

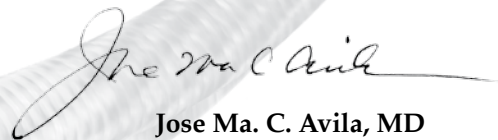
## Bridges



I congratulate the Department of Clinical Epidemiology for its landmark Acta issue entirely devoted to this very important, sometimes misunderstood specialty.

This special issue on clinical epidemiology emphasizes the role it plays in a developing country such as the Philippines. Whereas the Philippines is devoid of massive detailed databases that provide the medium for which clinical epidemiology research in the West is largely based, we, however, have the special skill and resolve that make face-to-face patient interaction the source of our data and information. Clinical Epidemiology in this country also serves as an important bridge between those clinicians who are largely hospital-based, like internists or pediatricians, and those that are in the public health aspect of health care who may be far removed from the clinics, like those in public health institutes, community medicine, and others. This “bridging” by clinical epidemiologists can only serve to make health care more effective in our setting.

Thus, it is not surprising to note the multidisciplinary and multi-institutional cooperation that allowed many of the research endeavors in this issue to be realized, as can be seen from the bylines of the authors. This is the essence of clinical epidemiology’s role being realized in a setting such as ours.



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