

We are pleased to present the second health policy issue for the *Acta Medica Philippina*, a result of the collaborative initiative between the Department of Health and the Institute of Health Policy and Development Studies of the University of the Philippines Manila National Institutes of Health.

As with the first outing, the fourteen papers in the present issue underwent the rigorous process of review by content experts, in keeping with the standards of *Acta Medica Philippina*.

The present issue highlights papers on myriad topics that the editors, authors, reviewers, and other contributors hope will find concrete fruition in the form of policy and/or programs to improve health care service delivery such as those on the establishment of a blueprint for nature-based products development and conservation; excise tax on sugar sweetened beverages; best practice guidelines for community-managed health programs; and computer-based health insurance claims processing.

Complementing the above are articles on health products development, child health care, and disaster victims support.

We note that several of the articles were based from research grants of the University of the Philippines' Emerging Interdisciplinary Research (EIDR) program and the DOH's Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC) even as we also recognize that a significant number of studies had been carried out through the personal resources of the researchers.

We thank all those who contributed to the successful publication of this second issue (notably Dr. Hilton Lam and Ms. Pamela Tagle) even as we eagerly look forward to the third.



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