



# Annual Report

TROPICAL DISEASE FOUNDATION, INC.

2016-2017



# Services

## DOTS CLINIC (DS-TB)

A.	Screened	:	100 patients
B.	Enrolled	:	29 patients
C.	Outcome Breakdown	:	
	• Treatment Completed	:	13
	• Cured	:	5
	• Loss To Follow-Up (LTFU)	:	3
	• Failed	:	2

The Makati City Health Department continuously support the Public-Private Mix DOTS (PPMD) program in providing anti-Tuberculosis (TB) medications and laboratory supplies quarterly.

The Institutional Health Care Provider (IHCP) portal was installed at Tropical Disease Foundation, Inc. (TDF) on Feb 15, 2017. It aims to establish a linkage between accredited institutional health care providers and PhilHealth through an on-line connection that shall ensure verification of eligibility of members for purposes of availment of PhilHealth TB DOTS package benefits.

Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

## *Services*

### TDF-SATELLITE TREATMENT CENTER (MDR-TB)

Performance of the Satellite Treatment Center (STC) in the past year

Number of All Presumptive DR-TB Screened	: 439
Number of All Presumptive DR-TB Tested	: 439
Number of All Confirmed Rifampicin Resistant TB	: 48
Number of cases registered	: 50
Bacteriologically-confirmed RR/MDR-TB	: 44
Clinically-diagnosed MDR-TB	: 4
Other Drug-resistant TB case	: 2

As of 31 July 2017, the clinic census is at 66 patients, including patients decentralized to the health centers, as well as patients started on treatment by Integrated DOTS (iDOTS) centers. The STC currently has two Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)-hired nurses on board.

TDF-STC currently serves referrals from Makati and Pateros as well as their respective iDOTS centers. Patients started on treatment in the iDOTS centers are registered in the TDF-STC DRTB register and are provided medications and supplies by the STC. iDOTS is an initiative by the Regional Office of the DOH to improve coverage of Programmatic Management of Drug-resistant Tuberculosis (PMDT) in the region.



Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

# Services

## TDF LABORATORY

The TDF laboratory has a Biosafety level 2 facility (BSL-2) that supported the researches activities of the foundation. The laboratory provide quality assured services and regularly participates in the Integrated Quality Laboratory Services' (IQLS) External Quality Assurance (EQA). IQLS is a consulting agency based in France whose aim is to help strengthen laboratory capacities and systems. TDF has been participating in the EQA activities of IQLS since 2013. Next page are tables that summarize the performance of the laboratory in the EQA in 2015 and 2016.



Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

## Services

### Survey #8 (July 2015)

Area	Average Scoring (Max 4)	Average in %
Microscopy	3.67	91.75%
Identification	4.00	100.00%
First Line DST	3.89	97.25%
Second Line DST	3.90	97.50%
Average	3.87	96.75%

### Survey #9 (December 2015)

Area	Average Scoring (Max 4)	Average in %
Microscopy	3.80	95.00%
Identification	4.00	100.00%
First Line DST	3.89	97.25%
Second Line DST	3.77	94.25%
Average	3.87	96.75%

### Survey #2 (Performed 2016, results released in 2017))

Area	Average Scoring (Max 4)	Average in %
Microscopy	3.70	92.50%
Identification	4.00	100.00%
First Line DST	4.00	100.00%
Second Line DST	4.00	100.00%
Average	3.93	98.25%



# Advocacy

## WORLD TB DAY “TAKPAN ANG UBO” TDF COMMUNITY PROJECT

SPONSOR: GLOBAL TB ALLIANCE

For the second straight year, TDF, together with the Global TB Alliance, carried out Takpan ang Ubo (Cover Your Cough) campaign, intended to help decrease transmission of TB in households and communities as well as to encourage people to go to DOTS clinics for early diagnosis. For this year, the project was done in Barangay San Antonio, Makati City, a local district in the National Capital Region with a population of more than 11,000 (2010 Census) and Ospital ng Makati, the city-run tertiary hospital.

**“TAKPAN  
ANG UBO”**

**Gumamit ng tisyu para  
takpan ang ilong at bibig  
kapag uubo o babahin at  
itapon ito sa basurahan.**

Ubong 2 Linggo?  
Kumunsulta sa inyong Barangay DOTS Clinic.  
Tumawag at Magtanong sa Tropical Disease Foundation  
401.3913 / 0917.890.0035

Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

# Advocacy

On March 23, TDF engaged a local transport organization for an information dissemination campaign. The campaign made use of posters which were attached to tricycles – a local form of transportation using a motorcycle with an attached cab. The posters provided (30 in total from the proposed 20) contained information on cough etiquette as well as advise to seek consult if with observed cough of at least two weeks. These materials would be visible to passengers and pedestrians in Barangay San Antonio.



Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

# Advocacy



At the same time, while installation of the posters was being done, the Takpan ang Ubo jingle was again played to make pedestrians aware of the project, and information brochures distributed. Together with the brochures, tissue packets and face masks were given to pedestrians and tricycle drivers, to enable the practice of cough etiquette. Food vendors at the tricycle terminal showed interest in the project as well, and were also provided brochures and tissue packets.

An orientation on the PMDT was conducted at the Ospital ng Makati. The orientation invited house staff of the hospital (hospital TB team, resident physicians, nursing staff) and representatives from the Makati City Health Department (CHD). The objectives of the activity were to provide a brief background of drug-resistance in TB, the National TB program in Makati, clarification of referral procedures for presumptive TB patients of the hospital – both in- and outpatient; and updates on TB research being conducted in the country.



Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

# Advocacy

The orientation proved to be a success as it enabled clarification of referral procedures and continuity of care for patients. With representatives of the CHD present, the activity was able to raise issues encountered by both parties (hospital and community), including processes and forms to be used for referrals of presumptive TB patients and specimens for GeneXpert testing. It is hoped that improved referral procedures would lead to better management of TB patients in the community which may augment patient recruitment for future studies.

Overall, the project allowed for a two-pronged approach to address TB infection control in the community and TB case-finding efforts for patients seen in the city hospital. The improved cooperation between the community and the city hospital would also benefit case-holding for diagnosed TB patients where both parties complement each other. We are all stakeholders in the fight against TB, and we all have our roles to play. Hopefully, with continued efforts, all these contributions, no matter how big or otherwise, will ultimately bring a STOP to TB.



Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

# Advocacy

## WORLD TB DAY CELEBRATION 2017

TB remains an issue affecting the entire population that needs an urgent action to end. It remains to be in the top ten leading cause of mortality in the country according to the Department of Health (DOH).

As part of the TDF's commitment to support and eliminate TB, TDF joined the commemoration of World TB Day held at the Quezon Institute Compound on March 24, 2017. This year's global theme is "Unite to End TB; Leave No One Behind" and the country adopts the theme, "Sama-Samang Tuldukanang TB!". DOH Secretary Paulyn Jean Rosell-Ubial graced the event to rally everyone towards TB elimination.



World TB Day participants

Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

# *Advocacy*

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

Sponsor: TB Alliance

Timeline: Aug 2017 to Nov 2018 (17 mos.)

### **Background**

TDF proposes to conduct a project to increase people's awareness on TB and its control in the target population of the community. The project also aims to uplift the spirit of the community on the fight against TB by providing updates on the national program being done about TB diagnosis and treatment. The information campaign will include latest researches being conducted by TDF in order to help the program achieve its goal.

### **General Objective**

To augment community participation in TB research through planning, cooperation, and providing health education and monitoring support to community health workers.

### **Activities**

- Meeting with Local Government Unit (LGU) and Makati CHO
- Meeting with barangay and health center officials
- Health-teaching seminars
- Distribution of posters and brochures
- Monitoring and Evaluation



# Trainings

## CLINICAL TRIAL CAPACITY TRAINING

A Clinical Trial Capacity Training was held on March 31, 2016 at the Tropical Disease Foundation conference room for laboratory personnel of the National TB Reference Laboratory (NTRL). The one-day TB Research Laboratory Orientation was attended by 10 people from NTRL headed by Dr. Cecilia Ama. Aside from the didactic teaching, a three-day laboratory immersion was done.

The laboratory orientation was conducted by the laboratory staff of TDF. It included a familiarization of the different components of a TB research laboratory and the principles of TB diagnostic assays used in clinical trials. Just like any other training conducted by the laboratory, pre- and post-tests were given to the participants to measure the knowledge gained through the training course. All of the personnel from NTRL passed the said exam and were given their certificates.

During the laboratory immersion, two staff from NTRL rotated in the different sections of the laboratory and observed how procedures for TB testing are done. The immersion allowed the NTRL staff to see how specimens for clinical trials are handled, processed, and analyzed. The flowchart for TB clinical trial specimens and processes were also observed and discussed with the NTRL staff.



Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

# *Trainings*

## PHILIPPINE ADVANCED BIOSAFETY OFFICERS' TRAINING

The fourth Philippine Advanced Biosafety Officers' Training course sponsored by the U.S. Biosecurity Engagement Program was held in 2016 at Hotel Jen, Manila. It was a six-week intensive training on biosafety and biosecurity attended by 21 participants from the Philippines (including Anthony Geronimo of TDF) and one from Pakistan. The six-week course was divided into three two-week sessions, with intersession breaks, in a span of six months. The first two-week session was held from July 18-29, 2016; the second two-week session was held from September 19-30, 2016; and the third two-week session was held from November 21 to December 2, 2016.

The course is anchored on the AMP (Assess, Mitigate, Perform) model of bio-risk management. The sessions were interactive and involve a lot of group activities and exercises that allow participants to develop skills and knowledge needed by a biosafety officer. The participants also visited some facilities, including TDF laboratory, and conducted bio-risk assessments and audits. During the intersession breaks, intersession assignments that require application of certain principles to their respective institutions were given to the participants.

At the end of the course, written and practical examinations were given to the participants; all participants passed the examinations and were certified as biosafety officers of the Philippines.

Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

# *Trainings*

## TRAINING ON DIRECT SPUTUM SMEAR MICROSCOPY (DSSM)

A five-day training on Direct Sputum Smear Microscopy (DSSM) was held last July 25-29, 2016 at Ciudad Christia Resort in Ampid, San Mateo Rizal. The course attendees included Elizabeth Kaye Corpuz and Glaiza Guda, along with medical technologists from LGU's and other Non-Government Organization (NGO)'s. It was sponsored by the DOH and the training was conducted by DOH-National Capital Region Office.

The main objective was to enhance the capability of participants in performing DSSM for improved case detection. The training consists of didactic and laboratory workouts.

There was a two-day lecture on introduction and background of DSSM. There were sessions on smear preparation, staining and microscopy. The participants' performances were evaluated after every session. A participant must pass the performance evaluations in order to obtain a certificate. There was also a "social night" and the certificates were handed on the last day of training.



Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

# *Trainings*

## HIV PROFICIENCY REFRESHER TRAINING

The PBSP, in coordination with the DOH-NCRO, conducted a Refresher Course on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) Proficiency Testing on November 25, 2016 at STD/AIDS Cooperative Central Laboratory (SACCL), San Lazaro Hospital, Manila from 8:00 am up to 5:00 pm.

The objective of the said activity was to renew the Certificate of Proficiency for Medical Technologists who are performing rapid HIV testing for their respective institutions.

Participants for the HIV proficiency refresher course were from both private and public hospitals, free standing laboratories, and HIV treatment hubs all over the Philippines. Ms Elsie Marie Dela Cruz from the laboratory department of TDF attended the refresher course. Updates and new trends on HIV testing in the Philippines were discussed and an exam was also given to gauge the knowledge of the attendees on HIV testing procedures.



Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

## *Trainings*

# GENEXPERT TRAINING

A three-day training on GeneXpert MTB/RIF Assay was held at National Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory - Research Institute of Tropical Medicine from September 26-28, 2016. The purpose of the training was to enhance the laboratory staff with knowledge and skills required in performing GeneXpert MTB/Rif Assay. Hence, the participants were medical technologists from different Xpert Sites of the PMDT program; Ms. Norwin Gayle Martin of TDF attended the said training. Three representatives from NTRL headed the training. It started with a pre-test and an overview of TB and TB diagnostics, Biosafety, and Collection/Transport of Specimens. Then, the GeneXpert System was introduced from its mechanics to installation. The next day, the trainers tackled and demonstrated the Xpert procedures. Following the demonstration was the first practicum of the participants. The trainers later discussed troubleshooting and data management. On the last day, a brief discussion on maintenance and calibration procedures happened before the written and practical proficiency tests of the participants. The training ended with the technical evaluation and awarding of the certificates.



## DATA QUALITY CHECK (DQC)

DQC was held at the Manila Grand Opera hotel on July 26-28, 2017. It was attended by Norwin Gayle Martin from TDF laboratory. GeneXpert data input from PMDT GeneXpert sites was validated and updates on GeneXpert and the NTP were also discussed.



Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

# *Trainings*

## PATIENT CENTERED ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING

A five -module training was conducted by Dr. Ruben Encarnacion, a Clinical Psychologist, on Patient-Centered Assertiveness Training. The objectives of the training were as follows:

- To assess present stress coping levels and skills of participants.
- To understand the role of communication in relationship, particularly in patient-caregiver interactions
- To appreciate and improve one's communication style through more assertive behavior and techniques
- To develop greater self-confidence by learning self-defense techniques
- To understand the functioning of highly effective teams, and how stress coping, communication, assertiveness and self-confidence contribute to better patient-caregiver interactions.

The attendees were all the staff of TDF and held last August 15-24, 2017 at the 5th floor training room.



# CLINICAL *Trials*

## STUDY 213

“A Phase 3, Multicenter, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled, Parallel Group Trial to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Delamanid (OPC-67683) Administered Orally as 200 mg Total Daily Dose for Six Months in Patients With Pulmonary Sputum Culture-positive, Multidrug-resistant Tuberculosis”.

*Sponsor: Otsuka Pharmaceutical Development & Commercialization, Inc.*

### Study Milestones

• Site Initiation Visit	:	Sep 26-28, 2012
• Site Activated	:	02 Oct 2012
• First Subject Randomized	:	16 Nov 2012
• Last Subject Randomized	:	26 Sep 2013
• Last Subject Last Visit	:	07 Apr 2016
• Final Database Lock	:	12 Dec 2016

### Site Enrolment Status

Out of 196 pre-screened patients seen from Oct. 2, 2012 (site activation date) to Nov. 8, 2013, 25 signed the informed consent form and were screened for Study 213, four patients failed screening.

Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.**CLINICAL** *Trials*

- Enrolled/Randomized : 21 patients
- Early Withdrawn : 2 patients
- Completed Post-treatment Follow-up Period (Month 30) : 19 patients

The 19 patients who completed the post-treatment follow-up period visit 34/ month 30 had the following treatment outcome as per investigator's assessment: Cured = nine (47%), Treatment Completed= two (11 %), Defaulted = eight (42%). Reasons for default were as follows: Adverse events, work prioritization and behavior towards treatment. In addition, a total of 20 Serious Adverse Events were reported all of which were resolved.

The close-out visit for study was conducted by Rosary Reyes on February 7 and 8, 2017. Several issues were clarified and settled in the said close-out visit. All data and source documents are now ready for archiving.

## MSD Trial (OnceMRK)

Protocol Title: "A Phase III Multicenter, Double-Blind, Randomized, Active Comparator-Controlled Clinical Trial to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Reformulated Raltegravir 1200 mg Once Daily Versus Raltegravir 400 mg Twice Daily, each in Combination With TRUVADA, in Treatment-Naive HIV-1 Infected Subjects"

*Sponsor: Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.*

Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

## CLINICAL *Trials*

### Study Milestones

•	First Patient Screened	:	02 Oct 2014
•	First Patient Randomized	:	07 Nov 2014
•	Last Patient Screened	:	18 Nov 2014
•	Last Patient Randomized	:	10 Jan 2015
•	Last Patient Last Visit	:	06 Dec 2016
•	Data Base Lock	:	25 Jan 2017
•	Close-out Visit	:	01 Jun 2017

### Site Enrolment Status

•	Subjects Screened	:	13
•	Screen Failure	:	3
•	Subjects Randomized/Enrolled	:	10
•	Discontinued	:	0
•	Ongoing	:	0
•	Completed	:	10

### Study Updates

- All patients that participated in the study are now registered at CTTM Hub of MMC to continue their treatment under the supervision of Dr. Carmenchu Echiverri.
- Study equipment was successfully audited and endorsed to General Services Department (GSD) last June 2017.
- The Final Study Report will be reported at the next IRB meeting.
- Documents and Data are ready for archiving scheduled on Oct 2017.



Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.CLINICAL *Trials*

## NC-006-(M-Pa-Z) STAND

### (Shortening Treatment by Advancing Novel Drugs)

“A phase 3, open-label, partially randomized trial to evaluate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of the combination of Moxifloxacin plus PA-824 (Pretomanid) plus Pyrazinamide after 4 and 6 months in adult subjects with drug-sensitive smear-positive pulmonary Tuberculosis and after 6 months of treatment in adults subjects with multi-drug resistant, smear-positive pulmonary Tuberculosis”.

*Sponsor: Global Alliance for New TB Drug Development*

The Shortening Treatments by Advancing Novel Drugs (STAND) clinical trial is a phase 3 trial of the PaMZ regimen used to treat pulmonary tuberculosis. TDF laboratory serves as the central laboratory for four clinical sites in the Philippines: TDF, Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP), Quezon Institute (QI), and Philippine General Hospital (PGH). As the central laboratory, TDF performs screening evaluation of sputum by AFB smear microscopy (using ZN method) and molecular tests (using HAIN MTBDRplus and HAIN MTBDRsl) to determine susceptibility of *M. tb* complex to rifampicin and/or fluoroquinolones. Bactec MGIT 960 system is used as the culture method for *M. tb* complex isolation. DNA extraction for molecular testing of Pyrazinamide susceptibility is also done at TDF. DNA extracts are sent to the *pncA* laboratory at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. LJ slopes and DNA extracts from LJ slopes are also sent to the central laboratory at the University College London (UCL) for speciation, MIC against Moxifloxacin and PA-824, MIRU strain typing, and susceptibility testing for Streptomycin, Rifampicin, Isoniazid, Ethambutol, Moxifloxacin and Pyrazinamide.

There were 96 pre-screened subjects in which 69 patients (72%) did not meet the eligibility criteria. Out of the 27 (28%) eligible subjects: 10 refused while 17 consented and agreed to participate in the study. Of the 17 subjects, 7 turned out to be screen failed. The 10 subjects who were enrolled in the study had 2 early

Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.**CLINICAL** *Trials*

withdrawals due to the result of drug susceptibility testing that may affect the treatment of the patient.

On Sep 24, 2015 the Independent Data Safety Monitoring Committee (DSMC) for the STAND study recommended that the enrolment into the study be immediately suspended and that no further participants are to be screened for the trial. However, all participants currently enrolled should will continue with their anti TB-medications, scheduled visits and assessments. These recommendations of the DSMC are based on the occurrence to date of three deaths in South Africa due to hepatotoxicity. Fortunately, there has been no reported liver toxicity or abnormalities out of the 10 study patients enrolled in TDF site. All 10 patients enrolled had completed the 24 months follow-up visit required by the study protocol.

On December 12, 2016 DSMC wrote that the study will not resume patient enrolment. Sites then are directed to do complete follow-up of all enrolled patients until month 24.

At present, the TDF study team is working on final data cleaning in preparation for soft lock initiated by the sponsor. The last specimen was submitted on October 25, 2017; a total of 889 samples were submitted to TDF laboratory for this trial.

## TMC207-C211

“A phase 2, open-label, multicenter, single-arm study to evaluate the pharmacokinetics, safety, tolerability and anti-mycobacterial activity of TMC207 in combination with a background regimen of multidrug resistant TB (MDR-TB) medications for the treatment of children and adolescents 0 months to <18 years of age who have confirmed or probably pulmonary MDR-TB.”

*Sponsor: Janssen Research and Development*

Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.**CLINICAL** *Trials*

The TMC207-C211 clinical trial is a phase two clinical trial that aims to evaluate pharmacokinetics, safety, tolerability and anti-mycobacterial activity of Bedaquiline in combination with background regimen of MDR-TB drugs for children below 18 years of age. TDF laboratory acts as the mycobacteriology laboratory for De La Salle Health Sciences Institute (DLSHSI) for this study.

As the mycobacteriology laboratory, TDF performs TSpot TB Assay, GeneXpert, AFB (using Auramine O method), and culture using MGIT. DST profile is performed at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium.

The first patient for the study was enrolled in January 2017. To date, a total of three subjects were enrolled, but one withdrew from the study.

## Pascalizumab TB Trial

“Safety and efficacy of blocking IL-4 with Pascalizumab in patients receiving standard combination therapy for pulmonary tuberculosis: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, proof-of-concept clinical trial.”

*Sponsor: National University Hospital-Singapore*

Pascalizumab TB trial is a proof-of-concept study to evaluate safety and efficacy of blocking IL-4 with Pascalizumab in TB patients. TDF laboratory serves as the central laboratory for clinical sites: QI) and LCP.

Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.**CLINICAL** *Trials*

As the central laboratory, TDF performs AFB microscopy (using Auramine O method), culture using MGIT, DST using MGIT system, CFU counting, PBMC extraction, and RPF.

The first patient was enrolled in July of 2016. The study enrolled a total of 11 patients and the last specimen was submitted on February 15, 2017. To date, additional tests (e.g. identification) are being requested by the sponsor to help them in data analysis.

\

## TRUNCATE-TB

“Two-month Regimens Using Novel Combinations to Augment Treatment Effectiveness for Drug-Sensitive Tuberculosis”

*Sponsor: University College London*

### Study Updates

- Initial Submission to Makati Medical Center-Institution Review Board (MMC-IRB): 04 Oct 2016
- MMC-IRB Initial Approval: 19 Jan 2017
- Investigator’s meeting: Sep 2017 held at the Peninsula Manila
- Expected subjects : 100
- Ongoing finalization of Site Contract and Budget



Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.**CLINICAL** *Trials*

This is an investigator initiated trial led by Professor Nicholas Paton at the National University of Singapore and Dr. Thelma Tupasi as the site Principal Investigator for the TDF. The TDF will be the central laboratory to the Philippines' study sites which include: LCP, Philippine Tuberculosis Society, Inc., PGH, Perpetual Succour Hospital and DLSHSI.

This trial evaluates an alternative strategy of treating patients with drug-sensitive tuberculosis for two months with combinations including new drugs or optimized doses of currently available drugs, chosen for their sterilizing efficacy.

The primary aim is to test the hypothesis that the TRUNCATE-TB management strategy is non-inferior to the standard TB management strategy assessed by the proportion of patients with unsatisfactory outcome at two years (96 weeks) after randomization.

The secondary aim is to assess the possible advantages of the TRUNCATE-TB management strategy compared to the standard management strategy from the patient perspective, the programme perspective and to assess cost-effectiveness.

To date, the trial enrolment has not yet started because of continuing review of the Clinical Trial Agreement by the sponsor's legal officer.

Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.CLINICAL *Trials*

## PHOENIX STUDY

“Protecting Households On Exposure to Newly Diagnosed Index  
Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis Patients”

*SPONSOR: The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development*

Prior to the start of the study, one of the requirements of the study was that the TDF laboratory must be accredited by the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG). In preparation for this, Arden Bongco from Patient Safety Monitoring in International Laboratories (pSmile) visited the laboratory on April 3, 2017. The purpose of the visit was to introduce pSMILE to TDF and their work for the ACTG.

On May 15-17, 2017 Mr. Arden Bongco and Ms. Peggy Coulter of pSmile visited the laboratory for the second time. The three-day visit was to conduct an initial audit of TDF’s laboratory in preparation for accreditation to the ACTG. The audit report was submitted to the ACTG Laboratory Science Group.

The Annual ACTG Network Meeting was held on June 25-29, 2017 at Washington, DC. Since TDF laboratory is the proposed central laboratory for PHOENIX clinical trial, TDF is considered a member of the network. Anthony Geronimo and Glaiza Erika Guda represented TDF in the network meeting. The meeting was called to discuss laboratory issues and protocols of various clinical trials under the ACTG. A study-specific meeting for the PHOENIX study was held on the last day of the meeting.



## CAPABILITY & TECHNICAL *Assistance*

In line with its commitment to excellence, the Tropical Disease Foundation strongly believes in capacity building of its staff. Thus, in 2016 and 2017, the following trainings attended by TDF employees:

ALL EMPLOYEES

### **PATIENT-CENTERED ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING**

Aug. 15, 17, 19, 22 & 24, 2016 / 5/F Phil. Institute of TB Bldg.,  
Urban Ave cor. Amorsolo St., Makati City

VETO, RHOLINE GEM MARTIN S. / DEBLOIS, MAITA B.

### **PMDT DATA QUALITY CHECK**

Aug. 1-3, 2016 / Heritage Hotel, Pasay City

VETO, RHOLINE GEM MARTIN S.

### **PCCM NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS KEY AFFECTED POPULATIONS**

Aug. 17, 2016 / Manila Grand Opera Hotel, Manila Convention

CATINDIG, ANGELITO M.

### **ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION: CASES AND APPLICATIONS**

Aug. 26, 2016 / PICPA Mandaluyong City



Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

**CAPABILITY & TECHNICAL**

*Assistance*

GERONIMO, ANTHONY

**ADVANCED BIOSAFETY OFFICERS TRAINING 4.0**

Sept. 19-30, 2016

CATINDIG, ANGELITO M.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT ANALYSIS FOR FOCUSED DECISION-MAKING**

Sept. 24, 2016 / PICPA Mandaluyong City

MARTIN, NORWIN GAYLE D.P.

**GENE EXPERT TRAINING**

Sept. 28-30, 2016 / NTRL Muntinlupa City

DELA CRUZ, ELSIE MARIE / FLORES, RUPERT REY

**ATTEND CONVENTION**

Nov. 15-16, 2016 / Manila Grand Opera Hotel

DELA CRUZ, ELSIE MARIE

**REFRESHER COURSE ON HIV PROFICIENCY TESTING**

Nov. 25, 2016 / SACCL San Lazaro Hospital, Manila

GERONIMO, ANTHONY

**ADVANCED BIOSAFETY OFFICERS TRAINING 4.0**

Nov. 21-Dec. 2, 2016 / Hotel Jen, Manila



Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

**CAPABILITY & TECHNICAL**

*Assistance*

CORPUZ, ELIZABETH KAYE A. / FLORES, RUPERT REY J.

**ATTEND SYMPOSIUM**

Nov. 19, 2016 / CEU Makati

VETO, RHOLINE GEM MARTIN S.

**IDOTS IMPLEMENTATION**

Dec. 2, 2016 / St. Giles Hotel, Makati City

VETO, RHOLINE GEM MARTIN S. / MARTIN, NORWIN GAYLE DP

**PMDT DATA QUALITY CHECK**

January 30 - Feb. 2, 2017 / Best Western Hotel, Subic, Olongapo City

CHEN, CHIKA G. / AMOROSO, MARK ANGELO C.

**MOLECULAR TECHNIQUES IN GENE CLONING  
AND MICROBIAL IDENTIFICATION SEMINAR**

March 29, 2017 / YANA Chemodities Inc.

CABANATAN, MA. LOURDES / CARIDAD, MA. TERESA

**PICPA - 2ND MMR INDUSTRY SUMMIT**

March 29, 2017 / Century Park Hotel, Malate, Manila

FLORES, RUPERT REY J.

**ATTEND HIV PROFICIENCY TEST**

April 3-11, 2017 / SACCL San Lazaro Hospital, Manila

NUCUM, MARITA I.

**ATTEND 7TH WELFARE & FRINGE BENEFIT SEMINAR**

March 23, 2017 / AIM Makati City





Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

CAPABILITY & TECHNICAL

*Assistance*

VETO, RHOLINE GEM MARTIN S. / BALIWAGAN, MA. BEGONIA  
BALANE, GLENN / ANONAS, MARCO / GABATIN, MIKALA ANGELA  
**COMMUNITY PROJECT FOR WORLD TB DAY CELEBRATION**

March 23, 2017 / Brgy. San Antonio and OSMAK

VETO, RHOLINE GEM MARTIN S.

**WORLD HAND HYGIENE CELEBRATION**

May 5, 2017 / OSMAK

GUDA, GLAIZA ERIKA / FLORES, RUPERT REY

**1ST PHBBA RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FORUM**

May 20, 2017 / PhBBA, Black Mamba Wing Restaurant, QC

DEBLOIS, MAITA B.

CORPUZ, ELIZABETH KAYE / DELA CRUZ, ELSIE MARIE

**PAMET - IMPROVING PROCESSES & CONTROLS**

**IN CLINICAL LABORATORIES**

July 28, 2017 / Crowne Plaza, Ortigas

GERONIMO, ANTHONY / GUDA, GLAIZA ERIKA

**2017 ANNUAL AIDS CLINICAL TRIALS GROUP (ACTG) NETWORK MEETING**

June 25-29, 2017 / Washington DC, USA

VETO, RHOLINE GEM MARTIN S. / MARTIN, NORWIN GAYLE DC

**PMDT DATA QUALITY CHECK**

July 26-28, 2017 / Manila Grand Opera Hotel, Manila



Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

# *The TDF Organization*

## **Board of Trustees**

Chairman

**Dr. Florentino S. Solon**

Members:

**Dr. Thelma E. Tupasi**

**Dr. Florina R. Kaluag**

**Dr. Claver P. Ramos**

**Arch. Pablo R. Antonio, Jr.**

**Ms. Mercedes A. Solon**

**Justice Manuel Lazaro**

**Dr. Ruben Encarnacion**

**Mr. Francisco I. Ferrer**

## **Executive Officers**

President

**Dr. Thelma E. Tupasi**

Chief Executive Officer

**Dr. Roberta C. Romero**

Director of Administration

**Ms. Leilani C. Naval**



Tropical Disease  
Foundation Inc.

# *The TDF Organization*

## **Management Staff**

Finance Manager  
**Ms. Jovita P. Belen**

Laboratory Manager  
**Mr. Anthony Geronimo**

Clinic Physician  
**Dr. Rholine Gem Martin S. Veto**

Head Nurse  
**Ms. Ma. Begonia R. Baliwagan**

Human Resources Manager  
**Ms. Marita I. Nucum**

General Services Manager  
**Ms. Marilou B. Ortiz**

IT Officer  
**Ms. Evelyn S. Joson**



## *List of Publications*

Estimating the future burden of multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis in India, the Philippines, Russia, and South Africa: a mathematical modelling study. Sharma A, Hill A, Kurbatova E, van der Walt M, Kvasnovsky C, Tupasi TE, Caoili JC, Gler MT, Volchenkov GV, Kazenny BY, Demikhova OV, Bayona J, Contreras C, Yagui M, Leimane V, Cho SN, Kim HJ, Kliiman K, Aksilp S, Jou R, Ershova J, Dalton T, Cegielski P; Global Preserving Effective TB Treatment Study Investigators.

Lancet Infect Dis. 2017 Jul;17(7):707-715. doi: 10.1016/S1473-3099(17)30247-5. Epub 2017 May 9. PMID: 28499828

Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis patients' views of interventions to reduce treatment loss to follow-up Tupasi T, Garfin AM, Mangan JM, Orillaza-Chi R, Naval LC, Balane GI, Basilio R, Golubkov A, Joson ES, Lew WJ, Lofranco V, Mantala M, Pancho S, Sarol JN, Blumberg A, Burt D, Kurbatova EV.

Int J Tuberc Lung Dis. 2017 Jan 1;21(1):23-31. doi: 10.5588/ijtld.16.0433. PMID:28157461