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## EDITORIAL



Marcellus Francis L. Ramirez, MD

### Publications, Mindsets, and Public Health Policies

Scientific journals have evolved into one of the most vital means for disseminating research findings and communicating new knowledge which is critical for the progress of science. But more than this, journals are also important in the development of public health. And when we talk about public health in the Philippines, the role and relevance of the Philippine Journal of Cardiology (PJC) as the scientific publication arm of the Philippine Heart Association is truly crucial with cardiovascular diseases continuing to be the top cause of mortality.

But this journey from scientific publications to actions relevant to public health benefits is usually a long and weary path that requires a lot of patience, perseverance and political will. Translating these scientific works to impact health policies is quite a tedious process which entails involvement of many participants—the Association, other healthcare organizations, the government through the Department of Health, the health insurance and reimbursement bodies (Philhealth and health maintenance organizations) and many other stakeholders. In this process, the role of scientific journals cannot be ignored as scientific publications provide a foundation for publicizing scientific work and progress.

Commonly, the most compelling reasons for research among trainees are fulfillment of training requirements, promotion and accreditation. The academic arms of all the specialty and subspecialty societies in Medicine will need to change the mindsets of trainees and physicians with regards to research publications. We should now transition from creating research projects that meet the criteria of feasible, interesting, novel, ethical and relevant (F-I-N-E-R), to an overarching goal of providing new knowledge that will address gaps in healthcare delivery, influence clinical practice, and create impact in public health policies. A scientific investigator, be it a trainee or a consultant, must approach the research work as his or her potential contribution to bring changes in global health.

In a huge way, the PJC which forms an important means for communicating scientific work, and maintains the academic integrity of the Association, becomes an important component of public health practice, and serves as a critical step in the link from scientific advances to public health action.