

## Specialty Issues



I must confess a personal bias and sense of great pride to be able to present to you this issue of Acta Medica Philippina partly devoted to the subspecialty of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition. Being a pediatric pathologist myself, I have worked very closely with this group of specialists who takes care of children afflicted with liver disease and all sorts of gastrointestinal problems in its unusual forms for the past fifteen years, and the rewards have been great. The health problems of children in the Philippines are markedly different from that in the West, more so in this field, and despite limited resources, our specialists have managed to come up with innovative approaches, both in the diagnosis and treatment of these maladies and they are reflected in these pages with original articles, never before published in a peer reviewed journal in the past. And I know there will be many more to come.

This group of specialists is led by no other than National Scientist Dr. Perla D. Santos-Ocampo, one of the most well-known figures in the Philippines in the field of Pediatrics. We salute her for her unwavering dedication and exceptional contributions to her chosen field. It is a great honor for us that she chooses to continue publishing scholarly researches that are of national importance in the pages of the Acta. Many thanks also to Dr. Germana V. Gregorio who coordinated with us and the pediatric gastroenterology team of the Philippine General Hospital for making this issue a reality.

The Acta encourages proposals for specialty issues similar to this from all medical specialties and subspecialties, provided the articles and reports are not too technical and will be of interest to doctors in whatever field of specialization who want to keep up with national medical developments that make a great impact on our society. The issue may be devoted entirely to the specialty, or just part of the issue, as appropriate. We try to avoid articles that are of interest and would be understood only by a particular group of physicians sharing the specialty. The past years, the Acta has had specialty issues on Genetics, Rehabilitation Medicine, Clinical Epidemiology, and even Universal Health Care. All these issues have been labors of love for the specialty and the publication process, taking about a year of planning and determination. And this issue is no exception.

I would also like to remind our readers and contributors that the Acta Medica Philippina accepts original articles, reviews, and other publishable material from everyone, not necessarily from the University of the Philippines system. It has already published many research articles from other institutions in Metro Manila and all over the Philippines (including a few other countries). The only requirement is that it meets our publication standards, and it undergoes our peer review and editorial evaluation process.

  
Jose Ma. C. Avila, MD  
Editor-in-Chief