Peer Review: A Quixotic Quest?

Dr. Roberto Tanchanco, in his message, talked about the seemingly quixotic quest our Philippine Journal of Nephrology Online is embarking on. Research and publication in the Philippines may really seem quixotic with so many windmills to battle. Dr. Melvin Marcial, in last issue’s Perspective in Nephrology,¹ gave his discourse on the challenges and wish list of the local researcher.

A big windmill we have so far conquered is the revival of our official society publication, a new platform: accessible online, peer-reviewed, completely free and open access. This is a battle that is not yet completely won though as it is, fraught with so many other challenges. One of the challenges we have experienced for this issue in particular is the peer review process.

Peer review is one of the cornerstones of scientific journal publication; it serves to filter data and ensure that information being published is valid and relevant. This is so true at this time, with the deluge of too much information being churned out on a daily basis. Notwithstanding all the debates and criticism on the supposed biases and inadequacies of the peer review process, it is still, and will remain to be, a significant key in scientific publication.

However, no matter how well-meaning the process is, it is still an exercise that is dependent on people capable and willing to devote the time to review, critique and help improve the quality of research work. This part of the research activity is as important as the actual writing of the manuscript. We have come to realize this in this issue when majority of our manuscripts got stuck at this step. This explains the paucity of original research articles that made it to this issue, and not the dearth of submissions.

It is on this note that we hope to equally develop and encourage people to participate in the publication process. We are appealing for volunteers, together with a plan for capacity building which we hope to offer those who are interested.

We hope to publish more researches and we also need more valiant people to help us accomplish this effort to make the Philippine Journal of Nephrology a beacon of hope in research.

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