

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF PUBLIC HEALTH PHYSICIANS

YEAR-END REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

DR. LUISITO RUIZ

Greetings to all members of the Philippine Society of Public Health Physicians (PSPHP)! I congratulate the hard work of the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat for our Society's achievements in 2018! PSPHP has seen important achievements this year. Our SEC Registration, First Lecture Series and Strategic Planning were key milestones.

PSPHP was organized to integrate all public health physicians nationwide, providing opportunity for collaboration, continuing professional development/training and strengthening solidarity. We have received support and membership from all over the country and even from abroad! As stewards of the country's public health legacy and institutions, we look forward to strengthening collaboration with our colleagues in the clinical profession. We envision healthcare for all Filipinos that is responsive, equitable and sustainable, providing not only quality of services but also opportunities for our public health professionals.

We look forward to the year ahead as we build closer ties and collaboration among our Public Health Physician family! Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DR. LESTER SAM ARANETA GEROY

For many of us who started our careers in the community, we had always felt the urge for credibility and establishing camaraderie that would promote dialogue, sharing of experiences and career guidance. This year, this dream became a reality and our First Lecture Series in 14 April 2018 received support from 150 participants.

We thank the support of our Chairman Dr Luisito Ruiz for spearheading the organization, and the hard work and cooperation of colleagues from the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes (AIHO), our friends and networks in establishing the PSPHP.

There is a lot of potential for PSPHP and our physician and non-physician public health colleagues. In this decade, we see the country's rapid growth and increasing foreign direct investments. Domestic budget for health (mostly coming from tobacco taxes) and funding for health research have grown tremendously, while overseas development assistance has decreased. These developments provide huge potential for public health practitioners to become better experts, practitioners, managers, diplomats, investors and entrepreneurs thereby contributing to our country's development. We are re-examining our past and gaining better understanding of our healthcare and public health history. Meanwhile, witnessing the unfolding of UHC gives us an opportunity to strengthen the new healthcare system as it develops. Because there is a lot of information we do not know about, it is our role as PH physicians to build new indicators, targets and mechanisms so we would better understand our context and be strategic in terms of our professional practice and the role of the different organizations where we are.

This is the best opportunity to creatively strike a balance in our scientific knowledge (scientia), virtue and ideals and perspectives (virtus), and professional practice (opus). As ambassadors of the science and practice of public health, we join our health professional colleagues in the country and around the world.

THE BIRTH OF A NEW SOCIETY

The Philippine Society of Public Health Physicians, Inc. (PSPHP) was officially registered in the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on 7 March 2018. PSPHP aims to be a globally-recognized, locally-relevant organization of Filipino public health physicians committed to advance the science and practice towards the achievement of health for all Filipinos (vision). Its mission is collective representation, development of the profession, and community of practice.

The Society will only include physicians dedicated to guide community, local government, agency, health organization, medical office or program in pursuit of group, community, and societal health goals. In the spirit of camaraderie and professional support, we shall encourage entry and strive to uplift the practice of all public health physicians towards credibility and quality. The Society shall also form a strong link with clinical and individual based medical specialties to the interest of populations and communities based on evidence, sustainability and the Philippine context.

Initial discussions and planning for PSPHP started in January 2017 through the support of the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes (AIHO). The name "PSPHP" was coined in 21 May 2017, which was also the date of the first election of officers.

The Society's motto - Scientia, Opus, Virtus - was endorsed in 7 July 2018 during the first strategic planning. In September 2018, during a meeting of the Board of Trustees, the colors golden yellow (science), blue (virtue) and green (work) were selected to symbolize the balance of knowledge of public health, virtue and ideology and practice. The colors were reflected in PSPHP's logo and visibility documents. In the same meeting, the BOT approved the formation of the Secretariat to operationalize the Strategic Plan. In September 2018, the Executive Committee and the Board approved Dr Joey Francis Hernandez, a consultant from Physicians for Peace Philippines and Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes, as the first Secretary General. /PE



PSPHP CONDUCTS FIRST LECTURE SERIES



PSPHP was publicly launched on 14 April 2018 through its First Lecture Series: The Filipino Physician in Public Health. The event was held in Alvor Hall of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine. Over 100 public health practitioners from Ilocos to Tawi-Tawi joined the event. Key speakers were former DOH Health Secretaries Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan, Dr. Manuel Dayrit, and Dr. Pauly Jean Ubial. Dr. Ryan Gunaran, a highly-awarded public health practitioner and advocate in the Cordilleras, was the engaging facilitator. Their segment focused on challenges in starting a public health practice during their time. Dr. Ramon Paterno, a former UP Manila faculty member, also gave a discussion on the history of public health, starting from the Alma Ata Declaration of 1978 until the most recent years.



The afternoon session featured the diverse tracks within public health which physicians may venture into. Dr. Beverly Lorraine Ho of the DOH Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau and Mr. Paul Ernest de Leon of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development presented on the state of health research in the Philippines, including opportunities available for public health. Afterwards, a panel discussion on being a Filipino public health physician followed featuring doctors from various fields: Dr. Jaifred Christian Lopez (public health research), Dr. Juan Alfonso Leonardia (international non-government organization), Dr. Francisco Gomez (private sector and entrepreneurship), Dr. Renato Menrige Jr. (primary care) and Dr. Alvin Caballes (clinical practice and academe). Dr. Jacqueline Monville, PSPHP Secretary, facilitated the said discussion. Synthesizing the previous sessions was Prof. Ernesto Garilao of Zuellig Family Foundation. He emphasized the crucial role of physicians in nation-building and in linking stakeholders from the health and non-health sectors. The First Lecture Series closed with the First General Assembly where the officers presented the organization to participants. The event was hosted by Dr. Paolo Victor Medina and Dr. Ma. Rowena Alcido of PSPHP. /PMVV

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SNIPPETS FROM PUBLIC HEALTH HISTORY IN THE PHILIPPINES: REAL EXPEDICIÓN FILANTRÓPICA DE LA VACUNA

In efforts to prevent the further spread and death due to smallpox, the Royal Philanthropic Vaccine Expedition (Real Expedición Filantrópica de la Vacuna) was initiated by the King of Spain, Charles IV in 1803, and was headed by Dr. Francisco Xavier de Balmis. This was the first-ever public health campaign reaching an international scale. The mission was to bring the vaccine (early form) to Spanish colonies, from South America (Canary Islands, Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Chile, Bolivia) and the Philippines. During the expedition, they utilized human carriers from orphanages and hospitals.

Smallpox affected the Filipinos then, spreading across Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, with the virus coming from travelers arriving from Mexico and China.

The vaccination campaign arrived in the Philippines on April 15, 1805. Dr. Balmis was able to convince the Archbishop of Manila and the Governor General despite earlier hesitations. An estimate of 20,000 Filipino children were vaccinated during the two-year Philippine leg of the campaign.

In 1806, the Governor General Fernandez de Folgueras institutionalized the system of immunization through the creation of the Insular Bureau of Vaccination in the Philippines. /PMVV

PSPHP FIRST STRATEGIC PLANNING, 7 JULY 2018

PSPHP held a consultation on 7 July 2018 to develop its first 10-Year Strategic Plan. The Strategic Planning was held at the Acacia Hotel in Alabang. Thirty PSPHP members joined in the consultation. Dr Ramir Blanco and Dr Jacqueline Monville, both consultants of Zuellig Family Foundation, were facilitators.

The Strategic Plan developed contains the following Strategic Objectives (SOs):

SO 1: Enhance credibility, impact and inspiration of public health programmes through activities and training programmes (Professional Development)

SO 3: Communicate effectively the mandate of the organization, the role of public health and professionals in society, enriching partnerships with all professionals and sectors, to maximize impact. (External Affairs and Communication)

sustainability through strong financial planning, management and resource generation (Finance and Management)

SO 2: Ensure growth, management, welfare and camaraderie of all members and partners (Membership)

SO 4: Ensure organizational

SO 5: Ensure robust internal policy, management and harmony for maximum growth and influence (Internal Policy)



SO 6: Define and expand boundaries of public health in the Philippines through curriculum development, implementation and strengthening (Specialty Development)

SO 7: Facilitate opportunities to ensure financial sustainability, meeting demands of the organization, members and the community at large, within and related to public health (Business Development)

SO 8: Strengthen organizational credibility through establishment of working group that could promote the science of public health and its related fields (Scientific Credibility) /PE

Participants of the First PSPHP Strategic Planning held in Acacia Hotel, Muntinlupa City

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

Philippine Society of Public Health Physicians

PSPHP PARTICIPATES IN AMHOP CONVENTION

On 4 April 2018, Dr Christian Gomez and Dr Lester Geroy participated in the Governor's Night of the Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines (AMHOP) at Quest Hotel, Clark, Pampanga. Dr Renato Menrige Jr, outgoing AMHOP President, Dr Clemencia Bondoc, incoming AMHOP President, and Dr Ma Elisa Villanueva, Villaronga Bulacan, gave a warm recognition to representatives of the newly-formed Society.



Photo Credit: Patrick Briones and MentalHealthPH

Dr. Ralph Nico Selibio discusses PRAISE, a community mental health project he pioneered in the municipality of San Enrique, Negros Occidental

PSPHP PRESENTS IN NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH FORUM, MENTAL HEALTH LAW

PSPHP supported Dr Ralph Nico Selibio in the Mental Health Day celebration entitled Mental Health, Tagumpay Natang Lahat! in Quezon City. The event was held at 55 Events Place on October 12, 2018 organized by Mental Health PH. Other speakers were Senator Risa Hontiveros, Dr Raymond John Naguit and DOH Assistant Secretary Maria Rosario

Vergelre, Dr Selibio, Municipal Health Officer of San Enrique, Negros Occidental, presented his experience on starting PRAISE, his pilot community mental health initiative. Through PRAISE, there has been increased psychosocial support and resource mobilization for psychiatric treatment of identified patients. With PSPHP Secretariat plans to establish guidelines on how members can seek support and represent PSPHP in local and international scientific conferences related to public health./JFH

PSPHP MEMBERSHIP REACHES 150 IN 2018

We are happy to announce that PSPHP has reached 150 paid members from all over the country after only a few months of opening for registration. Among the members are former DOH Secretaries Pauly Jean Ubial, Manuel Dayrit and Jaime Galvez Tan. Other than public health physicians currently working in the Philippines, memberships also included those who are currently studying abroad or have assignments in other countries. In addition, clinicians who also do public health work, manage health facilities or are involved in population-based health care are being invited for membership. The Secretariat has organized a team to support members who have not updated their PMA membership to update this with their corresponding component societies./LSG



Philippine delegates in the 59th ITM Colloquium. Dr. Lester Geroy, PSPHP President (second from left) and Dr. Joey Hernandez, PSPHP Secretary General, (rightmost) presented in this international conference on antimicrobial resistance. With them are Mr. Rotana Chea of Cambodia (leftmost), Ms. Sophia Reyes, public health researcher from Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes (center) and Dr. Mari Rose delos Reyes, pediatrician from the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (second from right)

PSPHP JOINS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AMR IN CAMBODIA

The Philippine Society of Public Health Physicians (PSPHP) was introduced to the international public health audience during the 59th Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) Colloquium. The event was held on 5-7 December in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, with the theme Antibiotic Resistance: From Research Into Action. Dr Lester Geroy, PSPHP President and UP Open University Visiting Lecturer, with Cambodian colleague Dr Rotana Chea from the Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, presented a poster on "Differences in Mechanisms of Resistance in Different Organisms and Why AMR Initiatives Should Learn from Other Programs". Other participants from the Philippines were Dr Joey Hernandez and Ms Sophie Reyes who made an oral and poster presentation on the Implementation Review of the Philippine Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance on behalf of the Inter-Agency Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance (ICAMR). Another Filipino presenter focusing on antimicrobial surveillance was Dr. Mari Rose delos Reyes of the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine./PE

PSPHP JOINS NATIONAL HEALTH SECTOR MEETING

The Philippine Society of Public Health Physicians was cordially invited to attend the 2nd National Health Sector Meeting of the Department of Health held in Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City. It was attended by the senior officials of DOH Central Office, Centers for Health & Development, and attached agencies including PhilHealth and FDA, chief of hospitals, as well as representatives of several local and international NGOs, including Alliance of Improving Health Outcomes (AIHO), World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Discussions included topics on universal health coverage, service delivery network and primary health care. On behalf of the Society, Dr. Lester Geroy (President) and Dr. Joey Hernandez (Secretary General) participated in the signing of commitment to Universal Health Care alongside over a hundred health sector stakeholders and managers in the country./PE



PSPHP representatives Dr. Lester Geroy and Dr. Joey Hernandez sign in the pledge of commitment for Universal Health Care in the 2nd National Health Sector Meeting held in Cebu City



Dr. Hernandez (left) and Dr. Valera (center) pose in front of the welcome tarpaulin of the Fall Institute. They are joined by Ms. Chiqui de Veyra (public health researcher) who also took courses under the Fall Institute.



Two PSPHP members, Dr. Paula Valera and Dr. Joey Hernandez, were selected to participate in the 15th Annual Health Policy and Management Fall Institute organized by the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health held in Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Spain. The Fall Institute runs for a total of four weeks (from November 5-30, 2018) with compressed courses delivered from two to five days. Dr. Valera took courses on mental health while Dr. Hernandez focused on strategic health communications and political economy of social inequalities. Most of the participants were either students of Johns Hopkins University or Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Selected students were given scholarships mostly from developing countries such as Kenya, Nigeria, Lebanon, Pakistan, and the Philippines. /PE

PSPHP IN BARCELONA! JOHNS HOPKINS FALL INSTITUTE IN HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT COURSE

PSPHP PARTICIPATES IN THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MENTAL HEALTH LAW IRR

PSPHP members, Dr. Lester Geroy, Dr. Andrew Bucu, and Dr. Paula Valera participated in the last public consultation for the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the recently signed Mental Health Act. Dr Joseph Lachica, public health physician and health consultant of the Senate Committee on Health, was also present. The event was initiated by the Department of Health and World Health Organization Philippines and was held on 11 December 2018 in the Padre Faura, Manila./LSG

PSPHP CELEBRATES ITS FIRST UHC DAY



The Philippine Society of Public Health Physicians (PSPHP), in partnership with Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes (AIHO) and University of Santo Tomas (UST) Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, celebrated the 2nd UHC Day for the Philippines last December 12, 2018. This international celebration every 12 December was declared last year as a UN-designated day to put emphasis on the goal of countries to achieve universal health coverage. The 2018 celebration is an important milestone for the UN High-Level Meeting on UHC. The morning event was held at the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery attended by students, medical residents and consultants of different departments. Department of Health Undersecretary Roger Tong-An, Dr Albert Domingo of World Health Organization Philippines, and Mr Ian Nuevo of Department of Health-Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau graced the event and facilitated discussions on Universal Health Coverage. The evening event was held at the Pan Pacific Hotel. This UHC Advocates' Night was graced by Senator Risa Hontiveros, University of the Philippines Executive Vice President Dr Teodoro Herbosa, Dr Kira Fortune of World Health Organization - Western Pacific Regional Office, and University of Santo Tomas Faculty Dr Leilani Asis. Some of the organizations and partners represented were Philippine Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP), UP System including the Open University, Ang NARS Party List, Health Justice Philippines, Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), Asian Institute of Management (AIM), Physicians for Peace Philippines (PFPP), Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes (AIHO), Pharmaceutical Association of the Philippines, and Social Innovation in Health Initiatives (SIHI)./LSG

UPCOMING PSPHP ACTIVITIES

- 27 December 2018 Second Round Table Discussion: Current Public Health Challenges and Research Opportunities (Cebu) (postponed)
- 28 December 2018 Round Table Discussion: Current Public Health Challenges and Opportunities (Bacolod) (postponed)
- 12 January 2019 Start of Year Party and First General Assembly
- 15 February 2019 PSPHP Lecture Series: Tacloban
- 15 February 2019 Round Table Discussion: Current Public Health Challenges and Opportunities (Davao)
- 23 February 2019 Communication Strategy Planning
- 22 March 2019 Round Table Discussion: Current Public Health Challenges and Opportunities (Naga City)
- 4 April 2019 Round Table Discussion: Current Public Health Challenges and Opportunities (Paranaque City)
- 12-13 July 2019 PSPHP First National Convention (Metro Manila)

For more information on upcoming activities, and for requests on events and RTDs, please contact the Secretariat through secretariat@psphp.org or 0947 248 9335. PSPHP thanks the contributions of the following writers in this report: Mr Paolo Encarnacion, Dr Joey Francis Hernandez, Dr Paula Melizza Valera, Dr Lester Sam Araneta Geroy.