

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Maria Eliza Ruiz Aguila, PhD

- Professor of the Department of Physical Therapy of the University of the Philippines (UP) College of Allied Medical Professions (CAMP)
- Has served the University for 26 years and performed leadership and administrative roles at the College and University levels from 1995 to present, including Chairperson of the Department of Physical Therapy, College Secretary, Director of UP Manila Interactive Learning Center, Assistant to the Chancellor for Special Academic Projects, and currently, Dean

HIGHLIGHTS OF LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Dean.** Provided direction for the College by clarifying priority areas and action plans for 2018–2021, toward positioning the College as an influencer of health and education through teaching, research, and public service work. Key accomplishments of the College centered on providing more service and training to reach more stakeholders, including professionals and the general public; reviewing and revising undergraduate and graduate curricula; institutionalizing two College research interest groups and initiating more collaborative research projects; enhancing the quality of processes and efficiency of operations; enhancing competencies of faculty and administrative staff through mentoring, enrolment in graduate programs, and participation in training courses; engaging the faculty, staff, students, and alumni in the tactical planning and in other projects; providing support for personal and other needs of CAMP constituents such as the laptop donation drive; and improving our physical space through reorganization and decluttering of the building, clinic renovations, new equipment and elevator, and construction of additional floors. The latter part of the term focused on *CAMPtinuation*, a phased approach to recalibrating, refocusing, and restructuring priorities and processes amid the pandemic and in preparing for the transition to a post-pandemic environment. The College ensured continuing pursuit of its mission and minimizing disruptions, while managing risks and responding to the needs of CAMP constituents and the communities we serve,
- **Graduate Programs Committee Chair.** Supported the graduate programs of the College to ensure excellent academic training of graduate students and efficient academic and administrative operations; planned actions to improve the profile of the College as a graduate college by ensuring good student experience and devising strategies for effective and targeted recruitment of students, including conducting research, and evaluation of existing programs
- **Director, UPM Interactive Learning Center (ILC).** Led the ILC in providing resources and services for faculty to enhance teaching-learning processes using information technology and ensure engagement of students in the learning process; presented faculty workshops, acquired hardware and software on the use of information and communication technology, facilitated access to online materials, and provided curricular and instructional advice to faculty; reviewed and revised the mission, vision, values statement, and specific functions of the Center, considering its mandate and resource capabilities
- **Assistant to the Chancellor for Special Academic Projects.** Participated in the planning, implementation and/or evaluation of specific academic projects of UP Manila, including the conduct of the Internal Academic Assessment System, design and implementation of an orientation program on academic roles, policies and procedures for new UP Manila faculty, creation of a revised UPM Catalog of Information, proposal of new and review of existing Revitalized General Education Program courses, consideration of the peer review program for faculty performance, and evaluation of practicum course
- **College Secretary.** Introduced initiatives beyond the terms in its job description to ensure equitable and homogeneous assignment of workload to faculty and improve efficiency and effectiveness of academic and administrative operations; for example, monitored committee assignments and extension activities of faculty, streamlined scheduling of classes and other activities and use of rooms and equipment, collated information for faculty portfolio, developed database on academic information, created a standard faculty and first year student orientations
- **Department Chairperson, Department of Physical Therapy.** Led the Department in pursuit of academic excellence, efficient and effective operations, and implementation of College and University policies that ultimately resulted in the revision of the BS Physical Therapy program; ensured the smooth run of course offerings, developed the best possible faculty workload, planned faculty development activities, and initiated a system for vigilant monitoring of students' academic progress and corresponding remedial or preventive actions

- **President, Philippine Physical Therapy Association.** Led efforts to elevate practice standards for Filipino physical therapists, increase public awareness on physical therapy, and make physical therapy accessible to the public; organized and directed actions that resulted in the declaration of National Physical Therapy Day on September 8 of each year (Presidential Order No. 15) which advanced public awareness on physical therapy and a sense of oneness among physical therapists; the formulation of Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy in the Philippines, updated Code of Ethics and revised constitution and by-laws of the Association; proposed revision to the antiquated Republic Act 5680, The Philippine Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Law, to make the law congruent with current practice context; establishment of Special Interest Groups; conceptualization and publication of ImPeTus, the first scientific journal of the Association; and professionalization of the organization through government registration; professionalized the brand of the organization by acquiring an office, restructuring the organization, setting mission, vision and goals, recruiting more members, tracking members, and improving cashflow
- **Chairperson of the Technical Panel for Health Professions Education and Chairperson of the Technical Committee for Physical Therapy / Occupational Therapy Education of the Commission on Higher Education.** Led the formulation of policies and standards for undergraduate and graduate physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech pathology education, and the monitoring and international benchmarking of these; authored, in a lead capacity, technical / policy papers that have been used as core references by the Commission on Higher Education, universities and professional associations
 - ✓ CHED Memorandum Order 24, series of 2006: Policies and Standards for Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Education
 - ✓ CHED Memorandum Order 23, series of 2007: General Guidelines For The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Internship Program
 - ✓ International Benchmarking of the B.S. Physical Therapy Program Report
 - ✓ State of Affairs of Physical Therapy Education and Practice in the Philippines
 - ✓ State of Affairs of Health Professions Education and Practice in the Philippines
 - ✓ Tool for Accreditation of Affiliation Centers for Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy
 - ✓ Minimum Policies and Standards for the Graduate Programs of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy (draft prior to public consultation)
 - ✓ Minimum Policies and Standards for Graduate Health Education Programs (draft prior to public consultation)"
 - ✓ Proposal on affiliation fees for government affiliation centers
- **Regional Clinical Advisor and Clinical Director for FUNfitness of the Healthy Athletes Program of the Special Olympics Asia-Pacific and Special Olympics Philippines.** Initiated, organized, and implemented the FUNfitness program in the country and in the Asia-Pacific region; conducted seven screening events and trained five clinical directors and more than 90 clinical non-clinical volunteers on conducting FUNfitness screening of more than 500 Special Olympics athletes

HIGHLIGHTS OF TEACHING ACHIEVEMENTS

- Spearheaded the development of academic programs including the institution of Master of Physical Therapy, the first clinical masters degree program in the Philippines for physical therapists, and the revision of BS Physical Therapy program from a 4- to an enriched 5-year program that responds to changes in physical therapy practice and promotes optimal learning conditions for students
- Taught undergraduate and graduate courses primarily to physical therapy students and occasionally to occupational therapy, speech pathology, rehabilitation science, or clinical audiology students; introduced several teaching innovations such as developing a toolkit of how-to guides for faculty and students to train and support them on using Canvas learning management system, using online discussion boards to engage students, foster interaction, and teach collaborative learning among graduate students while they are in a fully remote learning environment; using information technology to enhance student engagement; examples are TurningPoint™ Response System technology for collecting and analyzing student responses during interactive lectures, University Virtual Learning Environment (UVLê) as a learning management system for courses, Calibrated Peer Review™, Facebook® as a venue for discussion, communication, information dissemination, interactive white board; teaching critical reflection using a tool (UCSF Learning from your Experiences as a Professional); development and use of case stories and simulated patient exercises for learning activities
- Developed at least 70 teaching aids/handouts/manuals/modules/worksheets in the recent 10 years

- Developed and improved curricula and academic programs; created learning resources including manuals, modules, workbooks, case studies, interactive learning resources, and syllabi; performed related administrative tasks such as those related to being a course coordinator; advised and mentored assigned students as they progress through the degree program; mentored younger faculty in performing teaching-related activities
- Consistently rated as outstanding in teaching performance by students and peers through the 26 years of teaching

HIGHLIGHTS OF RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

- Conferred the **CAMP Award for Outstanding Faculty Researcher (Advanced Category)** by the University of the Philippines College of Allied Medical Professions in 2018
- Awarded the title of **Research Affiliate in Musculoskeletal Health** within the Faculty of Health Sciences of The University of Sydney to pursue collaborative research from 1 January 2018 to present
- **Managed and conducted five research projects** in the last five years, including international collaborative work, on mechanisms and assessment of pain and disability in people with headaches, and in musculoskeletal health of various populations; and continuing involvement in an international research team in understanding mechanisms associated with chronic pain conditions
- Published 11 articles on physical therapy, headache and chronobiology in **peer-reviewed journals**, including in high-impact international ISI-indexed journals such as *NeuroImage*, *Journal of Pain*, and *Cephalalgia*; completed 12 unpublished research work on physical therapy assessment and management and professional issues in the recent 10 years
- Produced **creative output** including the cover art for one issue of *The Journal of Pain* (Volume 17, Issue 10, October 2016) ([http://www.jpain.org/issue/S1526-5900\(16\)X0011-9](http://www.jpain.org/issue/S1526-5900(16)X0011-9))
- Effectively engaged the general public in research projects at the recruitment and dissemination phases through **mass media presentations**, including two local and one international radio guestings, one television news feature and several print articles; acted as media spokesperson for the study on GABA levels in migraine based at The University of Sydney which was released to international media in October 2015, gaining an estimated audience reach of more than 2 million people, with the biggest audience share from television
- **Mentored** more than 80 undergraduate and 11 graduate **students** in research in the recent 10 years, including one international and three local Doctor of Philosophy students, and four international Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) honours students
- Participated in **institutional research capacity building** to improve productivity in clinical rehabilitation research as **workshop facilitator** in the Philippines through a Sydney Southeast Asia Centre Research Capacity Building Grant through partnerships between the Philippines and Australia; and also in Australia through workshops on creating online surveys using the Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) application
- Shared research results at 22 international and four local **professional conferences** in the recent 10 years
- Initiated a **special issue of the Philippine Journal of Health Research and Development** for the UP College of Allied Medical Professions (CAMP) to raise awareness of the UP Manila community and readers of the journal on the range of research output of CAMP, to provide an additional venue for CAMP faculty to publish their work, and to further enhance the research culture at CAMP; now working as **guest editor** for the special issue
- Co-proponent of international research teams who were awarded research grants from various agencies, such as the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (AUD262,220.00) and The Centre of Research Excellence in Recovery Following Road Traffic Injury (CRERTI) and the University of Sydney (AUD 60,000.00) for the project on neurochemical biomarkers of pain conditions (2017–2022), the Southeast Asia Partnership Grant (AUD 43,000.00) for the project on better lifetime care for children with developmental disabilities (2018–2020), The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre (AUD 7,792.00) for the project on improving productivity in clinical rehabilitation research through partnerships in the Philippines (2014), and The University of Sydney Bridging Grant (AUD 50,000.00) for the project on neurochemical biomarkers of headaches (2013)

- Attracted **grants and awards** to present research at international conferences such as the Research Dissemination Grant from the University of the Philippines (2014, 2015, 2018), PhD Student Travel Grant from the Australian Pain Society (2014) and Financial Aid Award from the International Association for the Study of Pain (2014, 2018)
- Advanced the importance of research in improving pain and physical therapy knowledge and practice as a **reviewer of manuscripts for international journals**, namely *BMJ Open*, *Headache*, *Cephalalgia*, and *Magnetic Resonance in Medicine* (2016–present), *Philippine Journal of Allied Health Sciences* (2006–2009), and as a book reviewer for the University of Santo Tomas College of Rehabilitation Sciences (2012)
- Contributed to assembling best available and appropriate research for presentation as member of the **panel of reviewers of abstracts** of research for international conference e.g. Asian Confederation for Physical Therapy Congress 2018 cum Philippine Physical Therapy Association National Convention 2018
- Assisted in the research endeavors of constituents of the Up College of Allied Medical Professions as member of the **CAMP Technical Review Committee** which evaluates research proposals from faculty and students of the College (2010–2013)

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIVEMENTS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

- Engaged in long-term volunteer work for local and international communities to contribute to making health care and education accessible and to influence the professionalization of Philippine physical therapy practice through government and non-government organizations. Examples include being the Regional Clinical Advisor for FUNfitness for the Asia-Pacific and the National Clinical Director for FUNfitness for the Philippines of Special Olympics; being the alternate member of the Continuing Professional Development Council for Physical Therapy of the Professional Regulations Commission; having served as an assessor of academic programs for the Commission on Higher Education, Chairperson of the Technical Panel for Health Professions Education and Technical Committee for Physical Therapy / Occupational Therapy Education of the Commission on Higher Education, and President of the Philippine Physical Therapy Association.
- Served as plenary speaker or workshop facilitator on varied topics such as headache and pain, physical therapy assessment and management, education, and professional issues; had 20 local and four international speaking engagements in the recent 10 years, with health professionals, students, government and non-government sectors or the public audience
- Participated in the upliftment of education in the country by serving as an assessor of academic programs for the Commission on Higher Education and by developing education standards (2006–2013)
- Conducted fitness screening and education (under the FUNfitness, Healthy Athletes Program of Special Olympics International) for athletes during the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games
- Conducted fitness screening and education (under the FUNfitness, Healthy Athletes Program of Special Olympics Philippines) for more than 500 athletes (2006–present)
- Provided free physical therapy services in collaboration with government and non-government organizations, including the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines, Inc., Persons with Disabilities Corporation (PERDISCO), and the Pediatric Special Interest Group of the Philippine Physical Therapy Association since 1994

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Committed to lifelong learning; has been attending at least one continuing professional development activity each year since the start of professional practice; completed two undergraduate and two graduate programs; graduated with a degree in Doctor of Philosophy from The University of Sydney in 2017
- Active member of national and international professional organizations, namely Philippine Physical Therapy Association and the International Association for the Study of Pain
- Obtained eligibility to practice physical therapy in the Philippines and as a registered physiotherapist with limited, teaching or research in Australia