



The University of the Philippines College of Medicine - Research Implementation and Development Office (UPCM-RIDO) has been in existence for more than 20 years. Over the years, the function of RIDO has expanded in response to the evolving research landscape. To commemorate this milestone, RIDO is giving you this special issue themed “*Innovative Methods in Medical Education*.”

The UPCM-RIDO has been functional since 2003. Its forerunner, the Committee on Research Ethics and Development, was established in 1979 then renamed as Committee on Research Implementation and Development in 1984, performed centralized technical and ethical review of research proposals of UP Manila. As research productivity increased, the UP-Manila Research Ethics Board was created in 2010 to integrate all research committees in UP Manila into a single research ethics board with component review panels, performing centralized ethical review of proposals while the Colleges were tasked to do their respective technical reviews. From a committee doing primarily technical and ethical reviews, RIDO became solely a technical review board for research of UPCM faculty and students. Technical review was decentralized to the Departments with RIDO facilitating the registration and monitoring of the progress of research.

In 2018, research governance was strengthened through the creation of the position Associate Dean for Research (ADR) and Assistant to the Associate Dean for Research (AADR) under the term of Dean Charlotte Chiong. RIDO then expanded its research support services to streamlining the research registration by establishing a unified registration system with *Research Grants Administration Office* (RGAO), maintaining the research registry, generating research performance metrics, monitoring research progress, facilitating the conduct of annual student and faculty research fora, conducting capacity building training workshops, and administering research incentives. All research-related forms and resources are made available at the UPCM Portal and electronic submission is operational. To further support the goal of Science and Discovery through collaborative research, RIDO through the initiatives of the ADR and AADR is also creating a database and tracker of research programs in collaboration with the UPCM Student Council. This electronic platform will enable the students to match their research interests, be actively engaged and mentored in ongoing research projects of the faculty.

In 2023, UPCM-RIDO together with the Philippine General Hospital-Expanded Health Research Office spearheaded the creation of the 2023-2028 UPCM-PGH Harmonized Research Agenda. One of the domains of the research agenda is education and capacity building, specifically research on new models of education and the impact of novel teaching strategies. To highlight the evolving strategies in medical education and the evaluation research done to strengthen clinical training programs and undergraduate research education, this collaborative issue between UPCM RIDO and the Medical Education Unit was conceptualized.

Featured in this 20th anniversary issue of RIDO are research on innovative methods of delivering medical education, particularly anatomy; assessment of clinical training programs in the Philippine General Hospital; using social media, telehealth, and mobile apps for medical education and training of health care providers, and evaluation of research education at UPCM. Some of these research papers were presented in the UPCM Faculty Research Forum with the similar theme of “*Innovative Methods in Medical Education*.”

Special thanks go to our Special Issue Editor, Dr. Agnes Soriano-Estrella, head of the Medical Education Unit of UPCM, and to Research Assistant Professor Carlos Diego Rozul, formerly RIDO University Researcher Administrative Officer, for their perseverance and tireless efforts in shepherding this special issue. We thank the peer reviewers and authors for contributing their work. We extend our gratitude to Editor-in-Chief Dr. Joven Tanchuco and his dedicated editorial team, for supporting this collaborative issue between UPCM-RIDO and the Medical Education Unit.

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