

The Regional Health Research and Development Consortium XI had another successful year.

Listed are the major activities conducted and implemented by the consortium in CY 2015.

Seminar/Workshop/Forum Conducted

PCHRD-NUHRA Assessment (May 05, 2015)

In order to enhance the strengthening of Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS) in the country, the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) visited the different regional consortia to conduct an assessment pertaining to its operations. In region 11, the assessment was participated by the members from the Executive Committee, Chairs and members from the four sub-committees of RHRDC XI at Marco Polo Hotel, Davao City last May 05, 2015.

This assessment discussed the consortium's strengths, weaknesses and improvements that can be made both by the consortium and PCHRD to further reinforce the PNHRS.



Round table discussion during the NUHRA Assessment

MIMAROPA Benchmarking (May 20-21, 2015)

The MIMAROPA Health Research and Development Consortium (MHRDC), which is considered as the the youngest regional consortia in the country, conducted a benchmarking visit to our consortium, RHRDC XI last May 20-21, 2015. This is to assist them to further develop the health research culture in the MIMAROPA Region and to create more effective mechanisms in carrying out its mandate.

The MHRDC's Human Resource and Development Committee (HRDC) visited two of the most active RHRDC member institutions namely: the University of the Immaculate Conception and San Pedro College. The two member-institutions facilitated a tour to their research laboratories and research office. They also shared their research initiatives, engagements and support to RHRDC XI. Afterwards, the benchmarking continued at the DOST XI Regional Conference room. The MHRDC was able to meet RHRDC XI officials with the latter giving an overview of the consortium and sharing its best practices.



Photodocumentation during the MIMAROPA Benchmarking

The meeting ended with a hope for MHRDC to intensify their research initiatives for the betterment of their community.

5th Health R&D Expo (July 30-31, 2015)

The year 2015 marks the 5th annual gathering of local researchers and institutions in showcasing and sharing the health related researches they have conducted. With a theme “Health Research Innovation towards ASEAN Integration”, this activity is a way of the consortium in educating the public and increasing their awareness of the available researches that can address different health related concerns not just in the region but to the country as well.

The 5th Health R&D Expo highlights its two research competitions namely: Best Paper Presentation and Poster Exhibit competition. A total of 37 research entries (10 for Research Paper Presentation - Undergraduate Category, 13 for Poster Exhibits – Undergraduate Category and 7 entries for both Research Paper Presentation and Poster Exhibits – Graduate and Creative Research Category) were submitted for the said competition.



Ms. Carina Rebulanan, Chief IDD from PCHRD and Dr. Anthony Sales, Regional Director of DOST XI during their opening message.

Winners are:

Best Research Paper (Undergraduate Category): 1st place- Kristine Mae D. Dorado and J. Novie A. Alviola with study entitled “Utilization of Sago (*Metroxylon sagu* Rottb.) and Cassava (*Manihot esculenta*) Flours for the Production of Gluten-free



Chocolate Crinkles” from University of the Philippines Mindanao; 2nd place - Jublaican L. Lui, Mary Joy C. Puno and Nor-Ain B. Tuda for their study entitled “Antibacterial Activity of Young Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) Husk Fiber Extract Against Clinical Isolate of *Escherichia Coli*”; and 3rd place - Arba Al Shawwal M. Calamba, Zenith Joy R. Cayme , Lency T. Dungog, Jyus Kirby D. Mabalot and Irish Jane A. Montecalvo with study entitled “The Antioxidant Property and Antimicrobial Activity of Ripe Banana (*Musa acuminata*) Peel Extract Against the Clinical Isolates of *Staphylococcus epidermis* Associated with Acne” from Tagum Doctors College.

Best Poster Exhibits (Undergraduate Category) winners were: 1st Place- Alexander Ken P. Libranza, Pedro A. Alviola IV, Jon Marx Sarmiento and Harvey M. Niere from University of the Philippines Mindanao with study entitled “Coping with Armed Conflict and Violence: The Status of Nutrition and Health of Talaingod Manobo Children in Salugpungan Ta’Tanu Igkanogon Community Learning Center, Inc., Sitio Dulyan, Palma Gil, Talaingod, Davao del Norte, Philippines”; 2nd Place - “Hair Growing Potential of Saucer Plant (*Nothopanax scutellarium*) Leaf Extract Formulated as Lotion” by Nika Calig-onan, Thea Nicole Fontilla, Sittie Johaina Macamismis, Gina Mae Pedrera, Jhovie Mhel Tenorio and Ferlien Mae Baula of University of the Immaculate Conception (UIC); and 3rd Place - “Potential Analgesic and Anti-Inflammatory Properties of the Dried Leaf Extract of Lagnub (*Ficus septica*)” by Maria Liza Belga, Ruby Jean Castillo, Keith Ian Dimaano, Rovie Lae Fuentes, Dan David Odasco and Cherrie Muaña of UIC.

Best Research Paper (Graduate and Creative Research Category) winners on the other hand were the following: 1st Place- Hematologic Effects of *Averrhoabilimbi* (*Kamias*) Ethanolic Fruit Extract” by Maria Bea Lao and Charlie Reyes from University of the Immaculate Conception and San Pedro College; 2nd - “Detection of *Campylobacter jejuni* in Retail Chicken Meat from Selected Manila City Public Markets” by Lourivy Durano and Alice Alma Bungay of UIC; and 3rd Place - “Screening of *Mentha cordifolia* Opiz Buffer Crude Extract as Putative HIV-1 Post-Translational Protease Inhibitor” by Alfredo Hinay Jr. and Lilen Dorothy Sarol of UIC.

Poster Exhibit (Graduate Category) winners were: 1st Place- “Screening of *Mentha cordifolia* Opiz Buffer Crude Extract as Putative HIV-1 Post-Translational Protease Inhibitor” by Alfredo Hinay Jr. and Lilen Dorothy Sarol from University of the Immaculate Conception; 2nd Place- “Hematologic Effects of *Averrhoabilimbi* (*Kamias*) Ethanolic Fruit Extract” by Maria Bea Lao and Charlie Reyes from University of the Immaculate Conception and San Pedro College; and 3rd Place- “Mutagenicity Testing of Calabash (*Crescentiacujete*) Fresh Fruit Decoction” by Sowmya Ramesh, Kai-Li Ang, Arun Das, Judith Jemima Davis, Elizabeth Sandra Goh, Tareen Jacob, Charles Arputharaj Joshua, Jayaseelan Balakrishnan, Jeevitha Muthi, Nanthinee Thayaneethy and Brandon Rivera Torres from Davao Medical School Foundation, Inc. Winners received medals, certificates and cash prizes amounting to Php 7,000 first prize, Php. 5,000 second prize and Php. 3,000 third prize.



Participants during the Poster and Oral Presentations



Photodocumentation during the awarding ceremony

Moreover, the consortium also invited experts in different field of research to showcase two contrasting yet complementing methods in research. Assistant Dean for Social Sciences of Ateneo de Davao University, Dr. Efren John Sabado discussed the Qualitative Research Methodologies while Dr. Ophelia N. Mendoza, a consultant of DOST-PCHRD and WHO talked about the Quantitative Research Methodologies. In addition, Mr. Arnel M. Rodriguez – S&T Promotion Head of DOST XI encourage participants especially the faculty and young researchers to avail the DOST Post-Graduate Scholarships of the agency. This activity was conducted last July 30-31, 2015 at Grand Regal Hotel, Davao City.



*From Left to Right: Mr. Arnel Rodriguez, Dr. Efren John Sabado and Dr. Ophelia Mendoza.
Bottom pictures: Participants during the lecture sessions*



Launching of 1st Compendium of Abstracts (July 30, 2015)

In relation to the goal of promoting and disseminating health researches in Davao region, RHRDC XI has finally launched its 1st Compendium of Abstracts last July 30, 2015 at Grand Regal Hotel, Davao City. The consortium aimed that through the compendium; it can guide and assist both public and private organizations in coming up policies and programs especially in the development of their own research agenda.

This compendium is a compilation of 54 research studies abstracts which had won the past Health R&D Expo, DOST-PCHRD Gruppo-Medica, PNHRs and/or have been funded by DOST-PCHRD in 2011 to 2013. It was divided to nine different categories based on the country's National Unified Health Research Agenda (NUHRA) and the Region's Unified Health Research Agenda (RUHRA).



Head of institutions during the launching of compendium

With the success of this launching, the RIUC is working on getting an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) from the National Library of the Philippines and is looking forward for the publication of its 2nd volume.

Agenda Setting and Writeshop on Climate Change (September 9-10, 2015)

With Climate Change becoming a world issue, RHRDC XI thru the Climate Change and Disaster-Related Health R&D conducted a two-day Agenda Setting and Writeshop on Climate Change last September 9-10, 2015 at Ateneo de Davao University. This activity aimed to equip and urge researchers from different field to conduct researches regarding the effects of climate change to human health.

During the morning session, guest speaker Fr. Daniel McNamara of AdDU's B.S. Environmental Science Program shared his knowledge regarding the effects of Climate Change to Human Health and elaborated calamities brought by this phenomenon. Afterwards, Mr. Paul Ernest De Leon, OIC-Chief R&D Management Division of DOST-PCHRD and Ms. Keziah Camille Terrado, Science Research



Specialist II of DOST-PCHRD discussed the National Unified Health Research Agenda (NUHRA) 2011-2016 and the on-going and completed PCHRD funded projects pertaining with climate change.

The session was followed by the Orientation on Proposal Writing given by Dr. Rosalinda Tomas. The first day ended with the participants having initial inputs through their individual ideas or group discussions. On the second day, the Orientation on Proposal Writing continued followed by the presentation of proposals. Seven concept proposals were presented to the panelists- Mr. Paul Ernest De Leon and Dr. Alvin Concha, SPMC-CERC Chair for their comments and suggestions.

Studies presented during the Agenda Setting and Writeshop on Climate Change are as follows:

Institution	Proposal
DDC/DDH/USEP	Investigation on the medicinal properties and water purifying capability of pteris vitata
SPMC	Prevalence of arsenic exposure and dermatologic findings: A population based survey in Nabunturan, Compostella Valley
AdDU	Water and Health in Times of Climate Extremes: A Baseline Study in Malita, Davao del Sur
DNSC	A Climate Change Health and Policy Intervention on the Educational System in Environmentally High Risk Communities of Region XI
Brokenshire College	An Automated Real-Time Monitoring System for Dengue Outbreak in Davao City
CVSC	Health Care Online in ComVal
UIC, UPMIn,	Water Availability, Farmer Productivity, Food and Nutritional Intakes, and Common Medical Conditions in Rice and Corn Rainfed/Upland Areas



Photodocumentation during the workshop

Webpage Management and Database Uploading

The consortium regularly updates its website in order to continuously update the public on its programs and activities. The website was kept up to date by the staff.

In the future, with the help of the Information Technology members and experts of the consortium, it is planning to establish a mechanism or program in the website wherein the process of reviewing of the proposals will be reflected in the website as well.

Stakeholders' Forum on ICT & Health (October 27, 2015)

The Information and Communications Technology on the other hand conducted the Stakeholders' Forum on ICT & Health last October 27, 2015 at Apo View Hotel. This activity aimed to encourage researchers to conduct studies using ICT in addressing health problems as well as to identify specific researchable topics for them. Almost sixty participants from various groups of health care providers and both budding and expert researchers attended the said activity.

Four distinguished speakers were invited to share about ICT Research agenda, ICT on health funded projects and research implementation concerns.



Ms. Merlita Opeña, Chief Research Information Communication and Utilization Division (RICUD) of (PCHRD) gave the Research Agenda on ICT in Health. Afterwards, eHealth Data Privacy & Other Emerging Research Themes was discussed by Dr. Peter Sy from College of Social Science and Philosophy UP Diliman. During the session, he gave emphasis on the ethical concerns on conducting researches especially when it involves the patients and their health problems.

The last two speakers both talked about their PCHRD funded projects which were eventually utilized as a tool nationwide to uplift access to quality healthcare especially in isolated communities. Ms. Rose Ann Caliso discussed about the eHatid Project while Dr. Kristine Magtubo discussed the RxBox project.

Focus Group Discussion was made wherein 4 groups were given time to discuss what are the health-related thematic areas, available solution/s involving ICT and what are the spaces for improvements and/or identified gaps.

PNHRS Pre-Assembly (November 5, 2015)

The Regional Health Research and Development Consortium XI (RHRDC XI) conducted a pre-assembly as regards to the Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS) held at D'Leonor Hotel, Davao City last November 5, 2015. By and large, this assembly aims to introduce to experienced researchers as well as to partner institutions the pre-determined guidelines and questionnaire so as to arrive at identified key areas for research priorities for the PNHRS. This was participated by researchers and research heads from consortium's member-institutions.

Ms. Merlita Opeña, PCHRD RICUD Chief discussed in details to the participants the PNHRS Strategy Map in order to assist the participating institution to align their respective health research agenda with the PNHRS.

The questionnaire is currently being finalized by PCHRD.



Photodocumentation during the pre-assembly

Seminar on Researches Involving Endangered Plants and Accreditation of Animal House (November 25, 2015)

The Seminar on Research Involving Endangered Plants and Accreditation of Animal Houses was initiated primarily to update the participants on the ethical considerations and laboratory/research practices when conducting studies that involve plants and animals last November 25, 2015 at Grand Men Seng Hotel, Davao City. It was attended by 124 participants who are faculties, researchers and students from the consortium's member-institutions.

Dr. Victor Amoroso, the Director of the Center for Biodiversity Research and Extension in Mindanao (CEBREM) and University Professor from Central Mindanao University was invited to share his researches specifically involving the Philippine Flora especially their uses to human health. He also shared examples of species that are classified as threatened plants. Another invited expert was Dr. Bayani Vandebroek, a veterinarian and proprietor of Doc Bayani's Animal Wellness Clinic. He focused his discussion on the use of laboratory animals in research and the

accreditation process for institutions that have animal house and are doing animal research.



Photodocumentation during the seminar

RHRDC XI Strategic Planning for 2016-2018 (December 9-10, 2015)

As part of its continuing effort to bring the organization up to date with its goals and response to the internal strengths and weaknesses as well as external opportunities and threats, RHRDC XI had a two-day strategic plan at Villa Margarita Hotel, Davao City last December 9-10, 2015. This activity allowed the members to review where the consortium is at the moment and as to where they wanted it to be in the future.

Apart from revisiting the consortium's Mission, Vision and Goals, the members also actively propose several activities that can elaborate and show as to how the new VMGs be attained. The four committees namely: Human Resource and Development Committee, Ethics and Review Committee, Research and Development Committee and Research Information and Utilization Committee also

reviewed their past activities and achievements and set new targets for year 2016-2018.

This strategic planning was made possible through the help of Dr. Ronald V. Amorado, VP for Planning of University of Mindanao. The RHRDC XI in the upcoming years is moving towards intensifying its proposal development and funding mechanisms.



Left to Right: Dr. Ronald V. Amorado, RHRDC XI members in action

RHRDC XI General Assembly (December 14, 2015)

The RHRDC XI General Assembly is an annual event of the consortium which aims to enjoin all members to discuss and evaluate the accomplishments of the consortium through its various committees.



Photodocumentation during the General Assembly



This year, it was conducted last December 14, 2015 at the Grand Men Seng Hotel, Davao City. The activity includes the presentation of accomplishments per committee, review of the drafted Memorandum of Understanding and formal acceptance of new members.

The Assembly became more special as the consortium, thru the initiative of HRDC awarded the most active members and member institution. Awardees for most active members were the following: Dr. Warlito C. Vicente, Dr. Liza C. Suan, Dr. Eva San Juan and Ms. Ludivina Porticos. They received cash prize amounting to Php. 15,000, Php. 10,000, Php. 2,500 and Php. 2,500 respectively. Most active member-institution on the other hand was awarded to the University of the Immaculate Conception and was given a plaque of recognition.

Apart from the awards given to the members, the same committee also initiated to give incentive to the participants of the National Peer Review, Editing and Train the Trainers Workshops who were able to submit their paper for publication. Cash prize of Php 10,000 was given to Mr. Louie H. Dangangon, Ms. Gemma Perez and Ms. Madeleine Tupas for their paper entitled "*Training Needs Analysis of Barangay Health Workers of Davao City*".

The assembly was attended by 30 members from different member-institutions of the consortium.

Review of Research Proposals

The Research and Development Committee (RDC) conducted series of technical reviews on the pre-screened capsule proposals by the consortium's Executive Management Committee (ExeCom). This year, a total of 24 capsule proposals were submitted. Eight of these were categorized as the consortium's first priority and were endorsed by ExeCom to RDC.



Below is the table of proposals reviewed by RHRDC XI with its current status:

PROPOSALS	
Fears in Silence: An Assessment of Post Traumatic Experiences of Mothers and Children Victims of Typhoon Pablo (Bopha) in the relocation sites in Compostella Valley	Thrice reviewed by RDC, for revision of the proponent.
Causal Analysis of Sexual and Reproductive Health Knowledge, Beliefs and Behaviors among Female Adolescents in a Mining Area, in Davao Region: An Exploratory Sequential Mixed Method from	Reviewed and endorsed by RDC, for deliberation of ERC and ExeCom This proposal was from the 2014 Call for proposal
GCMS Quantitative Characterization and Antioxidant Property of Fatty Acids Extracted from Crocodile Oil	Twice reviewed by RDC, for revision of the proponent
Health Care Network, Communication Strategies, and Demographic Characteristics as Predictors of the Effectiveness of the Delivery of Health Promotion Programs in Davao City	Endorsed by RHRDC XI for funding This proposal was from the 2014 Call for proposals
Bioactive Metabolite Screening of <i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i> (L) and its Associated Fungal Endophytes against Methicillin-Resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Endorsed by RHRDC XI for funding
Prevalence and risk factors of sexually transmitted infection among young women living in the mining community of Maco, ComVal: Implication for Control and Future Perspective	Reviewed by RDC, for revision of the proponent
Financial Impact of the Philhealth Z Benefit Package Implementation in 2 DOH-retained hospitals	Twice reviewed by RDC, for revision of proponent
Investigation of Possible Inhibitory Action of the Philippine crocodile (<i>Crocodylus mindorensis</i>) serum on Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1 Infectivity In Vitro – Prior To and After Attachment on Human Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells	Endorsed by RDC after three reviews, for third review of ERC.



Responsiveness of Government Policies in Curbing Maternal Deaths: the Case of Davao Region	Reviewed by RDC, for revision of proponent
Mercury Sequestration in Simulated Gastro-Intestinal Fluid in Vitro and Toxicity Studies of Silver Nanoformulation of Tamarind (<i>Tamarindus indica</i> L.) Rind	Endorsed by RHRDC XI for funding

On-going projects monitored by RHRDC XI:

- Development and Validation of HPLC-DAD Methods for the Analysis of fresh and commercial *Blumea balsamifera* (Sambong), *Carmona retusa* (Tsaang gubat) and *Vitex negundo* (Lagundi)
- Linking the Epidemiology of dengue Fever to climatic variability, population density and Social dynamics in Southern Mindanao.

Expansion of RHRDC XI Membership

This 2015, four institutions were added to the growing number of members of RHRDC XI. These institutions are the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC), Davao del Norte State College (DNSC), Southern Philippine Agri-Business and Marine and Aquatic School of Technology (SPAMAST) and Tecarro College Foundation Inc. (TCFI). With them, the consortium has now 34 member-institutions. The consortium is currently looking forward to invite more institutions especially those that are located in the provinces.

Other Activities

Attendance to Global Forum (August 24-27, 2015)

The four-day Global Forum on Research and Innovation for Health 2015 with a theme “People at the Center of Research and Innovation for Health” was conducted for the first time in the Philippines. Regional Health Research and Development Consortium XI board members, chairs and convenors were given the opportunity to be one of the 3,500 people from all over the world to attend this grand health



research event. With 60 parallel and plenary sessions, exhibits and special activities including Global Health Debates, IT4Health, and the Film Festival, Forum 2015 it also became a venue to increase the understanding of the impact of scientific researches not just on health concerns but also on the economy. This was conducted at the Philippine International Convention Center, Manila.

In the said event, the study “Assessment of the Extent of Implementation of Standards and Procedures for Water Safety in the Philippines” by Hydrology for Environment, Life and Policy (HELP) Davao Network funded by the Department of Health through the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development was presented during one of the Oral Poster Session of the said event. This was presented by Ms. Ludivina Porticos, Regional Health Research and Development Consortium XI-Human Resource and Development Committee (RHRDC XI-HRDC) Chair and University of Immaculate Concepcion Science Research Center Director.

Moreover, during this event, 2nd place of DOST-PCHRD Gruppo Medica Award was given to the students from San Pedro College namely: Queenie Bacol, John Christian Bantayan, Sittie Cali , David Calma, Kevin Chan, Celine Garcia, Henriette Garzon, Fritz Nierra, Katrina Piedad, and Randy Selim with adviser Ms. Fatima Tesoro for their study entitled “*Capsule Formulation of the Flavonoid-containing Heartwood Sappan (Caesalpinia sappan) Extract against Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and Multi-drug Resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa (MDRPA)*”.



RHRDC XI members during the 2015 Global Forum

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