Manila officers



In photo (L-R): Chancellor Carmencita D. Padilla, Fevito A. Obidos Jr. (President), Lilibeth E. Manganip (Vice-President), Nimfa V. Castro (Treasurer), Alma V. Labro (CAMP Unit Representative), Mary Abigail Hernandez (CN-Unit Representative), Ionee Ibarrientos (NIH-Unit Representative), Vivian E. Biala (Auditor), Evangeline Marion A. Abendano (PERI-Unit Representative), Marjorie Reese M. De Lima (CM-Unit Representative), Claire D. Pastor (NTTC-Unit Representative), Marybel P. Caasi (UL-Unit Representative), and Fedelynn M. Jemena (CAD-Unit Representative) Not in the picture but are also REPSA officers: Lara Fatima L. Lintao (Secretary), Arturo Ongkeko Jr., (PRO), and Jorel A. Manalo (CPH-Unit Representative)

The new officers of the UP Manila chapter of the Research, Extension, and Professional Staff Association (REPSA) took their oath of office before Chancellor Carmencita D. Padilla on 22 July 2016 at the UP Manila Board Room.

Before the oath-taking took place, the group and the chancellor updated each other about their respective plans. Chancellor Padilla spoke about her turning UP Manila into a 'green campus' with energy-efficient buildings and landscaped pocket gardens. One of the plans she showed was for an 11-storey UPM Library.

Mr. Fevito "Jun" A. Obidos Jr., President of REPSA-Manila, enumerated the overall objectives of the whole REPSA group of the UP System for 2015-2017: [1] To launch social media account of REPSA (linking all societies related to research and collaboration among researchers); [2] To have series of workshops on research from proposal to publication; [3] To continue professional education among different sectors of the REPS; [4] To encourage other CU's to revive REPSA.; [5] To seek more support (research grants/funding); [4] To seek/ask/request for more permanent REPS item. (FMJemena)

Photo credit: Dr. Cecilia Acuin



Dr. Raul Destura, with Science and Technology Secretary Fortunato dela Peña and Dr. Junie Billones with Dr. Roel Suralta after receiving their award.

UPM AND UPD PROFS' ARTICLE FEATURED IN VACUUM SCIENCE AND TECHNO JOURNAL

A paper written by UP faculty members was featured in the July-Aug 2016 issue of an international journal being published by several groups.

The paper, entitled "Gas Discharge Plasma Treatment of Poly (Ethylene Glycol-co-1,3/1,4 Cyclohexanedimethanol Terephthalate) for Enhanced Paint Adhesion" was selected as the featured article and the issue cover of the Journal of Vacuum Science and Technology A. It was authored by Profs. **Hernando S. Salapare III**, **Julius Andrew P. Nuñez** of the College of Arts and Sciences, UP Manila and **Henry J. Ramos**, **Hannah Shamina O. Cosiñero**, and **Miguel Y. Bacaoco** of the College of Science, UP Diliman.

Salapare is a returning scientist under the Balik Scientist program of the Department of Science and Technology. He is Professorial Lecturer at the UP Open University and Adjunct Professor at UP Manila. He has a post-doctorate degree from the Université de Nice Sophia Antipolis, CNRS, LPMC, UMR 7336, France. He is also Professorial Lecturer at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

The article was conferred the International Publication Award by the UP System in June 2016.

The Journal of Vacuum Science & Technology A publishes reports of original research, letters, and review articles that focus on fundamental scientific understanding of interfaces, surfaces, plasmas and thin films and on using this understanding to advance the state-of-the-art in various technological applications. It is being published monthly by AIP Publishing; AVS: Science & Technology of Materials, Interfaces, and Processing; Acoustical Society of America; American Association of Physicists in Medicine; American Association of Physics Teachers; Chinese Physical Society; Laser Institute of America; and The Society of Rheology.

For more information on the paper, go to <http://scitation.aip.org/content/avs/journal/jvsta> and <http://scitation.aip.org/content/avs/journal/jvsta/34/4>.

Dr. Alonzo Gabriel of the UP Diliman College of Home Economics' Department of Nutrition, was recognized with a Development Award for Applied Research. He was cited for his research on precision food processing which can lead to safer and more nutritious food products. (*With reports from article published at Inquirer.net July 24, 2016*)

National Science and Technology Awards conferred on 4 UP professors

UP Vice President for Academic Affairs and marine science professor **Gisela Concepcion** and three faculty members of UP were among the winners of this year's National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) Awards given on July 25, 2016.

Concepcion was chosen as this year's outstanding science administrator for her many accomplishments, which included lobbying for the creation of the UP Diliman-based National Science Complex, and the grant of a heftier funding for master's degree and doctoral scholarships.

The UP official also simplified the Balik Scientist program to allow Filipino scientists based abroad to return to the UP campuses and enhance their teaching capabilities. Concepcion initiated as well another program that sent faculty members, research and professional staff for short-term training and internships abroad.

"Dr. Concepcion has fostered an enabling environment for researchers in UP by providing university funds, which faculty and researchers use to carry out interdisciplinary and basic or applied research and creative work," the DOST stated in its citation.

Award for dengue diagnostic kit

Given the Outstanding Technology Commercialization Award was **Dr. Raul Destura**, infectious disease specialist and former director, National Institutes of Health's Institute of Biotechnology and Molecular Biology, who developed a portable kit that can detect within an hour

the presence of dengue virus in the blood and at a lower price than the currently used method.

He was cited for his successful commercialization of the breakthrough diagnostic kit called Biotek-M Dengue Aquakit that can detect the presence of the dengue virus by adding nucleic acid to a blood sample that turns green. Uninfected blood turns orange. The kit targets Filipino mutations of the four types of dengue and has a better sensitivity of 86-92% and a specificity of 100%.

The kit was developed and initially tested in 2012 at Rizal Medical Center, National Children's Hospital and Philippine Children's Medical Center. Destura was the leader of the Lab-in-a-Mug Project, which includes the dengue rapid test kit. It was a joint undertaking of the DOST's Philippine Council for Health Research and Development, Department of Health's National Epidemiology Center, Biotech-Manila and Philippine Genome Center.

Award for computer-based designer drugs

Dr. Junie Billones, faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences and former Learning Resource Director, with **Dr. Roel Suralta** of PhilRice, received the Outstanding Research and Development Award for Basic Research. The team used computer programs to develop a new class of designer medications against tuberculosis, one of the top causes of deaths in the country. The use of computer programs led to the "swift discovery" of new drugs without the need to perform costly laboratory experiments.

CAS prof new Philippine Academy of Microbiology diplomate

A UP Manila faculty was recently bestowed a Diplomate title by the Philippine Academy of Microbiology (PAM). Associate Professor Marilen P. Balolong, of the Department of Biology, College of Arts & Sciences, was granted the title during the 45th Annual Convention and Scientific Meeting and 7th Asia Pacific Biotechnology Congress, July 20-24, 2016, at the Vigan Convention Center, Ilocos Sur.

Dr. Balolong was one of two UP faculty to receive the honor. The other was Dr. Jessica Simbahan of BIOTECH-UP Los Baños.

The PAM is the certification arm of the Philippine Society for Microbiology, Inc., (PSM). There are two categories of PAM members – Diplomate and Fellow. Membership is through nomination and to be accepted, nominees should have the following credentials: winning national or international awards in the field of microbiology; and, publication of peer-reviewed research articles in scientific journals.

Dr. Balolong is a Research Professor at the Laboratory of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology, Dankook University, Republic of Korea, where she is doing her post-doctorate training.

Her career in Microbiology began as a University

Research Associate (BIOTECH-UPLB, 1995-2003), then as a Laboratory Supervisor (Animal Disease Diagnostics Laboratory-LQCC, 2003-2004). Eventually her love for teaching prevailed and she joined the Department of Biology, UP Manila, in 2004 as an Assistant Professor. Her career in microbiology research started in studying fungal taxonomy and fungal biotechnology, extending to studies involving environmental microbiology and bioremediation. By collaborating with other scientists in the field of food microbiology, lactic acid bacteria, and probiotics, it eventually led her to work with Korean experts in studying the microbiome, metagenomics, and proteomics. But her love for viruses and medical microbiology stays as she partners with local and international scientific groups to conduct research in medical microbiology, vaccine, and drug development.

Dr. Balolong is one of the recently listed top scientists of the University of the Philippines. Her well-cited works are published in international and local journals, including Biodiversity and Conservation, Mycological Research, Beneficial Microbes, Journal of Applied Microbiology, COGENT Environmental Science, Animal Feed Science and Technology, International Food Research Journal, Journal of Microbiology, Journal of General and

Applied Microbiology, Asian-Australasian Journal of Animal Science, and the Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology.

Dr. Balolong is a recipient of international awards in Thailand and Indonesia for her work on Probiotics and Functional Foods to Understand and Manage

Obesity and Blood Glucose Levels. In addition, she and her collaborators received national awards in their work on metagenomics, diagnostics, and functional food.

She is currently affiliated with the American Society for Microbiology, Korean Society for Microbiology and Biotechnology, Philippine Society for Lactic Acid Bacteria; Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science; Philippine Society for Microbiology, Inc.; Philippine Academy of Microbiology; Mycological Society of the Philippines; Philippine Network of Microbial Culture Collections. (*Prof. Arnold Hallare*)

