# kaHThleen s cruz, md, DPBTCVS

*THORACIC AND CARDIOVASCULAR SURGEON*

# Professional Role

I am a Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery (TCVS) consultant at two Philippine Department of Health (DOH)-designated hospitals in the region, Bicol Medical Center and Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital. As a consultant in a government hospital, I assist and perform surgical operations for service patients. I also train and teach residents and rotating medical students diagnosis and management of patients specific to my field.

# Experience

I am currently a medical staff and visiting consultant at several private hospitals in the region. I perform mostly catheter access, arteriovenous fistula creation, open abdominal aneurysm repairs, amputations, and angiography aside from thoracic surgical operations. I am also the first vascular surgeon to introduce and perform vascular ultrasound in my region. I currently perform most of the preoperative vascular mapping and fistula surveillance for CKD patients.

I was a medical officer for 6 years at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital from 2011 to 2016. Here I was able to perform 89 cases of major cardiac operations, more than 200 thoracic procedures and over 400 cases of vascular surgeries which included thoracic and abdominal aneurysm repair, embolectomy, peripheral arterial disease revascularization, vein stripping, vein harvesting, vascular tumor excision, vascular trauma and hemodialysis access. I have done 20 peripheral angiography and venography with and without balloon angioplasty.

# Education

I graduated with a Bachelor in Science Biology Degree, *cum laude*, from the University of the Philippines-Diliman in 2005. I then pursued medicine at the University of the Philippines-Manila and graduated in 2010. I continued my training for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital (PGH) from 2011 to 2016. I was at the top 2 of the Philippine Board of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Examination in June 2017.

**Notable accomplishments**

I published the following research papers in 2016:

Thymoma-associated blood dyscrasia: Two case reports, *Philippine Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*, June 2016 (also presented as poster during 25th Congress Asian Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Association, Nov. 2015)

Cardiac torsion after excision of a huge mature cystic teratoma, *Journal of Integrative Cardiology*, August 2016

During my first 5 months as a TCVS consultant, I have organized an arteriovenous fistula surgical mission where we operated on 21 indigent patients with chronic kidney disease. I was also invited to lecture on dialysis access care to local nurses on September 2017 in Naga City, Camarines Sur. With the help of colleagues from PGH, I was able to organize a dialysis access workshop to orient residents and general surgeons from provinces with no vascular specialists regarding catheter access and fistula management.