Editorial

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Globally, there are approximately 27 million men and women making up the nursing and midwifery human resources. This figure accounts for nearly 50% of the global human resources for health (WHO 2022). In summary, nurses and midwives are the largest group of healthcare workers, who are at the forefront of healthcare delivery in clinical settings.

It is an indisputable fact that the practices of nursing and midwifery need to be informed by sound, evidence-based research and clinical sites that will build the research capacity of professionals who will improve the nursing profession and dramatically increase research that translates evidence into policies, nursing curriculum and clinical practice (Richards, Hassen and Borglin 2018). One way of attaining this goal successfully is through the implementation of science as it offers an array of methods and tools to support nursing research.

Africa Journal of Nursing and Midwifery (AJNM) is a biannual peer-reviewed academic journal that publishes innovative, quality empirical and theoretical original research papers, case studies, systematic reviews and book reviews. The primary focus is on a wide range of nursing disciplines and midwifery, as well as public health-related topics that represent a variety of interdisciplinary interests. AJNM is indexed on Scopus and accredited by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET); thus, the authors of published articles qualify for subsidies for their affiliated tertiary institutions. AJNM uses a hybrid publication model which allows authors to choose if they want to publish via Open Access (where an article publication charge applies) or via the standard publication route (where there is no cost to the author).

In this first issue of the 2022 academic year, we are excited to feature a collection of 18 original and innovative research articles authored by erudite scholars from across the African continent and around the world. The articles in this issue showcase a variety of nursing and midwifery themes in line with the focus and scope of AJNM. These include
interesting articles that provide in-depth insights on critical nursing issues on a variety of nursing themes.

Highlights of the current issue are outlined hereunder:

- **Nursing Education**: Four articles focus on nursing education, and the topics include: fostering clinical nursing practice among nursing students in India; exploring the clinical competence of newly qualified registered nurses in South Africa; preceptorship as a clinical teaching strategy; and the experiences of tutor-marker feedback for a postgraduate open distance learning course in Namibia.

- **Nursing Management**: Five articles focus on nursing management with a variety of topics including a study on strategies to enhance the resilience of nurse managers; and another on measures to improve nurse retention in South Africa. The latter article makes recommendations to improve the retention of nurses through designing and maintaining strategies for effective management of human resources for health, thus contributing towards improving the quality of nursing care and patient outcomes. The other articles include an investigation into the surveillance of healthcare associated infections in three healthcare facilities in India; the management of patients with COVID-19 infection by primary healthcare workers in South Africa; and a correlation study to determine the relationship between death anxiety and commitment to the profession by nurses during the provision of care to patients with COVID-19 infections in Turkey. In the latter article, the authors advocate for strong support by employers to enhance nurses’ professional commitment and reduce anxiety during global pandemics.

- **Mental Health Nursing**: Four articles focus on mental health nursing and mental health promotion. These articles include topics such as: the prevalence and coping strategies of postnatal depression among women in Baykal state of Nigeria; the support needs of family members to prevent and manage relapse of patients living with schizophrenia in Gauteng, South Africa; the perceptions of mental health nurses regarding metabolic syndrome in a tertiary hospital in South Africa; and a study to determine the fears and anxiety of parents of children undergoing circumcision.

- **Midwifery**: Four articles focus on promoting quality maternal care with a special focus on the implementation of guidelines for pregnancy-induced hypertension among vulnerable pregnant teenagers in South Africa; a phenomenological study on COVID-19 lived experiences of international midwifery students in Turkey; family collaborations during pregnancy; and the perceptions of newly delivered mothers. In the latter study, the authors explored and described newly delivered married mothers’ perceptions of family involvement during pregnancy. The findings will add valuable evidence to the limited body of knowledge on family collaboration within midwifery,
specifically in Nigeria, with a view to promoting awareness of the need for family involvement in caring for pregnant women. The authors make recommendations using a larger population of pregnant women to explore in-depth, specific collaborations needed in the different trimesters of pregnancy. Another valuable article under this theme explored the prevalence and determinants of unintended pregnancy among married women seeking antenatal care at Bwaila District Hospital in Malawi. As highlighted by the authors, factors such as young age, low education level and preference for the sex of the child, were significant determinants of unintended pregnancy. Inconsistent use of family planning methods increased the risk of unintended pregnancy. The authors recommend a need to improve sex education among women to delay marriage to the universal minimum of 18 years and increase access to long-term family planning methods to avoid failure and discontinuation of contraceptives in Malawi.

- **Cancer Nursing:** One article is a quantitative study that describes the health-related quality of life (HRQoL) of men undergoing hormonal therapy for prostate cancer at a tertiary hospital in Gauteng, South Africa. The findings as reported by the authors indicated that men between 50 to 59 years of age and those in the first year of treatment had a better HRQoL compared to those aged 60 years and above and those in the second year of treatment. The authors argue that nurses could enhance the HRQoL of men with prostate cancer through medical questioning, assessment and timely intervention.

I sincerely hope that the published articles will serve as a primary means of communicating new knowledge to nursing and midwifery professionals. Without a doubt, new evidence and knowledge gained from these articles will guide nurses and midwives to adopt evidence-based best practices and keep up to date with new developments in nursing and midwifery for effective service delivery.

I invite and encourage readers to browse through this first issue of 2022 and gain first-hand insight knowledge from articles that are informative and aim to improve the quality of the provision of nursing and midwifery services in Africa and abroad, as well as accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 (UN 2015) – *of ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages.*
References

