

THE NEED TO PUBLISH RESEARCH

The Philippines has been lagging in terms of neurology research output, compared to our ASEAN neighbors.

The Philippines ranked 3rd out of 11 countries in research outputs on multiple sclerosis and viral central nervous system infection [1,2]. We ranked 4th in outputs on movement disorders and primary headache [3,4] and 5th in output on primary brain tumor, stroke, motor neuron disease, and bacterial central nervous system infection [6-9]. For epilepsy and dementia, the Philippines ranked 6th [10]. Similar papers on various medical topics have also been published, such as in medulloblastoma, pre-term birth, and nursing research on hemodialysis [11-13]. Likewise, there are papers on the research productivity of Filipino neurologists and Southeast Asian neurosurgeons as well as on neurofeedback research [14-16].

The need to publish research has been given a push by a lot of training programs in the country. In some training programs, it is a requirement before graduation and/or before taking a specialty examination [15]. There may be other reasons for publishing, such as for career advancement and professional development, professional recognition, and collaborative opportunities. One could have identified a gap in the knowledge and this served as an inspiration for future research. Whatever the reason is, publications coming from our very own researchers are very important as it offers insights on the Philippine health situation.

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