

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.

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NAME: Ana Joy, Mendez

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (agency login):

POSITION TITLE: Assistant Professor

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
Davao Doctors College	BS	1992	Nursing
Ateneo De Davao University	MN	1996	Nursing
Manuel L. Quezon University	PHD	2009	Psychology

**A. PERSONAL STATEMENT**

I have a broad and diverse experience as a nurse clinician, educator and researcher. I had the opportunity to work with clients from diverse cultural backgrounds in an acute health care as well as in the community setting. In addition, I successfully administered and completed as a co-leader of a U54 pre-pilot project : *"Identification of Biomarkers in Saliva from Betel Consumption"*. Accomplishments included development of study proposal and protocol, WIRB approval, recruitment of study volunteers from an underserved minority group, research protection, staffing, logistics, budget and publication of the results in peer-reviewed journal. Successful collaborative work entailed positive communication strategies, hard work and commitment. As a registered nurse with over two decades of healthcare experience, I have the expertise necessary to successfully carry out the work of a co-investigator of the following projects :

- a) Pilot 1: "Reducing Cervical Cancer Screening Health Disparity among Pacific Islanders living in Guam and Hawaii". This project aims to evaluate the effectiveness of a community-based SMS strategies to increase cancer screening rates in underserved Indigenous Chuukese population who migrated to Guam within the last 5 years.
- b) Project II:"The Betel Nut Intervention Trial". This project aims to test the efficacy of an intensive group-based betel nut cessation program.
- c) The Community Outreach Core (COC) of the U54 partnership between the University of Guam and the University of Hawaii focuses on outreach and education component to reduce cancer health disparities for underserved Pacific Islanders. The COC project focuses on breaking down some of the barriers by developing and adapting evidence-based, culturally-appropriate educational materials that may assist health care providers and community-based organizations in their provision of services in the community.

My experience and expertise demonstrate that I have the capacity to carry out the responsibilities of a co-investigator of the above-mentioned projects under the mentorship of Dr. Lilnabeth Somera in the Cervical Screening Pilot and Community Outreach Core ( COC) projects and Dr. Yvette Paulino in the Betel Nut Intervention Trial ( BENIT).

## **B. POSITIONS AND HONORS**

### **Positions and Employment**

1993 - 1996 Clinical Instructor, Davao Doctors College, Davao City, Philippines  
1996 - 1997 Dean-School of Nursing, Arriegado College Foundation, Tagum City, Philippines  
1996 - 2004 Professor-MA in Nursing, San Pedro College Graduate Studies, Davao City, Philippines  
1997 - 2004 Hospital Administrative Officer II, Southern Philippines Medical Center, Philippines  
2004 - 2010 Staff Nurse/Charge Nurse, Shands at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida  
2010 - Assistant Professor, Nursing Program, University of Guam, School of Nursing and Health Sciences

### **Other Experience and Professional Memberships**

2010 - Member, Guam Homeless Coalition  
2011 - Member, American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
2011 - Member, American Nurses Association  
2013- Member, The Society of Clinical Research Associates

### **Honors**

1992 Cum Laude (BSN), Davao Doctors College  
2009 Merit Award, Manuel L. Quezon University  
2009 Most Outstanding Nurse, Shands at the University of Florida

## **C. CONTRIBUTION TO SCIENCE**

Betel nut and betel “quid” have been classified as carcinogenic by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. Yet, up to now, most reports concerning Betel nut components and mucosal diseases and carcinogenesis have focused on in vitro and animal models, which do not allow direct extrapolations to humans. Direct biomarker was established to quantify the consumption of betel nuts in humans. We successfully identified specific betel nut (BN) biomarkers that occur in the saliva of humans after chewing betel nut preparations. I served as the co-leader in the study “*Identification of Biomarkers in Saliva from Betel consumption*”.

1. Franke, Adrian, Mendez, A. , Lai, J., Cabading, C. , Li, X., Custer, L. “Composition of Betel Specific Chemicals in Saliva during Betel Chewing for the Identification of Biomarkers”. Food and Chemical Toxicology Journal 80( 2015 )241-246, March 2015

In addition to the work described above, I was able to study the health conditions, practices, habits and perceptions of the respondents of the Biomarker Study. It was found that all participants were aware of the negative consequences of areca nut chewing yet they still continued with the habit. The health problems associated with areca nut mastication were not seen as alarming to participants. These findings have implications on public health approaches. This body of work will continue to provide assistance in understanding the factors that keep this practice to thrive for generations. I serve as the co-leader in the study.

2. Mendez, A and Cabading, C., "Cultural Considerations in the Conduct of Clinical Research: The Guam Experience". International Journal of Nursing and Clinical Practice 3: 188 ISSN: 2394-4978, July 2016.
3. Mendez, Ana Joy and Cabading, Celine: "Health Consequences and Risk Perception on Areca Nut Chewing Among Young Adults on Guam". Humanities and Social Sciences Review Journal, Volume 4, No 1, 2015. ISSN: 2165-6258: 04(03):135-140(2015)

## **RESEARCH SUPPORT**

### **Completed Research Support**

NCI U54CA143727 and U54 CA143728

Mendez (Co-leader )

Identification of Biomarkers in Saliva from Betel consumption

The goal of the study was to identify specific betel nut (BN) biomarkers that occur in the saliva of humans after chewing BN preparations.

Role: Co-leader