

# ***Philippine Science Letters***

## **– now on its third year**

**P**SL has now entered its third year. From July-December 2008 (Vol.1 No.1), we had 9 articles; from January to December 2009 (Vol.2 No.1), we had 11 articles; and from January to June 2010 (Vol.3 No.1), we had 16 articles. We expect to publish even more articles from July to December 2010 (Vol.3 No.2). Clearly PSL is growing and flourishing.

We are grateful to our authors and reviewers for supporting PSL. PSL will continue to showcase Philippine science. We accept primary research articles, reviews, short communications and hypothesis articles. We feature outstanding Filipino scientists here and abroad, and worthy news events. We provide links to articles published in other journals. To get more feedback and help improve PSL, we encourage our readers to write Letters to the Editors.

After further reflection and review, we have come up with some new insights/policies/SOPs in PSL.

Foremost is transparency between authors and reviewers. We already allow authors to suggest reviewers, even as we as editors choose reviewers from the PSL Editorial Board and other international experts. Now we would like to encourage reviewers to allow themselves to be identified.

Why is transparency of review good? We think anonymity may foster incompetence or lack of responsibility in the review process, and may conceal vested interests. Anonymity could lead to abuse, such as unfair and insulting criticism. Everywhere in the world, transparency is shown to encourage fair, responsible evaluation. Ultimately, authors and reviewers must be

responsible for their work. PSL, being online and free access, allows the rest of the world to immediately evaluate the published work and hold an author to his word.

Recently, major issues concerning the measurement and mismeasurement of science (and performance of scientists) have been discussed in a number of articles featured in a recent issue of *Nature*. We have provided the link to these articles in the box on Recommended Reading.

Certainly, PSL aims to be an internationally recognized journal, included among those frequently cited, and be ISI- and SCI-indexed. Citations of articles in PSL would validate the quality and significance of the work of Filipino scientists. These would contribute to increasing the h-index of our authors, which would indicate that Filipino scientists can contribute significantly to world science and national progress.

Finally, we would like to emphasize another important way to contribute to Philippine science – by helping improve science literacy of the general public in our country. Thus, we are also providing the link to STAR SCIENCE, a weekly science column in the newspaper daily The Philippine Star. We encourage our authors to translate their work to layman's language and submit articles to Star Science c/o gpconcepcion@gmail.com.

Once again, thank you for your support and patronage.

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**Editors**  
August 15, 2010