

Official press release from **TED.com**

Filipino HIV Physician selected as a TED Fellow

Edsel Maurice T. Salvana, MD, DTM&H, FPCP, FIDSA of the University of the Philippines Manila to take the stage at TED Global 2017, joining newest class of 21 young innovators from five continents.



NEW YORK, NY, 23 MAY 2017— HIV activist and physician-scientist Dr. Edsel Maurice T. Salvana has been selected as a TED Fellow, joining a class of 21 changemakers from around the world who will each deliver a talk from the TED Global stage this August in Arusha, Tanzania. Members of the class include a [Ugandan journalist](#) working undercover in the Middle East to uncover the human rights abuses of migrant workers, a [Zimbabwean standup comedian](#) who uses his creative work to approach culturally taboo topics on the African continent, and an [Indian scientist](#) developing new artificial intelligence architectures for medical technology. The new class of Fellows features many visionaries working on the African continent, including Fellows from Uganda, Egypt, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Somalia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Liberia, and Kenya.

Dr. Salvana is the director of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at the National Institutes of Health of the University of the Philippines Manila. He has been instrumental in addressing the HIV epidemic in his country, which is characterized as the fastest growing HIV epidemic in the world. Dr. Salvana has tirelessly worked with media to call attention to the problem, trains healthcare workers to treat patients with HIV, and engages in vital molecular biology research to monitor drug resistance and trace the origins of the Philippine epidemic. Dr. Salvana is only the fifth Filipino to be selected as a TED Fellow. Previous TED Fellows from the Philippines include social entrepreneur Illac Diaz, computer science professor Rommel Feria, Jesuit priest Fr. Xavier Alpasa, and environmental engineer Francis de los Reyes.

Founded in 2009, the TED Fellows program now has 436 Fellows from 94 countries, whose talks have collectively been viewed more than 155 million times. In its eight-year history, the TED Fellows program has created a powerful, far-reaching network – made up of scientists, doctors, activists, artists, photographers, filmmakers, entrepreneurs, inventors, journalists and beyond -- leading to many meaningful and unexpected collaborations including [BRCK](#), the self-powered, mobile WiFi router that can work anywhere, even in the harshest

conditions; [Ushahidi](#), the crisis-mapping platform born of post-election violence in Kenya in 2008; [Brick x Brick](#), a public art performance inspired by the 2016 election that builds human “walls” against misogyny; and, [iHub](#), a tech incubation center in Nairobi that has served as a role model for tech hubs across emerging markets.

“We’re incredibly proud to introduce the newest class of TED Fellows, who will be joining a global group of 436 changemakers,” said Tom Rielly, Director of the TED Fellows program. “The TED Fellows program seeks out young innovators who demonstrate both exceptional achievement and remarkable strength of character. We choose Fellows not only based on their accomplishments so far, but also on their grit, their collaborative spirit, and their potential to break barriers as they build their careers.”

In 2007 at the TEDGlobal conference in Arusha, TED invited 100 of the brightest young leaders to attend the conference, assembling for the first time this influential group of young people across the continent, many of whom had only met online. This group, which was a precursor to the Fellows program, included young innovators such as Juliana Rotich, Patrick Awuah, Erik Hersman, William Kamkwamba, and Fred Swaniker, all of whom were selected as TED Fellows and went on to perform extraordinary feats.

Ten years later, TED returns to Arusha for the TEDGlobal 2017 conference from August 27-30, 2017. Fellows will join leading policymakers, businesspeople, academics and activists from across the African continent and around the world. A full list of the new TED Fellows is available at ted.com/fellows.

Every year, the TED Fellows program opens applications to find a new class of extraordinary thinkers and doers, encouraging innovators over the age of 18 to apply. Interested applicants can visit the [TED Fellows program website](#) for more information about the fellowship and to sign up to be alerted when applications for TED2018 open on July 18.

About the TED Fellows program

The TED Fellows program brings together young innovators from around the world and across disciplines, who display both outstanding achievement and exemplary character, to raise international awareness of their work and maximize their impact. The program offers Fellows full participation in a TED or TEDGlobal Conference, a two-day pre-conference of workshops and activities, a Fellows Retreat, ongoing professional coaching and mentoring, dedicated PR coaching and active participation in the TED community, including the global TED Fellows network. Founded in 2009, the TED Fellows program now includes 436 Fellows from 94 countries, and was named one of the top 10 Fellowships of 2016 by ProFellow.com.

Learn more:

Complete list of all new 2017 TED Fellows and TED Senior Fellows: ted.com/fellows

Infographic: [Measuring the Impact of the TED Fellows](#)

Playlist: [Top 10 talks by TED Fellows](#)

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