



The Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS) and the Philippine National Ear Institute (PNEI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have a unique relationship: the research faculty of PNEI are often also clinical faculty of the Department of ORL-HNS! In fact, the PNEI started out as the Ear Study Group of the Department. The many relevant and landmark research activities and output of the study group subsequently led to the formation of the PNEI in 2001. Thus, the impetus for research had been firmly established from the very beginning.

The PNEI has delved into research activities dealing with ear disorders and hearing loss: its epidemiology, genetics, screening methods, management, and rehabilitation. This eventually led to policies formulated for the prevention, early diagnosis, and intervention of hearing loss. This has resulted in better informed lay, medical, and paramedical individuals and overall improvement in ear health of the Filipino people.

I congratulate the PNEI for this landmark special issue. We look forward to more research projects from the PNEI in collaboration with the Department of ORL-HNS in future issues of the *Acta Medica Philippina*.

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