

Delia de Castro-Ontengco, Ph.D., FPAM

Our next awardee is a fellow who has had extensive exposure in research, management and education.

In the field of **research**, she was the Lead Scientist for Microbiology of United Laboratories or Unilab. She has had theoretical and technical know-how in clinical laboratory diagnostic work, specializing in *in vitro* antimicrobial assays, establishment of bacterial culture collection, tests for bioactivity of plant extracts and essential oils, *in vitro* assays for anti-tuberculosis activity, development of animal models for anti-tuberculosis activity and wound healing effect, antibiogram and antimicrobial resistance surveillance studies, preservative efficacy, mutagenicity tests, plant tissue culture. She has conducted peer evaluation of research proposals/theses and papers from other research institutions (UP, DLSU, AUF) for publication. She has been invited to be the resource person on various topics in medical microbiology and infectious diseases- locally and internationally.

As an **administrator**, she managed a medical microbiology laboratory. She also conceptualized and implemented various researches relevant to her company's objectives; coordinated several multi-center projects; initiated and implemented numerous programs and policies for employees' welfare on a corporate level.

Presently, she is a part-time **professor** in the Faculty of Graduate School of the University of Santo Tomas. She handled lecture and laboratory courses in Medical and Food Microbiology, Current Topics in Microbiology, and Research Techniques; thesis and dissertation mentoring and defense evaluation of M.S./Ph.D. candidates in Microbiology, Medical Technology, Biological Sciences and Pharmacy; review classes in Microbiology for Medical Technology Board examination

Among her past engagements were:

SCIENCE RESEARCH ASSOCIATE II, Medical Research Center, National Institute of Science and Technology 1970-1971; 1973-1975

SCIENTIST/MANAGER, Biological Sciences Department, Medical Affairs Division, United Laboratories, Inc, 1975 - 2006

RESEARCH ASSISTANT, Microbiology Department, UP-Institute of Public Health, 1972 (February-December)

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST, S. Cunanan Memorial Hospital, Retiro, Quezon City, 1971-1972 (part time)

Our awardee was a consistent honor student from Class 1963 of Paco Catholic School. She is a true Tomasian having obtained her **B.S. Medical Technology** in 1967, her **Master of Science in Microbiology *Bene Meritus (Magna cum Laude)*** in 1992 and **Ph.D. Biological Sciences *Cum Laude*** in 1996 all from the Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas.

She is a licensed medical technologist, a fellow of the Philippine Academy of Microbiology (PAM), in 2001, a diplomate of the same organization in 1996, and a specialist microbiologist in Pharmaceutical Analysis also of PAM in 1994.

She has also been accorded several awards, recognitions and citation among which are:

OUTSTANDING SCIENTIFIC PAPER. National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST). 2006. "Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates from Filipino patients (1999-2003)." *Phil J Microbiol Infect Dis* 2004; 33(3):105-110

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD. Philippine Society for Microbiology (PSM). 2006

BEST SCIENTIFIC POSTER-Health Sciences Division. NAST. 2005. "Responding to the threat of antimicrobial resistance against extended-spectrum beta-lactamases."

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE- Group Projects. Medical Affairs Division, United Laboratories, Inc. 2004 "Detection of extended-spectrum beta-lactamases: development of simple phenotypic methods."

BEST SCIENTIFIC POSTER-Health Sciences Division. NAST. 2003. "Sensitivity profile to various antibiotics of common lower respiratory tract hospital pathogens."

THIRD PLACE- Health Related Researches. Department of Science and Technology (DOST). 2000. "Utilization of essential oils in health-care products."

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE. Medical Affairs Division, United Laboratories, 1999

CRISANTO ALMARIO AWARD for RESEARCH. Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET) 1992

BEST PAPER AWARD. PSM. 1992.

“The in vitro antibacterial activity of *Jatropha multifida* Linn against common bacterial wound isolates.”

SECOND PRIZE. Medical City General Hospital. 1991.

“Rapid urease test for the detection of *Helicobacter pylori* in gastric antrum specimens: a preliminary report.”

FIRST PRIZE. National Science Development Board. 1980. (Support personnel).

“Pre-clinical pharmacological studies on total alkaloids of *Tabernamontana pandacaqui* Poir.”

She was the lead author of about 14 publications and co-author of 10 others. Her other creative works include a book on “**Growing Bromeliads: A Primer**”, “**Philippine Herbs to Increase Sexual Vitality**”, a “**Manual on Extraction Procedures and Microbiological Assay of Medicinal Plants**”, several articles in the PSM Newsletter. **Biannual, 1998-2001**, and co-editor of the Proceedings of the 28th PSM Annual Convention 1999.

Fellow Paconians, let’s put our hands together for **Dr. Delia de Castro-Ontengco.**