

08 SEPTEMBER 2023

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1



PHILIPPINE AMBULATORY PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION, INC

# NEWSLETTER

*Charting the Path*

## ON THIS ISSUE:

PAPA @ 30 Annual  
Convention

Connecting with  
Communities:  
Introducing PAPA's  
Media and Public  
Relations  
Committee

Accelerating  
Cervical Cancer  
Elimination  
Initiatives in the  
Philippines

Launching: PAPA  
Batangas Chapter

[HTTPS://PAPAINC.ORG/](https://papainc.org/)



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1  
**CHARTING THE PATH**

In this issue, we navigate through a series of articles that illustrate the organization's journey and vision. Dr. Marge Alfonso sets the tone with her message, offering insights into our direction. We introduce you to the Board of Trustees and PAPA officers, shedding light on those guiding our path. The newly formed Media and Public Relations Committee will be showcasing our efforts in amplifying our message as an advocacy group. Our Batangas Chapter takes the spotlight, providing a glimpse into their local presence and plans. Additionally, we revisit last year's convention and share with you the plans of next year's convention as well as provide coverage of our important HPV webinar held this last month. We then delve into the Strategic Planning Workshop, where we highlight PAPA's evolving vision for holistic child healthcare. In "Charting the Right Path," we invite you to join us on this meaningful journey, navigating the way toward a brighter future for child healthcare.

**DR. ANGEL BELLE DY**  
 Editor-in-Chief



## CONTENTS

PAPA @ 30 Annual Convention	3	PAPA 28th Annual Convention: Expanding Horizons in Child Health	19
President's Message	5	Accelerating Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiatives in the Philippines	20
Past President's Message	7	PAPA Chapters	22
PAPA Officers	8	Launching: PAPA Batangas Chapter	23
PAPA Board of Trustees and Advisers	10	PAPA Advocacies	24
Connecting with Communities: Introducing PAPA's Media and Public Relations Committee	11		
PAPA's Vision for Holistic Child Healthcare takes center-stage at the Strategic Planning Event	17		

## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

**Dr. Angel Belle Dy**  
 Editor-in-Chief

**Dr. Margarita Luisa Agapinan-Alfonso**  
 Adviser

**Dr. Cristal Ann Laquindanum-Tan**  
 Lay-out Artist

**Dr. Kristine Arranz**  
**Dr. Edilberto "Boying" Garcia, Jr.**  
 News and Features Editors



**Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association, Inc.**

IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**MARCH 6-7, 2024**

29TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

**RENEWING THE CALL**

FOR RESPONSIVE PEDIATRIC CARE

**THROUGH ADVOCACY**

Pre-Registration Fee (until Jan. 15, 2024):

P 500.00

Registration Fee (Jan. 16 - Mar. 7, 2024):

P 750.00

Via Zoom

CPD Units Applied

[www.papa2024.com](http://www.papa2024.com)

# NEWS

## PAPA @30 ANNUAL CONVENTION: RENEWING THE CALL FOR RESPONSIVE PEDIATRIC CARE THROUGH ADVOCACY

*By Dr. Angel Dy and Dr. Angelica Tomas*

We are excited to announce our milestone event for pediatric care: the PAPA@30 2024 Annual Convention!

At the heart of this convention lies a commitment to responsive pediatric care. We understand that as pediatricians and child advocates, our role extends beyond medical diagnoses. It encompasses advocacy, innovation, and the dedication to improve the well-being of the children under our care. The convention seeks to reignite this commitment, reminding us of the fundamental principles that underpin our practice and the innovative strategies that can elevate our impact.

### EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION AND INSIGHT

The convention has been designed to empower primary care providers with practical knowledge and insights that resonate with our daily practices. With the objective of promoting meaningful ambulatory pediatric care, we will be revisiting the basics, discussing the critical importance of practicing empathy-driven health care. This approach not only enriches our practice but also ensures that our young patients receive care that truly addresses their needs.



### ADVOCATING FOR CHILD HEALTH: THE CORE OF OUR MISSION

Advocacy is the driving force behind PAPA, and it's a force that we intend to amplify. We'll explore the various advocacies of PAPA and delve into their tangible impact on child health in our country. By adapting innovative strategies, we aim to make advocacy an integral part of our clinical practice, bridging the gap between medical expertise and the social aspects of child health.



# NEWS

## A glimpse into the program...

The convention spans two days, each dedicated to specific facets of pediatric care:

### DAY 1

#### Fundamental child health principles and their impact in daily practice

Keynote speeches, lectures, and discussions centered on advocacy principles and practical applications of pediatric care. Noteworthy topics include optimizing development, child literacy, tobacco cessation, safety and injury prevention, and the impact of universal healthcare on pediatric practice.

#### Expansive Reach of Clinical Practice

Explore the evolution of child protection, hybrid practices in ambulatory settings, managing TB in the community, mental health illness prevention, and translating childhood advocacies into community practice.

### DAY 2



We extend a heartfelt invitation to our members and all fellow child advocates to join us at PAPA @30. This convention is not just an event; it is a call to action, an opportunity to enrich practice, and a chance to be part of a movement that places responsive pediatric care at the forefront.

Save the date and join us virtually on March 6 and 7. As we gather to learn, discuss, and strategize, let's remember the potential we have to make a lasting impact on the health and well-being of our young patients. Together, we can continue to advocate for a healthier, brighter future for the children of the Philippines.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**MARCH 6-7, 2024**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Warm greetings to each of you, dear friends and colleagues. It is with a heart full of gratitude that I extend this warm welcome on the occasion of the 7th issue of our PAPA newsletter.

As we embark on this remarkable journey together, I am reminded of the transformative path we've walked, nurturing our passion for pediatric care and community service. For the past three years, I have had the privilege of being the Editor-in-Chief of this newsletter, witnessing it evolve into a vital channel that connects us, updates us, and binds us closer than ever before.

PAPA, fueled by a profound sense of purpose, stands firmly on its mission to address the unmet needs of Filipino children. Our vision has always been to be more than just an association; we strive to be a beacon of light, illuminating the lives of those we touch. In this issue, you will find the essence of our commitment – stories of dedication, unwavering resolve, and the unbreakable spirit of unity that powers our endeavors.

It is now, with renewed vigor, that I invite you to actively engage, to participate wholeheartedly in our initiatives. Let us pay forward the blessings we've been granted to the communities we serve.

I encourage each of you to embrace our diverse advocacies, to be the change agents our society needs. Reach out through the Reach and Read Program, join hands in Community-Based TB Control, become advocates for Tobacco Control, and champion Child Protection and Child Injury Prevention. Let the Bahaghari booklet serve as one of your guides, spreading essential knowledge in schools, residency programs, and medical practices. Through the dedication of our accomplished international and local practitioners of the International Affiliate committee, the newly established committee of PAPA, we're reaching across borders to enrich our mission of helping children with disabilities and developmental concerns through skills training.

This newsletter is a canvas for your voices, a stage for your advocacies. Let its pages be the platform from which your ideas and efforts resonate, encouraging a symphony of change that echoes throughout our communities.

Thank you for being part of this journey!

With deep appreciation and boundless optimism,

**MARGARITA LUISA AGAPINAN- ALFONSO, MD**  
*President, Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association (PAPA)*



# PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## THE PATH OF LESS RECOGNITION

*By Dr. Edna Sarah C. Morada*

Having sat down as 13th president of the Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association, Inc. was a great honor. One would think about the great recognition it bestowed upon me.

I know it did! However, after two years of service, I learned the other way, the way of less recognition. I realized that accomplishing tasks and sticking it out with the set goals, the recognition goes to the organization.

My faith in God catapulted me from base zero to where I ended, the finish line in the presidency race. I had to learn humility as PAPA president and develop a servant's heart. I learned that leadership is taking the path of servanthood. My Savior took off His respectable clothes and wrapped Himself in a servant's towel. His way was my model.

As I started my presidency, I implemented plans together with the Board of Trustees. We set up goals. Most were achieved. Some were not. For those unmet goals, I realized there are limitations. Did this push me to frustration? No, it did not. It made me face reality. The path of leadership will always have its ups and downs.

In life, we're always striving to work our way up, not the other way around. We think if we can attain to a higher status we can impact more people and impact the organization we belong to. Perhaps so, but not all the time. I have learned through two years of presidency that the path of leadership can also lead one to the other direction – down. Further down towards a less glorious path.

Having the kingdom thinking in the heavenly realm, the farther down trend is the way to greatness! As the immediate past president, I am opting still for this path.



# PAPA OFFICERS

2023-2025



**PRESIDENT**

*Margarita Luisa Agapinan-Alfonso, MD*



**VICE PRESIDENT**

*MaryJoan L. Millonado, MD*



**SECRETARY**

*Sarah Christine D. Mendoza, MD*



**TREASURER**

*Enrico S. Ignacio, Jr., MD*



**ASST. SECRETARY**

*Rhina De Veyra Valencia, MD*





# MEET THE PAPA OFFICERS

## **PRESIDENT** *Margarita Luisa Agapinan-Alfonso, MD*



**Affiliations:**

- The Medical City
- Clinical Faculty, Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health

My advocacy in child health is promotion of the well-being, rights and overall welfare of children and make sure they are provided with the proper nutrition, education and an environment that will develop their full potential.

## **VICE PRESIDENT** *Mary Joan L. Millonado, MD*

**Affiliations:**

- St. Luke's Medical Center (Quezon City)
- Makati Medical Center

My advocacy is promoting child and adolescent health through comprehensive and holistic anticipatory care.



## **SECRETARY** *Sarah Christine D. Mendoza, MD*



**Affiliations:**

- Philippine Medical Association Pasig Chapter
- Philippine Society of Public Health Physicians

My advocacy in child health is driven by a passion for preventing childhood illnesses and promoting healthy lifestyles through education, awareness and community initiatives

## **TREASURER** *Enrico S. Ignacio, Jr., MD*



**Affiliation:**

- Metro Antipolo Hospital and Medical Center

My advocacy in child health is early literacy. Passionate about developing the child's mind through reading.

## **ASST. SECRETARY** *Rhina De Veyra Valencia, MD*



**Affiliations:**

- The Medical City
- Clinical Faculty, Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health

My advocacy in child health is promotion of the well-being, rights and overall welfare of children and make sure they are provided with the proper nutrition, education and an environment that will develop their full potential.



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## 2023-2025



*Kristine V. Arranz, MD*



*Maricris Quitan Castro, MD*



*Vivina C. Chiu, MD*



*Marionito L. Estanislao, MD*



*Soidemer Claire C. Grecia, MD*



*Maria Ana R. Hassan, MD*



*Michellaine Taup Tolentino, MD*

## ADVISERS



*Rosalía M. Buzon, MD*



*Benjamin P. Sablan, Jr. MD*



*Edilberto B. Garcia, Jr MD*



**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

*Edna Sarah C. Morada, MD*



**FOUNDING PRESIDENT**

*Mutya T. San Agustin, MD*



# CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITIES: INTRODUCING PAPA'S MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

by Dr. Mary Joan Millonado

Like. Comment. Hashtag. Share. Repost. With 59.9 percent of the world's population as users as of April 2023, social media definitely lays claim to the communications crown. In the last decade, social media has completely taken the world by storm with sites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn becoming increasingly popular. Given its enormous spread, social media has become an important tool for sharing information to wider and diverse audiences, fostering engagement and, for those in healthcare, promoting health behavior, health education and advocacies.

Hence, in June 2023, the Media and Public Relations Committee (MPRC) of the Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association, Inc. was formed mainly to advance information and communications related to the mission of PAPA, to provide technical support for the delivery of information to support the association's educational and advocacy activities, to drive participation in the activities of PAPA through a variety of managed media channels and lastly, to encourage members and attract non-members to join PAPA and its advocacies. The committee will be updating our website and other social media sites regularly and will be publishing e-newsletters quarterly to keep our members and the public informed and engaged.

On the MPRC roster are the following dedicated, dynamic and talented PAPA members:

**Chair: Dr. Mary Joan "Jo-an" Millonado**

## Information Technology Committee

Co-chair: Dr. Rosauro "Rory" M. Gonzales

Members: Dr. Florence Irena "Ina" Baylas

Dr. Sherry Coo-Tiu Laurel

Dr. Joanna Tiffany "Tiffany" B. Pentino

Dr. Norlyn Rosadia

Dr. Charmaine V. Micu-Oblefias



## Newsletter Editorial Staff:

Editor-in-chief: Dr. Angel Belle "Angel" C. Dy

Adviser: Dr. Margarita Luisa "Marge" Agapinan-Alfonso

Layout Artist: Dr. Cristal Ann Laquindanum-Tan

News and Features Editors: Dr. Tin Arranz

Dr. Edilberto "Boying" B. Garcia, Jr.

# MEMBERS OF PAPA'S MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

**Chair: Dr. Mary Joan "Jo-an" Ledesma Millonado**



**Hospital/Clinic Affiliations:** Makati Medical Center, St. Luke's Medical Center QC, Jesus Delgado Memorial Hospital, Victor R. Potenciano Memorial Medical Center, Health First Clinic

**Positions:**

- Vice President, PAPA, Inc.
- Associate Professor, Year Level 4 Coordinator, Department of Pediatrics, St. Luke's Medical Center College of Medicine William H. Quasha Memorial
- Member, Peer Review Committee, Institute of Pediatrics and Child Health, St. Luke's Medical Center QC
- Chair, Socials Committee; Interns' Coordinator, Department of Pediatrics, Makati Medical Center
- Former chair, Committee on Scientific Meetings; Co-chair, Committee on Socio-cultural Activities, Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc.
- Vice President, Tapulanga Foundation, Inc.

**Hobbies/Interests:** Dance, organizing social activities promoting fellowship, teaching, promoting child and adolescent health through comprehensive and holistic anticipatory care, providing quality education and healthcare assistance to farm communities in Silay City through my involvement with Tapulanga Foundation, Inc.

*"I hope that through this committee, we will be able to maximize the potential of social media platforms for health information and promotion of the activities and advocacies of PAPA not only within our organization but to other allied health practitioners, parents, caregivers and older children and adolescents, as well. I look forward to working with this great team as we utilize the power of social media to educate, collaborate and advocate."*

**Co-chair: Dr. Rosauro "Rory" Martinez Gonzales**



**Area of Practice:** Marilao, Bulacan

**Positions:**

- Medical Director, The Health Network Tlediagnostic Clinic
- Member, Child Health Informatics Committee; Accident Prevention, Disaster, Environmental Safety and Assistance; Convention Online Support Team, Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc.
- Former BOT, Human Emergency Life Patrol
- Medical Director, Chairman of City of Meycauayan Disaster Risk Reduction Management – 2016 to 2019

**Hobbies/Interests:** Toy collection, restoration, DIY solution

*"My dedication and passion to serve are my strengths as co-chair of this committee. I am always ready to go above and beyond to ensure the organization's goals are achieved. Secondly, my perseverance is one of my key strengths. I am not afraid to face obstacles head-on and find solutions to overcome them. Additionally, my resourcefulness is something I pride myself on. I have a knack for finding creative solutions and making the most out of the resources at hand. By leveraging these strengths, I am confident that I can make a valuable impact within our Association." – "my beauty pageant answer"*

# MEMBERS OF PAPA'S MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

IT Committee under Media and Public Relations Committee. Charmaine Micu-Oblefias, Florence Irena Atutubo, Joan Millonado, Rory Gonzales, Norlyn Rosadia, Sherry Coo Tiu Laurel, Tiffy Joana Pentino



## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Dr. Florence Irena "Ina" Atutubo Baylas

Areas of Practice: Marikina and Pasig

Positions:

- Assistant Treasurer, CPSP Marikina Chapter
- Member, Child Health Informatics Committee, Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc.
- School physician, Assumption Antipolo

Hobbies/Interests: Korean language, BTS, startup medical vlogger and social media content creator

*"I am delighted to express my newfound interest in leveraging social media platforms as a means to contribute significantly to PAPA's objectives. My aim is to disseminate the vision and advocacies of PAPA not only to our esteemed members but also to parents and guardians in our community. Through the power of social media, I aspire to create a positive impact by sharing valuable information and insights. Together, we can work towards raising better, brighter and healthier Filipino children. It is my belief that by effectively utilizing these platforms, we can reach a broader audience and foster a sense of unity in our pursuit of a common goal. I look forward to engaging with our community and utilizing this medium to promote our mission effectively. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to PAPA's endeavors through social media.*

*And I thank you! This is contestant #143 from the Philippines!"*

### Dr. Sherry "She" Coo-Tiu Laurel

Affiliations: Metro North Medical Center and Hospital, St. Luke's Medical Center QC, De Los Santos Medical Center, Jesus Delgado Memorial Hospital

Positions:

- School physician, Reedley International School
- Member, Child Health Informatics Committee, Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc.

Hobbies/Interests: Early literacy, reach out and read program, child development, play as a creative way to learn

*I hope to assist in the social media accounts of the association."*

# MEMBERS OF PAPA'S MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

## **Dr. Joanna Tiffany "Tiffy" B. Pentino**

Affiliations: Padre Pio Maternity and Medical Hospital, St. Victoria Hospital, Vincent General Hospital  
Positions:

- Member, Child Health Informatics Committee, Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc.
- Secretary, Community Pediatrics Society of the Philippines Marikina Chapter

*"Being a part of the informatics committee since 2016 up to the present has nurtured my competencies in various technical aspects such as MS Office particularly PowerPoint, Excel and spreadsheets, Google Drive/Google Forms, graphic design using Canva and productivity tools such as Zoom and Google Meet. I am also capable of doing technical support in online events such as Zoom webinars, FB live of YT live. Through these, I hope to be able to contribute as part of the Media and Public Relations Committee of PAPA."*

## **Dr. Norlyn Rosadia**

Affiliations: St. Victoria Hospital, Salve Regina General Hospital, Metro Antipolo Hospital and Medical Center  
Positions:

- Member, Child Health Informatic Committee, Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc.
- Assistant Training Officer, Metro Antipolo Hospital and Medical Center

Hobbies/Interests: singing and dancing

*"I hope to be able to help in the endeavors of PAPA in promoting the advocacies and presenting the groups' mission and goals through print media through its e-newsletter."*

## **Dr. Charmaine V. Micu-Oblefias**

Affiliations/Positions:

- Affiliate Consultant - National Poison Management and Control Center- University of the Philippines, Philippine General Hospital
- Clinical Professor - Far Eastern University- Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation - Department of Child Health
- Courtesy Consultant - Manila Doctors Hospital
- Visiting Consultant - Mary Chiles General Hospital
- Member - Philippine Pediatric Society- Child Health Informatics Committee

Hobbies/Interests: My hobbies include playing online RPG and listening to podcasts. My interests include curating content like infographics, posters, videos and AVPs for social media platforms and events (training, workshops, and conventions).

*"I believe one of my strengths include being a member of organizing committees (focusing on technical support and audiovisual aspects) in several workshops, training and postgraduate courses that were held both in-person and virtually. I like exploring video and photo editing software that would allow me to improve my output and I think this aligns seamlessly with the committee's aim for a dynamic multimedia outreach."*

# MEMBERS OF PAPA'S MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

### **Editor in-chief: Dr. Angel Belle "Angel" C. Dy**

Affiliations/Positions:

- Clinic Director, The Growing Brain PH Medical Clinic (Quezon City)
- Assistant Professor, Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health
- Expert Training Leader, International Council for Development and Learning

Hobbies/Interests: Early childhood and autism research, advocating for developmentally appropriate play and toys, piano

*"I am currently this year's editor-in-chief of the eNewsletter and hoping to contribute in sharing the good work that PAPA is conducting."*

### **Adviser: Dr. Margarita Luisa "Marge" Agapinan-Alfonso**

Hospital/Clinic Affiliations: The Medical City, Tricity Medical Center-Pasig, ARDI Healthcare Center (Malinao and Mercedes Branches)

Positions:

- President, PAPA, Inc.
- Head, Community Pediatrics; Member, Executive Committee, Pediatric Accreditation Evaluation Board, Institute of Pediatrics, The Medical City
- YL8 Faculty, Leadership and Mentoring, Community Pediatrics, Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health
- Medical Director, ARDI Healthcare Center, Malinao Branch
- Former Editor-in-Chief, PAPA Newsletter

Hobbies/Interests: Community development, promoting early literacy in children, mentoring and coaching

*"With these vibrant and energetic members of the newsletter team working together, we hope to reignite the passion and rekindle the dedication of members through photos and print and inspire them to pursue the PAPA advocacies close to their heart."*

### **Layout Artist: Dr. Cristal Ann Laquindanum-Tan**

Hospital/Clinic Affiliations: St. Luke's Medical Center BGC, Medical Center Taguig, The Medical City Clinic Market Market and Waltermart Bicutan

Positions:

- Medical Director, The Medical City Clinic Araneta - Acute Surgical Center
- Vice President and Co-founder, ASMPH Alumni Association
- Member, PRESS, Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc.
- Guest Faculty, Leadership and Mentoring, Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health

Hobbies/Interests: digital health, health communication and promotion, cooking, music, social media content creation

*"I am proud of PAPA's advocacy programs. We need more grassroots programs like these to help out in children's health. I hope to contribute my skills in health communication to bridge the gap between doctors and patients/families."*



# MEMBERS OF PAPA'S MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

## **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

### **News and Features Editor: Dr. Edilberto "Boying" B. Garcia, Jr.**

Hospital Affiliations: St. Luke's Medical Center QC, Manila Doctors Hospital

Positions:

- Past President, PAPA, Inc.

Hobbies/Interests: bowling

*"I hope to be able to keep our members informed of the organization's activities and encourage others to be part of it."*

### **News and Features Editor: Dr. Kristine "Tin" V. Arranz**

Hospital affiliations: The Medical City and San Mateo Medical Center

Clinics: TMC Clinics (SM North, Robinsons Magnolia and SM San Mateo); Clinica Manila SM Hyper Pasig, San Mateo Medical Center

Positions held: PPS PRESS member, PAPA Board of Trustees, The Medical City Institute of Pediatrics Head of Marketing Unit.

Hobbies/interests: I love traveling and food tripping, and I love singing, playing the piano and guitar.

*"As a member of the Media and Public Relations Committee of PAPA, I hope to contribute in making a positive impact to raising awareness about pediatric healthcare and wellbeing and in the promotion of the association's activities."*



# PAPA'S VISION FOR HOLISTIC CHILD HEALTHCARE TAKES CENTER-STAGE AT THE STRATEGIC PLANNING EVENT

By Dr. Marionito Estanislao



Dr. Mutya San Agustin,  
PAPA Founding President

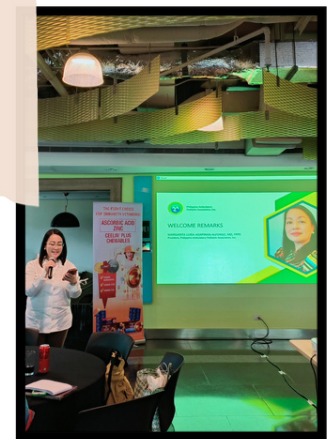
The Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association (PAPA) convened its strategic planning event for 2023–2024 on August 17, 2023, at the Unilab Small Cafeteria, Bayanihan Hall, United Laboratories, Mandaluyong City. The event saw the participation of the officers and heads of various advocacy committees, as well as chapter presidents of the organization. They shared their achievements and plans for the future.

The event was graced by Dr. Mutya San Agustin, founding president of PAPA, who has consistently influenced the organization with her dedication and vision. She delivered her message of support via Zoom, where she was introduced as "itinakda ng Maylikha sa isang banal na adhika," borrowing a line from the PAPA hymn.

Dr. Edilberto Boying Garcia emphasized "Training and education of healthcare providers in ambulatory settings" in his Program Overview. He echoed PAPA's vision of promoting holistic, innovative, and socially responsive healthcare for children at home, in school, and within the community.

The planning centered around the following key elements: program reach and participation, program effectiveness and impact, resource management, collaboration and partnerships, and evaluation and continuous improvement. These elements align with the organization's mission to deliver quality ambulatory pediatric care through education, research, advocacy, and networking.

A highlight of the event was the report from Dr. Margarita Alfonso, the president of PAPA and the chair of the research committee. She expressed her aspiration to cultivate a culture of research within the organization. This aims not only to raise awareness among parents, educators, and communities about the significance of holistic and innovative child healthcare practices but also to eventually influence policy decisions and legislation in favor of comprehensive, innovative, and socially responsive approaches to child healthcare. She believes that initiating with small research questions will initiate the program.



Welcome Remarks by  
Dr. Margarita Alfonso,  
PAPA President



Captured officers of the Bulacan Chapters Next to Dr. Marge Alfonso (PAPA president) is Dr. Heidi Alveza, Dr. Antoniette de Leon, Dr. Ana Armas and Dr. Joan Millonado (PAPA vice-president)



Dr. Joan Millonado, the vice president of PAPA, closed the event by reiterating Dr. Alfonso's challenge to the organization. She encouraged the development of coordinated PAPA advocacy programs and activities across different chapters to enhance PAPA's efficiency and effectiveness in fulfilling its mission.

The event utilized a hybrid platform, allowing some chapters to join via Zoom or send physical delegates. The Cebu Chapter and La Union Chapter both had three delegates present, led by their respective presidents, Dr. Vivina Chiu and Dr. Jeisela Balderas Gaerlan. Meanwhile, the Zamboanga Chapter was represented by its president, Dr. Efraim Culminas. Bulacan and Batangas joined via Zoom.

The strategic planning event was a resounding success, showcasing the achievements and aspirations of PAPA as an organization committed to providing holistic child healthcare in the Philippines.



**Up:** Cebu chapter representatives led by Dr. Vivina Chiu shares table with Dr. Ephraim Cluminas (Zamboanga Chapter President), Dr. Nathalie Sylvestre Hernaez (Zamboanga Chapter treasurer), and Dr. Elaine Nielo (board member).



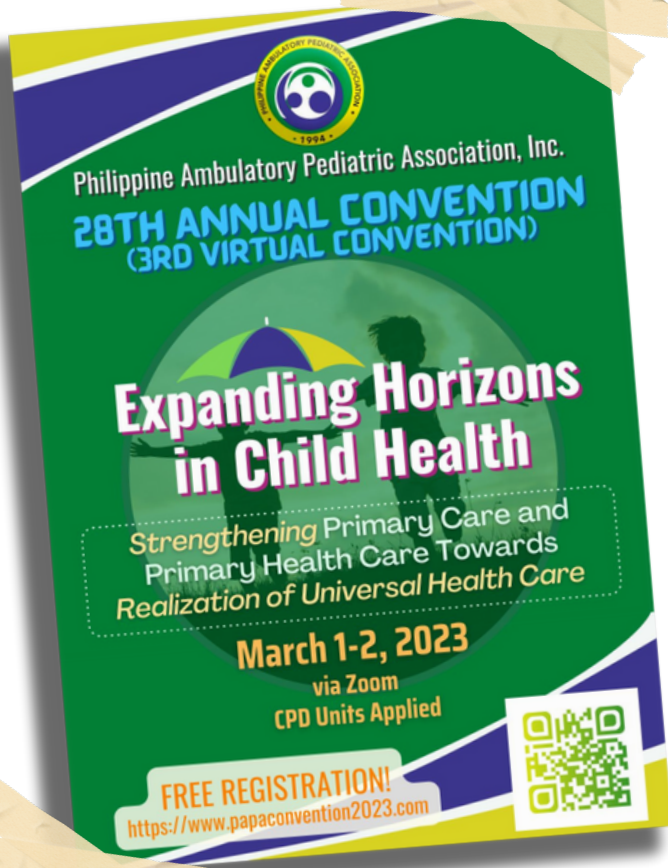
**Left:** Dr. Enrico Jay Ignacio (Finance); Dr. Edilberto Boying Garcia with Dr. Sherry Coo Tiu- Laurel ; Myrah Joan Lelis (PAPA Secretary) with Dr Ruby Punongbayan-Tan (Bahaghari); Dr Efraim Culminas (President Zamboanga Chapter); Dr. Vivina Chiu (President Cebu Chapter); Dr. Cynthia Gomez- Balzac (Committee on International Affiliates)

**Bottom:** Group photo of the strategic planning event.



# PAPA 28th ANNUAL CONVENTION: EXPANDING HORIZONS IN CHILD HEALTH

By Dr. Jasmin A. Castillo



The growing interest in universal health care was the focus for the 28th run of the PAPA Annual Convention which was held virtually last March 1 and 2, 2023. Commencing from where the previous year's convention took off, this time around, the perspective concentrated more on the building blocks towards the realization of UHC. In addition, the other topics aimed to promote optimal child health through integration of medicine and public health at the primary care level.

The keynote speech started off the event delivered by no less than the OIC of the Department of Health, Dr. Maria Rosario S. Vergeire who discussed the pediatrician's role in primary health care.

The concept of interprofessional education and collaboration also known as IPEC, and the role it plays in UHC was be introduced by our speaker from the academe, Michael P. Sy, PhD, MHPEd, OTRP. Discussions on the primary care principles in the clinical practice followed, such as updates in the newborn screening program and developmental screening were tackled by Dr. Michelle E. Abadingo and Dr. Lourdes Bernadette S. Tanchanco, esteemed specialists in clinical genetics and developmental pediatrics respectively.

PAPA's very own advocacies were likewise highlighted in this year's convention, particularly on adolescent vaping and the different parenting models. These topics were expertly discussed by Dr. Rizalina H. Gonzalez and Karina Therese G. Fernandez, PhD. An engaging panel discussion on the multidisciplinary and holistic management offered by the child protection services team was also undertaken. The final lecture by Dr. Anna Guia O. Limpoco gave us the direction of the primary pediatric practice including innovations brought about by technology.

The 2-day virtual event was attended by over 1,500 participants composed of doctors, nurses, medical students, social workers, WCPU personnel from all over the Philippines. There were also attendees from the USA, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Taiwan, and Australia. As we aspire to attain a health care system that genuinely provides "health for all", the organizing committee would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all participants, our advisers, and sponsors in our quest to expand the horizons in child health.



# ACCELERATING CERVICAL CANCER ELIMINATION INITIATIVES IN THE PHILIPPINES

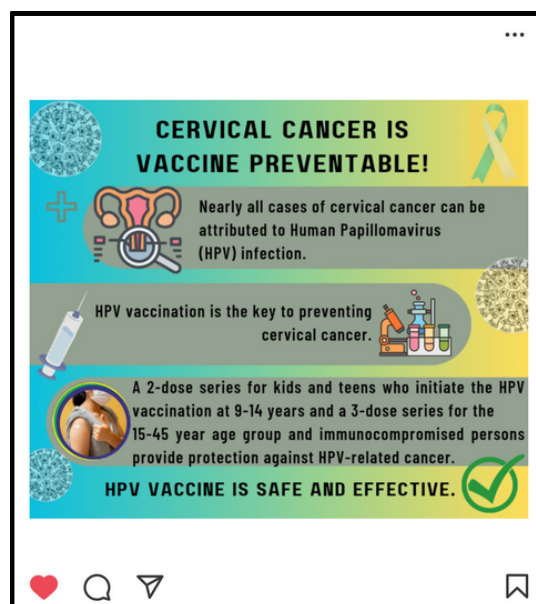
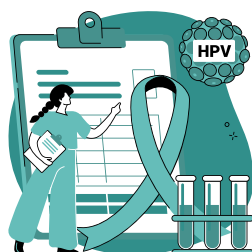
By Dr. Mary Joan Millonado

To celebrate National Adolescent Immunization Month, the Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association, Inc. conducted an informative, engaging webinar on August 31, 2023, in collaboration with Jhpiego Philippines and Merck, Sharp, and Dohme Philippines. Dr. Ingrid Magnata, Country Program Manager of Jhpiego Philippines, discussed the Current Status of Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiatives in the Philippines. She emphasized the global burden of cervical cancer and its standing as the second leading cause of death among women, shedding light on the interventions undertaken by Jhpiego and other stakeholders to close gaps and effectively leverage resources for accelerating the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health concern.



Dr. Erlinda Susana Cuisia-Cruz then addressed The Role of the Physician in Overcoming Barriers to HPV Vaccination. To tackle obstacles such as lack of awareness and misinformation, Dr. Cuisia-Cruz recommended increasing culturally tailored health literacy initiatives addressing HPV vaccination gaps. She stressed the importance of positive recommendations for HPV vaccination from healthcare providers and allied healthcare workers.

Following this, Dr. Anthony Calibo, Technical Advisor of the Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine Acceleration Program Partners Initiative (HAPPI) Project of Jhpiego Philippines, provided updates on the Status of Primary Prevention and Promotion of HPV Vaccination. The HPV vaccination program in the Philippines has been gradually introduced from 2015 to the present through community-based and school-based immunization campaigns. Dr. Calibo also presented the challenges in the program's implementation, including vaccine supply shortages, financial constraints, vaccine hesitancy, and disruptions to healthcare services, resulting in low vaccine coverage.



Health information material made by PAPA's Media and Public Relations Committee posted in PAPA's Facebook Page





Dr. Ruby Punongbayan-Tan moderated an open forum during which it was emphasized that HPV vaccination is recommended for all healthy girls as a two-dose series (0, 6-12 months) at ages 9 through 14 years. A three-dose series (0, 1-2, 6 months) is recommended for individuals initiating vaccination at ages 15 through 45 years and for immunocompromised individuals. The discussion underscored the power of prevention through HPV vaccination and the significance of cervical screening and vaccination recommendations from healthcare providers.

The webinar provided us with a wealth of information, statistics, ideas, and visions to ponder. We conveyed our message to a diverse group of participants, including educators, students, trainees, midwives, nurses, pharmacists, physicians, and parents from different parts of the country. We urged them to unite in response to the global call for accelerated efforts to eliminate cervical cancer by promoting strategies for HPV vaccination among young girls. The **ADVOCACY CALL** is crystal clear. Let us collectively champion HPV vaccination and work together to forge a more equitable future for today's children.




**Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association, Inc.**



A webinar in celebration of the National Adolescent Immunization Month in August entitled

**"Accelerating Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiatives in the Philippines"**

**Moderator**  
**RUBY L. PUNONGBAYAN-TAN, MD, FPPS, FPPSAP**  
 Head, Committee on Health Supervision  
 Guidelines - BAHAGHARI, PAPA, Inc

**INGRID D. RAMIREZ-MAGNATA, MD, MPH, MDM, CESE**  
 Country Program Manager, Jhpiego Philippines  
**CURRENT STATUS OF CERVICAL CANCER ELIMINATION IN THE PHILIPPINES**

**ANTHONY P. CALIBO, MD, DPPS**  
 Technical Advisor, HAPPI Project, Jhpiego Philippines  
**STATUS OF PRIMARY PREVENTION AND PROMOTION OF HPV VACCINATION**

**ERLINDA SUSANA S. CUISIA-CRUZ, MD, FPPS, FPSAMS**  
 Head, Division of Adolescent Medicine, PCMC  
**THE ROLE OF THE PHYSICIAN IN OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO HPV VACCINATION**

**Date: August 31, 2023 (Thursday) Time: 5-7pm**  
 Open to all. Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/45dCnJa>  
 CPD units :  
 PRC: 1.5 Units  
 PAFP: 2 Category II  
 PMA: to follow







# PAPA CHAPTERS



**LA UNION**  
Jeisela B. Gaerlan, MD  
*Chapter President*



**BULACAN**  
Dr. Trigidia DV Alveza  
*Chapter President*  
Loreta P. Mendoza, MD  
*Chapter Immediate Past President*



**BATANGAS**  
Divina Francia De  
Guzman-Talosig, MD  
*Chapter President*



**CEBU**  
Vivina C. Chiu, MD  
*Chapter President*  
Cheryl K. Bullo, MD  
*Chapter Vice President*  
Francisco Emilio C. Remotigue, Jr.  
*Chapter Secretary*



**ZAMBOANGOA DEL SUR**  
Efraim Culminas, MD  
*Chapter President*



## LAUNCHING: PAPA BATANGAS CHAPTER

*By Dr. Divina Francia de Guzman*

With the goal of promoting the advocacies of PAPA, creating a bond with the old and new Batangueño members, and initiating programs for holistic pediatric care, PAPA Batangas Chapter was launched last May 7, 2023 in Batangas City. The chapter was composed of 16 members from the different districts of Batangas province and headed by Dr. Divina Francia D. Talosig.



PAPA Batangas Chapter Inauguration and Induction of Officers, May 7, 2023, Batangas City

PAPA Batangas chapter's first activity was a lay fora about the elimination of violence against women and children. It was held last June 7, 2023 in the Out-patient department of Batangas Medical Center. Patients and their guardians, residents and medical students participated in the event. With the chapter's little steps and linkages with other local societies and organizations, it aims to continue promoting protection of children and adolescents from all types of abuse.



Lay For a on Elimination of Violence against Women and Children, June 7, 2023, Out-patient Department Batangas Medical Center

Campaign on early literary, through the Reach Out and Read program, is the chapter's main advocacy. Due to challenges in logistics, the chapter plans to create satellite ROR hubs after their ROR orientation and training. The participating chapter members will recruit participants, conduct the ROR, and monitor and evaluate the program. With this modification, more children will be served. Also, the program can cover a wider area and diverse population.

The chapter may be young; but its burning desire to serve the Filipino children, particularly the Batangueños, drives the chapter to grow.

# PAPA ADVOCACIES

## Bahaghari: Health Supervision for Infants, Children and Adolescents

Ruby L. Punongbayan, MD  
Chairman



## Early Literacy - Reach Out and Read

Carmen R. Bonoan, MD  
Chairman

Ma. Jocelyn N. Quidlat, MD  
Co-Chair



## Tobacco Control in Children and Adolescents

Marionito L. Estanislao, MD  
Officer-in-Charge



## Childhood Injury Prevention

Maria Eva I. Jopson, MD  
Chairman

Marjorie Grace M. Apigo, MD  
Co-Chair



## Community-based Tuberculosis Control In Children

Maria Ana R. Hassan, MD  
Chairman



## Children's Mental Health

Cynthia B. Gomez, MD  
Philippine Chapter,  
Chairman

Grace Tamesis, MD  
US Chapter,  
Chairman







# **NEWSLETTER** **COMMITTEE**

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

08 SEPTEMBER 2023

Angel Belle Dy, MD

Margarita Luisa Agapinan-Alfonso, MD

Cristal Ann Laquindanum-Tan, MD

Edilberto "Boying" B. Garcia, Jr, MD

Kristine Arranz, MD

Myrah Lelis (Administrative Secretary)