

## Defining the Terms of Reference of the PSP's Committee on Academic and Research Pathology



In the landscape of medical science, the role of pathology cannot be overstated. Pathologists play a pivotal role in diagnosing diseases, understanding their mechanisms, and advancing medical knowledge. The Philippines, home to a wealth of talented healthcare professionals, possesses a cadre of skilled and accomplished pathologists. However, the research and publication output within the field of pathology in the country has not reached its full potential.

The Philippine Journal of Pathology is an instrument for disseminating groundbreaking research and insights within the discipline. Yet, it is evident that there is a pressing need to augment the research and publication output of Filipino pathologists. To bridge this gap, a concerted effort from various stakeholders is imperative.

Firstly, fostering a culture of research from the initial stages of medical education is crucial. Medical schools should emphasize the significance of research, encouraging students to engage in investigative projects and providing adequate mentorship and resources. Encouraging budding pathologists to explore research avenues can lay the foundation for a lifelong commitment to scholarly pursuits.

Moreover, institutional support plays a pivotal role in bolstering research endeavors. Hospitals and pathology departments should allocate resources and funding specifically for research initiatives. Establishing research committees, providing access to laboratory facilities, and offering grants can significantly incentivize pathologists to delve deeper into investigative studies. It will not hurt if the Society itself allows a bigger portion of its budget to fund protocol writing, conduct scientific investigations, and even manuscript writing, in the form of competitive scientific grants.

Residency training institutions should underscore the importance of research excellence, and that getting scientific information “out there” through publication—not a mere presentation at conferences—is the ultimate endpoint.

Collaboration and networking within the pathology community are also vital. Encouraging multidisciplinary collaborations between pathologists, clinicians, researchers, and other healthcare professionals can stimulate innovative research ideas and foster a robust exchange of knowledge. Annual conferences, seminars, and workshops dedicated to pathology research can serve as platforms for sharing insights and forging collaborations.

Furthermore, mentorship programs for early-career pathologists can be instrumental. Experienced researchers can guide and nurture the next generation of pathologists, imparting valuable skills in study design, data analysis, and manuscript preparation. Such mentorship initiatives can empower young researchers to navigate the intricacies of academic publishing more effectively.

Additionally, advocating for policies that recognize and reward research contributions is imperative. Acknowledging research productivity in promotion and tenure evaluations can serve as an incentive for pathologists to actively engage in scholarly activities.

The Philippine Journal of Pathology continues to provide a platform for showcasing the work of Filipino pathologists. From the outset it has embraced an open-access publishing model and insisted that no article processing charges are imposed, to amplify the impact and reach of its published articles.

In conclusion, elevating the research and publication output of Filipino pathologists requires a multifaceted approach. It demands a collaborative effort from educational institutions, healthcare facilities, professional organizations, and the broader pathology community. By fostering a research-centric culture, providing resources and mentorship, encouraging collaborations, and recognizing scholarly contributions, we can pave the way for a thriving ecosystem of pathology research in the Philippines.

The time is ripe for a concerted effort to unleash the full potential of Filipino pathologists, and the Philippine Journal of Pathology stands ready to be an integral part of this transformative journey. Facilitating and sparking this may be considered the main terms of reference for the PSP's Committee on Academic and Research Pathology.

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**THE PHILIPPINE BOARD OF PATHOLOGY  
ANNOUNCES THE DATES OF THE  
2024 DIPLOMATE EXAMINATIONS**

**ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY - FEBRUARY 25, 2024 (SUNDAY)  
CLINICAL PATHOLOGY - MARCH 3, 2024 (SUNDAY)  
APPLICATION DEADLINE - DECEMBER 15, 2023-5:00 P.M.**

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