

## GUEST EDITORIAL

### College of Allied Medical Professions Issue

We are pleased to present to you this special issue of the *Philippine Journal of Health Research and Development* featuring research of faculty and students at the University of the Philippines College of Allied Medical Professions. Seven of the nine articles in this issue are the full versions of research presented in previous research symposia of the College showcasing the output of students for their respective research courses.

This special issue is a collection of work that contribute to the dialogue on improving health and health care and nurturing healthy and competent future health professionals. The commentary of Prof. Rolando Lazaro provides further context to the envisioned value of these articles in building knowledge and practice in the fields of occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech pathology.

Two articles describe new understanding of the practices of physical therapy and speech-language pathology (*Bandong et al.*; *Valdez et al.*); two articles describe adapting instruments, one to measure perceptions on occupational performance and another to measure disability, to the Filipino culture, context, and language (*Kang et al.*; *Perez et al.*); two articles explored the role of therapists in community setting, one on effectiveness of physical activity interventions and the other on the role of speech-language pathologists (*Garcia*; *Jordan et al.*); and two articles investigated aspects of and strategies for health of future health professionals (*Bentulan & Koo*; *Aguila & Perez*). The rationale, results, and recommendations presented in the articles reflect shifts in models of practice of rehabilitation, from medical model to a biopsychosocial approach, a focus on client-centered care, and the expansion in the scope of health care provided by occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech-language pathologists from that for individuals with impairments to that for individuals and populations who have disability or at risk of having a disability or who are healthy and need to stay healthy.

These shifts in focus and scope result from evolving knowledge, contexts, and challenges for the occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech-language pathology professions in the Philippines. It is therefore fitting that these shifts are reflected in this issue as we also produce it in celebration of the 60th founding anniversary of the University of the Philippines College of Allied Medical Professions. These same shifts accompanied the growth of the College since it offered the first formal education in occupational therapy and physical therapy in the Philippines in 1962 and in speech-language pathology in 1986.

We thank all the contributors from the University of the Philippines College of Allied Medical Professions and collaborating institutions for responding to our call for them to share their original scholarly work. We thank the reviewers from both academe and clinical practice for further sharpening the focus of the articles. We also thank Assistant Professor Frances Rom M. Lunar for his valuable assistance as guest assistant editor for this special issue.

We appreciate this opportunity to produce a special issue for the College in commemoration of our 60th founding anniversary as we look forward to transcending new frontiers. Through this special commemorative issue, we hope to increase awareness about health, disability and the roles of occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech-language pathology, and call for continued, multisectoral, interdisciplinary efforts to discover and implement evidence-informed strategies for better health of Filipinos.

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