

*Maria Carinnes P. Alejandria-Gonzalez*

*Editor in Chief*

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## Introduction to the Journal of Social Health

The editorial team of the Journal of Social Health welcomes you to our first issue. The Journal of Social Health is an independent open access (OA) journal founded in 2017 by the researchers of the Social Health Studies Research Interest group of the University of Santo Tomas Research Center for Social Sciences and Education in collaboration with other scholars working on health studies. The journal has the primary goal of addressing the gap in publication avenues for the specialized researches conducted in the field of social health. The Journal of Social Health accepts contributions from public health professionals, health social scientists, and other professionals whose works display the strong interaction between society and health. With the vision of being a channel for social health justice in the country through community based researches, international collaborations and the promotion of inclusive programs, the Journal of Social Health ensures the publication of ethical, locally-relevant, methodology-inclusive, and policy-oriented works.

The editorial board consists of local and international researchers working in the fields of Environmental Health, Indigenous Health, Methods in Social Health Research, Health-Seeking Behavior, Intergenerational Health, Health Economics, Health Education, Health policy and practices, and Interventional health awareness tool. It is due to this multi-disciplinary background that this journal is able to accommodate varying topics and localities related to social health. This current issue is entitled Scoping the Field: Filipino Contemporary Health Behaviors as contributions have the uniting theme of accounting and exploring the health behaviors of Filipinos today.

I have co-authored the first article in this issue with Bea H. Andres and Toni Ann J. Begonia. The paper was an exploration of mental health issues among older adults who are believed to be suffering from dementia or schizophrenia. Localizing the concepts of

mental illness have allowed for a community-based understanding of the illness and responses to it.

The second and fourth articles explored the concept of medicine adherence. The earlier paper was contributed by Carol Geraldine M. Pablo et al. In this work, they correlated the medication adherence of Hypertensive and Diabetic patients who attended an information seminar about Complementary and Alternative Medicines. The latter paper authored by Jay P. Jazul et al compared the medication adherence of patients in the rural and urban communities and determined the relationship of patients' adherence and their residence. It also correlated the patients' adherence to their capillary blood glucose (CBG) and urine glucose levels. Both papers contribute to the growing field of social pharmacy.

Articles three and seven share the interest in the exploration of the quality of life of older adults. Florence Navidad et al discussed the impact of footbath as an intervention on the quality of sleep of older adults who were experiencing difficulty in sleeping. My article with John Jasper Sanchez explored how participation in an organization exclusive for older adults has positively increased their quality of life. Both works are contributing to the field of social gerontology.

The fifth article by Karen Sagun Ongtauco et al explored the quality of life among visually impaired adolescents in Metro Manila by using the 4 domains of QOL which are psychological, physical, social and environment. Similar to the findings of our paper on Kapatiran, social relationship was identified as the strongest context that determines the quality of life of the adolescents. When basic needs are amiss, the context for achieving quality of life shifts. The paper of Charlene Chua et al explored how selected families from an urban informal settlement embraced the utilization of social stigmatized food source to cope with food insecurity. They have also explored how consumption of pagpag has affected the nutrition of the informants.

Apart from articles, the Journal of Social Health presents multi-media approach to research dissemination. In the Creatives section, researchers can access documentaries, visual arts, and posters. These platforms are updated simultaneously with the release of the journal's issue. Ultimately, the Editorial Board envisions the journal to appeal not only

to fellow researchers but also to students, advocates, and policy-makers. By diversifying the content and platforms, we promote inclusion in a typically exclusive academic sphere. In the coming issues, we hope to release studies not just about the Philippines but also of other countries through our growing international advisory board.

Allow me to end this editorial with an acknowledgement of the support freely given by Engineer Leonid Lintag who designed the website and Bea Andres who did the layout of the articles. We also received support and guidance from several UST Administrators during the conceptualization of this project: Rev. Fr. Jesus Miranda Jr, OP, Dr Paolo Bolaños and Dr. Belinda De Castro. Most of all, a note of gratitude to all the members of the Editorial Board who have volunteered to take part of this project.