

Proposed Collaboration Plan between the Department of Anesthesiology University of the Philippines (UP) Department of Anesthesiology University of Malaysia (UM)

Proposed Name: **UM-UP Anesthesia Education & Research Collaboration**

Proposed by Ma. Concepcion L Cruz

I. Program Description

The proposed UM-UP Anesthesia Education & Research Collaboration is an international collaboration between the Department of Anesthesiology, University of the Philippines (UP-PGH) in Manila and the Universiti Malaya (University of Malaysia) in Kuala Lumpur. The program aims to establish a linkage between the Anesthesiology Departments of two southeast Asian universities - Malaysia and the Philippines. The goal of this partnership is to promote an interchange of anesthesia education and relevant research ideas in the field of obstetric anesthesia between the trainees and faculty of the two departments. The long-term goal is to foster an ongoing relationship to build collaborative education and research efforts that may impact obstetric anesthesia education in Southeast Asia.

This collaboration is proposed to be embedded as an elective rotation during residency or fellowship training in Obstetric Anesthesia with most learning activities will be conducted virtually. These activities aim to highlight similarities and differences in the conduct anesthesia especially for high risk obstetric patients. The highlight of this elective rotation is an exchange of trainees between the two universities allowing them actual experience of the culture and practice of anesthesia during their immersion.

The point persons for this project are Prof Ma. Concepcion Cruz, Division Chief of the Obstetric Anesthesia, UP-PGH, Manila and Prof. Loh Pui San, head of the Department of Anaesthesiology Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. .

II. Rationale

The practice of anesthesia varies among countries. While basic standards of safety are in place, different countries may have different management guidelines or pathways for patients referred for anesthesia care. Various factors result in these differences. Among these factors are cultural and societal factors especially attitudes towards childbirth and pain. Factors such as medical education and training vary across countries depending on healthcare infrastructure and resources. It is important to note that anesthesia practices continually evolve as new technology and evidence emerge. Sharing knowledge and expertise widen our perspective and options for anesthesia care for the obstetric patient. Though our practices may vary, belonging to the same region may allow our practices to converge over time and give us the opportunity to form consensus statements or even guidelines for the practice of obstetric anesthesia in our region. Overall this partnership allows us to address the common anesthesia challenges we may have in our region especially in maternal health and develop pathways to preserve and improve maternal and fetal safety during labor and delivery.

III. Vision Mission Goals

Division of Obstetric Anesthesia of UP-PGH

Mission Statement : to provide exceptional and compassionate anesthesia care to our pregnant patients allowing her to deliver her newborn in safe and pain-free environment. We are committed to fostering a collaborative and evidence-based approach, utilizing the latest advancements in obstetric anesthesia to optimize patient outcomes and enhancing the overall birth experience of our pregnant patients.

Vision Statement: To be a leading center of excellence in obstetric anesthesia, recognized for innovative practices, outstanding clinical expertise, and compassionate patient centered anesthesia care for our pregnant patients.

Mission Statement of the UM-UP Anesthesia Education & Research Collaboration:

To establish a collaborative platform in obstetric anesthesia between the University of the Philippines and the University of Malaysia, dedicated to advancing the quality of maternal healthcare through the exchange of knowledge, expertise, best practices and consensus building. We aim to improve patient outcomes, enhance education and training opportunities, and foster research collaboration for the benefit of women and their families in both nations as well as in Southeast Asia

Vision Statement of the UM-UP Anesthesia Education & Research Collaboration:

1. To create a dynamic and mutually beneficial partnership between the University of the Philippines and the University of Malaysia in the field of obstetric anesthesia.
2. Together, be a driving force in shaping the practice of safe and beneficial obstetric anesthesia practice for diverse populations in the Southeast Asian region through the creation of evidence based practice guidelines and consensus statements adapted specially for the region.
3. To create a sustainable partnership that promotes cultural exchange, fosters innovation, and empowers healthcare professionals to deliver safe, equitable, and patient-centered obstetric anesthesia care, serving as a model for global collaboration in women's health."

IV. Collaboration Outcomes

1. Knowledge and Skill Exchange: Anesthesia educators from UM and UP can impart knowledge, expertise, and best practices to trainees from both universities
2. Education and training: Collaboration can facilitate joint learning discussions, workshop and conferences that provide opportunities for anesthesia trainees learn from different mentors
3. Research collaboration: collaborative research projects between the two universities which focus on region-specific challenges can lead to the production of relevant and useful evidence based data that may help develop consensus and practice guidelines for safe anesthesia practice specific to the populations and healthcare system not only of Malaysia and the Philippines but other southeast Asian countries as well. Hopefully these consensus and guidelines will help improve outcome of our obstetric patients.

V. Profile of the Prospective Partner Institution/Agency

The University of Malaya is a government located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It is the oldest Malaysian institution of higher education. The University of Malaysia has been ranked consistently as the No. 1 university in Malaysia and among the top 3 universities in Southeast Asia as well as among the top 400 universities in the world according to reputed ranking publishers such as QS and ARWU in 2022. The Department of Anesthesiology of the University headed by Prof Loh Pui San . consists of 31 consultants and specialists and 85 medical officers. working alongside a team of 85 medical officers. Their training program in Anesthesiology is the Master of Anaesthesiology (MANEAS) which is a 4 year degree program the aim of enable the graduate to practice anesthesia independently in a Malaysian hospital as well as to *“inculcate a lifelong commitment to excellence and learning.”* Furthermore the aim of their department *“to work together to achieve clinical, educational and research excellence in parallel with UM’s vision of being a university serving the nation and impacting the communities of the world.”* (UM Department of Anaesthesiology website). It would be an honor for our department to collaborate with such a respected and reputable university in the field of education and research.

VI. Benefits of the Collaboration/Internationalization

Overall, this international anesthesia collaboration between UM and UP can promote mutual learning, relevant research endeavors , ultimately improving anesthesia care for our pregnant patients. This partnership offers a platform for knowledge exchange, professional growth, and cultural understanding, fostering advancement in the field of anesthesiology particularly obstetric anesthesiology.

For our department, this would be our first initiative for international collaboration. The benefits would be tremendous:

1. Exposure to global best practices: this collaboration will allow our trainees to be learned about I best practices from another esteemed university. This exposure will help our department incorporate the latest techniques, protocols and advancement to our training program enhancing the quality of education and training in anesthesia to meet at least Asean standards.
2. Clinical experience: if the elective face to face immersion would push through, this collaboration will provide our trainees to gain diverse clinical experience. They will have the chance to observe anesthesia procedures in a different healthcare system with different cultural contexts. Eventually, this exposure would broaden their perspective and understanding of anesthesia practice, enabling them to adapt to various patient populations, healthcare setting and challenging clinical obstetric scenarios.
3. Research opportunities: collaborating with the University of Malaysia opens up avenues for international research collaborations which is a mandate of our university as expressed in our mission – *“ Service, Training, and Research.”* Our trainees as well our faculty can participate in joint research projects, sharing data, resources and expertise. This collaboration not only will contribute to our advancement in knowledge but will also provide valuable research experience for our trainees, enhancing their research skills especially in developing socially relevant impact researches.
4. Faculty development: our faculty members would have the chance to experience new teaching methodologies in anesthesia, research trends and clinical practices enabling them to enhance teaching skill and expand their professional network. This will help us in becoming globally competitive in aneshtesia education.

5. Cultural competence and diversity: this collaboration potentially promotes cultural competence and diversity among the trainees and faculty as well. The interaction between the members of the anesthesia department from these two countries help foster cultural understanding, sensitivity and mutual respect. This exposure prepares trainees to work effectively in multicultural healthcare environments where they may encounter patients from diverse backgrounds. This exposure enhances their ability to communicate and collaborate with their anesthesia counterparts from different cultures promoting teamwork and professional growth.
6. Enhanced reputation: this collaboration with a reputable international anesthesia department may enhance the reputation of our training institution. This improves our department's commitment to excellence, innovation and becoming globally competent in the field of anesthesia. This will then attract trainees, faculty and more research funding.

VII. Proposed Collaboration/Internationalization Plan (please refer to the template below)

VIII. Potential challenges and proposed solutions:

1. Cultural differences: Malaysia and the Philippines though belonging to the same southeast asean region may present with diverse cultures, traditions and healthcare practices which can impact collaboration dynamics. Thus it is important that we establish open and respectful communication channels to bridge the cultural gap and foster a collaborative environment.
2. Administrative and legal processes: We may be faced with administrative and legal challenges due to differences in regulations, policies and procedures. Thus it is important to obtain the necessary approvals and permits and ethical clearances for joint projects and learning activities. It would help if the officials of our institutions fully support this collaboration.
3. Resource limitations: Unequal educational and training resource distribution pose a challenge not only for this venture but for international collaborations as well. One university may have access to advanced technology, equipment, research funding as well as travel and lodging funding while the other may face limitations. Identifying and addressing resource gaps through shared funding, resource sharing agreements, or seeking university grants or external funding can help mitigate these challenges.

IX. Lessons Learned/ takeaways/ plan to implement

Coming up with this final output was indeed a challenge for me. At first I could not think of which country to collaborate with. But finally I realized that I need not look far from home. Linking up with my Malaysian friend Professor YK Chan, the former head of the Anesthesia department of the University of Malaya seemed like the perfect option. Being the Chair of the Education committee of the World Federation of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) she understood the value of education as a lifelong endeavor and immediately introduced me to the new head of the Department, Professor Loh Pui San. I have emailed her this proposal and am awaiting her comments.

Initially, this was just a class project but I realized the value of this collaboration if it becomes a reality. In this day and age where information technology can bring countries closer even virtually, the opportunities for shared learning and expertise is immense. We have the same time zone as we belong to the same region. Though diverse in culture and maybe healthcare systems together we can develop consensus statements for the practice of safe anesthesia for the pregnant patient in different clinical scenarios. At the end, writing up this proposal was fulfilling both personally and professionally because I would have initiated a collaboration that can uplift our training in the department and allow us to form a relationship with our southeast Asian partners which fosters continuing anesthesia education.

I plan to continue corresponding with Prof Loh Pui San and brainstorm how we can begin this collaboration effort even virtually at the start then hopefully at some point have face to face exchange of our trainees. The Associate Dean of Post Graduate Institute of the University as well as the Director of the Philippine General Hospital

encourage faculty to initiate international collaboration that benefit training and research. And I may be able to ask for sponsorship for board and lodging near the hospital.

X. References

Cite all your references.

**University of the Philippines Manila
National Teacher Training Center for the Health Professions
International Comparative Education (HP 264 and HPEd 364)**

VI. Proposed Collaboration/Internationalization Plan

Collaboration Outcomes	Specific Objectives	Activities	Process/ Method	Time Frame/ Schedule		People in Charge		Resources/ Budget		Evaluation/ Monitoring Tool	Results	
				Start Date	Completion Date	Organizer or Initiator	Person to coordinate with	Needed	Sources		Indicator	Outcome
1. Knowledge, education and Skill Exchange	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To incorporate as an option for the trainee a flexible schedule of learning activities within the training program To share knowledge and experience in the latest advances in obstetric anesthesia techniques for specific parturient populations To acquire additional knowledge and experience in 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical case presentation, lectures, updates Grand rounds Obstetric anesthesia crisis management workshops Mentorship and / or Preceptorship including observation of procedures Peer review sessions and debriefing during critical events (learning in a safe space) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Teleconferences and webinars other virtual or online learning platforms to facilitate real time learning and communication where both countries can share their expertise, experiences, regarding anesthesia management of specific patients Face to face meetings, when time and resources permit 	January 2024 (beginning of fellowship or residency training)	December 2026	Ma. Concepcion Cruz and Division of Obstetric anesthesiology, UP-PGH Committee on Training and research	Prof Loh Pui San , head of the Dept of Anaesthesiology University of Malaysia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Financial resources to organize conferences, workshops, online learning systems Information communication technology like Good internet connection Adequate infrastructure like a well-equipped conference room Human resources to contribute their knowledge, skills, and time towards organizing and participating in collaborative 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> from institutional and external funding stable internet provider and technical resources have a dedicated conference with ICT equipment Hire more faculty or encourage participation of the present 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Pre and post collaboration surveys and questionnaires to participants stakeholders to measure satisfaction or effectiveness of the program, perceived benefits, and to gather feedback about the program Rubrics and checklist to assess specific activities or outcomes Conducting qualitative assessments such as interviews, focus groups, or case studies to gather in-depth 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge exchange enhanced clinical practice improvement Knowledge Transfer and Capacity Building Collaborative research output Consensus and practice guideline development 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> increased number of joint conferences and increased number of active participants in the learning sessions presence of changes that improve patient outcome, adoption of evidence-based, best practices, and standardization of procedures increased participation of trainees and faculty in the program for

	<p>the management of high-risk obstetric cases, including maternal comorbidities, obstetric emergencies, and fetal considerations.</p> <p>4. To familiarize oneself with the national and international guidelines, protocols, and best practices in obstetric anesthesia, and assess their applicability and feasibility in their respective healthcare settings.</p> <p>5. Understand and compare the cultural, societal, and healthcare system factors influencing obstetric anesthesia practices in the Philippines and Malaysia.</p> <p>6. To promote cross-cultural learning and understanding of different healthcare systems.</p> <p>7. To develop research projects based on mutually agreed upon research agenda for the regions (anesthesia for fetal distress)</p>		<p>3. Use of simulation (virtual or face to face)</p> <p>4. Short term immersion in the training institutions to gain exposure to different practices, enhance clinical skills,</p> <p>5. Ask for mentor volunteers and create mentorship programs and networking opportunities between anesthesia professionals from both countries.</p> <p>6. Create a joint committee to develop a research agenda that addresses the practice of obstetric anesthesia in the region</p>				<p>activities.</p> <p>5. Research protocols and projects</p> <p>6. Research Support: for publication</p>	<p>faculty</p> <p>5, research funding from institution – administrative support and external support for research development workshops, statisticians, software, publication</p>	<p>insights into the impact of the collaboration.</p>		<p>continued sustainability</p> <p>4. . increased number of completed research collaborations</p> <p>5. number of consensus statements and advocacies as well as practice guidelines developed for the safe practice of obstetric anesthesia in the region</p>
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2. Research Collaborations		efforts concentrating on improving patient outcome and decreasing anesthesia-related maternal morbidity and mortality										
The Collaboration Outcomes identified in PART IV are written here.	The specific objectives refer to the intent of each of the activities you have identified to achieve your outcomes.	The name of the activity that you plan to do to achieve your specific objective and your collaboration outcome. I suggest you review the flowchart I have presented in class to guide you in identifying the activities.	This describes how the activity will be conducted, the specific steps to be undertaken to implement the activity.	The exact date expected to launch or start the activity.	The exact date expected to finish the activity.	Identify the people/offices who will organize or initiate the activity.	Identify the people or offices to coordinate with to implement the activity.	Indicate the human, physical, financial resources needed to execute the activity.	Identify where the identified resources will come from.	Identify the tools or instruments that will be used to ensure that your collaboration outcomes are achieved (Example: minutes of meetings, attendance, photo documentation, approved and signed MOU/MOA, etc	Set quantitative and qualitative indicators to show the rate of success or failure of the activity. (Example: 100% attendance from the officials of both partners, 90% participation of students, etc)	This is the expected long-term impact of the activity that contributes to the attainment of the collaboration outcomes.