

## Family Week Celebration Goes to the Mall

**“Naglakad lang kami sa mall tapos nakakuha kami ng impormasyon na magagamit namin para sa pagbubuntis at sa baby,”** commented one pregnant malgoer.

Set up at the busiest part of the mall, the 2016 Family Week Celebration attracted many malgoers to their booths and exhibits at Ayala Malls Legazpi on September 21-22, 2016.

With the theme *“Matatag na Pamilya, Maunlad na Bukas,”* the celebration was participated by 14 government offices, non-government organizations, and religious institutions, including the Department of Health–Regional Office (DOH-RO) 5 which featured in its booth safe motherhood, newborn screening, immunization, nutrition, oral health, adolescent health, and family planning. Booth visitors listened to a short discussion on various health programs and were encouraged to drop by their respective health centers for more information. *JSBFenol*



Twinkle Jean P. Lorilla (center) provides information to booth visitors.

## DOH-RO 5 Orientation Shines Spotlight on Midwives

Rural health midwives are at the frontline of public health service—from the administration of vaccine and provision of family planning methods to collecting samples for newborn screening (NBS). For this reason, the Albay Provincial Health Office spearheaded an orientation for midwives under its supervision at AVP Hall, Legazpi City, on September 23, 2016.

Dr. Gladys D. Escote, Provincial Health Officer, presented the directions of Health for All: All for Health agenda to the Rural Health Midwives Placement Program midwives, while Joseph Steven B. Fenol, Regional NBS Coordinator, discussed the significance of NBS and the roles of health workers like midwives in its implementation. Twinkle Jean P. Lorilla, Regional NBS Coordinator, talked about Republic Act 9709, or the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening. *JSBFenol*



Dr. Gladys D. Escote presents the Health for All: All for Health program.



BRTTH-PHU staff collect blood sample for confirmatory testing.

The Newborn Screening (NBS) Caravan, which does out free blood collection and confirmatory testing fee, made a pit stop at Dr. Fernando B. Duran Sr. Memorial Hospital (DFDSMH) in Sorsogon City on August 30, 2016.

The caravan, which is joint effort by the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital–Public Health Unit (BRTTH-PHU), NBS Continuity Clinic, and the Department of Health–Regional Office 5, provides information on disorders and their proper management, such as which foods need to be avoided.

As part of the caravan’s services, 19 children—from 1 month to 4 years old—underwent blood extraction for Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) Deficiency confirmatory testing. After blood collection, the samples were labelled and properly packed before they were sent to The Medical City in Manila laboratory on the same day. *JSBFenol*

## IN FOCUS

### Devilles-Agtarap Maternal Health Care and Lying-in Clinic, Maguindanao

The Devilles-Agtarap Maternal Health Care and Lying-in Clinic is a private facility in Parang, Maguindanao. Founded in 2011 by the Dr. Love Devilles-Agtarap, it offers a wide range of maternal health services from prenatal care to delivery, including caesarian delivery and ovarian surgery.

The clinic became a newborn screening facility (NSF) in June 2014 but temporarily closed its doors to the public upon the death of its owner, Dr. Devilles-Agtarap, in March 2016. But it reopened in July 2016.

When the facility first started, it screened mostly out-patient babies. Though no inborn deliveries were recorded in the few months it became an NSF, the facility, however, screened six babies from June to August in 2014. The facility also reported 10 inborn deliveries in September 2014 and screened 7 of these babies. From there, the facility has screened almost all of its inborn deliveries; in fact, the clinic posted 91% coverage at the end 2015.

The high coverage of the Devilles-Agtarap Maternal Health Care Clinic can be traced to the dedication and commitment of the staff and the leadership of its founder. Despite the challenges, the facility continued to offer newborn screening and other maternal health programs to the public.

The facility is also PhilHealth-accredited, and PhilHealth members enjoy all the benefits including the Newborn Care Package. Patients are properly documented and offered the newborn screening prior to discharge.

Further, staff not only advocate newborn screening during prenatal consultations and classes but also participate in activities such as Buntis Congress and other health-related activities in the community. Even fathers visiting the clinic are educated while waiting for their wives during prenatal sessions. Posters and visual materials are

### Partners in Combatting CH and G6PD

The Newborn Screening (NBS) Continuity Clinic of Region 10 partnered with the Department of Health–Regional Office (DOH-RO) 10 to organize the Second Congenital Hypothyroidism (CH) and Glucose-6-Phosphate Deficiency (G6PD) Forum at Philtown Hotel–Velez, Cagayan de Oro City, on July 22, 2016.

Participated by 23 CH and 25 G6PD deficient babies with their parents, the activity opened with remarks from Dr. Patricia V. Gaid, chair of pediatrics department at the Northern Mindanao Medical Center (NMMC), and Dr. Ramon F. Moreno, Chief of the NMMC Medical Professional Staff.

The program focused on explanation about the CH and G6PD disorders. These were discussed by Dr. Eleonor Du, pediatric endocrinologist, and Dr. Fernando Douglas Go, pediatric hematologist, respectively. Parents also had a chance to voice out their concerns and questions during the open forum.

After the lectures, Dr. Du and Dr. Rona Ocho Ortencio, Head of the NMMC Continuity Clinic, led a medical consultation where 23 CH patients were seen and their medical prescriptions updated.

The activity was made possible by the assistance of the DOH-RO 10 led by Dr. Grace G. Sicat and Gil Samante. *UACabading*

visible and placed in strategic areas of the clinic.

(The article is from Aisha M. Caduada, midwife at the Devilles-Agtarap Maternal Health Care and Lying-in Clinic, and edited by S. M. Guillaran.)



## Fun and Games in CARAGA Reunion of Saved Babies



It was a day to remember for babies saved by newborn screening (NBS) and their parents when the NBS Team of the Department of Health–CARAGA Regional Office prepared games, prizes, and freebies during their reunion at the Almont Inland Resort, Butuan City, on July 28, 2016.

Besides having fun, parents were also oriented on the functions of the Continuity Clinic as well as the consultation hours at the Southern Philippines Medical Center. Nicolette Liana Salvo, Region 11 Newborn Screening Continuity Clinic Nurse, spearheaded the orientation. Meanwhile, Dr. Conchita Abarquez, Newborn Screening Center–Mindanao Unit Head, discussed Glucose-6-phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD) Deficiency and accommodated questions from the parents about the disorder.

Also, Dr. Eleonor Du, a pediatric endocrinologist, conducted consultations for Congenital Hypothyroidism (CH). The event also served as the venue for sample collection for confirmatory testing of initially positive CH patients. *RAGuilar*

## DOH-RO 9 Addresses Unsatisfactory Sample Rating

Due to the region’s unsatisfactory sample acceptability rating of 1.17%, a little higher than the unsatisfactory sample rating of 1%, the Department of Health–Regional Office (DOH-RO) 9 conducted the Expanded Newborn Screening (ENBS) Training in Grand Astoria, Zamboanga City, on August 16-17, 2016.

Dr. Conchita Abarquez presented the ENBS coverage in the region, including the high unsatisfactory sample rating. She also reported that as of June 2016, Newborn Screening Center–Mindanao received a total of 328 ENBS samples from Region 9. The most common unsatisfactory samples were contaminated samples. As a result, the training included an sample collection demonstration and practicum at the Zamboanga City Medical Center where all participants had a chance to do actual heel pricking. *ITomas*

## Koronadal Receives Batch 2 of Region 12 ENBS Training

The second of the three batches of the Expanded Newborn Screening (ENBS) Orientation and Heel-Prick Training organized by the Department of Health–Regional Office 12 was done at Koronadal, South Cotabato, on July 20-21, 2016.

The training aimed to ensure that proper and sustained newborn screening services such as information, education, communication, screening, recall, and follow-up are provided in all health facilities, orientations, and trainings.

Participants from Sultan Kudarat, South Cotabato, North Cotabato, and Cotabato City listened as Dr. Conchita Abarquez, Newborn Screening Center (NSC)–Mindanao Unit Head; Perly Bermudez, Project Development Officer; and Rohannah Mua, NBS Nurse Coordinator, shared their technical knowledge and expertise on congenital metabolic panel of disorders, unsatisfactory samples, flow of operations, and NSC–Mindanao administrative mechanics. *RMua*



Newborn screening health workers participate in a workshop during the ENBS training in Koronadal City.



Health workers from all around Region 9 come to ZCMC Birthing Clinic for the heel-prick practicum.

# VOLUNTEER YOUTH LEADERS FOR HEALTH

## Cebu’s Surf and Sand Welcome New Volunteers

In the island of Cebu, waves splashed and glimmered from the sun as the second leg of the Central Visayas Regional Camp commenced. New volunteers from five provinces gathered, while senior volunteers surrounded the group in a warm welcoming circle—Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health (VYLH) style.

Delegates from the provinces of Cebu, Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental, Bohol, and Siquijor took part in this year’s regional camp at Hisoler’s Resort, Bogo City, on August 13-14, 2016.

Since 2009, VYLH has been successful in mobilizing the youth in making a profound change in Philippine health history. VYLH focuses on three advocacies: the campaign on folic acid awareness, the promotion on newborn screening, and the lobbying of support for rare and orphan disorders.

Aster Lynn Sur, nurse at the Institute of Human Genetics in the University of the Philippines Manila, discussed folic acid awareness and the current situation of support for orphan disorders, while Meryl Mae Tabaosares, project development officer and registered nurse in Iloilo City, shared her knowledge on the Newborn Screening Program. Moreover, Christian Emmanuel Enriquez, VYLH National President, gave a talk on the role of the youth in health issues, while the Engr. John Paul Oira presented, Vice-President, talked about social media and



New volunteers undergo team-building activities to promote camaraderie among themselves and between batches of the regional camp.

the Filipino youth volunteer.

But the camp was not all about lectures. The new volunteers went through traditional team-building activities where they strengthened their leadership skills through group dynamics.

The camp was a huge success, thanks to the valuable support of the Department of Health–Regional Office 7, Newborn Screening Center–Visayas, and the Institute of Human Genetics, who all helped usher in a new wave of passionate youth leaders.



Participants celebrate as they complete the two-day camp and graduate as new volunteers.

VYLH friends and partners also came and shared their knowledge and expertise to the young volunteers, including Dr. Emmelie Pfeleider-Silao, the Medical Coordinator for the Newborn Screening Program, and Ruff Vincent Valdevieso and Jaikie Jel Besira, Newborn Screening Nurse Coordinators.

The time spent by the volunteers in Cebu was truly well-spent and will count to the long history of VYLH’s burning passion to spread health awareness among Filipinos. Keep the fire burning! *Kristofer Ralph Supil, Batch Hiraya*

## 2016 NBS ANNUAL CONVENTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### When and where will the 2016 Newborn Screening Annual Convention be held?

The 2016 Annual NBS Convention will be held on October 26-27 at the Reception Hall of the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City.

### When is the registration period?

Pre-registration is until September 15, 2016.  
PHP 3,000 Doctors  
PHP 2,500 Non-Doctors/Trainees/Residents

### Onsite Registration

PHP 4,000 Doctors  
PHP 3,000 Non-Doctors/Trainees/Residents

Registration opens at 8:00 a.m., October 26; however, doors to the convention venue will open only at 11:00 a.m.

MD trainees may avail themselves of reduced fees by submitting a letter from their respective department chair certifying that he or she is undergoing training (residency or fellowship). In addition, please bring the institution ID card indicating current position.

No walk-in registration will be entertained on the second day of the convention, October 27.

### What does the registration fee cover?

The convention registration fee covers admission to the convention hall and exhibit area, convention kit, meals for the two-day event (October 26: afternoon snacks; October 27: morning and afternoon snacks, lunch).

### What are the methods of payment?

Pre-registration payment may be made through bank transfer or postal money order payable to Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines, Inc., on or before September 15, 2016.

Check payment with pre-registration rate will only be accepted until September 15, 2016, while checks with on-site rates will only be accepted until October 18, 2016.

Only company checks will be accepted. Only cash payments will be accepted on October 26.

Deposit pre-registration fees to:

Account Name:  
Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines, Inc.  
Account No.:  
0051-019939-201 Security Bank  
4981-0110-96 Bank of Philippine Islands (BPI)  
002410114497 Banco de Oro (BDO)

### How do you know if I have already registered?

Please send the pre-registration form with the clear scanned copy of the validated deposit slip indicating the name/s of attendees to:

Email: newbornscreeningconvention@gmail.com  
Fax: (02) 351-7903 / (02) 522-4396  
Mail: c/o Newborn Screening Reference Center  
National Institutes of Health  
University of the Philippines Manila  
Unit 104, Building A, UP Ayala Land Technohub,  
Diliman, Quezon City

Send a text message to 0921-305-5094 when your have email, fax, or postal mail was sent.

### Where can I claim the official receipt?

Please claim your official receipt from the Secretariat Desk at the convention. Kindly bring the printed deposit/transaction slip as proof of payment along with a valid ID.

### Do I earn professional credits for attending the convention?

Continuing professional education (CPE) units have been requested for convention participants from the professional societies (i.e., PPS, PAFP) and from the Professional Regulation Commission (for midwives, nurses, and medical technologists).

### Where can I find exhibitor and sponsorship information?

Please send us an email at newbornscreeningconvention@gmail.com for information on sponsorship. Exhibit dates are on October 26-27, 2016.

### How do I cancel my registration?

Cancellation requests must be done in writing and sent to us through fax number (02) 351-7903 or through email at newbornscreeningconvention@gmail.com.

Requests received at least two (2) weeks before the event are eligible for a refund of 75% of registration fee net of processing fee. While those received less than two (2) weeks until the first day of the event (October 26) are eligible for a refund of 50% of registration fee net of processing fee. Requests received on the second day of event (October 27) onward will no longer be processed.

### Can I send a representative if I cannot make it to the event?

Replacement will be accepted for pre-registered participants who cannot make it on the date of the convention. Representatives must present an authorization letter and photocopy of the ID of the non-attending participant.



**>20**  
High sa dalawang pangkat ng congenital disorders ang maging masuri sa expanded newborn screening.

**Ano ang "newborn screening?"**  
Ang newborn screening ay isinasagawa upang maagang masuri kung ang bagong panganak na sanggol ay may disorder na maaring humantong sa mental disability at kamatayan.

1. Ito ay isinasagawa 24 oras pagkapanganak ng ina. Kukuha ng limang patuk ng dugo sa sakong ng sanggol.
2. Ipapatak ang nakuhang dugo sa sakong ng sanggol sa isang ekspozit na absorbent filter card.
3. Pagkatapos, ipapadala ito sa Newborn Screening Center (NSC) para masuri.
4. Ang resulta ng NBS ay maaaring makuha 7-14 working days pagkatanggap ng NSC.

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### IPASURI ANG BAGONG PANGANAK NA SANGGOL!

Newborn Screening Week: October 1-7, 2016

For more information, visit us at [www.newbornscreening.ph](http://www.newbornscreening.ph)

### WE ARE MOVING!

Kindly send your communications to:  
**Room 202, National Institutes of Health,  
University of the Philippines Manila,  
625 Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila.**

Temporary Line: (02) 5224396

Mobile Numbers: 0917 589 4011 / 0920 914 2687

Email address: [info@newbornscreening.ph](mailto:info@newbornscreening.ph).



### Your Feedback Is Important to Us!

Thank you for reading our newsletters!

We would love to hear your feedback. Please let us know how we can improve our bimonthly newsletters by answering our feedback form at [www.newbornscreening.ph](http://www.newbornscreening.ph).

If you would like to write an article, please contact us at [info@newbornscreening.ph](mailto:info@newbornscreening.ph). We will do our best to keep you informed about current and relevant newborn screening issues.



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# newborn screening

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Thirteen participants from Philippines, Malaysia, and Vietnam join the speakers and organizers of the Workshop on Genetic Screening Processor (GSP) and Isoelectric Focusing (IEF).

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## Current Trends in ENBS: Exploring GSP and IEF

With the launch of the Expanded Newborn Screening (ENBS) Program, more newborns with inherited disorders are provided the opportunity to significantly improve their quality of life. In pursuit of this goal, the Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC), in collaboration with Perkin Elmer, Inc., held a workshop on Genetic Screening Processor (GSP) and Isoelectric Focusing (IEF) at Conrad Hotel, Pasay City, on August 22-24, 2016.

genase (G6PD) Deficiency, and Phenylketonuria (PHE). The IEF System, on the other hand, is an electrophoretic technique for the separation of proteins based on their isoelectric points and is used as a diagnostic testing system for hemoglobinopathies.

GSP and IEF complement the Tandem Mass Spectrometry (MSMS) and High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) that the NBS program currently uses.

Thirteen laboratory personnel from Newborn Screening Centers (NSCs) in the Philippines and NBS program implementers from Malaysia and Vietnam joined the workshop, which was also part of the collaborative networking to facilitate the development of sustainable newborn screening in the Asia-Pacific region. Among the topics discussed were the worldwide status of newborn screening, global trends and candidates for panel expansion, Australia's experience in using new technologies, and the next instruments in newborn screening in the Philippines. GSP and IEF hands-on demonstrations were also carried out. *MTEscoreal*

Number of Babies Screened  
as of August 2016

8,543,669

14<sup>th</sup> NEWBORN SCREENING CONVENTION  
RECEPTION HALL, PICC  
OCTOBER 26-27, 2016