

# Myrnel Fortuna

9002 RS(5G1) Gen. Malvar Str Araneta Center Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines

☎ (+639)49 434 8520 | ✉ mdalmoradie@up.edu.ph | 🌐 myrnelfortuna | 🐦 myrnelafchem

## Experience

### SCIENCE RESEARCH SPECIALIST II

*Diliman Quezon City*

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN

*Jul 2023 - May 2024*

- Project: Technical Battle Against COVID: Design and Synthesis of SARS-COV2, ACE2, SARS- COV2:ACE2 Destabilizing Compounds. (DOST-PCHRD-funded)
- Currently: goodViBEs (Virtual Biochemical Explorations) laboratory manager, Principal Investigator: Dr. Ricky B. Nellas, Specialization: Drug Design and Discovery, Biophysics, Protein Engineering
- I do academic research daily, designing drugs and performing biophysical analysis in support of the COVID-19 drug-discovery effort of DOST under their Technical program against COVID-19. I designed a library of 10,000 compounds with drug-like properties against COVID-19 spike protein. 27 were found to have activity against the virus and will be patented after assay tests at the National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (UPD-NIMBB, c/o Dr. Pia Bagamasbad collaboration).
- I write proposal grants for laboratory funding. I headed the writing process of a six-project program proposal for DOST-GIA of several institutes across the Philippines which was recently approved.
- I conduct undergraduate and graduate student training on computational drug design, drug safety (ADMETox), and big data handling (Machine learning techniques in drug discovery).
- I write SOPs for analysis protocols for standardization of scientific analysis in our laboratory.
- I write and review scientific manuscripts for journal publication. Two of my manuscripts are under review: (1) 'Exploring the Effects of N234 and N343-linked glycans to pocket accessibility using Gaussian Accelerated Molecular Dynamics Simulations': submitted to Nature Scientific Reports, and (2) 'Computational Reverse Protein Engineering of a Lipase from *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in *n*-hexane': submitted to the Journal of Molecular Structure.
- I create scientific illustrations for the laboratory. My recent published illustration is the journal cover of the American Society of Chemistry (ACS) Omega for their Volume 8, Issue 48 (Published December 05, 2023). This accompanied the paper 'Cheng, R. L., Quirante, J. C., Vargas, L. E. Z., Gatchalian, A. F., and Nellas, R. B. (2023). Complementary Pocket and Network-Based Approach to Search for Spike Protein Allosteric Pocket Sites. *ACS omega*, 8(48), 45313-45325.', the review of which I participated in.

### GRADUATE STUDENT INTERN, INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PILOT PROGRAM - TAIWAN

*Taipei, Taiwan*

ACADEMIA SINICA

*March - April 2024*

- Project: Neural Network Potential (NNP) applications in Chemistry, Adviser: Dr. Jer-Lai Kuo
- I am training to apply machine learning techniques in studying peptides at the atomic scale. This will be used for peptide drug optimization and development.

### SCIENCE RESEARCH SPECIALIST I

*Diliman Quezon City*

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN

*Aug 2021 - Jun 2023*

- Project: Synthesis and Derivatization of Disease-specific Bioactive Hits and Lead Compounds (Phase II) Project 6. Computer-Aided Drug Design of Natural Products-Based, and Synthetic Antidiabetic, Antifungal, and Anticancer Lead Compounds and Derivatives (DOST-PCHRD-funded)
- I did academic research daily, designing drugs and performing biophysical analysis in support of the drug-discovery efforts of DOST against cancer. I designed a library of 3,000 compounds against breast and prostate cancer.
- I conducted undergraduate student training on computational drug design and principles of drug safety (ADMETox).
- I reviewed scientific manuscripts for journal publication.

### GMP QUALITY ASSURANCE ASSOCIATE

*Salcedo St. Legazpi Village, Makati*

NOVARTIS HEALTHCARE PHILIPPINES INC.

*Aug 2017 - Aug 2018*

- I inspected products before their commercial and clinical trial distribution.
- I prepared the necessary documents and requirements for product release.
- I managed the department's databases, including data entry, monitoring, and quality control, for product out-flow into commercial and clinical trial site distribution.

### CLINICAL RESEARCH INTERN

*Bonifacio Global City, Taguig*

ASTRAZENECA PHARMACEUTICALS PHILIPPINES INC.

*Aug 2016 - Sep 2016*

- I helped clinical research associates in clinical trial rounds and database management.

### RESEARCH ASSISTANT

*Ermita, Manila*

NATIONAL INTEGRATED RESEARCH PROGRAM ON MEDICINAL PLANTS (UP-NIRPROMP)

*Feb 2016 - Aug 2016*

- Project: Preformulation Studies on Powdered *Cassia fistula* L. leaves (NIRPROMP-funded)
- I performed stability and compatibility studies on *Cassia fistula* tablets.

## Skills

---

<b>Programming Languages</b>	Mathematica (working), R (working), Python (working), Bash, Latex
<b>Office Programs</b>	Microsoft Office, Adobe Indesign, Adobe Illustrator, Blender
<b>Pharmaceutical Industry</b>	GMP, SOP Writing, Product Formulation, Drug Design

## Conferences and Relevant Training

---

### Hybrid Hünfeld Workshop: Computer Simulation and Theory of Macromolecules 2024 - Max Planck Institute for Multidisciplinary Sciences

Online Conference

GRADUATE STUDENT PARTICIPANT

April 19-20 2024

I will be attending the plenaries on drug design, protein engineering, and biophysics.

### 2023 UNHAN Quantum and Qiskit Workshop

Jakarta, Indonesia

PHILIPPINES REPRESENTATIVE

December 15 2023

I attended the Quantum Computing Workshop hosted by IBM to discuss the future direction of quantum computing in drug design as well as some hands-on activities on their server.

### 3rd EU-ASEAN High Performance Computing (HPC) School

Bogor, Indonesia

PHILIPPINES REPRESENTATIVE

December 10-16 2023

I attended the Life Science Track wherein I interacted with some of the leading scientists in drug discovery from the EU and SEA. I learned new computational techniques in drug safety and drug design.

### 37th Philippine Chemistry (PCC) Congress

Bacolod City, Negros Occidental,  
Philippines

PRESENTER FOR <MOLECULAR DOCKING SIMULATIONS OF DEGUELIN-DERIVED COMPOUNDS AGAINST

SMALL-MOLECULE BINDING CONFORMATIONS OF THE K-RAS GTPASE>

July 26-28 2023

I manned a five-day poster booth on the cancer-inhibitory compounds my team designed.

### 36th Philippine Chemistry (PCC) Congress

Online Conference

PRESENTER FOR <A SHAPE-BASED LIGAND MODIFICATION ALGORITHM IN TANDEM WITH TARGET FISHING TO DESIGN

TARGET-SPECIFIC ANALOGS OF TWO CANDIDATE ANTI-CANCER COMPOUNDS>

2022

I presented the findings of my study on reformulation and repurposing of commercially available and investigatory drugs.

### 36th Philippine Chemistry (PCC) Congress

Online Conference

PRESENTER FOR <A NETWORK PHARMACOLOGY APPROACH TO INVESTIGATE CANCER TARGETS OF DEGUELIN AND

ROTENONE>

2022

I presented the findings of my studies on finding the mechanism of action of the cancer compounds I designed for DOST-DDHP.

### Hybrid Hünfeld Workshop: Computer Simulation and Theory of Macromolecules 2022 - Max Planck Institute for Multidisciplinary Sciences

Online Conference

GRADUATE STUDENT PARTICIPANT

April 08-09 2022

I attended and participated in the plenaries on drug design and protein engineering.

### 35th Philippine Chemistry (PCC) Congress

Conducted Online

PRESENTER FOR <DRUGGABILITY STUDIES TARGETING THE ALLOSTERIC SITES OF Q61R NRAS GTPASE>

Online Conference

I presented the findings of my study on discovering new binding sites for drug-like compounds in the cancer target NRAs.

### Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Training Course

Bonifacio Global City, Taguig

PARTICIPANT

2016

I attended the certificate course as a requirement for the culmination of the clinical trial monitoring internship program.

### 26th Federation of Asian Pharmaceutical Associations (FAPA) Congress

Bangkok, Thailand

PRESENTER FOR <AN EXPLORATORY STUDY ON THE APPLICATION OF DESIGN OF EXPERIMENTS (DOE) IN THE

ASSESSMENT OF THE STABILITY OF AMOXICILLIN CAPSULES>

November 09-13 2016

I, together with my thesis group mate, attended the conference to keep up to date with the pharmaceutical industry in SEA and to present the findings of our undergraduate study.

## Mentorship

---

**Exploring point mutations in lipase T6 from *Geobacillus steothermophilus*: A computational biophysical study through molecular dynamics simulations** 2023 - 2024; Thesis mentor to Raphael Angelo H. Guevarra

***In silico* design of lipase T6 from *Geobacillus steothermophilus* in methanol** 2023 - 2024; Thesis mentor to Kritza Mae L. Arquisola

**Virtual Design of benzyliosquinonline alkaloid derivatives as potential therapeutic in PCOS insulin resistance** 2023 - 2024; Thesis mentor and reader to Anatalia Marie M. Bisquera and Rineia Kirsten M. Santos

**2023 good ViBEs Laboratory Undergraduate Internship Program** Mentor

***In silico* molecular simulation studies and computational retrosynthesis of potential agonists of ADIPOR1 and ADIPOR2** 2022 - 2023; Thesis mentor to Crystal Anne A. Mallari, Aldrin V. Abraham, and Ashley Jud Chris A. Robosa; Won - 3rd Place Best Poster for Central Luzon Health Research and Development Consortium

**2022 good ViBEs Laboratory Undergraduate Internship Program** Mentor

**University of the Philippines Manila, College of Pharmacy Career Mentorship Program** Graduate Student Mentee under Dr. Francis R. Capule

## Scholarships

---

2019 - 2022 **Graduate Scholarship Program**, DOST - ASTHRDP (Accelerated Science and Technology Human Resource Development Program) *DOST*

## Education

---

### University of the Philippines Diliman

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY

- Courses: Medicinal chemistry, biochemistry, computational chemistry, drug design.

*Diliman, Quezon City*

*Sep 2019 - present*

### University of the Philippines Diliman

NON-DEGREE PROGRAM

- Courses: Medicinal chemistry, Biochemistry, physical chemistry, inorganic chemistry, and organic chemistry.

*Diliman, Quezon City*

*Sep 2018 - Jul 2019*

### University of the Philippines Manila

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN INDUSTRIAL PHARMACY

- Courses: Clinical and hospital pharmacy, pharmacology, drug and cosmetics formulation.

*Ermita, Manila*

*Jun 2010 - Jun 2016*