

## Health Care Team Patterns through Perception of Interprofessional Interaction Between Pharmacists and Medical Technologists in a City in Northern Philippines

Langit MRD<sup>1,3,4\*</sup>, Estacio BRB<sup>2</sup>, Estrella JIOV<sup>2</sup>, Galicio FIF<sup>2</sup>, Gamino CDR<sup>2</sup>, Gloria JAA<sup>2</sup>, Gomez PNC<sup>2</sup>, Hamadain SKIL<sup>2</sup>, Hulipas LEM<sup>2</sup>, Jamandre CAD<sup>2</sup>, Lababit AMM<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Pharmacy, <sup>2</sup> Department of Medical Laboratory Science, School of Natural Sciences, Saint Louis University, Baguio City, Philippines

<sup>3</sup> The Graduate School, University of Santo Tomas, Sampaloc, Manila, Philippines

<sup>4</sup> Executive Secretary, Philippine Pharmacists Association, Manila, Philippines

\* Corresponding author

Email: [mrclangit@slu.edu.ph](mailto:mrclangit@slu.edu.ph)

**Background and Objectives:** Interprofessional collaboration in healthcare is a crucial factor in delivering quality health and patient care. The aim of this study was to investigate healthcare team patterns involving interprofessional collaboration between medical technologists and pharmacists.

**Methods:** A quantitative, descriptive cross-sectional design study wherein, a 30-item questionnaire was distributed through physical questionnaires and Google Forms to pharmacists and medical technologists working at four tertiary hospitals in a city in Northern Philippines. A total of 105 respondents were recruited, with a response rate of 64.7%. This study utilized simple random sampling. All consenting medical technologists and pharmacists with at least six-month hospital experience were included in the study.

**Results and Discussion:** Interprofessional interactions between medical technologists and pharmacists are infrequently observed, compared to interprofessional interactions between other healthcare professionals. The ranking of interaction with pharmacists is significantly negatively correlated with the ranking of interaction with medical technologists ( $r_s = -0.895$ ;  $P\text{-value} = 0.001$ ) indicating that those who interact more with pharmacists interact less with medical technologists. Evidence suggests a significant difference between the mean index on "Teamwork and Collaboration", and "Patient-Centeredness" of the two professions ( $P\text{-value} = 0.001$ ;  $P\text{-value} = 0.014$ ). This indicates that pharmacists exhibit greater positive attitude towards "Teamwork and Collaboration" and "Patient-Centeredness" than medical technologists. However, both professions showed readiness for interprofessional learning.

**Conclusion:** There is a lack of established interprofessional interactions and collaboration between pharmacists and medical technologists despite existence calls for the creation of interactive and collaborative opportunities.

**Keywords:** health care, interprofessional, pharmacists, medical technologists