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ABOUT THE TITLE

The title Root Gatherers speaks to the essence of pharmacy as a discipline grounded in both origin and inquiry. To gather roots is to seek foundational knowledge. From traditional practices, scientific discovery, or lived community experiences extended to transform these origins into healing and innovation. It reflects the pharmacist's role as a scholar-practitioner who honors where knowledge begins while continuously cultivating it through research, education, and service. In this sense, Root Gatherers represents a collective commitment to curiosity, humility, and the pursuit of evidence that strengthens practice and advances health for all.

ABOUT THE COVER

The cover image of a tree with many colors and intertwining roots symbolizes the convergence of Eastern and Western medical traditions within pharmacy. Its roots reflect ancient healing wisdom, natural products, and holistic perspectives, while its vibrant branches and leaves represent modern pharmacotherapy, technology, and global collaboration. The diversity of colors signifies inclusivity, cultural exchange, and the dynamic growth of pharmaceutical science across regions and generations. Together, the tree and its roots illustrate how pharmacy flourishes when tradition and innovation are deeply connected—nourished by shared knowledge, ethical practice, and a commitment to global health.

Prof. FERLIEN MAE BAULA-BRIETA

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Editor's Notes:

Reimagining the Pharmacist's Role

By: Prof. Ferlien Mae Baula-Brieta

As the scope of pharmacy practice continues to expand, pharmacists find themselves at the forefront of patient-centered care. No longer confined to dispensing counters, we now occupy critical roles in clinical decision-making, chronic disease management, and interprofessional collaborations. In this issue of *Root Gatherers*, our practice-focused contributions illuminate how research informs and transforms these roles—whether through evidence-based medication therapy management or novel service delivery models in diverse communities.

This evolution of pharmacy practice aligns strongly with the **UNICEF Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, particularly those focused on **good health and well-being (SDG 3)** and **quality education (SDG 4)**. Pharmacists are uniquely positioned to help achieve these global targets by improving access to essential medicines, enhancing health literacy, and advocating for equitable care across populations.

For **Filipino pharmacists**, this vision holds special significance. Guided by a strong commitment to community health and resilience, Filipino practitioners are integrating global goals into local contexts—bridging gaps in underserved areas, leading innovations in public health programs, and collaborating with interdisciplinary teams to drive sustainable healthcare solutions.

The future of pharmacy practice will be shaped by those who dare to question tradition and reimagine their role in healthcare ecosystems. We challenge students and professionals alike to see practice not merely as a set of tasks but as a living laboratory for inquiry. Every patient encounter can spark research questions, every service a potential study, and every observation an opportunity to advance our field.

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