



Editorial

The State of the Journal 2022

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I took on the challenge of leading and managing the Philippine Journal of Allied Health Sciences (PJAHS) in 2018. The first order of business for me was to revive the journal after a decade of slumber. And it was no easy task for a couple of reasons. For one, how do you continue the dreams that were realized in 2006 at the conception of PJAHS? Initially headed by the first editor-in-chief, Dr. Janine Margarita R. Dizon, PJAHS was quite at the cusp of cutting-edge innovation at the University of Santo Tomas.¹ On the other hand, how do I bring to the present and continue that dream conceptualized in 2006? The decision to head PJAHS was both personal and professional, and to some of my friends beyond the allied health professions, quite psychological.

Fast forward to the present, six issues in three volumes after I heeded the challenge; PJAHS is proud to bring you the first issue of its sixth volume. I would have never imagined saying that, let alone continuously updating the numbers in that statement every six months. While it may sound cheesy, repetitive, and anticlimactic, those words and the numbers they represent are an affirmation and attestation that I [may have] made the right decision. I can clearly remember, both in my mind and gut, the uncertainty if I would be able to publish the first issue of the third volume. This was the issue that marked the revival of PJAHS. Without a working website, the editorial board had to manage survival by soliciting quality articles, recruiting

peer-reviewers, peer-reviews, and so much more.² I am humbled to reflect on the present, with a sigh of relief, of how far we have come within a few years. Our website is constantly monitored and improved. I have a great editorial board and staff. And I work with the best peer-reviewers, who stand as vanguards of the quality of the articles published in PJAHS. I am no stranger to the peer-review process outside of this journal, and I may say our process is comparable to the more established ones.^{3,4} We launched last year publishing research protocols in PJAHS.⁵ This novel article type, along with a short tutorial on how to avoid rejections published in the journal, where some innovations PJAHS implemented to boost article submissions.⁵⁻⁶ And while it was overwhelming processing and reviewing them, we are happy with the response of the scientific community. We look forward to seeing their eventual completion and hopefully submission of the completed reports to PJAHS.

These past few years have challenged our learning curves on monitoring our performance and management as a scientific publication. Familiarizing ourselves with journal metrics and consciously using these to inform and guide our decisions moving forward is slowly being embedded in the processes of PJAHS.⁷ This issue was the first to fully utilize our newly acquired peer review management system. While there are still caveats and challenges, I am going out on a limb to say that it has made quite a positive

effect on our tasks. The integrated metrics within the system have automated the journal metrics, which previously were accomplished by the board using spreadsheets. Files are managed and stored within the system, eliminating the sometimes-confusing task of navigating our local and cloud storage for specific files. It was a worthy investment for PJAHS, which will play an important role later when we embark on an external quality review assessment.

The accomplishments of PJAHS are not without hiccups along the road. There are and will be areas for improvement. Data-driven decision-making grounded on a combination of metrics and experiences will have to be a standard for our quality measures. However, the ultimate test for PJAHS will be to subject itself to external journal evaluation. It is only through this robust scrutiny that PJAHS can ensure its own robust processes. The coming months may take us back to four years ago, with the same uncertainty, but this time a little braver, and with seven regular issues to back us up, as we try to navigate our way into realizing our [updated] dream of becoming an indexed journal in leading databases such as Scopus or Clarivate.

Meanwhile, please enjoy reading the six articles we publish in this issue.

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