



UP SYSTEM PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT



NOVEMBER 2021



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The scientific community has released medical developments regarding the Philippines' current COVID-19 situation, pushing the country nearer to achieving the goal of herd immunity. At the vanguard are the dynamic collaborative efforts by the UP Constituent Universities (CUs) continuously serving the public in the two-year-long fight against COVID-19. A vast array of public service initiatives is currently underway, gradually allowing respite for and guiding Filipinos in the new normal.

Streamlining of COVID-19 and Health Information

With the pandemic still rampant, the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) of UP Manila has unceasingly provided daily reports on the number of COVID-19 cases. In the same vein, the *UP Diliman COVID-19 Task Force Weekly Report* features a tally of those under the care of the *Silungang Molave* isolation facility as well as an area map of the campus and the number of active cases.

The *STOP COVID Deaths* webinar series for this month featured comprehensible discourses by experts on COVID-19 booster shots, relevance of hospital architectural designs on the efficiency of operations, innovations on COVID-19 testing, and the strategies to curb the unprecedented rise of domestic violence and abuse against women and children during the pandemic. Meanwhile, the UP Diliman's College of Home Economics Breastmilk Research Laboratory joined efforts to adapt current curricula to the demands of the pandemic through the UPD Source of Solutions (SOS) Grants Project titled *Inclusion of COVID-19 Related Skills and Competencies in the Implementation of Hospital Dietetics Practicum of BS Nutrition and Dietetics Students* which was presented during the 2021 National Science and Technology Week organized by the Department of Science and Technology. UP Manila continues to host webinars for healthcare professionals, tackling medical cases during the pandemic (*UP Med Webinars 2021: Outcome-Based, Effective, Socially-Responsive, Timely*) and featuring discussions on human papillomavirus (*Mu Sigma Phi Sorority Webinars: Mula Kay Doktora: The Dr. Julita Ramoso-Jalbuena Memorial Women's Health Forum*) and recurrent pregnancy loss (*Galing at Talino UP Med Class of '97 Medinars*). Aside from these webinars, UP Manila has also published its latest issue of *Acta Medica Philippina* (Vol. 55 No. 8 2021), a peer-reviewed general medical and health science journal.



BREASTMILK RESEARCH LABORATORY
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION
COLLEGE OF HOME ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN



**INCLUSION OF COVID-19
RELATED SKILLS AND
COMPETENCIES IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF
HOSPITAL DIETETICS
PRACTICUM OF BS NUTRITION
AND DIETETICS STUDENTS**

FINANCED BY:
OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
UP-DILIMAN - SOS GRANTS (2021)

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO
ADJUST THE BS ND
HOSPITAL PRACTICUM?**

COVID-19 INFECTION LEADS TO:

- POOR APPETITE
- DECREASED FOOD INTAKE
- INCREASED RISK TO MALNUTRITION

UPD SOS Grants Project to be presented at the 2021 National Science and Technology Week

The everyday experiences and struggles of Filipinos were the focal point of the UPD College of Arts and Letters (CAL)'s Bahaginan Research Forum (Fighting for Life: Embodiments of Suffering, Survival, and Solidarity). Similarly, the UPD College of Social Work and Community Development targeted social responsiveness by organizing a research forum featuring papers on grassroots-led pandemic responses from the Philippine Journal of Social Development Volume 14 2021 (Resistance and Hope from the Fringes).



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN

RESEARCH FORUM

Resistance and Hope From the Fringes





2 PM REGISTER AT
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Research forum on grassroots-led pandemic responses

In pursuit of herd immunity, UPD reported that the *Bakunahan sa UP Diliman* has already administered second doses of COVID-19 vaccines, and that UPD students as well as UP Integrated School students aged 12–17 may now be inoculated. UP Los Baños has also included minors aged 12–17 among the vaccinees.



UPLB commences the vaccination of minors inside Copeland Gymnasium

Relief for the Psychosocially Distressed

Psychosocial support programs for those struggling with the “new normal” were the highlight of various information webinars throughout the UP System. The Ugnayan ng Pahinungod of UP Diliman launched a psychosocial support program (*Orientation-Workshop on Psychological First Aid*) open to all university constituents, while UP Mindanao (UPMin) streamed a webinar on coping with depression and anxiety (*Coping with the Better Normal and Addressing Depression and Anxiety*). UP Los Baños’ (UPLB) *S.H.A.P.E UP! Thursday*, a weekly online session on the promotion of healthy and mindful habits amidst the pandemic, concluded after six months. UPLB, through the Office of Counseling and Guidance, hosted a webinar on taking care of one’s mental health and wellbeing (*Mindfulness for Health and Wellbeing*). Further, UPLB initiated the *BARKada at CATropa Animal-Assisted Intervention Program*, a mental health program that promotes human and animal socialization to mitigate the effects of isolation and depression. Those struggling with remote learning found comfort in *Ang Pahinga ay Paghinga: A Talk on Self-Care*, a talk hosted by UP Baguio (UPB) to remind people to take care of themselves in these trying times, while the System-wide

Reading Break gave students and faculty some time to breathe from the anxieties of course requirements and the pandemic.



BARKada at CATropa, a mental health program by UPLB

Ensuring Continuity of Education in the New Modality

The need for efficient contactless transactions prompted the UP System to implement the *Document Routing System Tracer* that enables UP employees to check the status of documents being processed. A variety of public service initiatives geared towards addressing the education sector's abrupt shift to remote learning are carried out by the CUs. UP Visayas (UPV) College of Arts and Sciences COP-BIDANI distributed a total of 135 wi-fi routers donated by the Ayala Foundation to more than 9 local government units (LGUs) in Western Visayas. UP Diliman CAL launched *Kasama Ka, Kaeskwela 3.0 – KKK Trade* to help CAL students sustain their mobile data needs and help promote small businesses within the UPD Community.



Donation of Wi-Fi routers across Western Visayas, facilitated by UP Visayas COP-BIDANI

Online webinars were streamed for the preparation of learning institutions in the execution of educational innovations such as distance learning (UP Diliman's *Siyensa at Matematika sa Panahon ng Pandemya, Paano Na?*) and blended learning (UP Diliman's *Vacc to School: Doing Blended Learning for GE Courses*). UP Cebu also hosted a free webinar on teaching robotics in an online setup (*Reboot: Teaching Robotics in an Online Environment*), while the UP Open University held a talk on the potential of using vlogging as an educational tool (*OPEN Talk: Vlogging as a Tool for Teaching and Learning*). The Ugnayan ng Pahinungod Baguio held a four-part *Affirmative Action Program* which included tutorials and career orientations for Grade 12 students in La Union, Baguio, and Benguet.



Dissemination and Extension of Knowledge

In celebration of the National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) 2021, updates and issues in science and technology were discussed in various webinars organized by the CUs. UP Baguio held a webinar on the implications of rising sea levels (*Past Sea-Level Changes and Their Implications for a Warmer World in the Future*) and the UPB Department of Biology conducted a series of webinars on topics covering aquatic insects (*Chasing Aquatic Insects: Is It Water under the Bridge Now?*), native rodents (*Native Species in Forest Fragments: A Case for Native Rodents of*

the Philippines), and endangered animals (*Alam Niyo Ba Kung Paano Nadedeklarang Endangered ang Isang Species?: The IUCN Red List Process*). UP Mindanao hosted the *Science & Tech Amid the Pandemic* that discussed the strategies and initiatives of the Philippine Genome Center in Mindanao. Meanwhile, UP Diliman conducted the webinar *Design Thinking for Innovation* in partnership with DOST Region III and UP Clark, as well as the UPD UPSCALE Innovation Hub's *UPTech Venture Showcase & Mixer*. The Philippine Genome Center under the UP System held the *Genomics and Bioinformatics Conference 2021*, with the theme "Overcoming Challenges, Building Opportunities." UP Diliman conducted its Education Research Program research dissemination forum as part of its *Sipat Edukasyon 2021*, focusing on the discussion of disinformation and Information and Communications Technology for Education (ICT4E). In line with disseminating knowledge and battling disinformation, the Main Library in UPD conducted its two-day colloquium on the implications of shifting to the digitalization of knowledge resources (*IT Colloquium for Libraries – Challenging the Status Quo: Global Trends in Digital Transformation*) and censorship in libraries (*<Bleep>: A Lecture on Censorship in Libraries*) in celebration of the annual Library and Information Services Month. UP Mindanao College of Humanities and Social Sciences, in partnership with MovePh, organized a webinar touching on disinformation and fact-checking methods in preparation for the 2022 elections (*Fighting Disinformation: Fact-checking during Elections*). The UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies streamed a webinar entitled *Balota at Pulitika sa 2022: May Bago Ba?* that discussed the role of social media in the 2022 Philippine election campaign. UP Visayas organized webinars on data management (*Utilizing Data to Improve Your Organization*) and discourses on the impacts of digital media in society (*Digital Media, Technology, and Society*). UP Baguio tackled the critical role of programming in various fields of work in their webinar *Decipher: Cracking the Physics Code*.



Webinar series on digital media and technology

UP Diliman's *Biological Research and Services Laboratory Webinar's* 11th episode discussed animal research during the pandemic, in addition to a separate webinar titled *Water Microbes in Action*. Moreover, the UPD Institute of Biology celebrated its 35th anniversary via weekly activities including a series of webinars entitled *IB@25! Future Proofing Biological Education, Research, and Public Service*. UP Los Baños launched its *Program for Zoonotic Diseases* in celebration of the worldwide One Health Day, a program focused on animal health in correlation to human health. UPMin PGC streamed the third episode of its *Bioinformatics Lecture Series*.

The impact of the pandemic to the country's agricultural business sector became the center of discussion for webinars streamed by CUs. UP Diliman's colloquium on statistical sciences (*Stat Speaks*) talked about subsidies and its impact on the country's agribusiness sector. UP Los Baños hosted webinars that covered agribusiness management (*3rd Global Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship Conference*) and innovations in the Philippine food and agricultural supply chain (*Prospects in the New Normal: Online Technologies to Shorten the Philippine Food and Agricultural Supply Chain*).

CUs across the UP System also highlighted in a series of conferences and webinars the paramount need to protect and conserve the environment. UP Los Baños organized international conferences on environment management (*3rd International Conference on Integrated Natural Resources and Environment Management*), conservation of forest natural resources (*16th International Conference on Forest Natural Resources Conservation: Forest and Natural Resources Conservation towards a Resilient Future*), and ecosystem restoration (*13th PNEE International Conference and Scientific Meeting: Reshaping Environment Education Towards Ecosystem Restoration in the New Normal*). Moreover, UPLB also discussed the status of the Philippine timber industry (*Making the Philippine Timber Industry in Full Capacity*) and the wonders of ocean science (*Exploring Ocean Science*). UP Baguio held webinars on conservation of biodiversity (*UPB Biodiversity and Habitat Talk*), sustainable harvesting of wild seaweed resources (*CRE 298 Seminar Series: Talks about Conservation*), and utilization of GIS and remote sensing in the practice of conservation (*Utilizing the GIS and Remote Sensing in Conservation and Restoration*). UP Diliman tackled the implications of excess plastic waste and its innovations in recycling (*Recycling the Future*), while UP Resilience Institute discussed the prospects of financing green growth as a post-disaster recovery strategy (*Green Growth Forum*). The UP NOAH Center presented its work on the

Quezon City Drainage Master Plan (QCDMP), featuring the preliminary recommendations for the drainage system in priority barangays in Quezon City.



International conference on ecosystem restoration hosted by UPLB SESAM

Discussions on Asian studies and its current direction have been the theme of various webinars by UP Diliman, which featured international networks and key figures sharing their insights on geopolitical strife (*Geopolitical Competition in Central Asia*), globalization (*Interrogating Globalization in an Asian Context*), ethnomusicology (*Asia-Pacific Society for Ethnomusicology*), and the promotion of Asian studies (*New Directions for Asian Studies Webinar Series: Network of Knowledge in Asia*). UP Los Baños' Department of Social Sciences conducted the fifth session of the *Philippine International Quincentennial Conference* with the theme "Reclaiming our Place: Reanalyzing Toponymy and Philippine History", featuring discussions on Filipinocentrism and indigeneity, while UP Diliman's UP Archaeological Studies Program held a webinar series called *Binalot Talk* which talked about Philippine archaeological findings.

CUs have also organized webinars on gender and development, humanities, literature, and the arts. The Center for Women's and Gender Studies under the UP System, in partnership with UN Women Philippines, concluded its short course on digital literacy to counter hate speech and promote positive online engagement (*Safe in Cyberspace!*). The UP Department of Women and Development Studies (DWDS) of UP Diliman conducted the online student forum entitled *Crossroad: Navigating Intersectionalities through Feminist Research* that sought to provide a platform for students of the MA in Women and Development (MAWD) program to share their current research projects. UPLB Gender Center gave emphasis on the importance of establishing safe spaces for women and children working and studying at home (*Safe Spaces in the New*

Normal: Fostering VAW-Free Virtual Learning and Working Environments) and relevant policies regarding anti-sexual harassment (*Anti-Sexual Harassment Webinars*). In the same vein, the UP Open University and UP Mindanao commenced their participation in the *18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women and Children* through various activities. Aside from disseminating infographics on laws and policies penalizing violence against women and children and creating online educational resources about gender, UPOU organized a poster-making activity with students from the Serranz Learning Center Inc. Meanwhile, UP Mindanao hosted webinars focusing on the creation of a VAW-free community. In addition, UPOU released a new resource material titled *Gender Considerations in e-Learning*.



Webinars on creating safe spaces, hosted by the UPLB Gender Center

UP Diliman, in partnership with the University of Antwerp, conducted *Dagitab: 1st National Conference on Digital Humanities* that tackled the challenges of digital humanities in the Philippines. The College of Arts and Letters in UP Diliman discussed the impacts of the pandemic on domestic space and the primacy of the arts in the *CAL Bahaginan Research Forum: Tanghalan sa/ng Tahanan: Likha at Saliksik sa Dramang Buhay*. UP Baguio launched a webinar series featuring discourses on the academe's contributions to sustaining creative cities and communities (*Talastasan Lecture Series*). The UPOU Faculty of Education explored the benefits of organized writing sessions with the intent of helping students overcome isolation (*Shut Up & Write*), as well as the translation of English technical documents and literature into Filipino (*OPEN Talk*:

Pagsasalang Teknikal at Pampanitikan sa Filipino). The Department of Human Kinetics in UP Mindanao organized a series of webinars on human movement studies in Mindanao (*Kahimunan: A Research Forum on Human Movement Studies in Mindanao*).

Calls to Action

CUs continue to provide much-needed assistance to the members of the community. The UP Diliman Ugnayan ng Pahinungod invited disaster risk and reduction management advocates to join and volunteer for the *Buhay Pahinungod Program*. The Community Animals Partners and Welfare Advocates UP (CAPWA-UP) of UP Diliman called for donations as they celebrated their *10th CAPWA-UP Grand Pakain for Campus Animals* that aims to provide food for campus animals. UP Visayas, through the Office of Student Affairs, encouraged resident high school and college students of the University to volunteer as peer facilitators to other students. The National Service Reserve Corps UPD launched its *Reservist Grant 2021* which offered a grant of P50,000 as a competitive extension subsidy to three student organizations or a group of reservists currently enrolled in UP Diliman for their organization's initiatives relating to community service or literacy programs.

University of the Philippines
Ugnayan ng Pahinungod
Diliman, Quezon City

Buhay Pahinungod Program

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Inviting all disaster risk and reduction management advocates of UP Diliman

Scan the QR code to sign up!

Schedule of Orientation and Training:
December 3, 2021
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
& 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

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Call for DRRM volunteers