



The Department of Anatomy is as old as the UP College of Medicine, which was established in the American colonial era. Through the decades, war damage, deteriorating infrastructure, difficulty in faculty development, and decreasing trend in the number of hours allotted for anatomy, were major hurdles. On the other hand, the digital revolution and computerization, revitalized faculty training, and upgraded facilities and equipment, have provided new opportunities.

The beginnings of the Anatomy Department coincided with the establishment of the Philippine Medical School following the American curriculum in the 1900s. It was initially directed early on by American medical doctors and subsequently steered by Filipino doctors. The Department started on with a high level of instruction and established research as one of its strong foundations. In over a century of existence, it has weathered challenges ranging from sources of instructional materials, faculty recruitment and retention, research funding, faculty development, and facility improvement and modernization. Over the past decades, the number of hours in anatomy have significantly dwindled to give way to fast advancing knowledge of other basic sciences and revisions in the medical curriculum. Shortcomings in terms of funding for resources in instructions, faculty development, and researches did not deter in maintaining the bar of excellence in delivering anatomical instructions to medical students. The Department has coped with innovative ways over periods of challenges and tumult. Rising from the latest challenge of transitioning from online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic to hybrid programs, the Department is poised to continue its gains in modernizing its facilities, developing innovative instructional materials, and conducting relevant educational research.

It is with distinct pride that we publish our second special issue for Anatomy of the Acta Medica Philippina featuring innovative educational and other anatomy-related research papers. We sincerely hope that our thrust towards medical education research will catapult anatomical teaching into even higher ground.

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