

IN THESE PANDEMIC TIMES...

SPU Manila Represents NCR in DOST Research-Backed Policymaking Competition

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The Paulinian

17 MARCH 2021 (WEDNESDAY) | 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
VIA ZOOM WEBINAR AND FACEBOOK LIVE
REGISTRATION LINK: bit.ly/3MPCCompetition2021

LIST OF COMPETITORS

Competitor No.	Region	Name	Title of Policy Pitch	Research Project	Target Audience
1	Region IV-A	Dr. Bela P. Magnaye	No Plastic, No Risk	Impact of "No Plastic Policy" in CALABARZON Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGU officials • Community people
2	CARAGA	Ms. Leila A. Ombat	Philippine Traditional Healthcare Knowledge and Practices: The Vanishing Treasures	Documentation of Philippine Traditional Knowledge and Practices on Health and Development of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library on Health of Butuanon in Butuan City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Directors of DENR and DOH • Butuan City Mayor • President of Liga ng mga Punong Barangay – Butuan Chapter
3	Region V	Prof. Mary Joy B. Sande	Antenatal Care: Every Pregnant Mother's Right for Quality Care	Utilization and Implementation of Antenatal Care Services in Iriga City and Tabaco City	Regional Director of DOH-CHD Region V
4	Region III	Mr. Noriel P. Calaguas	9 Ways to Improve Gay and Bi Men's HIV Testing Rates	Structural Factors Affecting Filipino Men who have sex with Men's Intent to Use HIV Testing Services	Secretary of Health as the Chairman of the Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC)
5	NCR	Dr. Brian Bantugan	To See is To Act	From Visualization to Exhibition to Action: Provoking Action on Mental Health Issues through a Photo Exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School administrators • Guidance Counselors • Student Services Heads • Heads of CHED and DepEd • DOH Secretary • City Mayors • Parents

With the aim of cultivating academic presentation and research communication skills, the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD) conducted a 3-Minute Pitch to Policymakers Competition on March 17, 2021, held via Zoom and Facebook live.

The competition was participated in by 12 representatives from different regions of the Philippines. Each of the presenters was given three minutes to present a policy that is related to their accomplished study.

Among the competitors was Dr. Brian Bantugan, Director of the Center for Research, Innovation, and Development (CRID) of St. Paul University Manila (SPU Manila), who represented the National Capital Region (NCR).

Dr. Bantugan introduced his "To See Is To Act" policy, a program that focuses on providing public spaces that encourage interactions with people experiencing mental health

troubles. He based this policy on his previous research titled "From Visualization to Exhibition to Action: Provoking Action on Mental Health Issues through a Photo Exhibition," wherein he studied if photographs can help address mental well-being issues.

"Every institution should have a public space where the people who are marginalized and people who can help them can actually have a conversation. Therefore, the stigma attached to hiding mental illness into private spaces will be modified, will become more normalized, and the people will not be embarrassed about what they are feeling or experiencing," Dr. Bantugan said in his 3-minute pitch.

The NCR representative capped his presentation by emphasizing the need for policies instituting spaces of discussion, support, and empathy.

"They need to have these spaces for their own mental health because what happens on the outside transforms them on the inside," said Dr. Bantugan.

Dr. Bantugan managed to place fifth in the poll for the People's Choice Award by garnering 5.1% of the votes.

Meanwhile, Region 3's Mr. Noriel Calaguas placed third in the overall competition award with his policy "9 Ways to Improve Gay and Bi Men's HIV Testing Rates."

A policy advocating for better pre-natal service for pregnant people titled "Antenatal Care: Every Pregnant Mother's Right for Quality Care," presented by Dr. Mary Joy Sande, Region 5's delegate got 2nd place.

Region 10's representative, Dr. Gina S. Itchon, topped the 3-Minute Pitch to Policymakers Competition. She presented a policy entitled "The Web-GRD Project Helping LGUs Make Better and Faster Decisions during Emergency," a program that intends to develop a decision support tool.

3-Minute Pitch to Policymakers Competition is part of the DOST-PCHRD's 39th anniversary celebration, with the theme "Strategic R&D Partnership for Global Health."

AND THE SAGA CONTINUES...

From time to time, we feature achievements of children of our alumnae who have excelled in their chosen fields.

This issue, we feature a grandchild of an alumna, Imogene Benitez-Usison (HS 1965)—Dinea Usison, a champion gymnast in Canada.

Members of the Surrey Gymnastics Society recently competed virtually during the 2021 Twisters Invitational: "A Stream of Champions" event.

In the Junior Olympic Level 2 group, 11 young gymnasts "absolutely dominated the field.

Ayia Punzalan, Dinea Usison, and Silinna Lu all secured the all-around title in their age groups. Ayia and Dinea both secured 9.9 (out of 10) on the floor.

