

This issue of *Africa Journal of Nursing and Midwifery (AJNM)* presents 13 papers that have been categorized according to the nursing specialty in which they belong. In terms of the main categories we are publishing in this issue, four categories were identified during the preparation of this issue, namely: (1) maternal and child care, (2) clinical nursing, (3) or public health and (4) psychiatric-mental health nursing.

In terms of maternal and child health, we see an increase in manuscripts being submitted by midwives. In all, about six manuscripts were written by midwives. These manuscripts address various aspects of maternal and child care. The topics covered range from prevention of mother-to-child transmission, factors influencing the utilisation of maternal and child services, effects of prenatal stimulation programmes for enhancing postnatal bonding in primigravida mothers, a labour pain assessment instrument, the experience of using a partograph by midwives and the role of traditional birth attendants during postnatal care.

The second category dealt with in this issue is psychiatric mental-health nursing, which contained three manuscripts that address the preventive aspect of mental illness by describing the assessment of depressive symptoms among emerging adults in an outpatient department of a general hospital; the prevention of mental illness stigma among health care practitioners by integrating mental health components into general health care. In this category we also see how professional nurses experience caring for psychiatric patients with a dual diagnosis.

The last two sections covered in this issue include (1) community or public health nursing, and (2) clinical nursing. These two last categories contain two manuscripts each. In community or public health nursing two manuscripts are published and these deal with public awareness of existing environmental health regulations and their implications, and the impact of patient knowledge on their utilisation of community-based tuberculosis care. Under the category of clinical nursing one manuscript carried both nursing and midwifery characteristics. This manuscript addresses the expected roles of nurses and midwives in Botswana. The other manuscript in this section dealt with the knowledge and perception of modern wound dressing among nurses in Nigeria.

It is worth noting that the majority of papers published in this issue of AJNM are authored by academicians or they came from the universities, with only one author representing the clinical setting. In order for the disciplines of nursing and midwifery to grow, it is necessary for clinical research to be promoted and be published in collaboration with clinical nurses and clinical nursing specialists. It is interesting to note that two of the manuscripts published in this issue have a direct impact on clinical care. The work of Yazbek (2016) is aimed at enhancing quality of pain assessment during labour through the development of a pain assessment instrument. In addition to this major contribution, the work of Van der Walt *et al.* (2016), which is also presented in this issue, tested the effect of prenatal stimulation programmes aimed at enhancing postnatal bonding in primigravida mothers from the Western Cape. The additional two manuscripts that have an impact on the clinical setting through assessing the knowledge of nurses and patients, are the works of Daramola *et al.* (2016) and Rankosha and Ehlers (2016).

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