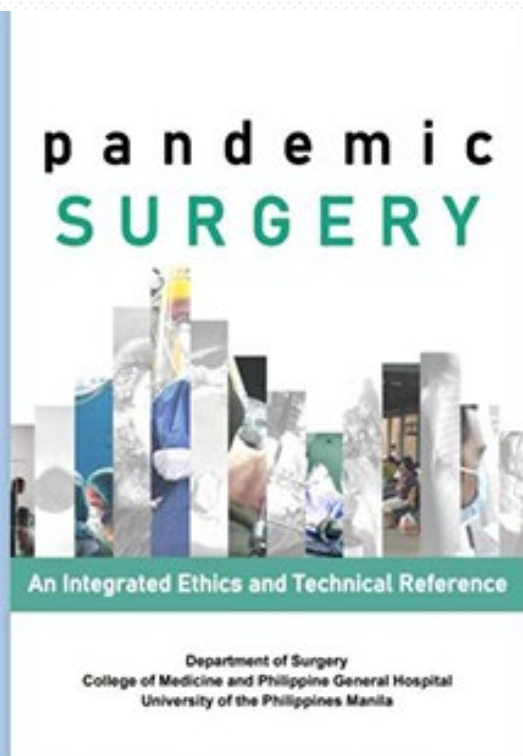




UP SYSTEM REPORT

ON COVID19-RELATED ACTIVITIES:

ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



ABOUT THE BOOK

Medicine is an ever-changing field, and COVID-19 is a novel disease for which much remains unknown. The editors and authors of this e-book have made every effort to provide information that is accurate and complete as of the date of publication. However, in view of the rapid developments in the field, contents may be subsequently found to be inaccurate or erroneous. This book is meant primarily as a reference for surgical professionals, trainees and administrators, and is not intended to prescribe or regulate actual surgical care.

Alvin B. Caballes
Marie Carmela M. Lapitan
Editors

Download the ebook for free at:
<https://www1.upm.edu.ph/node/3088>



ABOUT THE BOOK

Excerpt from the PREFACE

"We envision this handbook as an easily accessible, high-yield quick reference for general practitioners, other healthcare professionals, and students. It contains a distillation of the precious pearls of information delivered by medical experts in their webinar lectures. Whether reviewing for the medical or specialty board exams or just brushing up on the latest evidence for specific patient concerns, this handbook will be your perfect companion to the archived webinar recordings on the YouTube channel of Ageing Webinars.

Twenty-three chapters, carefully and thoughtfully curated, cover the geriatric patient—from the ageing neurons to the ageing nephrons. With a touch of holistic and preventive medicine, we tackle the controversies of vaccination, self-care for the ageing healthcare professionals, and even spirituality in ageing."

Rowena Natividad S. Flores-Genuino
Lilibeth S. Genuino
Christine Joy S. Arquiza
Frances Evangeline S. Vista
Editors

AUGUST 16-31



Written by Patricia Marie M. Liganor

UP Constituent Universities' Involvement in COVID-19 Testing and Provision of Isolation Facilities

UP Los Baños (UPLB), UP Manila (UPM), UP Diliman (UPD), and UP Mindanao (UPMin) continuously fight COVID-19 by strengthening existing COVID-19 testing facilities and creating isolation facilities for the public and the UP community. The UPLB COVID-19 Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory aims to increase its testing number per day and strengthen partnerships with hospitals in Laguna. The Philippine Genome Center-UP Mindanao will train medical personnel of the new laboratory turned over by Maer Summit Konstrukt to the Davao Regional Medical Center. On the other hand, UPD opened a new isolation facility, Silungang Molave, that has a 39-bed capacity for mild and asymptomatic cases and suspected or probable cases. While UPD constituents will be given priority in this new facility, the public may access the facility upon the assessment of the UPD University Health Service. UPM College of Public Health through Dean Vicente Y. Belizario assisted Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in helping State Universities and LGUs on the preparation of Community Isolation Units (CIUs). Lastly, UP Philippine General Hospital (UP PGH) already started its participation in the clinical trials of Avigan last Aug. 24, 2020.

Constituent Universities' Multisectoral Approach in Addressing COVID-19 Issues and Concerns

UP adopts a holistic approach in addressing issues brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Constituent Universities (CUs) understand that although COVID-19 is primarily a public health issue, its impact has a wide range and has affected several sectors of the society.

Experts from UP CUs provided their expertise on how to overcome the impact of COVID-19 through their participation in webinars and information campaigns, and service as resource persons in media. UPMin continuously updates the public on the Interdisciplinary Applied Modeling Lab's case projections for Davao, which serve to guide the policymaking of the city government. The Philippine Genome Center released its analysis on the three possible routes of SARS-CoV-2 infection in the Philippines. UP Diliman experts released their August report saying that Philippines may flatten the coronavirus curve by the end of August or September, but the country must learn from the lessons of Cebu. UPM conducted and at the same time participated in webinars regarding healthcare professionals, immunization, challenges in the management of other health issues aside from COVID-19, COVID-19 monitoring toolkit, overcoming stigma and discrimination, and

lessons learned as a COVID-referral hospital. UP PGH notified the public through a news article that targeted testing is more feasible than routine testing for frontliners. Dr. Anna Lim-Ong, chief of Infectious and Tropical Disease of the Pediatrics Department of UPM also reminded the public to treat everyone as carriers to help stop the spread of the virus. UP System also held the 19th and 20th installments of the webinar series “Stop Covid-19 Deaths: Virtual Grand Rounds” that covered the topic of clinical management of a newborn baby with blue lips and the use of plasma convalescent therapy.

Moreover, UPD College of Home Economics released a food menu that the public can use to maintain a healthy and balanced diet and help boost their immune system. UP Visayas (UPV) Community Outreach Program-BIDANI on the other hand translated the recipes of UPLB BIDANI to Hiligaynon.

Social scientists from UPLB and UPM highlighted the fact that COVID-19 transcends the health discipline. Through webinars and media interviews, they shared that the perspective of social sciences can be used in understanding the continuous increase of COVID-19 cases especially among individuals aged 20-40 years old. UPLB social scientists emphasized the importance of Filipino culture and adaptation during a pandemic, the role of LGUs in COVID-19 recovery, the importance of recording the pandemic as part of history, the psychological crisis that the public is facing, and the need to see the larger social issues.



(UPLB Department of Social Sciences faculty members at the inaugural edition of USAP PH webinar series on Aug 20. Photo from [UPLB website](#))

Aside from these, UP CUs created projects, mostly in the form of webinars and information campaigns, that tackled topics on gender, language, coping mechanisms, and the concerns of business and tourism sectors that were affected by COVID-19. UPLB Gender Center conducted a discussion on women leaders in the midst of crisis. UP Open University (UPOU) Chancellor Melinda Bandalaria is one of the speakers in the webinar on "Responding COVID-19 to Remove Barriers: Access, Equity, and Inclusion". The CU also conducted a webinar on social stigma in the time of COVID-19. UPV alumni discussed quarantine life with older persons, PWDs, and students in the e-conversation they conducted as part of their Alumni Homecoming activity.

UPD Department of Linguistics launched a project that aims to translate materials related to COVID-19 into the country's estimated 180 languages to make it understandable to everyone. Prof. Eilene Antoinette G. Narvaez of Department of Filipino and Philippine Literature worked with Google on the Filipino terms related to COVID-19. The Tri-College PhD Philippine Studies Program conducted a free webinar to discuss the Philippine Languages in time of a pandemic with speakers from UPD, UPV, Notre Dame University, and Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino.

In the areas of business and tourism, UPV conducted a webinar on business continuity in time of COVID-19, and UPLB Department of Community and Environmental Resource Planning held a webinar on the status of tourism in the Philippines and discussed solutions that could help promote a resilient and sustainable economy. UPLB College of Economics and Management, with experts from NEDA and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, highlighted the importance of agriculture in economic recovery. Lastly, UP Alumni Association conducted an eKapihan on the impact, prevention, and treatment of COVID-19.

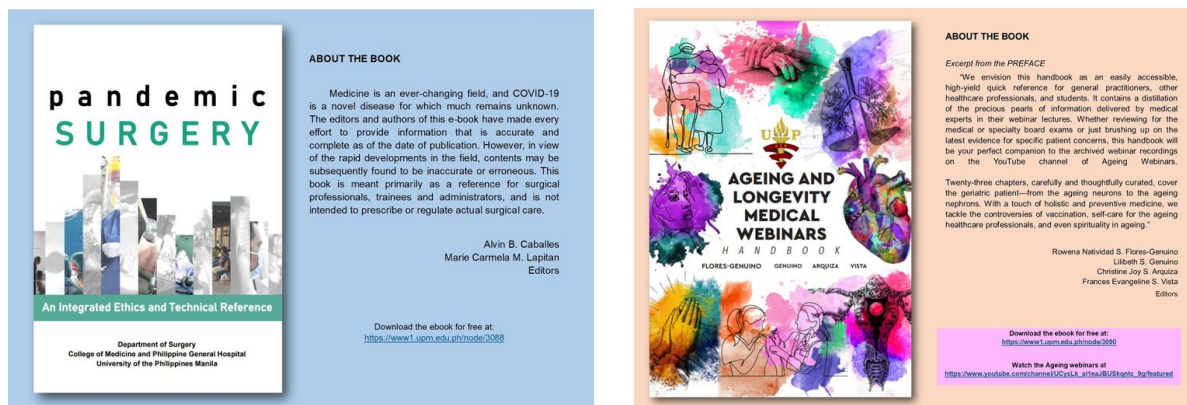
Participation and initiatives of UP CUs related to online/remote learning

In the new normal, educators and students are adapting to online/remote learning, even as it poses pressing challenges. To help make the transition easier, UPLB, UPD, UPOU, and UP Cebu (UPC) created projects that aimed to help the general public continue learning despite the ongoing pandemic.

UPLB units conducted a webinar on online learning for students and training sessions about online management systems to help faculty members deliver instruction and manage

courses under the remote learning modality. UPD hosted a webinar on various remote teaching strategies for Korean as Foreign Language (KFL) teachers in the Philippines and another webinar on the struggles faced by students and educators in this new setup of learning. UPOU also conducted similar activities and served as resource persons in webinars and podcasts initiated by other SUCs and institutions on the transition from face-to-face learning to online learning. Aurora Bautista, a professorial lecturer at UPOU, provides tutorial, mentoring, and training services to teachers particularly on adapting to online/blended learning. She also stressed the importance of printed materials for K-12 students.

The UP System and UPOU made the University's educational materials (reading, video, and online materials) free of charge and widely available for public use to help students and educators adopt in the new normal of learning. Likewise, the UPM published free electronic books about Pandemic Surgery and Ageing and Longevity (the Medical Webinars Handbook) online. UPC conducted a focused group discussion on COVID-19 issues and impact to help students write COVID-19-related research proposals, while UPOU launched a FICS chat that helps students in their thesis writing despite the ongoing crisis. UPV Tacloban College teamed up with UPOU to launch its first Online Bridge Program for Math and English which ended on August 28.



(From left to right: Pandemic Surgery An Integrated Ethics and Technical Reference ebook by UP Manila Department of Surgery and Ageing and Longevity Medical Webinars Handbook ebook by UP Manila Mu Sigma Phi Sorority. Photo from UP Manila Facebook page)

Provision for Food and Psychological support to members of the UP Community

UP CUs like UPB and UPM have ensured that their constituents are healthy by providing them food that will help them throughout the day. UPM alumni provided free AM and PM snacks for 950 employees of UP PGH while the UPB Animal Welfare Committee continues to attend to the basic needs and care for the resident felines of UPB campus.

UPD, UPC, UPB, and UPOU continue to encourage the UP community to take care of their mental health during these times of uncertainty brought by the pandemic. UPD PsycServ released IEC materials regarding the importance and benefits of proper breathing and the effects of improper breathing. UPV organized a virtual Dialogue entitled *Camustahanay* for the College of Arts and Sciences non-teaching personnel. UPB, on the other hand, facilitated a stress management seminar for public school teachers, psychosocial first aid training for Pahinungod volunteers, and continuous psychological support to UPB students, administrative staff, REPS, and faculty. UPB also presented the *Kalasag* mural which features paintings on eight shields honoring medical and health workers and farmers. In addition, UPC had a free virtual gallery that expresses the sense of despair and distress brought by the militant quarantine protocols enforced during this pandemic. UPOU also continues to provide psychological support to its constituents.

Continuity of Public Service Beyond COVID-19

The pandemic did not stop UP CUs in the delivery of different kinds of public service projects. UPB conducted an online training program on Museum Management for higher education institutions. UPD School of Library and Information Studies created a lecture video that discussed how technology is affecting practice. UPD, through the Sentro ng Wikang Filipino, organized a webinar on endangered languages in the Philippines as part of its Buwan ng Wika activities. Moreover, it also held the third public history symposium on Gender and Public History in celebration of History Month. UPV also celebrated History Month through a webinar entitled, "Pagkakaisaysayan: Paglaban at Pagbangon." The UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS) held a webinar on the political, historical, and cultural issues with specific focus on the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). On the other hand, UPLB Center of Agri-Fisheries and Biosystems Mechanization designed a seaweed drying machine to suit local conditions, for use by an association of seaweed farmers in Zamboanga del Sur.

UPM, UPB, and UPOU experts shared their expertise through podcasts, webinars, and awarding ceremonies. Dr. Joane V. Serrano served as judge for the OER Development Competition on ASEAN Awareness organized by CHED Region XI. UPB Prof. Rosemary Gutierrez shared research experiences in microbiology in the Philippines and abroad via podcasts. UPM professors served as speakers in a webinar on the impact of early-onset colorectal cancer to people and served as a moderator during the Telehealth x Startinvest Forum.