

An Advocacy Worth “Dying” For



The Acta Medica Philippina special issue on “injury and trauma” comes at a time when Philippine statistics show an increasing trend in mortality as far as injuries and accidents are concerned. The daily barrage of injury, death and destruction due to road accidents, drowning, falls, and other disasters in the trimedia are numbing. The increasing number of children involved is alarming and almost always catches our attention despite the litany of stories on a daily basis. Many times, the sensationalism and the “gruesome” factor elicit anger and dismay from most of us.

Academic Reports and Scientific Inquiry on the subject matter of accidents, trauma – the injury that they cause, both physical and psychological, and the manner of treatment and prevention are wanting in our setting. The Acta feels that it is time to give serious attention on these cases that are happening day in and day out. The articles you have here shall hopefully encourage future investigations on these problems and offer insights and solutions. The Philippine General Hospital, the first hospital in the country to set-up a Trauma Specialty Service way back in 1989, has no doubt contributed extensively to the knowledge base on traumatic injury in the Philippines. Most of the authors in this issue are pioneers and are actively involved in this service.

While the National Government has done its part in the attempt to prevent many of these mortalities by means of legislation and education programs, the increasing and continuing mortalities and morbidities that we encounter everyday are proofs that they are not enough. Politicians blame “third-world” conditions as part of the problem. We are part of the problem.

No less than the Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Manila, Dr. Ramon L. Arcadio, early on, has embraced the prevention of childhood injuries as an advocacy, and has published several papers on it when this subject was not yet in vogue. As a fitting tribute to him, the Acta has decided to reprint one of his key papers on childhood accidents (with permission) published more than ten years ago, and still very much relevant today. We hope that this inspires our readers to contribute similar articles which we shall publish in future issues of the Acta.


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