

## Maryam Tanudra Doucette (clinical researcher)



Maryam Tanudra Doucette has worked in clinical research for over 20 years with the past decade focused on rare diseases. She currently works for Traverre Therapeutics, a biopharmaceutical company located in San Diego, California, whose mission is to identify, develop, and deliver life-changing therapies to people living with rare conditions.

Maryam or Mara as her friends and family call her, has a BS in Biology from the University of the Philippines, Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines and MS in Evaluative Clinical Sciences from Dartmouth College and another MS in Cell Biology from the University of Connecticut, Storrs.

**Her science journey** began when Mara was born in Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines in 1978. She was the oldest of four children of Angelo Tanudra and Irma Figueroa Tanudra. She graduated from the University of the Philippines Rural High School at Los Banos,



Laguna with honors in 1995. She then enrolled at the University of the Philippines, Los Banos to major in Biology and then go to medical school. Her mother's younger sister majored in Biology and then went to medical school so Mara was on this same path as long as she can remember. She also had wonderful high school teachers who inspired her to do well and helped her prepare for college. In 1999, she received her bachelor's degree in Biology (major in Cell Biology) from the University of the Philippines, Los Banos. Immediately after graduation, she immigrated to the United States to join her family in Connecticut. Mara then went to graduate school at the University of Connecticut, Storrs and Dartmouth College in New Hampshire.

## **WORK AFTER GRADUATE SCHOOL**

Mara was fortunate to have mentors who helped her with job searches after graduate school. Her first job was as an Assistant Scientist at Pfizer Vet Med in Groton, Connecticut in 2003.

For the past 20 years Mara has worked on clinical research on rare diseases. She loves what she does and feels fortunate to have found a career that aligns with her strengths while continuing to challenge her every day. She finds deep fulfillment in knowing that her work contributes to making a meaningful difference in the lives of patients and families -especially those affected by rare conditions.



Her accomplishments are closely tied to the success of the clinical trials she had the privilege of working on. The most memorable and rewarding ones are those that she saw through completion - trials that ultimately led to regulatory and marketing approvals making life-changing therapies available to the patients and

families who need them most. For the past three years she has been working as a clinical researcher at Travers Therapeutics.



Her career goal is to continue to bring life changing therapies to patients.

### **WORK-LIFE BALANCE**

Mara is fortunate to have a flexible work schedule that allows her to step away, when needed, for school or family activities. Since she works from home, she often catches up on work in the quiet hours of the evening. Most importantly, she was blessed with a supportive husband who genuinely enjoys taking the children to their enrichment activities. Together, they found a way to balance the demands of work with the joy and fulfillment of family life.

### **MENTORING WOMEN SCIENTISTS**

Mara leads a peer coaching group for the associates in her department (both men and women) focused on clinical project management.

### **ADVICE TO NEW GRADUATES**

Her advice to new graduates is to continue learning! Take time to understand “why”- the deeper purpose behind your work. It’s okay if your path shifts along the way. Every step you take will bring valuable experience and perspective. If you have the opportunity, take a break after graduation-travel, volunteer, explore. Enjoy your career journey!

### **HOW TO GET GIRLS INTERESTED IN SCIENCE**

I believe this is a question for all children, regardless of their gender identity. It begins at home, by exposing children to the wonders of science from an early age. If that exposure sparks a lasting interest – wonderful! If not, they still gain an appreciation for how science shapes the world around them. At the end of the day, science is behind everything we do, and nurturing curiosity benefits everyone.

## **HER SCIENCE JOURNEY**

1978- Mara was born in Los Banos, Laguna

1995- Graduated from the University of the Philippines Rural High School with honors

1999- Received BS in Biology, Major in Cell Biology at the University of the Philippines, Los Banos in Los Banos, Philippines

- Immigrated to the United States

2002-Received MS in Evaluative Clinical Services at Dartmouth College

2003-Received MS in Cell Biology at the University of Connecticut, Storrs

- First job as an Assistant Scientist at Pfizer Vet Med in Groton, Connecticut

2022- Started working at her current job, Travele Therapeutics in San Diego, California