

GUEST EDITORIAL

College of Arts and Sciences Special Issue

The College of Arts and Sciences is mandated to provide high-quality liberal arts education that believes not only in the inclusion of diverse groups in the academic community, but in making the study of diversity an important part of academic inquiry. The strength of the college is the provision of an enabling environment within and outside the walls of the classrooms where students learn to think critically and analytically about race, ethnicity, and important global scientific advances. And to strongly complement instruction, research and public service initiatives that cuts across disciplines supplement and extends to various stakeholders started to gain momentum through the years true to its vision of becoming a transformational leader in health-oriented education, research, and public service in the humanities and the sciences. Providing opportunities for health research within the borders of Arts, Humanities, Social Science, Natural Science and Sports Science.

It was in January 2017 that the CAS Office of the Associate Dean for Research and Public Service was approved to be installed by the Board of Regents, its primary goal is “Bridging Multidisciplinary Boundaries to Generate Interdisciplinary Evidence-Based Solutions for Everyday Problems and Providing Quality Service to the Public”. The OADREPS has then continued to provide opportunities for junior faculty members to be published authors, senior faculty members to be mentors and project leaders that secured grants and for most faculty members to get promoted and advance their careers. It has seen the evolution and growth of CAS publications from a lone-discipline write-up to a multidisciplinary and collaborative piece of data as evidence that can somehow influence policy and get the chance for patents. Since 2017, CAS have produced more than 300 publications, surely gaining momentum and maintaining its pace. The *Philippine Journal of Health Research and Development* has been a strong ally in making all these possible for CAS.

In the first quarter of 2018, the first CAS Special Issue was born which covered the topics on recombinant gene technology, indigenous health negotiations (Ibalois), health as an electoral currency and basic research utilizing yeast species. Interestingly, research articles on controversial issues like BPO night shift workers and even “tokhang” also gave color to that milestone issue. The papers gave an impression, that CAS can do health research and the multidisciplinary nature of the various CAS departments became their strength, it was like “unity and strength in diversity”-inspired issue that we are still proud of until now. It was also to challenge our younger generation of CAS scientists, and that they be encouraged to engage in research as we provide support so they can publish. So we thank again the PJHRD, for this important support for CAS and both our young and seasoned authors and scientists by providing us the venue to showcase our work.

To pay homage to PJHRD, this year, we prepared another great line up of articles, venturing on scientific advances including new generation pollutants monitoring and research, functional food development, natural products research and drug discovery, nanoscience research, disaster and behavioral psychology research, biodiversity and radiation science. We are very excited to share them to you as part of our commitment to making health research prosper in the country as our contribution to the world.

The past two years have been challenging research globally due to the pandemic, but it has also opened doors for new partnerships, new collaborations, new research initiatives for CAS and our partners. Be assured that we will once again share our accomplishments, maybe through another special issue next year.

We once again share our gratitude to the PJHRD, may you have continued success and may you still continue to be the beacon of light for young scientists, continuing career scientists and great scientific mentors of CAS, of UP Manila and even beyond the walls of our campus.

Mabuhay ang CAS, Mabuhay ang PJHRD!

Marilen Parungao Balolong, MSc DrPH DPAM
CAS Associate Dean for Research and Public Service, UP Manila

