

## **The PJS in 2021**

The Philippine Journal of Science (PJS) will be publishing its 150<sup>th</sup> volume this year and it will feature six bimonthly regular issues beginning in the month of February. In addition, a special focused issue on Philippine biodiversity conservation will also be published in one of the in-between months of 2021.

In the last five years since 2016, the PJS was able to publish four quarterly issues annually in addition to two special issues highlighting the research and development efforts of Philippine scientists and researchers in genomics and nuclear science and technology—which appeared in October 2019 and January 2020, respectively. The PJS is an open-access journal with its issues made freely available online ([philjournalsci.dost.gov.ph](http://philjournalsci.dost.gov.ph)) courtesy of the Journal Publisher—the Department of Science and Technology. A limited number of copies of the printed version are also given to PJS subscribers, as well as to the libraries of a number of local higher and secondary educational institutions.

The increase in the number of issues in 2021 is made possible by the rapid growth in manuscript submissions to the PJS Editorial Office, as well as by the professionalism and generosity of the growing number of PJS expert-reviewers. The Editorial Office received an average of  $6.00 \pm 2.76$  submissions per month in 2016, which grew to  $28.75 \pm 12.64$  in 2020. Yearly submissions rose steadily from 72 in 2016 (local corresponding authors: 79.2%) to 345 in 2020 (87.25%), with the pool of reviewers expanding accordingly from 164 (local: 45.12%) to 684 (52.63%) in the period of reckoning.

The journal acceptance rate in the last five years ending 2020 (Volume 149) has remained steady at  $66.87 \pm 4.41\%$  per year. The average manuscript evaluation time in 2020 was 10.72 weeks, which is 17.41% shorter than that in the previous year. In 2016, the average length from the receipt date to the editorial decision was 29.8 weeks.

The aforementioned development illustrates the critical role that the PJS plays in building a dynamic and self-regulating domestic community of independent, complementarily skilled scientists and researchers who can work together constructively to accomplish a shared objective. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is showing us that national challenges require interdisciplinary solutions.

**CAESAR SALOMA**

*Editor-in-Chief*