

MULA KAY Tsanselor

Naipakitang muli ng ating komunidad ang tibay ng loob, malinaw na pag-iisip, at maagap na pagkilos nang magkaroon ng sunog sa ikatlong palapag ng Central Block ng Philippine General Hospital nuong nakaraang buwan. Nagbunga ng kabutihan ang mga pagsasanay at paghahanda natin sa mga kalamidad na tulad nito. Maayos na nailikas ang mga pasyente, pati mga nasa Intensive Care Units at bagong silang na mga sanggol! Nagtulong-tulong ang lahat—mga doktor at narses, pasyente at bantay, *security guards*, lahat ng kawani, at mga bombero ng Bureau of Fire Protection—kung kaya’t lahat ay naging ligtas at walang naapektuhan ng usok o apoy. Pati mga may COVID at wala na pasyente ay nagawang paghiwalayin na nagpapatunay kung gaano kahusay naisaayos ang paglikas.

Malubhang sakuna ang sunog at mahahalagang kagamitan ng ospital ang natupok, ngunit hindi tayo pinabayaang; bagkus ay naramdaman natin ang matinding pagkalinga ng ating mga kasama at kababayan nang dumagsa ang napakarami at iba’t-ibang uri ng tulong. Hanggang ngayon ay patuloy ang pagdating ng mga donasyon, ang iba ay galing pa sa ibang bansa.

Bumaling naman tayo sa masasayang mga pangyayari sa UP Manila tulad ng parangal na natamo ni Dr. Yolanda Robles na dating dekana ng UP College of Pharmacy. Nawa maging inspirasyon siya sa iba pang mga guro pati na sa mga mag-aaral.

Dalawang libo namang mga University at College Scholars ang pinuri sa isang kapulungan. Napakaraming pagbabago sa pag-aaral at pagtuturo ngunit naipakita nila ang kakaibang galing at dedikasyon nitong panahon ng pandemya.

Patuloy ang College of Public Health sa pagtugon sa hamon ng tuberculosis sa pamamagitan ng pagtatatag ng “TB Academy” kasama ang iba pang mga ahensya; habang ang College of Nursing naman ay nagdiwang ng International Nurses Day sa pamamagitan ng pagtatanghal ng isang webinar na tumalakay ng mga hamon at direksyon ng Public Health Nursing sa Western Pacific Region.

Nakikisalamuha rin ang UP Manila sa Quincentennial Commemoration kung saan may limang webinar ang isasagawa, nanguna na rito ang tungkol sa “Filipino Concept of Health.”

Napakaraming balakid na ang nalagpasan natin at nagpagtibay ng mga ito ang ating pamilya upang mapagtagumpayan ang nakaraang sunog. Kahit naririto pa rin ang pandemya, walang patid ang ating pag-usad tungo sa mas makabuluhang UP Manila! Nagpapasalamat tayo sa Maykapal sa Kanyang proteksyon, patnubay, at tanglaw habang pinagbubuti pa natin ang pagtuturo, panggagamot, at pagsisilbi sa ating kapwa.



The ten recipients of the Order of Lapu-Lapu (Kamag-i Rank) with PGH Director Gerardo Legaspi: [L-R] Ms. Katrina Macababad, Ms. Phoebe Malabanan, Ms. Esmeralda Ninto, Dr. Alexandra Lim, Dr. Earle Abrenica, Dr. Gerardo Legaspi, Mr. Romel Rano, Dr. Rodney Dofitas, Mr. Joel Santiago, Mr. Quintin Bagay, and Mr. Jomar Mallari.

On 2 June 2021, ten personnel of the Philippine General Hospital were awarded the Order of Lapu-Lapu by President Rodrigo R. Duterte at the Malacanang Palace for their dedication to duty during the PGH fire incident on May 16.

The Order of Lapu-Lapu is a national order of merit given by the President of the Philippines in recognition of invaluable acts of service to the country.

The awardees are Dr. Rodney B. Dofitas, head of the Manpower Support, PGH COVID Crisis Team; Mr. Joel L. Santiago, safety officer; Mr. Romel G. Ranoa, security guard; residents Dr. Alexandra P. Lee and Dr. Earle Ceo D. Abrenica; and nurses Mr. Quintin P. Bagay Jr., Mr. Jomar T. Mallari, Ms. Kathrina Bianca C. Macababab, Ms. Phoebe Rose C. Malabanan, and Ms. Esmeralda E. Ninto.

We have to add to these names a long list of personnel and patient companions who performed small and great deeds that fateful night, transforming the catastrophe into a victimless accident. They are all heroes.

The fire which broke out at the Operating Room Sterilization Area

(ORSA) on the third floor of the hospital could have caused wild panic and degenerated into chaos and injured individuals. However, since the PGH staff regularly engage in fire and earthquake drills every year, the evacuation was hurriedly, yet, orderly done.

According to eyewitnesses, everyone who could help with the evacuation, did: health personnel, firemen, security guards, even patients, and their watchers. The patients were evacuated to the PGH Chapel, ground floor corridors, quadrangle, and driveway of the hospital complex. These included all 35 babies from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Around 100 COVID-19 patients from the central block area were moved to the parking lot (adults) or to a separate part of the chapel (children).

All people who contributed to the safety of everyone on that fateful day were heroes.

Perseverance and endurance in the face of overwhelming obstacles

Dr. Dofitas, off duty that night, called the PGH Crisis Team when he heard the commotion about the fire and saw black smoke in the corridor leading to the ORSA. Personnel, with the help of security guards tried to douse the fire.

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UPM quincentennial commemoration opens with webinar on Filipino concept of healing

The commemoration of the 500th year of the first circumnavigation of the world and the victory of Lapu-Lapu and his troops in the Battle of Mactan was launched through the first of a five-part webinar series organized by UP Manila on the theme “The Filipino Concept of Healing” held on May 7, 2021.

Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan, executive director of Health Futures Foundation, Inc. and former health undersecretary, spoke on the first topic, Filipino Traditional Medicine (FTM); presenting its definition, causes of illnesses, therapies, research areas, and challenges.

The former UPM National Institutes of Health Executive Director gave a review of the circumnavigation led by Magellan that started in Seville Spain in 1519 passing through the Philippines, including Mactan, where he was killed in 1521. He stated that the greatest circumnavigator, Pigafetta, already found traditional healing practices when he first arrived on Philippine shores.

He reiterated that FTM has been in practice for more than a thousand years as recorded in the annals of Asian travelers with traders and merchants from China, India, and Persia visiting the islands of Southeast Asia even before the year 1521.

Dr. Galvez-Tan and wife served in Mindanao from 1980 to 1983 during which time they had talks with traditional healers and herbolarios. From these talks and experiences in serving in the communities emerged the definition of health and wellness that he presented during the lecture.

Health and wellness is a state of harmony, balance, and synergy between humankind and the universe, humankind and nature, and between and among humankind and within the human body, mind, and spirit. This all encompassing view of health recognizes the link between the human body and everything around it.

Causes and Therapies of FTM

Dr. Galvez Tan identified the causes of illness in FTM as rooted in the

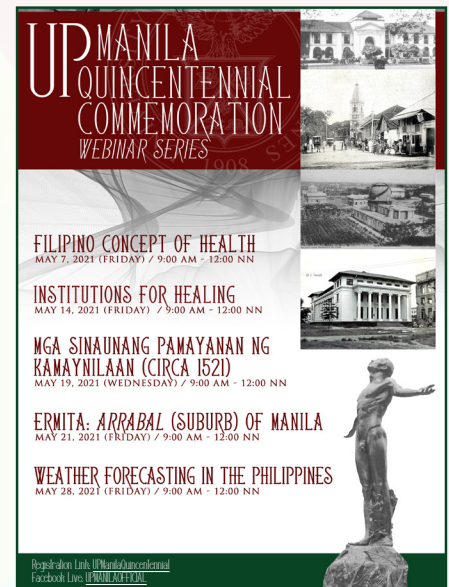
concept of “*hangin*” or wind, whether in food, environment, and within the body; of “*bara*” or energy block; of “*pilay*” or misalignment of energy channels; of “*pasma*” or musculoskeletal syndrome due to imbalance of hot or cool; and of “*hilo*” or poison; and effects of seasons, habitat, diet, ways of life, and days of the week.

Other causes he mentioned were “*nabalis* or *nabati*” or transfer of energy from one person to another; “*nakulam/ nabarang*” or transfer of negative energy from one person to another; “*nagayuma*” or increase of sexual attraction/energy; and “*nasapian*.” A third group of causes consists of “*nanuno*” or a person who disturbed nature spirits/ nature guardians; “*nagalit ang mga ninuno*” or a person who violated the norms of ancestors/ancestral spirits; “*binangungot*” or sudden unexplained death syndrome; “*nabinat o nabughat*” or a person who has undergone severe psychoemotional physical stress and immediately goes back to normal daily activities, thus provoking a return to his previous pathological state.

Dr. Galvez Tan detailed the FTM therapies still practiced today as follows: herbal medicine, animal medicine, mineral medicine, “*bentosa*” or cupping, food or animal offerings, prayers and *oracion*, “*oslob*” or fumigation or steam inhalation with healing herbs, bathing practices, *kurot* or pinching, *laway* or use of saliva, “*pamula*” or skin abrasions through coins, “*tapik kawayan*” or bamboo tap, psychic healing/surgery, and angel healing. He stated that “*suob*” is now being used by some COVID-19 patients as an adjunct therapy.

As for FTM diagnostic tools, the community doctor cited pulse diagnosis or “*pamulso*,” *tawas*, and use of other diagnostic tools such as alum, eggs, bottles, *dahon ng saging*, *papel*; use of animal sacrifices; use of *salat* or palpation; laying of the hands; and reading of aura.

On ancient prevention, *anting anting* or amulets, *habak* tied around the waist or wrist, “*panagang sa buyag*”; use of garlic or *bawang*, use of *lana* or



coconut oil, prayers and offerings, and doing good to one another were the methods that Dr. Galvez Tan mentioned.

Research Areas and Challenges

Dr. Galvez-Tan expressed hope that the knowledge and inputs he shared will lead to more exhaustive researches on FTM in the following areas: generation of research questions and protocols, a more robust herbal medicine research, inventory/survey of Filipino healers in all provinces, bottom-up Code of Ethics or standard of practice, benefits of integrating FTM with conventional medicine, and development of bioethics research in FTM.

He posed the following challenges in developing and integrating FTM with modern medicine:

- Majority of Philippine medicinal plants with centuries of ethnomedical history remain untapped; increased investments, and technical assistance for medicinal plants development
- Evidence supporting Filipino medicine practices is still in the early developmental stage; develop a corps of FTM researchers nationwide
- Create stimulus to increase collaboration among research institutions, public, government, private sector, and academe
- Lack of investments in research and development
- Low support for FTM research in the academic community

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PGH FIRE FROM PAGE 1...

They also alerted the PGH residents nearby and started evacuating the patients. The OR nurse called the operator, who then called the Fire Department. Dr. Dofitas, in recounting the incident during the *Stop COVID Deaths Webinar #53*, was emphatic in saying that those actions were not random. They were informed by years of training and drills coordinated with the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) as part of the hospital's Disaster and Evacuation Plan, the UP Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, and the COVID Crisis System. Dr. Dofitas monitored the crisis response until Dr. Legaspi arrived.

Mr. Santiago, despite undergoing a robotic operation earlier in the day, got moving as soon as Dr. Dofitas informed him of the emergency. Dr. Dofitas directed the floor nurses and the security guards to evacuate the patients from 4th-7th floors. Some of the guards acted as marshals so that no one panicked.

The firefighters cordoned off the disaster area and, using the floor plan provided by the Office of the Engineering and Technical Services, sent teams up the hospital to make sure that everyone had evacuated. With Dr. Dofitas and Mr. Santiago, they planned how to approach the fire from three different areas. Dr. Dofitas repeatedly described the firefighters as "the true heroes".

While the firefighting happened, Drs. Legaspi and Dofitas with a group of other doctors went around to save some operating room equipment.

The NICU nurses evacuated the babies. The healthy ones were carried down by the nurses inside large pockets of their special "kangaroo vests" and were taken to the chapel. Then, nurses Macababdad and Mallari repeatedly went up and down the stairs from the first to the fourth floors, because elevators could not be used during a fire, to transfer the intubated newborns in mechanical ventilators.

Dir. Legaspi, before setting up the Incident Command Station in his office, evaluated what the people and the hospital needed. He was briefed by Dr. April Llaneta, head of Emergency Medicine Department and proceeded to visit all the areas where the patients were evacuated; went to the fire-hit area before inspecting each floor. He called his deputy directors; tied-up with the Philippine Red Cross for ambulances in case of patient transfer; called up Engineering to send a team who'll inform Dr. Dofitas, Mr. Santiago, and the firefighters how the electricity, plumbing, and gas will be affected by their work; coordinated with the nursing teams; directed Dietary to make contingency plans for the meals of the patients; contacted PGH Property Office to establish the supply chain for oxygen tanks for the patients; and sent calls for large industrial fans to drive out thick smoke from the corridors.

After endorsing the Incident Command Center to Dr. Llaneta, Dir. Legaspi focused on asset management. He estimated the damage to equipment with possible structural damage to the hospital to reach more than a hundred million pesos. As of this writing, the cause of the incident is still undetermined.

When the hospital was deemed safe by the firefighters, most of the patients were moved back to their areas. The COVID-19 patients were transferred temporarily to the intensive care unit of the PGH's charity wards and the obstetric department's emergency room until their wards were clean and safe.

On June 21, at the PGH Atrium, the BFP awarded Dr. Rodney Dofitas and Mr. Joel Santiago the Medalya ng Papuri for "having shown skillfulness and exemplary performance of duty as First Fire Responders which resulted in the saving of lives and all patients and other personnel who were in the area..."

The BFP gave Letters of Commendation to other hospital staff for their "dynamic competence and support as Fire Rescue Responders" to the BFP personnel "which successfully resulted in the immediate extinguishment of fire and lessened the

damages to the other areas of the sanitorium and the orderly return of the patients to their respective hospital rooms..." The honorees were composed of 8 physician team leaders, the 11-member Evacuation Team (which also included Dr. Dofitas), the 6-member Salvage and Rescue Responders (which included Dir. Legaspi), and Dr. April B. Llaneta.

The honors were given during the "Resbakuna Kasangga ng Bida" ceremony where the BFP gave a Token of Appreciation to PGH for vaccinating its personnel.

Concern for the Well-being of Others

For those keeping watch on social media from May 16 until the following days, the civic response was amazing.

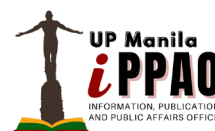
Nearby hospitals lent a hand—12 babies were taken in by Sta. Ana Hospital while four were moved to Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center. Two patients who needed appendectomy went to Ospital ng Maynila. Some patients, upon their request, were sent to private hospitals.

The Manila Collegian and the UP Office of the Student Regent posted calls for donations on their social media accounts. UPM faculty who are also serving at the hospital repeated the calls on their accounts.

As early as 1:30 a.m., a faculty of the College of Human Kinetics (in Diliman) alerted his community and friends, then drove to PGH with bottled water donations.

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EDITORIAL BOX



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TB Academy National Online Course co-organized by UP CPH/TROPMED Philippines concludes pilot run

A national online training series for physicians on the management of Rifampicin Resistant/Multidrug Resistant Tuberculosis (RR[MDR] TB) was organized by the Department of Medical Microbiology of the UP Manila College of Public Health, also designated as SEAMEO TROPMED Regional Centre for Public Health, Hospital Administration, Environmental and Occupational Health (UP CPH/TROPMED Philippines).

Launched as the “TB Academy” in collaboration with the International Union for TB and Lung Diseases (“The Union”) and Johnson & Johnson Philippines Inc. (J&J), the program supported the Department of Health National Tuberculosis Program (DOH NTP). Divided into two cohorts, the DRTB Management for Experts in the Philippines and the DR-TB Training in Clinical and Programmatic Decision Making, the course recently concluded with 51 physicians from the country’s 16 regions.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) 2020 Global Tuberculosis Report, the Philippines is included in the top 30 countries with the highest number of MDR-TB cases making up 6% of the total estimated cases of TB worldwide. This is a major challenge for the DOH NTP which aims to treat 2.5 million Filipino TB patients by 2022 as part of its commitment to the WHO’s goal of ending TB by 2030 worldwide.

Commencing in November 2020, the TB Academy training enhanced expertise on RR(MDR)TB management for the benefit of the chairs and co-chairs of the TB Medical Advisory Committees, infectious diseases specialists, pulmonologists, pediatricians, and academics. The course content was carefully curated by experts from The Union, a global scientific organization aimed at improving the health of populations worldwide. Each of the four



runs consisted of a four-week online learning course with both asynchronous lectures and live webcasts, to strengthen the capacity of the participants in clinical and programmatic management of RR(MDR)TB; a weekly self-study learning module through a series of pre-recorded sessions; and a live session for case studies.

In his closing remarks, CPH Dean and TROPMED Philippines Centre Director **Dr. Vicente Y. Belizario Jr.**, shared the very satisfactory to outstanding feedback from the participants. He highlighted the management of TB (both susceptible and DR-TB) as more challenging now with the COVID-19 pandemic—“Despite the pandemic, proper management of TB patients, particularly DR-TB patients, should not be forgotten as we do not want to have an upsurge of TB cases in the coming years. Thus, we found the course to be very relevant at this time.”

Dr. Beverly Lorraine C. Ho, DOH Director for Disease Prevention and Control, expressed gratitude to the organizers for supporting DOH particularly the TB program which is one of the regular programs compromised by the COVID-19 pandemic. “We want to look at this as an opportunity to continuously strengthen our TB program using some of the many entry points of the COVID response as opportunities for us to grow and innovate within our TB program,” said Dr. Ho.

Dr. Erwin Benedicto, J&J Philippines Head of Medical Affairs mentioned the barriers in the deployment of the course amidst the pandemic and was thankful for the persistence and support of the team of collaborators. “We wish to bring this more so that we could reach more

doctors who can help manage our patients with tuberculosis. Our dream is to have this institutionalized so that it will not end by our support alone but it will be sustained across the country led by either UP or DOH,” Dr. Benedicto said.

With the success of this pilot offering, the organizing committee has decided to add more runs and expand the coverage of the participants to include nurses, medical technologists, and other health workers taking care of TB patients in the country. The TB Academy online course has been useful in empowering clinicians by enhancing their knowledge on RR(MDR)-TB for capacity building especially during this pandemic. Continuing collaboration with DOH will help institutionalize the TB Academy in UP CPH/TROPMED Philippines in support of the National Tuberculosis Program. **Evalyn A. Roxas, Maria Margarita M. Lota, Azita G. Lacuna, Loisse M. Loterio, Vicente Y. Belizario, Jr.**

QUINCENTENNIAL FROM PAGE 2...

- Development of market and government incentives for medicinal plants like the ones given to rice, corn, coconut, sugar, bananas, pineapple, and mangoes
- Need for standardized procedures/accreditation/recognition of FTM healers and their practices.

The UP quincentennial commemoration involves multiple disciplines across UP campuses with varied activities organized by each UP constituent university and unit. Succeeding webinars of UP Manila will tackle the following themes: Institutions for Healing, “*Mga Sinaunang Pamayanan ng Kamaynilaan* (circa 1521)”, Ermita: *Arrabal* (Suburb) of Manila, and Weather Forecasting in the Philippines. **Cynthia M. Villamor**


 University of the Philippines Manila
 COLLEGE OF NURSING
 World Health Organization Collaborating Center
 for Leadership in Nursing Development

WEBINAR:
LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING: CHALLENGES AND DIRECTIONS
 12 MAY 2021, 10:00AM -12:00NN
 Via Zoom and UPCN Page FB Livestream

In celebration of International Nurses' Day with the theme
Nurses: A Voice to Lead - A Vision for Future Healthcare

RESOURCE SPEAKER:
Hon. Cora A. Añonuevo
 Former Member, PR Board of Nursing

PANEL REACTORS
Mary Ruth Sanchez-Politico, RN, MD
 Chief, Planning and Standards Division
 DOH- Health Human Resource and
 Development Bureau
Elnora Duque, PhD, RN
 Representative
 Nurses' Initiatives for Change
Melbert Reyes, MAN, RN
 National President
 Philippine Nurses Association

Project launch of NurseLEAD: Leadership Course for Advanced Practice in Public Health Nursing
 In partnership with

 JOHNSON & JOHNSON FOUNDATION

Public health nursing leadership: directions and challenges

disparities within marginalized communities by focusing on the environmental physical and social determinants of health. "There is a need to prepare public health nurses so they can assume leadership roles in the community primary healthcare facilities and long-term care settings. There is a need for reforms to ensure that the health care system fully utilizes the competencies of nurses by providing them opportunities to enhance their roles and contributions and not overlook the need for our nurses to be valued, sustained, supported, and justly compensated," Dr. Anonuevo declared

She maintained that higher educational institutions, the Department of Health, nursing associations, and private stakeholders should ensure that academic requirements or curricula meet the need; that legislation and regulations are regularly reviewed; that issues such as scope of practice, title, and protection are resolved; and that continuing education is provided. The above measures are included to the comprehensive nursing bill that was refiled in Congress. The bill contains a provision on Advanced Practice Nursing that is being finalized by a committee. She assured that the technical working group members are working double time to push the bill's passage.

"Beyond these efforts, we want to emphasize the need to continuously encourage our nurses to go where they are needed in the country," stressed **Dr. Mary Ruth Sanchez-Politico**, Chief of the DOH Planning and Standards Division, Human Resource and Development Bureau. She stated that only 13% of nurses in the Philippines are practicing in public primary care facilities which include rural health units, city health offices barangay health stations, and barangay health centers.

Philippine Nurses Association President **Melbert Reyes** maintained that to lead is to act with courage and integrity and that leadership plays a vital role in pushing forward nursing advocacy and empowering nurses as catalysts for change for the future of healthcare. **Professor Elnora Duque**, representing the advocacy group Nurses Initiatives for Change, stressed the need for nurses to become a unified force to bring about change in the health care system and encouraged retired nurses to be active.

"Nurses are leaders of change who, like Florence Nightingale, not only attend to the people's health needs but work to change the societal conditions for a better future," stated Dr. Añonuevo. **Charmaine Lingdas**

In celebration of the International Nurses Day (IND) with the theme, "Nurses: A Voice to Lead - A Vision for Future Healthcare", the UP College of Nursing (UPCN) held a webinar and launched the Leadership Course for Advanced Practice in Public Health Nursing (NurseLEAD) in the Western Pacific Region on 12 May 2021. The webinar tackled the challenges and directions in public health nursing.

In her message, UP Manila Chancellor **Carmencita D. Padilla** paid tribute to the late UPCN professor and Professional Regulation Commission Board Member Dr. Carmencita "Meng" Abaquin who developed the 2012 National Nursing Competency Standards as basis for reforms in nursing education. She asserted that in today's ever-changing healthcare environment, nurses require leadership competence in varied settings.

UPCN Dean and Professor **Sheila R. Bonito** emphasized that as a World Health Organization-Collaborating Center for Leadership in Nursing Development, the UPCN continues to shape nurses as leaders in public health. Since 2019, the College has been offering leadership courses in public health nursing and training nurses from institutions nationwide. With the launch of NurseLEAD, a new leadership course with the support of Johnson & Johnson Foundation, Dean Bonito hoped that UPCN will be able to do more to achieve its vision of nurturing nurse leaders in public health. J&J Foundation President and Managing Director Mr. Raghu Krishnan vowed to build and strengthen the country's healthcare workforce by partnering with UPCN.

In her keynote message, **Dr. Cora A. Añonuevo**, former PRC Board of Nursing member and UPCN professor and public health nursing expert, stated that nurses hold the key to achieving Universal Health Coverage. In tackling the issues and challenges and the needed crucial changes and policy directions, she stated that the main goal of public health nursing is to address the health



Dr. Yolanda Robles to lead FAPA as its 2021-2026 president

Dr. Yolanda Robles, the Federation of Asian Pharmaceuticals Association (FAPA) President-Elect for 2019-2022, assumes the position of President by default, two years ahead of her official term, following the demise of its

president, Mr. Mohamad Dani Pratomo. The FAPA Bureau in its special meeting on February 27, 2021 expressed full support for Dr. Robles, UP College of Pharmacy professor and former dean, and officially announced the subsequent appointment of the bureau members to new positions as part of its continuity measures for the specified period.

Dr. Robles is the Immediate Former President of the Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPHA) and has served the organization for the last 14 years in various capacities. She received her baccalaureate pharmacy education from the University of the Philippines and her Master's and PhD in Pharmacy degrees from the University of Tasmania in Australia. She served as the UPCP Dean for two terms (2001-2007) and is a former President of the Philippine Association of the Colleges of Pharmacy where she spearheaded curricular reforms.

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2,000 UP Manila scholars honored in virtual convocation

UP Manila recognized and honored its more than 2,000 University and College Scholars for Academic Year 2019-2020 through a [virtual program](#) held on May 6, 2021.

In her message, **UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla** told the scholars that the goal of the university is to prepare them for current and future challenges. “The challenges now may be different from the challenges of the future, and just as we were prepared to face the challenges now, we are also preparing you for the challenges of tomorrow,” she stated. She added that the pursuit of scholarship finds more value and meaning now that the country is still battling an unprecedented health crisis.

Dr. Carol Stephanie Tan-Lim, the keynote speaker, reminded the scholars of the typical association of scholarship with excellent grades. She asserted that more than their quantitative value, grades

represent personal traits which are far more important. Further, she had these to say—

Grades represent hardwork, self-discipline, and ability to focus. They demonstrate your ability to manage time well even with many responsibilities and are testaments to your constant choice to study and learn. Ultimately, they represent commitment to excellence and to put your best effort in your work; qualities that are in high demand and will open doors for your success. In these unstable times when it is difficult to establish stable careers, having good work ethics will be your best asset and attract many opportunities.

Dr. Tan-Lim is a multi awarded pediatrician, resident, and intern during her medical education years; a recipient of the Perla D. Santos Ocampo Award and the Carmencita Padilla Award for Outstanding Post Residency Training.

She recalled two instances in her life when she exhibited persistence and a never-give-up attitude: when she took up the course Introduction to Calculus and 12 years later during thesis preparation and doing a meta analysis that both required a lot of self learning, reading, asking for

help, and resourcefulness in looking for learning materials and opportunities. Dr. Tan Lim is credited with doing the first network meta analysis published in the *Pediatric Allergy Journal* in January 2021.

She impressed on the graduates the need for life learning, that there will always be something new to learn, to improve upon, to discover; and that having the right attitude is fundamental to success. “A life of excellence finds value in a life of kindness and love,” Dr. Tan-Lim affirmed.

Responding on behalf of the scholars is **CAS BS Applied Physics University Scholar Troy Justin Go** who recounted that the past two semesters were a lot of firsts for their batch like first zoom class, recorded lecture, and online examination.

“Our achievements are testaments to our perseverance, a reminder of the hardships overcome... Doors are still open to dictate how we will move forward,” he stated. **Cynthia M. Villamor**

DR. ROBLES FROM PAGE 5...

She was the Chair of the CHED Technical Committee for Pharmacy Education in 2007. Previously she was the president of two regional pharmacy associations – the Asian Association of Schools of Pharmacy and the Asian Conference on Clinical Pharmacy.

As president of PPhA, she led the creation of pharmacy advocacy groups in various health areas including rational use of medicines, immunization, mental health, drug information services, wellness and medication adherence among others. She prioritized supporting the implementation of the new Pharmacy Law (R.A. 10918) in 2016; and in addition to her University work, she developed numerous Continuing Professional Development materials for pharmacy practitioners and pharmacy support workforce.

Through the years, she provided technical support to the Department of Health through committee work involving medicines such as the National Formulary Committee, National Antibiotic Guidelines Committee, Antimicrobial Stewardship Steering Committee, National Mental Health Technical Working Group, and DOH Advisory Council. Dr. Robles’ research contributions are in the areas of health policy, pharmacy practice, and education; and she had several local and international publications. (*With reports from the UP Manila College of Pharmacy*)

PGH FIRE FROM PAGE 3...

At 3:43 am, Vice President Leni Robredo posted on Twitter asking for large industrial fans to be lent to PGH to help clear away the smoke from the corridors. Leo Lagon of Bayo saw the tweet and contacted Jasper Ong of Hanabishi who coordinated with PGH and sent industrial fans. By mid-day, more fan donations came in from the public. The Philippine Red Cross brought in smoke evacuators to remove the smell and the toxic gases.

A PGH nurse known only as *bellepepper01* posted on the Vice President’s twitter thread asking help for extra oxygen tanks for some of the babies and the VP promised to help.

Dr. Rosario Abaya-Blas, an intern in 1989, was one of PGH’s earliest donors and dropped off boxes of KN95 masks.

The UP-PGH Human Milk Bank Center posted “Operation Foster Milk” for the admitted premature and sick babies.

Recently, the India Business Forum Philippines Association Inc. donated Php 1 million pesos in cash and Php 12 million pesos worth of medicines for the NICU.

Dir. Legaspi found overwhelming all the public and government support. In the *Stop COVID Deaths Webinar*, he said that the only way to repay this support is for PGH to do better in its work. **Fedelynn Jemena**