

## Philippine Orthopaedics Steps on to the World Stage



The Philippine Journal of Orthopaedics is finally online! Thirty years ago, communication and information availability underwent a sea change. The internet was invented and the world has never been the same.

Connecting to the web used to be more of a chore than a boon. Your dial-up modem would shriek and your computer would struggle to download an email, a document, a picture, or – God forbid – a song on Napster. Since then, the internet has improved by leaps and bounds. Nearly everyone I know uses the internet daily. Scientific publications also rode this wave; today, nearly everything we need to know is reachable with the tap of a button. It is about time that we hitch our proverbial wagon to the information superhighway.

This issue is the journal's first to be published both physically and electronically; a fitting transition to our full migration online starting next year. The printed copy serves as a memento of the classic format, and an homage to the people instrumental to its revival – the board of trustees of the Philippine Orthopaedic Association, with Dr. David Alagar, current president, spearheading the efforts.

Our call for submissions was met with a resounding response; we received manuscripts enough to fill more than three issues. This only reinforces the need for a journal to call our own. The editors have worked tirelessly for the past six months to bring everyone an issue that rises to the occasion. These articles represent a cross-section of our emerging economy's unique position; our country battles poverty, inequality, and injustice, while also advancing at the forefront of Orthopaedics. In this issue, you will find described the presentation and results of age-old cervical Pott's disease, economic issues inherent in the reuse of external fixator outriggers, the mental health effects of prolonged skeletal traction, and innovations that overcome logistic barriers in residents' microsurgical training. These are questions that do not concern the first world and will not find their place in other top-tier journals. Our issue also showcases advancements in Philippine Orthopaedics – the study of powered air purifiers, the use of software to measure joint positions, an investigation into the significance of plicae in the knee, and a new technique in tumor surgery.

The editors have set out a stepwise 5-year plan to get our journal onto the relevant indices. After all, what good is a journal that cannot reach its widest audience? To this end, the editors have crafted an editorial policy, ensured objective peer review, and engaged the services of a copy editor, and journal, production, and website managers. The authors will agree that the review process has polished their articles to their finest forms.

We have taken the first step on our journey: to be a locally and globally relevant indexed international journal. A steady stream of quality submissions from local and eventually international authors will help carry us along.

In this, our journal's new era, the editors make this vow – the Philippine Journal of Orthopaedics shall take its rightful place in the community of scientific journals, giving voice to our unique set of problems while joining the discussion of current and global Orthopaedic topics. *Mabuhay!*

**Tammy L. Dela Rosa, MD, MSc**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

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