

# Regional Unified Health Research Agenda

The Philippine National Health Research System, with its goal to enhance health status through research, generates the National Unified Health Research Agenda (NUHRA) as one of its core areas, alongside ethics, utilization, resource mobilization, system monitoring and evaluation, and capacity building. While the NUHRA serves as the country's template for health research and development efforts, the Regional Unified Health Research Agenda (RUHRA) is more relevant to regional problems and gives direction at the regional level.

The RUHRA presents the identified health research priorities. It should guide researchers and funders alike in the development of more relevant health research in the region for the next six years.

Health research projects in the Ilocos Region mainly focused on drug discovery and medical technology development, implemented by research hospitals and academic institutions and generally funded by the Department of Science and Technology Philippine Council for Health Research and Development. Identified health research priorities include improvement of existing research on drug discovery and technology development, and a more rigorous focus on communicable and non-communicable diseases, vulnerable and indigenous populations, food safety and nutrition, and health governance and financing.

## REGIONAL UNIFIED HEALTH RESEARCH AGENDA 2017-2022

## REGION I ILOCOS REGION



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## Regional Consultation

## Regional Health Research Priorities

The Regional Health Research and Development Consortium of each region was included in the identification process of health research priorities through the conduct of a consultation. The regional consultation for Region I was held on 23-24 March 2017 facilitated by the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes, Inc. The consultation was attended by 23 participants. Their input, together with technical papers and situationers defining the national and regional status of health research, was considered in the formulation of the NUHRA and RUHRA.

The research priorities and perceived needs of each representative were raised through small focus group discussions, with participants grouped into two categories: government agencies and hospitals, and academe. Both groups suggested research topics and a representative from each presented these to the plenary. Eight general themes were established and prioritized using criteria with designated scoring weights established by the stakeholders. The themes were ranked using the following criteria:

- relevance at 40%,
- feasibility at 30%, and
- impact at 30%.



### Triple burden of disease

Researches on factors that affect emerging and re-emerging diseases



### Health of vulnerable populations

Researches on factors that affect the health of vulnerable populations and its relationship with their socio-economic status



### Drug discovery and development

Researches on medical products and medicines out of endemic herbal plants with medicinal value



### Health technology and innovations

Researches on data management and information sharing, and safe and accurate rapid diagnostic kits



### Food safety and nutrition

Researches that will evaluate nutrition status and programs implemented for a more in-depth understanding of malnutrition



### Health governance and policies

Researches that will assess and evaluate government health and health-related programs and policies



### Functional foods and nutraceuticals

Researches on developing food products and nutraceuticals from available agricultural products



### Health financing

Researches that will evaluate the effectiveness and efficacy of health financing in public and private healthcare facilities