



This year (2022), the Department of Anesthesiology celebrates its 40th Year with the theme '*Kalinaw: alay at balik tanaw*'. As a pioneer, the Department's invaluable contributions to Philippine anesthesia predate its founding through its inclusion to the College of Medicine in 1948. And we have only been moving forward ever since.

'*Kalinaw*' is a Filipino term for peace. Anesthesiologists have always cultivated the calm for their patients. [Even in the ensuing uncertainty of the pandemic, our quiet resolve has resonated further in the frontlines.] In celebration, our Department is delighted to invite you to read this special issue of the *Acta Medica Philippina*, which draws inspiration on timely topics and stories related to everyday anesthesia practice.

We owe it to our patients, our colleagues, and ourselves to strive for excellence in all that we do. Safe, high-quality patient care, good working relationships, and our own professional pride and fulfillment are all at stake. Medical advances, increasing specialization, rising patient expectations, and the sheer size and diversity of anesthesia service provision mean that today's anesthesiologists work in an increasingly complex arena. The wide range of research questions generated by this complexity has encouraged the search for new ways of conducting research on varied subjects.

The papers include descriptive, qualitative, and case studies on the airway, perioperative complications, trauma, complex pediatric cases, regional anesthesia techniques and chronic pain. We hope that by reading these articles, anesthesia will seem less strange and be viewed as valuable in our healthcare system.

As I share with you the elation and gratitude for this issue, we remain hopeful in the promise of '*kalinaw*'.

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