



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

August 01, 2021

Of DISCORD, Mutual Respect and Consensus in Science: Scientists as Truth Seekers!

Dear PAASE Colleagues and Friends,

PAASE upholds open scientific discourse, considers as paramount the publication of rigorous scientific work, and urges timely implementation of sound S&T-based programs to benefit society.

These themes are closely intertwined in PAASE's mission.

DISCORD

We've set up the DISCORD platform for REC (Research Expertise Clusters) members and friends to use anytime! Hold easy, friendly, open-minded discourses of scientific approaches to pressing problems to find S&T-based solutions. Reach consensus and resolution in a timely way. Also use DISCORD to exchange on all-important basic science "pie-in-the sky" interests which form the core foundation of good science.

To learn to use DISCORD, check out:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YitdUJ5xs_g4r0Xn9ynt4M8VTHHNCmZw/view

You may also contact Richmon Pancho at rmpancho@up.edu.ph.

PAASE'S JOURNAL SCIENGGJ

Windell Rivera and I invite many more PAASE scientists and thought leaders, also PAASE friends, to submit commentaries, letters to the editors, position papers and reviews in the online journal SciEnggJ - PAASE's official journal. We have a new article genre called PROSPECTIVES & PERSPECTIVES. Visit: <https://www.scienggj.org>

There is nothing better than the public reading the well-researched, substantive views and well-documented, expert reviews of eminent persons who are widely read and highly cited worldwide, i.e. high H-index, with publications in high Impact Factor journals. You would do us proud and it would do SciEnggJ a lot of good!

Let our PopSci writer Billy Atienza feature your original work in popular science articles or your life's work in a scientist profile article. If interested, contact Billy at lw.atienza@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT: Let REC Co-chairs engage members in DISCORD to come up with the much-awaited, "promised" REC Special Issues of your original research articles.

PAASE FOUNDATION PHILIPPINES, INC.

It's great that we are now a foundation! It means we can actively, formally engage with the DOST, as DOST Sec. Boy de la Peña had said PAASE should be a DOST-certified foundation. There are just so many ways each of us can help our country through the various DOST programs. We want many more of our members to participate as Balik Scientists, RDLeaders, R&D/lab training hosts. Very notably, recently, we had Gobet Advincula help set up the DOST AMCEN [Additive Manufacturing (and 3D Printing) Center] and train some DOST staff and SUC faculty in his labs in the U.S. He got full support from DOST Sec. de la Peña and USec. Rowena "Gev" Guevara. Gobet serves as a good model for all of us. We also have the *Balik Scientist* stints of Homer Pantua, Vic Ilag and Joel Cuello already approved and some are ongoing. The future bodes well for closer linkages with the DOST.

DOST ASec. Leah Buendia and I are working on a short, simple "PAASE SEARCH AND SIGN UP FOR DOST" capsule template to solicit applications from PAASE and non-PAASE scientists. I got good feedback on the draft template from PAASE REC 11 (Disease, Medicine, Pharmaceuticals & Biomedical Engineering) Co-chair Imee del Mundo who is determined to get this going in REC 11. Already we have Anna Krista Serquina who is waiting to sign up!

A WORD ON SCIENTIFIC ADVISING OF THE PUBLIC

With our "DNA" or origins from academe, we adhere to *Universitas* or open-minded thinking. We show tolerance (and respect) for opposing or non-congruent views. No single scientist, no one PhD or MD, has a monopoly on scientific truth. To promote one's views unilaterally and be intolerant of others in media or gov't is to politicize science. Science is self-correcting, as we have witnessed during this time of COVID. There is no room for arrogance in science, lots of room for *humilite*, as we stand in awe of Nature that unfolds before us without our control, e.g. viral intelligence.

We are all truth-seekers and hold only parts of it, as we strive to come closer to the fuller truth. The public needs to be informed by us - as best we can - and so we must come together and cooperate. This is a great responsibility we owe society.

Next time, I'll tell you more about PAASE new linkages with the private sector.

Leah P. Concepcion
Chairs

Gisela "Giselle" P. Concepcion, PhD
PAASE President, 2020-2021