

Professional Science Master's Scholar

Jerrilee Laspinas

University of Santo Tomas



PSM Degree

Master of Business and Science in Drug Discovery and Development

US University

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Date of Completion

January 2017

GPA

3.676

Master of Business and Science in Drug Discovery and Development

The degree I completed at Rutgers University was the Master of Business and Science (MBS) with a concentration in Drug Discovery & Development. The program provides broad-based training for students in the areas of Drug Development, Regulatory Affairs, and Clinical Trials Management and Drug Discovery. The program aims to provide students better appreciation of pharmaceutical development process. It also builds up the analytical and communication skills appropriate for managerial and staff positions in laboratory and clinical research, clinical trials, contract research organizations (CRO), federal regulatory agencies (e.g. FDA, USPTO) and pharmaceutical marketing.

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

My academic journey not only provided me a great education but also a better appreciation of the industry I work in. Some of the highlights of my study was meeting and interacting with highly motivated and inspirational people that you only read in the internet or books. Who would have thought that I'll be able to meet one of the scientists that led to the discovery and development of a new diabetes drug? It was truly a once in a lifetime experience. Also, I was able to make new friends and create a great network of people from all over the world.

In what way has the USAID scholarship changed you?

Accepting the USAID scholarship was a huge risk and definitely a step in a different direction. A risk because I was leaving a well-established and successful career. But also a step in a different direction because it's a glimpse of a possible career shift to research. The USAID scholarship equipped me with the education and experience that helped me greatly in pursuing my goal. It opened countless opportunities that were truly overwhelming and humbling. It made me more confident and opened my mind to think global.

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

Learning is indeed a continuing process. My long-term plan is to be able to impart what I have learned and share my experience through teaching and volunteering with organizations wherein my expertise will be deemed useful.

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

The implementation of the K-12 curriculum has put the education system on track with available academic electives focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The Philippines is a great source of talented, innovative, creative and intelligent individuals. With the right training and appropriate resources, we will be at par, if not the best in Asia, and who knows in the world. I envision that 10 years from now, the Philippines will be the next scientific and technology hub in Asia. More scientific research will be conducted and industry partnerships engagement will be strongly pursued.

Jerrilee is currently the Pharmacy Program Specialist at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office and Outpatient Clinic in Manila. On her free time, she volunteers with another US Mission agency to help promote U.S. education as well as with a university to share what she has learned and to possibly connect them with organizations that they can partner in the future in developing continuing professional education courses.

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