

News Briefs

QUEZON CITY - The last of the series of LGU Exposure Meeting for 2012 facilitated by the Center for Health and Development-Metro Manila (CHD-MM) and the Newborn Screening Center-National Institutes of Health (NSC-NIH) happened on September 14 for Pasig, Pateros, Marikina, Pasay and Las Piñas City.

NAGA CITY - On November 19, Naga Doctor's Hospital invited NBS Coordinator of CHD-5 to facilitate the NBS Orientation training for their newly appointed personnel. Above photos showed the CHD-5, Naga Doctor's Hospital Nursing Service Supervisors and its Nursing Staff & Medical Technologists.

NAGA CITY - Newborn Screening program was dovetailed in all training activities of Child Growth Standard for health workers held on November 13-15 and 27-29. Jay Glorioso Velasco, CHD-5 NBS Nurse Coordinator gave an overview on Newborn Screening and invited the participants to be advocates to help strengthen the NBS program. The said activity was represented by rural health midwives (RHM) from every municipal health offices in the province of Camarines Sur. *JATerrado/JGVelasco*



Participants and organizers of the NBS Training conducted by the CHD-5 in Camarines Sur

Newborn Screening Advocacy: A Newsletter Competition in the Metro

The Center for Health Development-Metro Manila (CHD-MM) launched a newsletter competition for secondary high schools in Manila, Parañaque, Caloocan, and Quezon City.

The competition is part of an advocacy campaign for Newborn Screening to increase awareness level among high school teachers and students in the National Capital Region. It was opened last September to all high school journalism students from the local government schools of the cities of Manila, Parañaque, Caloocan and Quezon.

- Criteria include the following:
Each school must be represented by a team of 2-5 members.
One newsletter per school will be accepted as official entry.
Entry will be judged based on the content (30%), layout and presentation (20%), relevance to the theme (20%), originality (15%), structure and readability (15%).
Entries must comply to the given qualifications, such as:
Entries maybe written in either English or Filipino, original and previously unpublished.
Specifications:
4 pages (2 sheets, back to back)
Paper size: Letter (8x11 inches)
Full-color
Must contain the following
At least one feature article
At least one essay
At least one news article

Judges of the competition were from the Newborn Screening Reference Center, Newborn Screening Center-National Institutes of Health and CHD-MM. After weeks of deliberation, five out of the twelve

(12) entries were selected for the final judging.



Twelve (12) entries for the Newsletter Competition launched by the CHD-MM for secondary schools in Manila, Parañaque, Caloocan and Quezon City

Winning entries will be awarded with a DSLR camera for 3rd place; laptop computer with printer for 2nd place; and a desktop computer showcase for the 1st place. An article from the winning newsletter may also be published in the official newborn screening newsletter and/or a national broadsheet.

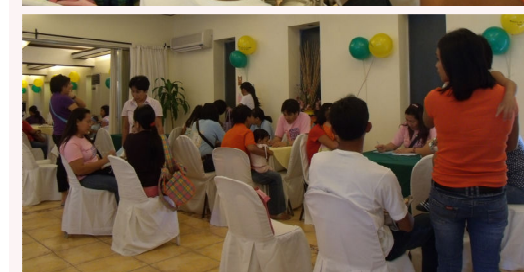
All participating schools will be informed of the results in writing. Awarding ceremony will be on the 7th of December 2012.

The theme, "Newborn Screening: Overcoming Barriers for a Healthier Filipino Newborn," was initiated in line with the Newborn Screening Awareness Week Celebration on the first week of October. *MKOrbista*

Observance of the National Newborn Screening Week in the Visayas



1. NBS Exhibit at SM City Iloilo – October 1-8, 2012 2. NBS Special Feature in GMA Iloilo morning show Arangkada - October 3, 2012



Parents and NSC-V: working as a team

It's not easy being a parent. It's even tougher if your child is sick or diagnosed with a metabolic disorder.

The newborn screening team is responsible for all screened and confirmed patients. And just like parents, we responsibly find ways to help patients; to ensure greater chances of a normal, productive life.

One of the challenges we face at the Newborn Screening Center-Visayas (NSC-V) is making parents realize, understand and fulfill their responsibilities in the medical management of their confirmed CH/CAH/Galactosemia/PKU/G6PD child. Economic, geographic and cultural factors can sometimes impede parents from fulfilling their responsibilities, but these do not stop the team from reaching out and saving these babies.

Education and support

By facilitating the reunion of saved babies, the team at NSC-V enable parents of patients to meet and mingle with other families, providing an opportunity for sharing testimonies on coping and managing children with metabolic disorders, and allowing a parent support group to be built. Talks on responsible parenthood and the importance of being vigilant with prescribed diets and medications are also incorporated during such events. It is also a chance for the team to meet the patients and their parents up close, cementing the rapport established during short-term follow-ups.

Linkages

The NSC-V is thankful for the organizations (government and non-government) and individuals who helped us develop our programs; parents who helped facilitate the procurement of certain medicines from outside the country; and the LGUs and laboratories that assisted us during the case management.

Yes, it's not easy being a parent. But at the end of the day, with your child alive and well, it is all worth it. *ALMillares*

NSC-Mindanao celebrates the Newborn Screening Awareness Week

Under Proclamation No. 540, the first week of October has been declared as "Newborn Screening Awareness Week." To celebrate this event, NSC-Mindanao encouraged all newborn screening facilities in Mindanao to conduct an advocacy campaign on newborn screening.

One of which is an NBS Essay Writing Contest that was opened to all private and government health practitioners all over Mindanao. Contestants were invited to send an essay that answered the question "As a health practitioner, how can you help sustain the implementation of Newborn Screening in Mindanao?"

Nine (9) entries were received and the three (3) nurses who emerged as winners are the following:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1st Prize | Ms. Cyrille Mae Cahoy, RN
Region 10, Cagayan De Oro City
Cagayan De Oro Medical Center, Inc.
Ms. Jesavib Porras Abrea, RN
Region 9, Zamboanga Sibugay
Wilfredo C. Palma Memorial Hospital |
| 2nd Prize | |

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 3rd Prize | Ms. April Joan Baquiran, RN
Region 12, Sultan Kudarat
St. Louis Hospital, Tacurong |
|-----------|--|

The NBS Awareness Campaign Contest, a competition among all Newborn Screening Facilities in Mindanao, was also received well. The Center is pleased to announce the following winners:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1st Prize | Zamboanga Doctors Hospital
Region 9, Zamboanga City
Veterans Avenue, Tetuan
MHO- Banaybanay
Region 11, Davao Oriental
Zapanta St., Banaybanay
Davao Regional Hospital
Region 11, Davao Del Norte
Apokon, Tagum City |
| 2nd Prize | |
| 3rd Prize | |

The Center congratulates all the winners and participants for their commendable efforts in making the activities successful. *PBermudez*

Mindanao young volunteers intensify NBS info campaign



Implementation of Barangay Newborn Activity at Brgy. Hizon, Lanang, Davao City on October 2, 2012 by Louigie Jeb Saludar



Pink campaign for NBS Hour among Nursing reviewees of SLRC Dipolog City on October 5, 2012 by Mark Ray Espinoza



Information campaign at Brgy. Sasa, Davao City on October 2, 2012 by Louigie Jeb Saludar

Members of the Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health-Mindanao (VYLH-Mindanao) and Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao (NSC-M) used integrated communication activities to celebrate the Newborn Screening Awareness Week.

By using traditional and social media, the combined efforts of the groups resulted to a successful turnout both offline and online. They conducted advocacy lectures; posted photos of the weeklong activities in the official Facebook page, VYLH Mindanao; created the hashtag #NBSsaves on Twitter for activity updates; and a synchronized distribution of pink NBS brochures from 3-4pm on October 5, which was aptly labeled as the "NBS Hour."

The lecture series were conducted in universities, hospitals and barangay communities in strategic cities of Mindanao namely, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Malaybalay, Davao, Dipolog, General Santos, Tandag, and Zamboanga cities. Among the highlights of the week-long celebration was the "Barangay Newborn" activity - a community immersion - wherein volunteers showed their remarkable energy in strengthening linkages with the different barangays.

In the heart of the volunteers, the determination for public service doesn't end at all. It will continue to grow and make things happen. One volunteer shares, "the strong campaign for Newborn Screening will go on." *ADTadlas*

CHD-CAR honors best NSFs for 2011

Twenty-five hospitals were given recognition for ensuring that every Filipino baby is offered the opportunity to undergo newborn screening. These hospitals were honored for their excellent performance in implementing Republic Act No. 9288 or the Comprehensive Newborn Screening Program.

The Center for Health Development-Cordillera Administrative Region (CHD-CAR) honored the 25 hospitals during the 7th Cordillera Annual Health Decision Maker's Forum. Based on actual reports, the hospitals have screened 98% to 100% of their total live births and have very low unsatisfactory samples for 2011. The awardees were merited for prompt submission of complete and qualitative reports to CHD-CAR for accurate consolidation and monitoring; formation of the NBS team in the hospital; and the active promotion of NBS through information and educational campaigns.

The Best Performing Newborn Screening Facilities for 2011 were:

APAYAO

1. Amma Jadsac District Hospital
2. Conner District Hospital
3. Far North Luzon General Hospital and Training Center

ABRA

1. Bangued Christian Hospital
2. Dolores Medicare and Community Hospital
3. Dr. Petronilo V. Seares Sr. Memorial Hospital
4. Villaviciosa Medicare and Community Hospital

BAGUIO CITY

1. Notre Dame De Chartres Hospital
2. Saint Louis University Hospital of the Sacred Heart
3. Pines City Doctors Hospital
4. Baguio Medical Center

BENGUET

1. Atok District Hospital
2. Ilogon Municipal Hospital
3. Kapangan Medicare and Community Hospital

IFUGAO

1. Mayoyao District Hospital
2. Panopdopan District Hospital

KALINGA

1. Juan M. Duyan Memorial District Hospital
2. Western Kalinga District Hospital

MT. PROVINCE

1. Besao District Hospital
2. Luis Hora Memorial Hospital
3. Paracelis District Hospital
4. St. Theodore's Hospital

In addition, special citations were given to the following:

1. Mankayan Rural Health Unit – Best Performing Newborn Screening Facility – Rural Health Unit Category
2. Buguias Rural Health Unit – Most Number of Outborns Screened
3. Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center – Well Functional and Sustainable Newborn Screening Facility

The awardees were given a plaque of recognition and six NBS kits each. The awarding ceremony was held on September 26 and 27 at Hotel Albergo, Baguio City. *JRillorta*



Dr. Rosalina Jambaro, Hospital Chief of Juan M. Duyan Memorial Hospital, Kalinga and Information Dr. A.C. Voltaire Seares and Hospital Chief of Dr. Petronilo V. Seares Sr. Memorial Hospital, Abra receive from OIC CHD-CAR Regional Director Valeriano Jesus Lopez Plaques of Recognition for being two of the Best Performing Newborn Screening Facilities in CAR on September 27, 2012 at Hotel Albergo, Baguio City during the 7th Annual Decision Makers' Forum with LHSUD Chief Dr. Amelita Pangilinan and NBS Nurse Coordinator Joycelyn Rillorta.



BGHMC Medical NBS Coordinator Dr. Eleanor Cuarte poses with OIC CHD-CAR Regional Director Valeriano Jesus Lopez, LSHUD Chief Dr. Amelita Pangilinan and NBS Nurse Coordinator Joycelyn Rillorta after receiving a Plaque of Recognition for being a "Well Functional and Sustainable Newborn Screening Facility." Also receiving the award is Ilogon Municipal Hospital represented by Dr. Evelyn C. Tello, Chief of Hospital and Dr. Esteban Piok (PHO-Benguet) for being one of the "Best Performing NSF in CAR".

VOLUNTEER YOUTH LEADERS FOR HEALTH

A Day for Saved Babies

"Saved babies" or the children with a genetic condition detected through newborn screening and consequently saved from death and mental retardation upon receiving the right and continuous treatment were gathered in Quezon City and Dumaguete City for the annual Reunion of Saved Babies. The event was organized by the respective Cluster Newborn Screening Centers (National Institutes of Health and Visayas) in order to have a thanksgiving celebration with program partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries for another year of continuous promotion of the government's newborn screening program, which supports the United Nations' Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4 - reduction of child mortality.

27 October 2012, Visayas
DUMAGUETE CITY- In cooperation with Dumaguete City Health Office, Newborn Screening Center-Visayas in partnership with Center for Health Development-Region 7 (CHD-7) organized the 1st Reunion of Saved Babies for the Provinces of Negros Oriental and Siquijor on October 27 at the City Health Office's Conference Room.



The saved children with their parents pose with the organizers and Jollibee mascot after series of games, intermissions and ice breakers.

This is the 5th in the whole Visayas Region since 2008. It was attended by 10 saved babies, 9 with Congenital Hypothyroidism (CH) and 1 with Phenylketonuria (PKU), from both 7, Dr. Felix Sy from the Provincial Health Office, representatives from different RHUs, Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital and Silliman Medical Center Foundation, Inc., and the VYLH of Negros Oriental and Siquijor were also present to grace the occasion.

Significant talks and enriching activities were rendered by key personalities in their respective fields, namely: Mrs. Aurora Flores (Chapter Executive Officer-Philippine Mental Health Dumaguete Chapter) for Responsible Parenthood, Ms. Myra Leonora Salvaleon (CHD-7 NBS Nurse Coordinator) for Importance of Compliance and Management, and Ms. Yugie Caroline Demegillo (NSVC Long-term Followup Nurse) for Parent Support Group Creation. The attendees had so much fun and thoroughly enjoyed the series of games, intermissions, and the ice breakers by the VYLH, and the presence of a Jollibee mascot.

Gaiety and joy flashed across the faces of both the parents and the saved babies. Indeed, with Newborn screening – with just a drop of blood, THEY ARE SAVED! *RJ Pascual*

28 October 2012, NCR-South Luzon
QUEZON CITY - Forty (40) saved babies and their parents were gathered on October 28 (Sunday) at the Superferry Pavillion of the La Mesa Eco Park for a program filled with fun and prizes. To make it more meaningful, the organizers aptly dubbed the event "Saved Babies Help Save Mother Earth". Volunteers from VYLH-Philippines NCR-South Luzon participated in the activity as the event's emcees. The group also presented a Filipino children's story entitled "Si Emang Engkantada at ang tatlóng batang makulit" through participative storytelling in which the children played a part in the story's delivery and learn about environmental conservation simultaneously.



The saved children show their certificate as protectors of mother earth after the successful tree planting activity.

There was also a raffle and tree planting activity that day. Moreover, the Eco was Park Management provided a lecture; facilitated the tree planting activity; and conferred the saved babies with certificates as protectors of mother earth.

The NCR-South Luzon Reunion was organized by NSC-National Institutes of Health in partnership with the Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines, Perkin-Elmer, Air 21, Centers for Health Development MM, Regions 4a, 4b, and 5, Lifeline, Enzed Trade, wwwExpress, FedEx, and Landbank. The last reunion of *saved babies* for the cluster was held in 2010 at the UP Bahay ng Alumni in Diliman, Quezon City.

The Reunion for Mindanao will be held on November 5 in Davao City.

Around 80 saved babies are expected to attend the event. *RNuique*

Special citation for the following VYLH-Philippines volunteers who were able to join this event: NCR-South Luzon: Bea Alfonso, Revie Tindugan, Chelsea Cruz, John Bryan Constantino, Ryan John Pascual; Visayas: Floyd Edrea, Blanche Ferrolino, Fob Ian Sy, Jordan Ramirez, Ramonito Nuique, Lynde Calumpang, Rynetchel Ogoc, Gran Rego Atay, Salima Jamal, Leah Amahit, Joana Kris Bato, Lera Almendral, Jezro Mari Rondario, Argie Victor Gadiana

Photo credits: Luzon - John Bryan Constantino; Visayas - Floyd Edrea, Anna Leah Millares (NSCV), Yugie Caroline Demegillo (NSCV)

NSC-Mindanao conducts 1st PKU and GAL Parent Forum



Parent education is an essential component of a successful newborn screening program.

To better assist families with babies with metabolic disorders, the Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao (NSC-M) conducted its premier forum on Galactosemia on September 27, and subsequently followed by Phenylketonuria the next day.

NSC-M conducted the above forum for parents, especially those who have children diagnosed with galactosemia (GAL) and phenylketonuria (PKU) disorders, to know the importance of professional assistance and familial support.



Dr. Conchita Abarquez, pediatric geneticist and NSC-M unit head, discussed the clinical aspects of the two disorders; while Ms. Elizabeth Limos, the supervising nutritionist-dietician of the Clinical Nutrition Division of the Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines Manila, tackled the dietary management and restrictions that goes along with the disorders.

Parents and babies with Galactosemia and Phenylketonuria together with Ms. Elizabeth Limos, guests and staff of NSC-Mindanao

Through the forum, NSC-M hopes that with professional assistance and continuous support from families, PKU and GAL patients will have a greater chance of living a normal and healthy life. To make it more helpful, the parent forum was capped with a one-on-one dietary consultation with Ms. Limos.

The forum was attended by 23 parents, guests and staff of NSC-M. It was held at Luanan Room, JICA Building, Southern Philippines Medical Center, Davao City. *PBermudez*

G6PD Deficiency Parent Forum in the Cities of Malaybalay and Davao



In photo are participants of G6PD Deficiency Parent Forum in Davao City with Dr. Jeannie Ong (center) and Dr. Conchita Abarquez (center)

Two Parent Fora were held in October in Davao City and Malaybalay City to provide education to a new batch of parents with confirmed G6PD Deficient children, .

The G6PD Deficiency Parent Forum in Davao City was held on October 9 at Southern Philippines Medical Center, Davao City. It was attended by 61 parents from Davao City and neighboring areas. The disorder was extensively discussed by Dr. Jeannie Bernardo-Ong, a pediatric hematologist and oncologist based in Davao City. An open forum followed for parents to ask Dr. Ong their questions and concerns.



In photo are the participants of G6PD Deficiency Parent Forum in Malaybalay City with Dr. Melirose Deticio (standing 1st from the left), Dr. Melodee Aguirre (standing 2nd from the left) Dr. Conchita Abarquez (standing 3rd from the left) and Dr. Dennis Sangalang, City Health Officer of Malaybalay City (standing 1st from right).

In Malaybalay City, Bukidnon, 53 parents from different barangays gathered together and listened intently to Dr. Conchita Abarquez, pediatric geneticist and NSC-M unit head, as she discussed G6PD deficiency.

Interestingly, the forum which was organized by the Malaybalay City Health Office became the venue that prompted the creation of Malaybalay's G6PD Parent Support Group.

It was held on October 19 at the Farmers' Training Center, City of Agriculture Office, Malaybalay City. *SMGuilaran*

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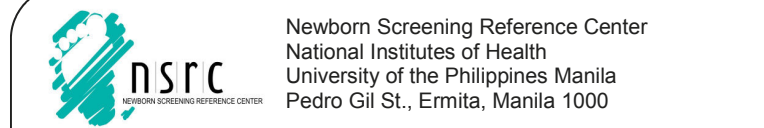
International expert conducts QA workshop on G6PD confirmatory test

Dr. Kwang-Jen Hsiao, Chief Executive Officer of the Preventive Medicine Foundation in Taipei, Taiwan was the main resource speaker of the workshop "Enhancing the QA Program for G6PD Confirmatory Test". The quality assurance workshop, now on its second run, was designed to provide different strategies to further improve the efficiency of the laboratories of the G6PD Confirmatory Centers. It was made possible by the joined efforts of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC). Dr. Hsiao, who runs the International Quality Assurance Program for G6PD Confirmatory Test, was assisted by Joy Chiang and Laura Fan in running the whole-day workshop.

A walk-through of the laboratory processes, and a hands-on-training to facilitate the discussion of the guidelines and protocols developed for the confirmatory centers were among the highlights of the workshop. The workshop, which was attended by pathologists, chief medical technologists and analysts from the different G6PD confirmatory laboratories, also served as a venue to exchange best practices and experiences in running the G6PD test. After the workshop, and, as part of quality assurance activity, representatives from DOH, NSRC representatives and Dr. Hsiao with his team visited two G6PD confirmatory centers - for an overview of each facility's process flow in running G6PD tests.

The workshop was held last October 3 at Hotel Kimberly Manila. The first run was conducted in July 2010, a year after the G6PD Confirmatory Laboratories were established in different parts of the country.

The official roster of G6PD Confirmatory Centers are: National Institutes of Health Central Laboratory (NCR), University of Perpetual Help Dalta Medical Center (NCR), Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital (NCR), MCU-FDTMF Hospital (NCR), The Medical City (NCR), Batangas Regional Hospital (CHD 4A), Cagayan Valley Adventist Hospital (CHD 2), Angeles University Foundation Medical Center (CHD 3), Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center (CHD 1), Dr. Pablo O. Torre Sr. Memorial Hospital (CHD 7), Tagum Doctors Hospital (CHD 11) and Cagayan de Oro Polymedic Medical Plaza (CHD 10). For hospitals interested to join the network of G6PD Confirmatory Centers, write to info@newbornscreening.ph. *Printed on Philippine Star 07 October*



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Center, discussed the milestones of the newborn screening program as well as the master plan for the expanded newborn screening program. She presented data of Filipino newborns from the California Newborn Screening Program, further underscoring the importance of expanded newborn screening in saving more lives.

Dr. Honorata Catibog, Director III of the Department of Health, presented the proposed DOH Network of Regional Follow up Centers. Dr. Kwang-Jen Hsiao of Taiwan presented G6PD deficiency in Asia, while Dr. Beatriz Gepte discussed local data. Dr. Anna Victoria Sombong talked about the G6PD QA Program in the Philippines. Dr. Leona Ellen Bayta of PhilHealth explained the inclusion of newborn screening in the newborn care package. A panel discussion on "what newborn screening will not screen" reiterated that Down syndrome, Pompe, ADHD and Autism are NOT included in the screening panel.

Other speakers included Dr. Mary Anne Chiong, Dr. Sylvia Estrada, Dr. April Berbo, Dr. Catherine Lynn Silao, Dr. Liza Naranjo, Dr. Barbra Cavan and Dr. Jocelyn Eusebio.

This year's convention was co-chaired by Dr. Rizalina Gonzalez and Dr. Cristina Magno, under the leadership of NSSPI President Dr. Rowena Pua. *Printed on Philippine Star 07 October 2012*

Revisiting NBS Implementation Strategies

To form a collective strategy for strengthening and expanding the reach of Newborn Screening (NBS), the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control-Department of Health, in collaboration with the Newborn Screening Reference Center-National Institutes of Health, conducted a consultative planning workshop on October 3 and 4 at Kimberly Hotel Manila.

Present during the workshop were Newborn Screening Centers' unit heads and program managers, and Centers for Health Development medical and nurse coordinators. Aside from updates on the proposed Expanded Newborn Screening, the participants were encouraged to develop new initiatives in institutionalizing the NBS system in public health care. *Printed on Philippine Star 07 October*



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Number of Babies Screened as of October 2012

COUNTER: 3,858,305

Legarda Keynotes 10th Annual Newborn Screening Convention



Senator Loren Legarda, co-author of Newborn Screening Act of 2004

"Our children and the children of the next generation need not suffer from severe mental retardation, cataract, anemia, kernicterus, and even death when they could lead normal lives," said Senator Loren Legarda during the 10th Annual Newborn Screening Convention at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia, Pasay City, October 2.

Legarda, who co-authored Republic Act 9288, or the Newborn Screening Act of 2004, with former Vice President and Senator Noli De Castro and former Senator Juan Flavier, explained that she supported the passage of RA 9288 because she believed that it is the government's mandate to protect and promote the rights of children to survival and to provide them an opportunity to live a full and healthy development as individuals. She also filed Senate Bill 4, a proposed legislation aimed at institutionalizing mandatory universal healthcare coverage for poor families.

Legarda added that legislative initiatives require effective implementation. "With your knowledge and expertise, I trust that you will be my staunch partners in promoting a sustainable and effective solution to the problems hounding our children's health," the senator said.

The Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines Inc (NSSPI), in partnership with the Philippine Pediatric Society – Southern Tagalog Chapter, hosted the annual convention attended by some 1,700 health professionals from all over the country. The two-day gathering was themed "Moving On: Expanded Newborn Screening for Filipino Newborns."

Department of Health Secretary Enrique Ona, through a message delivered by Assistant Secretary Enrique Tayag, expressed DOH's commitment to look for better ways to screen all attendees receive program updates and expansion plans. Dr. Carmencita Padilla, Director of the Newborn Screening Reference

Filipino newborns. Tayag shared the newborn screening expansion plans, including the opening of long-term follow-up clinics in different parts of the country.

The planned expansion, Tayag said, forms part of the "Kalusugan Pangkalahatan," or Universal Health Care, which is the department's strategy aiming to improve every Filipino's health.

Dr. Vicente Belizario, Executive Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Vice-Chancellor for Research, University of the Philippines Manila, reaffirmed NIH's commitment to the program and the newborn screening implementers and partners with the involvement of its two institutes—the Newborn Screening Reference Center that serves as the technical partner of the Department of Health, and the Institute of Human Genetics that houses the Newborn Screening Center.

The convention began Monday, October 1,



The 10th Annual Newborn Screening Convention organizing committee chaired by Dr. Rizalina RH Gonzalez (seated 3rd from right)

with lectures on the essentials of the newborn screening program, including newborn screening basics, pitfalls in implementation, setting up a newborn screening facility, and endocrine disorders. The lectures were delivered by the heads and endocrinologists of the different Newborn Screening Centers – Dr. April Berbo, Dr. Conchita Abarquez, Dr. Florencio Dizon, Dr. J Edgar Winston Posecion, Dr. Caridad Santos and Dr. Eleanor Du.

Day two, on the other hand, saw the attendees receive program updates and expansion plans. Dr. Carmencita Padilla, Director of the Newborn Screening Reference

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