



I take great pleasure in rendering this message for this special Pediatrics issue of Acta Medica Philippina. During my term as Dean I made great efforts in ensuring that Acta Medica Philippina is able to reach its fullest aspirational goal of being not only Scopus indexed but coming up with more issues and indexed more for a wider reach and hopefully becoming indexed in Pubmed. If one wants to trace the history of medicine in our country they should not look far. Reviewing the archives of Acta Medica Philippina should provide the reader a good overview of the tradition of excellence that pervades our culture here at the UP College of Medicine. This special issue represents the work done by our faculty and trainees in about 17 subspecialty divisions of the Department of Pediatrics. In many ways these researches give a flavor on what are considered areas where improvements in understanding of disease states result in better quality of care. The impact of new knowledge generated cannot also be relegated to individual care but given the education of new generations of healthcare professionals ultimately results in improvements of population health and also practice changes or even health policy. We have many such examples in the college of researches at the bedside that reached the barrios, bench research that ultimately improved care of large communities, our country or even had impact on global health. Congratulations to the special editors Drs. Maria Esterlita Uy and Germana Gregorio, to all the authors whose papers make up this special issue and the present chair Dr. Marissa Lukban and past chair Dr. Lorna Abad for allowing an environment by which your faculty are able to embark on these important research strides despite the tremendous time needed to take care of a never ending stream of patients who come from underserved communities. So many come to us in great need of the specialty care that is very well regarded by the public at the Philippine General Hospital, our national university hospital and the largest clinical laboratory of the UPCM for more than 116 years!

Mabuhay po kayo at magpatuloy ng pagsisilbi sa sambayanang Pilipino!

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