



THE HYGEIAN

The Official Newsletter of the Philippine Pharmacists Association, Inc.

Pharmacists for Better Health Outcomes

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In this Issue:

PPhA 97th Anniversary

2

PPhA New Website

3

Convention Highlights

5

PPhA Advocacy Groups

8

World Pharmacists Day
2017

15

Upcoming Conferences:

- ◆ 18th Asian Conference on Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP); 20-22 June 2018; Innovations in Clinical Pharmacy: The Roadmap to a better Quality of Life, Razi International Conference Center, Tehran, Iran; Link: <http://www.accpasia.org/>
- ◆ 5th AASP Dean's Forum 9-11 July 2018, Macau University of Science and Technology, Macua, China; Link: aasp2018.medmeeting.org/en
- ◆ 78th FIP World Congress; 02-06 Sep 2018; Pharmacy: Transforming outcomes! Scottish Event Campus, Glasgow, Scotland; Link: <https://www.fip.org/glasgow2018>
- ◆ 27th Federation of Asian Pharmaceutical Associations Congress; October 24-27, 2018; Pharmacists for the Global Goals: Creating Value Beyond Health; Philippine International Convention Center, Manila, Philippines; Link: <http://fapa.asia/fapa-congress-registration/>

PPhA launches Advocacy Programs on 9 key areas

By: Cristan Agaceta

Manila, Philippines—The Philippine Pharmacists Association, Inc. through the leadership of its President Pharmacist Yolanda R. Robles has officially formed the organization's Advocacy Programs in October 2017, organized into 9 groups so far, namely: Smoking Cessation, Immunization, Pharmacy DOTS Initiative, Antimicrobial Stewardship, Pharmacy Information Services, RPh for Mental Health, Medication Adherence, Disaster Management,



and Pharmaceutical Supply Chain. This is in response to the need to develop sustainable programs for pharmacists aligned with global and regional pharmacy practice

and education, as well as the need to develop practice models that can be adopted by PPhA's local chapters.

...continued on page 7

Former PPhA President shares the 'Soul of Pharmacy' in countries with limited resources at the 77th FIP World Pharmacy Congress

Seoul, South Korea—Former PPhA President Pharmacist Leonila M. Ocampo is one of the speakers during the plenary opening session of the 77th FIP World Pharmacy Congress held at Seoul, South Korea on September 10-14, 2017 with the theme "Medicines and beyond! The soul of pharmacy." Pharmacist Leonila shared the Philippines' experience in developing pharmacy practice

amidst the challenge of having limited resources. She highlighted how all the concentrated efforts of the Philippine Pharmacists Association contributed to the passage of the new pharmacy law which is now redefining pharmacy practice in the country, with the intention to inspire other countries by showing an example of how a strong leadership can make a big impact even in a

country where resources are considered sparse.

The plenary opening session of the FIP World Pharmacy Congress provided insights into what is the soul of pharmacy. Pharmacist Leonila was joined by international colleagues William Zellmer (Pharmacy Foresight Consulting, USA), Leslie Benet (University of California San Francisco, USA), ...continued on page 4

PPhA celebrates Oscars-themed 97th Anniversary

The PPhA celebrated its 97th Anniversary in style as the attendees, wearing their best red carpet attire, gathered in the Blue Leaf Events Pavilion in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig last August 28, 2017 for an Oscars-themed celebration. With the theme, "PPhA at 97: Pursuing Social Relevance and Responsibility", the neces-

sity of the pharmacists' commitment to ensure patient care was highlighted with an inspirational message from Fatima Garcia-Lorenzo, President of the Philippine Alliance of Patient Organizations (PAPO) with a discussion on "The Value of Pharmacists to Patients." This was followed by a discourse on "Pharmacists as

Champions of Patients' Rights" by Hon. Anthony Aldrin Santiago, member of the Professional Regulatory Board of Pharmacy and YPG-Philippines President Christine Aileen Benosa's presentation on "Patients and Pharmacists: Partners in Health". One of the highlights of the celebration was the signing of the

memorandum of understanding between PPhA and PAPO as a symbolic show of support and to solidify the partnership between the pharmacists and their Filipino patients. Dinner and socials officially began after the closing ceremonies led by Atty. Froilan Bagabaldo, Executive Vice-President of PPhA.

2017 National Pharmacy Week Celebration

The 2017 National Pharmacy Week was celebrated from 04-09 December 2017 with the theme, "Filipino Pharmacists: Visible, Accessible, Dependable". The Opening Ceremonies were hosted by the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Pharmacy on 04 December 2017 at the Grand Ballroom of the BGPOP Building with Mr. Angelo Palmones, Award-winning broadcast journalist and Former Representative

of Agham Party List, as the Keynote Speaker.

The week-long activities were led by the PPhA affiliate organizations with the Closing Ceremonies hosted by the Manila Pharmacists Society and the Colegio Medico-Farmacaceutico de Filipinas, Inc. (CMFFI) at the Casino Español de Manila on 09 December 2017.



Gearing towards the Centennial Year

The Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPhA), having been established in 1920 will celebrate its Centennial Year in 2020. That year would be a time of reflection on what was accomplished by the organization from its beginning up to the present time and also, a time to dream and plan the future of this organization whose roster of members is expected to rise given the mandatory membership under the new Pharmacy Act.

There were several actions made by the PPhA Board in the First Quarter of 2018 which were made in the context of the centennial celebration. One is to find a permanent home for the 100-year organization whose current office is on a leased space. Second is the expansion of its benefits for members with the ongoing preparation for the establishment of a cooperative, with a Savings and Loan nature and third is, the planning for the setting-up of a foundation which will handle the scholarships and research grants of PPhA. The group was led by Atty. Froilan Bagabaldo, PPhA Executive Vice President and Chair of the Centennial Celebration Organizing Committee.

Truly, PPhA had come a long way and the direction is to move forward, advance the nobility of the profession and be an organization of caring medication experts valued in the health system.

2020 is PPhA's Centennial Year Celebration!!!

PPhA Conducts Regional Conferences for 2017

By: Paul Marvin T. Quizon

The Philippine Pharmacists Association, Inc. (PPhA) conducted for the first time, its **Regional Conferences** in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao to cater to pharmacists-members who were not able to join the National Convention last May 2017 in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. This move is part of PPhA's mission of providing quality and relevant continuing professional development (CPD) programs to our growing membership.

The 2017 PPhA Regional Conferences shared most of the topics and the same theme as with our 2017 National Convention which is, "*Filipino Pharmacists Embracing the Challenge of Change*". It was granted with 12 CPD Units by the PRC CPD Council for Pharmacy. The theme was aligned with the changing landscape of the Pharmacy profession



PPhA Regional Conference held in Luzon

with all the advocacies and projects of the PPhA and the passage of the new Pharmacy Law (RA 10918). Change is inevitable and practitioners will definitely face challenges as well as opportunities. Thus, pharmacists must be equipped and empowered with the right information and tools in order to cope up and fully embrace the changes, moving forward. The topics in the regional conferences were carefully selected from the national convention program to suit

the needs of pharmacists in all practice settings. The conference objectives were the following: (1) describe the changing landscape of health and medicines; (2) respond to change through pharmacy practice and education; (3) describe how pharmacists can act for positive change; and (3) identify strategies that can bridge the gap between medicines and patients.

The well-attended regional conferences were held in the

PPhA launches new website: philippinepharmacists.org

The Philippine Pharmacists association officially launched its new website during the 2017 National Convention held at Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. The new website is a membership-type platform that boasts features such as event updates, dashboard for discussion, job opportunities section, pharmacovigilance reporting, continuing education modules, links to relevant websites, downloads section and online renewal of PPhA membership.

Members who have paid their membership since 2017 may get access to their account by sending an email to access@philippinepharmacists.org with the following information:

- Last Name
- First Name
- Display Name
- Birthdate
- Field of Practice
- PRC ID No.
- Contact No.
- Email Address
- Residence Address
- Scanned copy of OR as proof of payment.

Visayas	Luzon	Mindanao
Waterfront Hotel, Lahug Cebu City 15-16 November 2017 with 400+ participants	Novotel Hotel, Cubao Quezon City 21-22 November 2017 with 1100+ participants	Grand Menseng Hotel Davao City 28-29 November 2017 with 700+ participants



PPhA Regional Conferences held in Visayas (top) and in Mindanao (bottom).



Check the new website here!!



Former PPhA President shares the ‘Soul of Pharmacy’ in countries with limited resources at the 77th FIP World Pharmacy Congress

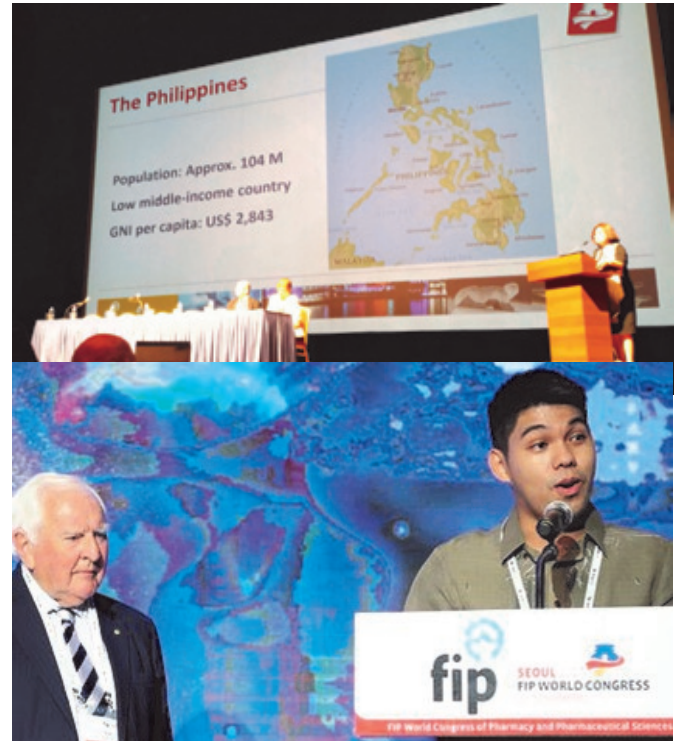
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Leslie Benet (University of California San Francisco, USA), Warren Meek (C7 Consulting Limited, Canada) and William Charman (Monash University, Australia).

Another Filipino Pharmacist, 2016 FIP Travel Grant Scholarship awardee Cristan Agaceta, also graced the stage during the opening ceremonies of the congress. Pharmacist Cristan was invited by the Chair of the FIP Foundation, Pharmacist John Ware, to share to the international community the impact generated by his experience of attending the congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2016 and how the

foundation needs more support to continue providing such opportunities to more pharmacists world-wide. He was the first young and Filipino pharmacist who was given the opportunity to speak at the opening ceremonies of the congress.

The professional symposia explored the many new ways that pharmacy professionals can add the value expected by modern health care systems and services. Sessions showed that tradition and dedication to patients' health – the true soul of pharmacy – can be coupled with innovation in technology, education and practice to deliver care for the 21st century.



Pharmacist Leonila Ocampo (top) at the plenary opening session and Pharmacist Cristan Agaceta (bottom) at the opening ceremonies of the 77th FIP World Pharmacy Congress

PPhA forges new partnerships in 2017 to provide opportunities for Continuing Professional Development among its members

By: Cristan Agaceta

The Philippine Pharmacists Association, Inc. has forged new partnerships in 2017 with industry providers, such as Ritemed, mClinica, PIMS and MSD to provide additional opportunities for Continuing Professional Development among its members. The Ritemed and MSD seminars were offered to more than 7,900 participants combined, providing an equivalent of 7 units and 13.5 units, respectively. Online CPD offerings were made available through mClinica and PIMS,

providing PPhA members access to 1 and 3 units, respectively.

Aside from these new partners, PPhA has continued its partnerships with UMed, catering to around 7,000 participants and Unilab, a subsidy provider for the nationwide CPD seminars, catering more than 8,000 participants from the 58 local chapters of PPhA, both providing 7 CPD units each.

These CPD activities also allowed the organization to provide a variety of formats,

such as face-to-face seminars with evaluation, face-to-face seminars with workshops, online modules with tests, combination of lectures and skills development, and self-study with lecture and skills development.

These efforts also resulted to the expansion of the Bureau of Speakers for CPD. PPhA is showing its commitment to ensure the professional development of its members. In the first quarter of 2018, competency-enhancement activities were also provided

to the expanded membership of the Bureau of Speakers.

Future partnerships with other companies such as Pharmalink, Pfizer, GSK and MIMS are being formed. Partnerships with universities, such as St. Louis University, in Baguio City and Mariano Marcos State University, in Ilocos Norte are also on its way. According to the PPhA President, Prof. Yolanda Robles, PPhA will continue its efforts to find more opportunities and platforms to increase access to quality and relevant CPD activities for its members.

PPHA 2017 National Convention highlights changes in Pharmacy Practice

By: Vina Rose Dahilig

The Philippine Pharmacists Association, Inc. (PPHA) National Convention held last May 24-27, 2017 at the City Coliseum, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan broke records with around 5,100 participants, the highest total attendance in PPHA history. With the theme “Filipino Pharmacists Embracing the Challenge of Change”, the 2017 national convention featured discussions emphasizing how pharmacists can manage changes

in their profession. The convention also aimed to enhance the pharmacists’ competencies in embracing their new roles in the healthcare system.

Bronwyn Clark, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Pharmacy Council, delivered the keynote address entitled “Transforming the Pharmacist Workforce for Better Health for All”. During the welcome reception and fellowship night, the PharmaSing and



PPHA President Pharmacist Yolanda Robles and Pharmacist Marian Andaluz award the token of appreciation to the Keynote Speaker Bronwyn Clark, as Pharmacist Imelda G. Pena read the citation of the plaque of appreciation during the opening day of the 2017 PPHA National Convention.



Pharmacist Hazel Docuyan (top), the chairperson of the organizing committee, addresses the audience during the convention overview; Participants patiently waits in queue during the registration (bottom).

Pharmasayawan competitions were held together with the production number prepared by the PPHA National Board of Directors. The plenary sessions with subthemes on the changing landscape of health and medicines, responding to the changes through pharmacy practice and education, pharmacists’ initiatives for positive change, and bridging the gap between medicines and patients were conducted. FDA Director General Nela Charade Galang-Puno also joined the session by leading the discussion on the opportunities and challenges of pharmaceutical regulations in the Philippines. The 2017 national convention also became the venue for the launching of several online platforms of the PPHA, including the new PPHA Website (www.philippinepharmacists.org), the PPHA Events App

and SwipeRx, a mobile app wherein PPHA members can soon get online CPD points for free. The PPHA National Convention 2017 Organizing Committee was chaired by Hazel Faye R. Docuyan, Auditor of PPHA and hosted by the PPHA Palawan Chapter headed by its President, Ms. Edna R. Ubaldo.



The 2017 Convention Logo is a fusion of the bird peacock, which serves as the symbol of Puerto Princesa City, and pharmacy elements conceptualized and designed by Pharmacist Cristan Agaceta

Philippine Pharmacists Association Trains Bureau of Writers, Speakers

By Katrina Jime Manipon

To support the development of the communication capabilities of its members, the Philippine Pharmacists Association created the "Empowering Pharmacists: The PPhA Training Series" designed specifically for the PPhA Bureau of Speakers and Writers last March 2018.

Both workshops were conceptualized by Deivid Rioferio, senior public affairs of Smart Communications Inc. The first part of the series consisted of the Writers Workshop held in the PPhA Board Room last March 10, 2018. The full-day workshop, with the theme: "Harnessing the Power of Traditional and New Media as Communication Tools for Writers", was facilitated by Marvin Estigoy, vice-president for advertising sales and Angel Calso, social media editor

from the Business Mirror.

The workshops for the Bureau of Speakers were conducted consecutively in the Bayleaf Hotel Manila last March 17 and 26, 2018. The first workshop is a training on media relations led by notable public relations celebrities, DOH Asst. Sec. Dr. Eric Tayag and Menchie Sylvestre, Executive Director of TV5 Alagang Kapatid Foundation. The second leg of the Speakers' Workshop was themed as, "Amplifying your Message: Public Speaking Styles and Techniques,". Guest speakers Angelo Palmones, assistant vice-president of the Manila Broadcasting Center-DZRH, Rey Bufi, founder of the The Storytelling Project and Vicente "Enteng" Romano, chief executive officer of Creative Synergy, Inc. facilitated the event.



DOH Asec. Eric Tayag gracing the event for the speakers' training of PPhA

YPG-Philippines sends biggest delegation to Asian Young Pharmacist Group Leadership Summit 2017 in KL, Malaysia

By Diana Dalisay Orolfo and Katrina Jime Manipon

With the theme, "Pharmacists: Engaging Communities for Health", more than 300 young pharmacists all over Asia gathered to the International Medical University, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia last November 11 to 13, 2017

for the Asian Young Pharmacist Group (AYPG) Leadership Summit 2017. The Young Pharmacist Group-Philippines (YPG-Phils.), led by its president, Pharmacist Christine Aileen Ching-Benosa, comprised the largest delegation

with over 40 participants. The 2017 Leadership Summit was jointly organized by the International Medical University, Asian Young Pharmacist Group and the Malaysian Pharmacists Society. The program began with the opening remarks from Pharmacist Bryan Posadas, current AYPG President and member of the Board of Directors of the PPhA. The summit presented the 3Ps needed towards Pharmacy Excellence: Policy, Practice and People. Assoc. Prof. Roderick Salenga, member of the Board of Directors

of the PPhA led the discussion on policy formulation with his presentation on Pharmacists: Engaging Communities for Health. The program also served as venue for the YPG-Phils. to promote the FAPA Congress 2018 which will be held on Oct. 24 to 27, 2018 at the Philippine International Convention Center.

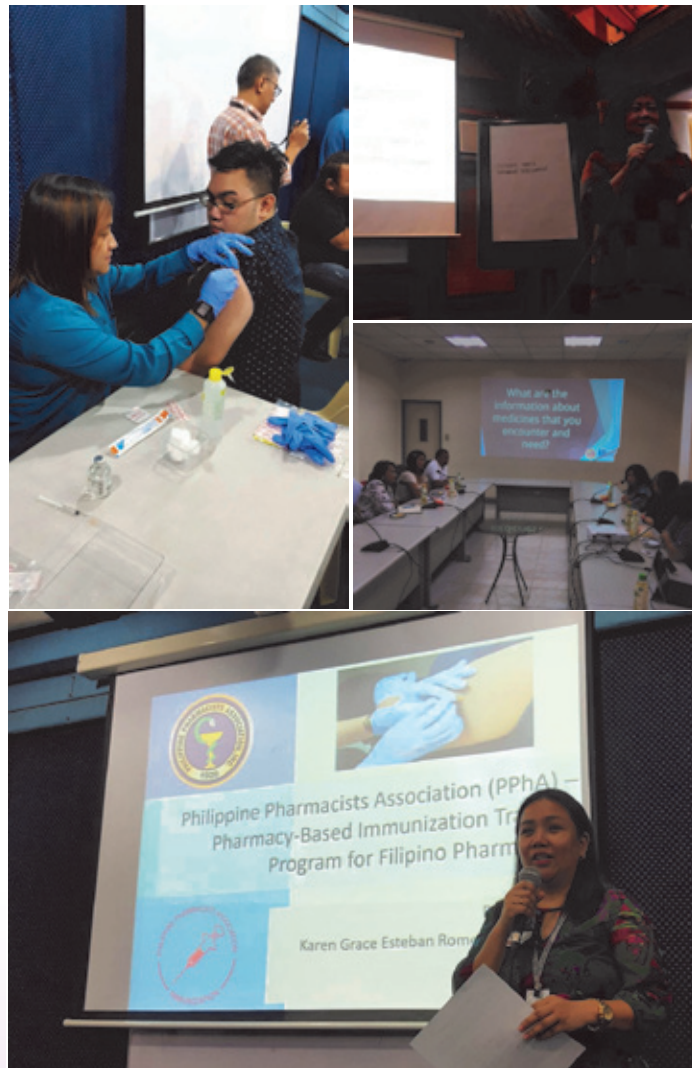


PPhA launches Advocacy Programs on 9 key areas

...continued on page 7 In light of new regulations, as well as the recently passed Pharmacy Law of 2016 (RA 10918), came the need to clarify the profession's roles and engagements in the health system. Pharmacist Yolanda Robles outlined a road map to serve as a guide for each advocacy group beginning with the identification of the advocacy, followed by the development of a pilot program, creating a program package and a practice model, which will then be presented to relevant stakeholders, then adopted by interested local chapters, which will eventually lead to a change in the pharmacy profession.

Pharmacist Robles also outlined the rationale for creating these advocacies as follows:

- PPhA needs sustainable programs which are led by responsible and passionate leaders
- Rationale for programs needs to be clarified prior to their development
- Recruitment of similar-minded individuals – with number is strength and increased capacity to develop quality programs
- Linking with both external and internal groups with similar advocacy
- Recognition of the roles and contributions of a pharmacist in specific advocacies
- Intermediate goal is to create practice models



Regional Training of Trainers for Immunizing Pharmacists held in Mindanao

By: Karen Grace E. Romero and Vina Rose Dahilig

The Philippine Pharmacists Association, through the pharmacy-immunization advocacy group, conducted its first regional training for the first batch of trainers in San Pedro College, Davao City on April 14-15, 2018. Seven participants from San Pedro College and three representatives from the University of Immaculate Conception attended the

training led by resource trainers Karen Grace E. Romero, Enrique Romero and Arlene Si, US-certified immunizing pharmacists and core trainers from UP College of Pharmacy, Prof. Imelda G. Pena and Margarita Gutierrez. The role of the participants as trainers of future immunizing community pharmacists was emphasized at the start of

the program. The pharmacists from Mindanao were very eager to take on the challenge of this role. They also said that they look forward to imparting what they have learned to their students especially that immunization techniques and management of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) will be part of the new phar-

macy curriculum.

After the training, the participants were invited to join the immunization advocacy team, and they responded positively. The PPhA pharmacy-based immunization program will be officially launched during the 2018 National Convention in Iloilo City.

The PPhA Advocacy Programs

With the PPhA's commitment to empowering Filipino pharmacists and as a response to new regulations affecting the profession, the association has been continuously striving to define and clarify the pharmacist's distinct role and engagement in the health care system. We have been developing sustainable programs which are aligned with both global and regional pharmacy practice and education in the form of advocacies. These various advocacy programs shall also pave the way for the development of practice models that can be adopted at the local chapter level.

We are inviting all members and local chapters to take part in any of these advocacy programs. Join us as we improve pharmacy practice and services by embarking in these advocacies.



PHARMACY-BASED IMMUNIZATION

In the Philippines, vaccination of children and adults is governed by various laws on professional practice of different health professions, including medical doctors (RA 2382, s. 1959), nurses (RA 9173, s. 2002), and midwives (RA 7392, s. 1992). A recent addition to the list of immunizers is the pharmacist group based on the legal authority provided by the Republic Act No. 10918 or the Philippine Pharmacy Act of 2016. However, before pharmacists are allowed to administer adult vaccines in an FDA licensed pharmaceutical outlet, they need to undergo a training program on the safe administration of adult vaccines and management of AEFI with certification from a duly accredited institution by PRC.

The PPhA has been authorized by PRC to conduct the aforementioned training program for trainees and for interested community pharmacists who wish to offer pharmacy-based immunization services to adult patients. **The main goal of the PPhA Pharmacy-based Immunization Program is to enhance the competencies of community pharmacists who can provide adult immunization services directly in the pharmacy area.**

These additional services in the community can promote access to vaccines that will help increase vaccination rates and reduce the occurrence of

vaccine-preventable diseases, such as, pneumonia and influenza, which remain as the second and sixth cause of morbidity, respectively, in the Philippines.

The PPhA Immunization Advocacy Group is composed of the following:



Imelda G. Peña, RPh, DrPH (Executive Secretary, PPhA)
Karen Grace E. Romero, RPh, MTM (Executive Director, PPhA & Certified Immunizing Pharmacist, USA)
Enrique A. Romero, RPh (Certified Immunizing Pharmacist, USA)
Arlene S. Si, RPh, MBA (Certified Immunizing Pharmacist, USA)

If you are interested in taking part in the Pharmacy-Based Immunization Program, kindly coordinate with the team via:

✉ immunization@philippinepharmacists.org

✉ ppha.immunizerph@gmail.com

📞 Karen Grace E. Romero, RPh, MTM ((02)313-0850)



PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Access to essential medicines is critical in the fulfillment of the highest attainable standard of health (WHO, 2008). Management of the pharmaceutical supply chain is crucial to promote access to pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical services. The Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPhA) is looking forward to supporting the enhancement of the current pharmaceutical supply chain management system in the country which includes activities focusing on performing drug selection, procurement, distribution and use of medicines. The Filipino Pharmacist, as the medication expert, is in a strong position to use his or her pharmaceutical expertise to contribute in building a strong and robust pharmaceutical supply chain which is an integral part of the health system. Ultimately, such an initiative will lead to the improved access to essential and quality healthcare for all Filipinos.

If you are interested in taking part in the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Management Advocacy, kindly coordinate with the team via:

✉ supplychain@philippinepharmacists.org

✉ isaacclinatoc@gmail.com

ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP

Antimicrobial Stewardship is a coordinated program that promotes the appropriate use of antimicrobials (including antibiotics), improves patient outcomes, reduces microbial resistance, and decreases the spread of infections caused by multidrug-resistant organisms.



The Department of Health Pharmaceutical Division has initiated the inclusion of clinical pharmacy services in Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Program in hospitals. *The objective is to improve appropriate use of antimicrobials, which is essential for preventing the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).* A manual of procedures was developed in 2016 to assist and align the efforts in implementing AMS programs in Levels I, II, and III hospitals in the country. The roles and responsibilities of clinical pharmacists were defined and mandated by DOH; hence, establishing the importance of clinical pharmacists in partnership with other members of the health care team in combating antimicrobial resistance. In compliance to the timeline established by DOH, core training for AMS started in 2017. The training for pharmacists all over the country was conducted in partnership with the Philippine Society of Hospital Pharmacists. The full implementation of AMS program that would help achieve a holistic and coordinated approach in antimicrobial stewardship shall be completed by 2022.

If you are interested to conduct AMS Training for Hospital Pharmacists in your Chapter or Area, kindly coordinate with PSHP.
The Philippine Society of Hospital Pharmacists
pshppshp@yahoo.com



PHARMACY DOTS INITIATIVE

Recognizing the important role of pharmacists in TB management, the PPhA was awarded by USAID for the scale up implementation of the Pharmacy DOTS Initiative (PDI) in 33 sites from January 2014 to September 2016. Building on the gains of previous PDI implementation, the PPhA QCEM Chapter has successfully adopted PDI and established best practices alongside strong collaboration and coordination with their local government unit. Currently, we are a regular member of the QC TB Council that conducts regular meetings every last Monday of the month. We were also one of the prime movers for the passage of City Ordinance 2545: No Prescription, No Dispensing of Anti-TB Drugs last December 2016.



Further, realizing the gravity of co-infection between TB and HIV, the group is seeking to expand the coverage of the advocacy to include strategies and activities for HIV.

List of Activities

- Advocacy TB Free Philippines (IEC Materials)
- Seminar on Pharmacy DOTS Initiative with CPE Units for Pharmacist/ Training for Pharmacy Assistant and Drugstore Owners (TB 101, Relevant Provisions on the Philippine Pharmacy Act and/or City Ordinance (if any), Referral System)
- Distribution of TB Referral Log book, Referral Slips, IEC Materials to Community, Hospital and Institutional Pharmacies (QC area)
- Health Promotion to Barangays
- Mapping of Pharmacy and Drugstore Outlets

For more information, you may follow the Pharmacy DOTS Initiative at:
facebook.com/pharmacydotsinitiative
pdi@philippinepharmacists.org
Oscar Ocampo, Jr.
(ocheocampo@gmail.com)



RPH FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Every day, Filipinos across the country have increasingly been asking about referrals to mental health services, side effect management, affordable alternatives to branded medicines, tapering concerns, storage concerns with long-acting injectables, PWD and PCSO discounts and medication access programs, and even matters beyond the mental disorder perspective of mental health like stress management, resiliency, and mental wellbeing. This is an enormous opportunity for pharmacists to truly shine, and our team hopes you would join us as we #MoveForMH for a more mentally healthy country and stigma-free society.

In line with PPhA's thrust, RPh for Mental Health was established in order to

1. Provide opportunities for continuing professional growth and development of PPhA members in the knowledge of psychotropic medications, direct patient care for mental health service users, and mental health advocacy, which will serve as basis for PPhA to:
2. Advocate for the recognition of the pharmacist as an equal yet distinct partner among mental health care providers.

List of Activities

- Infographics and Posters
- Consultative Roundtable Discussion - held last February 10, 2018 at The Bayleaf Intramuros.
- Collaboration with stakeholders on action points from the consultative roundtable discussion
- Competency-building series on Psychiatric-Mental Health Pharmacy



For more information, you may follow or contact RPh for MH at:
RPh for Mental Health
twitter.com/RPh4MH
mentalhealth@philippinepharmacists.org
Jarvin Enosh Tan, RPh
(jttan@up.edu.ph)



MEDICATION ADHERENCE



The top causes of morbidity and mortality in the Philippines include communicable diseases, such as hypertension and diabetes, and a number of infectious diseases. These conditions have known therapy and treatment regimens, yet a significant number of diagnosed patients still suffer from their poorly controlled conditions. We understand that it is not enough that patients are able to consult a physician once or few times as they

are usually without healthcare providers, and the goal is to prevent them from being hospitalized. Adherence to prescribed medications and outcomes monitoring are key to achieving optimum therapeutic goals and preventing further damage and costs. As medication experts and accessible healthcare professionals, pharmacists are strategically positioned to support both the healthcare professionals and the patients in achieving the desired health outcomes through enabling adherence.

The team aims to develop competent and compassionate Filipino pharmacists who are committed to empowering patients in adhering to their medication therapy. Although non-adherence is driven and influenced by multiple factors, it ultimately leads to better understanding of the patients as a social being. This is why the team envisions the advocacy to foster holistic patient-centered pharmaceutical care in its strategy and execution, building its foundation through enhancing needed soft skills such as empathic communication.

Recognizing that this endeavor requires working hand in hand with other healthcare providers, the team decided to configure its early structure to priority diseases namely: **hypertension, diabetes, asthma, and communicable diseases**, in general. This shall guide the shaping of strategies for capacity building of pharmacists through in-depth understanding of standard treatment guidelines, and target health outcomes and monitoring. The team is currently developing the 'Starter kit' whilst preparing to do a series of stakeholders meeting with key medical societies and agencies to help shape the overall implementation strategy.

List of Activities

- Strategic Planning
- Stakeholder Meetings with key medical societies and agencies
- Development of Starter Kit and Capacity Building Activities

- If you are interested in taking part in the Medication Adherence Advocacy, kindly coordinate with the team via:
 - ✉ medicationadherence@philippinepharmacists.org
 - 📧 Frances Lois U. Ngo, RPh (fungo@up.edu.ph)



PHARMACY INFORMATION SERVICES

One of the core interventions recommended by the World Health Organization to assure the rational use of medicines is to have independent and credible sources of medicines information. In achieving this, pharmacists are expected to take on the role of the medication information provider, possessing broad knowledge on all aspects of the development, manufacture, action, and use of medicines. Thus, the provision of medication information services is outlined in the Philippine Practice Act of 2016 (RA 10918) as one of the core roles of pharmacists in the health care system.



In response to the increasing recognition of the pharmacist as an information provider, the Pharmacy Information Services Advocacy was created, with the objective of improving the delivery of pharmacy information services in the Philippines. The advocacy aims to: (1) enable pharmacists to serve the information needs of patients, healthcare professionals, and other clients in different practice settings through continuing education programs, (2) develop patient education materials on priority health topics, (3) establish pharmacy information services through skilled pharmacists that will provide appropriate, comprehensive, objective information to the public, and (4) perform research that can aid the improvement of pharmacy information services in the country.

List of Activities

- Determination of Drug Information Needs
- Trainer's Training Workshop on Empowering Filipino Pharmacists in the Effective Provision of Pharmacy Information Services
- #PharmInfoProject: A Poster-Making and Patient Leaflet-Making Contest
- Module Development

- For more information and updates, you can reach us via:
 - 📘 facebook.com/medicationexperts
 - ✉ druginfocenter@philippinepharmacists.org
 - 📞 Jeanne Genevive Pillejera (09223178566, 09561324018, jgapillejera@gmail.com)



DISASTER MANAGEMENT



The Philippines, a country prone to natural disasters, was ranked as the third most disaster-prone country in the 2016 World Risk Index. As a result of these disasters and emergencies, health service delivery in the country has been repeatedly disrupted - which was evidently seen during the Typhoon Haiyan, locally known as

Yolanda, in November 2013. The PPHA, as the national organization of pharmacists, was at the forefront of organizing and mobilizing pharmacists in the affected areas to help in disaster relief and management efforts. More recently, the war in Marawi also saw the rise of pharmacists stepping up to serve patients who were gravely affected by the crisis.

As trusted and accessible members of the health care team, pharmacists, most especially those in the community setting, make an excellent source of emergency care when roads are closed and patients are unable to get to the hospital to seek medical care. Pharmacists can conduct primary patient assessment and triaging, as well as provide emergency refill of medications, administer vaccinations, provide first aid, and volunteer to help at shelters. Through this advocacy, PPHA, together with the Industrial Pharmacists Association of the Philippines, Inc. (IPAP), seeks to empower pharmacists, the unsung heroes of public health, in responding to disasters and emergencies.

If you are interested in taking part in the Disaster Management Advocacy, kindly coordinate with the team via:
disastermanagement@philippinepharmacists.org
 Mercelinda R. Gutierrez (ipapgroupph@yahoo.com)



PharmaCEASE: SMOKING CESSATION



The Pharmacy Smoking Cessation Advocacy is a partnership program between PPHA and the University of the Philippines-College of Pharmacy with the main objective of supporting and complementing the National Tobacco Control

Strategy of the Department of Health. This program is designed to be incorporated and implemented in both the local community and hospital pharmacy settings wherein pharmacists shall undergo capacity building activities in conducting patient referrals, monitoring, counselling, and various health promotion activities. It also aims to develop a certification process for trained pharmacists to become Certified Smoking Cessation Specialists, and to produce health promotion materials (e.g., infographics, counselling aids) for both pharmacists and the public.

List of Activities

- Memorandum of Agreement Signing with the Philippine Colleges of Chest Physicians (PCCP)
- Development of Training Module and Certification Process (ongoing)
- World Tobacco Day Social Media Contest (May 31, 2018)
- Regional Training of Champions
- Pilot Implementation
- Formative Evaluation of Pilot

For more information and updates, you may follow the Pharmacy Smoking Cessation Advocacy at:
 facebook.com/pphasmokingcessation/
 smokingcessation@philippinepharmacists.org
 Diana Dalisay A. Orolfo, RPh
 (daorolfo@up.edu.ph)

RPH FOR WELLNESS AND SELF-CARE

Pharmacists have a holistic role in health promotion, both for disease treatment and prevention. Wellness as defined by WHO is the optimal state of health of individual and groups. Self-care in health, on the other hand, will refer to activities of individuals undertake in promoting their own health, preventing their own disease, limiting their own illness, and restoring their own health. The advocacy was assigned to COSHWELL which has a mission-vision to lead a unified group of pharmacists in setting quality standards in cosmetics, health, self-care, and wellness field; committed to professional development and competence building of pharmacists in partnership with academe, industry, community, other professional organizations, and agencies.

The Wellness and Self-Care advocacy group will undertake initiatives leading to health and well-being of individuals through preventive health care, risk reduction, and healthy lifestyle promotion. This is a challenging yet exciting opportunity for pharmacists beyond the technical and clinical roles. Due to a wide and encompassing scope of the advocacy, the group initially identified the priority areas to include (1) beauty and hygiene, (2) food and nutrition, and (3) fitness and exercise. We envision every pharmacist to embody wellness and self-care to improve the image and the role of the pharmacist in providing healthy quality service to every Filipino.

List of Activities:

- Strategic planning and needs assessment
- Promote and conduct best practice-health and wellness program and activities
- Capacity/competency-building of pharmacists through trainings and workshops
- Create pamphlet series on health, self-care and wellness



Join us! For more information and updates, like and follow our Facebook Page:
 RPh for Wellness and Self Care
 rphwellness@philippinepharmacists.org / rph.wellness@gmail.com
 Jean Flor Casauay (09153974044)

Training of Trainers organized by Drug Information Services Advocacy Group in January 2018

By: Cristan Agaceta and Jeanne Genevive Pillejera

The Drug Information Services Advocacy Group organized its training of trainers seminar entitled "Empowering Filipino Pharmacists in the Effective Provision of Pharmacy Information Services" last January 22-23, 2018 at the Bayleaf Hotel, Intramuros, Manila. The event was attended by 21 pharmacists who are involved with providing health and medicines information in their own respective fields of practice. The participants who attended the session included 6 hospital pharmacists, 5 community pharmacists, 4 pharmacists in the academe, 1 in the pharmaceutical industry, 4 in publishing / health care information, and 1 in research.

The first day was targeted for contextualizing the information services practice in the Philippines. Dr. Yolanda Robles began the seminar with a discussion on skills required in pharmacy information services, summarizing the skills required into 4 major classifications: oral communication skills, written skills, skills in accessing resources, and search skills. Dr. Imelda Peña then discussed different techniques in evaluating reliability of existing sources, including both text and online references. Ms. Nina Castillo-Carandang discussed ethical issues in the provision of pharmacy information services, emphasizing on the importance of the context in which, ethical decisions are made in health care. Dr. Raymond Sarmiento ended the first day's discussion with knowledge management

frameworks currently available in practice, citing examples of existing electronic health records, and the advantages of proper knowledge management in health care processes.

On the second day of the seminar/workshop, Prof. Parisa Aslani discussed the different services that can be offered in a Pharmacy Information Center, as well as the different requirements needed to set one up.

A series of regional trainings will be conducted starting June 2018, with the aim of activating pharmacists who are interested in this advocacy in strategic areas of NCR, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. This is in lieu of the PPhA's direction of setting-up a drug information service center in the future.

Professor Parisa Aslani, PhD, BPharm(Hons), MSc, G Cert Ed Stud (Higher Ed), is the Professor in Medicines Use Optimisation at the Faculty of Pharmacy, The University of Sydney. She holds a BPharm (Hons) (1990) from Kings College (University of London); MSc (in Pharmaceutics; 1995), PhD (in Pharmacy Practice; 2000) and Grad Cert Ed Stud (Higher Ed) (2001) from the University of Sydney. She has worked as a community pharmacist in the UK and Australia. Professor Aslani has been a researcher and educator in the field of consumer medicine information and adherence for the past 20 years. She has received the University of Sydney's prestigious Thompson Equity Fellowship (2013), which recognizes research excellence and aims to promote and enhance the career of academic women. She was awarded the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (UK) Pharmacy Research UK Award 2013, in recog-

PPhA Commits to Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration

Last March 22, 2018, the Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPhA) signed the agreement on the adoption of the *Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration* among patients, health professionals and the pharmaceutical industry. The agreement initiated by the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP), with the Philippine Alliance of Patient Organizations (PAPO) as the first signatory, aims to involve other health professional organizations in the country.

The Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration was jointly agreed upon by global organizations – International Alliance of Patients' Organiza-

tions (IAPO), International Council of Nurses (ICN), International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA), International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) and the World Medical Association – in support of high quality patient care. The framework hinges on four important ethical principles: *Put patients first; Support ethical research and innovation; Ensure independence and ethical conduct; and Promote transparency and accountability.* The Consensus Framework outlines some of the key areas that should be considered by all partners to help guide ethical collaborations at the individual and organizational levels.



PHAP President Pharmacist Yolanda Robles signs the agreement with PAPO VP Karen Villanueva (upper); The signatories for PHAP, PHAPCares, PAPO, and PPhA for the adoption of the consensus framework for collaboration (lower right); Professor Parisa Aslani (lower left).

FIP Congress: Perspectives from a Congress Scholarship Awardee

Yearly, the FIP Foundation for education and research awards congress scholarships to support pharmacists from different regions of the world to develop in line with the objectives of the foundation. The application process involves online submission of documents required by the foundation together with recommendation letters from the applicant's supervisors or officers of professional organizations. It would be helpful to highlight in the application documents, the applicant's engagement in the profession and how the congress would be able to help out in their future plans.

For those who are not yet familiar with the FIP World Pharmacy Congress, it is the annual gathering of pharmacists all over the world serving as a platform to share developments and advancements within the profession. From the perspective of a first-timer like me, the FIP World Pharmacy Congress provides an opportunity to:

- Learn from pharmacists all over the world
- Expand your network within the pharmacy profession
- Meet new friends and experience different culture
- Travel to different cities in the world

With these learning opportunities during the congress, it is truly an experience that could contribute to our professional and personal growth!

There were at least 50 learning sessions categorized into 4 themes that one can choose from during the 6-day congress. This had me wishing that I can split into several bodies to be able to attend to each and every one of them. But of course, that is impossible so you have to prioritize topics that will be relevant to your practice and interest. Each session may also have variations in format and you will always have opportunity to interact with the speakers through an open forum or personally approach them at the end of the sessions. You can exchange business cards, email or even twitter or facebook. You may also take selfies with the speakers if you like, everyone is very friendly. Aside from the formal sessions, there are a lot of opportunities to learn from other pharmacists informally as well. After each day of the congress, there would be social gatherings and reception dinners that would allow you to meet pharmacists from other countries or catch-up with old friends if you are a regular attendee.

As a first-timer, I took all the opportunities to gain new friends and expand my network during the congress. I participated in business meetings, parties and even in the fun run. It was always a delight to learn fresh perspectives from pharmacists from other countries of different backgrounds and varying experiences. Sharing a common passion with them was truly an inspiring experience. It made me want to do more and be more as a Filipino Pharmacist.

If I have to highlight a specific learning from the sessions I have attended, I will definitely choose the parallel session about in-pharmacy screening methods. Pharmacist Juan Hoyos Miller shared their experience on HIV rapid screening test which pharmacists are already doing in Spain while Pharmacist Ally Anderson shared their practice on anti-microbial stewardship in community pharmacies in several states in the US. To be honest, I was a bit envious of how advanced the pharmacists' roles have evolved in these countries compared to us in the Philippines, but then later on I realized that it is not impossible to attain this in the Philippines as I remember the provisions on the expanded roles of the pharmacist in the new Pharmacy Law. Alas! Soon, the Filipino pharmacist can do more, and be more.

There were several other interesting sessions during the congress, and it would be impossible to summarize all the lessons I gained from my first FIP World Congress. But after the congress I have realized many things. For one, as a pharmacist from a developing country such as the Philippines, I cannot over-emphasize the importance of learning the basic and essential things as a pharmacist. The formative years of

studying pharmacy may not make us instant experts, but ensuring we learn the fundamental concepts that will enable us to become capable pharmacist is the foundation of developing and promoting pharmacy practice in a society that seems to have had forgotten the important roles of a pharmacist. Moreover, while many countries are ahead of us, there are also many who are excitedly looking at our progress. It's very important that we be grounded with our currently reality and never be afraid to continuously learn—as a person, as a profession and as a nation. I also found a much greater appreciation to the leaders of the previous generation that has done great work in making it possible for us young pharmacist to be the change that we want.

In ending, there would be three key messages that I would like to share as a product of my experience in the FIP Congress. First, I would encourage everyone to be active in the profession and the professional organization. It is often easier to wait for things to happen, or sometimes it's easier for us to complain about our situation and be critical of others than work towards transformation. I believe this is not efficient. I will have to mention it again, let's be the change that we want. Our ideas cannot change the world if they stay as ideas. Secondly, I will also suggest that you follow your passion, dedicate yourself to a cause, and put your heart in service of the profession and do all these things with integrity and excellence and opportunities will come knocking at your door. Finally, be thankful. By acknowledging the direct and indirect contributions of all the people around you for your personal growth or for the growth of the profession, we will always be striving to give back. As more people try to give back, the more people will



FIP Congress Travel Grant Scholarship Awardees 2016 (L-R): Alemayehu Bernabe (Ethiopia), Ijeoma Okafor (Nigeria), Belma Pehlivanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Ismeet Kaur (India), Agnes Gossenheimer (Brazil) and Cristan Agaceta (Philippines)

By: Cristan Agaceta

Embracing the Challenges in the Emerging Roles of Hospital Pharmacists in the Philippines

By: Christina Liza Sta. Maria

The role in optimizing the use of medicines in the hospital setting include reductions in medication-related adverse events, lower treatment costs, better patient outcomes, reduced length of stay and reduced readmission rates. The clinical skills and expertise of pharmacists form an integral part of delivering better services to patients. Recognizing the value of this role in health care, various efforts have been made in the Philippines to introduce clinical pharmacy services in the health care system and education. Leadership at the national level has succeeded in amending the old Pharmacy Law paving the way in asserting initiatives for clinical pharmacy in the country. This includes the revision of the undergraduate pharmacy curriculum in schools of phar-

macy; and the launching of the clinical pharmacy post-graduate program in several universities.

Philippine Pharmacists Association in partnership with the American College of Clinical Pharmacy ACCP has successfully organized the training on Pharmacotherapy and Clinical Practice Series. This was a series of learning modules in view of the need to develop a clinical competency of pharmacy practitioners in the country towards obtaining an international specialty board specialty certification in pharmacotherapeutics. Themed “Moving mainstream Practice toward Clinical Pharmacy”, the whole training was conducted by the ACCP faculty composed of renowned clinical practitioners and educators from prestig-

ious schools of pharmacy in the United States.

In 2017, The Philippine Society of Hospital Pharmacists formed the Clinical Pharmacy Section Council. This group is composed of clinical pharmacy leaders from various hospitals whose role is to provide training and to share best practices in the clinical pharmacy practice. The “Minimum Standards of Clinical Pharmacy”, was established as a guide to practitioners in implementing clinical pharmacy in public and private hospitals.

The Department of Health Pharmaceutical Division has initiated the inclusion of clinical pharmacy services in Antimicrobial Stewardship Program in hospitals. The objective is to improve appropriate use of antimicrobials, which is essential for preventing the

emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). A manual of procedures was developed in 2016 to assist and align the efforts in implementing AMS programs in Level I, II, and III hospitals in the country. The roles and responsibilities of clinical pharmacists were defined and mandated by DOH, hence establishing the importance of clinical pharmacists in partnership with other members of the health care team in combatting antimicrobial resistance. In compliance to the timeline established by DOH, core training for AMS started in 2017. The training for pharmacists all over the country was conducted in partnership with the PSHP. The full implementation of AMS program that would help achieve a holistic and coordinated approach in antimicrobial stewardship shall be completed by 2022.



PSHP Kicks Off World Pharmacists Day Celebration 2017 with #Pharmalasaki

By: Christina Liza Sta. Maria

The Philippine Society of Hospital Pharmacists (PSHP) led the Philippines' fields of practice. The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) theme



celebration of the World Pharmacists Day (WPD) in a month-long event that connected pharmacists all over the country last September 25, 2017. The aim of this celebration is to bring together a collective advocacy for social awareness about the pharmacy profession and to strengthen the bond that brings together all Filipino pharmacists from various

for this year *"From Research to Health Care, Your Pharmacist is at Your Service"*, is truly relevant with the expanding roles of pharmacists in all practice settings.

The unified theme for WPD 2017 combined the terms "pharmacy" and the Pinoy virtue of "malasakit" to come up with the portmanteau *"Pharmalasaki"*, referring to the compassionate care every Filipino pharmacist is capable of giving.

The event kicked off with the *"Philippines: World Pharmacists Day Facebook Page"* which was



First place winners from Makati Medical Center Pharmacy Section



launched on the first week of September. The *"Pharmalasaki Twibbon"* was also created as a Facebook profile picture tool to help Pinoy pharmacists express their pride in being a compassionate Filipino health care professional and to show their unified advocacy in uplifting the profession. The Facebook page garnered 33,000 views while 7,645 Filipino pharmacists used Pharmalasaki Twibbons in their Facebook profiles.

The *"Pharmalasaki" Photo Contest* was also initiated to promote camaraderie among pharmacy groups. Photos depicting the FIP theme were posted in the World Pharmacists Day Facebook Page. Thirty-two entries of photos, mannequin pose videos and boomerang photos were sent by pharmacists in the community, hospitals, academe, regulatory, research as well as the Pharmacy students

from Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and even from Saudi Arabia.

Entries included the following hashtags, #pusongparmacyutiko, #alagangparmacyutiko, #serbisyongparmacyutiko and captions to explain the concept. Winning entries were judged based



on adherence/appropriateness to theme, clarity of expression and technical quality. The first place went to a mannequin pose video by Makati Medical Center (Clinical and Inpatient Pharmacy Section) with the caption, *"Together, we can change the world one life at a time."*

Far left, the entry from Western Visayas Medical Center Pharmacy Section bagged second place with their theme, *"Serbisyong walang kupas, bente-kwatro oras"*.

Beside, the third place winner, the entry from Cagayan Valley North Louisiana pharmacists with their theme, *"We are not just confined within the four walls of our botikas. We go beyond our comforts. We are pharmacists."*

Ms. Christina Liza Sta. Maria is the current PRO of the Philippine Society of Hospital Pharmacists

78th FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Glasgow, UK 2-6 September 2018



Pharmacy: Transforming outcomes! *New ways for pharmacy to provide better patient care*

Are you a community, hospital or industrial pharmacist, or a pharmaceutical scientist? Wherever you practise, FIP wants you to be inspired to extend your role so that you play a full part in ensuring patients get the best care possible.

Today's one-size-fits-all approach to pharmacological treatment is failing many patients around the globe. Come to the Glasgow congress, which will help you develop new ideas about how you can advance pharmaceutical care, use new technologies, work with others and empower yourselves to provide personalised medicines therapy – and thereby transform patient outcomes.

WELCOME TO GLASGOW

Glasgow, a former European Capital of Culture once voted the world's friendliest city, has expanded hugely from its origins as a small salmon-fishing village on the River Clyde, but it remains compact enough to explore with ease its world-class museums, galleries and award-winning visitor attractions. Away from the city, stunning scenery abounds in the beautiful countryside.



www.fip.org/glasgow2018 PEOPLE MAKE GLASGOW

PPhA in Action!



From left to right: (1) Participation in Round Table Discussion on Health Human Resources: A Key Driver for UHC hosted by Action for Economic Reforms, March 2, 2018; (2 & 3) Stakeholders Consultation on Antimicrobial Stewardship Manual of Procedures - a WHO-funded project with DOH Pharmaceutical Division, March 19, 2018



From left to right: (1) MoA Signing with MIMS VP for Marketing regarding Pharmacy Guide and use of MIMS Gateway; (2) Hosting of the FAPA Bureau Meeting in Manila last March 11-13, 2018; (3) PPhA Round Table Discussion on Mental Health with Various Stakeholders, Feb 11, 2018



FAPA 2018

The 27th Federation of Asian
Pharmaceutical Associations Congress

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Theme: "Pharmacists for the Global Goals: Creating Value Beyond Health"

Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Manila, Philippines | October 24-27, 2018

The Philippines proudly welcomes you to the upcoming FAPA congress in October 2018, featuring a cutting-edge educational program with renowned pharmacy practitioners and researchers from all over Asia and the world. Be inspired by Asian pharmacists who continue charting the future of the profession to ensure solid contributions to the global goals of sustainable development. We hope you can join us once again in another gathering of brilliant minds and passionate hearts to move the Pharmacy Profession towards a bigger, better and stronger contribution to the people of Asia. See you in Manila!

TWO-STEP REGISTRATION PROCESS

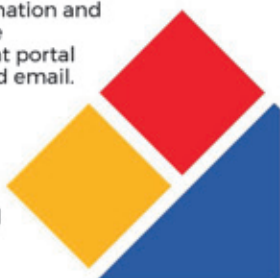
Access the Registration Form at
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1

Fill out registration information and press **SUBMIT**. You will be redirected to the payment portal and receive an automated email.

2

Complete payment through Paypal using credit card or debit card. You will receive confirmation from Paypal automatically.



FOREIGN	Early bird	Regular
Pharmacist	~350 USD	~400 USD
Student	~150 USD	~200 USD
Accompanying Person	~150 USD	~200 USD

LOCAL	Early bird	Regular
Pharmacist	Php 10,000	Php 12,000
Student	Php 7,000	Php 8,000
Accompanying Person	Php 7,000	Php 8,000

*Early bird registration is until **30 April 2018**
*Regular registration rates will apply **1 May 2018**

Access the Registration Form at
<http://fapa.asia/fapa2018/>





2018 PPhA Lifetime Achievement Awardee
AMOR CITA M. PALLERA,
Pharmacist-Leader, Public Health Advocate

Mrs. Amor Cita M. Pallera has been in government service for 64 years (1951-2015) as pharmacist, pharmacy adviser to the Department of Health (DOH) Secretary, adviser to the Food and Drug Administration and as consultant for various government and non-government agencies such as USAID and WHO. She served as the founding president of the Department of Health League of Pharmacists in 1962, which became the first affiliate organization of the PPhA. She was also awarded as the Outstanding Pharmacist in Government Hospital Service (non-regulatory) by the Philippine Pharmaceutical Association in the celebration of its Diamond Jubilee in 1995.

Among the many milestones she has achieved during her service are as follows:

- served as a member of the DOH subcommittee that worked for the establishment of the Food and Drug Administration (1963) and the legislation of R.A. 3720;
- led the preparation of standards for hospital pharmacy management in government hospitals, its subsequent training and monitoring of compliance of the different government hospitals in the country;
- worked for the creation of salary grade level 20 for hospitals with DOH Botika.
- justified the creation of the National Center for Pharmacy Access and Management (NCPAM) in 2010;
- key person in the creation of the DOH Botika in various public hospitals
- was instrumental in the creation of the Botika ng Barangay under the Office of the President
- consultant to the National Drug Policy program of DOH where she was able to recommend 20 drugs for inclusion to the medicines made available to the public



FIP Ton Hoek Scholarship for Young Leaders Award
MAC ARDY GLORIA
Pharmacist, Educator, Leader, Researcher, Advocate

Each year, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) awards the Ton Hoek Scholarship for Young Leaders Award to young pharmacists for their attendance to the FIP Congress such that they will learn

firsthand the global issues affecting Pharmacy. This year, the 78th FIP World Congress on Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences will be held in September 2 to 6, 2018 in Glasgow, UK.

This year's FIP Ton Hoek Scholarship for Young Leaders Award was given to Mac Ardy Gloria. Mr. Gloria, an assistant professor from the University of the Philippines Manila, bested other aspirants to become the first Filipino recipient of this prestigious scholarship. He was recognized for his service as a pharmacy educator, technical assistant provider for his work on cross-country analysis on medicine regulatory systems and pharmaceuticals in the Asia-Pacific region for the World Health Organization, and assisted in the formulation of 2017 – 2022 Philippine Medicines Policy, Pharmacovigilance Manual of Procedures for all MOH Public Health Programs, WHO Subnational Initiative: Technical and Executive Courses on Supply Chain Management at the LGU level, the Philippine National Formulary Manual for Primary Healthcare (8th Edition), the Philippine Practice Standards for Pharmacists Manual (PhilPSP), Counterfeit Medicines Education & Vigilance in Health Professions Education Manual and the Joint MOH-FDA Training Workshop on Risk Communication for Pharmaceuticals.

FAPA Ishidate Award in Pharmaceutical Education 2018

RODERICK L. SALENGA
Pharmacist, Educator, Leader, Researcher,
Public Health Advocate



Roderick L. Salenga is currently serving as the Technical Officer in the Office of the World Health Organization Representative in Papua New Guinea. He has been a pharmacy educator for fourteen years, having served the UP College of Pharmacy in various capacities as a lecturer, student relations officer, college secretary, deputy director of community health and development program, and chairman of the department of pharmacy. He was the youngest recipient of The Outstanding Pharmacist (TOP) Award in Pharmacy Education given in 2012 by the PPhA for his pioneering work in public health pharmacy and community-based interprofessional education. He was awarded in 2015 as one of the The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) in the Philippines for his inspiring contributions in the both education and practice of the Pharmacy profession, specifically in the field of public health. A year later, the University of the Philippines Alumni Association conferred to him the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Mr. Salenga is consistently recognized for his dedication in: (1) optimizing the role and contribution of pharmacists in health systems, (2) educating the public on the use of medicines as essential tools in achieving optimum health as entry point in effecting change, and (3) promoting public health.

PRC's Outstanding Professionals in the field of Pharmacy



2016: Pharmacist Yolanda R. Robles



2017: Pharmacist Helen Maita E. Reyes

PPhA Executive Director

KAREN GRACE ESTEBAN-ROMERO



To meet the needs of increasing membership as well as to facilitate the significant reforms affecting Filipino pharmacists, the PPhA have undertaken strategic steps by restructuring the organization with the introduction of an Executive Director who will oversee the execution of the programs as well as the normal operations of the PPhA. Last March 2018, Karen Grace Esteban-Romero assumed the position of the PPhA Executive Director. Ms. Romero is currently the project coordinator, trainer and module developer for the immunization training workshops for Filipino Pharmacists. She was certified as an immunizing pharmacist in 2009 when she worked as staff pharmacist in Walgreens Pharmacy Store in San Pablo, California. She was a former faculty member and the Chair of the Department of Pharmacy of the UP College of Pharmacy. She has also served as a DOH consultant, resource speaker and researcher.



A PUBLIC DECLARATION OF THE FILIPINO PHARMACISTS' COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPHA) is a national organization of more than 18,000 pharmacists, the mother organization of 10 affiliate organizations representing pharmacists working in different areas of practice, and 85 local chapters located in all regions of the country. In the light of the passing of R.A. 10918, also known as the Pharmacy Act of 2016, PPHA publicly declares the collective and resolute intention of pharmacists in serving the Filipino people, not only in making available safe, efficacious, quality, and affordable medicines but also in exercising their duties and responsibilities as health care professionals given the stronger mandate of the new law. The scope of practice in the law expands the role of the pharmacist to include services that will directly benefit patients and populations such as clinical pharmacy services, drug information service, patient medication counseling, health promotion and safe administration of selected adult vaccines, to name a few.

Pharmacy practice in other countries had already shown the benefits of involving pharmacists in primary health care, medication management and medication adherence interventions in terms of cost-savings and achievement of patient health outcomes. For the Philippines, there is much to be done to improve the quality of pharmacy services to be at par with global standards. It entails acknowledgment of gaps in both practice and education, a systematic approach in filling these gaps, and innovative leadership to pursue change. Change in pharmacy landscape will critically rest on strategic collaboration with the government, professional organizations, employers, patient groups and the community at large.

In our desire to optimize our contribution to health care, current reforms are being undertaken by different groups in the pharmacy sector:

The updating of the Policies, Standards and Guidelines for Pharmacy Education to comply with ASEAN and global standards was finished under the Commission on Higher Education.

PPHA developed standards for professional practice, the Philippine Practice Standards for Pharmacists (PhilPSP) which gained the approval of the Professional Regulatory Board of Pharmacy of the Professional Regulation Commission.

PPHA had started advocacies that will support government health programs, such as pharmacy-based immunization, antimicrobial stewardship, mental health, Pharmacy DOTS Initiative, medication adherence, pharmacy information services, disaster management, smoking cessation, wellness and self-care

PPHA will continuously pursue competency-building and re-tooling of pharmacists and develop specific protocols and guidelines for the initial programs it had adopted.

It is also PPHA's priority to help strengthen the public pharmaceutical supply chain management, particularly through policy development and capacity-building.

To help the government in its health agenda, we truly need the support and guidance of our regulating government agencies. We pray that government issuances, rather than discourage, should be supportive of our mission to meet the great challenge of positive change before us.

The FDA Advisory No. 2017-131 is an issuance that warns the public against accessing unauthorized immunization programs, and other unauthorized community programs sponsored by drugstores. While PPHA agrees with the mentioned requirements of pharmacy-based immunization services, the inclusion of community-based services in the issuance may project a negative view of our efforts to support government health priorities and erode public confidence in our profession. The proper context for the issuance should have been included. In addition, there should be clear distinction between basic pharmacy services from specialized services, the latter of which will require authorization from the government agency that rightfully regulates pharmacy practice.

In a country where limited health resources should be optimized due to increasing demand and where an exodus of health professionals to other countries exists, there is a need to inspire and harness the full potentials of those who opted to stay and selflessly serve the society. As professionals educated to contribute to health care, pharmacists are now stepping up, asserting and innovating its role in response to the ever complex and changing health needs of the Filipino people.



The significant reforms in policy, legislation, education and service delivery frameworks in the recent years have posed many challenges affecting our practice of pharmacy in the Philippines. These rapid changes can easily come off as intimidating to most Filipino pharmacists. They will definitely need to acquire the new competencies demanded of them as they face public expectations when they assume their new roles and responsibilities. But together with change comes opportunity, and as we start to work

for better health outcomes of our patients, new doors of opportunities have started to emerge. These doors open to usher in new pharmacy leaders and advocates. But why is there a need for pharmacists to be advocates for the profession? Gary Wirth, RPh, vice-president of state government affairs at the National Association of Chain Drug Stores in the US said, "To advocate means to speak up, to plead a case, to support a cause, or recommend a course of action." "We (pharmacists) all have a responsibility to contribute to the future of our profession, but it takes active involvement." (Sax, 2008). Advocacy has become an important skill in pharmacy practice so much so that the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy has already established a task force to develop recommendations for colleges of pharmacy in preparing faculty and students to be pharmacy leaders and advocates (McDonough, 2014). Advocacy is a skill that needs to be developed and practiced as it is an important tool through which policies and legislation can be formulated. It is only through our advocacies that we can make our voices be heard in the society and it is only through our passions that can we fight for our place in the healthcare system. Our national organization, the Philippine Pharmacists Association, has created significant innovations through the nine advocacy groups relevant to Pharmacy practice. The establishment of these groups is PPhA's way of helping us show how we can care for our patients and how we can develop as Pharmacy leaders and advocates. I urge each one of us to make leadership and advocacy #trending in our profession!

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Yolanda R. Robles

Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings! The turn of events starting from the passing of the new Pharmacy Act and the CPD Law in 2016 had kept our organization busy with policy development, competency-building, partnerships for research, education and practice, organizational restructuring, acquisition and adoption of technology that would improve the way we operate and create influence as a professional organization. With a *vision to become an organization of caring medication experts valued in the health system*, we have adopted an *advocacy approach* that would define new and enhanced roles of the pharmacists in various aspects of health care. Smoking cessation, immunization, rational use of medicines (TB/HIV, antimicrobial stewardship), medication adherence (hypertension, diabetes, asthma), disaster management, mental health, wellness and self-care, pharmaceutical supply chain management, and pharmacy information are the service areas where we initially want the active involvement of pharmacists. It is expected that by engaging in any of these advocacies, pharmacists will develop their expertise, identify their internal and external allies, improve professional visibility and accountability, and contribute to better health outcomes.

The road to change is laden with challenges. Nevertheless, it is with hope, optimism and hard work that we can emerge victorious and prove that we are what we want to achieve – caring medication experts. With sincere '*malasakit*' and improved pharmacy services, comes public appreciation and affirmation of our profession.

Let us be true to our core values and continue our quest for greater contribution to health care as we approach the PPhA centennial year. *Mabuhay tayong lahat!*



Yolanda R. Robles