The 2023-2028 Regional Unified Health Research Agenda (RUHRA)

To serve as a guide in addressing the health system needs of the region in the next six years, from 2023 to 2028, the Consortium has identified priority regional health problems for research through consultations with the EVHRDC stakeholders.

The health research priorities of the region comprises **22 themes**, with each team having corresponding specific research topics.

Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases

a. Dengue

b. Acute watery diarrhea and cholera

c. Social Determinants

d. Genito-urinary diseases (kidney and urinary problems)

e. Genito-urinary diseases among children

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Mitigation

a. Effects and risk of climate change to all ages
b. Assessment of climate change adaptation (CCA) strategies
c. Nutrition in emergencies
d. Hospital capacity assessment on health emergency management
e. Disaster health response (human resource capacity, preparedness, technology, etc.

Health Systems Development and Universal Health Care Implementation

Service Delivery

a. Rehabilitative or palliative care
b. Social Innovation – Innovations in service delivery
c. Universal Health Care - contract networking, organization of health system, special health funds, incentives to improve the competitiveness of public health service delivery system, national health workforce health system, scholarship, and training program, financial coverage (tie up studies)
d. Financial Coverage Topics - pre-payment mechanism, effectiveness of health operations and conduct of activities ex: capability building activities, health promotion

Health Systems Development and Universal Health Care Implementation

Health Economics

a. Supporting evidence and efficiency of health interventions;
   i. Cost-benefit analysis directed towards disease and health programs
   ii. Setting of standards
   iii. Processes (health economic index)
   iv. Application of health assessment models (local and health technology assessment) in achieving financial risk protection

Health Systems Development and Universal Health Care Implementation

Health Regulation

a. Compliance to hospital standards

b. Food and drug administration

    i. Study on the use of rate of selected antibiotics

    ii. Presence of pharmacist in licensed drug establishments

    iii. Practice of medication counselling skills

    iv. Dispensing of antibiotics without prescription

    v. Adverse drug reporting by health practitioner

    vi. Basic medicines, facilities, equipment and lab apparatuses

Health Systems Development and Universal Health Care Implementation

Health Human Resources

a. Human resources for health development (quality of life, supply quantification, competency, effectiveness, future prospects, gaps)

b. Knowledge and practices affecting health outcomes

c. Utilization of benefits and incentives (impact of professional fee and professional education)

d. Strengthening the role of allied health professionals (e.g., nutritionists and physical therapists) to deliver primary care

Health Systems Development and Universal Health Care Implementation

e. Understaffing of human resource

f. Full compliance to Salary Standardization Law and Magna Carta Benefits for health workers

g. Increase health services especially in GIDA

h. Tertiary hospitals per province (referral centers)

i. Incentives to improve competitiveness of public health service delivery system

Health Systems Development and Universal Health Care Implementation

Health Financing

a. PhilHealth services and costs
b. Medical assistance fund utilization
c. Policy gaps and impact assessment of health financing programs

Health Systems Management Research

Social Innovations in Health (SIH)

Nutrition

a. Obesity in children (practices and attitude)
b. Malnutrition and other nutrition-related health problems
c. Factors affecting high incidence of hyperthyroidism
d. Nutrition in GIDA
e. Malnutrition

Reproductive Health and Family Planning

a. Family planning
   i. Factors affecting acceptability of family planning method
b. Child and adolescent sexual reproductive health and development
   i. Increase incidence of HIV among young people in Region VIII
c. Human sexuality education
   i. Assessment on the implementation of human sexuality education

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for Health

a. Data science and E-health solutions for:
   i. Integration of health information in recording and utilizing patient information
   ii. Mapping of health risks and health resources
   iii. Telemedicine
   iv. Health promotion

Communicable Diseases

a. TB and other respiratory tract infections
    i. Causes of rise of multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB
b. Diarrheal disease management and control
    i. Community and household attitudes and practices
      towards preventing diarrhea
c. Dengue
    i. Roadmap towards dengue-free barangay
d. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired
  immunodeficiency syndrome
    i. Sexual health of men having sex with men
    ii. Social stigma

Communicable Diseases

e. Schistosomiasis

      i. Assessment and utilization of research conducted

f.   Long-term effects of COVID-19 infection and vaccination

g.   Rabies

h.   Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

i.   Leprosy

Non-communicable Diseases

a.   Diabetes mellitus

b.   Stroke

c.   Hypertension

d.   Cancer

Health Promotion

a. Effectiveness of information, education, and communication materials in health promotion
b. Technical and logistics assistance

Preventable Injuries and Accident

a. Toxicology
b. Poisoning
c. Traffic Injury

Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

a. Child
- i. Child development of antibodies from immunizable vaccines
- ii. Eye health
- iii. Attitude of Filipinos on vaccination
- iv. Incidence of congenital anomalies

b. Maternal health
- i. Lifestyle and pregnancy

c. Maternal and infant mortality

d. Teenage pregnancy

Health Research Management

a. health research policy environment
b. human resource and institutional capacity
c. procurement mechanisms including payment of intellectual capital
d. translation of research into products of public value and utilization
e. effective application of ethics in health research
f. health R & D policy and implementation studies to ensure appropriate and relevant R & D and utilization program
g. Transformative health R & D program

Occupational Health

a. Compliance to occupational safety and standards, and interventions
b. Health consequences surrounding documented and undocumented migrant workers and their families
c. Research on the health impacts of urbanization, industrialization and globalization

Health Behaviors

a. Studies on factors (e.g., risky behavior, preferences, perception, and health literacy) affecting:
    i. health service provision
    ii. health status
    iii. health service utilization
    iv. support for health reform initiatives (e.g., No Balance Billing)

Food Safety

a. Antimicrobial Resistance
b. Bacterial Pathogens
c. Chemical Contaminants
d. Food Processing and Technology
e. Sanitation and Quality Standards

Mental Health

a. Depression and suicide
        i. Incidence and factors of depression in adolescents
b. Post-traumatic disorders
c. Mental retardation, children with special needs
d. Mental health in workplace (harassment, bullying)
e. Adolescent mental health
f. Mental health issues related to disasters

Traditional and Alternative Health Medicine

a. Clinical researches on homeopathy
b. Clinical researches on acupuncture for pain, substance addiction
c. Clinical researches on naturopathy, ayurveda and anthroposcopic medicine
d. Adjunctive treatment for cancer, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cardiovascular disease

Geriatrics and Palliative Care

a. Prevalence and incidence studies on diseases of the elderly
    i. Accidents or trauma
    ii. Dementia
b. Longevity of life for the aged
c. Healthy aging programs
d. Quality of life for the elders
e. Palliative (hospice) care
f. Home health care
g. Health care for elders
h. Rehabilitative or palliative care

Health Technology and Development

a. Drug discovery
    i. Molecular analysis for drug discovery
    ii. Drug discovery for cancer
b. Hospital equipment and biomedical devices
    i. Diagnostics
c. Information and communications technology in health
    i. Geographic information system-based mapping for outbreak monitoring and surveillance

Implementation Research

Omic Technologies

a. Generation of new knowledge about health and disease using:
    i. Genomics
    ii. Proteomics
    iii. Transcriptomics
    iv. Metabolomics

Functional Foods

a. Food supplements and functional food development
b. Commercialization, safety, regulation, and impact assessment of functional foods and food supplements