



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MANILA HEALTHSCAPE



SPECIAL COVID-19 ISSUE

NO. 32

31 OCTOBER 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE Chancellor

Many exciting things continue to happen in our university! They are not only exciting but mark the beginning or extension of beneficial endeavors towards the fulfillment of our mandate.

UP Manila's Newborn Screening Reference Center and the Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines, Inc. held their 19th National Newborn Screening Convention last October 5. This was attended by 7,300 health professionals and program partners. Keynote speaker DOH Undersecretary Rosario Vergeire traced how this undertaking prospered tremendously to what it is today.

We are proud for having pioneered the formation of the Committee on Research Integrity. This committee, which will eventually become an office, crafted the UP Manila Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research. This code was approved by the UP Board of Regents to be adopted by the whole University of the Philippines System. The Committee has also been very busy conducting webinars on critical research topics such plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, and authorship.

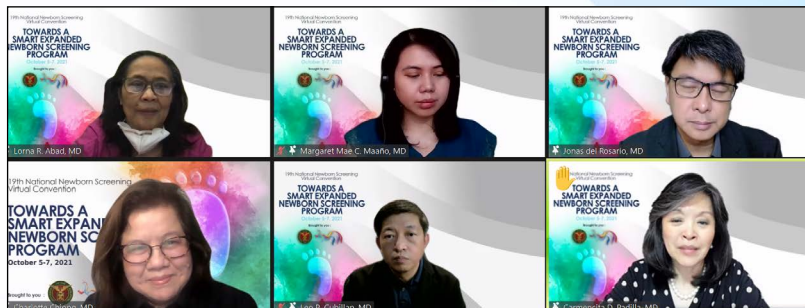
Another strategic topic on COVID control was discussed in the *Stop COVID Deaths Webinar #72*, that of vaccinating children 12-17 years old. Experts from our community and from the Philippine Pediatric Society weighed in on priority issues regarding immunization in this age group in preparation for the nationwide drive.

Still on the hot topic of COVID vaccines, the College of Public Health is addressing the important issue of vaccine hesitancy in collaboration with the Vaccine Solidarity Movement, an alliance of health-oriented professional and civic organizations; through its continuing webinars, one of which was "End the COVID-19 Pandemic through Vaccination Now" held last August 23.

A tangible execution of our calling as a university is the College of Nursing's ongoing Leadership Course for Advanced Practice in Public Health Nursing that it conducts in partnership with Johnson and Johnson Global Community Impact. Their first batch of 50 nurses graduated last October 25.

We also celebrated two delightful recognition ceremonies—that of the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Allied Medical Professions. All were beaming with pride and joy on seeing these brave and resilient graduates become our beloved alumni. We wish them well!

Although COVID is still with us, we are thankful to God Almighty for blessing our community with the mind and might to continue being fully alive; decisive in the fulfillment of our mandate and even reaching up for higher goals, all towards a healthy vibrant nation!



Newborn Screening Convention on a Smart Expanded Program caps NBS Week

The Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines, Inc. (NSSPI) and the University of the Philippines (UP) Manila, through the Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC), kicked off the virtual 19th National Newborn Screening Convention on Oct. 5 with the theme: "Towards a Smart Expanded Newborn Screening Program."

The three-day event, coinciding with the observance of the Newborn Screening Week, weaved together talks on the basics of expanded newborn screening, ethics and legal issues, updates and innovations, and efforts for digital transformation along with stories from different program implementers on successfully carrying through the newborn screening services in the middle of the pandemic.

Around 7,300 registered health professionals, advocates, students, researchers, and program partners were in attendance, led by NSSPI President **Dr. Rizalina Racquel Gonzales** who opened the convention.

In her keynote address, Department of Health (DOH) Undersecretary Rosario Vergeire recalled the history of newborn screening from being a pilot project in 1996 to its eventual incorporation

into the roster of DOH-led programs. Vergeire commended the program implementers and other stakeholders for their ability to cope and adjust amid the challenges of the pandemic.

"A Smart Expanded Newborn Screening does not have to refer to advanced technologies and high-level devices, but a theme that is geared towards one mission; that is to ensure that all Filipino children will have access to and will avail of total quality care for optimal growth and development of their full potential. This theme, as we stood in the pandemic and natural disasters, [yet] this program continues to prosper and save Filipino newborns since 1996," said Vergeire.

The three-day event featured five pre-convention lectures on the basics of expanded newborn screening (ENBS) and the main convention's 12 plenary sessions covering pertinent issues and updates in screening programs. Pre-convention resource persons included **Dr. Sylvia C. Estrada**, Short-Term Follow-up National Coordinator; **Dr. Ma. Paz Virginia K. Otayza**, Newborn Screening Center – Northern Luzon Unit Head; **Dr. Bernadette Halili-Mendoza**, Newborn Screening Center Central Luzon Unit Head;

TURN PAGE 2

University of the Philippines Manila
Committee on Research Integrity

RESEARCH INTEGRITY & PLAGIARISM SYMPOSIUM

MONDAY, 12 APRIL 2021, 9AM - 12NN

bit.ly/upmplagiarismwebinar

SPEAKERS:

- DR. EDWARD WANG**
Chair, UPM Committee on Research Integrity
Professor, UP College of Medicine
- DR. DANIEL BARR**
Principal, Research Integrity
Research Institute of Technology, Australia
- DR. CYNTHIA BAUTISTA**
Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of the Philippines
- DR. JACINTO BLAS MANTARING III**
Chair, UPM Committee on Research Integrity
Member, UPM Committee on Research Integrity
Professor, UP College of Medicine
- DR. CECILIA MARAMBA-LAZARTE**
President, Philippine Association of Medical Journal Editors
Professor, UP College of Medicine

University of the Philippines Manila
Committee on Research Integrity

RESEARCH INTEGRITY & FABRICATION & FALSIFICATION

MONDAY, 28 JUNE 2021, 9AM - 12NN

bit.ly/upmfnfwebinar

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- DR. GISELA CONCEPCION**
Editor-in-Chief, Philippine Science Letters
Journal Editor, Journal of Academic Ethics, UP System
Topic: *Image Manipulation in Publications and the Academic*
- DR. CARMENCITA PADILLA**
Director, the Research Center
Welcome Remarks
- DR. EDWARD WANG**
Topic: *Image Manipulation in Publications and the Academic*
- DR. JEAN ANNE TORAL**
Topic: *Image Manipulation in Publications and the Academic*
- DR. ELISABETH BIK**
Topic: *Image Manipulation in Publications and the Academic*
- DR. MARILEN BALOLONG**
Topic: *Image Manipulation in Publications and the Academic*
- DR. SHAM MAI HAR**
Topic: *Image Manipulation in Publications and the Academic*
- DR. JACINTO BLAS MANTARING III**
Topic: *Image Manipulation in Publications and the Academic*

University of the Philippines Manila
Committee on Research Integrity

RESEARCH INTEGRITY & THE ISSUE OF AUTHORSHIP

MONDAY, 27 SEPT 2021, 9AM - 12NN

bit.ly/riWEBauthorship

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- DR. EVA CUTIONCO-DE LA PAZ**
Topic: *Authorship in the Scientific Literature: An Academic Perspective in the*
- DR. CARMENCITA PADILLA**
Topic: *Authorship in the Scientific Literature: An Academic Perspective in the*
- DR. EDWARD WANG**
Topic: *Authorship in the Scientific Literature: An Academic Perspective in the*
- DR. JACINTO BLAS MANTARING III**
Topic: *Authorship in the Scientific Literature: An Academic Perspective in the*
- DR. JOVEN JEREMIAS TANCHICO**
Topic: *Authorship in the Scientific Literature: An Academic Perspective in the*
- DR. KATHERINE ANN REYES**
Topic: *Authorship in the Scientific Literature: An Academic Perspective in the*
- DR. SAW AIK**
Topic: *Authorship in the Scientific Literature: An Academic Perspective in the*
- DR. MARILEN BALOLONG**
Topic: *Authorship in the Scientific Literature: An Academic Perspective in the*
- MR. RUFUS THOMAS ADDUCUL**
Topic: *Authorship in the Scientific Literature: An Academic Perspective in the*

Research integrity committee formulates code of conduct

The University of the Philippines Manila created the ad hoc Committee on Research Integrity (CRI) on October 17, 2019 to oversee continuing education on the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR).

Its five core members are Dr. Edward Wang, Dr. Katherine V. Reyes, Prof. Marilen P. Balolong, Dr. Jean B. Toral, Dr. Juanito V. Mantaring III, with Rommel Adducul as secretary. The CRI was envisioned as an interim body that would lay the foundation for its expansion into an office.

The Office of the Chancellor had noted a trend from international funding agencies and research investigators requiring Offices of Research Integrity in collaborating institutions. The rapidly growing infrastructure of UP Manila, with an increase in researchers, researches, and research funding; and mounting pressures for faculty and student promotion and recognition are among the challenges to research integrity.

Breaches of responsible conduct of research, especially the major ones, including fabrication and falsification of data and plagiarism, erode trust in research in particular, and science in general. On the other hand, strict adherence to such standards leads to excellent, reliable, and trustworthy research.

Attendance at the 6th World Conference on Research Integrity in Hong Kong in June 2019 provided both the impetus and the resources for the inaugural conference on Research Integrity. Held during the UPM celebration of the National Science & Technology Week in August of the same year. This was followed in February 2020 with a workshop for administration officials of the UPM, including deans, unit heads, and department chairs.

COVID dampened this momentum temporarily but virtual lectures were continued through the Good Research Practice Workshops of the Expanded Health Research Office of the Philippine General Hospital and through pocket lectures in the colleges.

It soon became clear that the Committee had two equally important goals: promote a culture of research integrity through awareness and education and establish a fair and transparent mechanism in responding to allegations of violations. At the same time, in order to lay the foundations for this “culture”, one important step was to craft a UP Manila Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research. Patterned after codes from Europe, Australia, the United States; and borrowing from the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Principles of Research Integrity, a code unique to the UP Manila was submitted for approval to the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee.

On August 26, 2021, the UP Board of Regents approved the UPM Code at its 1363rd meeting, for adoption by the entire UP System. The Code contains a Preamble and 7 Principles of Research Integrity, adopted from the APEC Principles including: Honesty (Katapatan), Responsibility (Panangutanan), Rigor (Higpit), Transparency (Aninaw), Respect (Respeto), Fairness (Pagkamakatarungan), and Diversity (Pagkakaiba-iba). The 3rd segment contains the Responsibilities of the Institution, the Researcher, and Funding Agencies. A 4th part states that violations of the Code have corresponding sanctions, the guidelines of which will be handled separately by Committees in different Constituent Units (CU) based on their internal policies.

In order to define the level of awareness of Research Integrity within UP Manila, the Committee, in May of 2020 also began an NIH-sponsored study, “Perception of Research Integrity Climate in a University of Higher Education”; an ongoing study that continues to require the cooperation of our entire community.

At the same time, in order to provide continuing education, the CRI initiated this year three conferences on Plagiarism (April), Fabrication & Falsification (July), and Authorship (September). **CRI Team**

NBS FROM PAGE 1...

Dr. Alma M. Panganiban-Andal, Newborn Screening Center-Southern Luzon Unit Head; and **Dr. Anna Lea G. Elizaga**, NIH Newborn Screening Center Head.

The speakers provided information on *The Philippine Newborn Screening Program, Overview of the ENBS Disorders, Proper Dried Blood Spot Collection, Timeliness of Newborn Screening, and Short-Term and Long-Term Follow-up Care*. They underscored the importance of effective communication; timeliness of screening; and confirmatory, assessment, and management or treatment of the affected newborns.

Also featured were other screening programs in children, specifically Newborn Hearing Screening, Pulse Oximeter Screening for Critical Congenital Heart Disease, and Vision Screening presented by UP College of Medicine **Dean Charlotte Chiong**, UP-PGH Program Director **Dr. Jose Jonas D. del Rosario**, and Philippine Eye Research Institute Director **Dr. Leo Cubillan**, respectively. **Vina Mendoza**

UP CPH Collaborates with Vaccine Solidarity Movement to Combat Vaccine Hesitancy

As the country aims for adequate vaccine coverage for the Philippine population, it faces yet another hurdle – vaccine hesitancy. To address the persisting reluctance in availing of the COVID-19 vaccine, a webinar entitled “End the COVID-19 Pandemic Through Vaccination Now” was held on 23 August by the Vaccine Solidarity Movement (VSM), an alliance of health-oriented professional and civic organizations.

The VSM encourages the public to trust in vaccines and do its part in contributing to herd immunity towards increasing the COVID-19 vaccine uptake to over 90%. The webinar featured key officials from the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), Philippine Foundation for Vaccination (PFV), Philippine Nurses Association, Association of Allied Health Organizations of the Nation, Philippine Pharmacists Association, Philippine Dental Association, and the UP College of Public Health.

Dr. Lulu Bravo, Professor Emeritus of the UP College of Medicine and Executive Director of the PFV, shared the many benefits of vaccines; particularly its role in increasing life expectancy and reducing child mortality over the decades. However, misinformation sets back the nation’s progress against infectious diseases.

As a result, **Dr. Benito Atienza**, President of the PMA advised the public to listen to infectious disease and public health experts rather than those spreading unverified claims.

To directly address growing misinformation on vaccine safety and efficacy, **UP CPH Dean Vicente Belizario Jr.** strongly called on the media for more responsible public health journalism. He affirmed that effective health communication is vital in promoting vaccine literacy, while acknowledging that with the rise of misinformation in the digital age, the public needs to remain cautious against unverified claims from individuals speaking on their own accord. **Ana Margarita Parco**



Ms. Amor Maclang (center), co-founder of the Vaccine Solidarity Movement, facilitates the discussion on vaccine hesitancy with key figures from the medical community including UP CPH/TROPED Philippines Dean/Centre Director Vicente Y. Belizario Jr. (top right).

Buguias, Benguet gets relief aid from Pahinungod team

A team composed of Ugnayan ng Pahinungod (UNP) Director Dr. Eric Talens, UNP Systems Director Dr. Marie Therese Bustos, UP-PGH Dept of Emergency (DEM) Medicine Chief Dr. April Llaneta, DEM Resident Dr. Simonette Geston, DEM staff Jeffrey Violago, and Pahinungod Staff Dr. Lunalinda Luz turned over medical supplies and family packs to victims of tropical storm Maring in Buguias, Benguet.

The relief operations and medical assistance were conducted on October 22 following an assessment made through Benguet Mayor Ruben Tinda, Vice Mayor Dione Baucas, and Municipal Health Officer Dr. Hilda Kimakim.

The Office of the UPM Chancellor provided funding for the relief operations while Philippine Australian Medical Association, Inc. (PAMA) and Sama-Sama Tulung-Tulong UP gave contributions as well. A call for donations was made and the student organization Phi Lambda Delta Society responded and donated 100 pails and dippers.

UP Manila’s partnership with Buguias started in 2018 when

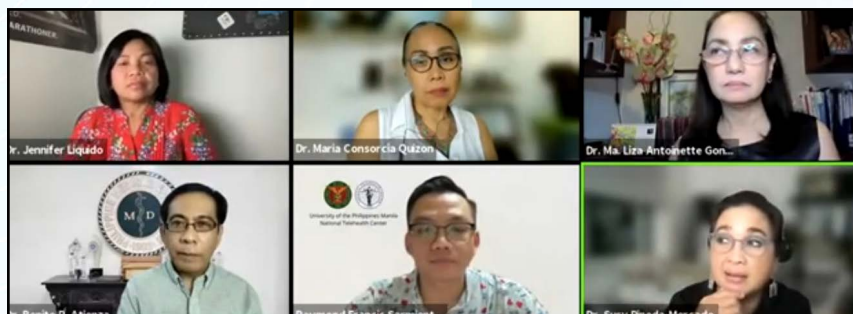


students of the UNP Summer Immersion Service Program were deployed in the area; and continued in 2019 when students learned the conditions and realities in the community during their month-long stay. In 2020, the UNP Health Missions Program conducted a surgical mission in the municipality that led to a stronger partnership between Pahinungod and the municipality.

Saint Paul’s University Manila (SPUM), through its president Sr. Evangeline Anastacio, provided an area in the campus as repository and packing area for the relief goods; while SPUM staff and students helped in the packaging of the goods. **Lunalinda Luz**

The *Stop COVID Deaths Webinar #72* tackled the topic of COVID-19 vaccination in children. This was in the wake of President Rodrigo Duterte's recent directive to vaccinate immunocompromised children aged 12-17. The UP Manila NIH National Telehealth Center, Philippine General Hospital, and Philippine Pediatric Society hosted this webinar with experts elucidating on the priority issues and recommendations. On Oct. 15, the Department of Health started vaccinating this age group with Pfizer and Moderna.

Data cited by the speakers suggest that children under the age of 18 comprise about 8.5% of the reported cases with relatively few deaths. COVID-19 disease in children is generally mild with an overall good prognosis compared to adults. The real burden of the COVID-19 in children is still unknown because the symptoms are mild leading to poor reporting and testing. However, the presence of certain co-infections or



Experts tackle priority issues on COVID-19 vaccination for children

underlying medical conditions such as cardiovascular disease, neurologic conditions, neurodevelopmental disorders, chronic lung disease, immunosuppression, cancer or malignancies, genetic endocrine diseases, as well as obesity and prematurity may increase the risk for severe or critical disease in children.

“The consideration for introducing vaccines in children should be based on vaccine safety and efficacy that derive from clinical trials,” stated Dr. Ma. Liza

Antoinette Gonzales, consultant of the Infectious and Tropical Disease Section, UP-PGH Dept. of Pediatrics and member of National Adverse Event Following Immunization Committee.

Clinical trials and real-world experience in Israel showed that both Pfizer and Moderna produce greater or similar immune response in young adults, had a favorable safety profile, and were highly effective against COVID-19. Most of the side effects

TURN TO PAGE 5...

Vergeire to CAMP grads: Give back and pay forward, stick to truth, collaborate

“Regularly reflect on your actions, give back and pay forward what you’ve been afforded by maximizing your God-given talents and [allow] more people to benefit from it.” Department of Health Undersecretary Rosario Vergeire shared this advice during the College of Allied Medical Professions’ virtual recognition ceremony held on Oct. 1. A total of 73 graduates comprised Batch 2021, 10 Masters of Clinical Audiology, 2 Master of Rehabilitation Science (Speech Pathology), 12 BS Occupational Therapy, 17 BS Physical Therapy, and 32 BS Speech Pathology.

The DOH undersecretary and spokesperson also urged the graduates to “stick to what is true,” as she stressed the state of health illiteracy in the country that worsened during the pandemic due to massive misinformation.



She hoped that the graduates will develop the ability to assess quality evidence necessary for public policies and the skill to communicate this to the public with integrity.

She encouraged the honorees to maintain a “collaborative and adaptive attitude” as this is needed in facing and overcoming societal changes. She cited the current collaboration among public and private sectors in the country to gather COVID-19 statistics. James Pierce V. Briones, CAMP student, responded “Because things are always in flux – pandemic or no pandemic - our ability to adapt needs to go hand in hand with our openness to collaborate.”

Vergeire apprised the students of the country’s dire need for more healthcare workers as the DOH

perseveres to attain a system that is responsive to the health needs of the Filipinos. She called on them to respond to this need through joining those in the forefront of rebuilding the nation’s healthcare system.

In the same ceremony, graduates Keith Nowell R. Rivera, BSOT; Arielle Joanna G. Yu, BSPT; and Clarisse Anne T. Lim, BSSP received the Outstanding Student Clinician Award with Yu also bagging the Outstanding Student Leader Award.

James Pierce V. Briones, CAMP student, responded on behalf of the graduates. And then Ken Kristoffer Tort led the graduates’ induction to the CAMP Alumni Association. **Francis Nicole Maga**



Ms. Allison Louise Salazar and Dr. Gideon Lasco during the CAS recognition.

CAS holds recognition program for Batch 2021

The College of Arts and Sciences held a virtual recognition ceremony for 114 graduates from its nine undergraduate degree programs and 21 from its four graduate programs on Aug. 20, 2021.

UP President Danilo L. Concepcion, in his message, hoped for the translation of the students' pandemic experiences into valuable lessons that "can help them flourish in an ever-changing world." He also wished the graduates to have healthy minds and bodies so that they can serve the nation productively and achieve their dreams; and to become persevering, compassionate, and ethical Filipinos like what the Oblation stands for.

Chancellor Carmencita Padilla called the graduates "survivors" and expressed hope that the new graduates will use their education to formulate creative and sustainable solutions to the pandemic and other crises. "*Hinubog kayo ng UP hindi para magsawalang-kibo, kundi para gamitin ang pinag-aralan para sa ikabubuti ng bayan, lalo na ng mahihirap.*"

Keynote speaker **Dr. Gideon Lasco** who is a physician, medical anthropologist, writer, UP Department of Anthropology senior lecturer, and Ateneo De Manila University's Development Studies Program research fellow shared his personal experiences as a UP Manila student and emphasized how a UP student should treasure his or her college memories as these could be sources of joy and laughter. He recognized the weight this pandemic has been putting on everyone,

especially the students. According to him, it has divided the privileged and non-privileged, and highlighted the inequities within the world.

First, he reminded the students to not limit themselves to just one path, and to not downplay their passions and hobbies. Second, he mentioned that UP graduates are "promising and continue to be... that the achievement of UP education should not be a product, but a process of learning which will carry you to where you want yourselves to be." Third, he emphasized that they are "powerful" – that meant UP graduates are always able to influence the environment and society around them.

"May your plurality allow you to maximize your life and realize your potentials. May your promise translate to the betterment of your families, communities, and our country; and may the power that lies in each and every one of you lead to a better, safer, and more inclusive world," Lasco intoned.

On behalf of the graduating batch, Allison Louise Salazar, a BA Organizational Communication *magna cum laude*, gave a valedictory address. She challenged her fellow graduates to achieve things that will impact the marginalized, oppressed, and the discriminated; and pass on bravery and kindness to the next generations.

Students with special awards in various fields such as research, sports, and leadership were also recognized in this program. **Francis Nicole Maga**

EXPERTS TACKLE FROM PAGE 4...

were mild to moderate, mild allergic reactions, and rare cases of anaphylaxis and immune thrombocytopenia. No unusual side effects were found.

Side effects and Myocarditis

In 12 per 1 million vaccinated individuals, reports of myocarditis, pericarditis, or myopericarditis emerge especially after the second dose. Dr. Gonzales explained that myocardial injury is part of COVID-19 infection and has been reported in 36% of hospitalized COVID-19 patients and can occur even after the patients have recovered. These patients present with chest pain, shortness of breath, or palpitations and have abnormal findings on the echocardiogram or cardiac MRI.

In cases of myocarditis that developed after vaccination, 95% were mild and recovered on their own after only about two to three days and minimal treatment. "It is important to monitor the outcome of the myocarditis in those who develop this after vaccination. There should be continued monitoring of these cases because we do not know what the long-term effect will be. We would like this information to be disseminated so that people will be aware of what to watch out for after vaccination," Dr. Gonzales advised.

Before recommending the vaccination of children, two risk-benefit analyses weighed the ability of vaccine to prevent COVID-19 cases, hospitalization, ICU admissions, and deaths and compared this with the risk of myocarditis. The Center for Disease Control study results showed that the benefits outweigh the risk as myocarditis and pericarditis are more common when contracted with COVID-19 but are less likely with the vaccine.

The challenges in vaccination of this age group cited in the forum were constraints in vaccine supply, need for augmented infrastructure for vaccination, need for experienced care providers, and need for continuous monitoring of the long-term effects of the vaccine. **Charmaine Lingdas**

Training course boosts nurses' public health leadership skills



The UP College of Nursing and Johnson & Johnson Global Community Impact has completed the Leadership Course for Advanced Practice in Public Health Nursing (NurseLEAD) on October 25, 2021 with its first batch of 50 nurse graduates from different health facilities nationwide.

The 148-hour online course aimed to hone the nurses' leadership skills in delivering primary health care (PHC) services and population-based health programs through collaboration with relevant stakeholders and agencies. Their advanced skills will prepare them better in the management/delivery of PHC services and programs, and applying other learned leadership competencies to address current and future challenges in the health system.

“The COVID-19 pandemic, Sustainable Development Goals, and Universal Health Care Act, among others, are pressing us to approach the realization of the goals of these programs from a public health perspective. Essentially, nurses who are the main players in their implementation are expected to bring a lot to the table in terms of advanced leadership abilities and training,” stated UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla during the completion ceremony.

Padilla further noted that the demand for nurse leaders and managers is greater than ever during this pandemic, when critical evaluations are required and quick science-based actions and choices are demanded from nurses more than any other healthcare professionals.

The experts in the field of public health and public health nursing who served as lecturers for the course were

former Board of Nursing member Cora Anonuevo discussed Strategic Leadership; Philippine Nursing Research Society, Inc. Founding President Dr. Erlinda Castro-Palaganas, Systems Thinking; Center for Nurse Impact and Patient Outcomes Action Lab Director Dr. Annabelle Borromeo, Organizational Development and Change Management; and Commission on Higher Education's Technical Committee on Nursing Education Chair Fely Marilyn Lorenzo, Importance of Policy in the Practice of Public Health.

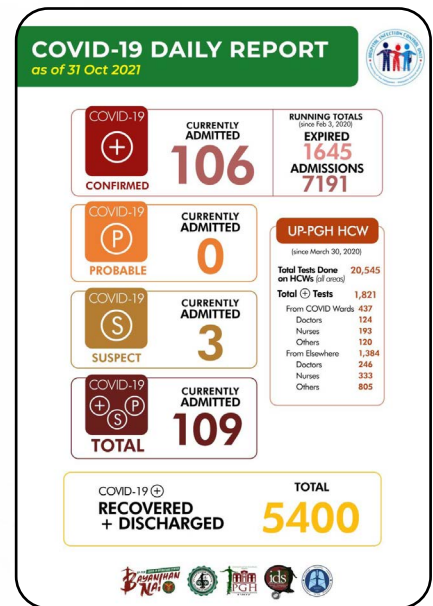
Speakers who shared insights and experiences on professional development, advocacy and interprofessional collaboration, communication, and teamwork as core components of leadership in public health were former UPCN Dean Josefina Tuazon, Dean Sheila Bonito, University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial College Nursing Dean Betty F. Merritt, Prof. Cariaso, UP Manila Community Health and Development Program Director Dr. Anthony Geronimo Cordero, UPCN Asst. Professor Maria Angela Mabale, and UPCN Senior Lecturer Maria Rita Tamse.

The remaining speakers included UPCN Assoc. Prof. Luz Barbara Dones on managing public health interventions and providing public health services and nursing abilities in public health nurse interventions, UPCN Assoc. Prof. Dr. Carlo Irwin Panelo on integrated services and the continuum of care, and Health Futures Foundation Inc. Consultant Maria Angeline Valenzuela on project management cycle and financial management principles.

The course had synchronous and asynchronous sessions using Zoom. The UPCN Learning Management

System NurseLEAD, was awarded 45 units by the Philippine Regulations Commission Board of Nursing.

The launch on Sept. 30 was attended by Mr. Raghu Krishnan, President and Managing Director of Johnson and Johnson Foundation, who intoned that to ensure that the crucial shortfall in healthcare workers is addressed, J&J's partnership with UP Manila must focus on developing the skills and capabilities of Filipino nurses through this training. **Charmaine Lingdas**



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