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July—September 2010

AUF Medical Center designated as Newborn Screening Center - Central Luzon

The Newborn Screening Act of 2004 mandates the Department of Health to ensure that Newborn Screening Centers (NSCs) accessible to the relevant public and provide services that comply with the standards set and approved in the National Comprehensive Newborn Screening System (NCNBSS).

Consistent with this mandate, DOH recently selected the Angeles University Foundation Medical Center (AUFMC) in Angeles City, Pampanga as host institution of the Newborn Screening Center - Central Luzon (NSC-CL).

AUFMC, a non-stock, non-profit healthcare facility located at MacArthur Highway, Barangay Salapungan, will start operations in October 2010 and will run the screening center and was accredited Facilities and Services. Also in newborn screening samples from by DOH and the Newborn Screening Regions I, II, III, and CAR.

As stipulated further in Section 23 of the Implementing Rules of RA September 30, 2010. 9288, NSCs should have "strategic and geographical access to the Florencio Dizon with Dr Michelle public data on the number of live Tanglao as Laboratory Unit Head births in each of the following areas and Gloria Suarez as Program in relation to the minimum required Manager. All NSC-CL personnel number of test run (at least 50,000 underwent training at the NSC-NIH samples per annum), and the from July to September 2010 to phases: network component including the standardize operations of all four Phase 1 (September 20, 2010) availability of courier services, NSCs. among others."

AUFMC is less than an hour north Director of U.S. National Newborn of Manila and minutes away from Screening and Genetics Resource the Diosdado International Airport in Subic. It is a New Tertiary Level 4 Hospital with Screening strategic location and geographic Anna Victoria Sombong, NSC-V pending accounts will be transferred access. The NSC has 369.6 square Laboratory Head; Dr. Nenita Soluta to NSC-CL once they settle their meters floor area. It meets all the and Ms. Rose Mylene Sotocinal account with NSC-NIH within a requirements for a



Reference Center-National Institutes (NSRC-NIH) Health

AUFMC-NSC is headed by Dr.

The members of the Accreditation The fourth NSC in the country, Team were of Dr. Bradford Therrell, Macapagal Center; Dr Veronica Wiley, Head of Phase 4 (November 12, 2010) South Wales Newborn Program; Dr

attendance were Dr. Eva Maria Cutiongco-dela Paz, Director of Institutes of Human Genetics; and Charity Jomento, Quality Assurance Officer of NSRC.

All purchase orders for NBS Blood Sample Collection Kits and NBS blood samples from regions I, II, III, and CAR shall be forwarded to NSC-CL as per the following

- AUFMC samples

Phase 2 (October 15, 2010)

- Pampanga

Phase 3 (October 29, 2010)

- the rest of Region 3

- Regions 1, 2, & CAR

Newborn Screening Facilities with newborn from DOH-Bureau of Health certain grace period. (V Mendoza)



Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines, Inc In cooperation with Philippine Pediatric Society-Southern Tagalog Chapter (PPSTC)



8th Newborn Screening Convention

NBS Updates and Challenges

SMX Convention Center Seashell Drive, Mall of Asia Complex

7:00 AM Onwards	Registration	
8:00-8:30	Opening Ceremonies	
	Opening Remarks	Eva Maria Cutiongco-De la Paz, MD Officer-in-Charge, Newborn Screening Reference Center
	Welcome Remarks	Rowena A Pua, MD President, NSSPI
	Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Ramil I Badajos, MD, FPPS
	Keynote Speaker Address	Honorable Lani Mercado-Revilla Representative, 2nd Congressional Dist., Prov. of Cavite
	Overview of Seminar & Introduction of Speakers	Cristina P Magno, MD, FPPS Chair, Organizing Committee & President, PPS-STC
8:30-9:30	Status of the National Comprehensive Newborn Screening System - Coverage, Policies, Penalties and National Targets	Juanita A Basilio, MD, MPH MO VII, Family Health Office-Department of Health
	Neurodevelopmental Outcomes of Congenital Hypothyroidism Patients Detected through Newborn Screening	Sylvia Capistrano-Estrada, MD, FPPS Pediatric Endocrinologist and Metabolic Physician
	What about the Blood Specimen Remaining after Newborn Screening?	Bradford L Therrell, Jr., PhD Director, U.S. NNSGRC
9:30-10:00	Open Forum	
10:00-11:00	Emerging/Nagging Challenges: Newborn screening for preterm, low birth weight and sick newborns	J Edgar Winston C Posecion, MD, FPPS Unit Head, NSC-Visayas
	Dietary Management of PKU and Compliance	Mary Anne D Chiong, MD, FPPS Head, Biochemical Genetics Unit, IHG-NIH
	Open Forum	
11:00-12:00	Challenging Cases Moderator: Eva Maria Cutiongco-dela Paz, MD Clinical Geneticist & Director, IHG-NIH	Panel Members: Mary Anne D Chiong, MD, FPPS Eleonor C Du, MD, DPPS< DPSPME Sylvia C Estrada, MD, FPPS John S Uy, MD, DPPS, DPSPME
12:00-2:00	Business Meeting for Newborn Screening Coordinators Main Agenda: Philhealth Issues	Shirley Domingo, MD, MPH OIC, Office of the Senior VP, Health Finance Policy
2:00-3:15	MSMS in Newborn Screening	Veronica Wiley, PhD Dept Head & Principal Scientist, NSW Newborn Screen- ing Programme, Australia
	Improving CAH Statistics and CAH Diagnosis/Addressing Missed CAH Cases	John S Uy, MD, DPPS, DPSPME Pediatric Endocrinologist
\$100 of Statement St.	Introduction of a 2 nd tier Test to reduce the False Positive Rate of CAH Screening	Ma Constancia O Carrillo, PhD Laboratory Head, NSC-NIH
	Open Forum	
3:15-3:45	BREAK	
3:45-5:00	Setting-up of G6PD Confirmatory Centers in the Philippines	Anna Victoria J Sombong, MD, FPSP Laboratory Head, NSC-Visayas
	Handling Crisis among G6PD Positive Cases	Ma Beatriz P Gepte, MD, FPPS Pediatric Hematologist
	Open Forum	
	Closing Remarks	Cristina P Magno, MD, FPPS Chair, Organizing Committee & President, PPS-STC

The 7th Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting

The Indonesian Pediatric Society (IPS) and the International Society for Neonatal Screening (ISNS) will hold the **ASIA-PACIFIC** REGIONAL MEETING International of the Society For Neonatal Screening (ISNS) with the theme: "Universal Coverage for Newborn Screening - A Critical Step Towards Achieving MDG 4" on October 3 to 5, 2010 at Bali, Indonesia.

Three representatives from the Philippines will serve as speakers in the said event: Dr. Juanita Basilio of the Department of Health will be presenting the Country Report; Dr. Carmencita Padilla of Newborn Screening Reference Center will speak on the history of newborn screening in the Asia Pacific;



and Dr. Sylvia Estrada of Phenylketonuria (PKU) Experts Committee will present the Philippine experience in handling patients with PKU. (V Mendoza)

MCNAP Vows Sustained Commitment to Newborn Screening

Among the advocates of maternal and child health, the Mother and Child Nurses Association of the Philippines, Inc. (MCNAP) is at the forefront of efforts to promote the health and well-being of mothers and children in the country. It was established in 1980 by a group of specialized nurses with the vision of upholding high standards of safe nursing practices on maternal and child care that ensures quality health services to all Filipino mothers and children.

MCNAP is one of the first organizations that lobbied for the passage of the newborn screening law. Col. Estelita Galutira, MCNAP President has remained steadfast in promoting newborn screening up to the present. The Association's recent activities are the following:

September 6, 2010—Col Galutira was invited as Guest Lecturer on Newborn Screening by the Office of the Chief Nurse Army during the PA Nursing Service Symposium held at Duque Hall, Philippine Army Officers Clubhouse, Fort Santiago, Metro Manila. In attendance were 28 Nurse Corps Officers and two civilian nurses

September 11, 2010—Col Galutira spoke on NBS during Philippine Nurses Association Pangasinan Chapter Updates held Nursing Alemans Garden Hotel and Restaurant, San Juan, San Carlos City, Pangasinan. One hundred twenty registered nurses,



Col. Galutira (sitting 3rd from right) with the Nurse Corps Officers and civilian nurses of the Philippine Army Nursing Service at the Duque Hall, Philippine Army Officers Clubhouse, Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila last September 6, 2010.

midwifery students, and caregiver students attended the newborn screening update.

<u>September 16, 2010</u>—Col. Galutira gave a lecture on Newborn Screening and Essential Newborn Care to 35 registered nurses and 359 students upon the invitation of the Philippine Nurses Association Zone 3-Quezon City and Marikina Chapter. The activity was held at the National Auditorium, Banaue, Quezon City. (*V Mendoza/E Galutira*)

1st Workshop on Enhancing the QA Program for G6PD Confirmatory Test

To ensure accessibility of Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD) Deficiency confirmatory laboratories, the Department of Health established more laboratories in 2009 in different parts of the country. It also set up a quality assurance program for G6PD confirmatory test in the same year to the high guarantee quality confirmatory testing results in counrty.

Currently, the Newborn Screening Reference Center ensures good practices laboratories through establishment of external laboratory proficiency testing and certification program in partnership with International QA Program in Taiwan.

To improve the laboratory standards existing operations of the Confirmatory Laboratories, a workshop on enhancing the QA program for G6PD was conducted on July 26, 2010 at Hotel Kimberly, Manila.

Dr. Kwan Jen Hsiao of the Quality Assurance Program for Neonatal Screening of G6PD Deficiency in Taiwan



In Photo (from left to right): Dr. Carmencita Padilla, Ms. Charity Jomento, Dr. Anna Victoria Sumbong, Dr. Kwan Jen Hsiao, Ms. Joy Chiang, and Ms. Laura Fan

workshop. Dr. Anna Victioria Sumbong, Head of Network of G6PD Confirmatory Laboratories and Ms. Charity Jomento, NSRC Quality Assurance Officer. facilitated the open forum that discussed issues and concerns and recommendations to improve the QA Program in the country.

Participants laboratory were the personnel of the following facilities: of Health. (V Mendoza)

was the resource speaker of the said University of Perpetual Help Data Medical Center, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Manila Central University (MCU)-FDTMF, Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center, Cagayan Valley Sanitarium and Hospital, Angeles University Foundation Medical Center, Batangas Regional Hospital, Polymedic Medical Plaza, Tagum Doctors Hospital, and National Institutes

CHD Program Review Teams' Training



The Program Review Team headed by Dr. Ellenietta Gamolo (standing leftmost) poses with the Newborn Screening Team of Center for Health Development—Cagayan Valley. In photo (from left to right) Dr. Ellenietta Gamolo, Ms. Emma Tumalian, Dr. Conchita Abarquez, Ms. Clarose Mascardo, Dr. Leticia Cabrera, Ms. Lita Orbillo, and Ms. Joyce Maquera

The Department of Health, in collaboration with the Newborn Screening Reference Center, recently conducted a two-day training workshop for CHD personnel who were fielded as this year's NBS program evaluators.

Recent revisions on the PPEAS Tool called for new strategies in the conduct of the NBS Program Review, particularly one that requires CHD NBS Coordinators and NSC-Unit Heads to comprise the review teams. Newly-formed program review teams were trained on the use of the revised PPEAS Tool.

The two-day training workshop was held at the Hotel Kimberly, Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila, last 12-13 July 2010. It aimed to prepare the review team for the orientation, be clarified on their roles, and understand the importance of the tasks of program review teams in the implementation of the national program.

Various DOH personnel from different units, including CHD-2, CHD-MM, CHD-4A, CHD-4B, CHD-5, CHD-CAR, CHD-6, CHD-7, CHD8, CHD-10, CHD-Davao, as well as those from CHD-12 NSC-NIH, NSC-Visayas, and NSC-Mindanao participated in the training.

The participants were instilled the value of monitoring and evaluation in the success of the newborn screening program. (A Balisi)

NSC-Mindanao Corner

Consultative Meeting among NBS Coordinators of Rural Health Units and Hospitals in CARAGA Region held

As part of continuing efforts to increase the CARAGA Region's coverage, the Center for Health Development conducted its Annual Regional Updates and Consultative Meeting among all Hospitals and RHU Newborn Screening for KDH to introduce the Newborn The activity discussed the different strategies and practices that can be employed to increase newborn screening coverage in the region. It was also a venue for the implementers to share insights on the program and address issues and concerns affecting the



In photo: Dr. Flormenda B. Tejano, Chief of Registration, Licensing and Enforcement
Division of CHD-CARAGA welcoming all guests and participants in the recent
consultative meeting

program's implementation.

Among the participants were several chiefs of hospitals, municipal health officers, and medical technologists. Chief RLED, Dr. Flormenda B. Tejano welcomed the guests and participants. The Regional Newborn Screening Coordinator, Dr. Glynna B. Andoy presented the region's NBS performance, the newborn screening coverage of its provinces, and the highlights of Republic Act 9288.

Dr. Conchita G. Abarquez, Unit Head of the Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao (NSC-M), discussed the five metabolic disorders in the newborn screening panel. Mr. Roy Ryan Ruiz, NSC-M Project Development Officer, presented the proper way of collecting NBS blood samples and the "Do's and Dont's" to prevent contamination and rejection of the samples.

The activity was also graced by Dr. Eduardo Gonzales of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)-CARAGA, who presented the Newborn Care Package and addressed issues and concerns raised by the participants on the said package.

Some of the issues were the lack of support from their local chief executives and the difficulty of reimbursing the PhilHealth claims. The participants suggested the conduct of an orientation for the local chief executives.

The activity ended with a pledge of commitment from participants to continue improving their newborn screening programs. (N Fat)

Kiamba District Hospital's Success Story on Newborn Screening

Built in 1980, the Kiamba District Hospital (KDH) is a secondary hospital located at Saranggani Province with a 25-bed capacity. It caters to the municipalities of Maasim, Maitum and Palimbang and Sultan Kudarat. Indigent patients constitute 40 to 43 percent of the hospital's total number of admissions, with only a few paying patients.

It was not easy for KDH to introduce the Newborn to its clients. Despite a difficult start last November 2009, the coverage slowly improved from 15% to 50%. One of the initial challenges was the difficulty in convincing mothers to have their newborns



Newborn Screening information materials posted at the OB ward

screened. However, through prenatal and mother's classes, parents gradually understood and embraced the importance of newborn screening. Later on, KDH implemented a hospital policy that every baby born in the hospital should be screened and that newborn screening will be included in the patient's bill.



Newborn Screening Station at the Laboratory with Ms. Noemi Martinez, RMT – NBS Coordinator of Kiamba District Hospital

Recently, the national government, through the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation or PhilHealth, distributed 224,000 health cards in Region 12. Among the beneficiary provinces were South Cotabato. Kudarat. Sultan Sarangani, and Cotabato. The distribution of the health cards

was in support of Executive Order 492 that provided for the fast tracking of the implementation of the GMA 2.5 million plan "Medicare para sa Masa." EA 492 focused on providing access to health care services to all people, especially the poor sectors. The Sarangani province, in particular, received more than 19,000 health cards that helped KDH solved its problem on indigent patients.

Furthermore, with the PhilHealth Newborn Care Package, the hospital's screening coverage rose to 70%. The management strongly believes that this can be sustained and even increased to 90% to 100% in the next few years. (*R Ruiz*)



NSC-Visayas Corner

NSFs in Cebu show significant increase in NBS Coverage

At the Newborn Screening Center - Visayas, hitting a Newborn Screening coverage of 85% for 2010 is still a big challenge.

For the month of August, NSC-Visayas visited nine newborn screening facilities in the province. One of these was the Barili District Hospital which screened 5.29% of the total number of newborns in 2009 and 36.52% from January to June 2010, posting an increase of 31%. Balamban District Hospitals on the other hand screened 24.67% babies in 2009 and 72% from January to June of 2010, registering an even higher increase of 47.33%. For its part, the Severo Verallo Memorial District Hospital chalked up the highest increase of 69%, from 7% in 2009 to 76% in the first half of 2010.

facilities showed remarkable increase compared to their Screening Center—Visayas. The nurses, namely Jay Kenneth performance last year. Interestingly, these hospitals managed to | Biton, Karen Kay Cabalfin, Dorie Ann Daza, Dianne Dotollo, | implement the Newborn Screening program even while | Anna Victoria Edang, Bryan Guevarra, Joann Harder, Lixzena | encountering many hindrances along the way. This feat serves as an encouragement and inspiration to other hospitals. The said hospitals have proven that others can do the same if they identify different components of the Newborn Screening Program. proper resources, use appropriate implementation skills, and During the training, the nurses were taught the importance of employ hard work, diligence and perseverance in their Newborn | NBS and the significance each health professional can make in Screening Program endeavors. (D Buensalido)

Making a Difference through Newborn Screening



Despite the fact that NSC-V needs to double its efforts to meet the target coverage for 2010, it cannot be denied that these underwent newborn screening training at the Newborn From August to September, 2010, ten young nurses

the lives of Filipino children. (MK Ledesma)

Newborn Screening Center - Visayas joins the Race for a Cause

The Newborn Screening Center -Visayas (NSCV) joined Assumption - Iloilo in the latter's celebration of Centennial Year marked by a Family Fun Run held on August 8, 2010.

The Fun Run aimed to raise funds for the school's Centennial Sports Complex and engage the people in a fun and healthy activity. The Project Coordinators were the following: Assumption-Iloilo Batch 1992: Ms. Marjorie Ann Florete, Mrs. Ann Rapunzel Ganzon-Endencia Assumption-Iloilo Batch 1994: Mrs.



The Newborn Screening Team joins the fund raising activity of Assumption last August 8, 2010 by putting up NBS information

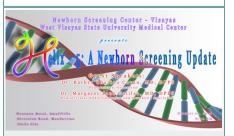
Ruth Kristin Magbanua–Ledesma and Mrs. Shiela Javellana–Uygongco.

Gracing the Centennial Family Fun Run were the Assumption Convent's Mother Superior Sr. Clare Cecilia Salvani, RA, Assumption Alumni Association's President Marissa Segovia, Parent Teacher Association President Vice Mayor Joe Espinosa III, Assumption Centennial Committee Jungie Hortillas and alumnus Mayor Jed Patrick

NSCV believes that these people will be its partners in promoting and saving lives. During the Family Run held at SM City Iloilo, the Center put up an information booth to generate broader awareness of the public on the Newborn Screening program.

The campaign drew the interest of the participants. One alumna of the school who is also a member of the secular service organization even said they are willing to extend help to the program and its future projects, especially the newborn hearing test. (D Buensalido/ MK Ledesma)

UPCOMING ACTIVITY



In line with the Newborn Screening Week Celebration, NSC - V will conduct "Helix-5: A Newborn Screening Update," on October 21, 2010 at Westown Hotel. Iloilo City. This event aims to educate health practitioners on the new trends and updates on NBS to maintain quality healthcare services.

NSC-NIH

NSC-NIH Participates in 32nd National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week

Along with various institutions and organizations, Newborn the Screening Center National Institutes of Health participated in $32^{\rm nd}$ National Disability Prevention Rehabilitation and (NDPR) Week. ISTRUKTURANG ACCESSIBLE, LAHAT AY ABLE", through the promotions aspect of the event. Large tarpaulins with tagline "Buntis! Ipa-newborn screening mo si baby ha!" were posted in strategic locations in the following hospitals: Philippine General Hospital (PGH), Avenue Medical Center (EAMC), and Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital (DJFMH).

The National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) through the CHD-NCR distributed filter cards to the three hospitals. Each hospital was also given a blood collection video and copies of brochures to increase awareness on newborn screening in the country, particularly in the areas near PGH, EAMC and DJFMH.

Every year, NCDA spearheads the celebration of NDPR Week by virtue of Proclamation No. 361 to stimulate public awareness on disability issues and concerns that will strengthen the involvement of different government and nongovernment organizations. This vear's celebration commemorated on July 17 to 23, 2010. (I Fortugaleza)

Rotary Club in NBS Action

The National Comprehensive Newborn Screening System has several stakeholders that include nongovernment organizations or NGOs. One of the active advocates of the NBS Program is the Rotary Club of the Philippines. The past years have witnessed the different charters of the Rotary Club donating NBS kits to government health facilities.

Rotary Club of Pasig North

The Rotary Club of Pasig North (RCPN) was the most recent donor. The Rizal Medical Center and the Pasig City General Hospital were the recipients of half a million worth of NBS kits and advocacy materials from RCPN for their indigent newborns. They were also granted 200 pink brochures and 15 posters each for their advocacy campaigns. Mr. Rod Macalinao, the Club Secretary, coordinated the purchasing, with the approval of the Charter President, Mr. Fable Enriquez.

Rotary Club of EDSA Pasay

The Rotary EDSA- Pasay chose Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital as a partner in its health and medical service projects for 2010 - 2011. Rotary EDSA-Pasay officers, headed by its President, Mr. Manuel Veluz, Jr., together with Rotary Club of Dublin, USA, handed over 30 pieces of newborn screening filter cards to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. The group, which also consists of students from the University of Dublin, California toured the hospital's wards to check on other needs where rotaries can be of assistance. (L Reyes/J Terrado)



Rotary Club of Pasay Pres. Manuel T. Viluz hands over newborn screening filter cards to Fabella Hospital. In photo are Ms. Elouisa Reyes, NSC-NIH Unit Head (standing 5th from right) and students from University of Dublin.

NSC-NIH Conducts GAL and PKU Special Follow up

NSC-NIH conducted two separate special follow-up activities for Galactosemia (GAL) and Phenylketonuria (PKU) positive patients on August 5 and September 2, 2010, respectively. Both events, held at the Outpatient Department of UP-Philippine General Hospital, were spearheaded by Dr. Sylvia Estrada, Metabolic Specialist and Head of the NSC-NIH follow-up team.

Five (5) GAL and five (5) PKU patients underwent a panel of tests that included ultrasound, SGPT, neurodevelopmental assessment and ophthalmological assessment, dietary health assessment, GAL monitoring and phenylalanine monitoring. Consultants, fellows, and nurses participated in this activity. NSC-NIH provided the funds for the various assessments and laboratory tests. (I Fortugaleza)

2nd G6PD Deficiency Parents' Seminar For 2010

The second G6PD Deficiency Parents' Seminar for 2010 will be held at the UP Manila College of Pharmacy Auditorium on September 24, 2010 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The expected number of participants is around 250 parents or guardians. The speakers are Dr. Catherine Lynn Silao, the Molecular Genetics Program Coordinator of the Institute of Human Genetics and Dr. Beatriz Gepte, Hematology-Oncology Consultant of Philippine Children's Medical Center. The next parents' seminar is tentatively set for December 2010. For inquiries, please call (02) 526-1725 or text 09285060960.

Reunion of Saved Babies 2010

The Newborn Screening Center - National Institutes of Health (NSC-NIH) will hold its 2010 Reunion of Saved Babies on October 10, 2010, 2pm at the Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman. This yearly gathering of children found positive in one of the NBS Panel of Disorders caps the celebration of the National Newborn Screening Awareness Week. For inquiries, please call (02) 526-1725 or text 09285060960.



Under Proclamation No. 540, the first week of October has been declared as "Newborn Screening Awareness Week." To commemorate this event and ensure that information on the availability and benefits of newborn screening are disseminated to the general public, all stakeholders, especially the Centers for Health Development and Newborn Screening Centers, will conduct advocacy activities that include the following:

- Reunion of Saved Babies
- Orientations, lectures and other for on Newborn Screening
- Advocacy activities (airing of NBS radio plugs, distribution of IEC materials, hanging of streamers in strategic areas)
- Promotion of the NBS Convention

Newborn Screening Centers

For Regions IV, V & NCR

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