

Healthscape

SPECIAL COVID-19 ISSUE



NO. 21 • DECEMBER 2020

MULA KAY

Tsanselor...

Sa pagtatapos ng di-malilimutang taong 2020, mahalagang balikan at suriin ang ating maraming pinagdaanan at baunin sa hinaharap ang mga aral mula sa lahat ng mga paghihirap at tagumpay na natamo ng ating buong komunidad.

Naging malaking tulong sa ating tagumpay ang napakaraming mga pagsisiyasat na isinagawa at patuloy na isinasagawa ng UP Manila, at karamihan ng mga ito ay tungkol sa COVID. Dahil dito at upang lalong lumago ang siyensiya, kinakailangan natin ang isang kultura ng *Research Integrity*. Mababasa dito sa Healthscape ang mga paghahandang ginagawa natin patungkol dito tulad ng *Code for Responsible Conduct of Research* at opisina nito.

Hindi lamang kilos, agham, at talino ang nangibabaw nitong panahon ng pandemya—puso at malalim na damdamin din! Kinakailangang maitala ang mga pangamba, takot, lungkot, saya, hinaing, at agam-agam ng lahat. Ang mga ito ay nakapaloob sa mga kwento, tula, sanaysay, at larawan ng PGH Human Spirit Book Project kung saan may tatlong ebooks: *Pagkalinga*, *Paggunita*, at *Pagninilay* ang naisulat.

Napakaraming magandang pangyayari nitong huling banda ng taon. Nariyan ang natamong mga gantimpala ng mga kasapi natin bilang mga katangitangang propesyonal at bilang pinakamahusay na aktor. Binabati namin kayo!

Tunay na kakaiba ang ating naging mundo dahil sa COVID, ngunit hindi mapipigilan nito ang ating pagbibigay pugay at pasasalamat sa ating Panginoon nitong Pasko. Kakaiba nga ito ngunit napakasaya pa rin at naging mas makabuluhan para sa ating pamilyang UP Manila. Mas marami ang nakadalo at nakilahok sa kasayahan dahil *online* ang pagdiriwang.

Isang napakabigat na hamon ang COVID sa atin at dagdag pa rito ang mga kalamidad nuong nakaraang taon tulad ng pagputok ng bulkang Taal, mga bagyo, baha, at lindol. Sa harap ng malalaking mga unos na ito, hindi tayo nanlumo at gaya ng ipinakita ng ating mga ninuno simula pa nuong World War II at iba pang krisis sa bansa; sumagot tayo ng buong tapang, gamit ang ating siyensiya, lakas ng *bayanihan*, at mabuting loob. Sa larangan ng pag-aaral, pananaliksik, at pagsisilbi sa bayan, naging huwaran tayo sa bansa at marami tayong naiambag na kaalaman.

Hindi pa tapos ang unos, ngunit naipakita natin ang ating paninindigan nitong 2020; at naniniwala ako na kaya pa nating pag-ibayuhin ang ating pananalig sa isa't-isa at lalo na sa Makapangyarihang Diyos na gagabay at tutulong sa UP Manila ngayong darating na 2021.

Makabuluhang Pasko at Mapagpalang Bagong Taon sa lahat!

Fostering a Culture of Responsible Research in UP Manila

Featuring a set of dynamic and seasoned researchers, the UP Manila Science and Technology Week held a forum on November 24, 2020 that tackled the importance of performing research at the highest level of integrity.

With the topic “**Research Integrity: Developing a Culture for the Responsible Conduct of Research,**” speakers and members of the UPM Committee on Research Integrity established what research integrity is, what research misconducts are, and the need for an Office of Research Integrity in the academic setting.

UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla highlighted the challenge for a university to provide a research-conducive environment for its faculty, staff, and students. Through the Research Ethics Board, Research Grants Administration Office, and Technology Transfer and Business Office, UP Manila was able to register 6000 researches beginning 2014 and 300 COVID-related researches starting March 2020. She perceives a “flourishing and responsible health research at UP Manila” if research integrity is nurtured and promoted.

An in-depth lecture on research integrity was presented by **Dr. Jean Anne Toral**, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and member of the UPM Committee on Research Integrity. Dr. Toral expounded on the best practices for research integrity. Differentiating an Office of Research Integrity (ORI) from an Ethics Review Board (ERB), Dr. Toral explained that an ORI ensures all stakeholders in research adhere to the core values in every step of the research process. It is where research misconduct is generally reported to whereas the ERB reviews the methods of the study proposal to ensure that research

ethics are applied to protect the rights and welfare of subject participants.

A lecture on the “Epidemiology of Research Misconduct/Retractions during the Pandemic” by **Dr. Jacinto Blas V. Mantaring III** followed. The overall chair of the UPM Research Ethics Board explained that *fabrication*, *falsification*, and *plagiarism* are the three biggest ‘sins’ that constitute scientific malfeasance and misconduct. He defined *fabrication* as making up data or results and recording or reporting them; *falsification* as manipulating research materials, equipment, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record; and *plagiarism* as the appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.

Dr. Mantaring presented a study by Reyes and Ariate Jr. which looked at the plagiarism committed by faculty members and students of the University of the Philippines System in scientific publications and found 74 verifiable plagiarism. **TURN TO PAGE 5**

2020 in Review: Service for the Filipinos amid the COVID-19 pandemic



The year 2020 was challenging and unprecedented like no other for the world and for the Philippines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. UP Manila and the Philippine General Hospital put their collective resources at the behest of the nation to continue serving the health needs of the Filipinos with greater resolve and devotion through its academic, research, and public service functions.

Following are the highlights on how the university responded swiftly and comprehensively to the crisis using a science-based approach and harnessing its physical resources and the expertise and commitment of its faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Truly, *bayanihan* and solidarity at their best!

First Quarter

The UP-PGH *Bayanihan Na! Operations Center* (BNOC) was launched on March 30 that jibed with the opening of the PGH as a **COVID referral hospital** and the **National Institutes of Health** as a **COVID Testing Center**. With hotline number 155-200, the BNOC is manned 24/7 by trained staff and student and alumni volunteers who answer patient queries and coordinate donations. Since then, it has evolved into the **Online Consultation and Registration Appointment** (OCRA) for PGH outpatients.

In line with this designation, the PGH Crisis Management Team organized a **COVID Transfer Command Center** to facilitate the ingress and egress of patients and an **Information Education Committee** to disseminate advisories,

reminders, and appeals inside and outside PGH. Wards were re-engineered and re-designed to increase safety measures. The healthcare workers were provided transportation, sanctuaries, spiritual and psychosocial support, and safety guidelines. Meanwhile, the NIH tested the PGH patients as well as those of 29 other hospitals and community quarantine centers within the catchment area of PGH for the coronavirus.

The UP Manila community adapted quickly to the virtual environment. When the university suspended classes and patient interactions, the faculty and students and most of the university's staff transitioned to work and study from home. The faculty and students became more acquainted with online and remote learning and exercised flexibility in adapting to blended learning methods.

While pushing forward academically,

its colleges also led initiatives to help members cope with the difficulties such as offering classrooms as **temporary shelter for the frontliners**, **fund drives**, **health education materials**, **teleconsultations**, **physical activity recommendations**, **webinars**, and **policy recommendations**. Its students, sororities, and fraternities also engaged in volunteer work and initiated calls for assistance.

Second Quarter

The university's experts were actively involved in the Inter-Agency Task Force and provided crucial inputs to guide the government. Its scientists and researchers took advantage of technology and focused efforts on understanding the virus, identifying treatments, conducting studies, and inventing and innovating tools to alleviate the effects of the pandemic. Among the notable technologies were the **GenAmplify™ COVID-19 rRT-PCR Detection Kit**; **OstreaVent II**; **Mechanical Ambu Bag Insufflator**; **Ginhawa Ventilator**; **SIBOL innovations** such as the **RxBBox-Telemetry**, **SIBOL Telepresence**, **Powered Air-Purifying Respirator**, **SaniPod**, **E-Steth Project**, and **Ultraviolet Irradiation Cabinet**; **UP Manila Bayanihan Na! Employee Symptoms Tracking System (BESTS)**; and **PGH Bayanihan Center Current Inventory Levels and Donations Tracker**.

Third Quarter

While responding to the pandemic, matters beyond COVID were still given attention. UP Manila held its first **virtual commencement exercises** of 884

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Elijah Canlas

FOR WINNING MULTIPLE AWARDS FOR HIS ACTING

KALEL, 15 (2019)
Main role | Best Actor

- 68th FAMAS Awards (20 December 2020)
- Gawad Urian 2020 (10 November 2020)
- 17th Asian Film Festival (5 August 2020)

Best Acting Ensemble (with other cast members)
2020 PARAGON Critics' Choice (31 March 2020)

EDWARD (2019)
As Renz | Best Supporting Actor

- Gawad Pampelikulang Samahan ng mga Dalubguro (PASADO) 2020 (28 June 2020)

Mr. Canlas is a BA Philippine Arts student at the College of Arts and Sciences.

2020 IN REVIEW FROM PAGE 2...

graduates who “marched” via YouTube live stream on September 6. Four days later, it was the turn of 934 first-year students to be welcomed in the first virtual **Opening Ceremony** held via Facebook.

The university, its faculty, and students received major recognition inside and outside the country. UP retained its rank in the **top 500 world university rankings** and leads in ASEAN in terms of global research influence; Dean Shiela Bonito and Prof. Roderick Salenga were awarded by PRC as the **2020 Outstanding Professionals** in the field of Nursing and Pharmacy, respectively; **Dr. Tiffany Uy**, who gained the highest ever recorded grade in UP since World War II, graduated *magna cum laude* and UPCM Class Valedictorian.

Fourth Quarter

Dr. Jomel Lapid topped the November 2020 Physician Licensure Examination, with seven more UPCM graduates in the Top 10. A virtual commemoration of UP Manila’s 41st year as Health Sciences Center was held which recognized 21 retirees, 103 service awardees, and 10 Gawad Chancellor awardees.

Chancellor Carmencita Padilla was reappointed for a third term with a vision of UP Manila as the **National Center of Health Research and Development** for the Filipinos through Distinctive Excellence in Academics and Scholarship, Research and Discovery for National Relevance and Global Competitiveness, and Heightened Individual and Institutional Extension Services. UP Manila top management officials, deans, and directors trained in a two-day Zoom workshop on sustainable leadership for the next three years cognizant of the reeling effects of the pandemic and of other future crises.

Dr. Charlotte Chiong and Dr. Ramon Gustilo were conferred **NAST awards** for outstanding scientific contributions. Dr. Raul Destura, Dr. Cleotilde Hidalgo-How, and Dr. Joselito Chavez were among **Asia’s Top 100 scientists**. In the **2020 Science and Technology Week**, UP Manila’s **Code for Responsible Conduct of Research** was launched to ensure that researchers and their work do not fall



UP Manila, PGH bring Christmas joy amidst lockdown, natural disasters

COVID-19 work, pandemic lockdowns, negative economic realities, typhoon-caused devastations, and New Normal problems are not enough to turn off people from holding traditional celebrations; besides the human spirit is stubborn. It needs to hope and survive. Hence, when people expected UP Manila and PGH to go quiet this Christmas season, it went ahead with honoring the season of Jesus Christ’s birth.

There was no Lantern Parade of course, or parties, but there were lots and lots of lights and songs. Donations and gift-giving to communities laid low by the pandemic and typhoons went ahead via the Ugnayan ng Pahinungod-Manila, UP Manila Student Council, the colleges’ various student councils, PGH Chaplaincy, and other groups.

Officially, the traditional festivities

were started by the hospital on December 1 with the PGH Façade Lighting Ceremony. The area remained lit for the entire month from 5:30pm-1am.

Then there was the “*Tuloy Na Tuloy Pa Rin Ang Pasko Sa PGH*: 12 Days of Christmas” held from 3-11 December 2020 via PGH FB Live, People Giving Hope (PGH) FB, and the hospital’s PA System. At 12:45 pm for each of those days, singers, actors, and some health professionals entertained the audience with recorded performances. There was also a PGH Trivia Game with prizes for winning employees of UPM and PGH.

The guest artists were **Jim Paredes; Rachel Alejandro; Martin Nievera; Pinky Marquez; Tim Pavino; Ima Castro; Franco and Ayen Laurel; Joanna Ampil; Baihana (Anna, Krina, Melinda); Jed Madela and Anna Tajanlangit; Ryan Cayabyab,**

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short of the strictest standards. Themed “**AGAP AGHAM: Responding to the Pandemic through Research,**” the event showcased to industry and government partners the best herbal, biomedical, and COVID-19 technologies.

Despite the uncertainties and constraints the pandemic has wrought, UP Manila capped the year by celebrating Christmas virtually for the first time. Instead of the annual lantern parade, the *Pasko sa UP Manila* was marked with video presentations by the colleges and units and games and raffles held online.

Through the past 12 months, UP Manila has demonstrated leadership, resourcefulness, resilience, and fortitude. Its members mourn and remember the lives lost fighting the virus, including its healthcare workers who risked life and limb to save others.

The constituents look forward to a brighter and stronger 2021 with more enlightenment and wisdom and through the experiences and lessons gained in responding and managing the effects of the pandemic.

Anne Marie Alto & Cynthia Villamor



Trilogy of e-books on human spirit in COVID-19 fight released

Various materials have come out on the science of the COVID-19 pandemic but very few, if at all, have been published on its effects on people's humanity or being.

The PGH Human Spirit book projects, a trilogy of e-books on the experiences, struggles, challenges, and inspiration of UP Manila and PGH members and even those outside during the crisis, delved into the "heart" of their journeys. The books were launched and turned over on December 21, 2020 via Zoom after 10 months of planning and preparation.

In his foreword where he highlighted the integrated and systemic response of UP to the crisis, UP President Danilo Concepcion stated that the books highlight the strength of the human spirit and the courage and tenacity of the human soul in dealing with the crisis.

The first book, *Pagkalinga: Ang Pagtugon sa Pandemya ng Pagamutan ng Bayan*, contains five chapters of the feats of the healthcare workers and volunteers in PGH as a COVID-19 referral center from the lockdown to the nation's recovery and healing. It was edited by Dr. Amanda Chiong.

The second, *Paggunita: Mga Saloobin Ukol sa Paglilingkod at Pagkukusang-loob sa Panahon ng Pandemya*, focuses on the narratives of faculty, staff, student, and alumni volunteers within the

UP-PGH *Bayanihan Na!* Operation Center. Its editor, Dr. Johanna Patricia Cañal, describes the pieces here as "the soft side; the tales of tears, fears, apprehension, courage, and redemption."

The third, *Pagninilay: Hinga, Hingal, Hingalo sa Panahon ng Pandemya*, includes essays, poems, and photographs capturing the "human spirit in communities outside of PGH." Book editor Dr. Joey Tabula describes the 67 write-ups and 22 photos from contributors to this book, thus: "*Kung saan nagtatapos ang hangganan ng agham ng medisina, doon nananahan ang pinaka puso ng bisa ng sining at panitikan. Ang hindi malalapatan ng agham ay malulunasan ng puso ng sining at panitikan*" (Where the limits of the science of medicine ends is where the heart of the art and literature of medicine abides. What science cannot treat, art and literature can heal).

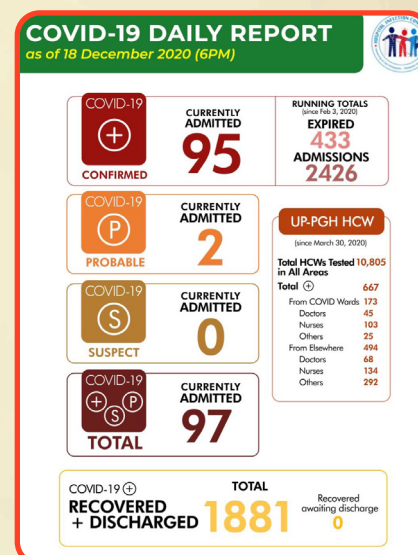
UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla explained that the books go beyond science and directives and document not only reports of events but also the experiences and feelings that are important for the future. "As this war is not over yet, let us continue writing the stories. This equally monumental effort will add color and depth to our larger-than-life mural representing the UP Manila COVID story."

For his part, PGH Director Gap Legaspi told the writers: "As you write them down, we all learn from them and aim to impart these to the next generation. I hope we do not experience another challenge of this kind but if we do, we hope that these writings will prepare us a little better."

Lead editor and project leader Dr. Alvin Caballes stated that the books bear witness to the need to use art and literature to pay tribute to the human spirit in the documentation of the journey and response to the pandemic. As one book deals with the experiences of those outside PGH, he said that the books cover a "spectrum of the sentiments and occurrences at the time of the outbreak." The project started in March 2020 with a few volunteers that slowly grew into many who shared their time and talents in contributing articles and preparing the three books. He thanked the leadership of UP Manila, PGH, and other partners for their support to the project and expressed hope that similar publications on the human spirit of the fight against the COVID-19 outbreak will follow.

Published by the Social Medicine Unit of PGH and Mu Sigma Phi Sorority, the books are available online in these links: [Pagkalinga](#), [Paggunita](#), and [Pagninilay](#). The printed version will be released in early 2021.

Cynthia M. Villamor



FOSTERING A CULTURE OF RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH FROM PAGE 1...

cases between 1936 and 2018 which resulted in varied consequences to the authors. He also raised the issue of the number of COVID-related retractions. "The urgency to find solutions to the pandemic contributed to the publication of fraudulent science and incorrect claims" which resulted in vaccine scare. Hence, Dr. Mantaring stressed the need to create an environment that promotes transparency, integrity, and accountability among researchers.

Towards the end of the session, **Dr. Edward HM. Wang**, UPM Committee on Research Integrity Chair and Orthopedics professor, spoke on the "Scientific Integrity in Health Research" with emphasis on the need for an Office of Research Integrity. Administrative Order 179 created the UP Manila Committee on Research Integrity whose aim is to "create an environment that promotes the responsible conduct of research." Dr. Wang presented the committee's output, the **UP Manila Code for Responsible Conduct of Research**, a four-page document containing the basic principles and responsibilities of the researcher and institution. The code intends to maintain an ethical culture and a framework for the responsible conduct of research at UP Manila.

Dr. Marilen Balolong, CAS Associate Dean for Research and Public Service and **Dr. Katherine Ann Reyes**, CPH Associate Dean for Research presented illustrative cases of misconduct. Also in attendance were **Dr. Eva Maria Cutionco-De La Paz**, **Dr. Rosario Rubite**, and **Dr. Emmanuel Estrella**. Closing the session, **Vice Chancellor for Research Armando Crisostomo** expressed his pride of UP Manila's code and hoped that constituent universities and other academic institutions will adapt it and establish their own ORI.

Anne Marie Alto

Webinar Tackles Troubling TB Challenges Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

The UPM College of Public Health (CPH) in collaboration with the British Embassy Manila (BEM) conducted a webinar entitled "**Double Trouble: Fighting (Hyper)Endemic Tuberculosis (TB) Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic**" last November 5, 2020. Hosted by the Department of Medical Microbiology, the webinar gathered a panel of interdisciplinary experts to discuss the challenges and recommendations in the management and control of TB and multidrug resistant TB (MDR-TB) in the time of COVID-19.

Dr. Rajendra-Prasad Yadav, Medical Officer for the Global Tuberculosis Programme of the World Health Organization Western Pacific Region, presented the innovative strategies aiming to restore TB-related services that inevitably had been halted during community quarantines and lockdowns. These include digital solutions through online consultations, web/mobile applications and artificial intelligence; emphasis on multisectoral approaches to mobilize financial resources, human resources and medicine supply; and public engagement to #BounceBack campaigns to increase patient mobility, population screening and testing.

Dr. Anna Marie Celina Garfin, Program Manager of the National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTP) at the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB) of the Department of Health, detailed the significant impact of the pandemic on local TB elimination efforts related to active screening, testing, diagnosing, treating and preventing the disease in the country. She also highlighted the approved guidelines of the forthcoming NTP Adaptive Plan (NAP) which will ensure observance of

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Public Health in the Time of COVID-19 and the New Normal
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Webinar Series for Public Health Workers

Department of Medical Microbiology
College of Public Health, University of the Philippines Manila
SEAMEO TROPiED Philippines
presents

DOUBLE TROUBLE: Fighting (Hyper)Endemic Tuberculosis Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

THURSDAY | 05 November 2020 | 4:00 - 5:45 PM PHT, 9:00 - 10:45 AM BST
via Zoom or Facebook (Live/On-demand)

SPEAKERS

- Dr. Rajendra-Prasad Yadav**
Medical Officer
Global Tuberculosis Programme
Regional Office for the Western Pacific
World Health Organization
- Dr. Anna Marie Celina Garfin**
Program Manager
National Tuberculosis Control Program
Disease Prevention and Control Bureau
Department of Health - Philippines
- Dr. Regina Berba**
Infectious Diseases Specialist
Former TB Co-PI, PHICA
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REACTOR

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Pulmonologist
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TB MLC Coordinator
Eastern Visayas Region (Region 8)
Provincial NTP Medical Coordinator
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PMOT Physician, ESPH PMOT STC

MODERATOR

- Dr. Evelyn Roxas**
Associate Professor
Department of Medical Microbiology
College of Public Health, UP Manila
SEAMEO TROPiED Philippines

minimum public health standards to mitigate COVID-19 among health facilities and health professionals delivering TB-related services.

Dr. Regina Berba, Infectious Diseases Specialist and Head of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) Responsive Integrated Multidisciplinary Enhanced (PRIME) TB DOTS, expounded on the diagnostic and management dilemmas faced by clinicians who encounter patients manifesting similar symptoms of TB and COVID-19. She likewise described the necessary structural and policy changes in PGH as it was designated a COVID-19 Referral Center in April 2020.

Serving as reactors, pulmonologist and Professor of Physiology **Dr. Manuel Jorge II** of the UP College of Medicine emphasized the need to develop innovative approaches to control TB during the pandemic era, to integrate the strategies to mitigate TB and COVID-19, and to intensify efforts to eliminate TB and COVID-19. Chair of MDR-TB Conciliium and Provincial Medical Coordinator of NTP in Eastern Samar **Dr. Rodol Delgado** echoed the pseudo decrease in case detection rate at the region due to imposed mobility restrictions.

Attended by more than 400 local and international participants, this event was the third part of the webinar series *Public Health in the Time of COVID-19 and the New Normal* organized by UP CPH and BEM.

Fresthel Monica Climacosa



EDITORIAL BOX

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Prof Salenga is PRC 2020 Eric Nubla Excellence awardee; 2 other UPM profs named outstanding professionals

Prof. Roderick L. Salenga, professor of pharmacy at the UP Manila College of Pharmacy, was conferred the 2020 Eric Nubla Excellence Award by the Professional Regulation Commission during a virtual ceremony held on Dec. 17, 2020.

With the theme “Outstanding Professionals: The Shining Light Amidst the Challenges of Time,” the awarding ceremony also saw the conferment of the outstanding professional award to recipients in the different categories and fields. Prof. Salenga was also awarded the PRC 2020 Outstanding Professional in Pharmacy.

The Eric C. Nubla Excellence Award is the highest award bestowed by the PRC for professional excellence named after its first chairperson who served from 1974-1986. Salenga is a graduate of the Master of Public Health and BS Pharmacy of UP Manila. A public health pharmacist who specializes in pharmaceutical policy and pharmacoepidemiology, he introduced breakthrough academic models to enhance the training of pharmacy students. He has over 70 local and international conference presentations as well as a number of publications focusing on quality use of medicines, drug accessibility, pharmaceutical education, and public health policies.

Salenga is the first in the pharmacy profession to obtain the award and the youngest recipient of the Outstanding Award in Pharmacy Education. Also, he



was one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awardees in 2015.

Two other professors from UP Manila were conferred the PRC 2020 Outstanding Professional Award. They are **Prof. Sheila Bonito**, dean of the UP Manila College of Nursing, and **Dr. Josephine R. Bundoc**, of the UP College of Medicine, in their respective fields.

Dean Bonito has an extensive academic background and experience in nursing, public health, education, research, and related fields. She holds the following degrees: Doctor of Public Health, MA Nursing, and BS Nursing, all from UP Manila. She took the following postgraduate studies—Postgraduate Diploma in Gerontology and Geriatrics, University of Malta, Malta, Europe; Postdoctoral Fellowship in Nursing, Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing; and Postdoctoral Fellowship on Data Mining, Vienna University of Technology.

Dr. Bundoc is a Board Member of the Physicians for Peace and Board Director of its Walking Free Philippines program. Recognizing that disabled

children can go to school and disabled adults can be gainfully employed with accessible, affordable, and appropriate assistive technology; Dr Bundoc pioneered Rehabilitation Medicine training programs, health and assistive technology policies, community implementation, government-based financing and local manufacturing, and sourcing of raw materials in partnerships with civic societies and the persons with disabilities themselves. **Cynthia M. Villamor**

UPM, PGH CHRISTMAS FROM PAGE 3... The Company, John Arcilla, Bernadette Sembrano, and Arman Ferrer.

The hospital's festivities were organized by the PGH Christmas Celebration 2020 Committee headed by the Department of Otorhinolaryngology and Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.

For UP Manila, its university-wide “Christmas is ON-line” celebration was held on December 17. From 3-5:30 pm, units and colleges gave their best performances to make the audience forget reality for a while. There were also raffles and games with big prizes.

Although not part of the season's scheduled events, but on-theme with it, is the turnover on Dec. 21 of the three electronic books of The PGH Human Spirit Project to Chancellor Carmencita Padilla through a virtual ceremony. (please see separate article). The books chronicle the extraordinary human experiences of frontliners, volunteers, and other people during the pandemic.

Of course, Christmas wouldn't be what it is without the Simbang Gabi held every 5 am, from Dec. 16-24, at the Immaculate Conception Chapel (better known as the PGH Chapel). The Simbang Gabi culminated in the Christmas Eve Mass on Dec. 24. COVID-19 safety protocols were observed at all times. The masses were streamed live via the [UP-PGH Chapel](#) and [The Chaplaincy Facebook page](#). **Fedelynn Jemena**

Advancing Spaces for Learning and Excellence

Julia Kate E. Jarin, a student from the College of Arts and Sciences, was the grand winner in a slogan making contest held by the UP Manila University Library. Her winning slogan “Advancing Spaces for Learning and Excellence” generates a catchy and striking phrase that encapsulates the vision, mission, and goals of the University Library.

She described “the UPM University Library as more than just a place for education.” It continues to offer the following to become globally competitive: (1) Passionate staff; (2) Quality information; and (3) Programs and services that inspire the community to learn. **By Alfred Dalmacio**

