

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8503, February 13, 1998]

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH), DEFINING ITS OBJECTIVES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Health Research and Development Act of 1998."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to improve the quality of life for every Filipino. For this purpose, the State shall establish a center for excellence for health research and development.

SEC. 3. *Creation of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).* - To carry out the above policy, the National Institutes of Health, hereinafter referred to as the NIH, is hereby created and established at the University of the Philippines (UP) Manila. The NIH shall serve as the coordinating and integrating body of the existing research institutes in UP Manila, namely, the Institute of Ophthalmology, the Institute of Socio-Biomedical Research, the Institute of Biotechnology and Molecular Biology for Health, the Institute of Clinical Epidemiology and such other institutes and health research programs which may be subsequently created in UP Manila after the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Objectives of the Institutes.* - The objectives of the NIH are:

- a. To promote science and technology research and development in the field of health;
- b. To promote the development of study groups and research programs;
- c. To establish mechanisms for the dissemination and utilization of research outputs;
- d. To complement graduate programs and faculty research human resource training in UP Manila; and
- e. To ensure that the results of health research and development activities are utilized to improve the health of the people.

SEC. 5. *Functions of the Institutes.* - The Institutes shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. To integrate and coordinate the development and scope of operation of each institute, research programs and component units;
- b. To organize teams and establish programs that will provide research and development innovations for the improvement of existing technologies, medicines, vaccines and other health products and instruments;
- c. To establish research programs on health promotion, disease prevention and control;
- d. To formulate and conduct research on problems associated with aging, degenerative processes, metabolic studies, prevention and rehabilitation of disabilities, wellness, health communications, health and social science, management of health systems, traditional and complementary medicine, and health policies;
- e. To enhance the masters and doctoral pool of researchers and faculty to complement the research and post graduate program of UP Manila;
- f. To provide common research support facilities for its component units;
- g. To maximize the utilization of expert support staff;
- h. To optimize resource generation and utilization;
- i. To establish local and foreign linkages;
- j. To receive and manage grants, aid, donations or any kind of assistance for achieving its objectives, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the University of the Philippines (UP); and
- k. To propose and allocate the annual budgetary resources for each component unit.

SEC. 6. *Component Programs of the NIH.* - In addition to the existing component units mentioned in Section 3 of this Act, the NIH shall establish the following component programs:

- a. Health Product Cluster which shall undertake scientific and technological efforts to attain self-sufficiency and global competitiveness in the manufacture of health products and devices;
- b. Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Control Cluster which shall undertake studies on health promotion, epidemiology and disease patterns, and emerging health problems;
- c. Gerontology and Disabilities Cluster which shall conduct studies on problems associated with aging, degenerative processes, metabolic diseases and prevention and rehabilitation of disabilities;
- d. Social and Humanistic Studies which shall promote interdisciplinary approach to health research; and