

CATALYST



The Philippine Journal of Pathology (PJP) was envisioned as a biannual publication of the Philippine Society of Pathologists, Inc. (PSP, Inc.), to serve as an avenue for research by Filipino anatomic and clinical pathologists. It was conceived in 1986 through the efforts of Drs. Antonia Cruz-Basa and Generoso Basa who saw

the need for an official journal for the society where original pathology research can be published and which shall hopefully stimulate a culture of publication for the pathology community in the Philippines.

Through the years, however, the journal has been published on an irregular basis, primarily due to challenges in both content and sustainability, its last issue released in 2006. Whereas it is the PSP's initiative to support the PJP's regular publication, editorial content was then limited to invited articles and residents' research output during their years of training. Peer review is—at best—internal, and the selection of articles that go into each issue has been largely restricted to the incumbent editorial board/staff.

Ten years hence, we are in a unique and opportune position to address a vital gap in Philippine data, with the increasing importance of research and evidence in the practice of medicine, and the growing awareness of ethical scholarly publication standards and practices.

I firmly refuse to believe that there is nothing worthwhile to publish in the country on laboratory medicine and pathology: I think we all but need a high quality platform, which we can call our own, through which research efforts of pathologists and laboratorians, both seasoned and green, may be shared to the local and international community. I am thankful that our newly established editorial board and advisers have all agreed to our invitation, because they also believe in our vision of a high quality, peer reviewed journal which upholds international standards, for the Filipino pathologist and laboratorian.

We included in this issue the first batch of articles that passed the rigorous editorial process from submission to editorial board deliberation, from double blind peer review to final layout and publication. The harvest for this initial effort is lean, for now, but it is high grade, with all submissions subjected to international standards. All articles are available both in HTML and PDF formats in our official website (<http://philippinejournalofpathology.org>), open access

to all under a Creative Commons BY-NC-SA License, that allows *free sharing, copying and redistributing in any medium and format, and adaptation, in which the material can be built upon by other researchers, under strict terms of giving appropriate credit to the authors and the PJP, for non-commercial purposes.* We will soon have an electronic ISSN to complement our print ISSN to formalize the PJP's online version. As an added feature, all our articles have CrossRef digital object identifiers (DOIs) that will serve as permanent links to our content in the world wide web. We are not predatory like so many fly-by-night journals that are proliferating and preying on authors, as the PJP neither asks for article processing fees nor asks for payment for article downloads and subscriptions.

In this issue, we have incorporated our updated Instructions to Authors, official forms, and Author User Guide for submitting through our Open Journal Systems online editorial management system, as a reference for all. We did not stop there. We also published in this issue the latest version of the **Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals** by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), and the standard checklists for various types of research studies from the **Enhancing the Quality and Transparency of health Research** (EQUATOR) Network, an international initiative whose main objective is to improve the reliability and value of scholarly publication of health research through promotion of transparent, complete, and accurate reporting.

It has been a little over a year since we presented the prospects of resurrecting the Philippine Journal of Pathology at the 64th Annual Convention of the PSP. The revival of the journal would not have been possible without the full support of the current and past PSP Presidents, Dr. Januario Veloso and Dr. Linda Tamesis, respectively, the Board of Governors, our dedicated editorial coordinator, and the members of our Core Team with whom we have begun this journey of revival back in 2012.

It only takes a spark, to get a fire going. The first issue of this journal is a push, a catalyst, to create change. You are part of this drive towards elevating our practice and informing the greater research community of pathology research in this part of the globe.

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