Project Title: Identification and characterization of *Trichomonas vaginalis* viruses (TVV) in the Philippines

Project Proponent: Windell Laberinto Rivera, PhD

Designation of Proponent: Associate Professor

Department and College of Proponent: Institute of Biology; Science

Project Abstract:

*Trichomonas vaginalis* is the causative agent of the sexually-transmitted infection called trichomoniasis. This protozoon is also the host for *Trichomonas vaginalis* virus (TVV), which can alter the characteristics of its host such as modifications on the virulence, metronidazole resistance, and clinical presentation. There are currently no studies in the Philippines regarding TVV. This virus has been grouped into 4 species, namely TVV-1, TVV-2, TVV-3 and TVV-4, by molecular approach. In this study, clinical samples will be gathered from monitored patients of different social hygiene clinics in Luzon, Philippines. DNA and RNA will be extracted to detect *T. Vaginalis* and TVV, respectively. The RNA will undergo reverse transcription to determine the species of TVV. The cDNA will then be sequenced and analyzed phylogenetically to determine genetic relationships. TVVs will also be subjected to transmission electron microscopy.

Funding Support in Philippine Pesos: PhP 300,000

Duration and Status: 12 months; _____________

Contact Information of Project Proponent: 920-5471; wlrivera@science.upd.edu.ph