



We are delighted to see Acta Medica Philippina tackle a serious, urgent, and very important theme, Child Abuse and Neglect, for its August 2022 issue. This special issue jibes with the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Child Protection Unit.

I commend the CPU and the editorial management of the Acta Medica on this vital collaboration for the protection and welfare of children. The 12 papers/articles especially chosen for this issue cover a wide range of topics that delve on how the CPU began, the development of the country's sexual assault investigation kit, prevalence of violence against children in the Philippines, and cultural practices that may contribute to our understanding of the complex issue of child abuse.

These are the most pressing and vital issues that prevail in the child protection setting. The research results and other information in this issue are significant contributions to the body of knowledge on child protection not only in our country but globally. They can also serve as valuable inputs for relevant and meaningful policy formulation and program planning on child health and wellbeing.

With child protection as one of the priorities in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and in the national health agenda, this issue can lead to a wider and deeper understanding of the nature and scope of child abuse and protection. Through accurate and science-based information, we can help the authorities craft appropriate strategies and interventions.

Congratulations on this special project on child protection!

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