

# Editorial



Paul Fulbrook, joint editor



Lynne Harrison, joint editor

## EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

The need to develop evidence-based practice is something that is being promoted throughout the nursing and medical world. However, there is often very little evidence available to inform nursing practice and much of what does exist may not be relevant to human caring. One of the reasons for this is that, traditionally, nursing has followed the medical model of theory generation, based on positivist philosophy and using quantitative methods. More recently, as nursing has begun to develop its own knowledge base, there has been a distinct movement towards interpretive approaches to theory generation, employing qualitative methodologies, such as phenomenology. However, some critics have suggested that as a consequence of this shift, nurse researchers have been guilty of 'throwing the baby out with the bath water', resulting in a negligent use of quantitative research approaches, and warning that in ignoring experimental research nurses run the risk of overlooking some areas of knowledge.

However, many people are also concerned about the marginalisation of qualitative research, and its classification as 'low level' evidence. In response, rather than defending the need for qualitative approaches to have equal standing with its quantitative counterparts, there have been calls for nursing to participate more actively in systematic reviews. However, while systematic reviews have a place in informing practice, they do not encompass the full range of different types of knowledge that nurses use.

What is important is not the type of research approach used, but the relevance of the research methodology and methods used to address the *nursing practice* question. Indeed, recognition that fundamentally different types of problems require different methods has been helpful in liberating nursing from the early constraint of a positivist straightjacket. It is important for us to acknowledge this in the critical care setting, where decision-making is complex, where nurses draw upon a broad range of sources of knowledge to inform their decisions, and where decision-making is related to critical care nurses' experience.

What we are trying to achieve with *CONNECT* is the promotion of critical care nursing practice. In this respect, we recognise that there are many different 'ways of knowing' and the 'evidence' that nurses use in everyday practice comes from many sources. So, what you will not see in this journal are lots of 'heavyweight' research articles. We will continue to publish research, but it is only one part of a much larger story. What we want to encourage is the publication of nurses' experiences and practice development initiatives that we can all learn from. After all, the theme of this journal is *communication*. In the first two issues, we published Kate MacDonald's story. Her vivid account taught us many lessons. And in the last issue, Birte Baktoft told us all about how her unit manages prone ventilation. In many ways, these articles enable us to learn more from each other than we can by reading research papers. So, let's hear from you. Tell us about your experience, tell us about your practice – *SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE!*

Paul Fulbrook and Lynne Harrison

## Contents

### REVIEW

<b>Rotational kinetic therapy for ventilation/perfusion mismatch</b> <i>B McLean</i> .....	113
<b>Atrioventricular block (heart block) of the third degree</b> <i>M Humphreys</i> .....	120
<b>Weaning from ventilation: a nurse-led protocol</b> <i>F Lowe, P Fulbrook, H Aldridge, S Fox, J Gillard, J O'Neill, L Papps</i> .....	124

### RESEARCH

<b>Paediatric intensive care nursing in Turkey</b> <i>S Yıldız</i> .....	134
---	-----

### REFLECTION

<b>My work as a critical care nurse for VSO in Kenya</b> <i>M O'Keefe</i> .....	137
--	-----

### REGULAR FEATURES

<b>Guidelines for authors</b> .....	112
<b>Internet connections</b> .....	123
<b>Conference connections</b> .....	136
<b>Global connections – news</b> .....	139
<b>New products</b> .....	142

#### Joint Editors

Paul Fulbrook, Clinical Reader in Critical Care, Institute of Health and Community Studies, Bournemouth University, UK

Lynne Harrison, Lecturer Practitioner in Intensive Care Nursing, University of Central Lancashire and Critical Care Unit, Royal Preston Hospital, UK

Managing Editor Anita Reid  
News Editor Lerma Hernandez  
Art Editor David Thickett  
Illustrator Marion Tasker  
Editorial Director Guy Wallis

#### International Editorial Board

Carmen Asiain, Supervisor of ICU, Associate Lecturer of the School of Nursing, University of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain  
Daniel Benlahoués, Nurse Teacher, English Nursing Teaching Institute, Bicêtre Teaching Hospital, Le Kremlin-Bicêtre, France

Elio Drigo, Head Nurse, Distretto Di Udine, Udine, Italy

Nuray Enç, Florence Nightingale Nursing College of Istanbul University, Turkey

Tarja Hämäläinen, Turku University Central Hospital, Finland

Lerma Hernandez, Intensive Care Nurse Specialist, Andre Vesale University Hospital, Montigny Le Tilleul, Belgium

Jos Latour, Nurse Manager, Paediatric and Intensive Care, University Hospital, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Karin Storm, Clinical Nurse Specialist in Critical Care, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark

Heike Strunk, Delegate of International Affairs and Lecturer in Nursing Science, Münster-Roxel, Germany

Rósa Þórsteinsdóttir, President of the Icelandic Critical Care Nursing Association and Meeting Secretary of EfCCNa

Jan Weststrate, Clinical Researcher, University Hospital, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Publisher Ashley Wallis

Connect: Critical Care Nursing in Europe is published by Greycourt Publishing Ltd, 120 Dawes Road, London SW6 7EG, UK. Tel: +44 (0)20 7385 1515. Fax: +44 (0)20 7385 7799. E-mail: mail@greycourtpublishing.co.uk

Printed by Warners Midlands plc, Bourne, Lincolnshire, UK  
ISSN 1474-4694 © Greycourt Publishing Ltd, 2001.

All rights reserved; no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electrical, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without prior written permission from the publisher.

The publishers, editor and editorial board wish to make it clear that the data, opinions and statements appearing in the articles herein are those of the contributor(s) concerned; such opinions are not necessarily shared by the editor or the editorial board. Accordingly, the publishers, editor and editorial board and their respective employees, officers and agents accept no liability for the consequences of any such inaccurate or misleading data, opinions or statements.