

# Ramon L. Arcadio: The Academic and Advocate for the Prevention of Childhood Injuries and Accidents in the Philippines

Rafael J. Consunji, MD, MPH<sup>1</sup> and Jinky Leilanie D. Lu, MOH, PhD<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Division of Surgical Critical Care and Trauma, Department of Surgery,  
College of Medicine and Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines Manila*

<sup>2</sup>*National Institutes of Health, University of the Philippines Manila*

This special issue on Injury Prevention and Control of the *Acta Medica Philippina* is dedicated to Chancellor Ramon L. Arcadio whose pioneering research work and advocacy for the prevention of childhood injuries/accidents which is the third leading cause of death in the Philippines has been unprecedented.

In 1992, Dr. Ramon L. Arcadio published the first extensive Philippine research data on childhood injuries (accidents), an important but underemphasized area in training and healthcare in the country. Five papers, as principal investigator, and one as co-investigator, were published in the *Philippine Journal of Pediatrics*. The pioneering researches were on hospital and community-based epidemiology, home accidents, and training programs on the prevention of childhood accidents. Before these publications, there were no data on childhood injuries in Philippine medical literature.

Even before being published, the research data were read by Dr. Arcadio in an international conference on childhood injuries in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1990. This was the first major sharing of data on childhood injuries among Asian countries held under the auspices of the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Pediatric Federation. Dr. Arcadio also read his research data and spoke on the subject on various health fora, conventions, and scientific meetings.

Due to his scientific work and expertise on the subject, Dr. Arcadio was invited to write the chapter on Childhood Injuries in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Textbook of Pediatrics and Child Health*, edited by Dr. Fe del Mundo, et. al in 2000.

Dr. Arcadio is also the Convenor of the recently created National Institutes of Health Study Group on Injury Prevention and Control.



*Dr. Ramon L. Arcadio*

Dr. Arcadio's advocacy on the subject also resulted in the inclusion of childhood injuries in the curricula of the health sciences like Midwifery, Nursing and Medicine.

In 2003, Dr. Arcadio was elected Founding Chairman of the Board of Trustees of SAFEKIDS PHILIPPINES, a position he still currently holds. This organization is a SEC-registered non-government organization whose vision-mission is the prevention of childhood injuries. It belongs to a network of about sixteen similar organizations in various countries, all affiliated with SAFEKIDS WORLDWIDE which is based in Washington D.C. USA. Safekids Philippines has prevention programs in Pasay, Parañaque, Olongapo, Cebu and Quezon City.

All throughout the chancellorship of Dr. Arcadio from 2006 to 2011, he has committed both administrative resources and his expertise in the prevention of injuries in general, and childhood injuries/accidents in particular.