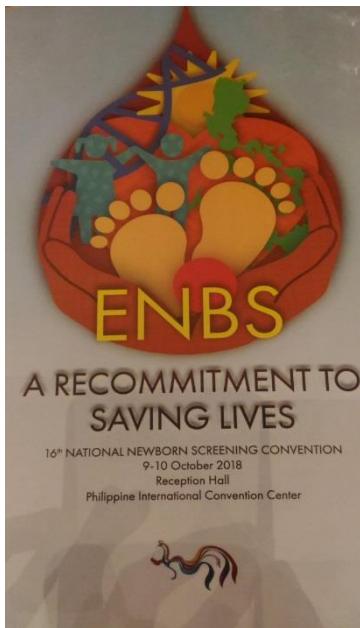




UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MANILA
The Health Sciences Center

16th National Newborn Screening Convention “ENBS: A Recommitment to Saving Lives” (9-10 October 2018)



About 2000 convention delegates from different parts of the country convened at the recently concluded **16th National Newborn Screening Convention** held at the Philippine International Convention Center (Pasay City) on 9-10 October 2018, a few days after the celebration of the National Newborn Screening Week. This year's two-day convention, with the theme “**ENBS: A Recommitment to Saving Lives,**” offered participants a total of 14 plenary sessions and two simultaneous presentations.

The Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines, Inc. (NSSPI) and the Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC), National Institutes of Health, University of the Philippines Manila organized this year's convention. The annual convention, held every October, aims to provide excellent opportunities to health professionals and newborn screening advocates to obtain information about latest development in the program and

competencies in managing the disorders included in the expanded newborn screening panel.

NSSPI President Neal Orteza and Over-all Chair of the Organizing Committee Maria Melanie Liberty Alcausin headed the convention. Keynote speakers at this year's National Conference included Health Secretary Francisco Duque (represented by Assistant Health Secretary Maria Rosario Vergeire), and National Institutes of Health (NIH) Executive Director Eva Cutiongco-de la Paz. A roster of distinguished speakers and resource persons joined Vergeire and de la Paz, namely: Dr. Mary Antonette Remonte, Millennium Development Goals Team Leader of the PHIC; Dr. Rodolfo Antonio Albornoz, Disease Prevention and Control Bureau OIC-Director; Ma. Elouisa Reyes, NSRC Program Support Unit Head; Dr. Renilyn Reyes, Western Visayas Regional Newborn Screening Program Manager; Dr. Cynthia Marissa Clemente, Cardinal Santos Medical Center NBS Coordinator; Dr. Anna Lea Elizaga, Newborn Screening Center–National Institutes of Health Unit Head; Dr. Maria Melanie Liberty Alcausin, NSRC Long Term Follow up Coordinator; Dr. Carmencita Padilla, UP Manila Chancellor and NSSPI Founding President; Annamarie Saarinen, Newborn Foundation Chief Executive Officer; Dr. Ephraim Neal Orteza, NSSPI President; Dr. Maria Beatriz Gepte, G6PD Deficiency Expert Committee Chair; Dr. Reynaldo de Castro, Hemoglobinopathies Expert Committee Chair; Dr. Mary Ann Abacan, Metabolic Disorders Expert Committee Member; Dr. Leniza de Castro-Hamoy, Geneticist at the Institute of Human Genetics; Dr. Mary Anne Chiong, Metabolic Disorders Expert Committee Chair; Yugie Caroline Demegillo, NSC-Visayas Program Manager; Dr. Florencio Dizon, NSRC Quality Assurance Consultant; Jerome R. Comelio,

NSC-Central Luzon Laboratory Manager; Dr. Sylvia Estrada, NSRC Consultant; Dr. Karen June Ventilacion, Region 6 Newborn Screening Continuity Clinic Follow up Head; and Dr. Anthony Calibo, OIC-Division Chief, Children's Health Development Division, DPCB-DOH.

Topics included plenary sessions on the following: updates of NBS; Roadmap of NBS from the DOH perspective; PhilHealth newborn care package and other benefits; role of the NSRC; and, translating policy into practice from the DOH regional office, newborn screening facility, newborn screening center, and continuity clinic perspectives. Global trends on expanded NBS, critical congenital heart disease screening, G6PD deficiency management and alpha thalassemia management were also discussed. A discussion on the different disorders such as fatty acid oxidation, organic acid, and amino acid disorders was also done. Collaborative management for optimal patient care outcomes, Rare Disease Law, and integration of the ENBS and rare diseases in child health nutrition programs were also part of the plenary sessions. Simultaneous sessions included administrative management of the NBS Program, enhancing quality newborn care and quality testing, and clinical scenarios.

This year's convention was co-presented by the PerkinElmer and supported by United Laboratories and all the Newborn Screening Centers in the country. # # #



(L-R): UP Manila Vice-Chancellor for Research and NIH Executive Director Eva Maria Cutiongco - de la Paz, UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla, DOH Assistant Secretary Maria Rosario Vergeire, Disease Prevention and Control Bureau OIC-Director Rodolfo Antonio Alborno and NSSPI President Ephraim Neal Orteza during the ribbon cutting ceremonies



G6PD Deficiency Expert Committee Chair Maria Beatriz Gepte and Hemoglobinopathies Expert Committee Chair Reynaldo de Castro respond to the queries of the participants during the open forum.



UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla addresses the query on family history of patients with MSUD.



Annamarie Saarinen, Newborn Foundation Chief Executive Officer, presents the trends on critical congenital heart diseases (CCHD) screening via pulse oximetry and its advantages.



Regional Newborn Screening Program Managers and Coordinators are well represented during the 16th Annual Convention.