



Healthscape

University of the Philippines Manila Monthly Newsletter

In This Issue:

UP-PGH rating record-high, says Director Gap

UP-PGH 115th founding anniversary celebration highlights

"UP will teach you to align knowledge with society's needs" - Bersola to new UP Manila students

Eight new MD-PHD scholars welcomed

Infectious disease expert shares tips in responding to monkeypox

First leadership development course for midwives held

UP Manila Strengthens Student Support with Philippine Red Cross Grant to Medical Students

1st PH book on diagnosis and management of strabismus out

The University of the Philippines Manila Healthscape is produced by the Information, Publication, and Public Affairs Office.

T (02) 8814-1218
E upm-ippao@up.edu.ph
W www.upm.edu.ph/ippao



Dr. Madrid says her RM Award amplifies and urges more work on child protection

Dr. Bernadette J. Madrid, director of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) Child Protection Unit (CPU), Clinical Associate Professor at the UP PGH Dept of Pediatrics, and Fellow of the Philippine Pediatrics Society, is one of the recipients of what is considered Asia's Nobel Prize, the 64th Ramon Magsaysay Awards.

Dr. Madrid, the founding executive director of the Child Protection Network, was awarded for "her admirable commitment in championing the rights of the most vulnerable and integrating child protection services in the health infrastructure." She is greatly instrumental in the establishment of the PGH CPU which is tasked with capacitating and increasing the number of trained child protection specialists and multi-disciplinary CPUs in the Philippines;

and integrating their work all over the country for a comprehensive approach in facing the challenges of child abuse and neglect every day. As of 2021, the PGH CPU has served 27,639 children.

The RM awardee, dubbed as "Children's Rights and Child Protection Crusader" sees the recognition as "amplifying our work so that we can do more. It raises the consciousness of people to child abuse."

She went into child protection "because no one was taking care of the abused children at that time." During her residency at the PGH, child abuse was not a diagnosis—it was not part of their training. During her fellowship training, she saw many abused children but they were not recognized and no services were available to them. The condition was not recognized as a health problem but a social welfare problem; but for Dr. Madrid, it was a health problem.

Child abuse is common in the Philippines. In a national baseline survey on its prevalence where Dr. Madrid was involved, 80% of Filipino children had experienced at least one form of abuse. Physical abuse was at 66% that translated to 25 million children. Sexual abuse stood at almost 20% or 1 in 5 amounting to at least 600 thousand children. One hospital clinic may not make a dent in the alarming situation—but the 123 Women and Children Protection Units (WCPU) in 61 provinces nationwide today help bridge the gap.

"Our work here is providing comprehensive services for abused children," Dr. Madrid stated. Since the CPU was created in 1997, she sees how health plays a very big role in the recognition and care of these children. With the children's gateway to these services dependent on health, work limited solely to health would be incomplete.

TURN TO PAGE 4

UP-PGH rating record-high, says Director Gap

The Philippine General Hospital scored its highest patient satisfaction rating of 99.5% according to its Director Dr. Gerardo 'Gap' Legaspi when he presented the hospital's accomplishments for 2021 during his [seventh State of PGH Address \(SOPAs\)](#) on August 19. *"Ang pinakamalaking parangal po para sa ating ginagawa ay ang highest satisfaction survey rating natin. . . at ito po ay dahil sa inyong lahat."*

The rating was from a [survey](#) conducted in the third quarter of last year. He also took pride in the hospital's publications which increased almost ten-fold, from 8% in 2016 to 70% in 2021. The number of researches conducted and published in PGH contributes to the university's rating in the international research scene.

Transformative healthcare

PGH has also tripled its spending per patient from an average of P23,000 in 2016, to P70,000 in 2021.

The attention that PGH received during the onset of the pandemic paved the way for several donations and funds given by private organizations and the government. Parts of these were used to gather [new equipment and provide high-end services](#) that only a few private hospitals in the Philippines, and even in Southeast Asia, have to offer.

Director Gap also assured the employees that the free shuttle program will continue

throughout the duration of his term. *"Ang transport program ang isa sa nagbibigay ng panatag na loob sa ating mga kasama sa PGH. Pinapangako ko pong hindi ito mawawala habang ako po ay direktor ng ospital."*

Infrastructure

All those with COVID 19 and in need of intensive care, young or old, are housed in the Bayanihan Na! Infectious Isolation Unit. The renovated emergency room was matched with 5 fully-equipped ambulances, 3 of which have advanced equipment being used by the Emergency Medical Team to service patients in and out of the hospital. *"Dati po ang hinihingi ng pasyente natin ay gamot. Ngayon po, kapag umiikot po kami sa [ER], ang hinihingi nila ay blanket dahil napakalamig."*

Dr. Gap reported that during the initial upgrading of the water line, the hospital saved P2M from its monthly water bill. *"Ang ating bayad sa tubig bawat buwan ay P12M. Nadiskubre po na may mga butas na ang mga lumang tubo at isinara nila ito. Sa nakaraang buwan po ang binayad lang natin ay P10M."*

When the main water line will be fully upgraded, the estimated water bill will be less than P5M per month. *"Magagamit natin ang savings na ito sa ibang pamamaraan,"* Dr. Gap stated.

UP-PGH Healthcare System

Bigger things are planned for PGH. With the PGH Polyclinic in Clark, Pampanga and two new upcoming projects, PGH Diliman and



Cancer Center; the UP-PGH Healthcare System will be established which will link the PGH to these facilities including the Health Service of UP Diliman and UP Los Baños.

Currently, the PGH helps manage the Overseas Filipino Workers Hospital and is also tasked to supervise the Davao City Public Hospital which will be partnered with UP Mindanao. *"Para sa akin, wala nang [mas] hihiigit na pasasalamat kung hindi ang pagsasaad ng resulta ng inyong paghihirap sa PGH ng mga nakaraang taon,"* Dr. Gap said.

For his final note, Dr. Gap tells the government that the Philippines needs a hospital that can compare with international standards. *"Kailangan ng Pilipinas ng isang ospital na kilalanin sa international scene,"* Dr. Legaspi said. *"At wala pong ibang makakagawa noon kung hindi ang Philippine General Hospital dala ng ating pagsasama sa UP System."*

Anne Marie Alto

The Philippine General Hospital celebrated its 115th founding anniversary with a series of activities to commemorate the hospital's history and reflect on its trials and victories.

Anchored on the theme *Sulong PGH: Pag-usad. Pag-unlad. Paggupunyagi*, week-long festivities from August 15-19, 2022 were prepared by the organizing committee for the UPM-PGH community to participate in.

The event kicked-off with a [program](#) where UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla was keynote speaker. *"Nitong nakaraang dalawang taon, nakita ko kung gaano ka-creative ang PGH,"* Chancellor Padilla said. *"Kaya tayo kinikilala sa buong mundo [dahil sa] kung paano tayo nagpatakbo sa kalagitnaan ng pandemya."*

"Taon-taon ang ating anibersaryo ay joint effort ng napakaraming kawani at donors para ma-organize ito," PGH Director Dr. Gerardo Legaspi said. *"At taon-taon patalbugan ng kakayahan."*

The [UP Symphony Orchestra \(UPSO\)](#)



UP-PGH 115th founding anniversary celebration highlights

[serenaded the UPM-PGH community](#) after two years of remote performances. Maestro Josefino Chino Toledo led the "Orkestra ng Bayan" as they took the audience on an international musical ride.

Throughout the week, patients, students, staff, and donors participated in the free medical services held for three consecutive days, a healing wall, photo exhibit, blood drive, [3-day lay forum](#), and kids' gift giving.

On the last day of the celebration, the [PGH Service Awards](#) was held to recognize the loyalty of the retirees and service awardees who served PGH over the years and fearlessly faced the fight against the pandemic. During the same event, Director Legaspi delivered his [7th State of PGH Address](#) which underscored the technological and infrastructure advancements of the hospital and more importantly, the trainings granted to advance the skills and learnings of the staff.

A variety show culminated this year's festivities with performances from the talented doctors, residents, and staff of PGH where Dr. Raymond Racela and Dr. Ysabella Veniece Ponce also won as [Mr. & Ms. PGH 2022](#).

This year's celebration would not be possible without the 45-member organizing committee chaired by Dr. Efren Domingo, co-chaired by Dr. Marisa de Guzman with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Women's Desk. **Anne Marie Alto**

“UP will teach you to align knowledge with society's needs” – Bersola to UP Manila's new students

Dr. Katherine Adrielle Bersola, UP College of Medicine *cum laude* graduate and former UP Fighting Maroons volleyball player addressed the 846 first-years of UP Manila during the welcome ceremony held at Ang Bahay ng Alumni in Diliman last August 30.

Bersola is the youngest inspirational speaker in UP Manila history and the first *summa cum laude* graduate of Bachelor of Sports Science from UP College of Human Kinetics last 2017.

She shared her ten valuable tips for studying and navigating through college while emphasizing the importance of values such as discipline in prioritizing academics and cultivating learning styles, health through exercise, relationships through mentoring and fostering friendships, critical thinking through immersing in UP culture and extracurricular activities, and self-care through practicing humility and asking for help when in need. According to the young doctor, achieving a fulfilling university life is not only met through obtaining high grades. It is also attained through the pursuit of passion alongside academics – like what she was able to actualize in her journey as an *Iska*. She also gave the students a glimpse of what UP education is like.

“Dito [sa UP], tutulongan tayo na makita na may malaking mundo at [mayroon pang]



napakaraming tao sa labas ng sarili nating bula – na mga biktima lang din ng sistema na [nagna]nais magkaroon ng pagkakataong makabangon. Sa UP, tuturuan tayong mag-isip ng kritikal at tingnan ang mga isyu [ng lipunan] sa iba't ibang anggulo; natututo tayong ihanay ang ating mga kaalaman sa pangangailangan ng bansa.”

On the other hand, UP President Danilo Concepcion, in his welcome remarks, asked the students to bear in mind that from now on, it is already their duty to embody what the UP oblation symbolizes— simple living, dedication, and service for the Filipino people. The UP president also stressed that UP education is available to aspirants from all walks of life, although due to lack of funds, it can only accommodate a set number from its annual applicants. That

is why, according to him, admitted students should feel grateful and in return, serve the country with their best abilities.

Chancellor Carmencita D. Padilla, for her part, articulated the importance of knowing why they, the students, are exhilarated to join UP; and what their dreams are for themselves and for the country. She stressed that the university will hone them into becoming better versions of themselves and mold them to become great leaders for the country.

The first-year students are among the more than 14,000 who qualified from this year's 100,000 UP College Admissions (UPCA) applicants for AY 2022-2023.

UPCM Dean Charlotte Chiong pointed out that of the more than 28,000 Integrated Arts and Medicine (INTARMED) aspirants, corresponding to almost 32% of the overall UPCA applicants, only 50 made the cut. Caleb Andrew Tan Tiam-Lee, one of the INTARMED students, responded on behalf of all the first year students this year.

The UP Manila Chorale, UP Indayog, and Pharm Jam, among other student organizations, rendered special numbers to entertain and greet the students.

Francis Nicole G. Maga



Eight new MD-PhD scholars welcomed

Eight new scholars of the MD-PhD Molecular Medicine Program of the University of the Philippines Manila signed a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Science and Technology at the UP Manila Student Dormitory last August 23, 2022.

The 13th batch of MD-PhD scholars are Jirov A. Advincola, Khevin Jade B. Gumaru, and Sean Philippe L. Chua (BS Biology, UP Diliman); Mary Ann F. Cabrera and Claire Abigail A. Collantes (BS Public Health, UP Manila); Harley M. Rodriguez (BS Education, Major in Physical Sciences, University of the

Eastern Philippines); and Fred Lawrence D. Samante (BS Medical Laboratory Science St. Scholastica's College).

The new scholars will receive a monthly stipend, waived tuition fees, book and transportation allowances, insurance benefits, and thesis or dissertation grants during their entire 8-year ladderized program. At the completion of this degree, they are expected to contribute valuable efforts in the medical field as research-physicians, physician-investigators, and physician-scientists.

“This scholarship program, at present, is the most expensive scholarship grant ever in the Philippines”, DOST-PCHRD Executive Director Jaime C. Montoya stressed. “In order to complete this program, you need to have two things: focus and commitment,” he added as he reminded the students of their topmost priorities in their lives which should include the completion of this program.

Ms. Paula Jane E. De Leon, on behalf of the DOST-PCHRD Institution Development Division, emphasized the shared obligations of the grant-giving body, the research-mentors, and the students in this memorandum of agreement. She remarked, “Much is given, so much will also be required. *Pero, hindi kami nandito para mamulis, kundi para tulungan kayo na matapos ang digri na ito.* [We are not here to police you; rather, we are here to help you complete this degree.]”

The students are expected to display academic excellence and utmost professionalism during their stay in the program, and complete it on time. On the other hand, the research-mentors are also anticipated to extend emotional support,

TURN TO PAGE 5

Infectious disease expert shares tips in responding to monkeypox

Dr. Regina P. Berba, chair of the PGH Infection Control Unit, shared how PGH is preparing for monkeypox cases and provided some insights into how it can be controlled within hospitals during the *Stop COVID Deaths Webinar #111 "MONKEYPOX, NANDITO NA: Are We Ready?"* held on August 5, 2022.

Organized by the University of the Philippines TV UP and UP Manila National Institutes of Health's National Telehealth Center, the webinar was held in response to the detection of the first case of monkeypox in the country. It took an in-depth look at the monkeypox infection and how to prevent, diagnose, treat, and manage patients with monkeypox and protect our health workers from getting infected.

"The number of monkeypox cases confirmed in the Philippines is only one. We call it an outbreak because monkeypox is not present/endemic in PH," said Dr. Regina Berba. She stressed there is a memorandum from the Department of Health that guides us on how the response should be. She asserted that the response should identify the cases efficiently, reduce new cases, reduce confusion, reduce stigma, and protect the health care workers.

Dr. Berba explained that the Philippines follows the international case definitions.

A suspected case is a person of any age with unexplained acute rash with any one of the following: headache, fever, myalgia, lymphadenopathy, and no other disease to explain the rash. The probable case is when there is an epidemiologic link, which means there was face-to-face exposure or healthcare worker exposure to monkeypox, travel to monkeypox-endemic countries in the past 21 days, or has a history of multiple sexual partners in the last 21 days. To confirm, specimens will be sent to the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine (RITM) for PCR test. Those who are suspected and then eventually found to be negative are called discarded cases.

"I think it's very important to figure out who among your patients are at risk to get monkeypox and where they will most likely go in your facility," discussed Dr. Berba. She added that in PGH, there is a large community of persons living with HIV and Men having Sex with Men (MSM) community that need to be informed. She identified infectious disease experts, dermatologists, and urologists as some of the healthcare workers who may have to manage suspect or probable cases of monkeypox.

Dr. Berba also mentioned other important points to consider such as identifying the things needed for the diagnosis



including the PPE, setting up an ambulance system or a courier system that will bring the samples to RITM for diagnosis, identifying the isolation area within the facility, and identifying who is going to do the swab and collect the specimen. She added it's good if facilities have a checklist or a monkeypox case investigation form ready that will help the healthcare personnel in screening patients.

She stated that since not all monkeypox patients need to be admitted, it is important to determine how the patient can be safely discharged and followed up during home quarantine. In this case, she indicated the use of telehealth in the management of patients with monkeypox.

For MSM, she recommended to get the contact details of any new sexual partner. If the partner has monkeypox, he should avoid sex, kissing, holding hands, and sharing of towels. Wash hands and clean all the stuff **TURN TO PAGE 5**

DR. MADRID FROM FROM PAGE 1

The multidisciplinary unit then expanded reach into the networks of today. While they are not a center and they do not house children, it remains a place where children can feel safe; they find ways trying to keep children safe. Services focus on the medical, social work, mental health and wellness, legal, judiciary, TeleCPU, and other administrative areas.

Dr. Madrid established several programs and curricula on women and child protection. One of these is the "Women & Child Protection Specialty Training for Physicians, Social Workers, and WCPD Police Officers," a training program for physicians who conduct child abuse evaluations and give expert testimony in court; as well as social workers and police officers who are part of multidisciplinary teams that provide comprehensive care for abused women and children. The training is part of the overall strategy in the creation of Women and Child Protection Units nationwide. There are now 123 WCPUs in 61 provinces and 10 cities, which have served 119,965 children and adolescents, and 30,912 women. The WCPUs have a total staff of 237 physicians, 199 social workers, and eighty-five police officers.

She has chaired previous regional consultations by the World Health Organization on the WHO World Report on Violence and Health and the Health Sector Response to Sexual Violence. She is a member of the Executive Council of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and Chair of the Asian Forum.

More collaborations

She continues looking into more collaborations because systems require a deep-rooted approach. They help partners in the startup process (i.e. free training, initial equipment, etc.) while living an advocacy of protecting children from abuse and neglect.

CPU has a program with the Department of Education (DepEd) on the prevention of child abuse. After their research in Manila and Iloilo with DepEd on whether they could prevent sexual abuse or the sexual offending behavior of high school students, the proof of concept showed that it is doable. The program with DepEd is currently postponed given that the COVID-19 pandemic adjustments inevitably delayed the scheduling of the next trial stage. While waiting, CPU will run a trial of the concept in Valenzuela City, a path-finding

city for ending violence against children. Valenzuela is known for their openness in trying out new programs. Once ready, CPU hopes to scale it nationwide with DepEd.

This coming September 29, CPU is also signing a Memorandum of Agreement with the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) for a partnership in legal services. The WCPUs will connect with the IBP chapters in their area to avail of free legal counseling.

As CPU's research showed that universal parenting can decrease child abuse by half, CPU is also partnering with Ateneo de Manila in implementing the findings of the said research. Dr. Madrid laments that a lot of what is child abuse is acceptable as corporal punishment. According to the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, hurting children achieves the opposite effect of what discipline intends to do. It bears long-term consequences that changes a child's physiology and the wiring of their brain—manifesting as a chronic disease (e.g. hypertension, diabetes) decades, 30 years, or even 50 years later. **Haziel May C. Natorilla and Charmaine Lingdas**

First leadership development course for midwives held

The UP College of Nursing (UPCN), in partnership with the Health Human Resources Development Bureau of the Department of Health, held the first Leadership Development Course (LDC) for midwives on July 18 to August 12.

Designed to enhance the competencies of midwives as key players in the achievement of Universal Health Care, the course is geared for midwives in the public health setting such as rural health units and urban health centers, or for midwife supervisors. A total of 60 Continuing Professional Development units (CPD) were given by the PRC Board of Midwifery to the midwives who completed the course.

Forty-eight (48) scholars from various regions in the country who were funded by the Department of Health graduated from the course. Participants were from the Cordillera Administrative Region and National Capital Region; and Regions 1, 2, 3, 4-A, 4-B, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 13.

UPCN Assistant Prof. Efrelyn Iellamo, with the team from the UPCN Maternal and Child Nursing Specialty group, headed the development and implementation of the course. The 86-hour course ran for 20 days in a span of four weeks. The program was delivered through blended learning mode which included face-to-face sessions, online sessions through a learning management system, and field visits to health departments from urban (City Health Office of Marikina) to rural health setting (Health Office of Tanza).

The online component was held in the first and second week of the course, while



face-to-face component was held during the third and fourth week. There were six modules where learners were required to engage in health service delivery, human resources for health, health governance, health regulation, health information systems, and health financing.

In her message, Chancellor Carmencita Padilla stated that as of October 31, 2021, there were approximately 41,000 midwives across the Philippines comprising about 22% of the total number of healthcare professionals in the country.

"It is a very significant number, and it makes a lot of sense to harness your group especially because you operate very close to the grassroots," asserted Chancellor Carmencita Padilla.

She noted that although midwives specialize in health for mothers and babies, here in our country, the roles are much broader. The shortage of doctors and nurses especially in disadvantaged areas makes it critical for midwives to expand their functions in the health of the community. Midwives are in a strong position to help achieve the SDG 2030 in various ways particularly Goals 3, 5, and 17 related to health and wellbeing of all people including mothers and newborns, to gender equality, and partnerships for the goals.

"Today we create another path toward achieving health care for all by involving midwives into a similar leadership

development course," said UPCN Dean Shiela Bonito. In the past four years, the UPCN has been conducting the leadership development course for public health nurses and has graduated 183 who are now immersed in primary health care.

Prof. Jennifer Pagiuo, UPCN Continuing Education and Community Extension Services Program Head, stated that July 2022 marks 2.5 years of the Global Strategic Directions for Midwifery and Nursing 2021-2025, a document that presents evidence-based practices and an interrelated set of priorities to help guide countries in ensuring that midwives and nurses optimally contribute to achieving UHC and other population health goals. She added that efforts to put concerted action into the forefront of policy in the areas of education, jobs, leadership, and service delivery have reached 50 percent as per the five-year challenge. **Charmaine Lingdas**

MONKEYPOX FROM PAGE 4...

that the patient uses, and avoid touching the rash.

"It's important that the World Health Organization declare monkeypox a public health emergency of international concern because this gives us a window of opportunity to learn as much as we can and protect each other, even those who are at risk of the illness and reduce the number of cases in our country," Dr. Berba said.

She stressed that it is important to provide relevant information to prevent the spread of monkeypox, and to educate the public since the lesion may make people afraid and stigmatize other groups. **Charmaine Lingdas**

MD-PHD FROM PAGE 3...

aside from academic enlivening. DOST-PCHRD and UP Manila will be responsible in ensuring that the stipulations in the memorandum of agreement are strictly complied with through close monitoring.

Currently, this is the only MD-PHD program in the Philippines. It embeds in its curriculum the fields of biomedical sciences, bioengineering and biomedical imaging, chemical and physical sciences, computational biology and informatics, public health, epidemiology, and preventive medicine to train its young members in the disciplines that will help improve the medical development and advance

scientific research in the Philippines.

Aside from the aforementioned scholarship privileges, other opportunities open to the new MD-PHD students include: (1) attendance to local and international conferences and/or conventions, (2) assistance in publication fees, and (3) participation in summer immersions and research enrichment programs.

DOST Secretary Renato Solidum Jr., UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla, and the College of Medicine Dean Charlotte Chiong also gave video messages during the event.

Francis Nicole G. Maga

Editorial Box



Dr. Olympia Ursula Q. Malanyaon
Director and Editor-in-Chief

Cynthia M. Villamor
Assistant Editor

Cynthia M. Villamor
Anne Marie D. Alto
January R. Kanindot
Charmaine A. Lingdas
Francis Nicole G. Maga
Hazel May C. Natorilla
Staffwriters

Anne Marie D. Alto
Design/Layout
Luz D. Emano
Masthead Design
Circulation Officer
Joseph A. Bautista
Photographer



UP Manila Strengthens Student Support with Philippine Red Cross Grant to Medical Students

With the COVID-19 pandemic revealing how important human resources in health are, the University of the Philippines Manila College of Medicine (UPCM) strengthened its student support for medical students through cash grants to help solve the scarcity of graduating doctors. Twelve medical students from UPCM were recognized as recipients of the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) scholarship grants through a signing ceremony held on August 26, 2022 at the Ramon S. Ang Auditorium, UPCM Henry Sy Sr Hall, Pedro Gil, Taft Avenue, Manila.

"I can tell you that, down the line, they are the ones who will provide the solutions to our country," said UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla, expressing full confidence in the scholars as she commended the power of community. "*Kung magtutulungan lang po tayong lahat ay malayo pa ang mararating natin. Itong araw na ito ay para sa ating mga bagong estudyante at sa kanilang mga magulang.*" (If we all continue to help one another, then we will go the distance. This day is for our new students and their parents.) Chancellor Padilla added that with this aid, the students will be able to concentrate on studying because they will have one less significant concern to worry about. Additional scholarships are available not only to medical students and nurses but also for all other courses in the campus.

According to UPCM Dean Charlotte M. Chiong, almost 30% of their 200 students asked for help due to the economic downturn and the people getting sick during the pandemic. The UPCM gave P30,000 per month for the past two and a half years for the students' mobile loads. Dean Chiong estimates that more than P10 million worth of assistance from the UPCM's alumni were given directly to the students who were affected by the storms.

When the pandemic caused the non-provision of some support, UPCM shared the problem with former Senator Richard J. Gordon, PRC's Chairman and CEO. To Dean Chiong's surprise, timely help through the Philippine Red Cross was granted. According to Gordon, the PRC allotted resources in the best possible manner "by creating great doctors in our country". He expressed happiness in seeing faceless people, noting that giving is

done in the essence of "true development of layman folks" in the Philippines.

The latest initiative is UP Manila's first scholarship tie-up with the PRC. Scholars were given a flexible arrangement (1:1 term), i.e., for every year of scholarship, they need to give one year of return service in more than 102 PRC stations all over the country. They can volunteer at any time, even as students, and are encouraged to be a little more creative in fulfilling the return service side. It should not prevent them from pursuing specialty training

or research. In addition, Chancellor Padilla shared that medical students volunteer on their own; it is part of the culture and in their blood. Even during COVID-19, they were doing volunteer work.

Sherwin Neil G. Noor, responding on behalf of the scholars, gave their commitment for the underserved. "We promise to uphold the virtue of giving back to the masses and service to the people, and stay true to the mandate of the UP College of Medicine which is leadership and excellence towards community-oriented service. *Makakaasa po kayo na mag-aaral po kami nang mabuti at magseserbisyo po kami nang tapat sa bayan at sa bansa.*" (Rest assured that we will study well and serve our nation wholeheartedly.)

The twelve scholars (in alphabetical order) are as follows: from Class 2027 - Alba, Charmaine Khaye D.O.; Canilao, Denice Millen C.; Feliciano, Jeremiah F.; Grindulo, Rona Angela D.L.; Loor, Sherwin Neil G.; Mamaril, Adrian Carlo C.; Sabaot, Effie Mae S.; Pequeña, Arnil R.; and Rosales, Wade Montgomery; and from Class 2025 - Bartolo, Charles Jerome R.; Bormilla, Adrian Jeremiah C.; and Salazar, Bernabe Angel D. **Haziel May C. Natorilla**

1st PH book on diagnosis and management of strabismus out

The UP College of Medicine-Philippine General Hospital Dept. of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (DOVS) launched on Aug. 31, 2022 its specialty book entitled "Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus: A Comprehensive Guide to Diagnosis and Management."

The book contains all the basic and must-know information in the field of pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus, an eye misalignment visual disorder that commonly affects children.

DOVS Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Chief and Book Editor Dr. Alvina Pauline Santiago recounted their long, arduous journey in writing and preparing the book that took several years. She thanked former CM Dean Dr. Agnes Mejia and current Dean Dr. Charlotte Chiong for the College's funding support.

She attributed the realization of the ophthalmology specialty book to several factors: their desire to fulfill their big dream of coming up with a specialty book, the opportunity to work with the best editors and authors who are graduates of the fellowship programs and colleagues in other sub-

specialties, supportive chairpersons in Dr. Marissa Valbuena as former chairperson and Dr. Teresa Castillo as current chairperson and members of the division, funding grant from UPCM, reliable fellows, supportive team in the former dean and current CM deans, a good layout artist, and patients. "Without the patients, it was impossible to come up with a good book. It took a village to come up with this book; a gift to our nation, patients, world, and our legacy," she stated.

UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla described the book as a "gem," a

distillation of the many practical "pearls" that the authors have accumulated and shared with residents and fellows over the years.

The launch coincided with the 60th anniversary of DOVS and 15th anniversary of the DOVS Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Clinical Fellowship Training Program.

The book costs Php 3,300 excluding shipping and handling fees. To purchase, please register [here](#). For inquiries, you may call DOVS at 85548400 local 8502.

Cynthia M. Villamor

