

# Regional Health Research and Development Consortium XI (RHRDC –XI)

## NARRATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT 2010

The Regional Health Research and Development Consortium XI (RHRDC XI) is initially composed of twenty-one (21) institutions coming from both government and non-government sectors. To date, the consortium covers six (6) private universities and colleges which are the Ateneo de Davao University (AdDU), Brokenshire College, Davao Doctors College (DDC), Davao Medical School Foundation, Inc. (DMSFI), San Pedro College (SPC) and University of Immaculate Concepcion (UIC); two (2) state universities which are the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) and University of the Philippines-Mindanao (UP-Min); one (1) specialized public high school which is the Philippine Science High School (PSHS)-Mindanao Campus; seven (7) government agencies such as Center for Health Development-Davao Region (DOH XI), Commission on Higher Education XI, Commission on Population XI, Department of Environment and Natural Resources XI, Department of Science and Technology XI, National Economic and Development Authority XI, Philippine Information Agency XI; two (2) government hospitals, the Davao Regional Hospital and Southern Philippines Medical Center (formerly Davao Medical Center); two (2) private hospitals which are the San Pedro Hospital and Davao Doctors Hospital and one (1) non-government organization which is the Regional Council for Research and Development (RECORD) Foundation, Inc.

This year, the RHRDC XI grew in terms of general membership with the acceptance of four (4) more institutions/organizations. Two (2) private universities which are the University of Mindanao (UM) and Holy Cross of Davao College (HCDC), one (1) private hospital which is the Community Health and Development Cooperative Hospital (CHDC) and another non-government organization which is the Davao Medical Society (DMS) gracefully accepted to become members of the consortium.

Now, the RHRDC XI has a total composition of twenty-five (25) member-institutions who are actively involved in strengthening and promoting health research in the region.

Dubbed as one of the leading consortium, the RHRDC XI continues to uphold its commitment in promoting and sustaining health in the region by implementing the various programs and activities of the Strategic Plan CY 2010.

## **Research Programs**

Four (4) research programs under the Research and Development Committee of RHRDC XI were formulated to address the different priority areas of health concern. These 4 research programs are the Traditional Medicine (TM), Environment and Climate Change (ECC), Infectious Disease (ID) and Maternal and Child Health (MCH).

### Climate Change

The Ateneo de Davao University, as the lead research institution for the consortium's research thrust on Environment and Climate Change, convened a regional forum on *Climate Change and Health Workshop: Towards Strategic Partnership in Reducing Health Risks and Vulnerabilities* on January 13, 2010 at the Ateneo de Davao University. The regional forum was actively participated by eighty-two (82) participants representing around sixty (60) different organizations region wide. The long-term goal of the workshop is to forge a strategic partnership among key stakeholders in reducing *health risks* and *vulnerabilities* that are further exacerbated by the changing climate.

The forum was explored in 5 thematic areas of Climate Change and Health Concerns in the region and these were: *Water, Sanitation and Disease; Biodiversity; Water and Food Security; Disaster and Migration (Environmental Refugees); and Energy and Security*. The objectives of the forum were the following: (1) identify the present risks, vulnerabilities and present critical areas of concern under each thematic area in the region; (2) identify the emerging risks and vulnerabilities in each thematic area; and (3) identify areas of collaboration and partnership. To achieve these objectives, two workshops were conducted. The first workshop centered on the current realities in the region for each thematic area while the second workshop focused on the *Emerging Risks and Vulnerabilities, Strategic Options, Directions and Partnership*. Through the workshop, the research gaps in each thematic area as well as possible collaboration and partnership among key stakeholders were identified.

The consortium, through the initiatives of the Ateneo de Davao University, planned to hold a follow-up forum on Climate Change on April 2010 to reconvene all who participated in the

first forum and discuss the requirements for the establishment of Data Acquisition, Analysis and Networking (DAAN) Project. The Ateneo de Davao University is hoping for further support to implement this project as well as assistance for the Establishment of a Database Center with a GIS Laboratory and Design for Database Program.

### Traditional Medicine

As one the priority areas for research agenda, the RHRDC XI conducted the Conference on Traditional Medicine last February 24, 2010 which was convened and hosted by the Davao Medical School Foundation Inc. (DMSFI). The conference was attended by various institutional partners from the academe and health institutions as well as other stakeholders from the private and public sector. The objective of the conference is to provide an avenue for discussion on the current status of the Traditional Medicine, from the local usage and practices of Filipinos up to the commercialization initiatives and market opportunities. The conference was also an initiative to generate possible areas for research and development in the field of Traditional Medicine.

The conference featured the (1) the presentation of current status of the Traditional Medicine in the Philippines by Dr. Isidro Sia, the Director for the Institute of Herbal Medicine and National Institute of Health from UP Manila, (2) the commercialization of traditional and herbal medicine by Dr. Juvencio F. Ordon, the current Director General for Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC), and (3) the presentation of research papers on Traditional Medicine from the various institutional members, academe and private sector in Davao City.

Discussion and exchange of ideas led to the workshop activity which was aimed for the identification of specific areas of relevant, high-priority research agenda. Through the conference, the participants were able to identify broad R & D areas and rate them according to importance. These topics are hoped to be developed to full blown studies to be carried out through collaborative efforts of partner institutions and agencies.

Another conference entitled "Traditional Medicine: A Capsule Proposal Presentation" was conducted last July 23 and 24 to call for submission of capsule proposals. The conference was participated by the RHRDC XI faculty member-institutions and the College of Medicine students from Davao Medical School Foundation, Inc. The speaker and reactor for this conference was Dr. Isidro C. Sia. He was able to give a lecture on the appropriate steps of

drug discovery, including the strong points in leading to a successful research in traditional medicine.

A total of 18 capsule proposals were presented and these were submitted to RHRDC XI for technical and/or ethical review.

### **Research Generation**

The RHRDC XI was also able to review research proposals submitted for possible funding by the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development or by the Consortium itself. The review of proposals were mostly done with the joint evaluation of the Research and Development Committee and the Ethics Review Committee.

In June 15, 2010, the two committees had joint reviews on the proposal submitted by student researchers from the Ateneo de Davao University (ADDU) entitled *A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Clinical Trial on the Effectiveness and Safety of a Tongkat Ali-Based Supplement on the Blood Testosterone Level of Adult Men* and the proposal submitted by Dr. Anna Lee Pacheco from the Department of Pediatrics, Davao Medical Center (DMC) entitled *Randomized Trial Assessing the Efficacy of Virgin Coconut Oil in Preventing Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever Complications and Nosocomial Infection*.

The significance of the research proposal on Tongkat Ali by the student researchers from ADDU was to promote consumer awareness on the effectiveness and safety of a certain highly advertised food supplement which claims to have an effect on the reproductive state of men.

After compliance to the revisions on the said comments by the reviewing committees, the proposal was endorsed for approval for RHRDC XI funding to the Executive Management Committee. The Executive Management Committee deliberated on the endorsement of the proposal last July 30, 2010 at the DOST XI Office. After deliberation, the group decided that the study is not within the research priority of the RHRDC XI and, though it addresses the male reproductive health, it does not rate of high-importance in addressing the urgent and pressing health issues and concerns of the region. The group, instead, suggested that priority be given to studies which contribute or address the highly important health issues of the community such as the escalating number of Dengue cases.

The research proposal of Dr. Pacheco of (DMC), on the other hand, was aimed to determine the effectiveness of the virgin coconut oil against the dengue hemorrhagic fever among pediatric patients in one of the tertiary hospitals in Davao City. After technical and ethical reviews, the committees disapproved the study because of some ethical considerations.

#### Mindanao-wide Research proposals

Two Mindanao-wide research proposals were reviewed by the Ethics Review Committee of RHRDC XI. One was the Maternal and Child Health Zamboanga proposal entitled *Harmonizing Evidence – Based Protocols in Maternal and Neonatal Care in three Pre - Service Academic Programs of Selected Institutions in Mindanao*, with Dr. Milabel E. Ho of Western Mindanao State University as the project leader. This was reviewed by the Ethics and Review Committee last July 8, 2010 at the DOST XI Office.

The Maternal and Child Health Zamboanga proposal was submitted for PCHRD funding and is a collaborative research initiative of the different regions of Mindanao as represented by regional project leaders from Western Mindanao State University, Liceo de Cagayan University, Davao Medical School Foundation Inc., Notre Dame of Marbel Univeristy, Butuan Doctors College, the Island Group in ARMM, and Mindanao State University Marawi. By reviewing the current status of the curricula in maternal and neonatal care in selected medical, nursing and midwifery schools in Mindanao, the study hopes to build the capacity of the participating institutions to develop learning modules and teacher's guides which comply with the MNCH protocols released by the Department of Health in 2006. These modules and guides are hoped to be pilot tested in the participating schools and hospitals Mindanao-wide. The lessons learned during pilot testing will later be harmonized for the development of a new standard for mother and neonatal care which will be applicable to the medical, nursing, and midwifery curricula in Mindanao.

Another Mindanao-wide proposal which was reviewed by the Ethics Review Committee was the Maternal and Child Health ARMM proposal entitled "*Assessment of Maternal and Child Health Care Services Delivery to Internally Displaced Persons in the ARMM*", with Dr. Carmelita Hansel of Mindanao State University as the project leader. The proposal was reviewed last December 3, 2010.

The Maternal and Child Health ARMM proposal is a collaborative research initiative of DOST-ARMM, MSU-Marawi and the cooperating agencies, namely: MSU-Maguindanao,

DOH-ARMM and DSWD-ARMM. The research aims to study the status of delivery of maternal and child health care services to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the ARMM.

After deliberation of the two Mindanao-wide research proposals, the Ethics Review Committee decided for the endorsement of approval, pending compliance to the requirements raised by the reviewing committee, for both proposals.

Moreover, sixteen (16) capsule proposals presented during the Traditional Medicine Capsule Presentation last July 23 and 24 were subjected to preliminary screening of the Executive Committee of RHRDC XI last September 2010. All these capsule proposals were developed into full blown proposals after recommendations were given by the Executive Committee members. Ten (10) full blown proposals were technically and ethically reviewed last November 2010 by the Research and Development Committee and Ethics Review Committee, respectively. The ten proposals were the following:

1. Comparative Study of the Effects of Malunggay (*Moringa oleifera*) Ethanol Extract and Ezetimide on the Lipid Profile of Guinea Pigs (*Cavia porcellus*) by DMSFI-College of Medicine students
2. Acute Toxicity Dose and Approximate Effective Dose of Calabash (*Crescentia cujete*) Decoction as a Hypoglycemic Agent in Alloxan-Induced Rabbits by DMSFI-College of Medicine students
3. Antimutagenic Effect of Chinese Hibiscus (*Hibiscus rosa –sinensis*) Extract Against Mitomycin C Using Modified Ames Salmonella Mutagenicity Test: A Pilot Study by DMSFI-College of Medicine students
4. Acute Toxicity of *Phyllanthus niruri* Extract Using LD50 and its Effect on the Serum Alanine Aminotransferase Level of Acetaminophen-induced Liver Damage in Rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) by DMSFI-College of Medicine students
5. Acute Toxicity Dose of Chayote (*Sechium edule*) Leaf Extract in Mice and Effective Dose (ED50) in Lowering Uric Acid in Pyrazinamide-Induced Hyperuricemia in Rabbits by DMSFI-College of Medicine students

6. A Comparative Study on the Effect of *Centella asiatica* Crude Extract and Silver Sulfadiazine on the Rate of Wound Healing of Decubitus Ulcer of Patients at Southern Philippines Medical Center by DMSFI-College of Medicine students
7. Trolox Equivalent Antioxidant Activity (TEAC) of Sargassum Water Crude Extract Decoction and Infusion Preparation using ABTS (2,2'-azinobis 3-ethyl benzothiozoline-6-sulfonic acid) radical cation decolorization assay by DMSFI-College of Medicine students
8. Hepatoprotective Effects of Gulancha (*Tinospora crispa*) Pure Extract on Paracetamol-Induced Liver Injury in Albino Rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) by DMSFI-College of Medicine students
9. Effects of Sambong on Urine pH, Specific Gravity, Potassium and Serum Uric Acid Levels of Hyperuricemic Rabbits by DMSFI-College of Medicine students
10. A Comparative Study on the Efficacy of *Azadirachta indica* (Neem) Leaf Extract-based and N, N-Diethyl-M-Toluamide-based (OFF!) Mosquito Repellant Lotion by DMSFI-College of Medicine students

The first seven proposals listed above were endorsed for approval, pending compliance to the recommendations of the reviewing committees, whereas the remaining three were disapproved for funding. The proposals are currently being revised for submission to the Executive Committee for final deliberation and endorsement for funding to PCHRD and/or RHRDC XI.

### **Presentation of Health Research Outputs**

Five on-going and completed researches related to Traditional Medicine were presented during the Conference on Traditional Medicine last February 24, 2010.

- a.) Antibacterial Activity of the Tamanu Oil against Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA) by Dr. Warlito C. Vicente
- b.) A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-Controlled Clinical Trial on the Effectiveness and Safety of Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) Tea on the Lipid Profiles of Hypercholesterolemic Patients (Preliminary Findings) by AdDU students

c.) The Phytochemical and Antimicrobial Screening of Five Medicinal Plants used as Folkloric Medicines by the Mindanaoan Lumads by UIC students

d.) Antihepatotoxic effect of *Sargassum spp.* Extract on Ethanol-induced Liver Injury in Female Swiss Albino Rats by DMSFI students

e.) Effect of Chayote (*Sechium edule*) serum uric acid levels of Pyrazinamide-induced hyperuricemic rabbits by DMSFI students

### **Networks/Linkages**

The RHRDC XI supports the activities and programs of the Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS). The consortium participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Philippine National Health Research System Week Celebration which was held at the Crowne Plaza, Ortigas Center in Pasig City. The said celebration was attended by Dr. Warlito C. Vicente- Chair, Dr. Anthony C. Sales- Regional Coordinator and Co-Chair, Dr. Victoria T. Lupase- Research and Information Utilization Committee (RIUC) Chair, Ms. Ludivina M. Porticos- Human Resource Development Committee (HRDC) Chair and Dr. Milagros Viacrucis- Representative from Center for Health Development-Davao Region (DOH XI)

Another activity of the PNHRS which the RHRDC XI has supported is the Search for Best Mentor in Health Research Award for the year 2011. The consortium assisted in the dissemination of the announcement to all its member-institutions.

The consortium was also tapped to do the ethical review of the two (2) Mindanao-wide proposals. One on Maternal and Child Health in ARMM and the other one is on Maternal and Child Health in Zamboanga.

RHRDC XI also helped in the dissemination of invitation letters to its member-institutions during the Southern Philippine launch of Follett Destiny Resource Management Solution. The launching was attended by different librarians and researchers from different schools and government agencies in Region XI.

Moreover, RHRDC XI envisions to expand its scope of membership to other provinces in Region XI, especially in the provinces of Davao del Sur and Davao del Norte where many



nursing schools and medical associations have been established. To date, the consortium is on the process of identifying new prospective members.

### **Administrative Concerns**

This year, the RHRDC XI was able to establish its fixed office at the Department of Science and Technology XI (DOST XI), where a full-time staff is reporting. Dr. Anthony C. Sales, Regional Director of DOST XI, voluntarily sits as Regional Coordinator and Co-Chair of RHRDC XI. Dr. Victoria T. Lupase was also elected as Secretary of the Executive Management Committee. With the strong leadership of Dr. Warlito C. Vicente, the RHRDC XI continues to become a strong promoter and efficient coordinator of health research in Region XI.

The RHRDC XI plans to register the Consortium in the Securities and Exchange Commission. Currently, the Secretariat is on the process of complying the requirements needed for the registration.

It is significant to note also that for this year, the RHRDC XI started to pass resolutions to ensure that decisions were properly recorded. Some of the resolutions that were passed by the Executive Management Committee were the following:

- Authorizing the Alternate Representative to Represent in the Absence of the Permanent Representative of the Committee (Res. No. XI-001 S. 2010)
- Pre-screening of Capsule Research Proposal by the Executive Committee Prior to Development into Full-blown Proposal to be Submitted for Funding by RHRDC XI (Res. No. XI-002 S. 2010)
- Decision Of The Executive Management Committee On The Research Proposal Entitled "*A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo Controlled Clinical Trial on the Effectiveness and Safety of a Tongkat Ali – Based Supplement on the Blood Testosterone Level of Adult Men*" (Res. No. XI-003 S. 2010)
- E-mail as Valid Correspondence (Res. No. XI-004 S. 2010)
- Policies Regarding Quorum Issues (Res. No. XI-005 S. 2010)

- Registration Of Regional Health Research And Development Consortium XI (RHRDC XI) in Securities And Exchange Commission (SEC) (Res. No. XI-006 S. 2010)
- Reorganization of Research and Development Committee and Ethics and Review Committee of RHRDC XI (Res. No. XI-007 S. 2010)
- Decision of the Research and Development Committee and Ethics and Review Committee on the research proposal entitled “ *A Randomized Trial Assessing the Efficacy of Virgin Coconut Oil in Preventing Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever Complications and Nosocomial Infection* (Res. No. XI-008 S. 2010)
- Decision of the Research and Development Committee and Ethics and Review Committee on the Traditional Medicine Research proposals (Res. No. XI-009 S. 2010)

Recently, the Ethics and Review Committee and Research and Development Committee were reorganized after the resignation of the four (4) members of RHRDC XI. New members were added to the two Committees and new RDC and ERC Chairs were elected in the person of Mr. Ruperto Hector Lindo and Dr. Eva C. San Juan, respectively.

Moreover, the RHRDC XI was able to upload contents in the website which was made by Mr. Renante Bahala of PCHRD. The website will be used as tool in disseminating/posting the activities and programs of RHRDC XI.

### **General Assembly/ Christmas Party**

Before the year ends, the consortium was able to conduct its Annual General Assembly and Christmas Party which was held last December 15, 2010 at Grand Men Seng Hotel. It was the time to look back, recall and appreciate the efforts and performances in health research and development endeavor for the year 2010. The accomplishment reports as well as plans for 2011 per committee and the resolutions that were passed from July within the year were presented during the General Assembly. It was also a good venue to formally welcome the new members of the consortium as well as acknowledge the remarkable support of its existing members for the whole year.

To further strengthen the organizational structure of RHRDC XI, the consortium also approved the establishment of the Board Members aside from the Executive Management

Committee. The Board Members will be assigned as the policy making body while the Executive Management Committee will do the implementation of the policies and is responsible in the day to day operations of the consortium.

The members of the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) were also identified and finalized during the assembly. The TWGs will be assigned in mobilizing the community in regard proposal development, resource mobilization, information and experts exchanges, research promotion and utilization as well as in capacity building and monitoring activities.

### **On-going Projects of RHRDC XI**

- The Research and Development and Ethics and Review Committees of RHRDC XI aim to come up with the consortium's Working Guidelines and Manual for Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in reviewing submitted research proposals. The committees were able to draft the Working guidelines and SOP manual but, still need to be further discussed and finalized.

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