

Cavatina*



There is a reason some melodies linger long after the performance has ended. Not because they are triumphant, but because they carry memory gently. They remind us that meaning is often found not in fanfare, but in persistence, in the patient work of returning, rebuilding, and remaining.

This issue of the *Philippine Journal of Pathology* comes at the end of a season of milestones for the journal, and perhaps also a season of reflection.

In December 2025, during the Annual Convention of the Philippine Association of Medical Journal Editors (PAMJE), whose theme was *Publishing for National Relevance: Aligning Medical Journals with the National Unified Health Research Agenda (NUHRA)*, we were given the opportunity to share the experiences of the *Philippine Journal of Pathology* in reestablishing itself as a local medical journal striving to remain both nationally meaningful and internationally visible. The conversation was not merely about indexing, metrics, or platforms, but about survival, and about the continuing relevance of Philippine scholarship in an increasingly crowded scientific landscape.

That same month, the journal formally released its Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence. Like many journals across the world, we recognize that artificial intelligence will shape the future of scientific communication in profound ways. Yet amid rapid technological change, the fundamental obligations of scientific publishing remain unchanged: transparency, accountability, integrity, and trust.

In February 2026, the *Philippine Journal of Pathology* was accepted into Scopus. For many journals, indexing represents arrival. For us, it feels more like responsibility. Visibility widens readership, but it also deepens our obligation to uphold rigor, ethics, and relevance. The work ahead remains substantial, but this milestone belongs not only to the Editorial Board, reviewers, and staff, but to every Filipino pathologist, researcher, and author who believed that a Philippine journal deserved to endure.

In March 2026, during the PAMJE Educational Forum held on the occasion of the 44th anniversary of the DOST-PCHRD, we discussed the 2026 updates to the ICMJE Recommendations. These updates remind us that scientific publishing is constantly evolving, challenged by emerging technologies, changing authorship practices, predatory behavior, and increasing public scrutiny. Yet they also reaffirm that journals are not merely repositories of papers; they are stewards of scientific credibility.

Perhaps the most personal moment came during the 2026 Convention of the Philippine Society of Pathologists, where I was deeply honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award for work related to the journal. My daughter helped prepare an audiovisual presentation tracing the journey of the *Philippine Journal of Pathology*. We took it as an opportunity to honor the late Dr. Jose Ma. Avila, adviser to the journal and former Editor-in-Chief of *Acta Medica Philippina*, whose guidance and faith in Philippine medical publishing helped shape many of us.

Accompanied by the piece *Cavatina* by Stanley Myers, some pathologists later remarked that the presentation sounded sad.

Maybe it did.

But not all quiet music is sorrowful. Some melodies simply carry the weight of memory. They acknowledge that institutions are built not only through achievement, but through sacrifice, uncertainty, fatigue, and the often invisible labor of people who believed in something before others did. In many ways, journals resemble such music: sustained not by spectacle, but by endurance.

The work of rebuilding the *Philippine Journal of Pathology* has never been the work of one person alone. It has depended on editors, reviewers, authors, society leaders, mentors, staff, and readers who continued to contribute despite limitations familiar to many journals in low- and middle-income countries. It has required faith that local scholarship matters, that Philippine data deserve visibility, and that our scientific voice should not disappear into silence.

As we release this June 2026 issue, we do so with gratitude: for those who built before us, for those who continue the work now, and for those who will inherit it afterward.

Like a *Cavatina*, perhaps the role of a journal is not always to be loud. Sometimes its task is simply to remain clear, honest, and enduring enough for others to hear themselves within it.

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