

The COVID 19 pandemic has drastically affected our lives, bringing in unprecedented challenges in our lifestyle, health, academics, work and social being. During the pandemic the research community has shifted its focus in trying to understand SARS-COV 2 in a serious attempt to address the problem. Private and public funds have been promptly allocated to support scientific investigations on the various aspects of the disease. This led to an upsurge in research and scientific publications focusing on COVID 19. The number of publications is a strong indication of the science community's interest and timely response to the needs of the situation. On the other hand, researchers especially those whose areas of expertise are not directly related to the pandemic have been displaced for the time being. Fortunately, scientists got to their feet after two years of hiatus, and now the spirit of scientific discovery and enthusiasm are back.


The Science community in the Philippines, particularly the Metro Manila Health Research and Development Consortium (MMHRDC) is definitely bouncing back with vigor and with a renewed vision of doing health research. To start this renewal of research interest, the MMHRDC has lined up several activities and one of these is on research publication.

We are very pleased to present the first special issue of MMHRDC in collaboration with SciEnggJ. This is a fulfillment of a vision of providing researchers of member-institutions a venue to publish their research with support from the consortium. The MMHRDC is deeply thankful to SciEnggJ (the official journal of the Philippine Academy of Science and Engineering) for giving the opportunity to fulfill this vision.

There are nine original papers in this issue with authors coming from various member-institutions. The topics range from the broader perspectives of social sciences, health economics and health policies to more focused themes like linguistic validation, leukemia, dental issues in children, chronic metal poisoning etc. Varied as these are, all have one common theme, HEALTH.

We sincerely thank all the authors/researchers for contributing their original works in this special issue as well the various funding agencies, government and private institutions, that supported these research endeavors. Due recognition and appreciation are given to the peer reviewers and staff who assisted us in this issue.

On behalf of the MMHRDC and its core implementing agencies, DOST-National Capital Region (NCR), DOH-NCR, CHED-NCR and UP-Manila National Institutes of Health (NIH) and its funding agency, DOST-PCHRD, we strongly encourage researchers from our member institutions to continue doing research that deal with the various aspects of health, with the goal of improving diagnosis, treatment and management.


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