



President Marcos, Jr., visits PCMC

Celebrates Childhood Cancer Awareness Month with the patients

By Ira Karen U. Apanay | Public Relations Officer III



Patients of the Philippine Children's Medical Center join President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., in a group photo during the observation of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month on September 10, 2024.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., visited the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) on September 10, 2024, to celebrate Childhood Cancer Awareness Month with brave children battling cancer.

Every September, PCMC joins the world in observing "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" to raise awareness, support research, and improve treatment for pediatric cancer.

During the event, the PCMC 20-storey Legacy Tower project was also presented to the President. It shall have a 500-bed capacity tertiary hospital with a mandate "to provide pediatric care, offer training programs for medical, nursing, and allied health care providers, and be a center of clinical research". It shall offer a wide array of general and subspecialty services in pediatrics, surgery,

and allied medicine.

The President also conducted a tour and inspection of the newly installed 128-slice computed tomography (CT) scan, MRI, and Dynamic DR X-ray machines with Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa and PCMC Executive Director Sonia B. Gonzalez.

Furthermore, President Marcos, Jr., turned over a check donation amounting to PhP150 million for upgrading the hospital's equipment.

Before the event concluded, the patients and the rest of the audience sang a birthday song for the President. Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte and DPWH Secretary Manuel Bonoan were also present during the event.

PCMC officially receives its PRIME-HRM Maturity Level 2 recognition from the Civil Service Commission

By Clariza L. Regencia, | Human Resource Management Officer I

After five (5) years of a challenging journey, the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) has received its Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM) Maturity Level II (Bronze Award) Recognition from the Civil Service Commission (CSC) on July 1, 2024.

CSC Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Field Office Director Hans R. Alcantara presented a copy of the resolution recognizing PCMC's commitment to high-standard human resource practices during the flag-raising ceremony.

Present during the ceremony were Executive Director Dr. Sonia B. Gonzalez, Deputy Executive Director for Medical Services Dr. Maria Eva I. Jopson, Deputy Executive Director for Nursing Services Mrs. Amelinda S. Magno, Department Manager for Education and Training Dr. Moses De Guzman III, Department Manager for Administrative Services Mrs. Emma A. Mariano, and Human Resource Management Division (HRMD) Head Mr. Ronnel P. Dimaala, whose team was instrumental in achieving this award and recognition. PCMC employees witnessed the event.



The copy of the resolution was received by Executive Director Dr. Sonia B. Gonzalez, together with Deputy Executive Director for Nursing Services Mrs. Amelinda S. Magno, Deputy Executive Director for Medical Services Dr. Maria Eva I. Jopson, HRMD Head Mr. Ronnel P. Dimaala, Department Manager for Administrative Services Mrs. Emma A. Mariano and Department Manager for Education and Training Dr. Moses C. De Guzman III.



Top Management, CSC Director with the Human Resource Management Division Personnel

In 2021, under the supervision of former HRMD Head Mrs. Mary Grace E. Morales, PCMC started its journey towards this achievement since PCMC's Maturity Level II accreditation was revoked in 2018.

The HRMD renewed its effort and determination to continue the work. On November 2022, PCMC initially received its PRIME-HRM Maturity Level II accreditation

in the three (3) HRM systems, namely 1) Recruitment, Selection, and Placement; 2) Performance Management; and 3) Rewards and Recognition. During the last quarter of 2023, PCMC successfully complied with the evidence requirements in the Learning and Development arm, which completed the pillars.

After complying with the necessary evidence requirements, the agency underwent the assessment process last March 19-21, 2024, by four (4) validators from the CSC. The CSC randomly selected representatives from the PCMC employees for each pillar, and their efforts ensured the accreditation's success in achieving the Bronze Award. On their last day, the validators happily announced their recommendation for PCMC as PRIME-HRM Maturity Level II.

HRMD Head Mr. Dimaala addressed the community with gratitude and pride, emphasizing that "with the strong support of top management together with the whole community, PCMC successfully passed the 3-day assessment of all HRM systems."

"With the continued support of all employees, partners, and heads, PCMC is geared to achieve even more significant milestones for the next level of PRIME-HRM," said Executive Director Gonzalez.

Congratulations PCMC Family!

PCMC celebrates National Breastfeeding Awareness Month

By Ma. Leah Pamela W. Ilagan, MD | Member, Breastfeeding Committee



August of every year has been designated as National Breastfeeding Awareness Month in the Philippines, making it truly dedicated to promoting the health benefits of breastfeeding for both mothers and infants.

In observance of the said celebration with the worldwide theme of “**Closing the Gap: Breastfeeding Support for All**”, the PCMC community through the Breastfeeding Committee held its culminating activity last August 15, 2024 entitled “**Pagtataguyod ng Pagpapasuso: Alay ang Buong Suporta sa mga Dakilang Ina.**”

The morning program commenced with the annual “*Pagkilala sa mga Natatanging Breastmilk Donors*” – a short ceremony to show our heartfelt appreciation to the immeasurable generosity of our Milk Bank donors. Twelve (12) mothers were recognized this year for their liquid gold gifts, two (2) of them are the better half of our



Recognized Breastmilk Donors (from L to R): Dr. Mina Lisa Cariño-Gador, Mrs. Jennie Lyn Borja, Mrs. Kathryn Rachelle Echieverri and Mrs. Mia Regine Glo Aquino with Breastfeeding Committee Chair Dr. Jean Zialcita (right most)



Cooking Demonstration: Breastfeeding Committee member Mr. Aldie Fajardo, RND welcomed the participants for the session

father employees while one (1) is our very own fellow-in-training. Testimonials from all donors who attended have but one thing in common – that a mother’s own breastmilk can indeed save lives, making them beam with so much joy to be a channel of blessing to these struggling mother-baby dyads who were once like them.

Afternoon sessions were a 3-hour treat for our breastfeeding and lactating mothers at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Newborn Services Ward and Outpatient Department. A recorded cooking demonstration on “*Wastong Nutrisyon para sa Nagpapasusong Ina*” was held in collaboration with the Nutrition and Dietetics Division. After the sumptuous taste test of recipes, “*Hair-do Thursday para kay Nanay*” immediately followed wherein a number of mothers and some committee members had a little pampering with free haircuts and head massage.

The Breastfeeding Committee led by Dr. Jean Zialcita were very much grateful both for the commitment and



Participants: Energetic mothers during the afternoon session joined by some members of the Breastfeeding Committee

kindness of all new donors this year, and for the selfless love and strength seen from all mothers who serve as an inspiration to the whole community to continue this program and strive to make things better.

Alongside this August celebration, new banners have been posted in key areas of the hospital with new breastfeeding family models. The goal is to enjoin the participation of both hospital employees and clients alike making them exemplars themselves. This has been viewed as an effective way to communicate the institution's ideals and help sustain this advocacy. PCMC shall continue championing for vulnerable newborns by connecting, communicating and collaborating to hopefully close the gap and be able to empower all mothers throughout their breastfeeding journey.

The PCMC Journal is Now Accessible on the Philippine E-Journal Portal

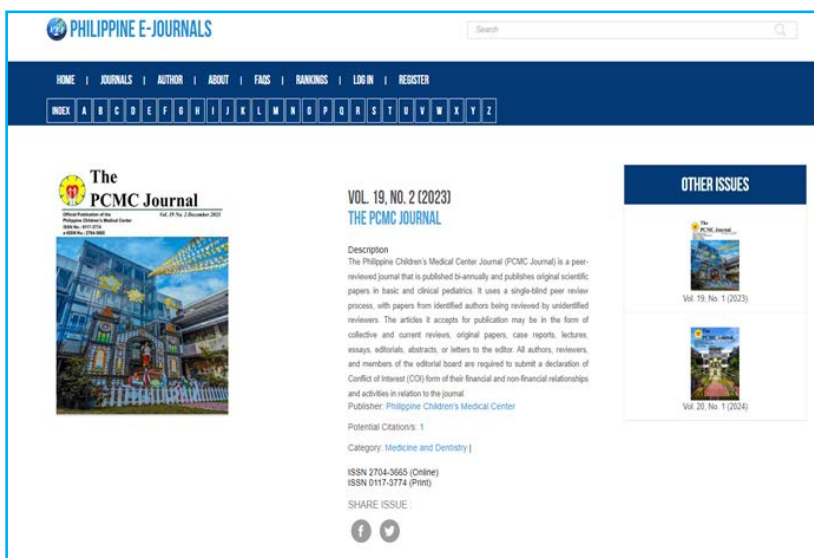
By Baby Lynn F. Fegalan, RL | Head, Healthcare Library Section

The Healthcare Library Section (HLS) is excited to announce that The PCMC Journal is now available on the Philippine E-Journal Portal (PEJ), providing open access to Volume 19, Issue No. 1 (2023) and Volume 20, Issue No. 1 (2024).

This achievement was made possible after PCMC Executive Director, Dr. Sonia B. Gonzalez, approved the proposal to join PEJ as a research contributor. The initiative came from the HLS team under the leadership of Clinical Trial and Research Division (CTRD) Head Dr. Ma. Lucila M. Perez, which was eventually endorsed by Clinical Research Department (CRD) Department Manager Dr. Caridad M. Santos and Deputy Executive Director for Education Training and Research Services (ETRS) Dr. Mary Ann C. Bunyi. Upon approval, an online meeting with the PEJ team took place on November 17, 2023, and the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) had been drafted by November 20, 2023.

After reviewing the draft MOA on May 14, 2024, the PEJ team provided its final version without the watermark, then had the contract sent to CE-Logic, PEJ's parent company. This step was critical for the strategic deliverables of PCMC-HLS and was discussed during the ETRS Annual Strategy Refresh meeting on June 26, 2024.

Much to the delight of the CTRD staff, following notarization of the MOA and an orientation via Zoom, the journal submissions finally began during the last week



Access The PCMC Journal thru <https://ejournals.ph/issue.php?id=1934>.

of July. By August 12, 2024, PEJ notified the PCMC-HLS that the subscriptions were successfully uploaded.

As a contributor, PEJ offers PCMC-HLS free hosting for its publications, regular performance analytics, and developmental support for journal growth. Meanwhile, PEJ subscribers can now access The PCMC Journal both onsite and offsite, utilizing PEJ's remote access feature.

The inclusion of The PCMC Journal on the PEJ portal enhances PCMC's ability to disseminate essential pediatric and perinatal research, reaching a wider audience both locally and internationally.

Diabetes Awareness Day 2024

By Kristine Mae D. Betansos, Melissa Joyanne M. Cachero, MD
and Ignace Claire P. Gamallo, MD I Fellows-in-Training, Section of Pediatric Endocrinology



Facilitators and participants of the 3rd PCMC Diabetes Mellitus Awareness Day.

The PCMC Section of Pediatric Endocrinology annually joins the nation to celebrate Diabetes Awareness Week, held every 4th week of July. For the past two years, the section has commemorated this event by organizing educational and social activities for patients with diabetes mellitus (DM).

Last July 16, 2024, the 3rd PCMC DM Awareness Day was successfully held at Function Halls 3 and 4 with the theme, “Diabetes and Well-Being: Good Health Begins With You.” Twenty-eight (28) children aged 10 to 18 years old with Diabetes Mellitus, together with their guardians, participated in the event.



Dr. Caridad Santos, Head of the Section of Endocrinology, welcomed the participants (left) and Dr. Eve Fernandez, the 3rd DM Awareness day headmaster, eagerly explained the program overview (right)

The interactive lectures, which were facilitated by the fellows of the Section of Pediatric Endocrinology and Adolescent Medicine, covered a wide range of topics such as blood sugar monitoring, techniques on insulin injection, blood sugar control, hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia symptoms, different insulin regimens, potential complications associated with DM, and introduction to the Transition Clinic program.

Throughout the event, the invited representatives from the Rehabilitation Medicine, Nutrition and Dietetics, and Social Services Divisions reinforced knowledge on proper exercise, diabetic diet, and medical and social assistance programs, respectively.

Commercial and non-commercial donors supported the event and provided continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) devices, prizes, and commemorative giveaways. The event ended with the awarding of certificates and prizes.

Highlights of the event included games, testing the knowledge and skills the participants acquired during the event.

The DM awareness day culminated with a celebratory award ceremony including Best Male and Female Participant, Best Guardian, Champion of the Games, and more. Each participant also received a Certificate of Participation.

The participants enjoyed the day, which was filled with fun and learning. The Section of Endocrinology plans to continue this advocacy of empowering children and their caregivers regarding diabetes self-management with hopes of improved glycemic control.

Seminar on Work Conflict Management and Prevention

Hosted by the Transformation Program Committee - Intellectual Aspect

By Maria Cristina Estrelin C. Natonton, RN I Chair, Transformation Committee-Intellectual Aspect



Attendees of the Work Conflict Management and Prevention Seminar

The Transformation Program Committee—Intellectual Aspect recently conducted a highly informative seminar entitled "Work Conflict Management and Prevention," led by the Subject Matter Expert (SME), Mr. Albin Belen of Business Coach, Inc. The seminar held last July 30, 2024, was facilitated by Mr. Mike Ryan V. Tominez and Ms. Arianne Faye E. Castro, who successfully brought together a diverse group of attendees from the PCMC workforce, representing various offices and departments within the organization.

The event commenced with a warm welcome message from Mr. Ronnel P. Dimaala, Committee Co-Chair, where he emphasized the importance of addressing work conflicts proactively. He also affirmed the role of effective conflict management in fostering a harmonious and productive work environment.

Mr. Belen delivered an engaging and insightful presentation on conflict management and prevention. His session covered several key areas, such as:

- **Types and understanding of Work Conflicts:** He discussed common types of conflicts in the workplace including communication breakdowns, differing values, and personality clashes.
- **Conflict Resolution Strategies:** He introduced various strategies for resolving conflicts, such as active listening, empathy, and compromising techniques and highlighted the importance of addressing conflicts early before they escalate.
- **Preventive Measures:** The seminar also focused on preventive measures to minimize the occurrence of conflicts. This included fostering open communication, promoting teamwork, and establishing clear organizational policies.

Active participation was seen from the attendees as they shared their experiences and posed questions. This interactive component enriched the session, making it a valuable learning experience for all involved.

The event concluded with the closing remarks from Ms. Maria Cristina Estrelin C. Natonton, Committee Chair. She expressed her gratitude to Mr. Belen for his enlightening presentation and to all participants for their enthusiastic engagement. Ms. Natonton also reiterated the Committee's commitment to ongoing professional development and the importance of continuous learning in enhancing workplace harmony.

The event was a resounding success, leaving the PCMC workforce better equipped to handle conflicts constructively and maintain a positive work environment.



Speaker Mr. Albin Belen (at center), with Ms. Natonton (Intellectual Aspect Committee Chair) and Mr. Dimaala (Intellectual Aspect Committee Co-Chair) posed before the camera.

Training on RA 9184 and its 2016 Implementing Rules and Regulations

By Ma. Catherina T. Benedictos, MPA | Head, Procurement Division



Participants of the training on RA 9184 and its 2016 IRR.

In its effort to promote good governance, the Procurement Division under the Administrative Services Department spearheaded a comprehensive three (3)-day training on Republic Act No. 9184 and its 2016 Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) from August 12 to 14, 2024.

This activity is in compliance with the Government Procurement Policy Board's (GPPB) thrust to establish a sustained training program to develop the capacity of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), the BAC Secretariat, the Technical Working Group, and end-users involved in the procurement process.

The training commenced with the opening remarks from Executive Director Dr. Sonia B. Gonzalez, who is instrumental in driving PCMC's commitment to excellence. She stated that it is important for everyone "to learn and understand the procurement law because it is the foundation of the procurement process."

Executive Director Gonzalez reminded the Technical Working Group and the different end-user units "to do their complete staff work in coming up with the right price for all items the units need to buy." She emphasized that those involved in procurement should consider honesty and integrity in all their dealings. Lastly, she said that procurement is of great importance because it directly affects the delivery of health services to clients, PCMC's operational efficiency, and financial management.

The resource speakers were GPPB-recognized trainers on the procurement law led by Atty. Karina Antonette A. Agudo, Director IV of the Administrative Service of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. She covered topics including "Government Procurement 101" and "Procurement Planning and Budget Linkage, Early Procurement Activities."

On the second day of the session, Engr. Ian T. Fajarito, Chief Administrative Officer of the General Services Division of the Anti-Red Tape Authority, guided the attendees through "Standard Bidding Procedures," "Protest Mechanism and Blacklisting Guidelines," as well as the "Penal, Civil, and Administrative Provisions of RA 9184."

The last day of the training was managed by Ms. Ma. Celeste S. Dizon, Supervising Administrative Officer of the Philippine Competition Commission. Ms. Dizon's sessions focused on the "Alternative Methods of Procurement," the "Framework Agreement," and "Green Public Procurement."

The speakers' depth of knowledge, extensive experience, and standpoints have given the participants much to reflect on further enhancing PCMC's procurement process.

These sessions were followed by an open forum, allowing the lively exchange of ideas where participants actively engaged in the discussions, seeking clarifications and expanding their understanding of the topics presented. The insights shared have truly enriched everyone's knowledge on the procurement law.

Overall, the three-day event successfully equipped PCMC personnel with a deeper understanding of RA 9184 and its 2016 Revised IRR, fostering a stronger resolve to transparency, efficiency, and accountability in government procurement. Their presence and enthusiasm have truly made the event a success.

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