

Note from the Editor-in-Chief

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The *Africa Journal of Nursing and Midwifery (AJNM)* supports high-level research, learning and teaching, which are fresh, exciting, analytical, critical, controversial, stimulating and creative. In the previous years, *AJNM* prioritised research that focused on capacity development of novice scholars and promoted the publication of postgraduate students' work. However, the vision of the new editorial and international advisory board for *AJNM*, under the leadership of Professor Geoffrey Setswe, aims to expand the focus of *AJNM* to other areas of health sciences research, such as public health, mental health and other disciplines interrelated to nursing and midwifery.

The vision of the current *AJNM* Board is to promote the publication of high quality, innovative and impactful scholarly articles based on original research, systematic reviews, concept analysis, open letters to the editor, commentaries, perspectives and opinion pieces, book reviews and conference reports that are highly significant to the discipline of nursing and midwifery. With this in mind, the Board envisages to steadily increase *AJNM*'s current citation score and impact factor, thus making it equally competitive with other top international nursing journals.

It is with great excitement that I present the second issue of 2022 to our valued readers, authors and reviewers. In this issue, a collection of 20 articles is presented – comprising 15 original research articles, three review articles and two publications under the new section for commentaries and opinion pieces.

In accordance with the focus and scope of our journal, all publications in this issue are a reflection of the hybrid of various disciplines in nursing, midwifery and other health-related focus areas. A synopsis of the publications for this issue is as follows:

- **Human resources for nursing and midwifery:** One article on harnessing the capacity in southern Africa to support and develop human resources for nursing and midwifery in Africa constitutes the first part that focuses on project description. In this article, the authors describe a strategically significant South-South project to strengthen nursing and midwifery training in sub-Saharan Africa, aligned with global, regional and country-specific human resources for health strategies. In this

regard, although the published article presents the description of a completed project, it is well within the scope of *AJNM*, and we hope that the authors will submit to our journal a related manuscript presenting the project outcomes.

The article presents a project description and is titled as Part 1. A summary of the status of six collaborative projects involving consortia members is provided. What is beneficial for our readers is that the project took the form of collaborations between members of a consortium of tertiary education institutions to design and initiate masters level training in a variety of nursing specialities. The authors presented reflections on the execution of the project indicating that the article is the first part of a story that continues.

- **Nursing management and health systems:** Two articles highlight the importance of enhancing the relationship between communication skills, mental health and self-esteem among nursing students. Another article highlights a framework for digital health ecosystems to deal with the fragmentation of the health system in South Africa.
- **Nursing education:** Three articles focus on various aspects of nursing education. They include the views of nurse educators regarding the implementation of simulation-based education, a correlational study to deal with ethical sensitivity and empathy among nursing students, and a mixed-methods study on the satisfaction and experiences of using movies in teaching psychiatric mental health nursing to nursing students.
- **Non-communicable chronic diseases:** Two articles highlight the prevalence and risk factors associated with gestational diabetes mellitus and risk factors of breast cancer, health beliefs and screening behaviours among a working class of women.
- **Midwifery and reproductive health:** Four articles are presented for this theme. They include perspectives of midwives regarding the involvement of male partners during pregnancy, issues of staffing in midwifery primary healthcare centres, a cluster randomised control trial to measure the impact of a mentoring programme on pregnancy readiness among women of the childbearing age group, and a cross-sectional survey to establish the association between domestic violence and sexual dysfunction in women undergoing infertility treatment.
- **Critical care nursing:** One article focuses on the field of nursing that deals with the provision of utmost care to critically ill patients. The non-randomised controlled trial conducted in the intensive care unit (ICU) of a hospital in Iran evaluated the perceptions of patients' families regarding the provision of nursing care. The authors concluded that the full participation of families in health programmes and services of patients in ICU plays an effective role in improving families' positive perceptions of nurses' caring behaviours. The study made significant findings and recommendations with a potential for adoption as best practices to improve inclusive patient care in ICU.
- **Reviews:** Three review articles presented in this issue focus on an integrative review of clinical simulation of complementary therapy in nursing education, a

position statement on abortion: a case study in Jordan, and insights into the pearls and practical tips of mammography: what nurses and midwives should know.

- **Perspectives, commentaries and opinions:** This new section is introduced in this issue as a new initiative for our journal. We regard this as the beginning of an exciting journey for our authors and readers to make relevant contributions aligned with the scope and focus of our journal; in particular topical and much-needed health issues with a local and global focus.

For this issue, two commentary and/or opinion pieces are presented. The first one focuses on promoting implementation science in nursing and midwifery to translate evidence-based interventions into policies and clinical practice. The second one is an opinion piece in which the authors aim to stimulate a scholarly debate about the use of impepho leaves to extend beyond traditional to modern medicine.

As the *African Journal of Nursing and Midwifery* is transitioning from being a capacity building journal to becoming a journal of choice for high quality research in nursing, midwifery and related health sciences disciplines, I would like to sincerely encourage authors to write clearly, logically and systematically so that their content is accessible to a wide readership; in particular those individuals who may not be familiar with the subject matter under discussion. This will go a long way in accelerating the achievement of the vision of the new *AJNM* Board in the envisaged time frames.

I hope the articles published for this issue will contribute meaningfully towards the building of new knowledge and improving current policies and practices for the nursing and midwifery professions. This will contribute to the betterment of health and well-being of individuals, groups and communities, locally, continentally and globally and ultimately, accelerate the achievement of the sustainable development health goal (SDG 3) – ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages.

On behalf of the *AJNM* sponsor (Professor Mokgadi Matlakala, the Chair of the Department of Health Studies where *AJNM* is housed), the *AJNM* editorial and international advisory board and our publisher (Unisa Press), I sincerely thank all our authors, reviewers and readers for your remarkable support this year. We look forward to working with you again in the new year, to take *AJNM* to greater heights.

References

- United Nations. 2015. “The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.”
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