

Maschi Scholar Personal Testimony



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Placement Site: National Taiwan University

Placement Date: February 2025

During my rotation at National Taiwan University in Taipei, I realized that an effective colorectal cancer screening program depends on close collaboration between clinicians, local government, and the community.

In Taipei, they have a nationwide system that ensures everyone has access to screening. They also focus on educating the public and offering incentives to encourage participation.

After returning to the Philippines, we celebrated Colon Cancer Awareness Month. I gave a lecture to my division sharing what I learned in Taiwan. We also launched a screening campaign that included a community forum, educational infographics, and videos about colon cancer screening. The program ran for a month, and we successfully screened more than a hundred people. The insights I gained in Taiwan were key to our success.

The most useful part was observing how their endoscopy unit was set up. They had a very efficient system for bringing patients in and out, which minimized congestion. I also visited a community screening site outside Taipei, which gave me a clear picture of how they engage the public directly.



Dr. Borbe (right) toured the National Taiwan University with Gastroenterology Fellow Dr. Antonio and UP / PGH Gastroenterology Consultant Dr. Eric Yasay.



During his two-week training in Taipei, Dr. Borbe observed colonoscopies and other screening and diagnostic procedures.



Dr. Borbe (right) said that a highlight of his observership was learning from Prof. Han Mo Chiu (center), a proponent of population-based screening in Taiwan.

I was surprised by how much research they do, even though screening colonoscopy is already well-established. They continue to study ways to improve outcomes.

Besides colonoscopy, Taiwan is also exploring other screening methods, like stool FIT tests, and working on optimizing the timing between screenings.

This experience showed me that we need to start by educating everyone involved from clinicians, public health officials, and the general public. Before starting a successful program, we all need a strong foundation.

Since my return, I have shared my clinical knowledge with my colleagues in the Division of Gastroenterology.

We also held sessions for junior fellows on screening colonoscopy techniques, complete with demonstrations and feedback to improve their skills. We've also started talks with the head of the endoscopy unit about improving efficiency and increasing our capacity to serve more patients.

This experience solidified my interest and I plan to pursue advanced endoscopy training next year at the National University Hospital in Singapore. This will help me build my skills further so I can provide better care to our patients.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to Dr. Masci's family and AIHA for this

incredible opportunity to learn from Professor Han Mo Chiu and his team at the National Taiwan University in Taipei. I hope that this program will continue because it opens up opportunities for a lot of trainees.