



My dear friends and colleagues;

**R**esearch is the universal language of the science of medicine. It forms the basic scientific foundation of our noble work to heal peoples' infirmities. It serves as the guide, illuminating us in our clinical practice in handling common or distinct dilemmas of our daily encounters with patients. Research is, therefore, an important integral part of our commitment as physicians. We can never claim to be accomplished physicians unless we have done research and have actively joined in the celebration of the enduring dynamism of medicine & surgery.

Research is, however, totally barren if it is not published and communicated to give accurate information to its intended listeners or readers. I believe that this is one of the reasons why the Philippine Journal of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery was conceived decades ago. It is a lush venue where original findings and contemporary innovations applicable in our local setting, can be born and shared with members of our unique specialty. This is also the best venue for a collaborative effort among various individuals and different institutions to advance the cause of our society for the health and well-being of the Filipino people as the ultimate beneficiary.

I have the highest regard for the Filipino otolaryngologist. He has innumerable novel and practical ideas which if written on paper, can probably exhaust volumes of books. Because of certain limitations, however, most of his brilliant designs will never see the benefit of being subjected to scientific analysis. But resilient and creative as we are as a people, we will not let these barriers dissuade us from continuing to perform investigations and imparting them to our curious colleagues. A living proof of this claim would be this very journal that has survived defining moments of Philippine history. I personally have been a living witness as it developed through the decades. Reading this journal for years, I cannot but feel amazed and proud that the various outputs published in these annals have persisted on to evolve into maturity in terms of quality, depth and content. It has always lived up to high expectations being at par with studies done by our counterparts in developed countries.

I would like to encourage the diplomates and the fellows of our society to continue on generating and publishing quality research papers in the field of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery not only locally but internationally as well. It also is my fervent hope that more of our members will report their extraordinary studies in international conventions and symposia. By doing these, we will not only be able to give our share and legacy in this field of expertise, but the excellence of the Filipino as an otolaryngologist will also be acknowledged internationally. Let us strive to be active leaders in our own right and not be merely passive followers subscribing to the ideas of other people in the field.

This is also one of the reasons why during my term as president of the PJOHNS, I have supported the creation of various subspecialty study groups. I believe that these collegial bodies will be vital in strengthening our brotherhood into one direction with a sense of a common noble purpose in mind. The collaborative efforts among the members of the various study groups would be a strong foundation to support the production of excellent scientific papers. The combination of a shared unifying interest & a skilled expertise to back it up is the best fertile ground for optimal productivity. I, therefore, challenge the members of these academic assemblies to be in the forefront of research in the different otolaryngology subspecialties in this country. This is one of your commitments and responsibilities to the Filipino public.

I have also committed myself to reinforce the various local chapters of the society as we have been doing through regular consultations with them. I think this particular journal would be an exceptional site for their pioneering thoughts and inventive technical capabilities to be heard and imparted. We would like to get connected with all otolaryngology specialists all over the country through this periodical and their prized handiworks.

I acknowledge and salute the various investigative contributors who have shared their exceptional articles befitting the honor of being included in this issue. I hope that their precious creation will serve as an inspiration for other colleagues to follow suit and do the same. I would also like to give due recognition for those people who, in the past or at present, have taken pains in inculcating the value of doing research among residents-in-training and contemporaries in the profession. They have indeed lived up to be exemplars of educators in its real sense by uplifting and preserving medical tradition to the highest degree.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the present members of the editorial staff of the Philippine Journal of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery for an outstanding work. The intensive labor that you have placed to come up with a scientific masterpiece such as this one, is indeed highly commendable. It is a good sign that you have always placed the bar of standards higher each time you publish. There is absolutely nothing that can hinder us from reaching greater heights. Keep up with the good work and more power!

Yours truly,

**Eutrapio S. Guevara, MD**  
President  
Philippine Society of Otolaryngology  
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