

PINOY PCOR BALITA

A quarterly publication of the "Mag-PCOR Muna Tayo" and Filipino American Research (FAR) Hub projects

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Asian/Pacific Islander Americans' Contributions to America and their Needs

M. Danet Lapiz-Bluhm, PhD, RN, MSCI, ANEF, FAAN

May is the Asian/Pacific Islander American Heritage Month – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) are composed of diverse and varied ethnicities, languages, and cultures from the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, and Easter Island).

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843. It also marks the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, where the majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants. Nowadays, the AAPI population is the most rapidly growing ethnic group in the country and is expected to increase to over 40 million individuals by 2060. The US Department of Commerce, in its White House Initiative on AAPIs, recognizes how the AAPIs have helped build a strong and vibrant America. It highlights our important economic role, having started businesses and generated jobs and important contributions to science and technology, culture and the arts, and the professions. The shared accomplishments of AAPIs and legacies are an inspirational, significant, and celebrated part of the American experience.

The US Department of Commerce also recognizes that AAPI communities and enterprises encounter challenges accessing economic resources and opportunities. Many of the more than 1.9 million AAPI-owned enterprises are small sole-proprietorships that need assistance to access available resources such as business development counseling, small-business loans, and government procurement opportunities.

Similar issues are also mirrored in terms of health and healthcare access. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health reports that Asian Americans have a high prevalence of the following conditions and risk factors: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, hepatitis B, HIV/AIDS, smoking, tuberculosis, and liver disease. AAPIs have high rates of some forms of cancer (i.e., breast and colorectal cancer). They are also less likely to have blood pressure monitoring and pap smears. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, AAPIs have the lowest rate of seeking mental help of any racial and ethnic minority group. In 2019, only 23.3% of AAPI adults with a mental illness received treatment. The reluctance to seek help is due to many factors including systemic barriers to accessing mental health care and quality treatment, the stigma associated with mental illness, and the lack of culturally relevant information that addresses mental health as a part of holistic health care. These barriers and disparities can lead to worsened symptoms and poorer quality of life due to the lack of or delayed treatment. Contributing factors to these health disparities include infrequent medical visits, language, and cultural barriers, and lack of health insurance.

Unfortunately, these are issues are felt among Filipino communities in the US as reported by our Filipino American (FA) Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (FAPCOR) "Nayon" networks. Something needs to be done. Our FAPCOR "Nayon" networks are actively giving voice to the health and healthcare issues of Filipinos. The goal is for each "nayon" to take leadership in moving forward health-related priorities and improving patient outcomes. Together, we can! *Kaya natin ito!*



Recognizing the FAPCOR “Nayon” Network Stakeholder Advisory Council

M. Danet Lapiz-Bluhm, PhD, RN, MSCI, ANEF, FAAN

Community participation is key to any patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) endeavors.

In the “Mag-PCOR Muna Tayo” and the Filipino American Research (FAR) Hub projects, engaged community members are invited to serve in each of the state’s FA Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (FAPCOR) “Nayon” Stakeholder Advisory Council (SAC). Members of the SAC and the FAPCOR “Nayon” leaders (i.e., the Academic Research Collaborator or ARC and the Patient Advocate Leader or PAL) form the governing body of each “nayon.” Through the governance structure, the SAC members will help guide and monitor the project’s progress. Their activities may include but are not limited to, providing guidance to “nayon” leaders on communication strategies with the larger community, evaluation of capacity-building strategies for engagement, and the identification and prioritization of PCOR activities.

We recognize the leaders and SAC members of the following FAPCOR “Nayon” networks who have successfully completed their two “pulong at sama-sama” (PASS or focus group), SAC, and town hall meetings:

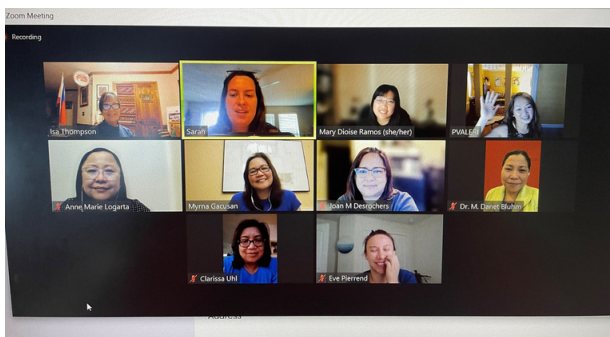
Arizona – Dr. Erlinda Singarajah (ARC), Maribel Dillard (PAL), and SAC Members: Daniel Panopio, Maricel Bobadilla

Maryland – Rowena Villacorta and Conrad Cutanes (ARCs), Aleli Frias (PAL) and SAC Members: Luis Florendo, Mercelita Bowerman, Arnel Abesamis, Concepcion “Siony” Placiente, Mercedita Roxas-Murray

Michigan - Reglita P. Laput (ARC) and SAC Members: Zairel Flynn, Meriam Caboral-Stevens, Sofia E. Bole, Martha Cabarios, Annie Vista

Virginia - Girlyn A. Cachaper (ARC), Catherine Paler (PAL), and SAC Members: Melody Agbisit, Veronica Salcedo, Marissa C. Galicia-Castillo, Maxime A. Frias, Maria Albuero

Thank you for stepping forward in our endeavor to build capacity and engage Filipinos to promote patient-centered outcomes. We look forward to recognizing the governance teams of the FAPCOR “Nayon” networks of Georgia, Florida, Nevada, New England (Massachusetts and New Hampshire), and Ohio!



Georgia FAPCOR "Nayon" Stakeholder Advisory Council Meeting

COMMUNITY LEADER HIGHLIGHTS

Deanna Garcia



Pia Dina Valeriano



Mary Dioise Ramos, PhD, RN

Pia Dina Valeriano, the Patient Advocate Leader (PAL) of Georgia FAPCOR “Nayon,” holds the Bachelor of Science and Master of Business Administration degrees. At Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health’s Hubert Department of Global Health, she manages continuing medical education training. She also owns a business in Palawan, Philippines.

Ms. Valeriano is active in the community coordinating various educational topics in health, cooking, sewing, crocheting, painting, finance, civic, and business. She held leadership positions in various Fil-Am organizations and is very active in the community. She led the Philippine American Women’s Association of Georgia, the Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Emory-Clifton, and the committee to celebrate Philippine Independence in Atlanta. Pia is the current Chair for the National Federation of Filipino Association, GA chapter, and an active board member of the Philippine American Council of GA. She assisted in many humanitarian activities including the search for missing Filipina, Cecilia Bustamante, the PAWAG outreach in Tacloban during typhoon Yolanda’s destruction, a dental mission, and a classroom and literacy project in Bataraza National High School, Palawan, Philippines. Through the Rotary Club of Emory-Clifton, she partnered with the Philippine Medical Association, Philippine American Women’s Association of GA, and Philippine Nurses Association of GA in the mass distribution of K95 masks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Mary Dioise Ramos, the Academic Research Collaborator of the GA FAPCOR “Nayon,” is an Assistant Professor at Kennesaw State University Wellstar School of Nursing, a Research Scientist at Asian Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR), an Adjunct Faculty at William Paterson University Department of Nursing. She received her Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing from Georgia State University and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Arts in Nursing degrees from the University of Santo Tomas. She has a broad range of experience in education, nursing, leadership and management, research and evaluation, curriculum development, working with older adults and families, and direct patient care. Her primary research interests are health disparities in aging research, family caregiving, and dementia. She focuses on understanding the behavioral processes associated with aging and the factors affecting their healthcare decisions. Her work aims at developing culturally tailored interventions for underrepresented aging populations involving their families and social support to improve their quality of life. She also has special interests in advanced analytic techniques to model data in large-scale, longitudinal, and dyadic studies using big data.

Dr. Ramos is an innovative educator, a transformative leader, and an advocate for research on promoting healthy aging, positive health behavior, community engagement, and health literacy. She received the Georgia Asian Times Valiant Award in 2019. The Philippine Nurses Association of America awarded her the 2020 Excellence in Research. The National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence recognized her as a Distinguished Educator in Gerontological Nursing 2021. The Philippine Nurses Association of Georgia, Inc. awarded her the Florence Nightingale Award 2022 for her commitment and dedication to the Filipino nursing communities.

We thank both leaders for their commitment to the GA FAPCOR “Nayon.”



CONTACT US

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