

THE HYGELIAN



*Pharmacists for Better
Health Outcomes*



PHARMACIST FOR A UNIFIED AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE:

Highlights from the 2025 PPhA National Convention

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WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?



PHARMACISTS FOR A UNIFIED & SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE:

Highlights from the 2025 PPhA National Convention



PPHA BACKS FDA REGULATORY REFORMS AT INAUGURAL 2025 KAPIHAN



VISAYAS CHAPTERS:

Unity in Action (Jan-Jun 2025)



PPHA INC.- MINDANAO CLUSTER

2025 Activities





Pre-Convention Activities: Unity and Service in Action

The pre-convention activities began with a flag ceremony at the Baguio City Municipal Hall, followed by a ceremonial MOA signing between PPhA and the Baguio City Health Office, and a solidarity motorcade—symbolizing the collective strength and shared purpose of the local government and the pharmacy community. These activities set the tone for the days ahead, emphasizing the importance of unity in achieving healthcare goals.

A significant highlight was the community outreach program, “Binnadang,” which provided medical and health services to around 600 patients and facilitated the turnover of 15 wheelchairs, in partnership with the LGU, the PPhA Baguio-Benguet Chapter, and the private sector. Information campaigns on national health programs such as KONSULTA further demonstrated the profession’s dedication to public health education and advocacy. A Eucharistic celebration was offered in thanksgiving, followed by the awarding of plaques of appreciation to trade partners and the opening of the trade exhibits.

Opening Ceremonies: Setting the Tone

The formal opening featured an interfaith prayer, parade of colors, and the singing of the national anthem, followed by the official declaration of the convention’s commencement by the PPhA President. Experts from the Department of Health and the International Pharmaceutical Federation helped set the direction for the event.

The keynote address highlighted the theme “Sustainable Health for All,” calling on pharmacists to champion universal healthcare through innovative and eco-friendly practices. It emphasized the need for sustainable health systems, resource optimization, and equitable access to quality care. A global perspective was also shared, inspiring pharmacists to integrate sustainability into daily practice by promoting environmental stewardship, reducing medication waste, supporting ethical sourcing, and strengthening health system resilience.



Plenary Sessions

The scientific program consisted of four (4) plenary sessions, each addressing key aspects of sustainability in healthcare:

Pharmacists for a Unified & Sustainable Healthcare: Highlights from the 2025 PPhA National Convention

By: Maria Fay Nnette M. Cariaga, PhD and Jingle G. Diola, RPh



1. Building Sustainability and Resiliency in Pharmacy Practice

Speakers shared practical strategies for adapting to challenges, promoting environmental responsibility, and ensuring the long-term impact of pharmacy services. The session encouraged pharmacists to foster awareness and take action toward a healthcare system that is both sustainable and adaptable to evolving demands. Environmental health is becoming increasingly important, and pharmacists are well-positioned to support sustainability through initiatives such as the One Health approach and the green pharmacy movement. Discussions highlighted the environmental impact of pharmaceutical waste, proper medication disposal, and the role of pharmacists in implementing sustainable practices within healthcare facilities.

2. Strengthening Collaboration for Effective Pharmaceutical Regulation

This session focused on fostering partnerships between pharmacists and regulatory authorities to discuss strategies, innovations, and best practices in regulatory adherence within Asia. The FDA Philippines

presented updates on new regulatory policies, reflecting the dynamic landscape of pharmacy practice and aligning local processes with global standards. Open dialogue with authorities was emphasized as vital in ensuring the quality, safety, and efficacy of pharmaceutical products.

3. Transformations in Practice and Setting Standards Toward Sustainable Healthcare

Updates on the Philippine Pharmacy Education and Practice Roadmap and the latest practice standards were presented. These developments aim to shape the future of the profession and ensure responsiveness to societal needs. A key advocacy point of the 2025 PPhA National Convention was the expansion of the pharmacist’s scope of practice to meet the growing healthcare demands in the Philippines. The role of pharmacists has evolved from simply dispensing medications to becoming integral members of patient care teams. Expanding this scope is crucial to optimizing pharmacist contributions, improving healthcare outcomes, and easing the burden on overstretched healthcare systems.



4. Holistic Professional Growth for a Meaningful Pharmacy Career

The final plenary explored evolving career pathways and the importance of cultivating a mindset for sustainable practice. It encouraged pharmacists to pursue continuous professional development and specialization. The session highlighted the importance of communication and teamwork, recognizing pharmacists’ essential role in the healthcare continuum. A culture of growth mindset, trust, and mutual respect across professions is vital in building a resilient and adaptable healthcare system.

Fireside Chats, Panel Discussions, and Parallel Sessions

Interactive sessions provided practical approaches to sustainability, resiliency, and collaborative practice across all sectors. Parallel sessions allowed participants to delve deeper into issues concerning community and institutional pharmacy, industrial and hospital pharmacy, and public health. Topics included regulatory compliance, health technology assessment, pharmacoeconomics, pharmacy research and development, patient safety, and supply chain resilience. Academic research presentations showcased the latest work in pharmacy practice, pharmaceutical sciences, clinical, social, and administrative pharmacy, as well as education, regulatory policy, and workforce development—reinforcing the profession’s commitment to evidence-based practice.

Special Symposia and Networking

Special symposia covered topics such as multivitamins and cognition, counseling for hypertension and diabetes, skincare science, and solutions for common concerns like dry eye and sore throat—providing practical, patient-centered knowledge. Fellowship night and social activities strengthened camaraderie among participants, while the general assembly and organizational reports promoted transparency and collective decision-making.

Awards, Recognition, and Pledge of Commitment

The convention celebrated outstanding advocacy projects and chapter achievements,

continued on page 8...



PPhA Awardees 2025



**Yolanda R. Robles, RPh, PhD,
Lifetime Achievement Award**

Dr. Yolanda R. Robles is a distinguished leader in pharmacy education and practice. She obtained her BS Pharmacy from the University of the Philippines and her Master's and PhD in Pharmacy from the University of Tasmania, Australia. She served as Dean of the UP College of Pharmacy from 2001 to 2007 and as President of PACOP, where she championed major curricular reforms in pharmacy education. She currently serves on the CHED Technical Panel for Pharmacy Education and holds the rank of Professor 12 at UP. Currently, she leads the Federation of Asian Pharmaceutical Associations as its

President, having previously headed AASP and ACCP. A past president of the Philippine Pharmacists Association, Dr. Robles has contributed extensively to research, professional development, TESDA training regulations, and national health policy committees. Her exemplary service has been recognized through numerous prestigious national and international awards, including the PRC Outstanding Professional in Pharmacy and multiple lifetime achievement recognitions.

Individual Categories - The Outstanding Pharmacist (TOP) Awards in:

Ms. Rubina R. Abaya was recognized for her expertise in Clinical Pharmacy, Preceptorship, and Patient Safety. Throughout her career, she has made significant contributions to advancing hospital pharmacy practice, with particular focus on clinical pharmacy training programs and experiential education for future pharmacists. Her active involvement in the training, guidance, and mentorship of aspiring clinical pharmacists across the country reflects her steadfast commitment to professional excellence and service.



**Rubina G. Reyes - Abaya, RPh,
Clinical Pharmacy**

Beyond her leadership roles within the hospital setting, Ms. Abaya has played a vital role in strengthening clinical drug monitoring and medication safety initiatives at the University of the Philippines Philippine General Hospital. She continues to be an active leader, educator, and advocate in the field of pharmacy. Currently, she serves as Pharmacy Preceptor's Guild of the Philippines External Vice-President (Hospital Pharmacy) from 2018 to present and in the Board of Directors of the Philippine Society of Hospital Pharmacist. In recent years, she has both led and participated in numerous seminars, workshops, and training programs focused on clinical pharmacy advancements, antimicrobial stewardship, medication safety, and hospital pharmacy preceptorship, underscoring her dedication to lifelong learning and patient-centered care.



**Judylyn Reg Hidalgo, RPh
Community Pharmacy**

Ms. Judylyn R. Hidalgo is a distinguished pharmacy professional and healthcare leader whose work reflects a strong commitment to community health and the advancement of pharmaceutical practice. A graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, she has devoted years of dedicated service to both the profession and the communities she serves. As Chief Executive Officer of Farmacia Nuestra Señora del Pilar, Inc., she oversees the operations of multiple branches in Ilocos Sur, ensuring the delivery of essential healthcare and pharmacy services. Her leadership extends to professional organizations, having served

as Chapter President of the Drugstores Association of the Philippines - Ilocos Sur-Abra and as National Director, where her chapter received several distinctions, including the Presidential Merit Award and recognition for Outstanding Chapter Leadership. Since 2016, she has also served as President of the Ilocos Sur Pharmacists' Association. Her contributions have been recognized through honors such as the UNILAB Husay at Malasakit Award and the Outstanding Jubilarian Alumni Award in Pharmacy from the University of Santo Tomas. She was likewise recently commended by the Municipality of Sto. Domingo for her work as a resource speaker in public health education advocacy and solid waste management.

Dr. Margarita M. Gutierrez is a Tenured Associate Professor at the University of the Philippines with over 15 years of experience in pharmacy education and research. She holds degrees in Industrial Pharmacy, Health Professions Education, and a PhD in Social and Administrative Pharmacy in collaboration with Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, and is currently pursuing a second PhD in Health Science Education. Her achievements include the 2024 FAPA Outstanding Young Pharmacist Award, the 2019 FIP Toen Hoek Young Leaders Award, the PACOP 50 Faces Award, and multiple university distinctions, including the 2024 Gawad Dekana Most Outstanding Faculty Award. She has held leadership roles in FIP YPG, Asian YPG, and YPG Philippines, and has led major initiatives such as the CHED-commissioned Pharmacy Education Roadmap. Dr. Gutierrez also pioneered the country's first MS in Social and Administrative Pharmacy and is currently developing its PhD program, while remaining active in research, teaching innovation, and professional training.



**Margarita M. Gutierrez
RPh, MHPed, PhD
Education/Academe**



**Anne Julienne Genuino-Marfori,
RPh, MS**

Regulatory Practice in Government Service

She later led the creation of the DOH-HTA Unit and continues to head the HTA Division under Department of Science and Technology. She also serves in academia and has been recognized as the 2021 UP Distinguished Young Alumna.

Ms. Christine Joy N. Caballero-Blazo is a respected pharmacist, educator, and healthcare advocate with extensive experience in institutional pharmacy, research, and community service. Since joining the Medical and Dental Service of the House of Representatives of the Philippines in 2007 as LSO IV-Pharmacist, she has contributed significantly to patient education, procurement, regulatory compliance, and quality assurance in pharmaceutical services. She has also served as a faculty member at World Citi College in Manila and Saint Gabriel College in Kalibo, Aklan, where she mentored pharmacy students and developed curriculum materials aligned with national standards. Her research in cosmeceutical innovations earned distinctions at the 7th Conference on Multidisciplinary Research, including Best Oral Research Presenter and Best Abstract in Health Science, with work published in JPAIR Multidisciplinary Research (Vol. 29, January 2025). A 2025 Bugal Agustino awardee, she remains active in preceptorship and professional service.



**Christine Joy N. Caballero-Blazo,
RPh, MSPhar
Institutional Pharmacy**

The Philippine Pharmacists Association Davao City Chapter, Inc. (PPHA DCC Inc.) implemented a broad range of organizational, professional, and community-based initiatives from 2022 to 2024 that contributed to its recognition as an outstanding chapter. In 2024, the chapter strengthened its governance through strategic planning and the formal signing of its Constitution and Bylaws. Its public service initiatives included donation drives ...

PPhA Awardees 2025



**FLORENCIO V. ARCE, Jr., RPh, MSC,
PhD, SRPharms**

Research

Dr. Butch Arce is a distinguished pharmaceutical scientist whose work has advanced skin permeation studies, nanoformulation development for Alzheimer's disease, HIV, and cancer therapies, drug biodistribution imaging, and dermatological formulations. Since 2014, he has published 35 scholarly articles with over 345 citations and an h-index of 10, placing him among the top pharmaceutical scientists in pharmaceuticals in the Philippines based on Scopus-indexed productivity. His research has contributed globally recognized practical methods for evaluating skin permeation under clinical conditions. He also established the first graduate program in pharmaceutical sciences outside Manila, expanding research training and mentorship opportunities in the region. Currently serving as Department Chairman at University of San Carlos, he leads projects in pharmaceutical nanotechnologies, spray-drying of bioactives, and 3D printing of pancreatic biomimetic tissue models. Under his leadership, his laboratory has secured substantial research funding and has advanced humanitarian pharmacy services, laboratory development, and access to affordable, locally sourced medicines for Filipino communities.

Group Categories:



**Christine Joy N. Caballero-Blazo,
RPh, MSPhar**

Institutional Pharmacy

The Philippine Pharmacists Association Davao City Chapter, Inc. (PPHA DCC Inc.) implemented a broad range of organizational, professional, and community-based initiatives from 2022 to 2024 that contributed to its recognition as an outstanding chapter. In 2024, the chapter strengthened its governance through strategic planning and the formal signing of its Constitution and Bylaws. Its public service initiatives included donation drives ...

continued on page 7...



PPhA Awardees 2025

continued from page 6...

...and PharmaSerbisyo 2024, which provided assistance and healthcare services to communities affected by flooding and landslides in Davao and Davao de Oro. The chapter also collaborated with PRC RXI and BFP Davao to support emergency response efforts and facilitated the establishment of the Davao City Pharmacists Cooperative. In the area of professional development, it implemented the Membership Caravan 2024, established academic partnerships with AMYA Polytechnic College, and conducted training, oath-taking, and employment support activities for pharmacists. These sustained and multi-sectoral initiatives made it the 2025 PPhA Most Outstanding Chapter.



**PPhA Ilocos Sur and Abra Chapter
Chapter 1st Runner-up**

The PPhA Ilocos Sur & Abra Chapter, a recently merged chapter, stands as an exemplary team whose collective efforts, collaboration, and innovative spirit have significantly advanced the pharmacy profession across both provinces. Over the years, the chapter has demonstrated excellence through impactful programs that have set high standards in professional service, community engagement, and organizational leadership. Among its notable accomplishments are the successful implementation of collaborative initiatives that address societal and environmental concerns, as well as recognition as one of the Philippine Pharmacists Association Most Outstanding Chapters for 2023 and a recipient of the 10/10 Project for Information Dissemination. The chapter has also made meaningful contributions through community outreach, corporate social responsibility initiatives, and numerous seminars conducted both onsite and virtually.



**Lucena City-Quezon Pharmacists Association
Chapter 2nd Runner-up**

The Lucena City-Quezon Pharmacists Association (LCQPHA) has served the community for 45 years through sustained pharmaceutical, public health, and outreach initiatives. Its programs have focused on improving access to medicines, health education, and basic healthcare services, particularly for

underserved and geographically isolated communities in Quezon Province. Over the years, the association has implemented medical awareness campaigns, health screening activities, feeding programs, gift-giving projects, coastal clean-up drives, and community outreach services. A key initiative has been its caravan campaign on antimicrobial stewardship, which addressed public awareness gaps on antimicrobial resistance and promoted the responsible use of medicines across various localities in the province. The association has also conducted workshops and consultations aimed at improving health literacy among the elderly, low-income families, and individuals with limited access to healthcare. The continuity, breadth, and community-based impact of these programs over several decades provide a clear basis for the association's recognition and distinction within the profession.



**Philippine Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (PACOP)
Most Outstanding Associate Organization**

PACOP as an organization, through the years, has served as the forerunner in empowering its member schools, through innovative and socially relevant initiatives in teaching-learning, research and extension services in order to advance pharmacy education in the country. Major contributions include the OBE-Experiential Pharmacy Practice Fora with internship partners and preceptors, annual Research Forum that showcased relevant research outputs of faculty members and students including trends in translational research, as well as the proactive collaborations with various institutions, organizations, government agencies and international Universities to enhance teaching skills and methodologies. Moreover, the public presence of highly committed and dedicated leaders of PACOP in various areas have been strategic and has become one of the strong pillars that stabilized the organization in attaining its unified vision of upholding high standards to advance pharmacy education and practice in the Philippines. Over the years, its member schools have been influential in shaping the quality, professional values and ethics of pharmacy graduates and licensed pharmacists in the country, who are now serving as professional educators, competent practitioners and preceptors in various fields, such as in the community, hospital and industry, and also as transformed pharmacy and health leaders of the Philippine society.

Pivotal Alignment and Consultative Meeting: PPhA, PRC Board of Pharmacy Engage on Policy and Implementation Discussions

By: Diana Dalisay Orolfo RPh, MPH



The Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPHA) Board of Trustees met with the Professional Regulatory Board of Pharmacy (PRC-BOP) on January 18, 2025, at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) to discuss policy alignment and pressing issues affecting the pharmacy profession.

In attendance were PPhA President Dr. Aleth Therese L. Dacanay,

members of the PPhA Board of Trustees, and Council of Advisers representatives Dr. Yolanda R. Robles and Ms. Normita Leyesa. Representing the PRC-BOP were Officer-in-Charge Chairperson Hon. Anthony Aldrin Santiago, together with board members Hon. Adelina S. Royo and Hon. Mildred B. Oliveros.

One of the key agenda items was the Certificate of Good Standing (COGS), a mandatory requirement

for professional license renewal. Both PPhA and PRC-BOP acknowledged concerns raised by pharmacists regarding membership fees, processing timelines, and the overall application process. The two institutions agreed on the need to review current procedures and explore ways to streamline requirements, improve efficiency, and ensure compliance mechanisms remain responsive to the profession's needs while upholding regulatory standards.

The meeting also featured a progress update on the preliminary review of the Philippine Pharmacy Act. Prof. Dr. Yolanda Robles of the University of the Philippines Manila, who leads the study team, presented initial findings. PRC-BOP members expressed interest in identifying specific areas for improvement, particularly in implementation processes under the Board's mandate, to better address the evolving scope of pharmacy practice.

The exchange highlighted the importance of sustained collaboration between PPhA and PRC-BOP in tackling policy, implementation, and professional development concerns. Both sides affirmed that continued engagement is vital to strengthening the profession and advancing pharmacy practice in support of PPhA's commitment to "Pharmacists for Better Health Outcomes."

continued from page 4...

Pharmacists for a Unified & Sustainable Healthcare: Highlights from the 2025 PPhA National Convention

recognizing the dedication and impact of pharmacy professionals nationwide. Stakeholders united in a commitment pledge to uphold regulatory excellence and advance pharmacy practice toward sustainable and impactful healthcare outcomes.

Closing Ceremonies: Grateful and Hopeful

The convention concluded with reflections on key takeaways. The closing ceremonies acknowledged everyone who contributed to the event's success. The program reinforced the message that unity, innovation, and sustainability are essential as the pharmacy profession continues to evolve in response to the nation's healthcare needs.

Milestones Achieved

Together, PPhA achieved the following milestones:

- We witnessed the official declaration of Pharmacists Week by the City Government of Baguio during its Flag Raising Ceremonies—forever honoring the profession in the city's history.
- We mounted the first-ever Solidarity Motorcade, a striking symbol of unity across the many facets of pharmacy practice.

- We conducted the landmark BINNADANG Medical and Community Outreach Program, a tribute to Cordilleran values of communal unity and service, delivering care to over 600 beneficiaries—a first for PPhA, made possible through an unprecedented partnership with the Police Regional Office-CAR (PROCAR), Watsons Personal Care Stores Phils., SM Foundation Inc., and PhilHealth Baguio.
- We forged a historic MOA between PPhA and the City Government of Baguio, formally recognizing the role of pharmacists in the LGU-level Healthcare Provider Network—a national model for integrated, community-based care.
- We made history with the Commemorative Artwork as a Pledge of Commitment, etching our promises to sustainable healthcare into collective memory.
- We delivered the highest number of 22 CPD units (for onsite delegates) in PPhA convention history—raising standards for continuing professional growth.
- We convened the pioneering Regulators' Forum, uniting DOH, FDA, ARTA, BOI, PRC, CHED, and PhilHealth, along with ASEAN counterparts through FAPA and FIP, for landmark policy dialogue on the future of pharmacy regulation.
- We concluded with visionary final program presentations that not only informed but inspired—sparking a renewed sense of mission among pharmacists nationwide.
- We brought the largest professional convention back to Baguio City in decades—a massive undertaking with logistical challenges, yet one that created lasting impact not only for PPhA but also for the community that warmly welcomed us.

continued on page 9...



Strengthening Professional Development: PPhA Educational, Development, and Training (EDT) Committee Holds Annual Strategic Planning Write-shop

By: Jarmaine Z. David-Cañafranca, PharmD



The Philippine Pharmacists Association, Inc. (PPHA) successfully held its 2025 Annual Strategic Planning Write-shop for the Education, Development, and Training (EDT) Committee from June 18 to 21, 2025, at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Main Building, University of Santo Tomas (UST), Manila.

Led by Prof. Aleth Therese L. Dacanay, PhD, President of PPhA, the four-day session focused on strengthening continuous professional development (CPD) programs and advancing training initiatives for Filipino pharmacists. The activity brought together leaders and educators from different fields of pharmacy practice, underscoring PPhA's commitment to professional growth and development across the sector.

The planning began with the establishment of a strategic framework and the drafting of key outputs to guide the committee's priorities. Discussions then moved to,

updating EDT program guidelines enhancing member benefits, and developing strategies to boost membership engagement. The committee also finalized schedules and logistical preparations for upcoming CPD and training offerings in 2025.

In the final phase, appointed EDT Committee members from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao engaged in intensive collaborative sessions to ensure that strategic initiatives aligned with organizational goals while addressing the evolving needs of pharmacists nationwide.

The write-shop concluded with unified action plans and strengthened collaborative directions. Guided by a shared vision, the EDT Committee is now poised to implement impactful programs that will advance pharmacist education, strengthen professional competencies, and promote excellence in pharmacy practice throughout the country.

PPhA Backs FDA Regulatory Reforms at Inaugural 2025 Kapihan

By: John Christian Y. Lara, RPh, LPT, MPAF

The Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPHA) affirmed its commitment to regulatory synergy during the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) first "Kapihan at Talakayan" for 2025, held on January 14 at the FDA Conference Hall.

Organized by the FDA's Center for Drug Regulation and Research (CDRR) under the leadership of Director Maria Cecilia C. Matienzo, the hybrid forum convened industry leaders to discuss the agency's strategic direction. FDA Director General Dr. Samuel A. Zacate, who joined virtually, unveiled the agency's "Southern Cross Initiative," aligned with the national "Bagong Pilipinas" vision.

Dr. Zacate issued a directive to achieve a "Zero Backlog" status by mid-2025. He also announced the transition from a "Zero Contact" policy to a "Limited Contact Policy," in coordination with the Anti-Red Tape Authority, to enhance transparency and streamline processes. Furthermore, the existing Food and Drug Action Center will be reorganized into the FDA People Assistance Center (FDA-PAC), with the establishment of regional hubs to decentralize pre-assessment services.



PPHA representatives Ms. Jingle Diola and Ms. Emeline Bautista actively engaged in discussions on three key Administrative Orders (AOs). Notably, AO 2024-0015 introduces extended validity periods for Licenses to Operate (LTOs), granting up to 12 years for compliant large manufacturers and up to 6 years for medium enterprises, thereby significantly reducing administrative burdens.

The forum also tackled AO 2024-0013 on pharmaceutical registration and AO 2024-0016 on the new schedule of fees. The FDA assured stakeholders that further consultations will be conducted prior to the release of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), which are anticipated later in the first quarter.

Through this engagement, the PPhA continues to serve as a vital link between regulators and the pharmacy profession, ensuring that policy modernization translates into improved healthcare delivery nationwide.

continued from page 8...

Pharmacists for a Unified & Sustainable Healthcare: Highlights from the 2025 PPhA National Convention

The 2025 PPhA National Convention stands as a testament to the power of collective action and the vital role of pharmacists in building a unified and sustainable healthcare system. It serves as a call to action for pharmacists to advance the profession through collaboration, measurable impact, overcoming practice barriers, environmental stewardship, and the adoption of technology. As the profession moves forward, the lessons and commitments from this convention will continue to guide collaboration, innovation, and excellence in patient- and population-centered pharmacy practice.

Global and Local Experts Headline PPhA Forum on Immunopharmacotherapy

By: John Christian Y. Lara, RPh, LPT, MPAF



The Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPHA) Research Committee convened healthcare professionals for an exclusive educational forum on immunopharmacotherapy on March 27, 2025. Organized in partnership with the Centro Escolar University (CEU) Graduate School Program and Holy Child Central Colleges Inc. (HCCCI), the initiative aimed to equip pharmacists and pharmacy students with the latest clinical insights into targeted immune therapies.

Anchoring the discussions were prominent figures in clinical pharmacy and military medicine. Prof. Dr. Lisa Halle, Clinical Professor at the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, shared international perspectives alongside Capt. Erica Tania Davillo, a commissioned medical officer of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Together, they examined emerging concepts, clinical challenges, and future directions in immunotherapy, with particular focus on inflammatory and autoimmune diseases.

To foster a dynamic exchange of ideas, the program featured a panel of reactors composed of Kimberly Jean Surmion of HCCCI and Javad Torkashvand of CEU.

The collaborative event, which also received support from the PPhA Davao City Chapter, was made accessible nationwide via Zoom. A simultaneous on-site broadcast was held at the HCCCI Campus 1 Smart Classroom, ensuring a seamless hybrid learning experience for all participants.



PPhA Joins ASEAN Counterparts in Dialogue on Geriatric Pharmaceutical Care

By: John Christian Y. Lara, RPh, LPT, MPAF

The Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPHA) collaborated with regional healthcare leaders to address the growing complexities of elderly patient care during an international webinar held on June 28, 2025.

Hosted by MIMS Education in partnership with Hoan My Academy and several regional pharmacy organizations, the virtual forum was titled "Pharmaceutical Care in Geriatrics: ASEAN's Response to an Aging Population." The event brought together practitioners from across Southeast Asia and India to share strategies for managing the health needs of older adults. Representing the Philippines on the international panel was Mr. Louie Fernand Legaspi.

The session examined critical clinical challenges, particularly the management of polypharmacy, medication adherence, and chronic conditions in aging patients. Keynote insights were delivered by Dr. Kampanart Huanbutta of Thailand and Ms. Huimin Lin of Singapore, with Pn Siti Aishah Ikmal Hisham of Malaysia serving as moderator.

Mr. Legaspi joined fellow panelists Ms. Avina Khoirunnisa of Indonesia, Bui Thanh Quang of Vietnam, and Mr. Savio Figueredo of India in providing diverse regional perspectives on optimizing therapeutic outcomes for elderly patients.

This collaborative effort highlighted the shared commitment of ASEAN nations to equip modern pharmacists with the clinical frameworks needed to support an increasingly aging population.

Pharmacists Upskill on Reproductive Health Counseling in Joint PPhA CPD Webinar

By: John Christian Y. Lara, RPh, LPT, MPAF

The Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPHA), in collaboration with DKT International, the Community Pharmacists Association of DSAP, and host SwipeRx, enhanced patient counseling skills through a targeted family planning webinar held on July 19, 2025.

Titled "Family Planning: Oral Contraceptives and Their Non-Contraceptive Benefits," the virtual continuing professional development (CPD) session aimed to equip pharmacists with evidence-based insights into a frequently misunderstood aspect of public health. Dr. Maria Stephanie Fay Cagayan, a distinguished specialist with extensive fellowships in obstetrics, gynecology, and pharmacology, served as the principal resource speaker.

She explained the pharmacologic mechanisms of oral contraceptives while highlighting their supplementary therapeutic advantages.

Moderated by pharmacist Mikey Mendoza, the program translated complex medical concepts into practical advising strategies for pharmacists. The discussion emphasized empowering pharmacists to guide patients confidently and accurately in making reproductive health choices at the community level.

Participants who completed the comprehensive evening program earned 1.5 CPD units, underscoring the profession's proactive approach to expanding clinical competencies and improving patient care outcomes.





NEWS THE HYGEIAN

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Visayas Chapters: Unity in Action (Jan–Jun 2025)

By: Melissa Dela Cruz – Mirto, RPh

Across the Visayas, local chapters have shown strong, coordinated, and service-driven commitment to advancing the pharmacy profession through diverse activities in early to mid-2025. These initiatives reflect both the vibrancy of regional chapters and their growing alignment with national priorities—anchored on professional development, leadership strengthening, community engagement, and membership growth.

At the forefront is the active participation of numerous chapters in the PPHA National Convention 2025 held in Baguio City from April 23–26. Chapters including Iloilo-Guimaras, Leyte-Biliran, Aklan, Negros Occidental, Bohol, Antique, Cebu, Eastern Samar, Southern Leyte, Samar Islands, Negros Oriental-Siquijor, Region 8, and Capiz were well-represented. The convention provided a platform for continuing professional development, policy updates, knowledge exchange, and networking. The strong attendance underscores Visayas chapters' commitment to evolving practices, innovations, and regulatory developments.

Equally important was the participation of chapter leaders in the PPHA Council of Leaders General Assembly at UST on March 16, 2025. Presidents, secretaries, and officers engaged in leadership alignment, policy discussion, and collaborative planning. Their presence highlights a shared commitment to transparent governance, unified leadership, and strategic coordination.

Local initiatives also flourished. The Iloilo-Guimaras Chapter held an Oath-taking Ceremony for New Pharmacists on June 3, while Cebu hosted a similar event on June 14, reinforcing professional



identity and unity. Strategic planning was emphasized by NOPA's activity in January, ensuring programs are guided by clear goals and measurable outcomes.

Community engagement remained central. NOPA conducted a Medical Mission with Talan-awon ni Maria Church on February 10, while Antique partnered with DILG and BFP for a mission on March 8 in line with Fire Prevention Month. These outreach programs highlight pharmacists as healthcare professionals and community partners, extending services beyond traditional settings.

Organizational strengthening was evident. Antique held its First General Assembly on April 6, fostering transparency, inclusivity, and member engagement. Membership growth was consistently promoted through support for PIDS applications, encouraging pharmacists to update profiles and register. This collective push builds a reliable database for planning, policy-making, and service delivery.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities were actively promoted. Chapters

such as Leyte-Biliran, Aklan, NOPA, Bohol, Cebu, Eastern Samar, and Negros Oriental-Siquijor informed members of seminars and trainings, ensuring pharmacists remain updated, competent, and compliant with regulatory requirements. This fosters a culture of lifelong learning and professional excellence.

Regional cohesion was evident in Region 8, with Leyte-Biliran, Eastern Samar, Southern Leyte, and Samar Islands aligning activities and participating in national events. Western Visayas chapters including Iloilo-Guimaras, Aklan, Antique, Capiz, and Negros Oriental-Siquijor also demonstrated consistent involvement in membership strengthening, leadership participation, and community engagement.

Across all chapters, a clear pattern of alignment, participation, and service emerges. Whether through national conventions, leadership assemblies, outreach, or membership initiatives, each contributes to a unified vision for the profession. These efforts reflect the evolving role of pharmacists. *continued to page 12...*



PPHA Opens Calamity Fund Aid for Members Affected by Recent Typhoons through Operation: Tulong kaPPHamilya

By: Bernadette Cirilos, RPh

In response to the widespread destruction caused by Typhoons Crising, Dante, Emong, and the intensified southwest monsoon (habagat), the Philippine Pharmacists Association, Inc. (PPHA) has opened applications for its Calamity Fund Assistance program to support affected members nationwide.

Under this initiative, qualified PPHA members may receive financial assistance amounting to Five Thousand Pesos (₱5,000.00) to help address losses and damages incurred during the recent weather disturbances.

The program was spearheaded by PPHA Membership Committee Chair and Vice President for Luzon Dennis Casares, with support from Vice

President for Visayas Mellisa DC Mirto and Vice President for Mindanao Jevie Lyn P. Tan Nery. This collaborative effort reflects the association's commitment to extending timely assistance and solidarity to pharmacists affected by natural disasters.

To avail of the assistance, applicants were required to submit proof of PPHA membership for 2025, proof of damage or loss, a personal letter, and an endorsement letter from their Chapter President.

The Calamity Fund Assistance program has now been successfully completed, benefiting a total of 32 members nationwide. Among the beneficiaries were 23 members from Camarines Sur, one from Batangas, five from Cagayan North, and three from Albay. This initiative underscores the PPHA's continued commitment to member welfare and solidarity, providing timely financial support to pharmacists recovering from the impact of recent natural disasters.

PPHA, Partner Institutions Explore Modern Clinical Practice in Biopharmaceutics Forum

By: John Christian Y. Lara, RPh, LPT, MPAf

The Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPHA) Research Committee advanced continuing professional education for local practitioners through a specialized webinar on "Modern Applications of Biopharmaceutics and Pharmacokinetics in Pharmacy Practice" held on April 11, 2025.

Organized in collaboration with the Centro Escolar University Graduate School, the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos (UNO-R), and Jesus of Nazareth Batangas Healthcare Hospital, the two-hour virtual session provided critical updates on applying pharmacokinetic principles in clinical and hospital practice. The forum featured a strong lineup of local and international experts. Philippine Society of Hospital Pharmacists President and PPHA Executive Secretary Rosalynn L. Pangan shared clinical insights alongside Mr. David Hinolan, a researcher from the National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan. Adding a global academic perspective, Prof. Dr. Ravi Sheshala of Anurag University in India presented key advancements in the field.

To contextualize the lectures for local practice, a panel of reactors facilitated the discussion. UNO-R represent-

-atives Ernalda Gonzales and Ruby Tabuyan joined Lorelie D. Lacerna of Jesus of Nazareth Hospital in examining the practical applications of the concepts presented.

This collaborative initiative underscored the profession's commitment to continuous, high-quality development while fostering essential academic linkages for Filipino pharmacists.

continued from page 11...

Visayas Chapters: Unity in Action (Jan–Jun 2025)

pharmacists—not only as dispensers of medication but as leaders, educators, advocates, and community partners.

In conclusion, the Visayas chapters of the Philippine Pharmacists Association from January to June 2025 exemplify a unified and proactive approach to professional development and community service. Through coordinated national participation, strategic local initiatives, and sustained membership and education efforts, these chapters strengthen the pharmacy profession in the region. Their collective work reflects a shared commitment to excellence, leadership, and service—ultimately contributing to better healthcare outcomes and a stronger professional community.



Advancing Pharmacy Practice Through Strategic Collaboration: PPhA's Nationwide Education and Training Initiatives in 2025

By: Mark Ryan D. Langit, RPh, MS Pharm

The Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPhA), through its Education, Development, and Training (EDT) Committee, has significantly advanced the continuing professional development landscape for Filipino pharmacists in 2025. Through a series of strategic collaborations with leading industry partners, PPhA successfully delivered a comprehensive suite of webinars, face-to-face seminars, regional conference lectures, specialization trainings, and online CPD programs—all designed to equip pharmacists with the competencies required in an evolving healthcare environment.

Guided by the PPhA EDT Committee, with the leadership of Mark Ryan D. Langit, RPh, MS, FACP, Chair of the EDT Committee, and under the supervision of PPhA National President Aleth Therese L. Dacanay, RPh, FACP, these initiatives were all accredited by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) CPD Council for Pharmacy. Importantly, these programs were offered free of charge to all PPhA members, ensuring equitable access to quality education across all regions of the country.

Central to the success of these initiatives is PPhA's strong collaboration with key healthcare and pharmaceutical partners, including Unilab, Kenvue, Boehringer Ingelheim, Pocari Sweat, MIMS, SwipeRx, Watsons Philippines, Otsuka-Solar Philippines, Reckitt, and Diabetes Philippines. These collaborations ensured that all learning activities were evidence-based, patient-centered, and aligned with real-world pharmacy practice, bridging the gap between clinical knowledge and community application.

These collaborations ensured that all learning activities were evidence-based, patient-centered, and aligned with real-world pharmacy practice, bridging the gap between

Optimizing Diabetes and Cardiorenal Care: The Pharmacist's Role
 March 18, 2025 | Wednesday | 7:00 - 9:00 PM
 Certificate of Attendance will be provided to registered attendees

Speakers: Dr. Jardine Sta. Ana, Dr. Grace Fernandez, Vina Talan

Scan the QR Code to Register
 Webinar ID: 966 6115 2791
 PW: BIPPHA

clinical knowledge and community application. Diverse and Impactful Educational Initiatives include:

1. Diabetes and Cardiometabolic Care Series

In partnership with Boehringer Ingelheim, PPhA delivered a two-part webinar series:

- "Understanding Diabetes: Its Risks to the Heart and Kidneys, and the Role of Pharmacists" (November 18, 2025), featuring Dr. Roberto Razo, moderated by Dr. Donna Acenas
- "Role of Pharmacists in the Management of Diabetes and its Cardiorenal Complications" (December 10, 2025), featuring Dr. Harry Austine Magno, with Dr. Gail Paquingan as moderator and Mark Ryan D. Langit as reactor

These sessions highlighted the pharmacist's expanding role in early detection, therapeutic optimization, and interdisciplinary chronic disease management, particularly in addressing cardiovascular and renal complications of diabetes.

2. Diabetes Educator Specialization Training Program

A landmark initiative, the "Diabetes Educator Specialization Training: A

Role of Pharmacists in the Management of Diabetes and its Cardiorenal Complications
 December 10, 2025 | Wednesday | 7:00 PM

Speakers: Dr. Harry Austine Magno, Dr. Gail Paquingan, Mr. Mark Ryan Langit

Scan the QR Code to Register
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 Password: PPHA2025

Pharmacist and Patient-Centered Diabetes Care Program," was conducted in collaboration with Watsons Philippines and Diabetes Philippines.

The program equipped pharmacists with advanced competencies in diabetes education, patient counseling, lifestyle modification, and long-term disease management, reinforcing a patient-centered approach to care. More specialization training programs are already in the pipeline.

3. SwipeRx Collaboration: Expanding Digital CPD

Through its partnership with SwipeRx, PPhA expanded access to modular, online CPD-accredited learning programs, enabling pharmacists to engage in flexible, self-paced education.

A notable webinar, "Family Planning: Oral Contraceptives and Their Non-Contraceptive Benefits," featured Dr. Maria Stephanie Fay Cagayan, with Mr. Mikey Mendoza as moderator. The session covered Mechanisms and proper use of oral contraceptives, Patient counseling and safety considerations, Management of adverse effects and drug interactions, and Non-contra-

-ceptive benefits such as menstrual regulation, acne management, PCOS management, and reduced cancer risks.

The webinar emphasized the pharmacist's role in promoting informed choices, adherence, and safe medication use, awarding participants 1.5 CPD units.

4. Pharmaceutical Care in Geriatrics

In collaboration with MIMS, PPhA supported the multinational webinar "Pharmaceutical Care in Geriatrics: ASEAN's Response to an Aging Population." The program gathered experts from across Southeast Asia, addressing polypharmacy, medication safety, and geriatric care models in an aging population. Mr. Louie Fernan Legaspi, a member of the PPhA EDT Committee, joined the other speakers and reactors from Southeast Asia in this event.

5. Advancing Self-Care and Minor Ailment Management

Through Kenvue Philippines, PPhA delivered lectures on "Pharmacists' Roles in Advancing Patient Self-Care for Allergy, Sore Throat and Cough Management" during the Southern Luzon Regional Conference (October 11, 2025) in Cavite, and during the Central Visayas Regional Conference (November 23, 2025) in Tagbilaran City, Bohol.

With Dean Vina Rose Dahilig-Talan as speaker, these sessions reinforced pharmacists' roles in responsible self-medication, triage, and patient counseling.

6. Proper Sore Throat Management with Reckitt

In collaboration with Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare Philippines, PPhA conducted lectures on evidence-based sore throat management during Regional Conferences in San Fernando City Pampanga, in Marikina City.

These sessions emphasized differential diagnosis, appropriate

continued on page 14...

continued from page 13...

OTC therapy, red flag identification, and antimicrobial stewardship, strengthening pharmacists' clinical decision-making in community settings.

Promoting a Healthier and Hydrated Pilipinas

A major collaboration with Pocari Sweat and Otsuka-Solar Philippines delivered lectures on hydration, stress management, and wellness during Regional Conferences.

This initiative forms part of a MOA signed in 2024, supporting PPhA's advocacy for a healthier and hydrated Pilipinas. Participants were also provided with complimentary beverages and merchandise, enhancing engagement and reinforcing public health messages.

Unilab Collaboration: Comprehensive Clinical Updates

Through its partnership with Unilab, PPhA delivered lectures across Regional Conferences nationwide focusing on Pain Management – rational analgesic use and patient-specific therapy; Nutrition – addressing deficiencies and promoting wellness; and on Respiratory Care – management of cough, colds, and asthma

These sessions highlighted pharmacist-led interventions, patient counseling, and evidence-based product use, complemented by updates on important therapeutic products.

Nationwide Reach and Lasting Impact

Through a combination of digital innovation and on-ground engagement, PPhA has successfully reached pharmacists across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao—ensuring that no member is left behind in the pursuit of professional excellence.

These initiatives have not only enhanced clinical knowledge but have also strengthened the pharmacist's role as a frontline healthcare provider, patient educator, and advocate for public health.

More than a series of programs, these collaborative efforts represent a sustained movement toward elevating the pharmacy profession in the Philippines. They demonstrate that meaningful progress is achieved when professional organizations and industry partners work hand in hand, united by a shared vision of improving patient care.

The Philippine Pharmacists Association remains steadfast in its commitment to providing transformative learning experiences, fostering continuous professional growth, and nurturing excellence among its members. At the same time, it recognizes that strong, ethical, and mutually beneficial partnerships with industry stakeholders are essential in delivering relevant, innovative, and far-reaching educational initiatives.

As the profession continues to evolve, PPhA stands firm in its mission—not only to keep pace with change, but to lead it—ensuring that every Filipino pharmacist is empowered, future-ready, and equipped to make a lasting impact on patient care and the healthcare system at large.

PPhA Inc.- Mindanao Cluster 2025 Activities

By: Jevielyn Tan-Nery, RPh, MS



demonstrated kindness and care through chapters' effort as they gave donations for the victims of calamities in places like Cebu Province, Davao Oriental and Lanao del Norte- Iligan City. These initiatives not only enhance the clinical competencies of pharmacists but also reinforce their vital role in primary healthcare delivery and emergency response.

Collaborative efforts with Pharmacy schools and institutions, partnering with local government agencies, and socio-civic private organizations have further amplified the reach and effectiveness of these activities, ensuring that pharmacy services remain accessible and patient-centered. Moreover, the PPhA Mindanao Cluster has emphasized leadership development and professional engage-

The Philippine Pharmacists Association Inc.- Mindanao Cluster remains committed in advancing the pharmacy profession through dynamic, collaborative, and community-centered activities throughout 2025.

With the active participation of local chapters across Mindanao, the cluster continues to strengthen professional unity, promote excellence in pharmacy practice, and respond to the evolving healthcare needs of the region.

This year, various chapters have taken the lead in organizing impactful events such as the Regional Conference 2025 of which the continuing professional development (CPD) seminars have been to 5 different areas such as Davao City, Butuan City, Cagayan de Oro City, Zamboanga City and Sultan Kudarat.

Some chapters have been active in their respective outreach programs and medical missions that highlighted Pharmacist's roles not only on dispensing but patient counseling, public health campaigns and they have demonstrated remarkable commitment by continuously doing medication awareness drives in underserved communities. The Mindanao cluster have also



ment by conducting FDA licensing seminars, Pharmacy schools and students activities and mentorship programs. These platforms have empowered both seasoned practitioners and future pharmacists to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and foster a culture of excellence and service.

As the year progresses, the continued involvement of local chapters serves as a testament to the dedication of Mindanao pharmacists in uplifting the profession and making a meaningful impact on community health.



World Day of the Sick 2026
 Sto. Niño Parish Church
 Vincenzo Sagun, Zamboanga del Sur
 February 21, 2026

- ✓ Medical Mission
- ✓ Free Medicines
- ✓ Medication & Patient Counseling



Message from the PPhA Public Relations Officer



The start of 2025 was not without challenges for PPhA. Still, it was during these moments that I saw our collective strength emerge, reminding us why unity, service, and perseverance remain at the heart of who we are. As the months unfolded, these challenges became opportunities for growth, shaping how we moved forward together as an organization. Reading through the stories featured in this issue of HYGEIAN, I am reminded of how intentionally we continue our journey, embracing progress while remaining grounded in our shared commitment to service, education, and unity.

From our early engagements with the Professional Regulatory Board of Pharmacy and the Food and Drug Administration Philippines, to educational activities that highlighted adaptability and innovation, PPhA demonstrated steady progress.

At the heart of 2025 was PPhA National Convention 2025, held in Baguio City and anchored on the theme "Pharmacists for a Unified and Sustainable Healthcare." The convention served as a defining milestone and a clear way forward for the Association. It brought together pharmacists and healthcare professionals from different sectors to reflect on sustainability, collaboration, innovation, and transformative practice. The theme was made more apparent through the medical mission "BINNADANG", which reminded us that transformation is most meaningful when it reaches communities. In this spirit, NatCon 2025 affirmed that the future of the profession lies in unity across sectors, sustainable practice, and compassionate service that responds to real-world needs.

This progress was further strengthened by the Strategic Planning Write-shop of the Education, Development, and Training Committee, ensuring that PPhA's programs remain responsive and future-ready. Initiatives such as Operation: Tulong kaPPHamilya likewise reflected the enduring strength of solidarity within the PPhA community.

As we navigate through this promising year, 2025, may these stories inspire continued engagement and a shared sense of purpose as we move forward together as one profession committed to sustainable healthcare. God bless us all.

Maria Fay Nnette M. Cariaga
PRO and Public Presence Chair,
Philippine Pharmacists Association

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Message from the PPhA President



It is with deep gratitude and a profound sense of fulfillment that we present this January–June 2025 issue of HYGEIAN, the official journal of the Philippine Pharmacists Association.

As I look back on our journey over the past three years, I am reminded that leadership is ultimately about people, purpose, and shared progress. This issue is more than a documentation of activities—it is a reflection of the collective milestones we have achieved together as ONE PPhA.

During this term, we have witnessed significant strides that continue to shape the future of our profession. Among these are the successful staging of our national conventions and scientific meetings that brought together pharmacists from across the country and beyond, strengthening both professional competence and camaraderie. We have expanded our partnerships with key stakeholders in government, industry, and the academe, reinforcing PPhA's role as a unifying and influential voice in healthcare. Our active engagement in policy discussions and advocacy efforts has further positioned the Association

as a credible partner in advancing patient-centered pharmacy practice and public health initiatives.

Equally meaningful are the strengthened connections within our chapters and special interest groups, whose grassroots initiatives have brought PPhA closer to our members and the communities we serve. These efforts—captured in the pages of HYGEIAN—demonstrate the vibrancy, diversity, and impact of our organization.

Through it all, HYGEIAN has served as both our chronicle and our compass. It documents our journey while also informing, engaging, and inspiring our members and future members. It is a powerful platform that keeps our community connected—bridging distances, sharing best practices, and showcasing the excellence and dedication that define PPhA.

On a personal note, it has been one of the greatest privileges of my professional life to serve alongside committed leaders, passionate members, and supportive partners. I have witnessed firsthand how our shared vision can translate into meaningful action and lasting impact. These experiences have not only strengthened the Association but have also deepened my belief in the vital role of pharmacists in nation-building.

To the members of the HYGEIAN Editorial Board, I would like to take a moment to personally express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering dedication and the remarkable effort you consistently pour into your work.

Behind every issue of HYGEIAN is a team whose commitment often goes unseen, yet whose impact is deeply felt across our Association. Your diligence in curating, writing, and refining each art-


-icle ensures that the journal remains a credible, engaging, and meaningful resource for our members. More than simply informing, you help foster a deeper understanding of the issues, initiatives, and aspirations that shape our profession.

I have come to appreciate how each piece reflects not only technical rigor but also a thoughtful, purposeful approach to storytelling—one that keeps our readers connected, engaged, and inspired. Through your work, HYGEIAN continues to serve as a vital link within PPhA, capturing our shared journey and giving voice to the many efforts that define our organization.

On a personal note, thank you for your quiet dedication, your professionalism, and your passion for excellence. Your contributions are invaluable, and they play a significant role in strengthening both our community and our collective identity as pharmacists. Maraming salamat for all that you do for PPhA.

As we turn the pages of this issue, may we not only celebrate what we have accomplished but also be inspired by what more we can achieve together. Let HYGEIAN continue to be a beacon of our collective story—one that reflects excellence, unity, and an unwavering commitment to serve.

The work continues, and so does our story. WE HAIL PHARMACY!


PROF. ALETH THERESE L. DACANAY, PhD
PRESIDENT
Philippine Pharmacists Association, Inc.

