

MESSAGE

The past three years have been challenging for researchers and scientists around the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have faced an unfamiliar challenge in data collection due to the mandated quarantine and the health risks attendant to the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. Moreover, the unpredictable nature of this health emergency, scarce resources, and the often inadequate government policies have added to the researchers' dilemma.

Researchers have had to shift strategies, adapt, and find ways to counter these countless challenges in their respective fields of research. Amid this pandemic, we should adapt to reach our full potential even in the so-called new normal. How this new normal has brought unprecedented changes in the academic curriculum will impact our students' learning of research in medical education.

Cebu Doctors' University (CDU), with the pooled efforts of the teaching and the non-teaching staff, has taken up the challenge to continue conducting medical research during this pandemic. The launching of the first volume of CDU's official publication, the *Journal of Scientific Investigations* (JSI), has proven that CDU still stands steadfast and intrepid and that doing research is still possible amidst the miserable tide of difficulties it faced during this pandemic.

JSI shares the core values of maintaining ethical and professional standards in research and other scientific activities. May this platform also provide an opportunity for student, faculty, and non-teaching staff researchers to establish linkages and do collaborative studies with other local and foreign researchers, strengthen partnerships in the scientific community, and provide a venue to showcase the important role of scientific research in our country's development.

Enrico B. Gruet, MD

Editor-in-Chief