



Arlene Dy Co, MD, FPPS, FPIDSP
Editor-in-Chief, PIDSP Journal

Correspondence:
Dr. Arlene Dy Co
Email: pidsp2009@yahoo.com

EDITORIAL

Prioritizing Home

From the recently concluded 5th Annual Philippine Association of Medical Journal Editors (PAMJE) Meeting, what resonated with me was the discussion on how to prioritize local journals for publishing local research. This is particularly relevant for the PIDSP journal editors and editorial board as we've faced challenges in soliciting quality local research. The PIDSP Journal initiated a research contest years ago to build a pool of articles to support our goal of publishing two issues annually. However, this initiative sparked considerable debate among the society's members, particularly regarding the policy that grants the society ownership of submitted articles with the right of first refusal to publish. The editorial board advocated for this policy, as we believed it was essential for maintaining our bi-annual publication schedule. Nevertheless, we recognize that enhancing our journal's quality and aligning with international standards are crucial to attracting prospective authors. Being one of only 27 local journals indexed in the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus (WPRIM), we pride ourselves on being the sole pediatric subspecialty journal in the country. Our journal has an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), a digital object identifier assigned to each published article, and remains open access with no submission fees. We have solid editorial policies and a competent editorial board ably supported by peer reviewers who carry out a blinded review process. We are also transitioning to an online submission and review system and have plans to seek additional indexing.

According to the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), editors-in-chief must uphold editorial freedom, ensuring they have full control over the journal's editorial content and publication timing. Decisions should rely on the validity and significance of the work rather than commercial interests. Editors also need to safeguard the confidentiality of authors and reviewers, adhering to ICMJE standards while ensuring that all staff follow best journalistic practices. At the PIDSP Journal, we strive to meet these roles and responsibilities to the best of our abilities.

The authors' choice of where to submit their articles may be influenced by various factors, including mindsets shaped by colonial mentality and institutional promotion policies. Nonetheless, we encourage local authors doing research on pediatric infectious diseases to choose a journal that ensures access to those who need the information most. Your research can educate fellow medical professionals, influence policy-making, and enhance clinical practices, ultimately improving health outcomes. We sincerely hope that when you have an original research related to Pediatric Infectious Diseases in the Philippine setting, you consider making PIDSP Journal your first choice. Remember, it's MORE FUN to Publish in the PIDSP Journal!