



I congratulate the UPCM-PGH Department of Pediatrics for putting out this special issue of the Acta Medica Philippina that tackles pressing topics on children's health.

Child health has improved greatly in the past decades, thanks to research that has situated and quantified health problems and identified strategies for improvement. Without scientific investigations, further advances to improve the health of the world's children will be at risk. Furthermore, evidence from child health research over the past decades has provided guidance and inputs to national health programs and policies that are now benefitting Filipino children.

These include policies and programs on Newborn Screening, Newborn Hearing Screening, Vision Screening for Schoolchildren, and Rare Disease Screening and Management.

I commend the Department of Pediatrics for exemplifying the value and role of research in health through its annual harvest of varied and significant researches that are not only presented in research forums but now being widely published, some of which are featured in this issue.

The 14 papers here by the department's faculty on varied disorders affecting Filipino children were based on significance and urgency. These studies provide a deeper understanding of the causes, magnitude, and impact of some illnesses and identify appropriate interventions. They also provide relevant areas for future researches that hopefully will generate lasting solutions to the problems that have been plaguing our children.

We recognize that many other issues on child health need to be investigated. Progress requires that research continues to deal with the needs of children, especially those in vulnerable situations and locations and results should see publication in acknowledged venues like this.

It is hoped that this edition will serve as a vital resource for child care providers, researchers, advocates and other stakeholders; and further inspire others to conduct and apply their researches all towards optimal health for children.

**Carmencita D. Padilla, MD, MAHPS**  
*Professor and Chancellor*  
*University of the Philippines Manila*