



Since its establishment in 1975, the UP-PGH Department of Family and Community Medicine has been dedicated to achieving excellence and leadership in family and community-oriented medical education, research, and service. Under the initial leadership of Dr. Mario T. Gutierrez and Dr. Ramon L. Arcadio as chair and co-chair, respectively, the Department has garnered recognition as the clinical and academic cornerstone of the UP College of Medicine. We inaugurated our first residency and training program, followed by our pioneering community medicine program, as part of our commitment to restructuring and enhancing our training initiatives within the Department of Family and Community Medicine.

Our program has achieved significant milestones in alignment with our mission, focusing on being competent and compassionate, establishing system thinking, producing competent health sciences educators, and generating relevant research. From 2015, our efforts resulted in the international publication of more than twenty research outputs with more than ten published locally and all authored by our dedicated residents, fellows, and consultants. Our research focused on various aspects of family-oriented and community-based healthcare management.

The UP-PGH Department of Family and Community Medicine remains committed to nurturing a community of lifelong learners and achievers. Our actions are guided by a strong dedication to love, compassion, and respect for human life, families, and our country. By cultivating innovative, progressive, and highly competent medical and research professionals with strong moral, ethical, and spiritual values, we take pride in being recognized as the leading research unit for community and family medicine. I want to express my gratitude to our Research Committee and to our consultants and residents who have contributed their research for publication. Their efforts not only benefit Family and Community Medicine but also significantly impact hospital and public health policies. We sincerely thank the team behind *Acta Medica Philippina* for featuring our 50<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary in a special issue.

**Karin E. Garcia, MD**

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