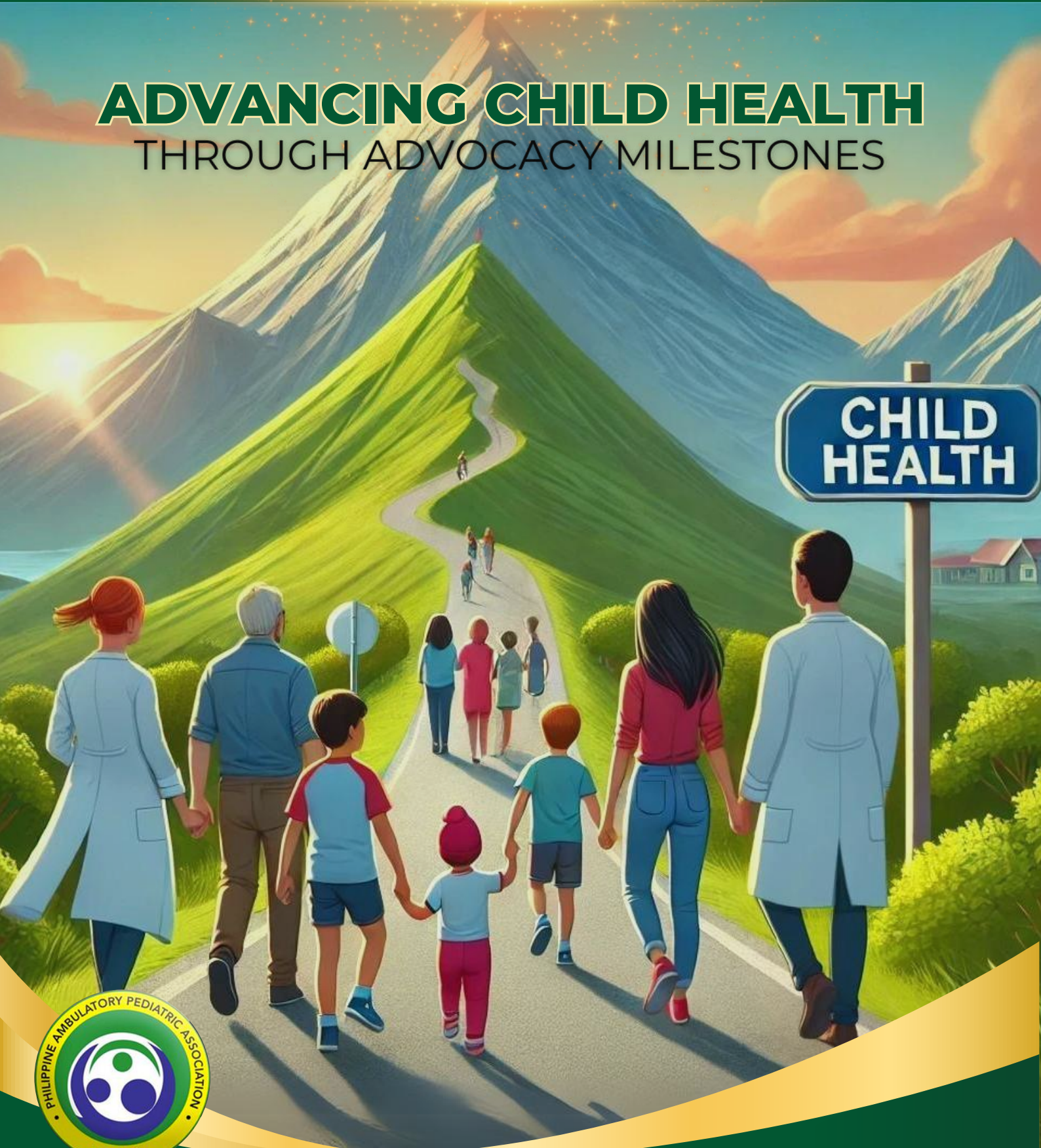


PHILIPPINE AMBULATORY PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION, INC

NEWSLETTER

ADVANCING CHILD HEALTH THROUGH ADVOCACY MILESTONES





ADVANCING CHILD HEALTH THROUGH ADVOCACY MILESTONES

Message from the Editor:

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that we introduce this edition of our newsletter, a compilation that both celebrates recent achievements and anticipates future milestones in our advocacies. Over the last few months, our community has engaged in a series of enriching learning events designed to further professional development and deepen our engagement with vital health issues affecting children and adolescents.

In this issue, we spotlight several key events that underscore our commitment to continuous learning and community involvement such as the Bahaghari Summit, Reach Out and Read Training of Trainers, and our involvement in the fight against HPV. We are also looking forward to several more exciting events in the remaining months of 2024 and our 30th annual convention.

Each of these events represents a thread in the larger fabric of our ongoing advocacies and commitment to child health. They are not just occasions to learn but also opportunities to influence and shape the future of pediatric care. Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Let's stay connected, informed, and inspired.

Sincerely,

Angel Belle Dy, MD, MBA
Editor-in-chief



ADVANCING CHILD HEALTH THROUGH ADVOCACY MILESTONES

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Cover Photo:
OpenAI. "Image of a Mountain Road with Children, Their Families, and Pediatricians Walking Towards a Pinnacle." DALL·E, 2024, accessed via ChatGPT by OpenAI.

Promoting Child Health: Launching the BAHAGHARI Health Supervision Guidelines for Infants, Children, and Adolescents Booklet

By Dr. Ruby Punongbayan-Tan

In an age where information is abundant yet often overwhelming, having reliable guidance on children's health is invaluable. The Bahaghari committee collaborated with our healthcare partners to launch the 6th edition of the booklet that aims to provide just that—a comprehensive resource for parents, caregivers, and healthcare professionals alike. This initiative not only promotes better health outcomes but also empowers families to make informed decisions about their children's well-being.

Collaboration and Expertise

After working for almost 2 years on the latest edition through online meetings with contributors and face to face meetings among our editors, our indefatigable PAPA president and vice-president sought linkages to promote Bahaghari. On May 9, 2024, together with our healthcare partner, Abbott, the latest edition of Bahaghari was announced in line with the association's summit entitled, "Eat. Sleep. Move. Giving Children A Healthy Start".

The vital triad of proper nutrition, restorative power of sleep, and dynamic effects of exercise were highlighted by the esteemed speakers, Dr. Imelda Vitug-Sales (pediatric gastroenterologist) and Dr. Francis Xavier Dimalanta (developmental pediatrician) in this series of engagements with our colleagues in the field of pediatrics. Dr. Mary Joan Millonado expertly moderated the discussion as the speakers emphasized the holistic approach of taking care of our patients. The summit was held in Conrad Hotel and had a total of 363 attendees from Metro Manila, Clark, Davao, and Iloilo. Moreover, the second run of this activity held on June 14 in EDSA Shangri-la Hotel was another success with a total of 353 attendees from Metro Manila, Cagayan De Oro, Tacloban, La Union, and Dagupan.



Photo from DALL-E. Prompt: "A pastel-colored illustration designed for a pediatricians' newsletter, featuring three separate circles, each representing one element of the vital triad of nutrition, sleep, and exercise"

This collaborative spirit extends to the promotion and distribution phase, where clinics, the community, medical schools, and online platforms play pivotal roles in reaching a wide audience.

Sustainability and Impact

Beyond the summit event, sustainability is key to the initiative's success. Ongoing education and promotion efforts ensure that Bahaghari booklets remain a relevant and trusted resource for years to come. The impact of the Health Supervision Guidelines extends beyond individual families. By promoting preventive health care practices, it contributes to reducing health care costs associated with preventable illnesses and complications. Healthy children are more likely to thrive academically and socially, creating a ripple effect that benefits society as a whole.



Opening Remarks- Dr Margarita Alfonso, President, PAPA, Inc.

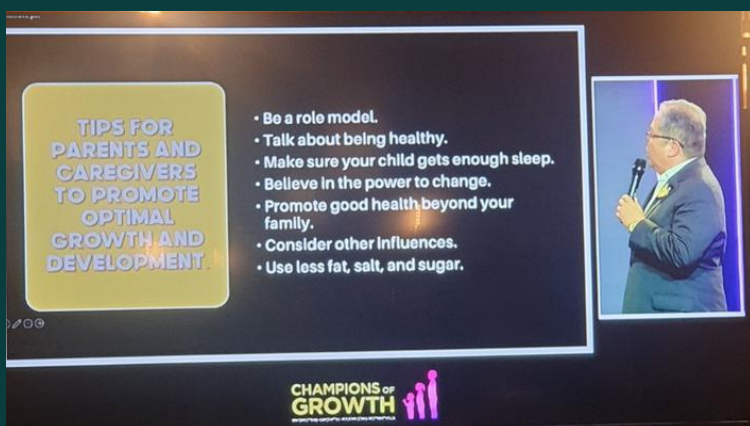




Overview of Bahaghari Booklet- Dr Ruby Punongbayan-Tan, Chair, Bahaghari Committee, PAPA, Inc.



Optimizing Complementary Feeding: A Practical Approach to Developing a Child's Appetite and Preventing Allergy: Dr Imelda Vitug-Sales



The Synergy of Sleep, Exercise, Nutrition and Growth and Development: Dr Francis Dimalanta



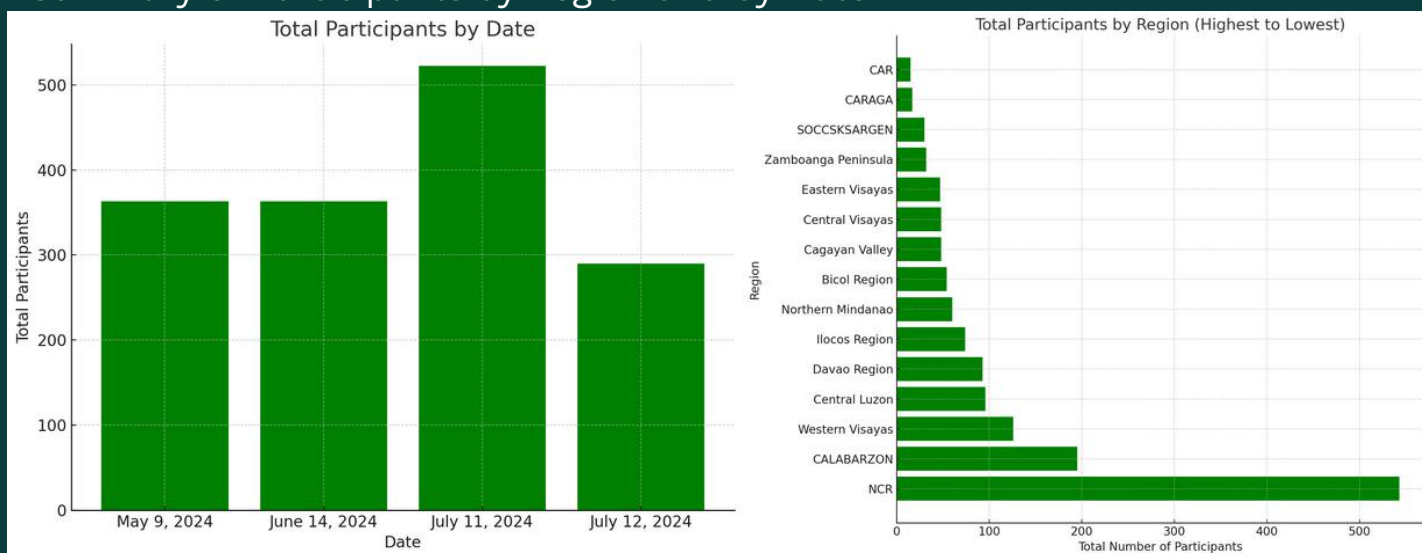


Panel Discussion

- Linear Growth and Development: Dr Sylvia Capistrano-Estrada
- Picky Eating: Dr Rochelle Pacifico
- Key Interactions for Nutrition, Immunity and Infection: Dr Anna Ong-Lim
- Moderator: Dr Felizardo Gatcheco



Summary of Participants by Region and by Date



*2.5 PRC CPD Units

*2000 Bahaghari booklets purchased by Abbott and given to attendees as tokens
 Expect the schedules of the 5th and 6th runs of the summit to be in the first quarter of 2025. Schedules will be announced.

Empowering Pediatric Practices with Early Literacy: A Success Story from the Reach Out and Read Training of Trainers

On May 16, 2024, the Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association Inc. (PAPA) hosted a landmark event at the Victoriano Luna Medical Center in Quezon City—the Reach Out and Read (ROR) Training of Trainers. This initiative marks a crucial advancement in embedding early literacy within pediatric care across the Philippines.

Held at the Victoriano K. Luna Auditorium, the event gathered 63 dedicated participants, mostly from the National Capital Region. The diverse group included medical doctors (80%), registered nurses (12%), and other health professionals (7%). Renowned institutions such as the Philippine General Hospital, The Medical City, and St. Luke's Medical Center were well-represented, underscoring the widespread interest and commitment to this cause.

The training was led by Dr. Wenslyn Salvador and featured a panel of esteemed speakers—Dr. Carmen Bonoan, Dr. Rosalia Buzon, Dr. Ma. Jocelyn Quidlat, and Dr. Rhina Valencia-De Veyra—each bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the event. Their presentations provided participants with valuable insights into the integration of the ROR program into daily pediatric practice.





A key takeaway from the event was the overwhelming consensus among participants to implement or enhance the ROR initiative in their respective practices. Many committed to integrating early literacy during well-child visits and even during sick visits, a move that promises to broaden the impact of ROR across various healthcare settings. Additionally, several institutions expressed interest in establishing their own ROR sites, paving the way for the program's expansion into wider communities.

An inspiring moment during the event was shared by Dr. Ma. Jocelyn Quidlat, who donated 70 board books to V. Luna’s ROR program in honor of her 70th birthday earlier this year. This act of generosity also paid tribute to V. Luna Medical Center as the first military hospital to adopt the ROR program during her presidency at PAPA in 2007. Happy birthday, Dr. Quidlat! Thank you for your dedication and support of the ROR program!



The success of this training underscores the pediatric community's commitment to fostering early literacy, a foundation for lifelong learning and development. The Reach Out and Read program continues to inspire and equip healthcare professionals, encouraging them to make reading an integral part of childhood, thereby nurturing the minds of the next generation.

This event serves as a powerful reminder of the collective dedication within the pediatric community to support early childhood development through literacy, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive from an early age.





Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association, Inc.

REACH OUT AND READ TRAINING OF TRAINERS

Venue: Victoriano K. Luna Auditorium, 2nd floor (near elevators), Victoriano Luna Medical Center, V. Luna Ave., Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City

Date: 16 May, 2024, Thursday

Time: 01:00PM - 4:30PM

Register Now

Scan the QR Code below or click link: <https://bit.ly/4a1SG6j>

CONTACT US
www.ourpa.org
pa@ourpa.org
(+632) 77084000

Speakers:

- Dr. Carmen E. Banaon, Speaker
- Dr. Rosalia M. Buzon, Speaker
- Dr. Ms. Jocelyn M. Quilhot, Speaker
- Dr. Rhina Valencia-De Veyra, Speaker

Moderator: Dr. Wenslyn SM Salvador



PAPA is One with the Community Against HPV

By Dr. Mary Joan L. Millonado

Cervical cancer, most frequently related to Human papillomavirus (HPV), is the second leading cause of cancer and the fourth leading cause of death from cancer among Filipino women, with 37.8 million Filipinas remaining at risk (ICO,2022). The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer as a Public Health Problem back in 2020 with the following targets set to be reached by 2030:

- 90% of girls fully vaccinated with HPV vaccine by age 15 years
- 70% of women screened with a high-performance test by 35 years of age and again by 45 years of age and
- 90% of women identified with cervical disease receive treatment.

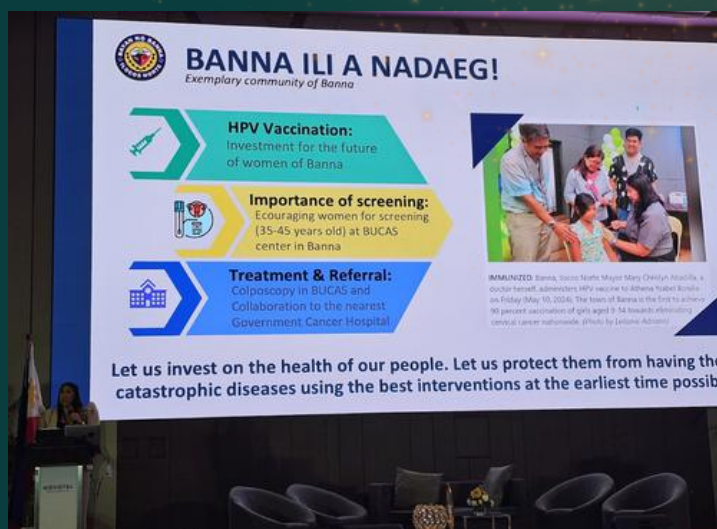
Unfortunately, the Philippines still has a long way to go, with only 33% vaccine coverage for girls by age 15 and less than 1% screening rate for women reported. These highlight the need for increased and accelerated multi sectoral cooperation towards cervical cancer elimination, to scale-up the WHO's call to action.



Last May 16, 2024, Merck, Sharpe & Dohme spearheaded the 1st Philippine Cervical Cancer Elimination Summit held in Novotel Manila Araneta Center during which healthcare professionals and the public sector convened in a multistakeholder effort to achieve the shared goal of eliminating cervical cancer in the Philippines. Experts and leaders in the fight against cervical cancer gave informative and enlightening talks on the following topics: “Undeclared: Filipinos and Filipinas in the fight against cervical cancer”, “Protecting the future against cervical cancer: the 90% immunization agenda”, “Catching cancer early: the 70% target for screening” and “Addressing urgent needs: responding effectively to the Filipino cancer patient”. Mayor Mary Chrislyn Abadilla of Banna, Ilocos Norte, a doctor herself, spoke about how the town of Banna achieved 90 percent vaccination against HPV of girls aged 9-14 years, a first in the Philippines. Finally, representatives from various healthcare and allied health societies, patient groups and the public sector gave messages of commitment towards cervical cancer elimination.

Plenary Session 2 Panelists

				
<p>Dr. Anthony Calibo Technical Advisor HAPPI Project, Jhpiego</p>	<p>Dr. Cecilia Liave Technical Adviser SUCCESS Project, Jhpiego Professor Research, Institute of Child Health & Human Development, NIH UP Manila Clinical Professor, Department of OB-Gynecology UP-PGH Cervical Cancer Elimination Advocate</p>	<p>Dr. Ouriad Alzeus Tantengco Investigator DEFEAT HPV</p>	<p>Dr. John Wong Chair and President EpiMetrics, Inc.</p>	<p>Dr. Imelda Peña Director, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences University of the Philippines National Institutes of Health</p>



It was a privilege to have been given the opportunity to represent the Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association, Inc. in this worthwhile gathering and to have delivered our message, as follows:

“The Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association, Inc. is an association with a diverse membership whose mission is to provide continuous, compassionate and comprehensive care to Filipino children and continuing education to health professionals providing care to children and adolescents.

What role have we, as physicians, played and can play in the fight against cervical cancer? It is a fact that one important facilitator of HPV vaccination is the decision for the healthcare professional to recommend vaccination. Studies have consistently shown that adolescent females are 18 times more likely to initiate the HPV vaccine series if they receive recommendations from their providers. Universal recommendation of HPV vaccine and highlighting its efficacy and established safety at the same time, therefore, need to be incorporated into routine practice to ensure access for all eligible females.

One barrier to HPV vaccination is the knowledge gap. These include lack of awareness regarding the vaccine and misinformation, as parents often think their children are too young to receive the vaccine or they deem it unnecessary because of the lack of perceived risk of HPV infection and fear about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine. As an association, PAPA, Inc.

has actively participated in the National Stakeholders Consultative Workshop on Cervical Cancer Elimination held in June 2023 and has conducted a very well-attended free webinar entitled “Accelerating Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiatives in the Philippines” in August of the same year in collaboration with MSD and Jphiego, Philippines. Last March 2024, PAPA once again participated in MSD’s HPV Academy. We believe that through health literacy initiatives such as our Continuing Medical Education activities, we are moving several steps closer towards our goal of achieving cervical cancer elimination and promoting health across all populations.



The Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association, Inc. joins hands with all of you in heeding the global call to accelerate efforts to eliminate cervical cancer by promoting strategies towards achievable targets for HPV vaccination of our young girls. Let us collectively act to promote HPV vaccination and together build a more just future for today’s children.”

A Night of Health Initiatives: Launching the Bahaghari Health Supervision Guidelines booklet and a Forum on Boosting Adolescent Immunization

by Dr. Ruby Punongbayan-Tan

In a bid to bolster a pediatric patient's health and well-being, two pivotal events unfolded on a single, momentous evening, sparking dialogue and action towards better health supervision and adolescent immunization. All roads led to Marco Polo Hotel in Ortigas, Pasig City last June 3, 2024, as our colleagues attended and actively participated in this important event in collaboration with our dynamic healthcare partner, MSD.



Boosting Adolescent Immunization

The event started with two speakers, both illustrious in their respective fields, Dr. Imelda Asetre-Luna (pediatric infectious disease specialist) and Dr. Emma Llanto (adolescent medicine specialist), who discussed HPV vaccination among early adolescents and techniques to boost adolescent immunization respectively. A spirited discussion ensued after their lectures which was expertly moderated by Dr. Eileen Alikpala-Cuajunco.

Amidst growing concerns over vaccine hesitancy and misinformation, the discussion highlighted the importance of having HPV vaccine as early as early adolescence, strategies to encourage immunization, and the pivotal role of health care providers in delivering accurate information and fostering trust among families.



Health Supervision Guidelines Booklet Launch

The second part of the evening was marked by the unveiling of the 6th edition of Bahaghari Health Supervision Guidelines for Infants, Children, and Adolescents booklet. Dr. Ruby Punongbayan-Tan, the head of Bahaghari committee of PAPA gave an overview of what this invaluable resource for pediatric care has to offer.



Impact and Reflections

Together, these twin events underscored a shared commitment to proactive healthcare initiatives within the community. As attendees departed with newfound knowledge and a renewed sense of purpose, the ripple effects of these initiatives are expected to resonate throughout the community, influencing healthcare practices and empowering families to make informed health decisions. Truly, it was a night to remember as it was a shining testament of our association's commitment to providing comprehensive health care through prevention and education.

The booklet, meticulously crafted over months of hard work and collaboration, covers a spectrum of topics essential for ensuring the well-being of pediatric patients. The guidelines serve as a roadmap for parents and caregivers navigating the complexities of child health. Its launch symbolized a collective commitment to equipping families with the knowledge and tools necessary to foster healthy growth and development from infancy through adolescence.



PAPA's Recent Community Engagements: A Commitment to Child Health

by Dr. Marge Alfonso

PAPA Goes to St. Theresa College QC: Addressing Malnutrition Through Community Efforts

On April 12, 2024, as the President of the Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association (PAPA), I conducted a nutrition seminar for the parents of malnourished students at Demetrio Tuazon Elementary School. This initiative was part of the KABALIKATAN program (translating to "Kabalikat Tayo para sa Kapwa at Kalikasan"), led by St. Theresa College QC (STCQC) in collaboration with its Community Outreach Team and Senior High School students.

The event featured a feeding activity aimed at combating malnutrition, a significant barrier to learning. Approximately 60-70 underweight and wasted children from kindergarten to Grade 6 received nutritious meals, while their parents attended an educational session on the importance of proper nutrition and affordable ways to prepare healthy meals. The seminar successfully engaged 30 parents and 10 faculty members, fostering a community-wide effort to improve child health and well-being.



PAPA Joins Breastfeeding City Public Engagement Meet

PAPA was also present at the Breastfeeding City Public Engagement held at The Medical City on June 22, 2024. This gathering brought together breastfeeding advocates, support groups, and organizations from across the Philippines to discuss and draft indicators for establishing a breastfeeding-friendly city. The collaborative effort generated valuable insights that will help shape future breastfeeding initiatives in urban areas.



PAPA-Aruga Updates: Monitoring Child Development Interventions

Following the roll-out of the PAPA-Aruga modules, team leader Dr. Marge Alfonso together with PAPA-Aruga facilitator Dr. Jazzie Ramirez, conducted a monitoring session at Samal North Elementary School on May 23, 2024. The session focused on six children identified by their teachers for further evaluation. Despite prior school interventions, no significant changes in behavior or school performance were observed. Thus, parents of these children were interviewed and preliminary screening was done in preparation for a referral to a developmental pediatrician. This step underscores PAPA's commitment to ensuring that every child receives the support they need for optimal development.



PAPA at the 117th PMA Annual Convention

PAPA proudly participated in the opening ceremonies of the Philippine Medical Association's (PMA) 117th Annual Convention on May 15, 2024, at SMX Clark, Pampanga. The event saw the attendance of past and current PAPA presidents, Drs. Liza Santos and Marge Alfonso, who paraded the organization's banner during the PMA's opening rites, symbolizing PAPA's enduring commitment to pediatric healthcare.



Dr Marge Alfonso together with Newly elected PMA President, Dr Hector Santos and wife, former PAPA President Dr Liza Santos



Past and Current PAPA Presidents, Drs Liza Santos and Marge Alfonso, respectively, parade the organization's banner during the PMA's opening rites

These recent activities highlight PAPA's ongoing dedication to enhancing pediatric health and nutrition through community outreach, education, and professional collaboration.

Driving Change: PAPA's Involvement in Tuberculosis Initiatives

Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association's (PAPA) Community-Based TB Control in Children with Dr. Anna Hassan, as the chair, has been at the forefront of significant efforts to combat tuberculosis (TB) in the Philippines.

On February 21, 2024, Dr. Hassan represented PAPA at the 1st TB Summit organized by the Philippine Medical Association, Inc., under the theme "One PMA for a TB-Free Philippines in 2035." This event brought together various organizations and medical societies from across the country, united in the goal of eradicating TB. The summit served as a rallying point for renewed commitment and collaboration among healthcare professionals.

In another key engagement, PAPA participated in PhilCAT's 30th Annual Convention, themed "Ending TB in the Philippines: Progress, Challenges, and Commitment!" Held at the Crowne Plaza in Ortigas from August 15 to 16, 2024, this convention was a gathering of experts dedicated to advancing the fight against TB.



In photo are (L-R) Dr Ana Hassan and immediate past president of the PMA and PPS, Drs Minerva Calimag and Flor Ty, respectively

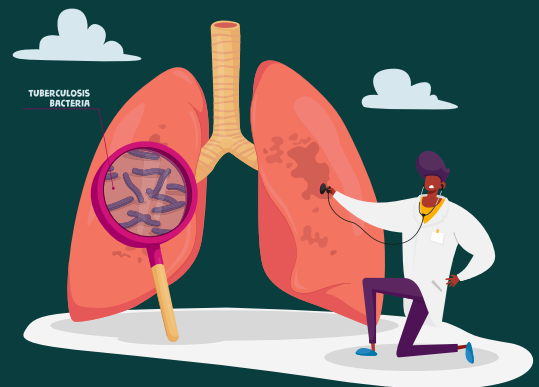
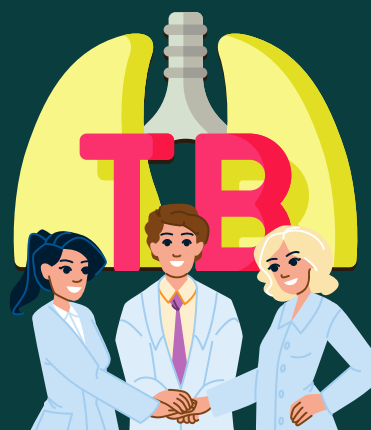


Photo on the left: Dr Hassan (5th from left) poses with Dr. Carmelo Roa, founding chair of PhilCat, Dr. Janice Caoli, National Chair, Philcat & Dr. Telly How, Past Chair.

PAPA's involvement extends to innovative community projects like "Oplan Manunuyod," a collaboration between the Cullion Foundation and the Child Adolescent TB section of PhilCAT. Dr. Maria Ana Hassan serves as the coordinating chair of this project, which focuses on a community-based, patient-centered approach to managing latent TB infections. Funded by Fundacion Vicente Ferrer, this initiative underscores PAPA's commitment to grassroots-level healthcare.



Additionally, PAPA along with members from the Child and Adolescent Section of PhilCAT actively participated in "Kapihan sa PhilCAT," a regular forum hosted by the Philippine Tuberculosis Society Incorporated (PTSI) at the Quirino Institute on May 14, 2024. This gathering is part of ongoing efforts to strengthen partnerships and share best practices, resources, and expertise among members committed to eliminating TB in the Philippines.

Through these initiatives, PAPA and its partners continue to lead the charge in the national fight against tuberculosis, striving towards a healthier, TB-free future for the Philippines.



Photo above: Members of the Child and Adolescent Section of Philcat: (L-R): Drs. George Maravillosa (chair), Nancy Bermal, Rose Maria Nancho, Telly How, past chair, Maria Ana Hassan, co-chair & Ester Monty Ilagan, secretary.

PHILIPPINE AMBULATORY PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION, INC
COMMITTEE ON CHILDHOOD INJURY PREVENTION



ATTENTION • NOTICE

INVITES YOU TO
BASICS IN SETTING-UP
AND PROVIDING
CHILD INJURY
PREVENTION SERVICES IN
HEALTH FACILITIES

October 11, 2024, Friday

11am to 3pm

Cafe Romulo, QC

Face-to-face

Fee: PhP 1,000

SCAN ME



Register here: <https://bit.ly/3yIHVqI>

PRC CPD units applied



IN COOPERATION WITH TAISHO

SPEAKERS



Dr. Soidemer Claire C. Grecia
Overview of Pediatric Injuries



Dr. Marjorie Grace M. Apigo
Screening Tools and IECs for
Child Injury Prevention



Dr. Renee Joy P. Neri
Physical Abuse



Dr. Soraya A. Alvarado
Injury Surveillance and Reporting System



Dr. Maria Eva I. Jopson
How to Set Up Child Injury
Prevention Services in Health Facilities



Dr. Edna Sarah C. Morada
Moderator

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

- 11:00-11:15AM - REGISTRATION
- 11:15-11:30AM - OPENING CEREMONIES
WELCOME REMARKS
Dr. Margarita Luisa A. Alfonso
- 11:30-12:00PM - OVERVIEW OF PEDIATRIC INJURIES
Dr. Soidemer Claire C. Grecia
- 12:00-12:30PM - SCREENING TOOLS AND IECs
FOR CHILD INJURY PREVENTION
Dr. Marjorie Grace M. Apigo
- 12:30-1:00PM - LUNCH
- 1:00-1:30PM - PHYSICAL ABUSE
Dr. Renee Joy P. Neri
- 1:30-2:00PM - INJURY SURVEILLANCE AND REPORTING SYSTEM
Dr. Soraya A. Alvarado
- 2:00-2:30PM - HOW TO SET UP CHILD INJURY PREVENTION
SERVICES IN HEALTH FACILITIES
Dr. Maria Eva I. Jopson
- 2:30-2:55PM - OPEN FORUM
Moderator: Dr. Edna Sarah C. Morada
- 2:55-3:00PM - ADVOCACY MESSAGE by Taisho
CLOSING REMARKS
Dr. Mary Joan L. Millonado



PHILIPPINE AMBULATORY
PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

30TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

PAPA PEARLS

**PHILIPPINE AMBULATORY
PEDIATRIC ADVANCEMENTS:**

**PREPARING FOR
EMERGENT
AND RISKY LIFE
SITUATIONS**

SAVE THE DATE

05 MARCH 2025

MARCO POLO, ORTIGAS

Registration details coming soon!
SEE YOU THERE!



Newsletter Committee

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Margarita Luisa Agapinan-Alfonso, MD
Cristal Ann Laquindanum-Tan, MD
Edilberto "Boying" B. Garcia, Jr, MD
Kristine Arranz, MD
Myrah Lelis (Administrative Secretary)