



# Healthscape

University of the Philippines Manila Monthly Newsletter

*In This Issue:*

**UP innovation fellows present health technologies in Health Demo Day**

**UPCPH / SEAMEO TROPMED Philippines donates to typhoon-hit communities**

**UP Manila honors its scholars in online convocation**

**CAS holds Faculty Conference on Blended Learning under the New Normal**

**Vaccine confidence build-up and more staff needed to reach target**

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## ‘We have overcome fear of the unknown with knowledge’ - UP Manila Chan. Padilla on the Stop COVID Deaths Webinars

Four health leaders representing different perspectives shared lessons from COVID-19 and Universal Health Care (UHC) and personal insights as they led the health sector at a very turbulent history in the Philippines.

**Dr. Gerardo D. Legaspi**, Director, Philippine General Hospital (PGH), spoke of the courage and bravery of the people involved when the PGH, at the height of the pandemic, became a COVID-19 referral center. He recalled how this very unpopular decision and their overall experience taught him that their best asset is their people.

“We have weathered the challenges. We have protected ourselves well. We have adopted coming to work in whatever way we can,” said Dr. Legaspi. The efficiency, effectiveness, and the long-lasting state of their operations in the last two years were evident. In bearing the responsibility of keeping their people alive in a very unknown situation, they delivered their

COVID-19 response as firmly as they could despite not having had any books then to base things on or experts to consult with the novelty of the COVID-19 at the onset.

He remembered how conditions were rarely perfect that they needed to adjust quickly, reading the signs and indicators on a moment-to-moment level. Eventually, they stopped issuing memos and formed the Information and Education Committee that Dr. A’Erickson B. Berberabe, Chief of the Division of Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery, headed.

**Dr. Teodoro J. Herbosa**, Senior Adviser to the National Task Force Against COVID-19, shared that they started the STOP COVID DEATHS Webinar Series because they were thinking of a better way to inform the public and the healthcare workers about COVID-19 and how to stop COVID deaths.



## UP innovation fellows present health technologies in Health Demo Day

Innovation fellows from UP Manila, UP Diliman, and UP Visayas showcased several health-based technologies during the recent University Innovation Fellows Health Demo Day that formed part of the Dept of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Health Research and Development anniversary celebration.

The event was a venue for the engineering, clinical, and technology case teams to network and engage with industry partners, potential customers and collaborators after a series of mentorship sessions that started in September 2021. The sessions served as opportunities to refine the technologies' value proposition and increase their technology transfer advantage.

The technologies presented, their descriptions, CUs, and principal investigators are as follows:

1. **VR Neurobehavioral Test**, a neurocognitive screening system for 2-3 years olds to diagnose "Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)" that is less symptom-dependent and subjective than current ASD screening tests like parent surveys; UP Manila; Francis Samonte and Marvin Ignacio.
2. **FILYRO Waste Solutions**, a healthcare waste management that highlights an oil-based thermal treatment of infectious waste; UP Visayas; Ram Bautista
3. **StepGear**, a locally fabricated smart

wearable device used for patients with stroke, brain tumor, Parkinson's disease, and cerebral palsy for gait re-training that provides real-time feedback from load cells and distance sensors; UP Manila; Joycie Eulah Abiera.

4. **Sanipod**, an automated 90-second disinfecting cubicle for HCW wearing PPE, to minimize the spread of virus as part of doffing process; UP Manila; Edward Wang.
5. **PAPR**, a medical grade respirator with superior APF that offers breath responsiveness to respond to the ventilation demands of the user while performing activities; UP Manila; Samuel Grosman
6. **Cardiovascular Rehabilitation Equipment for Telerehabilitation (CaRe)**, an objective, accurate, safe, and hybrid (synchronous/asynchronous) method to provide rehabilitation service over distance to patients who can benefit from regular physical activity amid and beyond the pandemic; UP Manila; Frances Carlos, Carl Froilan Leochico
7. **Echo on sight**, real-time expert telepresence for point-of-care guidance and timely interpretation of bedside echocardiograms; UP Manila; Jose Donato Magno, Richard Hizon
8. **myBESHIE Telepresence** (Juan Protect), helps the health practitioners observe their patients from a safe distance, reduces the need to use personal

protective equipment (PPE) without compromising the sharing of visual information and communication with patients; UP Manila; Nathaniel Orillaza

9. **Telemetry** (non-juan protect), remote monitoring of patient's vital signs from the nurse's station to minimize contact between the nurses and the patient. An additional software will be embedded in the RxBox device; UP Manila; Geohari Hamoy
10. **eSteth** (non-Juan protect), validation study of a locally-developed electronic stethoscope prototype using a phantom-based simulation system in the auscultation of lung sounds; initiative to design and build an electronic stethoscope that enables physically-distanced auscultation for healthcare workers wearing hazmat suits; UP Manila, UP Diliman; Michelle Miranda and Charleston Dale Ambatali
11. **CleanIntubate** (Juan Protect), laryngoscope blade disinfection portable device that will automatically cleanse, disinfect, wash, and dry laryngoscopes. The device can be easily transported from one area of the hospital to another; UP Manila; Catherine Co, Ed Magdaluyo, Jason Pechardo, Teresita Aspi
12. **HyPer UV**, a hydrogen peroxide-UV disinfection device for surgical instruments, PPEs and N95 masks using cost effective components and a readily available sterilization agent; UP Manila, UP Diliman; Emmanuel P. Estrella, Magdalena R. Vasquez Jr. **PAGE 3**



The UPCPH facade at Lara Hall was all lit with the lanterns corresponding to cash donations from the UPCPH community

## UPCPH / SEAMEO TROPMED Philippines donates to typhoon-hit communities

The UP College of Public Health community, through the Handog Liwanag sa Kapaskuhan Parol fund drive, generated funds for the benefit of communities affected by Typhoons Ulysses and Odette that hit in December 2021.

The donated funds were used to purchase roof materials for families in a geographically isolated and disadvantaged community in Virac, Catanduanes affected by Typhoon Ulysses. Dr. Erika Jane De Leon, the College's MPH student under the Doctors to the Barrios Program, was instrumental in distributing the roofing materials to affected families.

The municipalities of Araceli, Palawan and Pintuyan, Limasawa, and San Ricardo in Southern Leyte were the recipients of the second UPCPH Handog Liwanag sa Kapaskuhan Parol fund drive held in December 2021. UPCPH Master of Public Health (MPH) students under the Doctors to the Barrios program who are currently deployed to the recipient municipalities distributed the emergency supplies.

Dr. Ria Rachel Tan, deployed in

Araceli, Palawan; Dr. Anne Dominique Matuba in Pintuyan, Southern Leyte; Dr. Kristine Leonido in Limasawa, Southern Leyte; and Dr. Femilyn Domingo in San Ricardo, Southern Leyte distributed solar lights, maintenance medicines, and aquatabs to the recipient families/individuals in their respective communities.

Atty. Sinforoso Sarmiento, Jr., Mayor of Virac, Catanduanes and Mayor Rustico Estrella of Pintuyan, Southern Leyte sent their appreciation letters to the UPCPH community for this selfless gesture.

The families and individuals from these communities also sent photos expressing their gratitude and appreciation to the CPH faculty, staff, and alumni.

Similarly, UPCPH / SEAMEO TROPMED Philippines, through the leadership of Dean and Centre Director Dr. Vicente Y. Belazario, Jr., and the UPCPH Christmas and Thanksgiving Committee 2020 - 2021 extended their gratitude to the various departments of the college, alumni, and friends for their donations. **Asst. Prof. Myra S. Mistica, Dr. Crystal Amiel Estrada, Dr. Sheriah Laine de Paz-Silava**

### UP INNOVATION FROM PAGE 2...

13. **CHITS Pivotal Peak**, a Philhealth-certified electronic medical record (EMR) system that is used in the Regional Health Unit (RHU) level; UP Manila; Arturo Ongkeko, Jr.

14. **RxBBox**, a multi-component diagnostic telemedicine device for isolated and rural communities to provide better access to life-saving healthcare services; UP Manila, UP Diliman, Manu Gaspar.

15. **Metacomposites**, an alternative composite pylon for patients suffering from limb loss to have a low cost endoskeletal prosthesis that is strong, lightweight, and corrosion resistant; UP Diliman; Hannah Del Rosario

16. **AdamTech**, MedEco, the MDI Adaptor is utilized in providing aerosol-based drugs while intubated for ventilated patients; UP Diliman; Jason Pechardo.

17. **iFix**, a locally fabricated, modular external fixator system for fractures of the lower extremity and hand; UP Manila, UP Diliman; Emmanuel Estrella

The project was funded by the DOST-PCHRD and implemented by the UPSCALE Innovation Hub, in cooperation with the UP System, UP Manila, UP Diliman, and UP Visayas Technology Transfer and Business Development Office.

**Cynthia M. Villamor**

Tell us what you think about this issue.



**HAPPY**



**NEUTRAL**



**SAD**



## UP Manila honors its scholars in online convocation

Dr. Jomel Garcia Lapidés, a consistent scholar from elementary to high school and on to college at UP Manila, shared his heartwarming and moving story and gave life tips and lessons to the UP Manila University and College Scholars (US and CS) during a virtual convocation held on May 19, 2022.

Growing up from hardships and poverty, he needed more than one scholarship to finish his studies and studied with a *gasera* in his time. Later, he thought of how to progress his career in

nursing. He eventually applied to medical school upon encouragement from others. Working while studying medicine, he finished it following a very orchestrated plan.

Three tips helped him walk his path. One: Know your role and which roles only you can play. This was done via delegation. Two: Know oneself and how you work best. Here, he combined the principles of a Work-Life Balance and a Work-Life Integration. Third: Know your priority. He believes that there can only be

one priority and divided his tasks within four priority shifts.

Lapidés was introduced by Office of Student Affairs Director Dr. Blesile Suzette S. Mantaring as a consistent scholastic achiever - Class Valedictorian in elementary and high school, *cum laude* for both his nursing and medicine degrees in UP Manila, and ranked number 1 in both his professional licensure examinations for the same degrees. He worked as a nurse at the Sentro Oftalmologo Jose Rizal while supporting his medical studies. Dr. Lapidés currently serves as Medical Officer III at the PGH Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.

UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita D. Padilla in her message revisited what scholarship means when it comes to its value and role in society – that the tenet of scholarship lies in service and in providing solutions to the government. “What we experienced is a scholarship with success,” said Chancellor Padilla in her welcome message. She lauded their efforts to exemplify and live by the values and ideals of scholarship no matter the odds, possessing virtue and practice of discipline and relevant learning.

**TURN TO PAGE 6**

### WE HAVE OVERCOME FROM PAGE 1...

The endeavor, he recounts, truly was “a UP System contribution to the nation.”

As UP Executive Vice President then, he saw the opportunity to pool resources from the different UP autonomous units to address risk communication in a time of a novel illness. In behalf of the UP Office of the President, they put together the STOP COVID DEATHS Team, the TVUP, the Office of the Vice President for Public Affairs, the National Institutes of Health-National Telehealth Center at UP Manila, PGH, and the UP College of Medicine that provided the health experts in the webinars.

Other partners are the Philippine Genome Center and UP Resilience Institute which provides the expertise in the other fields of risk communication and sciences.

“The key is, we now have a playbook, PDITR (Prevent-Detect-Isolate-Treat-Reintegrate), and we now know the roles of each and every one. I think we’ll be able to handle whatever reemergence happens,” Dr. Herbosa said.

Dr. Albert Francis E. Domingo, Director, Department of Health (DOH) Communication Office and Disease Prevention and Control Bureau, explained that the UHC is a systemic reform, and its goal is to make sure that people do not die too soon. He explained the continuum of care and the interventions that happen at various prevention levels. UHC makes primary healthcare work beyond an advocacy because UHC makes health systems work. He encouraged the audience to adopt best practices even without any surge – to practice scenarios on what would happen in such emergencies.

National Scientist Dr. Ernesto O.

Domingo, UPCM Professor Emeritus and former UP Manila Chancellor, served as a reactor. The first to organize the UHC Study Group in 2008, Domingo answered the question, ‘Could we have done better had we had the Universal Health Care in place?’ with a resounding ‘Yes’, conditionally, provided that non-negotiables are in place. He also centered on the role of two government agencies: DOH maintains oversight function, and PhilHealth serves as a funder with auditing functions retained while having no hand in identifying the services the fund pays.

Meanwhile, Dr. Charlotte M. Chiong, UPCM Dean, emphasized that in a pandemic of this nature, inclusivity is very important because it entailed leveling the playing field for everyone. Despite the challenges, they were able to cope very well. She reflected on the spirit of giving

**TURN TO PAGE 5**

# CAS holds Faculty Conference on Blended Learning under the New Normal

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) held a faculty conference entitled "BLEND OF THE ROAD: CAS Faculty Stepping UP to the New Normal" on April 27, 2022, via Zoom. This activity aimed to equip the CAS faculty with the knowledge to help them develop plans for the eventual transition to blended learning modes of instruction in the coming Academic Year.

Dr. Jerome T. Buenviaje, Dean, UP Diliman College of Education, started his lecture with an activity as an example to stimulate the interest of the learners, then proceeded with teaching strategies that can be done and the importance of ABC (Aim, Build, Calibrate) in redesigning the learning environment, which can also be used in planning for blended learning.

The session outcomes focused on defining Blended Learning (BL) and examining various BL models for curriculum and instruction management. He also shared different approaches where he emphasized the importance of the teacher's experience, technological knowledge, and administrative support in making any of these approaches work. He also explained how to use these models in class and how to design a hybrid-flexible course. He compared traditional

The CAS Online Instruction Committee invites you to the 3<sup>rd</sup> CAS Online Faculty Conference

## BLEND OF THE ROAD

### CAS Faculty Stepping UP to the New Normal

April 27, 2022  
8:00AM-12:00NN

**SPEAKERS:**

**Plenary Lecture: "What is Blended Learning and How Does It Work?"**  
JEROME T. BUENVIAJE, LPT, PHD  
Assistant Professor and Dean, College of Education UP Diliman

**Parallel Session 1: "Laboratory Classes under the New Normal"**  
BHABITA V. MURJANI, DDM, MHPED  
Assistant Professor and Chair  
Department of Dental Health Sciences, UP Manila

**Parallel Session 2: "The New Normal Classroom Set-up"**  
ERLYN A. SANA, PHD, MAT, LPT  
Professor, National Teacher Training Center for the Health Professions, UP Manila

learning vs. hybrid/blended learning in which the teacher's role as facilitator is emphasized and the approach becomes more learner-centered.

After the plenary talk, participants were given the option to join any of the two parallel sessions. Parallel Session 1 was facilitated by Dr. Bhabita Murjani, Chair, UPM College of Dentistry's Department of Basic Dental Health Sciences while Parallel Session 2 was facilitated by Dr. Erlyn Sana from the UPM National Teacher Training Center for the Health Professions.

Dr. Murjani discussed the fundamentals of BL, how to achieve

the learning objectives, how the CD implements face-to-face laboratory classes, and the protocols that need to be followed. She reminded the participants to think of the long-term scenario, allot room for improvement, and the importance of showing compassion to students.

Meanwhile, Dr. Sana talked about the meaning of "New Normal" based on the Department of Health guidelines and its implications for higher education. She also talked about the developing educational landscape and the best practices that could be utilized to better prepare for the new normal classroom set-up. She also shared the references that need to be considered, the Outcome-based Education curricular framework, the importance of course packs as UP's compliance with the CHED Memorandum, and ways on how to organize the content of subjects taught. She explained learning strategies such as Blended, Technologically-enriched Strategy, Flex Learning, Hybrid; and Online Plus, as well as tips on how to conduct online performance assessments.

**Mary Dorothy dL. Jose**

## CONT'D FROM PAGE 4...

and on the importance of trust as key values in overcoming the "seemingly insurmountable that came from this pandemic" against all odds.

She is confident that the pandemic lessons they learned will enhance further how UHC can be implemented, that the community has the best chance of being able to do it now because we have learned from the pandemic.

Finally, UP Manila Chancellor Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla concluded, "After two years, we can say that we have overcome fear of the unknown with knowledge from this STOP COVID DEATHS Webinar Series. Indeed, we as a community have transformed the COVID crisis into opportunities to build on our resilience, address the weaknesses, and improve our health systems for better response."

National Scientist Dr. Ernesto O. Domingo, UPCM Professor Emeritus and former UP Manila Chancellor,

served as a reactor. The first to organize the UHC Study Group in 2008, Domingo answered the question, "Could we have done better had we had the Universal Health Care in place?" with a resounding 'Yes'; conditionally, provided that non-negotiables are in place. He also centered on the role of two government agencies: DOH maintains oversight function, and PhilHealth serves as a funder with auditing functions retained while having no hand in identifying the services the fund pays.

Meanwhile, Dr. Charlotte M. Chiong, UPCM Dean, emphasized that in a pandemic of this nature, inclusivity is very important because it entailed leveling the playing field for everyone. Despite the challenges, they were able to cope very well. She reflected on the spirit of giving and on the importance of trust as key values in overcoming the "seemingly insurmountable that came from this pandemic" against all odds. **Haziel May C. Natorilla**

## Editorial Box

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# Vaccine and health promotion experts tackle COVID-19 updates

in health promotion and called for united participation in the vaccination campaigns.

After the series of lectures, the forum was followed by reactions from different stakeholders. Prof. Buenalyn Teresita Ramos-Mortel, Chair of the UP CPH Department of Health Promotion and Education, shared strategies in communicating health information to the common Filipino. Dr. Maria Natasha Manching, one of the Doctors-to-the Barrios of DOH, shared the challenges and experiences of the vaccine roll out at the community level. Finally, Ms. Amor Maclang, Co-founder of GeiserMaclang Marketing Communications, Inc., gave perspectives from the private sector and presented prevalent vaccination hesitancy issues in the Philippines.

The open forum tackled many questions from the audience, touching on topics such as the Dengvaxia scare, profit-building among vaccine companies, battling vaccine hesitancy among family members, etc.

The entire event was made possible through the TIPH Global Grant Philippines, which was awarded to UPCPH last April 2021 through the leadership of Dr. Emer Faraon.

**Dr. Sheriah Laine M. de Paz-Silava, Dr. Crystal Amiel Estrada, Dr. Emerito Jose Faraon**



Key speakers, reactors, and organizers of the UPCPH - DOH Healthy Pilipinas. This was the Public Health Lay Forum held last 30 March 2022.

The University of the Philippines College of Public Health (UPCPH), in partnership with the Department of Health (DOH) *Healthy Pilipinas*, held a forum on COVID-19 updates titled, "COVID-19: Ano ang latest at ano ang next?" on 30 March 2022 via Zoom and Facebook Live. TIPH is a worldwide brand started by the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health that seeks to raise public health awareness globally.

The lay forum gathered a maximum of 360 and an average of 200 live viewership. An educational animated video, launched in the event, discussed vaccine hesitancy issues among Filipinos; and as of this writing, has obtained nearly 6,000 views already in the official UPCPH Facebook Page. The webinar featured some of the leading experts in vaccinology and health promotion in the country.

**Dr. Nina G. Gloriani**, Head of the Department of Science and Technology Vaccine Expert Panel and former UPCPH Dean, talked about the updates on COVID-19 epidemiology, especially the transition from a pandemic to an endemic state. She also showed data on the vaccination coverage in the Philippines as compared to other neighboring countries.

**Dr. Lulu Bravo**, Executive Director of the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination and Professor Emeritus of the UP College of Medicine, discussed the importance of discerning the accuracy of health information amid the infodemic. She emphasized the importance of being critical of disseminated information by examining their sources. The audience

was encouraged to listen instead to international and regional agencies, national agencies, professional, research and service organizations, former senior government officials, and retired academics.

"*Maging aktibo sa pakikipag-laban sa peke na balita o fake news,*" Dr. Bravo stressed.

**Dr. Beverly Lorraine Ho**, Director of the DOH Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and Control Bureau, discussed the various efforts of DOH

## SCHOLARS' CONVOC FROM PAGE 6...

Chancellor Padilla also urged the scholars to continue to use and nurture their expertise for societal good because scholarship and service knows no time and no bounds. She firmly reminded everyone that Filipinos expect more from UP scholars amidst the COVID crisis and other challenges besetting the Philippines.

"The country expects that this UP education and preparation will transform you into the best and most socially-responsible leaders and change agents needed by our country especially in the future." She ended strong with the expectation that UP scholars become valiant citizens, visionary leaders, and be the fulfillment of the country's hopes.

Denice Millen C. Calinao, a College of Arts and Sciences BS Biology student, responded on behalf of the scholars. "We still have a nation to

serve." Given that two years into the online setup and remote learning have made many almost too exhausted to function, she reminded everyone to take care of their wellbeing because this will allow them to serve the Philippines in their best capabilities.

Finally, UP Manila Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Nymia Pimentel-Simbunan exhorted the scholars to be inspired to work harder in excelling in their respective fields. "Let this recognition be a constant reminder of your commitment to serve the Filipino people whose taxes have made it possible for you to receive one of the best education available in the country," she said.

The UP Manila Chorale opened the ceremony with the doxology song, *Shepherd of My Soul*. Intermission numbers were performed by the UP Nursing Artists' Corps and the UP CAMP Synergy. **Hazel May C. Natorilla**