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Empowering Local Scholarship: The Centralized Roster of Philippine Medical Journals (CENTRAL)

Philippine medical and health-related journals have long struggled with visibility, accessibility and global recognition. As President of the Philippine Association of Medical Journal Editors (PAMJE), I wanted to find a way to address this problem. While browsing the web, I came across the African Journals Online (AJOL) platform, which has expanded global access to research published in African journals for 25 years. Their mission — to make African scholarship visible to the world — resonated deeply with me. I began to imagine what a similar platform could mean for the Philippines.

I shared this idea in one of our PAMJE meetings. Our officers, especially our Founding President Dr. Joey Lapeña, were fully supportive. Encouraged, I drafted a funding proposal and submitted it to the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD). The Research Information, Communication, and Utilization Division, headed by Ms. Ulyann Garcia, with Information and Products Services Head Ms. Violeta Intia, endorsed the proposal, and Dr. Jaime Montoya, PCHRD Executive Director, subsequently approved it. Aboard was Renzell Ann Parino, our Project Officer, to monitor our progress. We began work in August 2023, and from there, a dedicated team was assembled to bring the vision to life. (Figure 1)



Figure 1. The CENTRAL TEAM

Keywords: periodicals as topic; open access publishing; Philippines; publishing, standards



On November 21, 2024, during the PAMJE 5th Annual Meeting, we launched the **Centralized Roster of Philippine Medical Journals (CENTRAL)** (<https://central.pamje.org>) --a significant milestone in Philippine scholarly publishing. For the first time, the nation's peer-reviewed medical and health journals are brought together on one integrated, accessible, and dynamic platform. This answers the call from our research community for greater visibility, accessibility, and credibility of local scientific outputs.

CENTRAL is more than a directory. It is a strategic platform that connects editors, authors, researchers, peer reviewers, and policymakers. It provides verified information on each journal's scope, indexing status, editorial board and submission guidelines. This empowers users to identify credible publication outlets and trustworthy sources of knowledge. In an era where open access and good ethical publishing are necessary in reshaping global scholarship, CENTRAL signals that Philippine journals are ready to engage globally on equal footing --upholding quality, relevance and integrity.

Our pioneering members include:

- Journal of Health and Caring Sciences (JHCS)
- Journal of the Philippine Obstetric and Gynecological Society (JPOGS)
- Manila Journal of Science (MJS)
- Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society of the Philippines Journal (PIDSPJ)
- Philippine Association of Rehabilitation Medicine Proceedings (PARMP)
- Philippine Children's Medical Center Journal (PCMCJ)
- Philippine Heart Center Journal (PHCJ)
- Philippine Journal of Allied Health Sciences (PJAHS)
- Philippine Journal of Nephrology (PJNI)

- Philippine Journal of Neurology (PJNI)
- Philippine Journal of Nursing (PNA-PJN)
- Philippine Journal of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery (PJOHNS)
- Philippine Journal of Pathology (PJP)
- Philippine Journal of Surgical Specialties (PJSS)
- Philippine Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery (PJTCVS)
- Philippine Medical Association Journal
- The Philippine Journal of Nuclear Medicine
- UERMMMCI Health Sciences Journal

We welcome other Philippine medical and health journals to join CENTRAL and contribute to this collective effort. For similar journals interested in joining the platform, please contact us at pamjesecretariat@gmail.com. This service is provided at no cost.

CENTRAL also houses a growing collection of resource pages designed to support editors, authors, peer reviewers and researchers. These include reporting guidelines, peer review checklists and international best practices in ethical publishing. Our goal is to improve editing workflows, help authors submit ethical and well-structured work, and equip peer reviewers to ensure scientific rigor.

We encourage all Philippine health research sectors to access and explore CENTRAL. Authors and researchers can locate reliable publishers. Medical groups, academic institutions and governments can find local periodicals that meet their needs. More than a website, CENTRAL is our gateway to the world. By bringing our journals together on one platform, we affirm the Philippines' role and impact as a global scientific contributor, with the ultimate goal of improving health for our people.