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EDITORIAL



Marcellus Francis L. Ramirez, MD

State of the Journal 2025

The very first scientific journal of the Philippine Heart Association (PHA) was the ***Philippine Heart Journal***, which was established in 1952, the very same year that PHA was founded. However, it stopped publication after a few years, was renewed for a short period in 1962, but was subsequently discontinued. It was in the year 1973 when the official scientific publication of the association was revived with the creation of the ***Philippine Journal of Cardiology*** (PJC). The Journal maintained a quarterly publication schedule until 2000 before evolving into a biannual publication until the present. Initial articles consisted of scientific writings from PHA luminaries, written documentation of lectures and proceedings of scientific meetings, which later evolved into research articles. The initiation of cardiovascular fellowship training in the country and strengthening of research in the 1980s led to an increase in the number of original research articles and case reports submitted for publication.

With evolution of the internet and electronic mail in the late 20th century and early millennium, and creation of the PHA website, electronic PDF copies of issues were started in the year 2012, and these were made accessible electronically. Under then editor-in-chief Dr. Saturnino Javier, in 2016, the first formal peer review course was held for the editorial team. Subsequently, a more structured format for peer review was instituted, with the process done through electronic mail.

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 enabled the rapid adoption of digital technologies and electronic publications. The journal responded with the strengthening of its online format and transitioned to distributing its issues online. In 2021, the PJC was officially recognized as both a print and electronic journal with a corresponding ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) registered under the Global Index for Continuing Resources. At this time, electronic copies of articles were accessible through the PHA website and the Health Research and Development Information Network (HERDIN) online platform under the Department of Science and Technology. This same year saw a gradual transition to the hybrid print and electronic format.

In 2022, PJC formally applied for accreditation and indexing under the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus (WPRIM). After two years, in 2024, it was formally approved for inclusion into the index database of WPRIM. In the same year, with the approval of the PHA Board, PJC shifted into a full online journal with an option for on-demand printing. Through support of the board, an online professional journal management system was commissioned, which facilitated streamlining of the editorial process and, more importantly, assignment of a digital object identifier (DOI) to each article, allowing improved access and facilitating academic citation of articles. The journal successfully migrated its online platform to the new PJC site under the PHA website.

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Today, on its 52nd year, PJC is a fully online open-access biannual peer-reviewed journal indexed under WPRIM. Its articles can also be accessed in Google Scholar and Research Gate. Currently, all articles from the year 2012 are available online. Efforts are being made to make older issues available in digital format. Since the start of its current online open-access platform, it has recorded 47,808 views of abstracts, 43,083 downloads of full articles for a total of 90,891 hits (as of May 20, 2025). In this issue, we take pride in featuring 12 publications, including 3 case reports, 4 analytical research articles and 5 meta-analyses and reviews. Worth noting are two publications centering on outcomes of coronary artery disease patients benefiting from the Philhealth Z-benefit package for coronary bypass surgery (Tunacao-Sandalo, et al., and Tiu, et al.) and one case report documenting the first transcatheter tricuspid regurgitation intervention in the Philippines (Sia, et al.). We continue to thank our editorial team and peer reviewers for their tireless dedication in evaluating, critiquing and eventually improving each scientific work. Congratulations to the authors for contributing their valuable work to PJC. I look forward with great enthusiasm as we continue to see renewed interest and a rising number of submissions to the journal. In the near future, we will be exploring a rolling publishing model to allow early access to important articles such as guidelines and consensus statements, ahead of the full issue. The journal plans to invite international affiliate members to its editorial board, an attempt to improve its presence in the Asia Pacific and global stage, as well as initiate its application for membership to the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), a quality standard that will guide us to ensure the highest standards of publication ethics.

The future motivates!