



Dr. J.R. Bonham, President
Dr. D.R. Webster, Vice-President
Dr. A. Gaviglio, Secretary
Dr. A. Habib Khan, Treasurer

ISNS Office
Dr. Peter C.J.I. Schielen
Reigerskamp 273
3607HP MAARSSSEN
The Netherlands

P: +31-6-4207-8327
E: office-manager@isns-neoscreening.com
www.isns-neoscreening.org

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Dear Prof Padilla and the Newborn Screening Team of the Philippines,

The Executive Board of the International Society for Neonatal Screening, on behalf of all members of the society extends warm congratulations to the Government of the Philippines and to the entire newborn screening team on achieving 30 years of newborn screening in your country.

This accomplishment is outstanding not only because more than 1.3 million babies born each year in this geographically challenging archipelago have the chance for a better life but also because of the recognition that laboratory testing is an important but minor part of the system incorporating also nurses, midwives, administrators, paediatricians and families that ensures best outcomes for affected babies.

Such a system of high quality networked laboratories and followup services testing for more than 25 disorders would not have happened without the vision and persistence of Professor Carmencita Padilla supported by the Government of the Philippines and by Professor Brad Therrell and Associate Professor Veronica Wiley. Professor Padilla received our society's highest honour, the Robert Guthrie Award, not only for her work in her country but also for her tireless support of initiatives to introduce screening in other Asia-Pacific countries.

We wish the Philippines newborn screening program many more years of success.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Jim Bonham
Professor Dianne Webster
Professor Aysha Habib Khan
Ms Amy Gaviglio
Professor Rodney Howell
Dr Peter Schielen