

## THINCR Launches Clinical Trial Capacity-Building Program for QUANTUM Study Sites

The TB-HIV Innovations & Clinical Research Foundation (THINCR) has officially launched a nationwide clinical trial capacity-building program to strengthen site readiness and ensure high-quality, standardized implementation of the QUANTUM study—an ongoing Phase 3 clinical trial evaluating quabodepistat, a promising new agent in Otsuka’s tuberculosis drug pipeline. Otsuka is the developer of delamanid, one of the most impactful TB drugs introduced in recent years.

THINCR, based at Silang Specialists Medical Center, made global history earlier this year when it became the **first site worldwide to screen and enroll a participant** in the QUANTUM trial. Building on this momentum, THINCR is now spearheading efforts to elevate the trial capability of other Philippine sites participating in the study.



Leading this initiative is **Dr. Ma. Tarcela Gler**, the Country Coordinating Principal Investigator, who emphasized the importance of harmonized quality across all sites. “Early enrollment is only the beginning. To deliver reliable evidence that can shape future TB treatment, every site must meet the same high standards of Good Clinical Practice and operational excellence,” Dr. Gler shared.

The capacity-building program is designed as a **hybrid model**, combining online lectures with hands-on, in-person immersion. Sites first undergo structured virtual training sessions covering protocol procedures, participant safety, data integrity, and quality management. This is followed by an on-site observational visit at THINCR to shadow clinical, laboratory, pharmacy, data, and community engagement processes.



The first visiting site, **Tropical Disease Foundation Inc** , completed its on-site immersion on **December 9, 2025**, with online training sessions commencing on **December 10**. Additional sites are expected to follow in the coming weeks.

With the QUANTUM study poised to contribute critical evidence to global TB drug development, THINCR's leadership in capacity building underscores the Philippines' growing role in high-quality clinical research. By investing in site capability and workforce development, the program aims not only to support the current trial but to strengthen the country's long-term clinical research ecosystem.