



MESSAGE FROM THE Chancellor

This issue of Healthscape has articles that are so uplifting; one is filled with optimism that UP Manila is progressing in the right direction towards a better normal.

First, we are happy to announce that there will soon rise within our campus another all-important edifice (in addition to our roster of soon-to-be-completed buildings), a 15-storey neurosciences facility that is the first pandemic-ready building in the country; thanks to the generosity of the Felicidad T. Sy Foundation. This center also highlights the foresight of our university specialists in planning for a modern multispecialty health facility to cater to the ever-increasing needs of the multitude of PGH patients.

During the 43rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the National Academy of Science and Technology last July 13, 2021, where UP Manila and I were active participants; no less than Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and chief medical adviser of the president of the United States, gave the keynote address and formally opened the weeklong conference. He commended the significant endeavors of Filipino researchers against communicable diseases; and highlighted the need for sustained efforts moving forward in this fight against COVID.

Our university's ethos is clearly expressed in the MD-PhD (Molecular Medicine) program of DOST-PCHRD and UP Manila, as we now welcome the 12th batch of aspiring physician-scientists for careers dedicated to the advancement of health through biomedical research. This specialized training fits very well with the government's plan to put up a Philippine Virology Science and Technology Institute.

UP Manila's partnership with DOST-PCHRD continues and this time collaborates with a third entity, the Italian Liver Foundation (Fondazione Italiana Fegato) for a joint venture on liver research, capacity building, and other initiatives to strengthen the fight against liver diseases in the country. The liver network that will be formed, a first for Southeast Asia, will form the backbone for the envisioned National Liver Research Program and strengthen bilateral diplomatic relations between Italy and the Philippines.

The poignant virtual 112th graduation ceremony which marked the end of this academic year once again evinced our academic community's tenacity and resilience. We successfully graduated Batch 2021 amidst a milieu of still grave uncertainties. Our remarkable inspirational speaker, Dr. Eddie G. Dorotan gave deep insights and actionable advice that all of us can benefit from.

Let us all rally around these beautiful beginnings, strengthen our bodies to nurture them into fruition, and sharpen our minds to plan for a "crises-ready" future!



Neurosciences building to rise in PGH

A pandemic-ready neurosciences facility will soon rise in the Philippine General Hospital complex. To be known as the Felicidad Sy Hall Multi-Specialty Building, it had its groundbreaking event on 17 September 2021. The project is made possible by the generous donation of the Felicidad T. Sy Foundation.

The groundbreaking was attended by representatives of the Felicidad T. Sy Foundation, UP President Danilo L. Concepcion, Chancellor Carmencita D. Padilla, College of Medicine Dean Charlotte Chiong, PGH Director Gerardo D. Legaspi, and other UPM officials including Dr. Carissa Dioquino, Chair of the Department of Neurosciences. Mrs. Felicidad T. Sy, widow of Mr. Henry Sy and Trustee of the Foundation, graced the event via Zoom. Several generations of PGH doctors were also present online, including Drs. Martesio Perez, Faustino Domingo, Zenaida Bagabaldo, Regina Canlas, and Aida Salonga who, according to Dir. Legaspi, envisioned the facility almost 20 years ago.

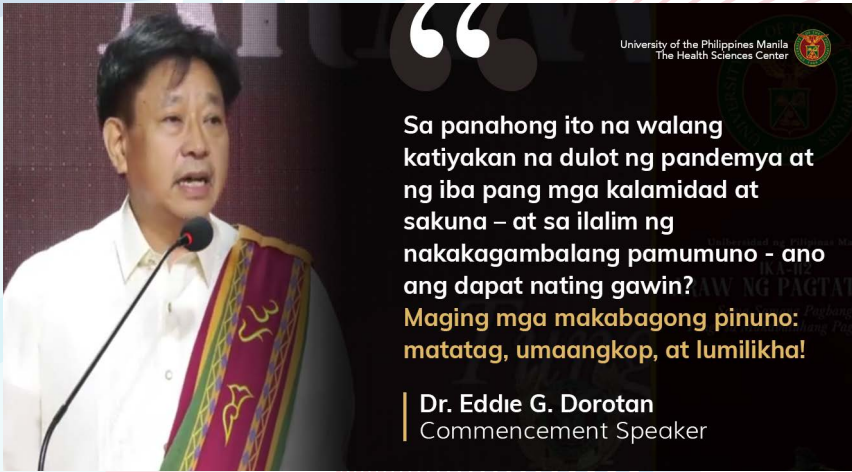
The 15-storey Felicidad Sy Hall will be located at the 3,000 square

lot formerly occupied by the Office of Engineering and Technical Services. Although mainly for the Neurosciences Department, Dir. Legaspi said that the department will share the facility with eight other specialties to reflect the combined services offered by PGH to its neurological patients: Orthopedics, Dermatology, Nephrology, Laboratory, ICU Care, Psychiatry, ENT, and Ophthalmology.

As the first pandemic-ready building in the country, parts of the facility can be shut down with its separate elevator shaft as soon as the DOH announces a pandemic. Another elevator shaft will allow access to the rest of the building, including the top floor where the wards will be located. The wards can then continue to serve as Isolation Areas.

The facility will have the most advanced laboratories in the country, ranging from urinalysis to gene sequencing; a 47-seat Dialysis Department; Level 4 and hybrid operating rooms; the biggest and most advanced Burn Center; an innovative "No Waiting Area" Out-Patient Service (where the patients

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Sa panahong ito na walang katiyakan na dulot ng pandemya at ng iba pang mga kalamidad at sakuna – at sa ilalim ng nakakagambalang pamumuno - ano ang dapat nating gawin?

Maging mga makabagong pinuno: matatag, umaangkop, at lumilikha!

Dr. Eddie G. Dorotan
Commencement Speaker

UP Manila grads urged to be strong leaders, develop creative solutions to the country's woes

In this era of uncertainty caused by pandemic, disasters, and a disturbing leadership, **Dr. Eddie G. Dorotan** emphasized the power of a “caring environment” to unite a community. He said this during his keynote speech at UP Manila’s 112th Commencement Rites held virtually on Aug. 29.

“Saludo ako sa sektor ng kalusugan, lalo na sa UP Community sa pagtulong sa paglaban sa COVID-19... Kailangan ang bawat isa sa atin ay tanggapin ang responsibilidad na matuto, umangkop, at gumawa ng mga malikhaing paraan at solusyon.”

The virtual commencements carried the theme *“Sama-samang Pagbangon Tungo sa Makabuluhang Pagbabago”* and was broadcasted via [UP Manila Commencement 2021 website](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages. Students were conferred their academic degrees at home, 452 of whom received baccalaureate degrees while 298 received master’s or doctoral degrees. Nineteen candidates received the Latin distinction *magna cum laude* and there were 105 *cum laude*. They were part of the 750-strong UP Manila Class of 2021.

Dr. Dorotan, a UP College of Medicine alumnus and former Galing Pook Foundation Executive Director for 14 years, recalled his activism when he entered UP during Martial Law. He narrated how his brother Manuel Dorotan was tortured and killed by the military.

Together with a few medical student classmates, they implemented health programs for the poor barangays of Tagaytay and Manila after forming the organization *Lingap para sa Kalusugan ng Sambayanan* or LIKAS.

As a doctor, and later as the director, of the district hospital in Irosin, Sorsogon, he launched relevant and meaningful community-based health programs.

Seeing the dire state of his town, he ran and became the mayor of Irosin for two terms and significantly uplifted the town’s situation through many successful projects and initiatives such as localized peace-zone initiatives for which he received distinctive awards.

For the past 14 years, during his Galing Pook stint, his mantra was to organize the local citizens to take part in intensifying the health, education, livelihood, and environmental initiatives of their community.

“Sana ay maging makabagong pinuno kayong lahat—matatag, umaangkop, at lumilikha,” he implored. Accompanying this plea are [9 tips he shared with the graduates to become resilient, adaptive, and innovative leaders](#). (Watch the full speech [here](#)).

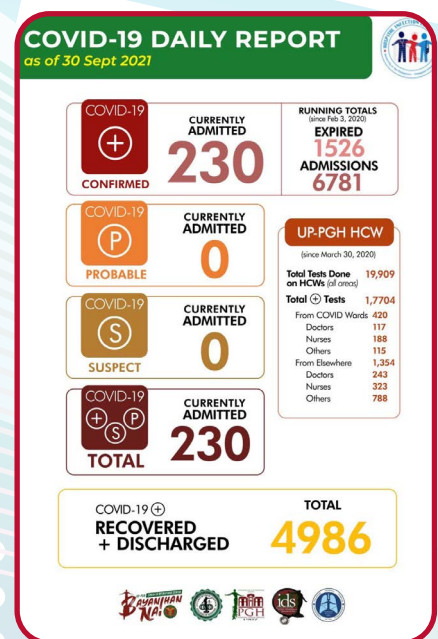
For her part, **Chancellor Padilla** congratulated the graduates for being equipped with a high level of education. *“Hindi lamang pinakamataas na edukasyon, kung*

hindi makabuluhan na tumutugon sa mga pangangailangan ng bansa lalo ngayong pandemya. Naibahagi rin ng UP Manila ang pagkalinga na nawa’y naghubog sa inyong upang gamitin ang nakamtang kagalingan para makatulong sa kapwa lalo na sa mahihirap,” she said. (Watch the full speech [here](#)).

Class Valedictorian and BA Organizational Communication *magna cum laude* graduate from the College of Arts and Sciences, **Ms. Allison Louise T. Salazar** responded on behalf of the graduates. Quoting Douglas Horton: “Action cures fear, while inaction creates terror,” Ms. Salazar offered words of encouragement to her fellow graduates who doubt themselves and worry for their families, loved ones, frontliners who serve, and the citizens incapable of surviving in the present economy (watch her full speech [here](#)).

UP President Danilo Concepcion led the graduates in pledging their loyalty to their Alma Mater. UP Regents **Atty. Reynaldo C. Laserna** and **Hon. Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano** led the oath as new members of the UP and UP Manila Alumni Association.

The UP Manila Choral performed inspiring songs at different times during the affair. In addition to the virtual program, the [commencement website](#) featured teasers, e-yearbooks, and interesting highlights from the colleges’ recognition ceremonies. **Anne Marie D. Alto**



NAST 2021: Fauci weighs in on value of research and collaboration in PH

“I want to emphasize the importance of sustained local support for scientists and scientific institutions in the Philippines and elsewhere. This support is the necessary foundation to attract funding from outside the country. It is also an essential element for economic vitality and growth”.

Thus stated distinguished infectious disease expert **Dr. Anthony S. Fauci** during his keynote address at the 43rd Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) on July 13, 2021.

The NAST-ASM is a yearly forum that presents and discusses diverse and relevant scientific and policy researches from local stakeholders. This year, themed “COVID-19 Pandemic: Learning from the Past, Coping with the Present, Moving to the Next,” NAST invited Fauci, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases



and chief medical adviser of President Joe Biden, to formally open its week-long virtual forum. Fauci undeniably played a key role in the US pandemic response and has been giving significant insights around the globe in handling prominent infectious diseases.

In his keynote address, Fauci expressed sincere appreciation for Filipino-American research collaborations which have been existing for more than 30 years. He emphasized how “talented Filipino scientists” have been instrumental in various health research endeavors such as in the global fight against HIV-AIDS and tuberculosis and in research against dengue, malaria, and schistosomiasis.

He also cited the expanding

scientific leadership of the Philippines in the Asia Pacific region, and thus hoped for strengthened support from the Philippine government “so that they [Filipino scientists] remain competitive”. He emphasized the value of biomedical research especially in pandemic preparedness and practical response. At the end of his talk, he stressed the need for continued and sustainable government support for research efforts; as it is essential for economic vitality and growth.

The 43rd Annual Scientific Meeting was attended online by diverse academicians, researchers, scientists, and health leaders from various institutions, including UP Manila which was one of the participants and sponsors. **Francis Nicole G. Maga**

2nd AP virtual meeting on fracture management held

In celebration of its 50th founding year, the UP-PGH Department of Orthopedics, together with the Fragility Fracture Network (FFN) Regionalization Committee and FFN Hip Fracture Audit Special Interest Group, recently hosted the 2nd Asia-Pacific Virtual Pocket Meeting with the theme, “Developing Workforce in the Asia-Pacific Region in Support of the WHO’s Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021-2030.”

Dr. Ellewelyn Pasion, past chair of the Department and member of the Senior Advisory Group FFN Philippines, stated that the webinar aimed to improve clinical outcomes for elderly patients with fragility fractures. National FFN leaders from the Asia-Pacific region presented their respective hip fracture registry experiences followed by a panel discussion on how to further improve and utilize the collective data on hip fracture registries.

Dr. Irewin Tabu, FFN Philippines Chair,

enumerated the established national FFNs in the world, namely: Japan, India, China, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Korea, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Pakistan, Hong Kong SAR, Brazil, Lebanon, Greece, Norway, Italy, UK, and Russia. He expressed hope that the webinar will encourage other countries to establish their own national FFN. He also appealed for support geared towards promoting multidisciplinary orthogeriatric care for the elderly. He also encouraged the establishment of orthogeriatric services/centers worldwide.

Professor Takeshi Sawaguchi, orthopedic surgeon at the Fukushima Medical University Department of Traumatology, presented a case study emphasizing the importance of comprehensive patient evaluation, effective pain management, and multidisciplinary team management from various fields such as nursing and allied health.

Dr. Matt Costa, Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at Oxford University and FFN-UK Chair, discussed the importance of obtaining high quality data in managing patients with hip fracture while Dr. Anthony Johansen, orthogeriatrician at the University of Wales UK, tackled the use of hip fracture data to improve patient care. Dr. Jacqueline Close, Co-chair of Australia and New Zealand Hip Fracture Registry, presented the Hip Fracture Registry Toolbox that provides a mechanism for hospitals to benchmark the care that they provide against best practice clinical standards.

“With the uncertainties of the pandemic, we continue to push for our advocacy for the Orthogeriatrics Fracture Liaison Service (FLS) program in the Philippines. Hopefully, both applications for continued funding and the institutionalization of orthogeriatrics and FLS pathways of care will **TURN TO PAGE 4...**

More MD-PhD scholars and future physician-scientists eyed in upcoming virology research institute

The Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD) and UP Manila welcomed the 12th batch of the MD-PhD students during the virtual signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Aug. 31, 2021.

“As we work towards the opening of the Philippine Virology Science and Technology Institute (PVSTI), more MD-PhDs are needed when it is already established,” DOST Sec. Fortunato Dela Pena told the students who are the agency’s scholars for this program.

HB 9559 that proposes the creation of the PVSTI under the DOST was passed on third and final reading on July 28, 2021. It is envisioned to become the premier research and development institute in the field of virology encompassing all areas of viruses and viral diseases in humans, plants, and animals.

Moreover, PCHRD Exec. Director Jaime Montoya told the MD-PhD scholars, who he referred to as “mikrobyo warriors,” “Many of you will remain unseen and very few will recognize your good work; but like cells and microbes, your work is incredibly essential to protect and sustain humanity and other living things especially now.”

The MD-PhD (Molecular Medicine) program was started in 2010 by the



DOST-PCHRD and UP Manila and is one of only few careers that efficiently integrates the scientific and medical education of the physician-scientist. It trains aspiring physician-scientists for careers dedicated to the advancement of health through biomedical research. Since 2010, the program has admitted more than 100 student-scholars. As of 2021, it has graduated 21 doctor-scientists who are now in the academe, research, and clinical residency training.

For her part, UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla remarked that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical role of the physician-scientists in addressing emerging national and global health concerns.

“Here in our country, the MD-PhDs actively engage in multifaceted and multilevel actions directed to better understand the disease, innovate strategies to mitigate and prevent the disease, and provide scientific evidence for policy formulation,” she added.

among the participating 12 hospitals.

“Fragility fracture is a very big problem and only through a unified and concerted effort will we be able to make a difference,” Dr. Juanito Javier, PGH Department of Orthopedics Chair said. He added that this virtual meeting signals the setting up of a National Hip Fracture Registry in the country.

Charmaine A. Lingdas

As of now, MD-PhD graduates are collaborating in at least 15 COVID-related researches as project leaders or study proponents.

Several MD-PhD graduates, particularly those undergoing residency training, are involved in the direct care of diagnosed COVID-19 patients here and in the provinces. With their technical expertise and skills in molecular biology, some

MD-PhD graduates are significantly involved in the establishment and operation of COVID-19 testing facilities.

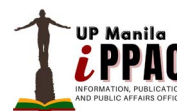
As of July 2021, students of the program have generated 116 publications in reputable peer-reviewed scientific journals. In collaboration with other biomedical experts and reputable scientific organizations, the MD-PhD graduates have published various recommendations and position papers tackling critical aspects in the diagnosis and service delivery related to COVID-19.

Recently, the multimillion research program “MultiOmics Research Program for Health”, whose four component projects are being led by MD-PhD graduates, was approved for funding by the DOST-GIA for implementation in 2022. The program aims to elucidate the molecular basis and mechanisms associated with identified relevant diseases in the country through ‘omics’ technology in molecular epidemiology, biomarkers, metabolome, microbiome, pharmacogenetic and gene expression studies. **Cynthia M. Villamor**

FRACTURE FROM PAGE 3...

be approved,” stated Dr. Giorgio Delgado, FFN Philippines Asst Secretary and Clinical Associate Professor of the PGH Department of Orthopedics. He shared that the Philippine FLS Core Group of PGH has just started a multicenter research project that aims to collect data and introduce and promote orthogeriatrics and secondary fracture prevention competencies

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On August 18, UP Manila and the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with an Italian Liver Foundation – *Fondazione Italiana Fegato* (FIF) – for a joint venture on liver research, capacity building, and other initiatives to strengthen the fight against liver diseases in the Philippines.

The agreement was signed by FIF President Decio Ripandelli, PCHRD Exec. Director Dr. Jaime Montoya, and UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla, and witnessed by DOST Sec. Fortunato Dela Pena, FIF’s Professor Claudio Tiribelli, and UP Manila National Institute of Health Exec. Director Dr. Eva Cutiongco de la Paz.

Sec. Dela Pena stressed the importance of continuing previous health endeavors against other diseases in these crucial times. According to the secretary, the COVID-19 pandemic had wreaked havoc on the global health community that put non-COVID patients at greater risk for being taken out from the priority line.

Dr. Decio Ripandelli cited the alignment of DOST and FIF’s several strategic points such as the significance of elementary education in hepatology. Alongside this, he mentioned the growing problem of child obesity in the Philippines which, according to him, may be linked to liver diseases. He also stressed the importance of promoting translational research for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of liver diseases, as well as training assistance and establishment of liver research facilities in both the national and international arena.

Building a liver network, which is going to be the first in Southeast Asia, is also eyed to be one of the strategies to enhance the current tripartite collaboration among the partner institutions. Ripandelli, moreover, sees this MOU as an avenue to train more Filipino scientists in Italy who will be coming back to the Philippines to enhance the science of hepatology in the country. As of now, the partnership has already



UP Manila, DOST-PCHRD, and FIF agree to fight liver diseases in PH

produced four fellow scholars.

Chancellor Carmencita Padilla looks forward to the opportunities that will arise for the Philippines in this alliance – scholarships, trainings, conferences, and exchange of junior and senior scientists among others. She also believes that it will serve as the backbone for the establishment of the National Liver Research Program which is vital for the envisioned liver network in the Philippines.

Minister and Consul Nina Padilla Cainglet, Deputy Permanent Representative to Rome-Based Agencies Philippine Embassy in

Rome, shared her appreciation to FIF for extending its expertise to the Philippines and helping conceptualize the national liver research program and the liver network.

Minister Cainglet views this alliance as an epitome of public health service initiative for healthier Filipino lives that will also benefit the international community. The MOU is a significant endeavor to strengthen bilateral relations between the Philippines and Italy, and Minister Cainglet aspires to even have further multilateral relations in the future guided by foreign diplomacy policies. **Francis Nicole G. Maga**

NEUROSCIENCES FROM PAGE 1... will be in cubicles instead of waiting in the corridors and the doctors will go around to see them); a 220-bed patient ward cared for by structured nursing units for optimal efficiency (only 32 patients per charity ward, two wards of 34 patients, and the rest for ICU); a 250 seat auditorium with 8 break-out rooms; and a 50 seat conference room.

Pres. Concepcion, aside from expressing his gratitude to the Sy family and the Foundation, promised that UP will enrich this facility to benefit generations of Filipinos for a very long time. Their generosity will not be wasted. “No doctor or patient who sets foot in the facility will ever forget your contribution in improving the health of your fellow Filipinos,” he added.

Mrs. Teresita Sy-Coson, Vice Chairman of the Foundation,

related her mother’s and the Sy Family’s congratulatory messages to Dir. Legaspi for this initiative. She said that her mother always believed in helping people and is very happy that this kind of project is in PGH due to the seriousness of neurologic and neurosurgical disorders.

Dir. Legaspi, aside from describing what the facility will have, recounted the genesis of the project and the relationship with the Sy Family. As for the rest of the project, he said that UP is working on government fundings.

Chancellor Padilla emphasized that the project has come together because of collaborative planning and the philanthropic spirit of the Sy Family. She described the new center “as a sanctuary for preservation and restoration... healing... innovation... wisdom and courage.” **Fedelynn Jemena**

NTTCHP honors 2021 grads in recognition ceremony

The National Teacher Training Center for the Health Professions (NTTCHP) held a virtual recognition ceremony for its 2021 graduates with the theme, “**Health Professions Educators at the Frontline of Transformative Learning.**”



Transformation was the hallmark of the speech of guest speaker, **Vice Chancellor for Research and NTTCP faculty and alumnus Dr. Armand Crisostomo**. He asked the graduates to strive not to be the “strict, stereotyped educators” but instead be empathic, communicative, flexible, and always with a positive attitude towards their students and colleagues.

On September 10, members of Class 2021 consisted of 12 graduates of the **Diploma in Health Professions Education** and 10 for the **Master of Health Professions Education**.

Dean Melflor Atienza presented the developments in the college since the beginning of the pandemic, which include a proposal for new classrooms, offices, and a bigger

audio-video recording room to complement the growing number of enrollees in the college.

Chancellor Carmencita Padilla congratulated the new health professions educators “for brilliantly overcoming the challenges of COVID-19” and acknowledged the increasing significance of NTTCHP’s role not only in UP but in other institutions in the country.

Dr. Alberto T. Santos, the 2021 NTTCHP class valedictorian, recounted in his response on behalf of the graduates how his time with the NTTCHP made him able to change emotionally. He lauded the staff, administrators, and faculty for their unselfish dedication and commitment to their work, and marked the day as the beginning of their quest to become better teachers. **Anne Marie D. Alto**

CPH spearheads gathering of higher education institutions in public health

The UP College of Public Health (UP CPH), as a teaching and research institution and being designated as the SEAMEO TROPMED Regional Centre for Public Health (TROPMED Philippines), carries the unique responsibility of promoting public health education alongside the higher education institutions (HEI) working in public health in the Philippines.

In keeping with this thrust, the UP CPH organized the second meeting of HEIs last 5 August 2021 that discussed the gaps and challenges affecting public health education as well as proposed actions and the way forward. The event aimed to respond to concerns identified in a preliminary meeting held on 16 February 2021 during the CPH Foundation Anniversary Week. These concerns were: (1) the poor geographic distribution of course offerings hindering public health



UP Manila Chancellor Dr. Carmencita Padilla, CHED-NCR Regional Director Dr. Virginia Akiate, UP CPH Dean and TROPMED Philippines Centre Director Dr. Vicente Belizario Jr., Deans, Department Heads, and representatives of HEI in PH in the second meeting held last 05 August 2021.

training opportunities at the regional level, (2) limited offerings for undergraduate and doctoral programs as compared to masters programs, and (3) the need for governance from the Commission on Higher Education and guidelines from the Professional Regulation Committee.

These concerns were addressed in the August 2021 meeting by highlighting key areas for action: curriculum synchronization, faculty training sessions, inter-disciplinary research, and capacity building (i.e. in health technology assessment). It was then agreed that the HEIs form an academic network, to be known as the Philippine

Academic Consortium for Public Health (PACPH), which is envisioned to harmonize capacity building, multi-disciplinary collaboration, and consensus building across all member HEIs.

With the positive support garnered from the HEI representatives in the last meeting, UP CPH plans to convene the technical working group monthly to solidify plans towards the PACPH launch in February 2022 – coinciding with the 95th Anniversary of UP CPH. Moving forward, UP CPH aims to sustain the momentum and continues to welcome more public health institutions to participate in the proposed consortium. **Ana Margarita Parco**