

DOST- PCHRD- GRUPPO MEDICA AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE THESIS IN HERBAL MEDICINE

PURPOSE

The DOST-PCHRD- Gruppo Medica Award gives recognition to relevant and innovative research work on herbal medicine undertaken by undergraduate students. The Award highlights research that can lead to practical and/or commercial applications. The Award expects to provide the motivation for students with the technical guidance of their faculty advisers, to view undergraduate thesis not merely as an academic exercise, but as an excellent opportunity to contribute to national interests.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

1. Who can participate

The Award is open to all undergraduate students of **Colleges of Pharmacy, Chemistry, Nursing, and Arts and Sciences** who have completed thesis projects on medicinal plants. The projects must have been completed within the current school year.

2. Who can nominate

Nominations must be made by the students' faculty adviser and should be endorsed to DOST-PCHRD by the College Dean and the region-based health research and development consortium. Each school/college can endorse a maximum of three thesis projects.

3. How to nominate

Nominations should be made in a prescribed nomination form. Entries should include a copy of the completed thesis report and the nomination form stamped with the college seal.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The criteria for the selection include the following:

1. *Relevance (20%)*

- Addresses a nationwide health problem or top 10 cause of morbidity or mortality
- Scientifically validates that the plant drug material is effective and safe to use
- Adds information to what is already known in the literature
- Contributes to the promotion of proper and wise use of Philippine medicinal plants

2. *Potential for practical application or commercialization of results (25%)*

- The herbal medicine is less costly than commercial preparations. Projected cost of the drug product is competitive with available drugs in the market
- Commercial use of the plant material will not contribute to the destruction of the plant and is environment friendly.
- Plant material is readily available and easy to propagate
- Results of the study showed continuity of previous researches such that practical application is evaluated further
- Research has the potential for present and future utilization by health service.

3. *Creativity and originality of research work (20%)*

- The research process design is new and innovative
- A new and effective drug product is reported
- A novel bioactive plant constituent has been identified chemically and pharmacologically
- A novel use of the plant material is advanced.

4. Scientific quality (30%)

- Experimental design is scientifically* sound and valid for the objectives formulated
 - Presentation of results is clear and concise
 - Review of literature is extensive and updated
 - Report is well written and convincing
- *should also include authentication of plant/s by authority and with approval of animal ethics if animals are involved

5. Number of researchers (5%)

SELECTION/EVALUATION PROCESS:

- Pre-screening and evaluation by the consortium
 - Endorsement to DOST-PCHR
 - Checking for completeness of documents by DOST-PCHR
 - Selection of finalists by Gruppo Medica Inc. (GMI)
 - Grading of finalists by the screening/evaluation committee
 - Oral presentation of the top 5 qualifiers/ finalists to the screening committee and final deliberation/evaluation of finalists
- Deliberation of winners will be based on the grading and/or rating of the oral presentation

SCREENING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Regional Health Research and Development Consortium - for prescreening
- UP Institute of Chemistry
- UST Research Center for the Natural Sciences
- DLSHSI Center for Biopharmaceutical Research
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Gruppo Medica Inc. (GMI)
- DOST-PCHR

CASH AWARD

Prizes will be distributed as follows:

First prize	P 60,000 = P 42,000 for the student 12,000 for the mentor 6,000 for the school
Second prize	P 40,000 = P 28,000 for the student 8,000 for the mentor 4,000 for the school
Third prize	P 20,000 = P 14,000 for the student 4,000 for the mentor 2,000 for the school

Each finalist will also receive a certificate of merit and recognition

TIMETABLE OF ACTIVITIES

Dissemination	- January to March 2013
Deadline of submission to the consortium	- end of March 2013
Deadline of submission to PCHRD	- end of April 2013
Selection of Finalists	- May to June 2013
Oral Presentation of top finalists to the Committee and final deliberation	- 1 st Week of July (succeeding year)
Announcement of winners	- To be announced

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES IS EXTENDED UNTIL
MAY 3, 2013**