

NBS Run for a Cause Takes Off in Naga, Catanduanes



Participants dash from starting line during the Run for Cause in Naga City, November 14, 2016.

Despite the postponement due to Typhoon Lando, the *A Run for a Cause: NBS Awareness Campaign* finally hit the ground on November 14 and 21, 2016, in Naga City and Catanduanes, respectively.

In Naga City, a total of 500 runners participated in the fun run, which started with a warm-up dance at 5:00 a.m. at the SM City Naga grounds.

Dr. Wilfredo Baniqued, Provincial Health Officer of Camarines Sur; Dr. Maria Estrella Litam, Medical Center Chief of Bicol Medical Center; and Dr. Mary Ann Cyril Mesalucha, pediatrician at Bicol Medical Center, gave invigorating talks to the runners and gave emphasis on the importance of the Expanded Newborn Screening Program.

The top three finishers in the adult category were given P3,000, P2,000, and P1,500. In the teen category, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placers received P2,000, P1,000, and P500, respectively.

In Catanduanes, the fun run was attended by 264 participants from the different government agencies and civil society organizations in the province.

Dr. Hazel Palmes, Provincial Health Officer of Catanduanes, gave an advocacy message enjoining everyone to support the program.

Besides promoting nationwide awareness of the program, the campaign also raised funds to support the financial needs of indigent patients who require confirmatory tests or follow-up management.

Overall, the nationwide Newborn Screening Awareness Campaign was a success as it was able to put forward the theme "Saving Babies through Newborn Screening" to health workers and the general public. *JSFenol*



Participants of the Run for Cause fill the streets of Naga City (above) right after Dr. Wilfredo Baniqued (right), Provincial Health Officer of Camarines Sur, and Dr. Maria Estrella B. Litam (far right), Chief of Bicol Medical Center, gave welcome remarks.

DOH-RO 10 Hosts NBS Zonal Consultative Meeting

Newborn screening (NBS) medical and nurse coordinators from six Department of Health-Regional Offices (DOH-RO) in Mindanao participated in the 2015 NBS Mindanao Zonal Consultative Meeting hosted by DOH-RO 10 at Villa Paraiso Resort and Apartelle, Mambajao, Camiguin, on December 3-5, 2015.

Dr. Ellenietta HMV N. Gamolo, DOH-RO 10 Assistant Regional Director, gave the opening remarks, while Dr. Conchita Abarquez, Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao Head, presented the NBS

Status of Mindanao. Shiela Mae Guilaran discussed the recall and follow-up of positive cases, including issues and concerns on follow-up, while Cyril Rojo explained the acceptability of NBS samples in Mindanao.

On the second day, participants split up into two groups for facility visits in Camiguin. The facilities visited were RHU Catarman, Catarman District Hospital, RHU Sagay, RHU Mabajao, Camiguin General Hospital, and RHU Mahinog. Participants were exposed to the good practices of the said facilities. *GBSamante*



Participants together with the facilitators strike a pose during the consultative meeting.



Participants conduct facility visit at Mahinog RHU.

DOH-RO 12 Holds PIR, Awards Top Performing NSF's

The Department of Health-Regional Office 12 (DOH-RO 12) not only recapped strategies and activities for the year during its Program Implementation Review (PIR), but it also celebrated the program's big and small victories.

During the 2015 PIR at the Family Country Hotel in General Santos City on December 10-11, 2015, DOH-RO 12 held an Awards Night to recognize the best performing Newborn Screening Facilities (NSFs) in the region.

Assistant Regional Director Dr. Frank Mateo and Family Health Cluster Head Dr. Fatima led the ceremony and giving of plaques, certificates of recognition, and free NBS kits as incentives to the awardees.

The 2015 PIR was attended by around 150 participants coming from government and private NBS facilities in the region. On the first day, participants reported their facilities' accomplishments and shared good practices.

The next day, Dr. Antoinette Ladio of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) reported the Regional PhilHealth 2015 total claims by accredited NSFs. Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao Unit Head Dr. Conchita Abarquez also gave updates on the region's NBS performance and introduced the Expanded NBS Program.

The PIR ended with the reformulation of plans and review of previous plans, focusing on unmet goals. *CFChiong*

Mindanao News Briefs

DOH-CARAGA Holds First Regional NBS Convention

Following the successes of the Annual National Newborn Screening Convention usually held in Metro Manila, the Department of Health-CARAGA, together with Agusan del Norte Medical Society and Community Pediatric Society of the Philippines (CPSP)-CARAGA Chapter, held the First Regional Newborn Screening Convention at Dottie's Place, Butuan City, on December 1, 2015.

The convention was attended by 260 participants composed of physicians, nurses, and midwives from different newborn screening facilities in the CARAGA region. The event was hosted by Dr. Psyche Nebrada.

The convention started with Dr. Ernesto Pareja, Local Health Support Division Chief, giving the welcome message on behalf of Dr. Jose Liacuna, Jr., CARAGA Regional Office Director. Dr. Gerna Manatad, Infectious Disease Cluster Head, provided updates on health programs including HI-5.

The objective of the event is to orient medical professionals on the Expanded Newborn Screening, specifically the implementation protocols, panel of disorders, and updates. Dr. Conchita Abarquez, Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao Unit Head, and Dr. Eleanor Du, a pediatrics consultant, were the guest speakers.

The Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health (VYLH) also graced the event, with Anthony Torralba presenting the role of VYLH in mobilizing the youth for health advocacies. Cecile Alarin, mother of a child with congenital hypothyroidism, also shared her experiences. She expressed gratitude to the program for giving her child a chance to enjoy a normal and productive life.

Meanwhile, selected NBS Coordinators of well-performing facilities were invited on stage during the open forum to share their good practices, insights, and strategies in addressing common hurdles of program implementation. *RAguilar*



Participants and organizers of the DOH-CARAGA Regional NBS Convention.

DOH-RO 11 Holds NBS PIR 2015

Newborn screening (NBS) coordinators of the Department of Health-Regional Office 11 (DOH-RO11) gathered to review issues, concerns, and updates on NBS program implementation during the Program Implementation Review at Apo View Hotel, Davao City, on November 12-13, 2015.

A total of 74 participants composed of doctors, nurses, and midwives listened as Dr. Conchita Abarquez, Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao Unit Head, discussed the coverage, acceptability of samples, transit time, and screening age summary of the region. She also presented new NBS facilities and the efficiency of the strategies initiated by different NSFs.

Compostela Valley Provincial Hospital-Pantukan, Bishop Joseph Regan Memorial Hospital, RHU Banaybanay, and Mercy Maternity Center shared the best practices in their facilities, including financial aspects, workforce, nature of facility, and advocacy initiatives to further increase program coverage. *RAguilar*



Clarose Mascardo, DOH-RO 11 Program Manager, speaks to the participants of DOH-RO 11 NBS PIR.

Superheroes Take Over Reunion of Saved Babies

Saved babies in Region 11 were once again united on at the NCCC Mall, Davao City, on November 7, 2015, for the Annual Reunion of Saved Babies.

The reunion was filled with fun as attendees came in superhero costumes and were entertained with games, balloon tricks, and a magic show. Some children also showcased their talents in singing, dancing, and poem recital.

Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao also gave early Christmas gifts and tokens to babies and parents.

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NSC-SL Holds 2nd G6PD Parents' Forum



Dr. Ma. Enriqueta M. Salvador (right) discusses G6PD Deficiency. Bottom: Dr. Salvador with the parents of children with G6PD deficiency.

Parents play a critical role in the long-term care of babies confirmed deficient in Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD); hence, it is important that they understand the disorder. The Newborn Screening Center-Southern Luzon (NSC-SL) well recognizes this need, and to held address this, it held its 2nd G6PD Parents' Forum for 2015 in Calamba, Laguna, on November 26.

The activity was attended by parents and guardians of babies with confirmed positive case of G6PD Deficiency in CALABARZON. They were able to raise their concerns and issues on proper management and nurture of a child with such condition.

Dr. Ma. Enriqueta M. Salvador, pediatric hematologist and oncologist at Mary Mediatrix Medical Center, Lipa City, clarified some misconceptions of parents about the disorder and discussed the recommended diet for G6PD patients. She also stressed the importance of having confirmatory testing for G6PD and the possibility of the disorder leading to severe anemia and kernicterus.

At present, there are two G6PD Confirmatory Centers in CALABARZON: Batangas Medical Center in Batangas City and Lipa Medix Medical Center in Lipa City. *AVanguardia*



Announcements

NIH Lines Up Triple Celebration in February 2016

The National Institutes of Health of the University of the Philippines Manila will celebrate its 18th Anniversary, the 14th University Science and Technology Week, and the 7th Anniversary of the Metro Manila Health Research and Development Consortium with the theme "Empowering the Filipino Scientist in Nation Building."

The celebration, co-organized by the National Academy of Science and Technology and the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, will be held on February 17 and 18, 2016, at the SMX Convention Center Function Room 3, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City.

EMPOWERING THE FILIPINO SCIENTIST IN NATION BUILDING

February 17 - 18, 2016
SMX Convention Center
Mall of Asia Complex
Pasay City

- 18th Anniversary** National Institutes of Health
- 14th UP Manila** Science and Technology Week
- 7th Anniversary** Metro Manila Health Research and Development Consortium

Co-organized with:

- UP College of Medicine
- National Academy of Science and Technology

REGISTRATION:
Php 500 - For students
Php 1000 - Advance registration
Php 1500 - On site registration

FOR REGISTRATION DETAILS: 351-8451
Look for: Marian Baylon or Anna Gazmin

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Event page: [NIH Anniversary 2016](#)
Follow us: [@nihanniv2016](#)

RARE DISEASE DAY 2016
29 FEBRUARY
JOIN US IN MAKING THE VOICE OF RARE DISEASES HEARD

To raise awareness among the public and decision-makers about rare diseases and their impact on patients' lives, the World Rare Disease Day is observed every last day of February each year.

In the Philippines, 4th week of February is the National Rare Disease Week in accordance with Presidential Proclamation No. 1989.

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world birth defects day
march 3

Birth defects are common, costly, and critical public health challenge. To increase global awareness on these conditions, a growing network of local and international organizations has jointly observed and dedicated March 3 as World Birth Defects Day (WBDD).

WBDD provides a platform to advocate for increased economic, political, and intellectual support to improve birth defects surveillance, prevention, care, and research by global communities and countries.

In the Philippines, the observance of the WBDD is headed by the Institute of Human Genetics, National Institutes of Health, University of the Philippines Manila, Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health Philippines, Newborn Screening Reference Center, and Newborn Screening Centers in the country. Partners from different government agencies and non-government and student organizations have also formally agreed to support WBDD in the Philippines. Visit www.worldbddayph.weebly.com for more information.

Salud Bikolnon . . . from page 1



Gubat Rural Health Unit Sorsogon bags 1st Prize in Best RHU Category, Awardee for Best Implementer in Newborn Screening, with Dr. Arnulfo Carandang, Local Health Support Division Chief; Dr. Rita Mae C. Ang, Family Health Cluster Head; and Ms. Maria June Robles, Program Manager of Newborn Screening Program.



Legazpi City Health Office wins 2nd Prize in Best RHU Category, Awardee for Best Implementer in Newborn Screening, with Dr. Arnulfo Carandang, Local Health Support Division Chief; Dr. Rita Mae C. Ang, Family Health Cluster Head; Ms. Maria June Robles, Program Manager of Newborn Screening Program; and Ms. Maricel Banzuela, Development Management Officer IV of Provincial DOH Office Albay.

Superheroes. . . from page 4

The activity was attended by 116 babies, organizers, and guests from NBS Continuity Clinic and the Department of Health—Regional Office 11, headed by NBS Program Manager Clarose Mascardo. *PBermudez*



A magician performs tricks for both babies and parents during the Reunion of Saved Babies in Davao City.

Your Feedback Is Important to Us!

Thank you for reading our newsletters!

We would love to hear your feedback. Please let us know how we can improve our bimonthly newsletters by answering our feedback form at www.newbornscreening.ph.

If you would like to write an article, please contact us at info@newbornscreening.ph. We will do our best to keep you informed about current and relevant newborn screening issues.



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Juan M. Alberto Memorial District Hospital Catanduanes cops 1st Prize in Best LGU Hospital Category, Awardee for Best Implementer of Newborn Screening, with Dr. Arnulfo Carandang, Local Health Support Division Chief; Dr. Rita Mae C. Ang, Family Health Cluster Head; Ms. Maria June Robles, Program Manager of Newborn Screening Program; and Dr. Joseph Richard S. Garay, Provincial DOH Officer of PDO Catanduanes.

Salud Bikolnon Awards Best NBS Implementers

Implementers of the newborn screening (NBS) program were awarded in the 6th Salud Bikolnon, an annual awarding event conducted by the Department of Health—Regional Office 5 that recognizes the collaborative interagency endeavor toward healthy Bikolanos, on December 10, 2015, in Legazpi City.

Among the 13 citations and one major award, Salud Bikolnon recognizes the Best Implementer for the Newborn Screening Program. The award has two categories: Best Rural Health Unit (RHU) and Best Local Government Unit (LGU) Hospital.

The Lying-In Clinic of Gubat, Sorsogon, received the Best RHU award, with Legazpi City and Sta. Magdalena, Sorsogon, as runners-up. Juan M. Alberto Memorial District Hospital from Catanduanes bagged the Best LGU Hospital award, with Viga District Hospital and Caramoran Municipal Hospital as runners-up.

In both categories, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes were given P100,000, P85,000, and P75,000, which are to be used solely to increase the coverage of screening and further improve the NBS program implementation in their areas.

Dr. Arnulfo C. Carandang, Local Health Support Division Chief; Dr. Rita Mae C. Ang, Family Health Cluster Head; and Ms. Maria June Robles, NBS Program Manager, presented the plaques and cheques to the winners.

Dr. Nestor F. Santiago, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Health of the Office for Health Operations, gave the key message during the event and emphasized the importance of partnership of local governments and the Department of Health in delivering health services to the people. *JSFenol*

More photos on page 8 . . .

Number of Babies Screened as of December 2015

COUNTER: 7,709,243