

Editorial

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It is with great excitement that I present the publication of articles for the first issue of *Africa Journal of Nursing and Midwifery* (AJNM) for 2023. A collection of 17 articles is presented, comprising 11 original research articles, two systematic review articles and four articles focusing on perspectives, commentaries, and opinions of authors on various nursing and midwifery aspects. Aligned to the focus and scope of AJNM, all the articles published in this issue are a reflection of the various disciplines in nursing, midwifery and other health-related focus areas. A summary of the articles is highlighted hereunder.

Original Research Articles

The 11 research articles deal with the following topics:

- **Harnessing capacity in Southern Africa to support and develop human resources for nursing and midwifery in Africa:** This is the second part of a bigger scale project. The first part that focused on project description was published in the second issue of AJNM in 2022. In part 2, the authors highlight important lessons learnt using the health profiles of two African countries, namely, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Mozambique regarding a master's programme curriculum and other critical academic indicators such as student enrolments, throughputs, and so on. It is important to mention that the project was designed to have a significant impact on the health outcomes of the people of the DRC and Mozambique through improving the skills and qualifications of nurses and midwives in identified areas of need. This enabled the authors to outline implications for future cases that employ pan-African and south-to-south university partnerships to develop human resources for nursing and midwifery in Africa.
- **An Indonesian study highlighting the effectiveness of the new edition of a maternal and child health (MCH) book on obedience to iron supplementation and labour outcomes in pregnant women:** The authors make insightful findings and draw conclusions with a potential to improve maternal outcomes.
- **An evaluation of serum uric acid and its correlation with a decline in estimated glomerular filtration rate among patients with chronic kidney diseases in an Ethiopian public hospital:** The authors draw important conclusions and make

recommendations to address the challenge of high morbidity and mortality rates associated with chronic kidney disease in Ethiopian communities.

- Nurse educators' perspectives towards technology-based education in selected KwaZulu-Natal nursing colleges: The authors make recommendations to enhance technology-based education through making adequate provision for technical support and mentorship of nurse educators in nursing colleges.
- Missed perioperative nursing care and its relationship with nurses' perception of professional values: This cross-sectional study was conducted in selected public hospitals of Iran. The authors argue that missed nursing care is an indicator of poor-quality nursing care and the authors provide relevant recommendations to address this gap.
- Risk factors for cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) in school going adolescents aged between 13 and 17 years: This observational study conducted among adolescents in selected public institutions of education in Colombia describes associated factors and recommendations for nursing practice to reduce the risk factors for CVDs among adolescents.
- Examining organisational skills of nurse managers at the unit level in Ghana: This quantitative cross-sectional study recommends valuable strategies to strengthen efficient organisational skills of unit managers and improve the quality of health care provision.
- Knowledge of Covid-19 guidelines among undergraduate nursing students in selected nursing schools in Palestine: The authors make recommendations to assist policymakers in developing appropriate prevention strategies to deal with Covid-19 and to encourage oversight of the pandemic and increase nursing professionals' adherence to disease anticipation and control measures, to protect the health and well-being of nursing students and other health care workers.
- Relationship between surgical anxiety level, Type A personality and health literacy: This cross-sectional study assessed the effect of Type A personality on surgical anxiety level and health literacy among patients undergoing elective surgery in a tertiary hospital in Turkey. Based on the study findings and conclusions drawn, the authors make important recommendations and implications for nursing practice, including the promotion of quality of patient care during the perioperative period by providing adequate information and conducting appropriate training preoperatively, taking into consideration the individual patient's personality type as well as surgical anxiety and health literacy levels.
- An intervention study that evaluated the effectiveness of health education on antenatal care provided through mobile phone calls among pregnant women in Kissii County, Kenya: The authors conclude that health education delivered through mobile phone calls has great potential in improving knowledge of antenatal care and reducing maternal morbidity and mortality, which is essential for improving the quality of midwifery practice. Furthermore, the authors recommend the need for larger cluster randomised control trials to be conducted to determine the impact of the uptake and implementation of the proposed intervention on antenatal care knowledge.

- A cross-sectional study on knowledge, attitudes and compliance to Covid-19 guidelines among nursing students at a medical university in Iran: The recommendations that emanated from the findings of this study highlight the need for nurse managers to plan and make provision for arrangements to improve compliance among nursing students in their units to adequately and effectively adhere to prescribed Covid-19 precautionary guidelines.

Systematic Review Articles

The two systematic review articles provide an in-depth insight into nurses' leadership in the work and perspectives of healthcare professionals regarding dignity and end-of-life care for the elderly. In both articles, the authors make relevant recommendations for nursing practice based on the findings presented from the reviewed articles.

Commentary and/or Opinion Pieces

For this issue, four commentary and/or opinion pieces are presented, and they focus on:

- The conceivable cause of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) among individuals on antiretroviral therapy (ART) – to explore the relationship between ART adherence and CVDs using findings from published studies: In this opinion piece, the authors are of the view that poor adherence to ART may be a contributing factor of CVDs in people living with HIV (PLWH) due to uncontrolled HIV viremia; thus, they advocate for nursing research to be conducted to adequately address this challenge.
- A reflection on skills shortage in intensive care units (ICUs) – a case of public hospitals in South Africa: In this article, the author highlights the importance of critical care nurses as a critical skills workforce required in ICUs as well as some issues related to attrition of the nursing workforce in ICUs. The author makes several recommendations for strategies to address natural attrition of ICU nurses in South Africa.
- The importance of using behaviour change theories and models in nursing research and practice: In this opinion piece, the authors highlight the importance of the application of tried and tested behaviour change theories and models in nursing and midwifery disciplines which can be an important tool for nurse researchers to improve the quality of their research and behaviour change interventions. This is critically important to promote the quality of life of communities.
- A commentary on the of placebo treatments in clinical settings for pain management: The author argues that using placebos brings about ethical challenges given that such treatments are regarded and/or categorised under the concept of deception. Based on the conclusions drawn by the author, implications for nursing practice are highlighted including that nurses are professionally obligated to provide evidence-based care to their patients. *AJNM is encouraging authors to share their perspectives, commentaries, experiences and professional opinions on this subject (i.e., use of placebos in medical and nursing care) for publication in upcoming*

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issues. Also, evidence-based articles based on original research are encouraged to promote scholarly debate on the subject of using placebos.

I hope that the articles published in this issue will share valuable insights, knowledge and skills with readers that will promote the adoption of best practices in nursing and midwifery in order to improve the quality of health care services.

I thank you for your continued support of AJNM.