

## Expanding the Impact of the Philippine Journal of Orthopaedics



This issue marks a milestone for the Philippine Journal of Orthopaedics (PJO). We publish the first article submitted by international authors. While several authors from Asia and Europe have submitted articles in the past three years, Patel et al.'s paper on proximal femoral nailing compared to 95° plating is the first to make it to publication. While I personally do not know how our fledgling journal got onto the radar of our international authors, I have a sneaking suspicion that online accessibility and indexing played a part.

As any researcher knows, visibility and accessibility of scientific work are key when searching the literature. A search often begins with keywords in an indexing database. For researchers of the previous century, searching the Index Medicus using index cards was tedious, time-consuming, and inefficient. From the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the World Wide Web has made searches more efficient and thorough, with medical databases such as PubMed, Scopus, Google Scholar, etc. Each database has strengths and weaknesses in terms of coverage, ancillary information, and efficiency of use.<sup>1</sup> Online publications have increased readership,<sup>2</sup> and become the main source of scientific information and the unequivocal goal of all publications, including this one.

Medical databases also inform the clinician in need of point-of-care answers. While most physicians still consult colleagues and websites, medical databases are an essential source of information.<sup>3</sup> Students and residents in training trawl these databases for articles that they can cite when they are asked the all-important questions “Why?” and “Says who?” This exercise in evidence-based decision-making hopefully instills a lifelong habit of looking for answers from credible sources.

For any scientific journal, being indexed confers a level of credibility and prestige. These databases have their own strict and discerning criteria before allowing any title to be included in their roster. The PJO has thus far been included in the Directory of Open Access Journals. Most databases require a publication history of at least three years. This issue of the PJO marks the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of our renaissance. It is the solemn promise of the editorial board to expand our reach and endeavor to be indexed in the most relevant databases.

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### REFERENCES

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