

## MESSAGE FROM THE PCCP PRESIDENT

### Integrating the Publication Culture in a Medical Society

Research is difficult. It is a challenging task. Not everyone is comfortable in doing researches. It takes a special frame of mind and an extraordinary personality to view research as something that goes beyond a “requirement for promotion or graduation.” However, the task is not just to undertake research. It is to disseminate these scholarly works. We want to ensure that the knowledge gained from these investigations gets to the appropriate end-user and gets translated into action... into something concrete and palpable. Aahhhh, but publication has its own unique set of challenges. Integrating this culture in a professional society is certainly daunting.

Every year, the PCCP Board of Trustees (BOT) grapples with our society’s annual budget. We try to channel the needed funds into key activities to guarantee that these will go on unimpeded until they are accomplished. **Research and publication have always been priority areas of the current and past administrations.** This is evident with the steady increase in the percentage of our society’s earnings being channeled into this area. We are also aware that funds for publication (that is, for efforts focused on matters related to the *Philippine Journal of Chest Diseases*), should also have its proportionate budget.

Publication will not only entail churning out the actual printed or electronic copies of our journal. A lot of significant efforts occur “away from the spotlight.” These involve organizing the editorial team, training our “volunteers,” enabling and strengthening our PJCD staff and core team, having peer reviewers who are invested in the whole process, and sustaining the interest of all stakeholders especially our members. This whole cycle is not easy... and needs to be repeated almost every year.

The BOT extends its congratulations and gratitude to the current PJCD team ably led by Dr. Miriam Lalas. We are aware of the time and dedication that each member has spent behind every issue. Unquestionably, the efforts that all of you have exerted are evident by the final product and these definitely are well-appreciated by the whole organization. I am aware of the milestones that you have laid out and the targets that you have set out for the subsequent years to ensure that PJCD evolves based on standards of a good medical journal and the needs of our members. You have the full trust and confidence of the BOT.

I would also like to take this opportunity to make some appeals to our PCCP members:

- Be involved in research that is worth publishing and attaching your name to.
- To the contributors, please respond to queries on time and be prompt with your replies. This will guarantee that turn-around times will be properly observed.
- We need more volunteers for PJCD. Be a peer reviewer. Be part of the editorial team. Be a research adviser. This will certainly contribute to more polished research publications. This will raise the quality of our journal.
- Consider PJCD as a viable publication for your original works

Publishing your investigative works should be part of your DNA. We owe it to the scientific community to share our findings. That is being a responsible researcher and PCCP member.

I fervently look forward to the days that PJCD will not trouble itself with only a few articles for publication in its next issue. I am confident that PCCP members will ultimately have the “publication DNA” embedded in our make-up. Until then, PJCD will continue to morph into a form that all of us can be proud of! We can count on that fact!

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