

PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF TRADITIONAL AND ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CARE
CY 2023 MAJOR PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

| Major Final Output | | Programs and Projects | Other Details |
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| Research and Development Division | | Cluster 1 Documentation of our cultural heritage on the Philippine Traditional Medicine (PTM) | |
| | 1 | DOH Approved Herbal Medicines: The Next 10 Halamang Gamot | Ongoing. The objective of the study is to validate the various pharmacologic activities of chosen medicinal plants through preclinical research in order to pursue clinical research so that they can be included in the next 10 Halamang gamot to be endorsed by the Department of Health (DOH). |
| | 2 | Herbal Medicine Access through Community Herbal Gardens: A Pilot Study | Ongoing. The study aims to develop propagation protocols and production systems for 18 medicinal plants that can be propagated through sexual (seed) or asexual (vegetative) means. The study will utilize the collections of these plants from a previous project in collaboration with PITACH (2015-2022). Field trials will be conducted for both sexually and asexually propagated plants, while hydroponic propagation experiments will be carried out for plants that are difficult to propagate, such as tawa-tawa, takip-kuhol, pansit-pansitan, and yerba buena. The study will also provide training to local residents in Culion and Taytay, Palawan, to establish community healing gardens and ensure the sustainable availability of medicinal plants. Furthermore, the project aims to produce information bulletins in English and translate them into the local dialect to disseminate the research results and other information about each medicinal plant to a wider audience. The study addresses the need to develop efficient propagation and production methods for selected medicinal plants and capacity development for establishing community healing gardens. |
| | 3 | Healing Interventions from Local Traditions: A Program to Implement a National Standard (HILOT-PINAS) | Ongoing. The project aims to conduct focused ethnography on selected major Hilot hubs in the country to document their practices, values, history, and associated health-disease context. The information that will be gathered through this cultural mapping can be helpful in creating guidelines to further the acknowledgment, adoption, and application of Hilot practices in the nation's healthcare systems. The research also intends to produce a handbook on Hilot practices and practitioners that could aid in the policy formulation of organizations like the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation and the Philippine Health Technology Assessment Council. By embracing Hilot as a complementary therapy, particularly in underserved areas, this project contributes to the goal of achieving universal health coverage. |

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| | 4 | A Descriptive Study of Six (6) Sacred Healing Places in Visayas | Ongoing. The study has two specific objectives: firstly, to identify the categories of belief systems associated with the sacred healing places, and secondly, to describe the sacred healing places that represent the major belief system categories. The description of these places will include their geographical, ecological, and socio-cultural attributes, as well as details about their ownership, management, protection, preservation, conservation mechanics, and current economic value, such as tourism or products. |
| | 5 | Development, Printing, and Publication of "A Listing of Medicinal Plants or COVID-19 for Community Use" | Ongoing. The book" unveils nature's remedies from the Philippines. Amid global pandemic threats, history highlights the potency of plants against outbreaks such as SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV. The Philippines' flora brims with various compounds that are found effective against diverse viruses. The phytochemicals present from these medicinal plants combat viruses and boosts immunity. These plants offer hope for novel antiviral approaches by introducing their unique biochemical properties to develop targeted therapies that can disrupt viral replication and infection processes. By navigating virus structures, this study charts intervention paths, from immune boosters to vaccines. This will also aid in the development of specific phytochemicals from medicinal plants as immunomodulatory agents that can be used as either therapeutics or adjuvants. Amid cost-effectiveness needs, a roadmap emerges guided by strict criteria. This will further strengthen medicinal plants as accessible, and with evidence of antiviral attributes. A call echoes for clinical research and standardized formulations. 'Antiviral & Immunomodulatory Philippine Medicinal Plants' charts nature's resilience, guiding through health's new imperatives. |
| | | Cluster 3: Clinical Research of T&CM Modalities | |
| | 6 | Development of CPGs for T&CM modalities and evidence for HTAC evaluation | Ongoing. The objective of this research project is to evaluate the effectiveness of Chiropractic Manipulation Therapy (CMT) when combined with standard medical care for adults suffering from chronic non-specific low back pain. The specific objectives include describing the socio-demographic profile of recruited participants, assessing baseline characteristics related to pain level, range of motion, and treatment satisfaction, determining health outcomes post-treatment (including quality of life), and comparing the efficacy of CMT with standard care alone. The study aims to enhance pain management, functional mobility, and overall well-being for individuals with chronic low back pain. |
| | | Cluster 5: Socio-Cultural Research | |
| | 7 | Survey on the Utilization of Traditional and Complementary Medicine (T&CM) as Alternative Health Care Strategies among Filipino Households | Ongoing. The goal of this research is to investigate the prevalence and utilization patterns of Traditional, Alternative, and Complementary Medicine (T&CM) products, practices, and practitioners in the Philippines. The specific objectives include assessing the prevalence of T&CM use among Filipinos, identifying factors associated with T&CM utilization, distinguishing various utilization patterns, and understanding the factors influencing these patterns. By achieving these objectives, we aim to enhance our understanding of T&CM practices and inform healthcare policies and interventions. |

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| | | Cluster 6 Knowledge Management | |
| | 8 | TaMaHRRiND (Traditional Medicine Health Records and Reports in the National Government Databases): Developing an Electronic Medical Record (EMR) Prototype for Traditional Medicine/Complementary and Alternative Medicine (TM/CAM) in the Philippines | Ongoing. The research aims to design and create a prototype Electronic Medical Record (EMR) specifically for Traditional Medicine/Complementary and Alternative Medicine (T&CM). Leveraging the eHATID LGU technology from Ateneo de Manila University-Institute of Philippine Culture (ADMU-IPC) and the Department of Science and Technology, Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD), the project intends to develop a T&CM EMR system. This system will serve as a pilot for recording and reporting T&CM data related to PITAHC research and development priorities. The policy frameworks of the Philippine Health Information Exchange (PHIE) and the National Health Data Repository Framework under the Universal Health Care (UHC) will guide the implementation of this project. The specific objectives include reviewing existing retrospective studies, adapting existing eHATID LGU EMR modules, revising the software to create the "TaMa App," deploying it for data collection, conducting a retrospective study, and providing policy recommendations for the TaMaHRRiND application. |
| | 9 | Feasibility study and marketing research for Development of PITAHC e-reference materials | Ongoing. The research aims to assess the feasibility of creating and maintaining electronic reference materials for TCM healthcare. This involves evaluating technical, financial, and organizational aspects, as well as legal considerations. Additionally, the study will explore potential revenue sources and identify target audiences. Marketing research will analyze market trends, competitors, pricing strategies, and effective distribution channels. |