

EDITORIAL

THE PHILIPPINE ISSUE OF THE ASEAN ORTHOPAEDIC JOURNAL

The Philippine issue of the ASEAN Orthopaedic Journal is a welcome innovation. It is a stimulus for more orthopaedic surgeons to undertake researches. The journal serves as an important venue for the exchange of knowledge and ideas in the field of orthopaedics. It motivates us to do better and more relevant researches.

The articles in this issue are varied. There are two basic papers, one case report and the rest are clinical studies. On the basis of these works, one may conclude that there is a need to strengthen researches on the field of basic orthopaedic. There is in fact a need to encourage more research work in the field of orthopaedics in the Philippines.

Our sources for research materials are adequate. We have the Philippine Orthopaedic Center (formerly the National Orthopaedic Hospital) with its tremendous patient load. There are twenty-eight other medical schools in the country. However, there is only one with a separate department for orthopaedics and the rest are sections under a department of surgery. In addition, there are nine other boards for orthopaedic accredited training programs which are non-university based. These are virtually untapped resources for orthopaedic researches.

There is a need to stimulate interest and commitment to research. The various training programs need to impart a basic knowledge on research design and measurement. Scientific conferences should be made encouraged and regular. Yearly research forums should be strengthened. The local and regional orthopaedic publications should improve and prevail. Adequate financial support for research activities should be made available.

With the help and cooperation of the members of the Philippine Orthopaedic Association, we foresee no reason for not being able to regularly contribute an annual issue. We hope to make this humble contribution to the ASEAN orthopaedic research thrust. We will make this a commitment to the ASEAN Orthopaedic Journal and to the ASEAN Orthopaedic Association.

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