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I am a clinical psychologist in Public Health & Public Policy who, after 24 years in the United States, returned to the Philippines through U.P.'s Balik-Ph.D. Program.

My research work and projects have the following long-term goals: (1) to form the basis of a nationwide and internationally comparative information tracking system for the prevalence and distribution of mental disorders and service utilization; (2) to effect a transition from descriptive epidemiology to analytical epidemiology of mental disorders; (3) to fill the gaps in empirical data essential for the development, implementation, and evaluation of mental health legislation, policy and regulation; (4) to improve the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of mental health services; and (5) to reduce stigma as a significant barrier to seeking mental health treatment.

I am the principal investigator of the Diwa Mental Health Survey (DMHS) -- a U.P. System-wide project that estimates the prevalence and social determinants of mental health problems among students across all the campuses. I am also the principal investigator of the Engagement in HIV Care (EHC) project, which is a research study funded by the Center for AIDS Research/Brown University that looks at psychosocial and behavioral factors that promote or inhibit engagement in the care continuum among Filipinos living with HIV. And, in collaboration with the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, I am also the lead in a nationwide household survey on non-communicable diseases (NCD). This PCARI-CHED project hopes to inform how NCD care can be better integrated into primary care.

Core to all of these are two principles that weave through my work: the deliberate integration of community-based mental health and the deliberate prioritization of *sikolohiyang Pilipino*. My research, advocacy and policy work are especially inspired by closing the “great cultural divide,” so eloquently described by Dr. Virgilio Enriquez, which includes actively using social media as a tool for mental health promotion, education and collaboration.

The logo for PAASE consists of the word "PAASE" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, centered within a white rectangular box. This box is itself centered within a larger blue rectangular frame. A thick blue horizontal bar extends to the right from the right side of the logo box.

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