



## COVID-19 Special Edition

### A Radiance of Compassion

# P A M E T

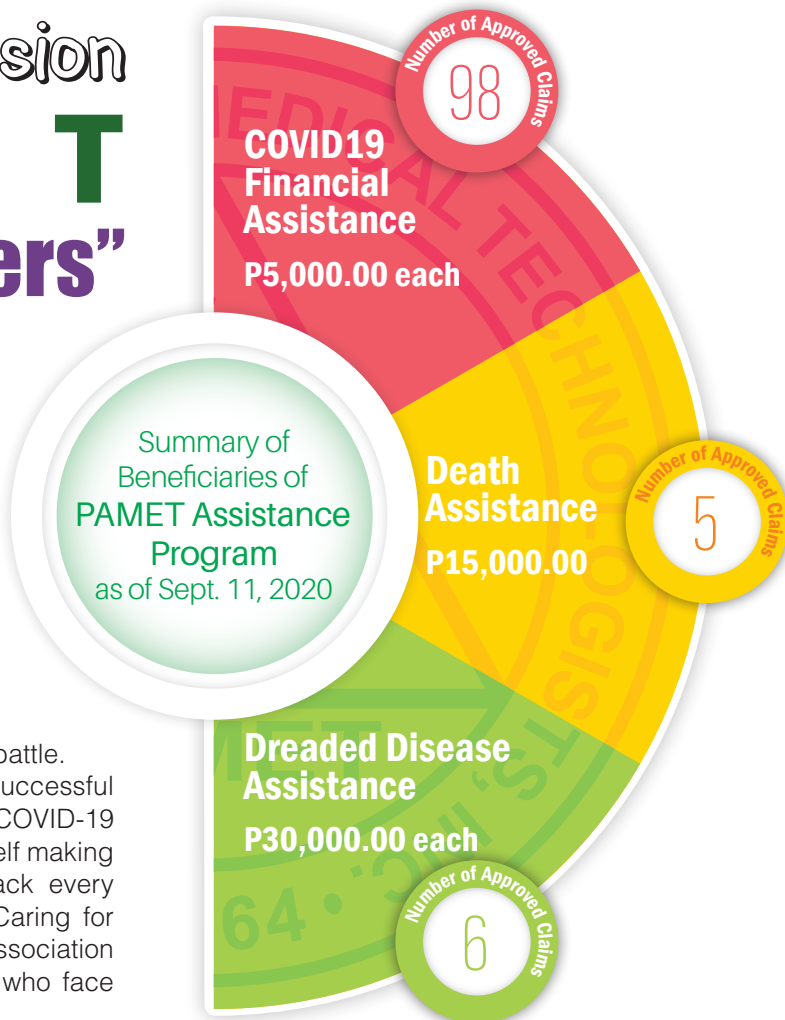
## “Caring for the Carers”

### Campaign

When the state of public health emergency was declared over the Philippines and the COVID-19 pandemic is imminent, the world stopped. Most of the businesses were closed and people were advised to stay inside. During this time, only the frontliners to the so-called essential workers were allowed outside and continue their jobs; this includes employees of hospitals, clinics, laboratories and diagnostic companies that are vital in combating the unseen enemy, the SARS-COV2.

Medical technologists have a significant role in this battle. They are the unsung and the unseen heroes behind every successful diagnosis and analysis of the disease. They might not face COVID-19 patients as often, but they come in contact with the virus itself making their work risky and dangerous. With this kind of setback every medical technologist experience, PAMET launched the “Caring for the Carers” campaign, an initiative and response of the association to reach out to the brave and bold medical technologist who face the challenges brought about by the disease.

>> continued on page4



### UPDATE

**DISTRIBUTION IS STILL ONGOING. WE APPEAL TO EVERYONE FOR MORE DONATIONS SO WE CAN EXTEND MORE CARE FOR OUR CARERS.**

More than **10,000** medical technologists reached Distribution in **16 cities** and **1 municipality** in NCR and **50 provinces**

thru PAMET Chapters  
Over **30,000** pieces of various PPEs and hygiene kits distributed



**RONALDO E. PUNO, RMT, MBA-H**

### **CARING FOR THE CARERS** **Campaign: Response to COVID-19,** **the PAMET Way**

Now that the whole world is fighting against the pandemic brought about by COVID-19, PAMET, with its local chapters nationwide, are called upon to do our share, in our own little way, to show how we care for everyone. And we are proud that PAMET is at the forefront.

In response, PAMET was at the helm in initiating several activities directed towards advocacy, health promotion, and members' assistance and benefits since the early stage of the crisis.

As early as February, PAMET started its activities with Health and Wellness Campaign on February 25, in one community in Singalong, Manila. Focus of the activity was the importance of handwashing to break the chain of infection. Targeted participants were parents and school children in the area.

Between February and March, other forms of advocacy and information-sharing activities related to COVID-19 dominated the period. PAMET started sharing guidelines and new information based on the developments published by different respectable organizations and agencies such as WHO, CDC, DOH and RITM. The association also developed advocacy videos intended to give encouragement to frontliners.

As the number of COVID-19 cases progressed and increased, problems also emerged particularly on the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Other concerns like discrimination and unsafe workplace practices were also highlighted.

This prompted PAMET to launch the "Caring for the Carers" Campaign on March 14, 2020.

PAMET "Caring for the Carers" is part of the associations corporate social responsibility program known as "PAMET Para Sa Kapwa" which started in 2017.

Primarily, it aims to extend support and assistance to various medical frontliners handling the different cases in various hospitals.

To date, the project already covered 140 hospitals and laboratories in Metro Manila covering 16 cities and 1 municipality. It also extended its help to selected military groups and barangays. Through the different PAMET chapters, over 200 hospitals were reached in close to 50 provinces in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. More than 10,000 frontliners were served.

In its six weeks of operation since March 14, 2020, the project was able to distribute more than 30,000 items composed of hygiene kits (soaps, sanitizers, hand wash, alcohol), personal protective equipment (PPEs), masks, gloves, face masks and food packs. Currently, the project is on-going and still receiving several requests both in NCR and provinces.

Said activity captured the attention of several media networks which later on featured the Medical Technologists in their respective programs and reports. One very important result of this campaign was the heightened awareness on the vital roles of Medical Technologists in the delivery of healthcare services.

In the course of COVID-19 pandemic, a difficult decision to postpone or cancel several scheduled events of the association, such as the Mid-year Convention, Regional

Conferences, CPD Seminars, Workshops and Conferences, was made. This is in response to the government directives on the prohibition of mass gatherings. The cancellation or postponement of said activities was made in the best interest of the safety of the members, invited speakers and guest.

Likewise, the association addressed the concerns of its employees who were forced to work from home due to the temporary stoppage of the operations of the secretariat. The Board agreed to continue paying the full salaries of the staff during the entire duration of the enhanced quarantine period. Staff who were required to report to help in the preparations and join the "Caring for the Carers" activities also received the hazard pay as provided in the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act.

Another activity related to addressing COVID-19 issues is media visibility through radio and television interviews. PAMET aggressively pursued this track to share useful information, to protect the rights of its members, and to voice out relevant issues to concerned government officials and agencies. The call for action was indeed very loud and clear.

Related effort was providing assistance to different government agencies in terms of promoting the need for more Medical Technologists in various institutions and agencies related to expanded COVID-19 testing. Among those were RITM, UP-NIH, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Army and DOH. Many of our colleagues accepted the challenge and gave them the opportunity to contribute more on the country's effort to fight the virus.

Since current statistics show increasing number of COVID-19 positive Medical Technologists, PAMET took a step forward by providing financial assistance to its affected members by approving an "Interim Guidelines on Members' Benefits in Relation to Positive COVID-19 Cases". Survey on the details of affected members is now on-going.

## LABNOTES



**GERRICK JOSEPH C. DOLOR, RMT**

### A SHIFT to the NEW NORM

For us Medical Technologists, when we talk about shift, one thing that comes to our mind is that, it is part of the quality control in the laboratories. With this flagging, we are immediately worried of this occurrence; thus, we make it a point to do everything we could to resolve the problem and avoid this thing from happening again.

But now, when we hear the word shift, we immediately associate it with the shifts in our lives, the changes that are quickly happening around us and the transformation of the world, as we know it, to a new different perspective.

With this shift we are forced to enter into a state of "New Normal". All of us now are expected to conform to this standard, so that we could go on with our lives. All of us now lives in a different and unfamiliar world, and we venture to this realm of the unknown and uncertainty. And most definitely, all of our routine ways have now shifted to a new and different one.

A shift from the face-to-face meetings and physical seminars to the new normal of online meetings and webinars.

A shift from going to the malls and marketplaces to the new normal of having our daily goods delivered in the doorsteps of our homes.

A shift from being too physically close with one another to the new normal of the 1-meter distance policy to prevent us from touching one another.

A shift from the usual hand-shaking and hugging to the new normal of hand-waiving and nodding.

And a shift from the sweet greetings, smiles and gestures to the new normal of the mandatory wearing of face masks and face shields.

This shift is inevitable. Every one of us is going through this phase and no one is exempted and excused. Even us Medical technologists, our lives drastically changed because of COVID19. In this time, we have to cope with this situation so that we could still render our services to others. We even have to be stronger, braver and bolder, because everyone is counting on us to help defeat this virus and hoping that we could bring back the old norm that we are used to.

Let this shift be an opportunity, let this shift be a passage, and let this shift bring the best changes in our lives.

Constant virtual meetings and communications were done through online platforms. This gave a venue to the Board to continuously assess and monitor the situation and come up with relevant policies and decisions.

With the current situation, PAMET was compelled to move towards:

1. Development of Practical Guidance on COVID-19 Testing for Laboratorians
2. Curriculum Enhancement to strengthen the knowledge and skills related to Molecular Diagnostics, in collaboration with CHED Technical Committee for Medical Technology Education.
3. Transmitting a Letter to the Office of the President (Malacanang) and to different legislators to highlight the concerns of Medical Technologists.
4. Drafting a new version of Medical Technology Bill to upgrade the practice of Medical Technology.
5. Capacity-building through trainings and online seminar related to COVID-19.

We are hoping to continue this advocacy by appreciating, inspiring and thanking the noble deeds of our frontliners and encouraging them, through the expression of heartfelt support, which were made possible through the generosity of our partners and donors.

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF PAMET

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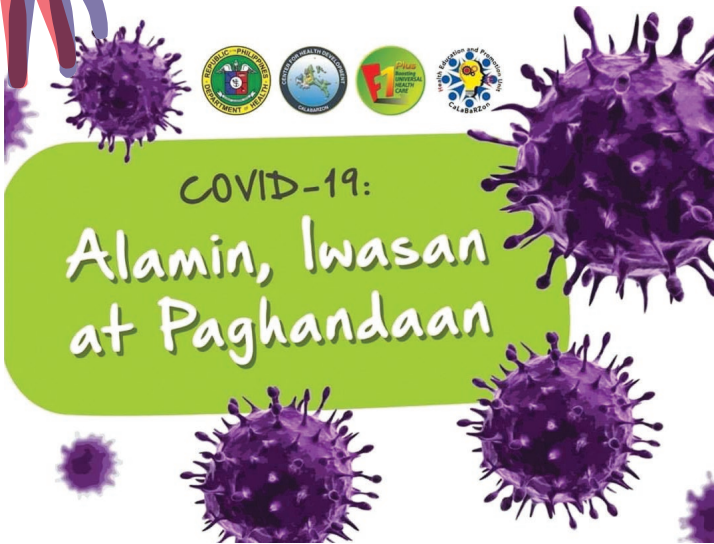
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## Ano ang Coronavirus?

Ang **Coronaviruses** ay mga pamilya ng mga virus na nagdudulot ng sakit mula sa karaniwang sipon hanggang sa mas malubhang sakit tulad ng Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) at Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

Ang **COVID-19** ay **panibagong strain** o uri ng coronavirus na hindi pa nakikita sa tao noon.

Kung may makitang taong inuubo, may sipon o may sakit, maaari kang:

**1** Lumayo mula sa taong inuubo/sinisipon, o may sakit ng **1-2 metro** upang makaiwas sa secretions nito. Iwasan ang paghawak sa kamay, pakikipagbeso-beso at pagyakap dito.

<< from page1. "Caring for the Carers"

## The 10 Phases of "Caring for the Carers" Campaign

### 1st Phase: Information Dissemination

This gives guidance and updated information about the recent developments related to COVID-19. The association at first shared the vital information from different agencies to make the general public aware of the disease.

### 2nd Phase: Advocacy on Hygiene, Wellness and Health Standards

This aims to drum up awareness on the importance of handwashing and other recommended minimum health standards in fighting against COVID-19. Before the community quarantine starts, PAMET conducted an outreach program for the community of Singalong, Manila last February 25, 2020 advocating handwashing as the single most important factor preventing the spread of the disease.



Partners in the  
**GLOBAL ADVOCACY**  
for disease prevention through  
**PROPER HANDWASHING**

**6 STEPS** Hand washing is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of many types of infection and illness.

**WASH HANDS. STAY SAFE.** #PAMETCares

### 3rd Phase: Advocacy on the Role of Medical Technologists

This highlights the important roles of Medical Technologists in beating the virus in various capacities. Several inspirational messages related to the practice of Medical technology were posted in different social media platforms by the association to lift and boost the spirits of the professionals who are working tirelessly and devotedly to fight COVID-19.

**Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc.**  
April 19 · 🌐

Show to everyone what is happening BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE FRONTLINES! Comment your best shots in this post. 📸 Share now!  
#MedTechsinTheFrontlines #ONEPAMET #PAMETCares

Medical Technologists are vital frontliners in our collaborative efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. However, we often work in laboratories and areas that the public and patients seldom see. Increase awareness on who we are and what we do by sharing pictures of what is happening BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE FRONTLINES! Showcase your best pictures that captures the essence and importance of being a medical technologist! Comment your pictures to this post. Together, let us advocate for our beloved profession!

A public campaign of the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc. (PAMET) - The only PRC-Accredited Professional Organization for Medical Technologists

#MedTechsinTheFrontlines  
#ONEPAMET  
#PAMETCares

### 4th Phase: Hospital and Laboratory Visits to Provide Support and Assistance

This aims to provide immediate assistance to Medical Technologists in terms of PPEs, health and hygiene kits, disinfectants, alcohol and food packs thru the efforts and support of the generous partners and donors. In this phase more than 400 hospitals and laboratories received assistance

**Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc.**  
April 23 · 🌐

The time has finally arrived for the public and those in healthcare to truly understand our value to saving lives. Simply put, medical laboratory professionals are the doctor's doctor. #PAMETCares #ONEPAMET

**Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc.**  
May 14 · 🌐

"A career that has traditionally been overshadowed by more visible healthcare professions is suddenly in the spotlight because of the world's interest in coronavirus testing." #PAMETCares #ONEPAMET

ARUPLAB.COM  
**COVID-19 Shines a Light on Laboratory Careers | ARUP Laboratories**  
A career that has traditionally been overshadowed by more visible healthcare professions is suddenly in the spotlight because of the world's interest in coronavirus testing. Medical laboratory scientists who...

| Recipients of the Caring for Carers Campaign in NCR |                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Philippine General Hospital                         | AFP Medical Center                        |
| Sta. Ana Hospital                                   | Veterans Memorial Medical Center          |
| Chinese General Hospital                            | Philippine Children's Medical Center      |
| San Lazaro Hospital                                 | Providence Hospital                       |
| Gat Andres Bonifacio Medical Center                 | Sta. Teresita General Hospital            |
| Mary Johnston Hospital                              | United Doctors Medical Center             |
| Judge Jose Abad Santos General Hospital             | St. Luke's Medical Center - QC            |
| Ospital ng Maynila                                  | Dr. Jesus Delgado Hospital                |
| East Avenue Medical Center                          | MCU Hospital                              |
| Philippine Heart Center                             | Ospital ng Malabon                        |
| Navotas City Hospital                               | Research Institute for Tropical Medicine  |
| San Lorenzo Hospital                                | Asian Hospital and Medical Center         |
| Dr. Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center             | Alabang Medical Center                    |
| Mandaluyong City Medical Center                     | Arciaga Medical Clinic                    |
| Pasig Doctors Hospital                              | St. Clare's Medical Center                |
| Pasig City Children's Hospital                      | San Juan de Dios Medical Foundation       |
| St. Vincent General Hospital                        | Cardinal Santos Medical Center            |
| Paranaque City Health Department                    | Mandaluyong City Health Department        |
| Ospital ng Parañaque                                | San Juan City Health Department           |
| Our Lady of Peace Hospital                          | San Juan City Medical Center              |
| Marikina Valley Medical Center                      | Rizal Medical Center                      |
| Among Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center             | National Center for Mental Health         |
| St. Victoria Hospital                               | AMOSUP Seamen's Hospital                  |
| St. Christiana Hospital                             | Tondo Medical Center                      |
| St. Martin de Porres Charity Hospital               | Ospital ng Tondo                          |
| Ospital ng Makati                                   | St. Jude Hospital & Medical Center        |
| Adventist Medical Center                            | Hospital of the Infant Jesus              |
| Pasay City General Hospital                         | Ospital ng Sampaloc                       |
| St. Luke's Medical Center - Global                  | Metropolitan Medical Center               |
| Medical Center Taguig                               | Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Medical Center  |
| UERM Medical Center                                 | PNP General Hospital                      |
| Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital                        | Novaliches General Hospital               |
| Quezon Institute - PTSI                             | Novaliches District Hospital              |
| National Children's Hospital                        | Bernardino General Hospital               |
| National Kidney & Transplant Institute              | Bernardino General Hospital 2             |
| Philippine Orthopedic Center                        | New Era General Hospital                  |
| J. P. Sioson Hospital                               | Pacific Global Medical Center             |
| Quirino Memorial Medical Center                     | Rosario Maclang Baulista General Hospital |
| Quezon City General Hospital                        | Metro North Medical Center                |

*Maraming salamat!*

- Safeguard / Procter & Gamble Philippines
- Pacific Cross Philippines
- TNC Group of Companies
- Acer Philippines
- Lupon WXC
- Nvidia Philippines
- Pocari Sweat

*Maraming salamat!*

*Maraming salamat!*

**Biorisk Association of the Philippines (BRAP) • PAMET-USA and its affiliate chapters • PAMET Southern California • Vitaline Healthcare, Inc. • An anonymous donor from Quezon City for PPEs • Prolab Diagnostics Co. • UST Med Tech Batch '80 • Jennifer Del Mundo •**

**Miriam Rodriguez • CJ Chavez • Angelo Avila • Te Go Lee • Madelleine Del Rosario • Ann Marie Del Rosario • Joana Alice Lachica •**

*Maraming salamat!*



# LET'S TAKE CARE OF THE CARERS

AN APPEAL FROM THE  
Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET)

not only in Metro Manila but all over the country; wherein some schools and communities also benefited from this. Over 20,000 Medical Technologists were reached and more than 50,000 items were distributed. It covered 16 cities and 1 municipality in Metro Manila and more than 40 provinces through different PAMET Chapters. In Metro Manila alone, of about 140 hospitals and laboratories were covered thru the cooperation of the 6 cluster organization under the Committee on Laboratory Management.







# LET'S TAKE CARE OF THE CARERS

AN APPEAL FROM THE  
Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET)







## COVID-19 Benefits for PAMET members

#PAMETCares  
#ONEPAMET

PAMET members with updated membership status who are afflicted with COVID-19 can now claim financial assistance from the Association



Who can claim:

1. Those with confirmed COVID-19 disease
2. Those who died due to COVID-19

For details, email us.

[pametcovid19hotline@gmail.com](mailto:pametcovid19hotline@gmail.com)



## 5th Phase: Financial Assistance to COVID-19 Positive Medical Technologists

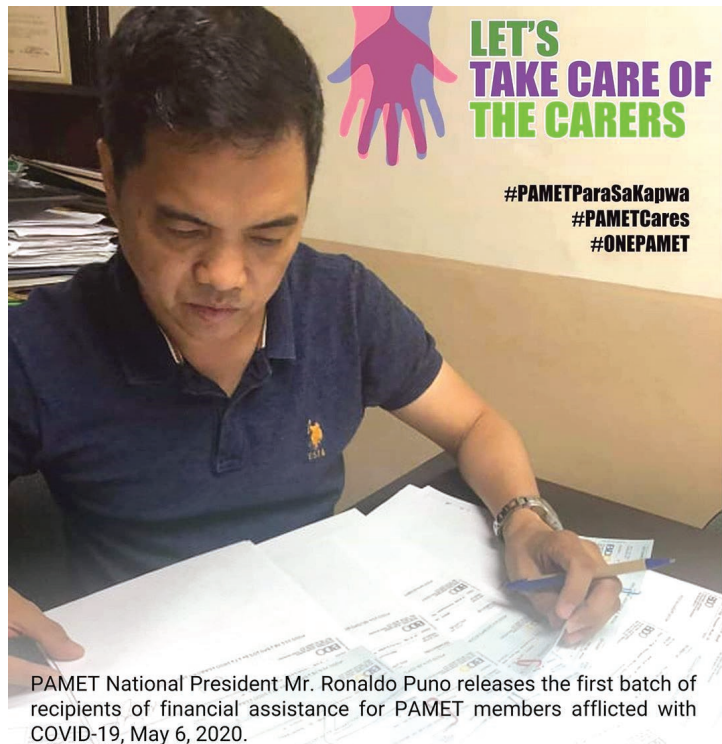
This aims to provide financial assistance to alleviate the burden of Medical Technologists who tested positive to COVID-19. Regardless of severity of the



# LET'S TAKE CARE OF THE CARERS

AN APPEAL FROM THE  
Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET)

disease, all active members who tested positive will be able to receive P5,000.00 from the association. More than 100 beneficiaries already availed of this program and this will run and will be available until December 31, 2020.



**LET'S TAKE CARE OF THE CARERS**

#PAMETParaSaKapwa  
#PAMETCares  
#ONEPAMET

PAMET National President Mr. Ronaldo Puno releases the first batch of recipients of financial assistance for PAMET members afflicted with COVID-19, May 6, 2020.

An advocacy of the  
Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc. (PAMET)  
The only PRC Accredited Professional Organization for Medical Technologists



## 6th Phase: Provision of Continuing Professional Education and Development of Guidelines

This aims to provide new information and knowledge related to COVID-19 through webinars and online trainings.



**PAMET Free Webinar Series**

**ENHANCING THE COMPETENCIES OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS ON QUALITY RT-PCR TESTING FOR COVID-19**

| SESSION 1                             | SESSION 2                             | SESSION 3                                         |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| May 23, 2020<br>06:00pm-08:00pm (PST) | May 25, 2020<br>06:00pm-08:00pm (PST) | To Be Announced<br>06:00pm-08:00pm (PST)          |
| INTRODUCTION TO MOLECULAR BIOLOGY     | MOLECULAR BIOLOGY IN ACTION (RT-PCR)  | ONLINE DEMONSTRATION OF COVID-19 TESTING (RT-PCR) |

**INTRODUCTION**

Free online learning organized by PAMET! This is a 3-part webinar designed to improve the competency of medical technologists on PCR-based assays for COVID-19. Slots are limited. Only those who registered for the first session will be given access for the succeeding sessions. For those who will be able to register, you will receive e-certificates per session upon satisfactorily completing the webinar and passing the post-test with a score of at least 60%. For those who will not be able to register, the webinar will be streamed in the Facebook page of PAMET (FB/pametinc.org). However, no certificates will be issued. There are no CPD credits applied for this webinar but you may apply it under self-directed learning.

**REGISTRATION**

You need a Zoom account for this webinar. To register, go to this link:

» [http://tiny.cc/pamet\\_elearning01](http://tiny.cc/pamet_elearning01)

**GET IN TOUCH:**

[FB/pametinc.org](https://www.facebook.com/pametinc.org)
[pamet.elearning@gmail.com](mailto:pamet.elearning@gmail.com)  
 PAMET Committee on e-Learning and Social Media Communications



**Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc.**  
The Only PRC Accredited Professional Organization for Medical Technologists

## PAMET FREE WEBINAR SERIES

in partnership with **AGAPPE**



**LECTURE 1: Medical Technologists Versus COVID-19: Experiences, Challenges and Response**  
Mr. Ronaldo E. Puno, RMT, MBA-H  
National President, PAMET



**LECTURE 2: Mental Health Awareness for Health Workers in Times of Pandemic**  
Ms. Juli-Ann Alonso Balmonte, RN, MAP, MAN  
Southville International School and Colleges

**04 JULY 2020**  
05:45pm to 08:00pm  
Via Zoom

**REGISTER NOW!**  
[http://tiny.cc/pametwebinar\\_agappe](http://tiny.cc/pametwebinar_agappe)  
Limited to 1000 virtual participants.  
This event is credited with 2 CPD units.

 **QUESTIONS?** Email us at [pamet.elearning@gmail.com](mailto:pamet.elearning@gmail.com).



**THIRD INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR**  
**AACLS**  
ASEAN ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

hosted by:



**PAMET**  
PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

**27 June 2020**  
09:00am - 12:00nn  
Philippine Standard Time (GMT +8)

**POST-COVID-19 PANDEMIC: The New Normal in Clinical Laboratory Science**

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**OPENING CEREMONY**  
Welcome Address by MR. RONALDO PUNO, PAMET President  
Opening Remarks by DR. MICHAEL FATTAH, AACLS President

**SESSION 1**  
Next Normal in Laboratory Medicine  
DR. ENDANG HOYARANDA  
PATELKI, Indonesia

**SESSION 2**  
What's New in Laboratory Testing: Post Pandemic  
DR. MANEE TACHAVIRIYA  
AMTT, Thailand

**SESSION 3**  
Experience of a Stand-Alone Private Laboratory in Malaysia  
DR. KHIAN CHEE SIAM  
MIMLS, Malaysia

**SESSION 4**  
Heightened Awareness of Biosafety and Biosecurity in Clinical Laboratories  
ASST. PROF. OLIVER SHANE DUMAGAL  
PAMET, Philippines

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!**  
✉ [pamet.elearning@gmail.com](mailto:pamet.elearning@gmail.com)  
f [/pametinc.org](https://www.facebook.com/pametinc.org)

**REGISTRATION**  
[tiny.cc/3rdAACLSWebinar](http://tiny.cc/3rdAACLSWebinar)  
Limited to 1000 virtual participants  
Proceedings will be streamed live in the Facebook page of PAMET

**THE SPEAKERS**



MR. RONALDO PUNO  
PAMET President



DR. MICHAEL FATTAH  
AACLS President



DR. LEILA LANY FLORENTO  
Webinar Moderator  
AACLS Past President



DR. ENDANG HOYARANDA  
PATELKI, Indonesia



DR. MANEE TACHAVIRIYA  
AMTT, Thailand



DR. KHIAN CHEE SIAM  
MIMLS, Malaysia



ASST. PROF. OLIVER SHANE DUMAGAL  
PAMET, Philippines





## SARS-CoV-2: Hazard Characterization and Current IATA Recommendations on Transport and Shipping

**OVERVIEW**

This webinar will cover the known characteristics and characteristics under investigation of SARS-CoV-2 that influence risks of laboratory-acquired infection and/or release of the biological agent from the laboratory. It will also include an extensive discussion of the points to consider for internal and external transfer and shipping of SARS-CoV-2, including current International Air Transport Association (IATA) recommendations for shipping.

**OUR SPEAKER**



**Cecelia V. Williams, PhD**  
Principal Member of the Technical Staff  
International Biological Threat Reduction Program  
Sandia National Laboratories  
Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

**REGISTER HERE**  
<http://tiny.cc/brappametwebinarIATA>

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT US.**

 [brappametwebinar@gmail.com](mailto:brappametwebinar@gmail.com)

 <http://bioriskassociationphilippines.org>

**June 25, 2020**  
06:45pm-09:00pm  
Via Zoom

## Ligtas ba na makihalubilo sa mga Medical Technologists?

# Oo!

Ang mga Medical Technologists ay may kasanayan sa biosafety, biosecurity, at infection prevention at control measures. Ang ibang healthcare workers ay may ganito rin na kasanayan.

**#PAMETcares**  
**#NoToHealthcareWorkerDiscrimination**

Isang mensahe mula sa  
**Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc. (PAMET)**  
Ang tanging PRC-Accredited Professional Organization para sa mga Medical Technologists





# LET'S TAKE CARE OF THE CARERS

AN APPEAL FROM THE  
Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET)

Since May, the association offered series of free webinars to all of its participants. These webinars offered were PAMET initiated, others where locally collaborated with the Biorisk Association of the Philippines (BRAP) and some are hosted internationally with the ASEAN Association of Clinical Laboratory Sciences (AACLS). PAMET is also in the process of developing relevant guidelines such as the "BRAP-PAMET Biosafety Guidelines on COVID-19 Testing for Laboratorians" which is supported by the CRDF Global and once finished it will be given to all hospitals and secondary laboratories in the Philippines for free.

## 7th Phase: Anti-discrimination Campaign and Response

This aims to seek support and help to prevent discrimination practices and to protect frontliners. This emanated from several reported incidents of discrimination all over the country. The association released infographics about safe interaction with the Medical Technologists and also educating the public on the wrong notion towards the healthcare workers.



**OPISYAL NA PAHAYAG NG PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS (PAMET) KAUGNAY NG INSIDENTENG NAGANAP SA PAMAHALAANG PANG-LUNGSOD NG PASAY NOONG MAY 19, 2020**

Ang pangyayaring ito ay labis na ikinalulungkot ng pamunuan ng Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET) at ng lahat ng mga Medical Technologists sa buong Pilipinas at maging ng mga nasa ibang bansa.

Ngayong tayo ay nasa gitna ng ganitong krisis ay higit na kailangan natin ang serbisyo ng mga Medical Technologists at iba pang healthcare professionals. Napakahalaga ng kanilang bahagi sa laban natin kontra COVID-19. Sila ay nagsasakripisyo at kaagapay ng gobyerno sa pagsugpo ng kumakalat na sakit. Marami sa kanila ay dinapuan na din ng COVID-19 sa kagustuhang magingkod sa kapwa. Ganun pa man patuloy silang tumutugon sa tawag ng tungkulin.

Ito ay isang maliwanag at tahasang pagtapak sa dignidad at pagpapakita ng kawalang respeto sa ating mga Medical Technologists at iba pang health professionals.

Ang PAMET ay kaisa ng lahat ng Medical Technologists, frontliners at health professionals sa pagtutol at pagkondena sa mga ganitong uri ng pang iinsulto, pang mamatrat, panghihiya at pagkawala ng respeto lalo na kung ito ay nangagaling sa isang halal na opisyal ng gobyerno.

Higit itong nakapanglulumo dahil ang Lungsod ng Pasay ay nagpasa kailan lamang ng ordinansa Bilang 6100, Series of 2020, upang tugunan ang anumang uri ng discriminasyon at magparusa sa mga lalabag dito. Ito ay pirmado ng buong konseho ng lungsod kasama na si Konsehal Arnel "Moti" Arceo. Magbukas sana ito sa isipan ng lahat ng nagpapatupad ng anumang uri ng batas na sila ang unang dapat sumunod dito.

Ngayong panahon ng krisis ay walang puwang ang ganitong mga pangyayari lalo na at piniliit nating itaas ang morale ng mga frontliners upang lalong nilang makita na pinapahalagahan ang kanilang mga sakripisyo. Ang ating mga Medical Technologists ay patuloy na naglilingkod para sa kapwa at para sa bayan.

Ang ating mga inihalal na mga opisyal ay tinitingala natin bilang ehemplo ng maayos na pakikitungo sa kapwa at tamang pagtrato sa mga tao kahit ito ay isang ordinaryong empleyado o propesyonal. Ano mang uri ng trabaho o propesyon nabibilang ang kahit sino man, sila ay dapat bigyan ng pantay na pagtingin at nararapat na respeto.

Bilang isang halal na opisyal ng Lungsod ng Pasay, inaasahan po natin ang mas malawak na pananaw sa sitwasyon, mas mahinanong pakikipag usap at mas makataong pagtrato sa mga naglilingkod sa kapwa at sa bayan.

Tandaan natin na anumang lumalabas sa bibig ng isang tao, ito ay pagpapakita ng ating tunay na karakter at pagkatao. Isang mahalagang marka ng pagiging mahusay at epektibong lider ay ang pagtugon sa krisis at problema na hindi magingibabaw ang emosyon at kaya niyang panatiliin ang pagiging kalmado at bukas ang isipan.

Kung may pagkukulang man sa proseso, "protocol", komunikasyon o kung anumang posisyon meroon ang isang tao, ito at hindi nagbibigay ng karapatan sa kahit sino na sigawan, murahin at insultuhin ang ating kapwa lalo na kung ang mga ito ay tahimik na ginagawa ang kanilang tungkulin at sumusunod sa mga naibigyan na direktiba o panuntunan.

Huwag natin babayaang tuluyang sumuko ang mga healthcare workers hindi dahil sa COVID 19 kundi dahil sa pagbaba ng kanilang morale dala ng mga ganitong pangyayari.

Nananawagan tayo sa mga opisyal ng gobyerno at sa lahat ng Pilipino na ibigay ang ating pagsaludo sa mga healthcare workers sa paraang sarangal at hindi sa paraang mgagsapang. Ibigay natin ang karapat dapat na dignidad bilang patunay sa ating paghanga sa kanilang kabayanihan at kontribusyon sa bansa.

Taimtim na ipinagdarasal ng PAMET na sana ito ay magbukas sa mata at isipan ng lahat ng naglilingkod sa bayan at hindi na muling maulit ang ganitong mga pangyayari.

**We Medical Technologists do not deserve this kind of inhumane treatment. Nobody deserves it.**

Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET)  
May 25, 2020

**PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS, INC. (PAMET)**  
The Only Accredited Professional Organization for Medical Technologists  
Unit 1720, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cityland 10 Tower 2  
6817 Ayala Avenue North, City of Makati  
Tel No. (02) 8817-1487 | Telefax No. (02) 8812-6819  
www.pametinc.ph

## Is it safe to interact with Medical Technologists?

# Yes!

Medical Technologists are trained in biosafety, biosecurity, and infection prevention and control measures. This also applies to other healthcare workers.



#PAMETCares  
#NoToHealthcareWorkerDiscrimination

A message from the  
Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc. (PAMET)  
The only PRC-Accredited Professional Organization for Medical Technologists



## 8th Phase: Media Visibility

Beyond product endorsements, strong media presence provides public awareness on the work of Medical Technologists. And during this pandemic people and the media recognizes the work of Medical Technologists; thus making a way for the profession to be heard and express to the government and all appropriate agencies the different sentiments and requests.

 **Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc.** ...  
May 7 · 🌐

HAPPENING NOW | Interview of **CNN Philippines** with our PAMET National President Mr. Ronnie Puno. Watch it here:  
<https://www.facebook.com/CNNPhilippines/videos/236085174126119/> #ONEPAMET #PAMETCares

**LIVE** 1.7k



**THE DOCTOR IS IN** **LIVE**  
**PREPARING FOR THE NEW NORMAL** **CNN Philippines**  
3:30PM

## 9th Phase: Appeal to the Government and Politicians

The association wrote a letter of appeal to the Office of the President last May 11, 2020. The purpose of the letter is to convey the legitimate concerns of the Medical Technologists and to seek support and assistance from the government on how such concerns may be immediately addressed. Here are some of the specific, valid and relevant concerns stated and provided in the letter; (1) Compensation, (2) Benefits – Hazard Pay and Safe Working Conditions, (3) Plantilla Positions, and (4) Amendment of the Medical Technology Law – R.A. 5527. The same letter was also sent to the Senate.

There was also a Consultative Meeting with Congresswoman Janette Garin, the former Secretary of Health last May 29, 2020, where some proposed policy measures for all HCW were tacked. PAMET raised the same issues and concerns which were sent to the Office of the President of the Philippines.



An information campaign of the  
Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc. (PAMET)  
The only PRC Accredited Professional Organization for Medical Technologists



**The Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, as the only PRC Accredited Professional Organization for Medical Technologists, had always been steadfast in its commitment of ensuring the welfare and well-being of its members.**

**In May 2020, the Association communicated to the Office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines the concerns of fellow medical technologists regarding compensation, benefits, plantilla positions and the need to update the existing MedTech Law.**

**We are closely coordinating with Malacañang for its response and will provide updates to the membership.**



Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc. ...

April 26 · 🌐

Radio interview with the PAMET National President Mr. Ronnie Puno on the role of Medical Technologists as frontliners in addressing the threat of COVID-19 during the Dobol B sa News TV segment with Isa Avendaño-Umali of DZBB Super Radyo 594khz. Watch the full segment here:

<https://web.facebook.com/dzbb594/videos/255181615529153/?v=255181615529153>. The interview was made possible thru the coordination with PAMET North Luzon Regional Director Mr. Edison Ramos. #PAMETCares #ONEP... See More



PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF  
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS, INC.

Unit 1720, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cityland 10 Tower 2  
8817 Ayala Ave. North, City of Makati  
Tel No. 8817-1487 / Telefax No. 8812-6819  
www.pametinc.ph

May 11, 2020

HIS EXCELLENCY RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE  
President  
Republic of the Philippines

Dear President Duterte:

The Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET), would like to extend its cordial greetings to your honorable office. PAMET is the national organization of registered Medical Technologists in the country representing almost 100,000 professional members. It is also the only Accredited Professional Organization (APO) under the Professional Regulation Commission.

Medical Technologists are the professionals who perform vital tests and analyses in clinical laboratories. They are also seen performing important examinations in research laboratories and teaching, training and supervising students in Medical Technology education programs. In the past decades, the practice of Medical Technology has evolved and expanded significantly which now include molecular and cytogenetics technologies, nuclear medicine, forensic science and perfusion among many other emerging disciplines.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Medical Technologists played very critical roles in handling numerous cases, together with other healthcare professionals. Many of them were tasked to collect samples from suspected or probable patients through swabbing oropharyngeal or nasopharyngeal specimens or through phlebotomy for blood specimens, assuring that quality tests are done and reliable results are produced. They also exercised their expertise in laboratory testing, where the rest of healthcare team relied on the test results they provide. The extent of their competence and capability cannot be underestimated. Some Medical Technologists with expertise in biosafety, biosecurity and biorisk management were also included as members of the risk assessment and validation team who evaluated laboratories being considered to be COVID-19 testing centers. **It cannot be overemphasized that as frontliners, Medical Technologists were among those who sacrificed in combatting the SARS-COV-2 virus, the causative agent of COVID-19.**

The purpose of this letter is to convey the legitimate concerns of our professionals and to seek support and assistance from the government on how such concerns may be immediately addressed.

While we commend the heroic deeds of many of our professionals, it is a sad reality that **Medical Technologists remain unnoticed and unrecognized in terms of proper compensation, benefits and protection.** In many instances, they are not even acknowledged as important members of the healthcare team. For these reasons, many of our professionals opt to leave the country and work abroad for better opportunities, while many others decide to pursue areas of practice not directly related to Medical Technology, thus, leaving a vacuum in our healthcare system. **If the government wants Medical Technologists to stay and serve the country, then, they should be properly taken care of.**

We would like to reiterate that in the efficient and effective delivery of healthcare services, there are also **MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS** who risk their health and lives just to perform the duties they sworn in.

ASEAN ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS (AACL)  
ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS (AAMLS)  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE (IFBLS)  
ASIA-PACIFIC FEDERATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE (APFCLB)  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE (IFCC)

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# PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS, INC.

Unit 1720, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cityland 10 Tower 2  
6817 Ayala Ave. North, City of Makati  
Tel No. 8817-1487 / Telefax No. 8812-0819  
www.pametine.ph

Please allow us to state and provide better perspective on some of the specific, valid and relevant concerns of Medical Technologists:

## 1. COMPENSATION

This is a major concern of our professionals both in government and private sectors. While salaries of other professions have been upgraded, that of the entry level salary of Medical Technologists remain at Salary Grade 11, the level where it was since 1989 or more than 30 years ago.

**The strong clamor is to have an entry level salary of at least Salary Grade 15, both for private and government institutions.** This appeal has been submitted and re-submitted several times through various legislative bills and position papers for many years now, but efforts remain unsuccessful. It's about time that **Medical Technologists be given the reasonable compensation they truly deserve.**

## 2. BENEFITS- Hazard Pay and Safe Working Conditions

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our professionals were called to be at the frontlines. A lot of them had to be on duty for several days, despite the high level of risks it entails, while a good number were called to be volunteers on various capacities. However, it is sad to note that many of them contracted the disease in the course of their duty, primarily due to lack of personal protection and support from different institutions.

If many of our healthcare workers get sick or do not survive the disease, just like what happened to other healthcare professionals, this will negatively affect our healthcare system and may eventually result to more complex and difficult situation, which at some instances may be irreversible.

Thus, we find it very timely and appropriate to respectfully bring these concerns to your kind attention and look into the matter very closely, so that our Medical Technologists will be extended the protection they badly need and the benefits they truly deserve.

It is in this context that **we appeal for stronger directives, intervention or legislation mandating concerned institutions to provide standardized hazard pay and full protection to Medical Technologists and other healthcare providers both in private and government sectors.** They should also be provided with safe and proper working conditions in the performance of their tasks.

## 3. PLANTILLA POSITIONS

Many of our Medical Technologists remain to be employed as **"Job order"** in different levels of government, whether national or local. While there is an effort to strengthen health human resource, this **must be complemented with employment security by creating plantilla positions to be filled up with qualified professionals.**

Due to lack of plantilla positions, our Medical Technologists, in their desire to get employment, are left with no choice but accept available lower positions such as Laboratory Technicians, even though they possess higher qualifications.

## 4. AMENDMENT OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY LAW (R.A. 5527)

Medical Technologists are strongly appealing to the government to help them pass a new law that will upgrade the practice of the profession in the country. The existing law, specifically **R.A 5527**, that governs the profession is more than 50 years old already. Many of its provisions have already reached obsolescence and no longer applicable in the present time. **The expansion of practice, the emergence of modern technologies and the demand for higher level of competencies and expertise warrant the PASSAGE OF A NEW MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY LAW.**

PAMET is confident that **positive actions and measures taken to address above-stated issues will boost the morale of our professionals.** This will also uplift their self-esteem and improve their commitment and dedication to work. Through your strong advocacy of Universal Healthcare, we are hoping that the cries of Medical Technologists will be finally heard.

It is also expected that **once proper compensation and benefits are assured and better protection is provided, many Filipino Medical Technologists will re-think their career path and consider staying to serve the country**, thus, eventually contributing to nation-building. Thank you very much and God speed.

Respectfully yours,

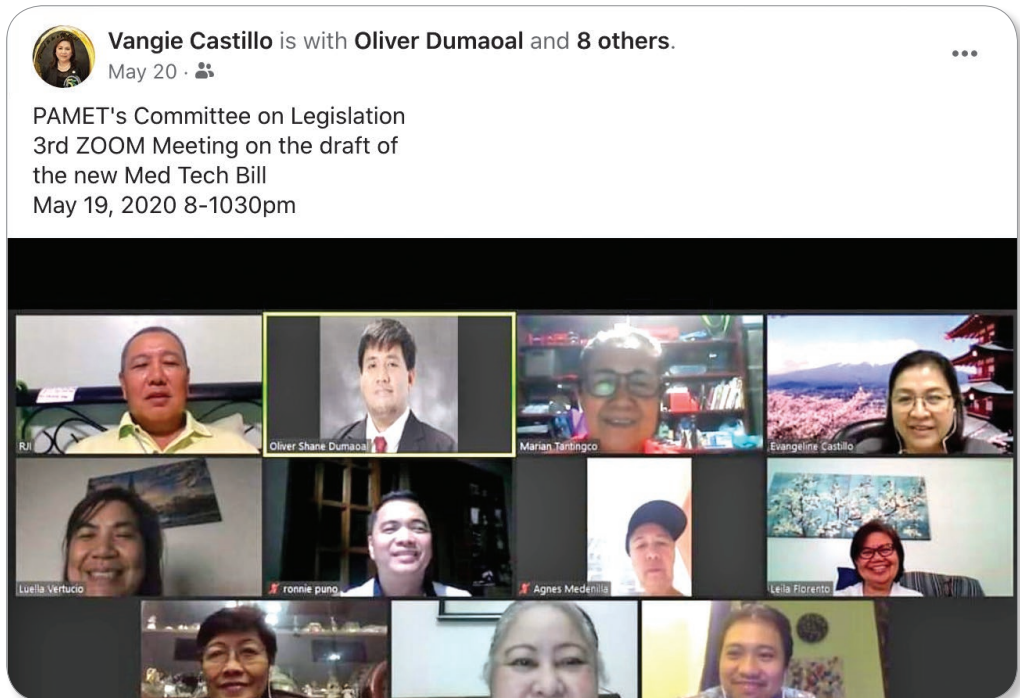
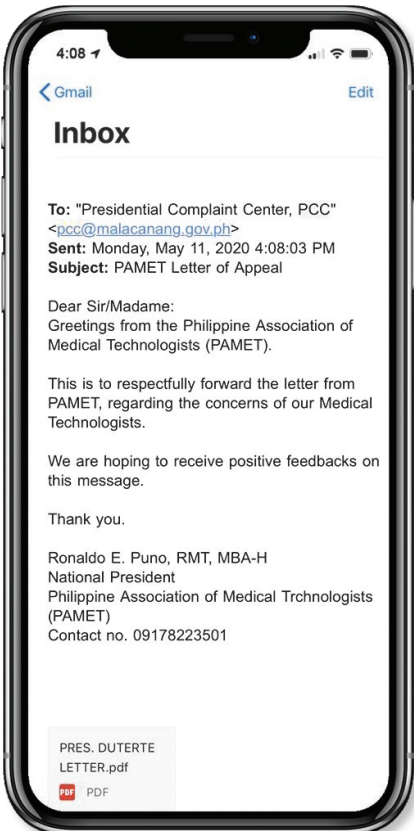
Ronaldo E. Puno, RMT, MBA-H  
National President, PAMET

ASEAN ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS (AACLs)  
ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS (AAMLS)  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE (IFBLS)  
ASIA-PACIFIC FEDERATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE (APFCLB)  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE (IFCC)

## 10th Phase: Legislation

The advent of COVID-19 opened the eyes of many legislators. It led to filing of several bills in Congress that seek to upgrade the practice and benefits of Medical Technologists in the country. The association is closely working on the final version of the new bill that would amend the R.A. 5527. In this effort, PAMET held a joint meeting with the Philippine Society of Pathologists (PSP) last February 22, 2020 to discuss salient points of the proposed bill and had the Legislation Committee Meeting last May 19, 2020 to draft the new Med Tech Bill.

PAMET is also in full support with Congressman Biazon, who filed House Bill 6766 in Congress, seeking to upgrade the salaries of health professionals especially the Medical Technologists.





# LET'S TAKE CARE OF THE CARERS

AN APPEAL FROM THE **Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET)**

The Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET) never stops to selflessly give its service and commitment to all of its members especially in this time of hardship and sacrifice. As Mr. Ronaldo Puno, PAMET's National President, said when he addressed the COVID-19 situation, "this is the best time to let the Medical Technologists and other frontliners feel that PAMET, as their mother organization, truly supports, inspires, encourages and lift their spirits in this very difficult time and crucial battle. By being strong, being united as ONE, all of us will win this war against COVID-19. Together, we can make a difference, together, we can make a better world."

## Hail to the Unsung

by: **Oliver Shane R. Dumaol**

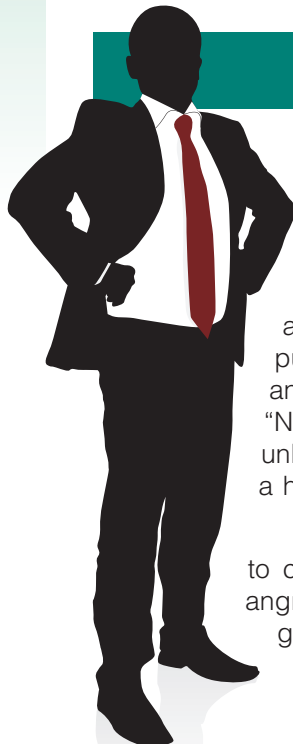
Toiling in corridors dark and dim  
Cladded in protection from head to foot  
Another COVID-19 patient to swab  
Thinking is this patient my doom at last?

Peeking silently in our scopes  
The whirl of machines in our midst  
We serve patients in sealed rooms  
Helping Physicians to diagnose

A patient's life hangs by a thread  
With every sample that we hold  
Every test result is a work of love  
It is a duty that binds us all

As this pandemic sweeps the land  
We MedTechs join the fight  
Bringing our knowledge to the fore  
As we strive to heal as one

Hail unsung heroes, hail!  
Hushed warriors seldom seen  
Rejoice as frontliners in this battle  
With our might we will win this war!



## Us, MED. TECHS:

by: **Agnes B. Medenilla**

One afternoon in my office at the hospital laboratory, I was interrupted by a loud bang which sounded like somebody gave a strong punch on the front door of our laboratory. Before I can start to investigate, the secretary was already at my door, followed by a very irate man who gave another punch at the door of my office. The secretary hurriedly left and in front of me was a tall man raising his fist and shouting "Nobody listens to me unless I make a big fuss". It seemed unbelievable! I was seeing somebody perfectly dressed like a highly-positioned executive but whose behavior did not fit.

Immediately, I requested the man to have a seat and tried to calm him down. I asked how I can help and he told me angrily that he needed his hematology report and nobody can give this to him. I told him to relax and we will remedy the situation. I called the hematology section and asked if they

>> *continued on page 18*




# PRC Grants CPD Units for MedTechs


The Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) granted all professionals, including Medical Technologists, who provides essential services during the coronavirus pandemic, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) units to renew their licenses.

With Resolution No. 1239, Series of 2020, the commission will grant 25 to 45 CPD credit units that Medical Technologists and other essential service workers can use for renewing their Professional Identification Card under the Self-Directed Learning modality.

On 2016, Republic Act 10912 or the Continuing Professional Development Act was signed into law and



Republic of the Philippines  
Professional Regulation Commission  
Manila



PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION  
**RESOLUTION NO. 1239**  
Series of 2020

**GRANTING CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT UNITS TO ALL PROFESSIONALS PROVIDING ESSENTIAL SERVICES DURING THE STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS DISEASE 2019**

**WHEREAS**, Section 6, Article II of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10912 or the "Continuing Development Act of 2016" enumerates the powers, functions and responsibilities of the Commission and the Professional Regulatory Boards, including the formulation, issuance and promulgation of guidelines and procedures for the implementation of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programs;

**WHEREAS**, due to the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) crisis, the President issued Proclamation No. 922 (s.2020) declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines and Proclamation No. 929 (s. 2020) declaring a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Secretary issued a Memorandum dated 16 March 2020 on the guidelines on the imposition of an Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) and Stringent Social Distancing Measures over the entirety of Luzon;

**WHEREAS**, Local Government Units in the Visayas and Mindanao regions have likewise imposed quarantine or lockdown measures within their respective jurisdictions through the issuance of various local Executive Orders;

**WHEREAS**, amidst this health crisis, there is a need to mobilize all resources in order to augment the potential shortage in the supply of health and other professionals, especially in COVID-19 infected localities throughout the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, during this crisis, the Commission recognizes the heroic and indispensable services that professionals have been tirelessly providing in various ways during this period;

**WHEREAS**, Section 5, Article II of R.A. No. 10912 provides for the nature of the CPD programs which includes Self- Directed Learning (SDL) and Professional Work Experience (PWE). SDL activities are those activities driven by one's need and motivation to learn either through a professional activity such as professional work experience or volunteer engagement. Professional activity promotes and facilitates enhancement of knowledge, skills and values which provides opportunities for achievement of learning outcomes, while volunteer engagement is done under the ambit of social responsibility, which may or may not directly involve the practice of profession, but may help in the development of the professional in the social milieu. On the other hand, PWE refers to any participation that a professional gains while working in a specific field and work place;

**WHEREAS**, the CPD Councils have expressed their full support to the Commission in granting CPD credit units to all professionals providing essential services during the State of Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19 crisis.

**WHEREAS**, all the Professional Regulatory Boards have likewise concurred to authorizing the grant of CPD credit units to professionals in recognition of the tasks and services provided,

PRC Building Paredes St., Sampaloc  
Manila, 1008 Philippines

[www.prc.gov.ph](http://www.prc.gov.ph)

Philippine International Convention Center  
Sotto St., Pasay City, 1307 Philippines

**RESOLUTION NO.** \_\_\_\_\_  
GRANTING CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT UNITS TO ALL PROFESSIONALS PROVIDING ESSENTIAL SERVICES DURING THE STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS DISEASE 2019

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Commission hereby **RESOLVES**, as it hereby **RESOLVED**, to **GRANT** CPD credit units to all professional providing essential services during the period of the State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines, until it is lifted, subject to the following provisions:

- 1) Professionals providing essential services during this period shall earn the following CPD credit units:

| DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Maximum CPD Credit Units that may be Granted |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Health and Emergency <b>Frontliners</b> that provided public health services [all employees of the Department of Health (DOH), DOH Hospitals, Hospitals of LGUs and Provincial, City, and Rural Health Units, and Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers including those managed by other government agencies (e.g. police and military hospitals/clinics, university medical facilities), uniformed medical personnel], private health workers, such as but not limited to medical professionals, hospital and health facility administrative and maintenance staff, and aides from private health facilities, as well as their service providers, health workers and volunteers of the Philippine Red Cross and the World Health Organization, and the employees of Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs), the Philippines Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC), disaster risk reduction management officers, and public safety officers. <sup>1</sup><br><br>Researchers and scientists who developed testing kits, professionals who designed/constructed accommodations for suspected, probable and confirmed COVID-19 patients and health care workers, disinfection chambers and adapted medical equipment such as ventilators and aerosol boxes.<br><br>Vital Goods and Services Providers who provided health and social services to secure the safety and well-being of persons, such as but not limited to, food, water, medicine, medical devices, public utilities, energy and others as may be determined by the IATF. <sup>2</sup> | 45                                           |
| Volunteer professionals who offered services during this COVID – 19 crisis, including but not limited to, answering queries about COVID-19, online consultation, public health education and other activities directly related to their profession.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 25                                           |

<sup>1</sup> Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, April 29, 2020  
<sup>2</sup> Ibid



# and Other Professional Frontliners

required all professionals to earn a specific number of units before they renew their licenses. These credit units were usually acquired through development programs, such as seminars, workshops, graduate studies, online courses, and the like.

To apply for this CPD grant, PRC requires all professionals to submit either Certification from Institution/Agency/Entity form or their own Declaration form as proof of their service during the State of Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19.

The full copy of PRC Resolution No. 1239 below.

**RESOLUTION NO.**  
GRANTING CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
CREDIT UNITS TO ALL PROFESSIONALS PROVIDING ESSENTIAL  
SERVICES DURING THE STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY  
DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS DISEASE 2019

Volunteer professionals who **responded** and participated in Social Responsibility (CSR) programs / projects, whether in their personal capacity or through organizations, who collected, packed and distributed medical supplies and masks or personal protective equipment (PPE) to hospitals/ medical facilities, and distributed food to frontliners serving in hospitals/medical facilities and security check points.

- 2) As proof of the services rendered, all covered professionals shall submit either a Certification from Institution/Agency/Entity (Annex "A") or own Declaration (Annex "B"), as may be applicable.
- 3) Professionals can only use this activity for the Professional Identification Card (PIC) renewal by applying the same under Self-Directed Learning (SDL) modality. However for this purpose the prescribed fee is deemed waived. Credit units earned may be used for two (2) consecutive renewal cycles.
- 4) Professionals, on the appointed date of the release of PIC, shall proceed to the venue chosen to claim it. Upon presentation of the above stated documents and the other requirements for renewal, their PICs shall be released.
- 5) The SDL applications shall be subject to evaluation by the concerned CPD Council within fifteen (15) working days from receipt. The Council may request for additional supporting documents from the applicant if deemed warranted.
- 6) The CPD Councils shall issue their respective advisories to assist and guide the applicants on the award of CPD credit units.
- 7) Professionals who opt to apply the said CPD activities for consideration under the Career Progression and Specialization Program, shall submit the learning outcomes thereof to the concerned CPD Council for evaluation and recognition. The CPD Council may consider the learning outcomes derived from professional experiences during the COVID-19 crisis as part of the requirements for the said program.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately, copy furnished the U.P. Law Center.

Done this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020 in Manila, Philippines.

**TEOFILO S. PILANDO, JR.**  
Chairman

**YOLANDA D. REYES**  
Commissioner

**JOSE Y. CUETO, JR.**  
Commissioner



Republic of the Philippines  
Professional Regulation Commission  
Manila



Annex "B"

CPD COUNCIL OF/FOR \_\_\_\_\_

**DECLARATION**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, of legal age, with address at \_\_\_\_\_, and applicant for Continuing Professional Development credit units, hereby declare and say that:

1. I am a registered/licensed \_\_\_\_\_ with Professional Identification Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ issued on \_\_\_\_\_;
2. During the State of Public Health Emergency brought about by the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), I was assigned / rendered my services as \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ (place) from \_\_\_\_\_ (period) \_\_\_\_\_;
3. As such, (please provide details) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. As proof of the said services, attached hereto is the Certification in connection therewith from the institution/agency/entity and/or pictures during the actual activities.
5. I hereby attest that all information stated herein are correct and complete, and that the document/s submitted herewith are true, valid and genuine. I am aware that any false information or fraudulent document provided may cause the denial of this application, or the withdrawal of CPD credit units if already given, as well as appropriate administrative or criminal charges.

This \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature over printed name

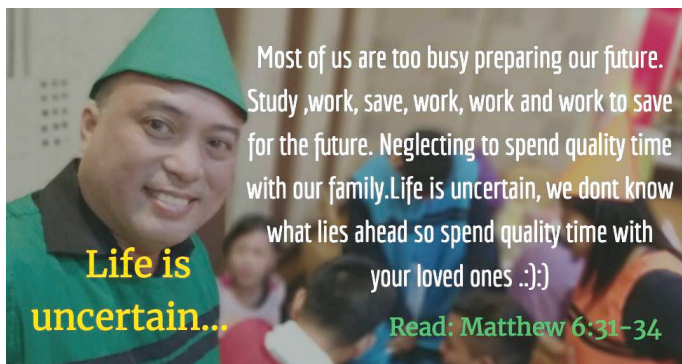
\*Applicant may provide additional information/documents should he/she wishes to do so



# TRANSITION



**ARNOLD BILLONES** was a colleague and a friend. We started our friendship during BD days. We had out of town trips and shared personal stories, this continued when he decided to join me at Sysmex where he became the Director of Customer Care. He contributed so much to the success of the organization. His hard work and dedication was well appreciated not only locally but internationally.



Albert Einstein said *"The value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not what he is able to receive"*

Sadness fills our hearts deep and personal. Arnold Billones closed the door of life

and left us silently. We will miss a man who was very religious vibrant, energetic, passionate and intelligent. A man who was genuinely warm and wonderful person, and most of all a loyal colleague and dear friend! Arnold Billones sacrificed a lot for a other people specially his family that he forgot he has a life too! Good bye my dear friend, you are now in a better place, rest peacefully! We will pray for you!

By **Romeo Joseph J. Ignacio**  
Country Manager, Sysmex Philippines

**Zykhari Tesalona Batulan** – Angeles early demise brought a surprise to the PAMET Community. She served as one of the experts in the Specialty Group of the organization and shared her knowledge and expertise in the field of Clinical Microscopy. She succumbed to death due to colon cancer on June 17, 2020. She was 33 years old.



**Zorahaida Ayson** - Cinco worked as a Medical Technologist III at Manila Health Department for over 30 years. She was a swabber, transporter, extractor and analyst before her untimely death due to COVID-19 on July 19, 2020. She was a member of the Committee on Laboratory Management and belonged to PAMET-Cluster 3 - Manila. She was a graduate of Far Eastern University NRMF, Class of 1986.



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can immediately procure a copy of the result from the computer. When the medical technologist brought the report, the man said "So it was there, that's why nobody can find the report". It took some time to explain that it was a duplicate copy of the computer report. He sobered up after a while and calmed down. Fortunately, he did not ask what happened to the original report because that could be a bigger scenario. After reading the hematology results, he appeared to be satisfied with his values falling within normal reference ranges. With a lower voice, he managed to say thank you and prepared to leave. Before closing the door of my office, however, I saw what seemed to be a shadow of a smile on his face and I took the chance of saying "Just don't

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as the resource persons with the lectures on pre-analytic, analytic and post-analytic aspect of RT-PCR respectively. In the pre-analytic phase, the focus was on the technical guidance on sample collection and acceptance criteria, worksheet preparation, sample inactivation and RNA extraction and reagent preparation. Also Ms. Dayrit discussed the needed biosafety measures in setting up the molecular laboratory. While in the analytical phase, Dr. Ted discussed in detail the actual testing of the RT-PCR including the technical guidance in the application of PCR techniques, designing the primers, probes, mastermix, fluorophores and quenchers; the process that is happening inside the reaction tube and running the thermocycler. In the post-analytic aspect, Dr. Hosmillo, talked about the quality control, running validations, data interpretation and analysis, and the limit of the test.

give me a big hole on my office door next time". He made a smirk but finally gave a real smile and a "thumbs up".

Barely after the man left, there was a call from a secretary from a doctor's clinic. She related how rude the man was. Before going to the laboratory, he almost broke the door of their clinic when he was unable to get his hematology report. She told me the original report was not in their file.

### ANALYSIS:

Us, med. techs meet all kinds of personalities in our daily work. We were trained to handle unusual situations and in this particular incident, we were able to cope up. Nevertheless, we know that on analysis, we can see that there was something wrong. "Where was the original patient's copy?" Such violent reaction from a patient/companion will not happen if the original report was available per

procedure either at the doctor's clinic or at the laboratory reception office. The inability of the secretary at the doctor's clinic and the secretary of the laboratory to hand in the original report triggered the incident. Regardless of the condition of a patient/companion, availability of a laboratory test result at the time and place it is expected for pick-up could satisfy or delight him. Upon investigation of this case, the doctor's secretary said neither did she pick up the report from the laboratory nor was it delivered to their office so the report should be in the laboratory office. The laboratory secretary said the patient's copy and the doctor's copy were given to the doctor's office. Both cannot show their evidences/ computer records /logbook /records of claims. This incident became the basis of the revision of the laboratory's system for a better, fool- proof procedure of documentation, issuance, handling, distribution of doctor's copy, patient's

copy and laboratory copy of reports which is a very important procedure of the Laboratory Department.

### PROFESSIONAL SUGGESTIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS:

Review, improve, and check if existing policies, procedures, documentations and implementation on delivery/ transmission of laboratory reports can prevent an incident like this from happening. Most importantly, the objectives and significance of procedures must be inculcated in the minds and hearts of personnel involved.



For the last session the resource speaker, Ms. Geraldine B. Dayrit, RMT, MS, DRDM, PhD(c), focused her discussion on the workflow that should be done by the medical technologist in performing the assay. She also emphasized that the medical technologists are in the best position in doing the RT-PCR testing because of the highly technical skills required in order achieved quality assays and give accurate and precise results.

All three webinar sessions were immediately followed by an online post-evaluation and the post-test. The participants must garner a score of at least 60% in the post-test to merit an e-certificate with a single attempt. The webinar series was granted by the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) through the Council for Medical Technology with two (2) CPD units for each session. A total of 6 CPD units were given to the participants who were able to attend the three sessions and passed the post-test.

This very successful webinar is a first for PAMET and definitely will not be its last, as the trend now leans towards online and web-based learning and interaction. Future online modules and workshops are underway as PAMET's Nation President, Mr. Ronaldo E. Puno, RMT, MBA-H, initiates these plans together with the Committee on CPD, chaired by Dr. Leila Lany M. Florento, RMT, PhD, and the Committee on e-Learning and Social Media Communications, chaired by Mr. Oliver Shane R. Dumaoal, RMT, MSMT, CBO, IFBA-PC who works immensely on this matter.

## FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

- How will I know if I am admitted to the webinar?**  
You will receive an email of confirmation on or before May 21 if you are admitted to the webinar.
- I did not receive a confirmation email. Can I still join the webinar?**  
Yes! The webinar will be streamed to the Facebook page of PAMET.
- I received a confirmation email. How do I join the webinar?**  
On the day of the webinar, go to your confirmation email and click the [Click Here to Join](#). Please join 10-15 minutes early.
- I will join the webinar thru the streaming in Facebook. Will I get an e-certificate?**  
No. E-certificates are not eligible for this mode of participation.
- Are there assigned CPD units for this webinar?**  
As of the moment, this webinar has no CPD units. You may apply it however for self-directed learning.
- Are you still accepting registrants for the webinar?**  
We have closed the admittance of registrants due to the limits of our online platform. As mentioned however, you can still join the webinar thru Facebook streaming.
- Will I get an e-certificate for this webinar?**  
Yes. Link to the post-test will be flashed at the end of the webinar. You need to get a score of at least 60% in the post-test to merit an e-certificate. It will be sent to you thru email.



**GET IN TOUCH:**

[FB/pametinc.org](https://www.facebook.com/pametinc.org) [pamet.elearning@gmail.com](mailto:pamet.elearning@gmail.com)

PAMET Committee on e-Learning and Social Media Communications



With the new policies set by the Philippine government due to the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals are advised to stay inside their homes and avoid public mass gatherings, including having seminars and workshops. Despite this adversity, PAMET rise up to the challenge and continue to serve its members by giving away free online seminars with approved CPD units.

This webinar is a 3-part online seminar designed to improve the competency of medical technologists on PCR-based assays for COVID-19. It was offered last May 23, May 25 and June 6 with the following topics, Introduction to Molecular Biology, Molecular Biology in Action (RT-PCR), and Online Demonstration of COVID-19 Testing (RT-PCR) respectively. The seminar was able to reach 1,000 PAMET members per session thru the Zoom application and was also streamed live thru the PAMET official facebook page.

## from Seminars to Webinars



In the first session of the webinar series, the resource persons were Ms. Geraldine B. Dayrit, RMT, MS, DRDM, PhD(c), Mr. Tomasz H. Benedyk, MS, Dr. Ted M. Fajardo Jr., PhD, and Dr. Kinda

Alshaikhahmed, PhD, This session talked about the COVID-19 setting in the Philippines focusing on current situation of COVID-19 testing including the platforms, regulations, challenges and its limitation in the country. Also the fundamentals of Molecular Biology were discussed including the process of replication, transcription and cell function as well as the central dogma for molecular biology. Dr. Ted Fajardo discussed the viruses at the molecular level and its interaction with the human as the host, emphasizing on corona virus, the structure and its role in molecular based assay. And the last topic was all about PCR, the different formats such as RT-PCR and QRT-PCR and its roles. Also the concepts of amplification of DNA using PCR technology was given emphasize.

The second session was enjoyed by Ms. Geraldine B. Dayrit, RMT, MS, DRDM, PhD(c), Dr. Ted M. Fajardo Jr., PhD, and Dr. Myra Hosmillo, PhD

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**PAMET Free Webinar Series**  
**ENHANCING THE COMPETENCIES OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS ON QUALITY RT-PCR TESTING FOR COVID-19**

|                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>SESSION 1</b></p> <p>May 23, 2020<br/>06:00pm-08:00pm (PST)</p> <p><b>INTRODUCTION TO MOLECULAR BIOLOGY</b></p> | <p><b>SESSION 2</b></p> <p>May 25, 2020<br/>06:00pm-08:00pm (PST)</p> <p><b>MOLECULAR BIOLOGY IN ACTION (RT-PCR)</b></p> | <p><b>SESSION 3</b></p> <p>To Be Announced<br/>06:00pm-08:00pm (PST)</p> <p><b>ONLINE DEMONSTRATION OF COVID-19 TESTING (RT-PCR)</b></p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### INTRODUCTION

Free online learning organized by PAMET! This is a 3-part webinar designed to improve the competency of medical technologists on PCR-based assays for COVID-19. Slots are limited. Only those who registered for the first session will be given access for the succeeding sessions. For those who will be able to register, you will receive e-certificates per session upon satisfactorily completing the webinar and passing the post-test with a score of at least 60%. For those who will not be able to register, the webinar will be streamed in the Facebook page of PAMET (FB/pametinc.org). However, no certificates will be issued. There are no CPD credits applied for this webinar but you may apply it under self-directed learning.

### REGISTRATION

You need a Zoom account for this webinar. To register, go to this link:

» [http://tiny.cc/pamet\\_elearning01](http://tiny.cc/pamet_elearning01)

**PAMET Free Webinar Series**  
**ENHANCING THE COMPETENCIES OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS ON QUALITY RT-PCR TESTING FOR COVID-19**  
 Session 1: May 23 | Session 2: May 25 | Session 3: TBA

### RESOURCE SPEAKERS



**Ted M. Fajardo Jr., PhD**  
 Senior Executive Officer/Healthcare Scientist Team Manager  
 UK National External Quality Assurance Service, Public Health England  
 London, United Kingdom



**Myra Hosmillo, PhD**  
 Postdoctoral Fellow  
 Division of Virology, Department of Pathology  
 University of Cambridge, United Kingdom



**Kinda Alshaikhahmed, PhD**  
 Research Fellow, Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases  
 Department of Infection Biology, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine  
 London, United Kingdom



**Tomasz H. Benedyk, MS**  
 PhD Candidate (Final Year)  
 Department of Pathology, Division of Virology  
 University of Cambridge, United Kingdom



**Geraldine B. Dayrit, RMT, MS, DRDM, PhD(candidate)**  
 Assistant Professor  
 Department of Medical Microbiology, College of Public Health  
 University of the Philippines Manila

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