

THE HYGELAN

PPHA NATIONAL CONVENTION 2024:

A Milestone in Shaping the Future of
Pharmacy and Healthcare

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Philippine Pharmacists Association, Inc.

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*Pharmacists for Better Health
Outcomes*



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The Philippine Pharmacists Association Inc. (PPHA) 2024 National Convention, held in Iloilo City, was a resounding success that gathered over 2,653 in-person participants, 6,110 virtual attendees, and 23 students from across the country and beyond. The event, which combined innovative topics, strategic discussions, and recognition of excellence, not only exceeded expectations in terms of attendance but also made a lasting impact on the pharmacy profession. With a theme that was carefully crafted to reflect the dynamic and evolving role of pharmacists, the convention brought together stakeholders from various sectors, including government, healthcare, education, and industry, to discuss the future of healthcare in the Philippines.

The theme for the 2024 National Convention, **"Empowering for the N.E.X.T. in Healthcare,"** was a reflection of the PPHA's vision to foster continuous growth, development, and collaboration within the pharmacy profession. The theme was divided into four plenary sessions that addressed critical areas in the pharmacy sector: Novel Pharmacy Practices, Engaged Patient-Centered Approaches, Expanded Partnerships and Collaborations, and Training and Skills Development of Pharmacists. Each session featured thought-provoking topics and presentations from local and international experts, which set the stage for a

future-focused discussion about the evolving role of pharmacists in healthcare.

N - Novel Pharmacy Practices: Transforming Healthcare Delivery

The first plenary session, "Novel Pharmacy Practices," delved into cutting-edge innovations in the pharmacy profession. Topics covered during this session included The Strategic Role of Precision Medicine in the Philippines, The Roadmap for Promoting Research & Development in the Philippine Pharmaceutical Sector, and The E-Pharmacy Revolution. These discussions highlighted how pharmacists can lead the charge in adopting new technologies and methodologies to improve patient care.

A significant part of this session included fireside chats with FDA Center Directors and the PRC Board of Pharmacy, which explored the regulatory landscape and its role in fostering innovation. These regulatory leaders provided insights on how laws and guidelines could drive the expansion of innovative practices and emerging areas in the pharmaceutical sector.

E - Engaged Patient-Centered Approaches: Putting Patients First

The second plenary session, "Engaged Patient-Centered Approaches," brought attention to the importance of fostering meaningful pharmacist-patient relationships. With the focus on *Medication Therapy Management (MTM)*, *Patient Trust in Advancing*

PPHA National Convention

A Milestone in Shaping the Future



Clinical Research, and Pharmacists' Role in Patient Counseling, this session emphasized how pharmacists play a key role in improving patient outcomes through collaborative, patient-centered care.

The importance of building trust between pharmacists and patients was underscored, as was the need for pharmacists to be actively involved in the medication therapy process. Clinical pharmacy care strategies were discussed in the context of enhancing patient well-being in hospital settings, with case studies demonstrating the positive impact of pharmacists' interventions in optimizing treat-

Convention 2024:

ure of Pharmacy and Healthcare



ment outcomes.

Fireside chats on In-Focus Patients tackled the challenges of embracing innovation in patient care. Pharmacists were encouraged to recognize their potential in driving forward clinical research, patient education, and medication safety, which are all integral to improving patient care outcomes.

(e)XPANDED Partnerships and Collaborations: Strengthening Healthcare Ecosystems

The third plenary session, "(e)XPANDED Partnerships and Collaborations," examined how collaboration among healthcare professionals can improve patient care and health system efficiency.

Topics discussed included Strategic Purchasing for Primary Healthcare, Advancing Healthcare Through Synergistic Public-Private Partnerships, and Medication Safety in Clinical Trials. These discussions emphasized the need for pharmacists to collaborate with other healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, and policymakers, to ensure better access to medications, enhance the effectiveness of clinical trials, and reduce healthcare costs.

A fireside chat with notable panelists from the FDA, PRC, PPhA, and other organizations highlighted how interdisciplinary collaborations can strengthen the healthcare system. These partnerships are essential to achieving a more comprehensive, patient-centric approach to healthcare delivery, which benefits both the healthcare providers and the patients they serve.

T - Training and Skills Development of Pharmacists: Preparing for the Future

The final plenary session, "Training and Skills Development of Pharmacists," focused on continuous professional development, an essential aspect for the evolving pharmacy profession. Topics included *Insights on the Pharmacy Education Roadmap*, *The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Mandate by PRC*, and *Career Progression Specialization (CPS) for Pharmacists*. The session underscored the importance of lifelong learning, with pharmacists being encouraged to specialize

and enhance their skills to keep pace with rapid advances in medicine and healthcare technology.

An inspirational talk on *Rx for Triumph and Transformation* concluded the session, motivating pharmacists to embrace change and innovation in their career trajectories. This discussion was designed to inspire pharmacists to push boundaries, evolve with the profession, and enhance their ability to contribute meaningfully to the healthcare system.

Leadership, Policy, and Market Trends: Keynote Highlights

The event also featured several powerful keynote addresses, starting with the leadership session that set the tone for the entire convention. The Leaders Day and Fellowship Night saw PPhA Chapter Presidents, Affiliates, and Sector Organizations gather for a Leadership Keynote Address delivered by Mr. Cristan Yang from Singapore, who spoke about "Empowering Pharmacy Leadership." This session provided invaluable insights into the importance of effective leadership in advancing the pharmacy profession. PPhA President Prof. Dr. Aleth Therese L. Dacanay also delivered a thought-provoking speech discussing the PPhA's vision and strategic goals for the future, followed by a panel discussion on best practices and success stories from PPhA chapters and affiliates.

The convention's official opening ceremony was a momentous occasion, attended by local dig-



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nitaries, including Iloilo City Mayor Hon. Jerry P. Trenas, who warmly welcomed participants to the city. The opening speech was delivered by PPhA President Prof. Dr. Aleth Therese L. Dacanay, who highlighted the association's commitment to empowering pharmacists to take on more leadership roles within the healthcare ecosystem.

One of the most anticipated keynote message came from the Hon. Senator Christopher Lawrence T. Go, who discussed "*Charting Strategic Policy Directions for the N.E.X.T. in Healthcare: Viewpoints from the Philippine Senate Committee on Health.*" His address provided valuable insights into government initiatives aimed at improving healthcare delivery in the Philippines, underscoring the role of pharmacists in healthcare reforms.

Mylene Rodriguez, General Manager of IQVIA Philippines, then delivered an in-depth presentation on the *Philippine Pharmaceutical*

Landscape: Trends and Analysis, highlighting market trends and the evolving pharmaceutical sector in the country. Additionally, Dr. Yolanda R. Robles, president of the Federation of Asian Pharmaceutical Associations (FAPA) shared regional insights on the pharmaceutical market, providing a broader perspective on the future of the industry.

Awards and Recognition: Celebrating Excellence in Pharmacy

The convention also celebrated the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations within the pharmacy profession through the PPhA Awards. Key awards included the *Bowl of Hygeia*, *Lifetime Achievement Award*, and *Gawad Lourdes Echauz Leadership Award*, each recognizing exemplary leadership and service within the pharmacy profession.

The Outstanding Pharmacists (TOP) Awards were presented in various categories, such as

Academe, Hospital, Public Health, Clinical, Industrial, Community, and Institutional pharmacy. Special group awards for Most Outstanding Chapter and Most Outstanding Associate Organization were also announced, honoring organizations that demonstrated exemplary work in advancing the pharmacy profession.

Research Presentations: Advancing Pharmaceutical Knowledge

Research presentations were a highlight of the event, with both oral and poster sessions showcasing the innovative work of professional or pharmacist graduates, and undergraduate students. These presentations highlighted the importance of research in driving evidence-based practices and improving patient care. Students were encouraged to continue pursuing excellence in research as it contributes to the ongoing development of the pharmacy profession.

Sponsored Sessions and Industry Support

Throughout the three-day event, the convention was supported by several key industry sponsors, including Galderma, Sanofi/Ophelia Healthcare Philippines, Reckitt Benckiser Philippines Inc., P&G, A. Menarini Philippines Inc., Boehringer Ingelheim, and Mundi Pharma, who sponsored educational lectures and shared insights into the latest pharmaceutical innovations and products....continued on page 9

PPhA Awardees

TOPS in CLINICAL PHARMACY



CHRISEL G. CARREON, RPh, BCPS

Chrisel G. Carreon, BS Pharmacy, Pharmacotherapy Specialist, and MS candidate in Social and Administrative Pharmacy at UP Manila, is a distinguished figure in pharmaceutical care. With a stellar career starting at St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) Quezon City, she excelled as a Clinical Pharmacist, later promoted to Assistant Manager of Research, Information, and Education. A Board-Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist, she's recognized for her contributions, including spearheading clinical training programs. Chrisel's accolades include SLMC Associate of the Year Finalist and UP College of Pharmacy Distinguished Alumnus. She actively advances healthcare as Secretary of the Philippine Neurocritical Care Society, advocating for emergency neurological life support training.

TOPS in COMMUNITY PHARMACY

Emma T. Caramat is a "Legacy" Community Pharmacist whose passion for pharmacy was nurtured from birth. Raised by Rosita Trinidad, founder of Farmacia Flor, Emma's upbringing revolved around serving the community. Following in her mother's footsteps, Emma graduated from the University of the Philippines with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in 1983. In 1985 she established Emmaflor Drug, pioneering 24-hour service and innovative patient care in Makati City. Emma is a dedicated member of the Philippine Pharmacists Association and serves as National Treasurer. As past President of the Community Pharmacists of DSAP, she continues to enrich the profession after 38 years of unwavering service.



Emma Caramat, RPh

TOPS in EDUCATION/ACADEME



DR. MA. EVA C. SAN JUAN

Dr. Ma. Eva C. San Juan is an exemplary pharmacist in academia, embodying a steadfast commitment to knowledge advancement and pharmaceutical sciences. With a remarkable portfolio of cutting-edge research and numerous publications, she excels in research and teaching. Dr. San Juan possesses a rare talent for simplifying complex pharmacological concepts, fostering student comprehension across diverse backgrounds. She goes beyond academic guidance as a mentor, nurturing her mentees' professional and personal growth. With dual Ph.D. degrees and a trail of academic achievements, Dr. San Juan is instrumental in establishing Clinical Pharmacy as a major at the University of the Immaculate Conception, now celebrating its 20th year. Her multifaceted roles as a community pharmacist, researcher, faculty member, Dean, and Planning and Development Officer reflect her unparalleled contributions to local and international pharmacy practice. Dr. San Juan's unwavering dedication to excellence continues to shape the future of pharmacy practice and inspire the next generation of healthcare professionals.

TOPS in COMMUNITY PHARMACY

Maribel Tipan Felix, RPh, MBA, is a highly accomplished pharmacist and leader in the field. Armed with a BS Pharmacy degree from Adamson University and an MS in Pharmacy degree from the University of Santo Tomas, she furthered her expertise with an MBA from the Philippine Christian University. Currently serving as Vice President of the Adamson University College of Pharmacy Alumni Association Inc., Maribel is also an active member of the Institutional Pharmacists Association of the Philippines (IPAP), where she spearheads the Committee on Continuing Education. As Executive Assistant III at the Dangerous Drugs Board, Maribel's contributions are invaluable, including pioneering initiatives such as the Experiential Pharmacy Practice Program and implementing innovative online systems for regulatory control.



MARIBEL TIPAN FELIX, RPh, MBA



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PPhA Awardees



**CHRISTINA LIZA R. STA. MARIA, RPh,
MBAH**

TOPS in HOSPITAL PHARMACY

Christina Liza R. Sta. Maria, RPh, MBAH, had over two decades of exemplary leadership in hospital pharmacy operations. As the administrative head of Pharmacy, Clinical Nutrition, and Dietetics Services at Asian Hospital, she ensures Joint Commission International standards compliance. Her accolades include the 2014 Excellence in Hospital Pharmacy Practice award from the Philippine Society of Hospital Pharmacists. Christina pioneered Clinical Pharmacy, Oncology, and Compounding Services at Asian Hospital, leading to the institution's receipt of the CEO Award in 2016. In 2017, she successfully established two in-house outpatient pharmacies. As President of the Philippine Society of Hospital Pharmacists (2021-2024), Christina champions medication safety, innovation, and pharmacist resilience.

TOPS in INDUSTRIAL PHARMACY

Jennifer Olive Arellano, RPh, is a distinguished alumna of the University of the Philippines Manila College of Pharmacy. She earned a Research & Development Management Diploma from the same university in 2004. Jenny's career path led her to clinical research in 1993, where she became a passionate advocate for Good Clinical Practice (GCP). In 2000, she founded the Philippine Clinical Research Professionals (PCRP), championing self-regulation and discipline in clinical trial conduct. Over 25 years, Jenny has driven positive change in the industry through capacity building, regulatory advocacy, and active participation in legislative processes. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, she doubled her efforts, supporting clinical trials at Novotech and volunteering at the Department of Health for government-funded COVID-19 trials. Jenny's exceptional contributions have earned her recognition from the Department of Health and the University of the Philippines College of Pharmacy Alumni Association, receiving the 2023 Distinguished Alumni in Clinical Research Pharmacy.



JENNIFER OLIVE ARELLANO, RPh

TOPS in INSTITUTIONAL PHARMACY

Ms. Mercelinda R. Gutierrez, RPh, MS Pharm, is a respected leader in the pharmaceutical community. Serving as President of the Institutional Pharmacists' Association of the Philippines (IPAP) from 2009 to 2014, she elevated the organization's status within the pharmacy field by actively contributing to the passing of the Pharmacy Law in 2016. Recognized for her exemplary leadership, she received the Excellence in Leadership Award in 2022 for her compassionate and dedicated service. With a BS in Pharmacy from the University of Santo Tomas and an MS in Pharmacy from the Philippine Women's University, Mercelinda brings a wealth of knowledge to her role as Senior Pharmacist at the Supreme Court of the Philippines. She continues contributing to the profession through her involvement in various committees and organizations, including her current role as Chair of the PPhA Election Committee.



**MERCELINDA R. GUTIERREZ, RPh,
MS PHAR**

TOPS in PUBLIC HEALTH

Faye Diana C. Chua, a University of the Philippines College of Pharmacy graduate, brings extensive experience and expertise to her role as Development Management Officer IV (Pharmacy Adviser) at the Department of Health. With 15 years of service as a government hospital pharmacist, Faye has honed her health facility management and policy development skills. She has represented the Philippines in various international training programs, focusing on leadership, clinical pharmacy, and health technology. Faye has been pivotal in shaping health facility-related policies and is actively involved in numerous DOH programs, committees, and systems. She was recognized for her contributions and received the 2023 Distinguished Alumni in Public Health Pharmacy award from the University of the Philippines College of Pharmacy Alumni Association, Inc.



FAYE DIANA C. CHUA, RPh

PPhA Awardees

TOPS in PHARMACY RESEARCH



BIENVENIDO S. BALOTRO, RPh, MS, MBA, DBA

Associate Professor Bienvenido S. Balotro, a distinguished faculty member of the Department of Industrial Pharmacy at the University of the Philippines Manila, is deeply dedicated to research, teaching, and extension service. The former Dean of the UP College of Pharmacy from July 2019 to June 2022, he has led numerous research projects supported by government funding agencies such as DOST-PCHRD, NRCP, PITACH, and UPM-NIH. As project leader of a Php200M DOST-PCHRD-funded research endeavor titled "Establishment of Pharmaceutical Sciences Services for Clinical Research," he significantly advances pharmaceutical sciences locally. With expertise in drug product development and herbal medicine research, Bienvenido has contributed substantially to intellectual property generation and technology transfer. His research outputs, including publications, patents, and utility models, have garnered recognition and awards from the college and the university. Continuously staying abreast of new developments and innovations, Bienvenido actively participates in seminars, workshops, and conferences to contribute to advancing pharmaceutical sciences and related fields.

GAWAD LOURDES ECHAUZ

Anthony Aldrin C. Santiago, a prominent figure in the pharmacy profession, brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his roles. As a Professional Regulatory Board of Pharmacy member since 2013, he has served as Chairman/OIC of the BOP, and headed the Pharmacy CPD Council and Pharmacy Career Progression and Specialization Program-Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CPSP-CATS) Program. Instrumental in passing the Philippine Pharmacy Act and its IRR, Anthony has spearheaded crucial resolutions, shaping pharmacy standards and ethics. With a BS in Pharmacy from UP Manila and a Master of Clinical Pharmacy from the University of Queensland, he continues to excel as Chief Pharmacist at The Medical City (Pasig), earning prestigious awards for his outstanding contributions to hospital pharmacy practice.



**ANTHONY ALDRIN C. SANTIAGO, RPh
MClinPharm**

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Alicia P. Catabay, RPh, MSc, PhD, is a distinguished educator with a rich background in pharmacy education and research. With teaching experiences at prestigious institutions such as UP Manila, Kuwait University, and De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute, she remains committed to delivering quality education. As a PAASCU accreditor, she ensures excellence in pharmacy education standards. Serving as the founding Dean at Dr. Mariano Que College of Pharmacy, her leadership led to the college's CHED accreditation and top performance in licensure examinations. Dr. Catabay's accolades include "The Outstanding Pharmacist (TOP) in Pharmacy Education awarded by PPhA in 2016" and various academic recognitions, demonstrating her exceptional dedication to pharmacy education and research.



ALICIA P. CATABAY, RPh, MSc, PhD

BOWL OF HYGEIA AWARD

Dr. Imelda G. Peña is a distinguished scholar and leader with a remarkable track record of academic excellence and management prowess. Holding academic degrees from the University of the Philippines, including a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Pharmacy, a Master of Science in Industrial Pharmacy, and a Doctor of Public Health majoring in Epidemiology, Dr. Peña currently serves as Professor 7 and Director of the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of the Philippines Manila. She actively contributes to policy formulation at the Philippine General Hospital and extends consultancy services to government bodies such as CHED and DOH. Dr. Peña's dedication to public service and pharmacy education has earned her prestigious awards, including the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award in Public Health and the 2023 FAPA Section Award in Social and Administrative Pharmacy.



DR. IMELDA G. PEÑA



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PPhA Awardees

PPHA MOST OUTSTANDING CHAPTER

PPhA ILOCOS SUR PHARMACISTS'
ASSOCIATION



The ILOCOS SUR PHARMACISTS' ASSOCIATION is a dynamic force dedicated to advancing regional healthcare and pharmaceutical awareness. The association unites stakeholders in the pharmaceutical industry through active participation in events like the annual motorcade championing Generics Awareness Month and World Pharmacists Day. Comprehensive lectures and symposia featuring medical experts and pharmacists highlight the significance and effectiveness of generic drugs. Initiatives such as the "Prevention and Control of Leptospirosis" program demonstrate the organization's commitment to community health and safety. Notable achievements include victory in the World Pharmacists Day 2023 reels competition and acquiring funding for the Pharmacy Information Services project. The association's inaugural One Ilocos Summit also fostered collaboration and innovation, furthering its mission to enhance healthcare and community engagement in Ilocos Sur.

PPHA MOST OUTSTANDING AFFILIATE

PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF
PHARMACY (PACOP)



The Philippine Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (PACOP) is a beacon of excellence and innovation in pharmacy education nationwide. Comprised of esteemed institutions represented by Deans/Heads, PACOP is committed to fostering the highest standards of education and training in pharmacy. PACOP ensures a robust and cohesive organization dedicated to service and advancement through training and support for faculty, students, and alumni. Collaborating closely with the Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPhA), PACOP drives innovations in pharmacy education, navigating challenges such as the 2020 pandemic through the ACTS framework. On its 50th year, PACOP introduced the ARTS framework, emphasizing Adaptation, Resilience, Transformation, and Synergism to meet evolving educational needs. With a focus on internationalization and embracing the Fifth Industrial Revolution, PACOP, on its road to 50th, envisions a future of synergy, transformation, and sustainability in pharmacy education.

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A Milestone in Shaping the Future of Pharmacy and Healthcare

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Iloilo Convention Center, home of the PPhA
National Convention 2024

Other major sponsors included Mercury Drug Corporation, Philusa Corporation, United Laboratories Inc., and Otsuka Philippines, whose support helped ensure the success of the event.

The PPhA 2024 National Convention in Iloilo City marked a pivotal milestone in the advancement of both the pharmacy profession and healthcare in the Philippines. Through a rich array of discussions, expert-led sessions, and collaborative exchanges, the convention demonstrated the dynamic role of pharmacists in shaping the future of healthcare delivery. As the profession continues to expand its scope and influence, the PPhA National Convention serves as crucial platform for driving innovation, fostering leadership, and strengthening partnerships. The convention's legacy will undoubtedly inspire pharmacists to lead the way in shaping a more effective, patient-centered, and innovative healthcare system in the Philippines and beyond.

Commemorating the Birth of the Father of Philippine Pharmacy

The Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPHA) spearheaded the ceremonies honoring the 171st Birth Anniversary of Don Leon Maria Guerrero y Leogardo, the country's first licensed pharmacist, at the Leon Ma. Guerrero Hall, National Museum of National History at the City of Manila last February 22, 2024.

Don Leon Ma. Guerrero was the first Filipino to attain full membership status in the American Pharmaceutical Association and served as Chairman of the Pharmacy Board of Examiners amidst the American occupation which solidified his status as the pioneer of Philippine Pharmacy Practice.

His accomplishments in the disciplines of Chemistry and Phar-

macy paved the way in the expansion of roles of the pharmacists and emphasized their significance in the field of research and healthcare innovations.

Distinguished guests, including Leon Maria Guerrero's living relatives, PPHA chapter officers, and affiliate organizations, gathered for a wreath-laying ceremony led by the PPHA 2023-2026 Board of Trustees. His descendants, heritage advocate, former Secretary of Tourism and museum director, Gemma Cruz Araneta and National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) Chairperson Lisa Guerrero-Nakpil, spoke about Guerrero's passion and enthusiasm for natural products. The event also showcased artworks, research and formulations on natural products such as fermented wine, pharmaceutical herbal preparations and sample herbarium specimens produced by students of different schools of pharmacy through the Philippine Association of Colleges of Phar-

macy, (PACOP).

Unilab representative, Alyanna Santos also presented medicines and nutritional supplements to the 3rd district of Manila. This donation was acknowledged by PPHA President Aleth Therese Dacanay who expressed her gratitude for Unilab's generous support and commitment in safeguarding the health of Filipinos and ensuring the provision of quality healthcare. Organized by the National and Special Events Committee under the leadership of Ms. Ma. Gilda Saljay (Chair) and Ms. Marian Andaluz (Vice-Chair), the commemorative ceremony wrapped up with attendees visiting exhibits, fostering meaningful conversations.





PPhA Celebrates 100 New Immunizing Pharmacists:

A Milestone in Advancing Public Health



"May your commitment to public health serve as a shining example for others. Mabuhay ang Filipino pharmacists! We hail pharmacy!"

Thus, says Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPhA) President Dr. Aleth Therese Dacanay, during the conferment ceremonies for one hundred (100) successful Immunizing Pharmacists Certification Program completers on June 25, 2024.

The ceremony took place at the Frassati Auditorium of the University of Santo Tomas and was led by Dr. Dacanay, also the IPCP National Program Manager. Dr. Evan Payawal, Senior Medical Manager for Medical Affairs at Pfizer Inc., and Hon. Anthony Aldrin C. Santiago, OIC-Chairperson of the Professional Regulatory Board of Pharmacy, graced the event with their presence. Dr. Imelda G. Peña, coach and assessor of the program, administered the oath-taking for the new immunizing pharmacists.

The 100 newly certified immunizing pharmacists came from diverse practice backgrounds, including community, hospital, and academic settings. The selection process in October 2023 marked a significant step forward in integrating immunization into pharmacy practice, underscoring the profession's critical and valued role in advancing public health.

The success of this program is a testament to the generosity of Pfizer, who provided the scholarship grant, and the collaboration of all the significant people behind this success: 2020-2023 and 2023-2026 PPhA Board of Trustees, all the coaches and assessors, especially to the Assistant Program Manager, Ms. Joy Benitez and lead Assessor Ms. Karen Grace Romero. This achievement marks a significant milestone in the country's efforts to expand access to immunization through skilled pharmacists.

The Philippine Pharmacist Association extends its profound gratitude to all involved in this transformative initiative. The esteemed organization joyfully congratulates the new immunizing pharmacists on their dedication and hard work and recognizes their significant contribution to the country's immunization efforts.



PPhA President Speaks Up as Resource Expert on HB 8554

Dr. Aleth Therese L. Dacanay, President of the Philippine Pharmacists Association, Inc. (PPhA, Inc.), took a pivotal role as a distinguished resource speaker during the deliberations on House Bill No. 8554, more commonly referred to as the E-pharma or E-botika Bill, organized by the Committee on Trade and Industry of the House of Representatives on February 20, 2024. Dr. Dacanay shared her insights and indicated the position of the PPhA on the House Bill alongside key stakeholders including the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Philippine Medical Association (PMA), Consumer Healthcare Industry Association of the Philippines (CHAP), Drugstores Association of the Philippines Inc. (DSAP), The Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) and other leaders from the pharmaceutical industry.

The e-Botika bill, introduced by Iloilo 4th District Representative Ferjenel Biron, seeks to oversee the establishment and functioning of online pharmacies, referred to as "e-Botikas," across the Philippines. The bill highlights the pressing need for regulation due to the surge in e-commerce, wherein a vast number of



pharmacies engage in illegal and improper practices. Rep. Biron claims that the proliferation of e-Botikas poses significant risks to public health, as it increases the prevalence of unsafe and counterfeit drugs and medicines.

Dr. Dacanay shared that the PPhA strongly advocates for provisions in the Bill that should be included for the protection of consumers against scrupulous e-prescriptions. Therefore, measures concerning signatures, the return of used prescriptions, and partial filling must be implemented. Additionally, the legislation should precisely delineate criteria for identifying genuine online pharmacies amidst the proliferation of online vendors. She also emphasized the necessity of an educational campaign in the event of the bill's approval.

The PPhA's active presence in deliberations for legislation affecting public health underscores the commitment of pharmacy leaders to advancing regulations that ensure the highest standards of pharmaceutical care and patients' well-being.





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PPHA showcase Immunizing Pharmacists Program and Pharmacists Roles in UHC in the Access to Medicines Summit 2024

PPHA President, Dean Aleth Therese Dacanay and Ms. Jingle Diola, PPHA, Pharma Practice Section Representative joined other industry experts, policymakers, various advocacy groups and stakeholders from across the healthcare spectrum in the Access to Medicines Summit 2024 with the theme "Building Bridges to Build a Blueprint for Collaborative and Innovative Access to Medicines for a Future of Equitable Healthcare." The event was held last February 6, 2024 at the Diamond Hotel, Manila.



With the goal of exploring strategic approaches for improving medicine accessibility and delivery in the country, this event jointly hosted by RiseAboveNow Business Consulting Group and Takeda, aimed at fostering collaboration and innovation to enhance the public's access to medicines.

Dr. Teodoro J. Herbosa, Secretary of the Department of Health, Philippines, encouraged stakeholders to devise more innovative strategies that can significantly improve access to medicines, particularly for the most vulnerable and economically disadvantaged populations. In his recorded keynote address, he urged participants to utilize the summit as an opportunity to engage in candid discussions and tackle challenging issues.



During the event, Dr. Dacanay shared insights into the transformative journey of the Immunizing Pharmacist Certification Program (IPCP). She emphasized the program's pivotal role in empowering pharmacists to administer vaccines safely and effectively, particularly during health crises. The program's impact in expanding access to immunization services was lauded as a testament to the pharmacy profession's commitment to public health.

Another notable highlight in the event was the landmark initiative spearheaded by Ms. Jingle Diola, PPHA, Pharma Practice Section Representative, to collaborate with the City of Baguio under the leadership of Honorable Mayor Benjie Magalong. This initiative aims to create a blueprint recognizing and highlighting the crucial role of Pharmacists in the full implementation of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). By leveraging partnerships and fostering collaboration between pharmacists and local government authorities, the initiative sought to enhance healthcare delivery, promote patient-centered care, and advance the UHC agenda.

New Leaders Take the Helm:

PPhA Luzon Chapters Hold Induction of Officers

The Philippine Pharmacists Association Luzon Chapters conducted its Induction of Officers across 8 different chapters in 2024. These ceremonies are important milestones for our local chapters and reflect our commitment to the development and leadership of the pharmaceutical community.

The newly installed Chapter Presidents are Mr. Mark Ryan D. Langit (Baguio-Benguet), Ms. Perla N. Prado (Mountain Province), Dr. Alicia P. Catabay (Cavite), Ms. Maria Teresa G. Ramos (La Union), Ms. Yvette C. Tamayo (Batangas), Ms. Elaine T. Lague-Espanta (Pampanga), Ms. Maribel T. Felix (Rizal), and Ms. Judylyn R. Hidalgo (Ilocos Sur-Abra).



Cavite Chapter, July 6, 2024



*Mountain Province Chapter
May 25, 2024*



*Baguio-Benguet Chapter
March 15, 2024*



*La Union Chapter
August 11, 2024*



*Batangas Chapter
September 28, 2024*

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Barangan, Capule honored at the 11th PFFA Distinction and Excellence Awards



The Philippine Federation of Professional Associations (PFFA) named Ms. Ma. Rosario B. Barangan, PPhA Section Representative of the Pharmaceutical Sciences from 2020 – April 2022 and VP for Manufacturing of E.L Laboratories, Inc. and Dr. Francis R. Capule, Dean of the College of Pharmacy, UP Manila, as recipients of the 11th PFFA Professional Distinction Award for Pharmacy Profession in Private/Specialized Practice Category and Academe/Research and Development Category, respectively.

Ms. Barangan, Dr. Capule and PPhA President Dr. Aleth Therese Dacanay participated in the Awarding Ceremonies last February 25, 2024 at the Ang Bahay Ng Alumni, UP Diliman, QC.

The PFFA Distinction and Excellence Awards were established to further enhance the image and stature of Filipino professionals, advocate for the

adoption of the highest standards of professionalism and ethics as a benchmarks of distinction and excellence, acknowledge the outstanding achievements and noteworthy contributions of Filipino professionals both domestically and internationally, inspire professionals to actively contribute to the enhancement, growth, and advancement of their respective fields, as well as the betterment of their communities and the nation as a whole and to provide exemplars for aspiring young professionals to emulate.

The Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPhA), as a member association under its Council of Professional Health Association (COPHA), nominated outstanding professionals in various categories for the PFFA Distinction and Excellence Awards on the fields of Academe/Research and Development, Private/Specialized Practice, Government Service, Global Filipino Practice and Service

and Professional Association Development.

Ms. Barangan was recognized for her distinguished 35-year career in the pharmaceutical industry which was marked by her unwavering dedication and significant contributions. Her visionary leadership as Project Manager in the establishment of a manufacturing facility laid the groundwork for the company's sustained success and growth. Ms. Barangan's competence is evident in her role as Vice President for Manufacturing, where she has positioned the company as a national leader in contract manufacturing, particularly in sterile ophthalmic preparations. Beyond her professional roles, Ms. Barangan's involvement in national regulatory bodies and professional organizations highlights her dedication to industry standards and education. Her active participation in socio-civic activities also underscores her

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PPhA Inc. Supports STVC- South Medical Outreach Program

The Philippine Pharmacists Association, in collaboration with STVC-South, successfully conducted a comprehensive medical outreach program in Cupang, Muntinlupa. The one-day event served over 200 community members, providing essential healthcare services and medical assistance to underserved residents. The outreach initiative featured multiple healthcare stations strategically positioned throughout the STVC-South facility:



provision of maintenance medicines for hypertension and diabetes and distribution of vitamins and supplement.

There were volunteer health workers from LGU who also did Basic Health Screening such as blood pressure monitoring and blood glucose testing.



Medical Consultation Station where volunteer physicians provided comprehensive health assessment, focusing on chronic disease management and preventive care and special attention to elderly patients and children. For Pharmacy Services, there were free medication dispensing for common ailments, detailed medication counseling and

Over 200 medication packages, 100 hygiene kits, educational materials on health maintenance and preventive care guidelines were distributed to the recipients.

The event was made possible through collaborations with STVC-South Administration headed by Mr. Eduardo Pacua, the Local Government Unit of Muntinlupa, volunteer medical professionals and barangay health workers.

This successful outreach program demonstrated the vital role of community-based healthcare initiatives in addressing the medical needs of underserved population in Cupang, Muntinlupa.

The Philippine Pharmacists Association, Inc. stays committed to helping and extending a hand to

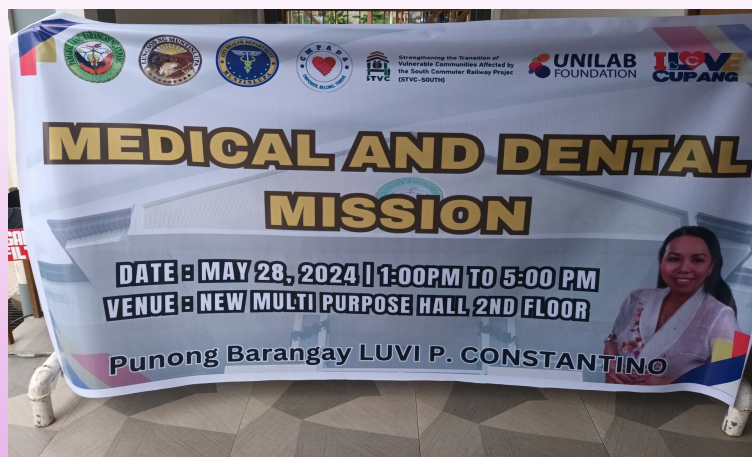


those less fortunate brothers and sisters in the community, and ready to extend free services that pharmacists are known for, such as dispensing medication, patient counseling and health services that advocate patient safety.



Impact and Outcomes

The program successfully served more than 100 adult recipients with at least 50 elderly



#OnePPhA #ServicewithJoy #PPhACES2024



Empowering Filipino Pharmacists through CPD

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New Leaders Take the Helm:

PPhA Luzon Chapters Hold Induction of Officers

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Pampanga Chapter
September 28, 2024



Ilocos Sur-Abra
November 23, 2024



Rizal Chapter
November 14, 2024

Empowering Filipino Pharmacists:

PPhA Visayas Cluster Advances Professional Growth Through CPD Seminars

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informative sessions but also fostered meaningful connections and reinforced the crucial role pharmacists play in advancing healthcare in the Philippines. The event marked a significant step toward professional growth and a brighter future for Filipino pharmacists. Visayas Cluster is composed of 13 chapters covering 3 regions.

Barangan, Capule honored at the 11th PFPA Distinction and Excellence Awards

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commitment to community service.

Dr. Capule was acknowledged for his work as module developer, resource speaker, reviewer, session chair or poster judge in scientific conferences and in providing technical assistance to various local and international organizations. His other contributions include leading a six-month Clinical Pharmacy Training Program for hospital pharmacists and modules for pharmacists used by PPhA (Module on Vaccine-Preventable Diseases for Immunizing Pharmacists) and Department of Health (Training Manual on Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Management for Government Hospitals). He has been recognized for his outstanding performance by receiving three Gawad Dekana Awards for Outstanding Teacher and the PPhA – Unilab The Outstanding Pharmacist in Education/Academe. He has also been a recipient of multiple awards for his research work including 13 international publication awards, and eight academic and research grants. He also received the Outstanding Good Pharmacy Practice (GPP) Alumni Award during the 29th Federation of Asian Pharmaceutical Association (FAPA) Congress in Taipei, Taiwan.



NEWS THE HYGELIAN

Issue #2

February 2025/Vol. #11



As members of the Philippine Pharmacists Association, Inc. (PPHA), it is essential that we keep our constituents well-informed about the activities, initiatives, and accomplishments of our organization. Effective communication fosters transparency, strengthens engagement, and reinforces our collective commitment to advancing the pharmacy profession and ensuring quality healthcare for all.

With the growing influence of digital platforms, we must also recognize the importance of responsible social media information dissemination. As professionals, we hold a responsibility to uphold accuracy, integrity, and ethical standards when sharing information online. Misinformation can lead to confusion, erode public trust, and undermine our advocacy efforts. Therefore, we encourage everyone to verify sources before posting and to share only credible and official updates regarding PPHA and the pharmacy profession.

Furthermore, adherence to social media etiquette guidelines is crucial in maintaining professionalism and fostering a respectful online environment. We urge all members to engage in constructive discussions, respect differing opinions, and avoid sharing misleading or defamatory content. Let us use social media as a tool to promote awareness, collaboration, and positive change within our profession and community.

As we continue to strengthen our communication efforts, we are proud to present the latest issue of The Hygeian, a testament to PPHA's unwavering dedication to serving our members and advancing the pharmacy profession. This publication reflects our collective achievements and the invaluable contributions of our members nationwide.

We sincerely thank you for your unending support and commitment to our shared mission. Your dedication fuels the continued success of PPHA, and together, we will keep elevating the pharmacy profession for the benefit of our communities and the nation.

Maria Fay Nenette M. Cariaga
PPHA Public Relations Officer

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Message from the PPhA President



We are delighted to announce the release of another edition of Hygeian, the official newsletter of the Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPhA). This marks the launch of its second issue, which serves as a vital resource for members of the pharmacy community. Hygeian is dedicated to providing updates, news, and meaningful stories that highlight the contributions and experiences within the pharmacy profession. This platform plays a crucial role in fostering communication and collaboration among pharmacists, ensuring they stay informed about the latest developments, best practices, and innovations in the field.

The Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPhA) has been diligently working to enhance the public image and recognition of the pharmacy profession while also advocating for the rights and welfare of Filipino pharmacists. This newsletter is an essential resource,

offering a wealth of information covering a broad range of pertinent topics. Readers can expect to find articles dedicated to continuing professional development, showcasing various training programs and workshops designed to keep pharmacists up-to-date with the latest developments in the field. Additionally, the newsletter provides industry updates, informing members about new regulations, technological advancements, and trends that may impact their practice. Furthermore, it features best practices in pharmacy, sharing success stories and innovative strategies employed by pharmacists to improve patient care and optimize pharmacy operations. Overall, the PPhA's newsletter is vital for fostering professional growth and ensuring that pharmacists remain well-informed in an ever-evolving healthcare landscape.

As we continue to navigate the complexities of our healthcare system, I am reminded of the crucial role that pharmacists play in ensuring the well-being of our communities. Our profession is built on a foundation of compassion, expertise, and dedication. In line with our national convention and CPD-run theme, we have been working tirelessly to promote novel pharmacy practices, engaged patient-centric approaches, expanded partnerships, and pharmacist training and skills development. I am proud to say that our association has been at the forefront of these efforts, and we will

continue to strive for excellence in all that we do.

To the members of the Hygeian Editorial Board, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering dedication and the incredible effort you put into your work. Your commitment to producing high-quality, well-researched articles not only serves to inform our general membership but also fosters a deeper understanding of important topics within our association and profession. Each piece you create reflects your thoughtful approach and passion for keeping our readers engaged and educated. Thank you once again for your hard work and the invaluable contributions you make to our organization.

Let us come together in the spirit of compassion to uplift ourselves and one another, working towards a brighter future for healthcare in the Philippines. By equipping pharmacists with the knowledge they need, we can truly make a difference in the lives of many.

WE HAIL PHARMACY!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aleth Dacanay'.

PROF. ALETH THERESE L. DACANAY, PhD
PRESIDENT
Philippine Pharmacists Association, Inc.



*Pharmacists for Better
Health Outcomes*