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## FROM THE EDITOR

The three articles we have in this issue of Science Diliman happen to be all related to food. Food safety, plant mutation, and crop variety improvement are the main topics of these studies. Valenzuela and others' study examined toxic heavy metal levels in vegetables, finding higher concentrations in those grown in urban areas but still within toxicological limits. Falcon and Darcones' research investigates the development of resistance in pathogenic fungi to fungicides, attributing it to genetic changes in plant enzymes. These changes were observed in nucleotide variations associated with fungicide exposure. And finally, Victoria and others' study aims to enhance local coffee production in the Philippines by identifying genes related to defense against diseases and pests. By analyzing a specific region of chromosome 5 in coffee, candidate gene loci associated with defense mechanisms were identified, offering potential targets for improving disease resistance in local coffee varieties.

All three studies are deemed as basic research but with a clear and direct path towards their practical applications. It is our hope to publish more studies like these and use these publications as a springboard for more researchers to carry out the next phase of related studies until we reach a point where research translates to direct positive impacts on communities and entire sectors of society. It is only then that our government and the entire country will realize the importance of scientific research towards the common goal of nation building.



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