

About This Special Issue

From time to time, this Journal publishes a special issue in addition to the regular ones that come out every March, June, September, and December of each year. The previous special issue was published in November 2013 (Volume 142) and it featured articles that were focused on Philippine plant biodiversity and preservation. It was released to honor and recognize the seminal impact of the scientific contributions of the late Leonardo Co (1953–2010), whose premature passing was a tragic loss to the scientific community—especially to his fellow Filipino biologists.

This Special Issue on Genomics was conceived to highlight the various R&D efforts that are being carried out by scientists and researchers in our domestic institutions, as well as to provide a coherent picture of the state of genomics research in the country today. Genomics is an interdisciplinary field of biology that is focused on improving our scientific understanding of the structure, function, evolution, mapping, and editing of genomes.

Scientific advances in genomics are enabled by significant improvements in biological, big data processing, and instrumentation techniques, and they have led to a better understanding of disorders and improved treatment of diseases—as well as resulted in more efficient food production and biodiversity preservation programs, and more stable rule of law in society. Having a proven national capability in genomics R&D would provide Filipinos with a clearer path to a better quality of life in the future.

Nineteen (19) peer-reviewed articles are featured here, including two that were initially submitted for possible publication in a future regular issue but were deemed qualified to be included. A total of 88 authors from ten different institutions have generously shared their valuable research findings to realize this issue. Twenty-three submissions were received on or before the deadline for the submission of manuscripts that was set on 15 March 2019.

A total of fifty-three experts generously accepted to serve as reviewers, with thirty-five (66%) of them affiliated with foreign institutions. The evaluation period took 14.6 ± 4.6 weeks on average to complete. The review process afforded our authors with a crucial opportunity to receive an incisive evaluation of their research efforts and provided them with an important means of receiving precious scientific advice that is otherwise costly to acquire if done differently.

On behalf of the Editorial Board and the Journal Publisher, the Department of Science and Technology, I thank all the authors, reviewers, and funding agencies that participated and contributed during the various phases of this worthwhile endeavor to publish a special issue on genomics in the Philippine Journal of Science.

CAESAR SALOMA
Editor-in-Chief