

## History

Written by WVSU Medical Center

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The West Visayas State University Medical Center is a 300 bed tertiary teaching, training hospital that serves as a functional laboratory for the College of Medicine, Nursing, and Health Sciences Institute of the West Visayas State University. The WVSU is a university existing within its own charter provided for in [P.D. 1437](#) and [P.D. 2019](#) and now [R.A. 8292](#) otherwise known as Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997.

The WVSU Medical Center, being a unit of WVSU, is not under the Department of Health; however its policies and procedures are patterned after DOH and Philippine General Hospital (PGH) which is also tertiary and, teaching and training hospital of a state university, the University of the Philippines.

On February 1982, Former Vice President Fernando Lopez offered the Benito Lopez Memorial Hospital for lease/sale. President Lilia V. Juele, then President of the West Visayas State College took cognizance of the offer and recommended the purchase to the Minister of Education and Culture.

On May 7, 1982 the Board of Trustees, governing body of West Visayas State College, through Referendum No. 1 s. 1982 unanimously approved the request for the acquisition of the Benito Lopez Memorial Hospital. Although the contract of sale was made between West Visayas State College through President Lilia V. Juele and Lopez family through former Vice President Fernando Lopez, however it was not realized due to unavailability of funds from the government. In the meantime, a lease contract was made, so that on January 1986 the Gov. Benito Lopez Memorial Hospital was utilized as the base hospital of the School of Medicine with Dr. Angel R. de Leon as Director.

In April 5, 1987, Benito Lopez Memorial Hospital was finally purchased thru a GSIS loan and formally turned over by the Lopez family. On May 1987, the hospital became the West Visayas State University Hospital.

The Department of Health Bureau of Licensing and Regulation authorized the University Hospital to operate as a 150 bed tertiary training hospital with 100 beds for service/charity patients (25 for Surgery, 25 for Medicine, 25 for OB/Gyne, 25 for Pediatrics) and 50 beds for pay patients.

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In 1988, the Department of Education Culture and Sports handed to the College of Medicine a revised organizational structure which gave the Dean of the College of Medicine governance of the University Hospital and a non-voting seat in the Board of Regent when matters pertaining to the College of Medicine and the University Hospital were presented. The Associate Dean - Clinics was delegated the day to day supervision and administration of the University Hospital.

In January 1991, the Residency Training programs of the four (4) major clinical departments- Internal Medicine, General Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology and Pediatrics were accredited.

In March of 1992, Dr. Ramon S. Guerra, Jr., assumed the position as Chief of Hospital II, as provided for in the organizational structure of the University Hospital.

In 1993, the Board of Regents approved Resolution No. 85 series 1993 a Project Proposal to upgrade WVSU Hospital to become a Medical Center envisioned as "PGH of the South."

The University Hospital already has accredited residency-training programs in Surgery, OB-Gyne, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Orthopedics, Psychiatry, and Anesthesiology. For several years the hospital exceeded the 200-bed occupancy for its average daily census.

In April 2000, the Third Floor Annex was opened with 4 suite rooms, 18 single air-conditioned private rooms and 3 wards (4 male, 4 female and pediatric patients). The average occupancy rate of the hospital for year 2000 was 122% of the authorized 150 beds.

In the middle of January 2001, the University Hospital opened its Fourth Floor with 7 suite rooms and 19 air-conditioned private rooms. There is also an ongoing renovation of the left wing of the hospital to become charity wards. These expansion will bring to a total of 88 beds for pay patients and more than 200 for charity patients (Charity - Medicine - 50; Pediatrics - 50; OB-Gyne - 50; Surgery - 40; Psychiatry - 10; Orthopedics - 20; Pay- third floor - 35 patients; fourth floor - 33 patients; C-Up - 18 patients).

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In anticipation of the implication of all these development in infrastructure of the University Hospital, last July 17, 2001, Dir. Ramon S. Guerra, Jr., requested for an increase in the bed capacity of the West Visayas State University Hospital from 150 beds to 300 beds. This request was made in the desire to make this institution the best training ground for students and resident physicians, nurses and other paramedical groups, at the same time to render quality service to patients, not only of Iloilo, but the rest of Western Visayas.

The dream became a reality when the Department of Health Bureau of Health Facilities and Services and the Board of Regents through Board Resolution No. 76 series of 2001, dated November 29, 2001, approved the hospital to become the **WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER** with a 300-bed capacity.