

Seeing Further: Vision for the Next Chapter of the Philippine Journal of Ophthalmology

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It is with profound gratitude and renewed purpose that I step into the role of Editor-in-Chief of the *Philippine Journal of Ophthalmology* (PJO). The PJO is the scholarly voice of the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO), and for over five decades it has served as a platform for clinical insight, scientific inquiry, and professional dialogue. As we begin this new chapter, we honor the journal's heritage while embracing the demands and opportunities of global reach in an increasingly interconnected scientific community.

Our editorial vision is clear. We aim to position the PJO as a locally anchored, internationally visible journal of clinical excellence, scientific rigor, and ethical leadership. This means strengthening our peer review processes, elevating our methodological standards, and expanding our editorial board to reflect the dynamism of ophthalmology in the Philippines and beyond.

In the upcoming issues, readers will notice changes not just in design, but in depth. We will launch special editions focused on selected topics of interest. We will commission reviews and invite expert commentaries that synthesize local and regional data with global relevance. Clearer ethical disclosures will become a standard feature, aligning the PJO with international standards.

This issue reflects that direction. It features original articles, case reports, and an expert perspective that together reflect the breadth and vitality of ophthalmology research in the Philippines. These contributions span diverse

subspecialties and methodologies from clinical investigations and surgical innovations to reflective analyses of clinical practice and eye health policy. Each article represents a distinct aspect of the ongoing effort to generate local evidence that informs ophthalmic care. Collectively, they underscore the growing strength of Philippine ophthalmology as a research community committed to methodological integrity and meaningful impact on patient outcomes.

We will also invest in infrastructure to sustain this growth: redesigning our logo and website, registering our manuscripts with CrossRef (i.e., DOI), and introducing a peer reviewer certification program to support rigorous, efficient, and constructive editorial process. These are not mere cosmetic upgrades; they are foundational steps to position our journal toward long-term global visibility.

But more than systems and standards, this journal is an integral part of our PAO community. I invite all of you — researchers, clinicians, educators, and trainees — to contribute, critique, and collaborate. Let us build a journal that not only reflects the best of Philippine Ophthalmology but also helps define its future.

On behalf of your new Editorial Board, thank you for the trust. We are proud to serve, and we are ready to grow.

