

## Professional Science Master's Scholar

### Arnel Sicam

University of the Philippines Diliman



**PSM Degree**  
**US University**  
**Date of Completion**  
**GPA**

*Master of Biomanufacturing and Bioprocessing*  
*University of Georgia*  
*December 2017*  
*3.85*

#### Master of Biomanufacturing and Bioprocessing

The Professional Science Master of Biomanufacturing and Bioprocessing program is a unique blend of coursework and training on hard science, business, and regulatory affairs. It aims to train science and technology graduates for leadership roles in the rapidly expanding biomanufacturing field.

#### As a PSM student, what was the highlight of your study?

I was fortunate to have had the chance to join top research laboratories within the University that are heavily involved in the development of novel vaccine and methodologies. It was exciting to be at the forefront of research of biotech products which shall soon be commercialized by big industry collaborators such as Sanofi-Pasteur.

#### In what way has the USAID scholarship changed you?

I have always considered myself as an independent person and trusted my individual skills to achieve what I wanted. Thanks to the USAID scholarship, I was able to study abroad where I learned that you need a lot of support to be successful. I realized that in research and innovation, networking and collaboration are important.

#### How would you use your degree to contribute or influence economic growth in the country?

The health biotech industry in the Philippines is still in its infancy and would require substantial technical expertise and translational activities to flourish. My biomanufacturing degree equipped me with the techniques and strategies to scale-up production of biotech products from bench to market. I am interested to contribute what I have learned from my regulatory affairs courses to filling in the gaps I have seen in our FDA's regulation of biotech products and medical devices.

#### As a young scientist, what do you envision for the Philippine science, technology and innovation ecosystem in the next 10 years?

In 10 years, more opportunities shall pave way for innovators to bring their products to the broader market. With the current efforts of government and private institutions to give startups access to funding, I believe that we will soon have an institutional framework for integrating all the tools needed to support the commercialization of innovative technologies.

*Arnel is currently working as a Production Officer in Manila Healthtek, Inc., a private research and development company based in Manila.*

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