



PHILIPPINE HEALTH RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD

Philippine National Health Research System

c/o Philippine Council for Health Research and Development

Department of Science and Technology

29 January 2026

DR. JOSEPHINE M. LUMITAO

Chair, Research Ethics Committee
University of Santo Tomas Hospital
6/F Clinical Division Bldg., España Blvd.
Manila

Dear **Dr. Lumitao**,

Based on the evaluation of your action plan and compliance, the Philippine Health Research Ethics Board (PHREB), upon the recommendation of its Committee on Standards and Accreditation (CSA) hereby grants a three (3)-year Level 3 Accreditation to the **University of Santo Tomas Hospital Research Ethics Committee (USTH REC)** effective **29 January 2026 until 28 January 2029**.

As a PHREB-accredited REC, the USTH REC must comply with the 2024 PHREB Policies and Requirements for Accreditation of Research Ethics Committees (RECs) and 2022 National Ethical Guidelines for Research Involving Human Participants (NEGRIHP) in the review processes. The aforementioned documents can be downloaded from the PHREB website. Please be informed that the responsibilities of a PHREB-accredited REC include:

1. Submission of Annual Report PHREB Form 1.2 to include the year's Protocol Summary, PHREB Form 1.3;
2. Reporting of any controversial or important ethical issues in the course of its work;
3. Preparedness to be monitored or audited by PHREB;
4. Posting of the PHREB accreditation certificate in a conspicuous area within the REC office;
5. Submission of other documents that may be requested by PHREB; and
6. Sending of at least two (2) USTH REC officers/members as accreditor-trainees when invited to participate in a PHREB accreditation visit.

The **USTH REC** is highly encouraged to address the latest recommendations particularly regarding the content and organization of protocol file folders before it applies for the next accreditation.

Furthermore, please continue to upgrade your work as a quality research ethics committee by consistently being updated about, and complying with international and national standards and your SOPs, continuing ethics training, improving review of protocols and monitoring the conduct of studies and post-approval procedures until the end of the study.

Should you have any queries, please contact Ms. Reichel Ann Refuerzo through email at rprefuerzo@pchrd.dost.gov.ph or accreditation-level3@pchrd.dost.gov.ph.

Congratulations and warm regards.

Very truly yours,

SONIA E. BONGALA, MD
Chair