

Embracing the Journey Ahead

Welcome to the first ever online issue of the Philippine Journal of Chest Diseases. This issue marks the journal's foray into digital publication which now allows us to bring our journal and the work of our authors to the rest of the world.

The journey to now has not been easy. Almost a year ago, the editorial team initiated the process of digitalization and further professionalizing of the journal. We crafted new policies and improved on existing ones, underwent training to better capacitate ourselves in our roles, and acquainted ourselves with the online journal management system. To ensure the adequacy of reviewers and quality of our review process, we invited reviewers outside our society and reengaged old ones. When we started to accept manuscripts for publication consideration in the early part of the year, we initially received a high volume of incomplete submissions from authors. There were also technical queries on navigating the journal portal. As our authors became more acquainted with the mechanics of the online submission process, and our reviewers with the review forms and timelines, we started experiencing a smoother and faster turnaround of manuscripts, for the most part. We still have the occasional manuscripts being archived after inactivity, and the unavoidable delays encountered in the review process but we now have an increasing number of manuscripts in our workflow with the potential to be published.



On behalf of the entire editorial team and our publisher, the Philippine College of Chest Physicians, I would like to express my gratitude to all authors and reviewers of PJCD we have worked with since:

Authors are the lifeblood of publishing without whom there will be no articles to publish. I thank them, foremost, for their interest and trust in choosing to publish their work with PJCD. Throughout the various stages of the publishing process, I am grateful for their patience and diligence in carrying out our multiple requests, as well as their grace and optimism in the face of rejection. Your honest appreciation of our feedback gives meaning to the work we do.

Peer reviewers are instrumental in academic publishing, acting as a filter to the content we publish and invaluable in improving the quality of manuscripts being considered for publication. Almost always, reviewers play multiple roles as academician, researcher, clinician, or administrator and are very busy in their own right. I cannot thank you enough for the significant time and effort spent in reviewing manuscripts for our journal. I hope that you, likewise, find your participation to be a fruitful endeavor that contributes to your intellectual growth and professional development.

While there are, and will be, challenges ahead, I look forward with confidence and optimism that PJCD will contribute in a meaningful way to advancing the practice of pulmonary medicine, both locally and internationally.

Miriam Yano Lalas, MD, FPCCP

Editor in Chief