

CHD-MM Celebrates Newborn Screening Month



Employees of CHD-NCR wear matching shirts to celebrate NBS Pink Day.

Presidential Proclamation No. 540 declares the first week of October of each year as the National Newborn Screening Awareness Week and considers the month of October as the Newborn Screening Month.

Center for Health Development–Metro Manila (CHD-MM) took the lead and celebrated this year's Newborn Screening Month with the theme "Expanded Newborn Screening: Ilang Patak, Maraming Sanggol Ay Ligtas!"

CHD-MM urged newborn screening facilities in the region to conduct several activities in their respective areas in order to boost NBS implementation.

CHD-MM got its reply when newborn screening facilities displayed NBS materials and updates on their respective bulletin and announcement boards. Newborn screening lectures and discussions, video presentations on newborn screening in waiting areas, and distribution of NBS brochures were also conducted.

Meanwhile, on October 11, CHD-MM employees observed "Newborn Screening Pink Day," where all the employees wore pink to show their support to the program.

During the 26th anniversary celebration of CHD-MM on October 16, a mass screening was conducted for indigent babies from nearby barangays to give them the opportunity to undergo newborn screening for free. Another NBS mass screening was done at the Pagamutang Bayan ng Malabon.

CHD-MM aims to strengthen Newborn Screening implementation by formulating strategies to increase public awareness for congenital metabolic disorders, which if left untreated may lead to mental retardation and death. *CAIncastre*

NEWS BRIEF

Hemoglobinopathies Workshops Do the Trick

With the approval of the inclusion of hemoglobinopathies in the expanded newborn screening panel starting April 2014, a workshop was conducted in 2012 to understand the etiology, clinical manifestations, outcome of hemoglobinopathies and the impact on the outcome of these diseases. The workshop was conducted for pediatric hematologists and unit heads of newborn screening centers.

A year later, on October 5, 2013, at the Traders Hotel Manila, the Women, Children and Family Health Cluster (WCFHC) and the Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC) conducted another workshop on Newborn Screening for Hemoglobinopathies to prepare the core group of hematology and personnel of Newborn Screening Centers for the testing, follow-up, and management of hemoglobinopathies.

International experts Dr. Carolyne Hoppe and Dr. Bradford Therrell, Jr., led the discussion on hemoglobinopathy screening program and its impact on the outcome of these diseases. Dr. Reynaldo de Castro and Dr. Alpha Grace Cabc, meanwhile, discussed the screening and confirmatory methods for hemoglobinopathies in the Philippines.

Participants of the workshop on newborn screening for hemoglobinopathies



Malaybalay City Runs an NBS Doubleheader



1. Awarding of Plaques of Recognition with (L-R) Dr. Melirose Deticio, Dr. Conchita Abarquez, Dr. Dennis Sangalang and Hon. Rendon Sangalang. 2. Health workers and mothers with Dr. Abarquez, Dr. Deticio and Maria Rica Raguro, City Health NBS Nurse Coordinator. 3. Parents listen intently to the intensive discussion on G6PD.

The City Health Office of Malaybalay City, Bukidnon, ran two newborn screening (NBS) activities on October 4.

The Annual G6PD Deficiency Parents Forum gathered a total of 64 parents confirmed of G6PD deficiency at the Bukidnon Diners, Malaybalay City.

Dr. Dennis P. Sangalang, City Health Officer II, welcomed the participants and Hon. Rendon P. Sangalang, health committee chair of the City Council, gave the inspirational message. Dr. Conchita G. Abarquez, NSC-M Unit Head and only geneticist in Mindanao, discussed extensively the G6PD Deficiency disorders. Parents' concerns such as feeding, vaccination and prohibited medicines were also addressed.

CHD-ZP Holds Parents Forum and NBS Cluster Meeting

The Center for Health Development–Zamboanga Peninsula (CHD-ZP), in coordination with Newborn Screening Center–Mindanao, held its First G6PD Deficiency Parents Forum at Ricomar Pension House, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay, September 4.

The event was followed by the NBS Cluster Meeting with Zamboanga Sibugay newborn screening facilities at the same venue on September 5.

A total of 80 parents and parent leaders attended the G6PD Deficiency Parents Forum. Before the forum ended, the G6PD Deficiency Parents Group Advocates (Support Group) was created and a new set of officers was elected. The officers were Jerome Ventura, President; Elvin Evangelista, Vice-President (VP) for Zamboanga Sibugay; Jovelyn Obligar, VP for Zamboanga del Norte; Maricyl Malicay and Connie Rose Sali, Secretaries; Mary Jane Temblor, Treasurer; Rogerly Estabas, Auditor; and June Joy Abrigoso, Public Information Officer.

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After the forum, the City Health Office of Malaybalay City held the NBS Awarding Ceremony, recognizing barangay health centers of the city who screened more than 60% of live births. Out of the 45 barangays of Malaybalay, the top ten barangays recognized and given a plaque of recognition were San Martin Barangay Health Center (the only barangay with NBS coverage of more than 80%), Linabo Barangay Health Center, Managok Barangay Health Center, Kibalabag Barangay Health Center, Barangay 7 Health Center, Simaya Barangay Health Center, Bangcud Barangay Health Center, Cabanghan Barangay Health Center, Kalasungay Barangay Health Center, and Casisang Barangay Health Center. *SMGuilarran*

CHD-Caraga Holds NBS Program Implementation Review

With the main goal of addressing concerns and challenges in implementing the NBS program in the province of Surigao Del Sur, the Center for Health Development–Caraga held as their year-ender activity the Newborn Screening Implementation Review on October 30, 2013, at Paper County Inn, Bislig City.

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Compostella Valley PHO Holds NBS Consultative Planning Workshop

The Provincial Health Office (PHO) of Compostella Valley assembled the different newborn screening facilities in the province for a strategic planning workshop on September 17, 2013, at Café Noventa, Nabunturan.

Issues and concerns pertaining to courier problems and geographic barriers were raised and addressed during the workshop.

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Celebration

VYLH-Philippines Takes NBS Week 2013 Coast to Coast

It was truly a nationwide event.

The Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health (VYLH)–Philippines kicked off this year's Newborn Screening (NBS) Week with a bang as volunteers from all over the country united via social media campaigns and simultaneous distribution of NBS pink brochures.

The Network's members changed their profile pictures to an NBS-themed photo on Facebook and tweeted daily posts about NBS with the hashtag #NBSsaves on Twitter and other social media platforms from October 1 to 5.

The VYLH-North Luzon Cluster conducted lectures about newborn screening to the youth in various barangays. Robin Albino, a volunteer from Nueva Ecija, had a meeting with barangay health workers in promoting NBS and folic acid supplementation and informed mothers about the importance of Newborn Screening throughout the week.

Meanwhile, Jasper Jover, a volunteer from the University of the Philippines (UP) Manila, together with other VYLH members who are taking up MS Genetic Counseling, participated in the 2013 NBS Convention. Jover re-echoed his insights to the NCR-South Luzon Cluster members. Pink NBS brochures were also distributed all week by members from Pasig and Laguna.

In the Visayas, the VYLH-Visayas Cluster maximized the use of media platforms to advocate newborn screening. Israel Salanga, a volunteer from Bacolod City, had live interviews at radio stations Asksyon Radyo and Love Radio. He was also interviewed regarding NBS in the Daily Bulletin, a local newspaper in Negros. Salanga also initiated a talk on the importance of youth participation in health advocacy during the SK Bacolod Youth Forum.

Down south, VYLH-Mindanao celebrated the week-long event with lectures and distribution of brochures. Robin Ramos, a volunteer from Bukidnon, conducted a seminar to pregnant



GeneSoc Holds Third National Intercollegiate Genetics Quiz Contest

Because quiz contests never go out of style.

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Genetics Society (GeneSoc) conducted a competitive meeting of the minds during the Third National Intercollegiate Genetics Quiz Contest (NIGQC) last September 14, 2013, at Drilon Hall, SEARCA, UPLB.

Ten universities from all over the country participated in the contest, namely, Ateneo de Manila University, Central Mindanao University, University of the East, University of the Philippines Diliman, University of the Philippines Manila, University of the Philippines Visayas–Tacloban College, University of Santo Tomas, St. Louis University, St. Scholastica's College Manila, and West Visayas State University.

During the opening ceremony, Dr. Merlyn S. Mendiolo, UPLB GeneSoc's Senior Adviser, encouraged the contestants to take part in the advocacies of the Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health–Philippines (VYLH-Philippines). Gessa Ramos, VYLH Region IV-A Coordinator, also talked about the advocacies of VYLH including the significance of folic acid, newborn screening, and the lobbying for the Rare Disease Act.

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and pre-natal mothers at the City Health Office of Valencia, Bukidnon. A quiz bowl on newborn screening was also held at the Valencia Sanitarium and Hospital.

Another volunteer from Bukidnon, Plendy Catalan, distributed pink NBS brochures and signature campaign sheets at Mountain View College. Jeb Saludar, a volunteer from Davao City, spearheaded a health education orientation at Davao City Hall and gave a set of lectures at Southern Philippines Medical Center. Volunteers from Davao City had local media promotions via Radyo ni Juan and Radyo Rapido. *CQuerubin*



For more news and updates, please visit vylhphilippines.blogspot.com

GeneSoc Holds Third National . . . from page 4

She also invited the participants to be part and help promote the advocacies of the network.

Ateneo de Manila University emerged as champion of this year's NIGQC, with a total of 88 points. The team was composed of Hadeza P. Cabaddu, Wrench Chester S. Canicosa, and Antoni Andreu M. Martija. The champions received medals, certificates, a trophy, and cash prize of P15, 000.

University of the Philippines Diliman team, composed of Kenji Rowel Q. Lim, Dominic S. Albao, and Liezel U. Tamon, bagged the second place with 82.66 points, while University of the Philippines Manila got third place, with a total of 77 points. The team was composed of Adrian L. Santos, Federico Cristobal C. de Jesus, and May Nadine Alessandra R. Uy.

Both the first and second runners-up received P7,500 and P5,000, respectively.

Individual top scorers Adrian L. Santos, who garnered 72 points, and Federico Cristobal C. de Jesus, 70 points, both from University of the Philippines Manila, were given cash prize, brown rice, and Monsanto shirts.

All participating teams were also given Certificates of Participation for having accepted the NIGQC 2013 challenge. The judges and quizmasters received certificates of appreciation for their invaluable involvement in the program.

UPLB GeneSoc partnered with the Genetics and Molecular Biology Division, Institute of Biological Sciences, UPLB, in presenting the NIGQC 2013. This was also made possible with the help of the Department of Science and Technology IV-A, Philippine Rice Research Institute, Philippine Society for the Advancement of Genetics, University of the Philippines-National Institutes of Health (UP-NIH), Ugnayan ng Pahinugod-UPLB, Bonitos, EatSumo Teri Haus, and Monsanto, Inc. *CAImazar*



Participants of the CHD-ZP First G6PD Deficiency Parents Forum

CHD-Caraga Holds NBS Program . . . from page 3

The activity was an opportunity to apprise coordinators on their performance in terms of coverage and quality of sample collection, with emphasis on improving their sample transit time and ideal time of collecting samples.

The activity gathered 25 NBS implementers from all areas of Surigao Del Sur. *PBermudez*

Compostella Valley PHO Holds NBS . . . from page 3

The effects of the typhoon that destroyed a large part of Compostella Valley were also discussed, especially the increasing unsatisfactory samples, missing filter cards, and recall of patients, resulting in the exploration of several contingencies and plans that were put under consideration in the planning workshop. *AMatuan*

CHD-ZP Holds Parents Forum . . . from page 3

The NBS Cluster Meeting with Zamboanga Sibugay newborn screening facilities was attended by 43 implementers from 19 facilities to discuss and address newborn screening concerns in the province. Also in attendance were the Provincial Health Officers, representatives of Philippine Health Insurance Company, the Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao, and CHD-ZP staff. *AJCalibot*

