

# 53<sup>rd</sup> PAMET Annual Convention

## Raising the Gold Standard for World-class Medical Technologists

November 21-23, 2017  
Marriott Grand Ballroom  
Newport City, Pasay City

# CONFERENCE BULLETIN

## The magnificent “G”: Gold Standard for Global Medical Technologists Unfold the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Confab

by Diego L. Ofiaza, RMT, MPH

Gathering over 3,998 registered and licensed laboratory professionals, stakeholders and providers, including the 56 PAMET local chapters, representatives from different partners in health industry and special guests from Procter & Gamble Philippines, PAMET convened its 53rd National Annual Conference on November 21, 2017 at Grand Ballroom, Marriott Hotel, Newport City, Pasay City.

Unfolding the 53rd PAMET Annual Confab Formal Opening Ceremonies, MR. SHANKAR VISWANATHAR, Country Manager, Procter and Gamble Philippines, Inc. captured the theme “Raising the Gold Standard for World-Class Medical Technologists” during his keynote address. He highlighted that the conference theme calls for all professionals to be globally competitive and versatile to adapt to current trends and challenges in the field of Medical Technology, and the implementation of the Continuing Professional Development program demonstrate the importance of enhancing professional strengths.

Mr. VISWANATHAR stated that “P&G Philippines and PAMET are actually very similar – we both endeavor to improve lives. As medical technologists, you strive to provide quality healthcare to all Filipinos through the proper diagnosis of patient’s ailments and accurate examination of human substances, which are of great value to attending physicians in the treatment of



Mr. Shankar Viswanathan



diseases. Safeguard, P&G Philippines’ leading brand, strives to be every Filipino’s ally in advancing the health and wellbeing of all families.”

“We believe that raising a healthy family can’t be accomplished alone which is why for more than 25 years now, Safeguard and PAMET have worked hand in hand to elevate awareness on disease-causing germ prevention and promote health and hygiene education. Together, we have taught countless Filipinos the importance of hand washing”, the keynote speaker keep a promise that the 28 years of Partnership with a mission is Forever.

The 53rd PAMET Annual Confab formal opening ceremonies started with a bang through the symbolic processional of the leaders of the association that truly exudes the binding commitment of leadership, including the Chapter Presidents, National Past Presidents, Regional Directors, current National Board of Directors and Officers and Keynote speaker. The ASEAN inspired costume symbolizing countries highlighted the traditional march of



North Luzon Region



South Luzon Region



Visayas Region



Mindanao Region





dignitaries and personalities of the 53rd PAMET Annual Confab. The North Luzon region in Thailand apparel, South Luzon in Singapore attire, Visayas Region wearing the Malaysian garb, Southern Mindanao the Korean clothing and the Indian fashion for the Western Mindanao region.

Empowering PAMET National President Ronaldo E. Puno, delivered the 53rd PAMET Annual Confab message *“PAMET at the age of 53, if compared to a person, is a mature and experienced adult ready to lend his or her hand in the wider world. While PAMET had many accomplishments, it is worthwhile to reflect on what have been achieved and what should be done to make it even better, stronger and relevant organization for the generations to come.”*

The PAMET President also mentioned the important issues that need to be addressed.

- *“There is a higher call for unity among the members. Let us bind together and stand tall that PAMET is the only Accredited Professional Organization (APO) for Medical Technologists and at the same time the primary Professional Organization Accredited by PRC as CPD provider. We should be vigilant . Now more than ever, we should be one in our vision and mission. We are one in our profession, we are one in our association.”*
- *“The demand for more credentials and competencies is being highlighted more than ever before. Having an RMT at the end of our names may no longer be enough that we need to stand on a higher ground to level up our qualifications leading to world-class laboratory professionals. This in response to rapid globalization and integration. Thus, bold steps have to be taken to align said issue with the thrust of the organization such as career progression and specialization.”*
- *“We must empower our leaders to design programs that best fit their needs. We should engage everybody in making major decisions. This is the cornerstone why we are very aggressive in the formation and reactivation of PAMET Chapters.”*
- *“The demand to facilitate interconnectedness through electronic and digital communication ushers the need to maximize the availability of modern technology. PAMET is geared on adopting enhanced information technology system by welcoming new innovative ideas. We have upgraded our systems such as online registration and automated election.”*

According to Mr. Puno, *PAMET is unrelentingly pursuing the approval of the proposed Medical Technology Bill that will eventually upgrade the plight of Medical Technologists in the country. Likewise, we are in the final stage of ratification of our very own By-laws, to better address the concerns of every member.*

The 53rd PAMET Annual Confab unfolds the much awaited and captivating Awarding Ceremonies giving highlights to the celebration. The association bestowed the following awards to the members who made exemplary performance and contribution in their respective field of practice: The 2017 Most Outstanding Medical Technologist is Dean Supachai A. Bassit for his outstanding performance as a professional which gave the prestigious recognition of Outstanding Professional in

Medical Technology by Professional Regulation Commission for 2017. Mr. Lito G. Atienza merited the Distinguished Service Award for being a role model, an inspiration and an epitome of genuine service thus leading to the achievement of mission and vision of the association under the theme *“ONE Spirit, ONE Commitment, ONE PAMET.* The he distinction of the Crisanto G. Almario Memorial Award for was awarded to Dean Jose Jurel M. Nuevo for his unwavering commitment to improve the Medical Technology Profession through promotion of research as tool for development and excellence. The Most Outstanding Chapter was conferred to Cebu Chapter for exuding leadership with significant projects worthy of emulation by other chapters and sustaining cohesiveness among members in the province of Cebu. The Chapter Hall of FAME Award bestowed to Bulacan chapter for being the Most Outstanding Chapter in the Regional for four consecutive years and national level for three consecutive years in 2014, 2015 and 2016, thus making a history and placing the chapter in the Hall of FAME. Dr. Esperanza Chua-Cabrera was this year recipient of *“Dr. Alfredo Pio de Roda Award”* for laying the foundations of academic excellence and major contributions as researcher and educator who upgrades skills and competence for microbiologists.

Special guests and distinguished personalities at the ceremony included Mr. Nardito Moraleta, the second and the oldest surviving President of PAMET; the President of Philippine Blood Coordinating Council (PBCC) and former President of PAMET Pangasinan, Mr. Aldrin Bigay; Mr. Bernard U. Ebuen, President of Philippine Association of School of Medical Technology and Public Health (PASMETH); Dr. Godwin N. Hernaez, the President of the Philippine Council of Quality Assurance for Clinical Laboratories (PCQACL), Dr. Miguel Martin Moreno, President, Biorisk Association of the Philippines (BRAP) and Hon. Marilyn Barza, the new Chairman, PRC Board of Medical Technology.

Adding highlights to the 53rd PAMET Annual Confab opening ceremonies was the golden singing performance of Shirley's Band and the whimsical violin rendition of Ms. Oueia Sergio of Bicol Medical Center.

The 53rd PAMET Annual Confab Opening Ceremonies concluded with the fellowship night and welcome reception dinner with the theme *“ASEAN SPIRIT”*. The elegant Parade of ASEAN Nations actively participated by the 56 local chapters. The North Luzon Region won the *“Best ASEAN Costume-Group Category*, Mr. Gemuel Tamayo of Davao del Sur and Ms. Rowena Evangelista of Bulacan Chapter for the male and female category respectively. The superb cultural presentation of LPU Batangas Folk Dance entertained the conference delegates. PAMET VP Luella Vertucio had the chance to sing duo with Tawagng Tanghalan semi-finalist Hazelyn Cascano

In recognition of their contribution, the 53rd PAMET Annual Conference acknowledges with deep appreciation the tremendous efforts of all the organizing committee and all the participating stakeholders who have contributed towards the successful global events of Filipino Medical Technologists.



**Final Ratification of PAMET Constitution and By-Laws  
Venue: Executive Rooms-11&12**



## Bringing World-class Quality in a Clinical Laboratory: Quality Control, Westgard Rules & Six Sigma Concepts

by Maura S. Isais, RMT

One of this year's pre-convention workshops focused on Quality Control in a Clinical Laboratory with emphasized in Westgard Rules and Six Sigma Concepts.

Six Sigma is a quality management strategy that seeks to improve assay quality by identifying biased and/or imprecise assays so that appropriate quality monitoring strategies can be used and assay performance can be addressed.

Mr. Victor H. Lumboy, RMT, MBM of Abbott Laboratories mentioned in his lecture that many benefits can be derived upon learning how to utilize Six Sigma practices in the laboratory. The benefits of cost savings derived from reagents, labor, and QC materials will be most desirable to the management and stakeholders of the hospital.



## Biosafety Manual: Key to Improving Laboratory Safety

by Oliver Shane Dumaoa, RMT, MSc, CBO

With the increasing complexity of tests and the advent of emerging and re-emerging infections, the clinical laboratory is also increasingly becoming a dangerous place to work. To address this concern, the government is tightening regulations for laboratories to ensure the safety and security

of laboratory operations. Cognizant of these concerns, the Department of Health included the biosafety manual as a key document for the application and renewal of license to operate a clinical laboratory.

Thus, it is a timely event that the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET) considered the offering of a pre-convention workshop on the preparation of biosafety, biosecurity and biorisk management manual. The workshop which was held at the Ceremonial Hall of Marriott Hotel last November 20 was facilitated by Dr. Miguel Martin Moreno, President of the Biorisk Association of the Philippines (BRAP).

According to Dr. Moreno, the biosafety manual is a very important document in preventing laboratory-acquired infections as well as other biosafety issues in the clinical laboratory and is anchored on the principle that "no diagnostic procedure is so important so as to jeopardize the well-being of the worker or the environment." Furthermore, Dr. Moreno added that the said manual will provide information and guidance to laboratory professionals in protecting themselves and the environment from harm posed by pathogens.

Since every laboratory is unique with its own set of peculiarities, Dr. Moreno provided the step-by-step guide as well as the necessary reference materials in writing the manual so as to adapt its contents to the procedures being done and pathogens being handled by the laboratory. According to him, "references are important but everything need not to be necessarily referenced." The workshop concluded with high hopes that the learning gained from the event will contribute towards the development of the biosafety manuals in the respective institutions of the attendees thus contributing towards a more biosafe and biosecure Philippines.





# FELLOWSHIP NIGHT AND WELCOME RECEPTION



# AWARDEES



Most Outstanding Medical Technologist - DEAN SUPACHAI A. BASIT

Most Outstanding Chapter - CEBU CHAPTER

Crisanto G. Almario Memorial Award for Research  
DEAN JOSE JUREL M. NUEVO

Chapter Hall of Fame Award - BULACAN CHAPTER

Distinguished Service Award - LITO G. ATIENZA



# CONFERENCE BULLETIN

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Mariel V. Capungcol, RMT, MPA



Oliver Shane R. Dumaaol, RMT, MSMT



Rochelle M. Jastillana, RMT



Carmina V. Tolentino, RMT, MAT, PhD

Norbie Cruz  
& Coy of One Source  
Photographers



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Lay-out



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## THE PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS, INC.

Unit 1720 Cityland 10 Tower 2, 6817 Ayala Ave., Makati City  
Tel. No.: (632) 817 1487 • Telefax: 812 6819  
Email: pametphilippines@yahoo.com.ph • Website: <https://pametinc.ph>



by Rochelle M. Jastillana, RMT

November 21 - The Marriott Hotel Grand Ballroom welcomed around 4,000 delegates from all over the Philippines for the opening of the 53rd PAMET Annual National Convention.

With their personal convention kits provided by PAMET's partner company and it's brand Safeguard, Filipino Medical Technologists were geared up to uphold this year's theme, "Raising the Gold Standard for World-Class Medical Technologists."

The ballroom floors were clad with exhibitors showcasing innovative products from various health companies. Even so, the convention organizers made sure to provide convenience for the delegates.

Registration areas were divided into five (5) categories: NCR, South Luzon, North Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. PAMET Membership and Verification Areas, as well as those for special concerns were provided.

## PLENARY SESSIONS

### "Has Social Media Created a Shift in the Filipino's Moral Values?"

#### Plenary Session 1

by Carmina V. Tolentino, RMT, MAT, PhD

The first speaker of the day talked about moral values, beliefs and attitudes. Fr. Joel Esabra emphasized the power of social media

and how it can corrupt the minds of the young. He stressed that being there, inspiring, shepherding, and empowering young people would mean so much. Because the shepherd knows his flock and his presence strengthens, inspires and gives them the freedom to choose their own path. To rekindle one's inner spirit, needs the shepherd's presence and compassion. Fr. Esabra said that inspiring others could mean a lot and eventually touch others' lives. Being an inspiration to others is what adults need to teach the present young generations.



### "Understanding People: Workplace Values, Beliefs and Attitudes"

#### Plenary Session 2

by Mariel V. Capungcol, RMT, MPA



The second speaker for the afternoon talked about the different cultures of the first world and that of the third world countries to which Filipinos belong. He highlighted how different Filipinos are from the Americans or other foreigners who belongs to the first world. Our culture is a pyramid culture, described as hierarchical, collectivistic (belongingness), holistic, harmonious, caring ("we work to enjoy life"), fatalistic ("guhit ng palad, kapalaran" and status quo (because we feel comfortable as we are). The Filipinos' quaint characteristics were also mentioned like our being creative and resilient plus our penchant to speak and write English. His talk ended with a reminder that inspires the Filipino Medical Technologists to rise and shine and be the best in the world.

# Towards a World-Class Medical Technologists

by Carmina V. Tolentino, RMT, MAT, PhD  
& Mariel V. Capungcol, RMT, MPA

The second day of the 53rd PAMET Annual Convention started with lectures on alternative career opportunities, enhancing practices, management, customer service, and safety in the laboratory through accreditation and continuing compliance to standards and guidelines. Customer service topic centered on how one should handle a patient since it determines the negative or positive impact it will make on the hospital or diagnostic center.

Achieving a world-class medical laboratory science workforce, the profession must constantly assess development needs, renew their knowledge and skills, keep abreast with the latest trends, and conduct researches. Going out of the box, medical technologist must also share these experiences through networking, collaboration, and community outreach programs. All these sources will empower the profession that will eventually lead to a globally competitive Filipino health worker.

## NATRIURETIC PEPTIDES: Markers for a more effective cardiac failure treatment

by Rochelle M. Jastillana, RMT

Healthcare providers from all over the world have a similar goal --to provide the best service for patients and bring wellness to them with utmost efficiency. That is why it is vital for them to be updated with innovations and trends when it comes to providing patient care.

Dr. Charulata Pamnani, MD, DBP, a pathologist from Wockhardt Hospital Mumbai Central India gave a lecture about an uprising trend for the diagnosis of cardiac failure, the NT pro-BNP testing (N-terminal pro-B type Natriuretic Peptide testing.) Contrary to routine testing for Troponin I in the Philippines, NT pro-BNP is highly practiced in India for it's higher specificity in the prognosis of cardiac failure.

NT pro-BNP is a hormone produced in the heart and is released when heart muscles, especially the ventricles, are too stretched from increased heart muscular activity, usually as a coping mechanism for low blood levels. It is said to be more specific than Troponin I since Troponin I is released due to ischemia of the body muscles due to decreased amounts of blood in the circulation. It has also been tested to have age-specific range values and higher stability during specimen collection and transport. Another advantage of NT pro-BNP testing is that it can be correlated with other diseases such as kidney failure.

As the developments for Medical Technology practices rise, it is vital for each laboratory scientist to be updated with the newest and current best techniques in order to be as accurate and precise as possible. The Philippine Association of Medical Technologists continues to do so by providing symposiums for a more globally-competitive service rendered by Filipino Medical Technologists.

## "Keeping Up with the World" Lab Expo 2017

by Mary Cris T. Mitra, RMT

Raising the Gold Standard for World Class Medical Technologists.

The first day of the 53rd PAMET Annual Convention was held last November 21, 2017 at the Marriott Grand Ballroom Hotel by various local and multinational companies exhibiting the latest trend in the field of medical laboratory science.

For decades, diagnostic companies have been the partner of medical technologists in raising the bar for disease diagnosis, prevention, and management. This year PAMET, alongside with the country's leading manufacturers of medical equipment, intends to be globally and locally competitive and responsive to the changing needs of man. With 42 exhibitors in attendance, the aim of the exhibit is to equip, inform, and disseminate advancement in laboratory profession among Filipino medical technologists. Every



participating diagnostic company showcased and demonstrated its latest technology with fully automated machines, upgraded phlebotomy equipment, brand new reagents of increased sensitivity and specificity, among others.

Souvenirs were given to delegates who visited the booths and participated in the annual exhibit.







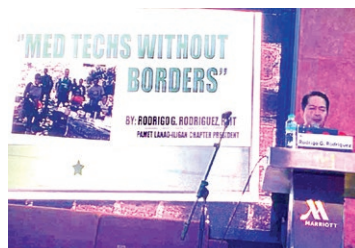
Symposium 1: "Alternative Career Opportunities for Filipino Medical Technologists"  
GERALDINE B. DAYRIT



Symposium 9: "Staying the Course Towards World-Class Medical Technologists"  
HON. MARILYN BARZA  
HON. MARILYN ATIENZA  
HON. MARIAN TANTINGCO



Symposium 2: "Teaching a Culture of Safety: Improving Practices in Academic and Research Laboratories"  
OLIVER SHANE DUMAAL



REGIONAL FORUM



Business Meeting

## "Nerd or Not: an RMT Has a Place in a Forensic Lab"

by Mary Cris T. Mitra, RMT

Enjoying and challenging, this was how Police Chief Inspector Christopher Brian Cruzada described his work as the head of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Crime Laboratory when he gave his speech last November 23, 2017. "The situations you encounter in a clinical laboratory is routinary. Every day you encounter the same cases. Every day you do the same things. However, in a crime laboratory every case is unique. Every case requires a certain level of expertise. No case is ever the same." PNP crime lab, operational since 2001, is the only laboratory in the country that performs Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) analysis for forensic medical examinations.

At present, there are only twenty-three DNA analysts in the whole country, ten of them are located at the PNP National Headquarters. DNA analysts play a vital role in resolving crimes because of their knowledge and technical capability both in the scene of the crime and during laboratory examinations. They provide expert testimony in court.

"A DNA analyst can either be a biologist, biochemist, chemists, or a med tech. Although medtechs are more preferred because of their extensive knowledge in doing laboratory examinations." Medical technologists assist Pathologists during autopsy, physical examination, anogenital, and forensic Odontological examinations.

Med techs who wish to widen their horizon and work in a crime lab must undergo the Basic DNA Examiners Course,

must be certified by the crime lab, and should have handled or assisted a minimum of 50 cases. They must also be an expert in firearm identification, polygraph, handwriting, signature, photograph, paraffin, and different toxicological testing before being employed.

The PNP Crime Laboratory uses Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) to create a DNA profile database generated from the samples obtained from the victims, suspects, unidentified human, and other forensic evidence. There are approximately 9,000 profiles in the PNP DNA Database. CODIS is also connected to the Interpool DNA Gateway, an international organization that maintain databases of fingerprints, DNA profiles and facial images, allowing police across the world to make connections between criminals and crime scenes. Interpool also provides trainings to ensure core competencies of that frontline officers all over the world necessary to assess, preserve and share evidence in a crime scene.

Mr. Cruzada believes that the future of resolving crime lies in the hand of frontline officers. As he say so, he encourages fellow medical technologists to pursue and follow the track he has taken as a DNA Analyst. Mr. Cruzada finished Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology at Far Eastern University, Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation. He is a Registered Medical Technologist (RMT), Licensed Embalmer, and is a certified Drug Analyst.



# The Gold Standard for World-Class Medical Technologists

by Diego L. Ofiaza, RMT, MPH

The 53rd PAMET Annual Confab empowered World-class Filipino Medical Technologists - PAMET envisions all its members to be highly motivated professionals who can be well-rounded individuals to readily face the challenges and adapt to changes in order to become globally competitive.

The 53rd PAMET Annual Confab Plenary Session 1, "Has Social Media Created A Shift in the Filipino's Moral Values": The Impact of Social Media in Values Formation" and "How Health Professionals Adapt to Changing Environment" opened on November 21, 2017. The Plenary Session speaker FR. JOEL ESLAVA of Western Visayas State University Medical Center, Jaro, Iloilo City presented the session lively draw-ing together participants. Ms. Lerma Paris was the plenary session moderator.

Plenary Session 2, MR. EDGAR G. GENIZA, College President, Mondriaan Aura College, Subic Bay, Olongapo City, speaking on diverse but overlapping issues around "Understanding People: Workplace Values, Beliefs and Attitudes": "Why Medical Technologists Behave the Way they Do" and "Respect for Individuals to Improve Efficiency". Ms. Norma Chang, PAMET past President was the forum moderator.

The 53rd PAMET Annual Confab also provided a platform for scientific exhibit that offered excellent opportunity for industry partners in Medical Laboratory Technology to showcase emerging technologies. The exhibitors and participants underscored the continued importance of investment in and uptake of advanced diagnostic technology in the context of quality laboratory practice of increasingly globalized and interconnected world.

The 53rd PAMET Annual Confab convened an impressive line-up of relevant topics and high-caliber speakers from various fields of specialization raising the Gold Standard for Global Medical Technologists, including Preconvention workshop on "Quality Control, Westgard Rules and Six Sigma" facilitated by Mr. Victor Lumboy and "Preparation of Biosafety, Biosecurity and Biorisk Management Manual" with the speaker Dr. Miguel Martin Moreno.

Likewise, the featured 12 symposium topics spanning the entire duration of the conference include

"Management of Critical and Emergency Situations in Laboratory" and "Teaching a Culture of Safety: Improving Practices in Academic and Research Laboratories" By OLIVER SHANE DUMAOAL

"Medical research opportunities for career advancement and growth: AFRIMS experience by DR. JOHN MARK VELASCO/ MARIA THERESA VALDERAMA

"Ethics Of Care" BY DR. CYNTHIA FABIAN-DELA REA  
"Alternative career opportunities for Filipino Medical Technologists" by GERALDINE B. DAYRIT

"Pre-Analytical Errors in Sample management" by Kiat Ting Tey, Regional Product Specialist , Siemens Regional Headquarters, Singapore

"Nerd or not: a RMT has place in a Forensic Lab" speaker CHRISTHOPHER BRIAN CRUZADA, Police Chief Inspector, Chief Operations, Crime Laboratory

"PRC Hour" by MARILYN ATIENZA & MARIAN TANTINGCO

"The Importance of International Laboratory Accreditation" by PERLA F. BAJE, OIC, Laboratory Accreditation Division, Philippine Accreditation Bureau, Department of Trade and Industry.

"The Role of Accredited Professional Organization in Medical Technology Practice" BY RONALDO PUNO, PAMET President

"Natriuretic peptides I heart failure: Clinical utility and important Considerations Laboratories need to be aware of" by DR. CHARULATA PAMNANI

"Improving Efficiency in Clinical Laboratory" by DR. CHAKRAVARTHY N SRINIVAS

The Regional Forum featured speeches from Chapter presidents, "Assessing the Continuing Professional Development needs of Medical Technologists in the Philippines: The PAMET South Luzon Experience" delivered by OLIVER SHANE DUMAOAL of Batangas. "Working Together, Growing Stronger: The Power of North Luzon Cluster-Based Chapter Activities" conveyed by EDISON RAMOS of Bulacan. "Collaboration Towards Quality Medical Technology Practice, Laboratory Networking and PAMET Socsargen Experience by Mary Mae Cheung; "Social Responsibility Beyond the Laboratory Reaching-Out to People, delivered by Rodrigo Rodriguez of Northern Mindanao and "The Power of Preparedness: Disaster Management for Medical Technologists by Odi C. Sadiasa.

We believed that with the success of 53rd PAMET Annual Confab we will enable laboratory professionals to advance their laboratory capabilities, thus Raising the Gold Standard for World-class Medical Technologists.