Professor Eva Maria C. Cutiongco-de la Paz

Dr Eva Maria C. Cutiongco-de la Paz, MD, FPPS, is Vice Chancellor for Research, University of Philippines Manila, Executive Director, National Institutes of Health and Program Director for Health, Philippine Genome Center, University of the Philippines.

Dr. Cutiongco-de la Paz received her Bachelor of Science degree in biology at the UP College of Science in 1984. She finished her Doctor of Medicine degree from the UP College of Medicine in 1989, and completed her pediatric residency at the Philippine General Hospital in 1992. She received awards as an outstanding intern and most outstanding resident in pediatrics in the same institution. She had her research fellowship in molecular genetics at the International Center for Medical Research at the Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine in Japan under the Japanese Monbusho Scholarship, and took her subspecialty training in Clinical Genetics at the Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, Canada as a UP Medical Alumni Society of America Scholar.

She was board-certified as a fellow by the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists in 2000. Dr Cutiongco-de la Paz was a Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awardee for the field of Genetic Medicine in 2002, and was also recognized by the National Academy of Science and Technology as one of the Outstanding Young Scientists (OYS) in the same year.

She was also recognized as one of the Outstanding Women in the Nation’s Service (TOWNS) for medicine in 2007. She received the 2011 UP Manila's Outstanding Researcher and the Professorial Chair for Excellence in Teaching and Research in Pediatrics and Genetics. She was the chair of the Technical Review Board of the NIH Philippines from 2006-2011, and was recently appointed as program director for the Genomics Health Program of the Philippine Genome Center. She is also the awardee of the Dr. Jose Rizal Memorial Award for Research, given by the Philippine Medical Association in May of 2012.

Professor Wuh-Liang Hwu

Dr. Paul Wuh-Liang Hwu completed his medical and PhD degrees at National Taiwan University, and completed his residency at NTUH. He has done fellowship at the Department of Genetics at Johns Hopkins University, and was also a Visiting Scientist at the Department of Medical Genetics at the Mayo Clinic. Dr. Hwu leads his group setting up the Newborn Screening Program for Pompe Disease and the gene therapy for aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase deficiency clinical trial which both are world-leading programs. Currently Dr Hwu is a Professor in Pediatrics of the National Taiwan University and an attending Physician in the Department of Medical genetics and Pediatrics of the National Taiwan University Hospital of Taiwan.

Dr. Hwu is dedicated to innovative diagnosis and treatment for human genetic diseases. He is the former director of the Taiwan Newborn Screening Laboratory at NTUH, at that time he established Pompe Disease newborn screening. He is now still the director of the biochemical genetics laboratory and is developing tests and offering clinical laboratory service for lysosomal storage diseases. Dr. Hwu is now focusing on gene therapy for genetic diseases, specifically, for aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase (AADC) deficiency. The treatment includes injection of adeno-associated virus into the human brain. The treatment results from 4 patients have been published in Science Translational Medicine. In order to develop this gene therapy, a mouse model of AADC deficiency has been created in the lab. These mice are being characterized by histochemical and behavior sciences. And studies of gene therapy for these mice are also ongoing.

Professor David Chitayat

Professor David Chitayat received his MD degree from Tel-Aviv University, Sackler School of Medicine. After graduating he served in the Israeli Defense Force and was promoted to the rank of Major. He completed his residency in Pediatrics at the Tel-Aviv Medical Center and did fellowships in Medical Genetics at Albert Einstein School of Medicine in New York, and at the Department of Medical Genetics, University of British Columbia.

He joined the Division of Clinical Genetics, McGill University in 1989. In 1991, he joined Clinical and Metabolic Genetics at SickKids and was appointed as the co-Director, and in 1998 as Head, of The Prenatal Diagnosis Program at The Toronto General Hospital. The program moved to Mount Sinai Hospital in 2000 and he was appointed as the Head of The Prenatal Diagnosis and Medical Genetics Program. In 1998, he was appointed Medical Director of the MSc Program in Genetic Counselling at the University of Toronto. Dr. Chitayat is a Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Genetics, Obstetrics and Gynecology and Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology and is a fellow of the following colleges: RCPSC, CCMG, ABMG, ACMG.

Dr. Chitayat has published over 15 book chapters and over 300 peer reviewed papers. He described the natural history and clinical features of multiple genetic syndromes, including one that bear his name Chitayat syndrome. He has been an invited visiting professor, and a keynote speaker at national and international universities and institutions. His representative achievements include:

1. Continuing Education Award for Excellence in Long-term Contributions in Course Coordination, Department of Paediatrics, University of Toronto, Hospital for Sick Children. 2010
2. Recipient of the Founders Award for Excellence in Medical Genetics. This award is conferred upon individuals who have a significant contribution to the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists and the Genetics Community. 2010
3. The University of Toronto, Department of Pediatrics Richard Rowe Award for Clinical Excellence for 2012.