



Conference Proceedings

Preface: To Ability and Beyond- 2nd Annual Rehabilitation Sciences Convention (RSCon)

College of Rehabilitation Sciences University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines

Convention Dates: March 11, 24 -25, 2023

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Overview

The 2nd Rehabilitation Sciences Convention: To Ability and Beyond on March 11, 24-25, 2023, is a pride of our organization as it is the first ever student-led international convention organized by the organization. This year's convention aimed to provide a platform for students who aim to become a rehabilitation science professional in the near future to be a more qualified professional by equipping them with knowledge and skills that will be beneficial for them and their future patients and clients. There are 15 presentations with eleven of them coming from rehabilitation science students from the Philippines and the other four coming from Thailand.

As this convention grows and continues, we wish for more presentations to be presented as each participation benefits the students in the rehabilitation science field to be a competent and qualified professional.

With an objective to promote camaraderie among rehabilitation science students and develop competent professionals of the future. The students of UST-College of Rehabilitation Sciences conducted the second run of the first student-led rehabilitation sciences international convention, RS Convention 2023.

The convention served as a platform for future professionals to obtain knowledge and see what's ahead of them through various talks, roundtable discussions, and research paper presentations that revolves around three topics that will be beneficial for them. Evidence-Based practice, Interprofessional Collaboration among rehabilitation professionals, and updates on the recent innovations done in the field are the topics that was highlighted in this convention.

The research presentations were open for students who are currently enrolled in any rehabilitation science course from inside and outside the country. Ten of the papers presented are undergraduates of UST CRS, one paper presented came from the UST Graduate School, while the remaining four are presentations from the St. Louis College in Thailand.

Using a standard and reviewed criteria, the abstracts were screened by a selected panel of researchers and faculty members from University of Santo Tomas College of Rehabilitation Sciences (UST-CRS) and Center for Health Research and Movement Science (CHRMS). The accepted abstracts were deliberated upon and grouped based on their overarching theme, tied with the themes of RSCon: Evidence-Based Practice and Education. These were presented virtually during the RS Convention Day 2: Parallel Sessions, with an audience of rehabilitation science students and professionals from the Philippines, Japan, and Thailand. Following their presentations, the presenters and participants engaged in live roundtable discussions to provide insights on each other's research proposals and papers, through the supervision of invited moderators.

Three of the studies highlighted Evidence-Based Practice among their professions. For the field of physical therapy, the proposed phenomenological qualitative study of Lipardo, Manlapaz, Orpilla, et al. (2023) focused on the perceptions and experiences of healthy Filipino community-dwelling older adults aged 60 years

or above in relation to an implemented Arnis-Based Exercise Program. For the field of occupational therapy, Manlapaz, et al. (2023) discussed the Effectiveness of Parent Coaching in

improving the social participation of children with autism spectrum disorder through a comprehensive systematic search. Moreover, Gomez, et al. (2023) proposed their cross-sectional quantitative descriptive study which aimed to describe the quality of life among Filipino families of children with disabilities (CWDs) to highlight the importance of social support to CWDs. Evidence-based practice research helps in further improvement of some of the fields in Rehabilitation Science. With some support from research providing evidence, it could lead to advancements that can be truly beneficial for patients and therapists alike. Therapists could also integrate practices if it is supported by evidence, and these types of research help boost and support these emerging practices. Furthermore, this kind of research can only be improved on as long as existing research is given innovative improvements that help in making it better.

Four studies had an overarching theme related to the Education and wellbeing of students enrolled in the University of Santo Tomas College of Rehabilitation Sciences (UST-CRS). One being the phenomenological study of Hernandez, et al. (2023) that described the undergraduate students' perceptions on the IPE course through a focus group discussion; the results of this study revealed positive perceptions that are aligned with the results of other international studies on IPE. Another descriptive quantitative research study was proposed by Manlapaz (2023) with an objective to determine the current state of CRS graduates and provide insights into the quality assurance of BS Physical Therapy graduates of the UST-CRS. In relation to the previous studies' population, Gomez, et al. (2023) discussed the findings of their descriptive observational cross-sectional study on the occupational balance of undergraduate students from BS Occupational Therapy during the pandemic, by using a record review methodology. Lastly, Escudra, Maya, Nava, Vergara, et al. (2023)'s proposed phenomenological qualitative study explored the perceptions and experiences of undergraduate

students who engaged with a six-week online wellbeing program.

These research studies and proposals pose to be highly beneficial in the development and implementation of the college's curriculum reviews, policies, and future programs geared towards the holistic improvement of the rehabilitation sciences students. The reported and expected results from the published abstracts may benefit the various stakeholders of the academic institution through increased participation and improved psychological, physical, and mental health of the undergraduate students. These abstracts prove to be interlaced with the theme and overall objective of the convention, which was to promote camaraderie among undergraduate students enrolled in the college – which in turn, will develop competent rehabilitation sciences professionals to serve clients inside and outside the country. These abstracts serve as a vantage point where readers can see the current state of the field of rehabilitation sciences in the Philippines, the ongoing efforts to bridge the knowledge gap, and ultimately the continuous and steady development of rehabilitation knowledge in the near future.