



Carmina A. Delos Reyes, MD
Editor-in-Chief, PIDSP Journal

Correspondence:
Dr. Carmina A. Delos Reyes
E-mail: pidsp2009@yahoo.com

EDITORIAL

PONDERING AMIDST THE PANDEMIC

Who would have thought that amidst the new year revelries last December, in Wuhan China, a different kind of explosion surfaced, which we now know as COVID-19. A month later, on 30 January 2020, the outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. As history unfolds, we find ourselves each day seeking new information to cope with this pandemic.

There are several lessons to take from this crisis, and they are the same insights from of old:

..that human health is priceless, and each day is a gift and a blessing,

..that our health and that of our planet are inseparable,

..that a global threat needs a global response,

..that there is wisdom in the adage 'Prevention is better than Cure',

..that we all have a role to play in the battle of our lifetime, and

..that there is a need to unite through science to win this war.

In this issue we bring you relevant science on challenges which came way before COVID-19.

Flu is highlighted in 'Clinical Profile and Outcome of Admitted Pediatric Patients with Influenza'. Dengue is brought to the forefront in 'Development of A Clinical Risk Score to Diagnose Concurrent Bacterial Infections in Children with Dengue'.

Concerns with antimicrobial resistance are dealt with on 'Effectiveness and Adverse Effects of IV Colistin in Neonates with MDR Gram Negative Bacterial Infections' and 'Utility of Urine KOH in detecting Candiduria in Infants'.

Issues on vaccination are discussed in 'Validation of the Filipino Translated Questionnaire on Parent Attitudes About Childhood Vaccines'.

As the focus continues on COVID-19, we share with you PPS-PIDSP's collaborative outputs and guidelines on Screening and Treatment, Resumption of OPD Clinics, and Vaccination. Reflections in 'Scenarios After Enhanced Community Quarantine for COVID-19 Pandemic in the Philippines...What Can We Do as Filipinos?' caps this issue.

May we continue to utilize science as we seek for answers to our day to day problems. Where science yields no answer, may frequent pauses in our lives help us realize that not all questions need to be answered. In the end, what matters is our tireless search for the truth and the realization that not everything is within our control.

(Written with thoughts and in loving memory of Dr. Salvacion R. Gatchalian, mentor, colleague, friend)