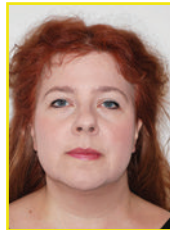




Sek Ying Chair



Elizabeth Papathanassoglou



EDITORIAL

Sek Ying Chair, Elizabeth Papathanassoglou

Connect: Doing research in critical care nursing

With the technological advancements and increasing needs in health care, the role of nurses evolves significantly. Nurses nowadays not only provide direct patient care, but also play active roles in management, education, and research. Nursing research as a systematic inquiry is important to generate knowledge to inform practice and facilitate professional development. The growing emphasis on evidence-based practice also indicates that more research is needed to improve nursing practice in caring for critically ill patients. Therefore, we strongly encourage critical care nurses and practitioners to conduct research and disseminate their findings. In this current issue, there are four articles which were submitted by critical care nurses from different parts of the world. Their sharing from different cultural perspectives enhances the cultural diversity of the issue as well as facilitates the understanding among readers with different backgrounds.

In critical care, interprofessional collaboration is a common practice which is highly valued for improving the quality of care and patient outcomes. In this issue, we have an article sharing the experience of promoting and enhancing interprofessional collaboration in intensive care units. The authors conducted a qualitative research to identify barriers to interprofessional collaboration from nurses' perspectives. Based on the findings, four innovative projects were developed to address the barriers and improve nurses' participation in interprofessional collaboration. This is an excellent example of research which informed intervention to improve patient outcomes and healthcare team collaboration. In addition, there are two articles presenting the details of the studies conducted on cardiac patients. One study explored the correlation between depression and health-related quality of life in patients with myocardial infarction. The other study tested an alternative approach, i.e. drinking chamomile tea, to improve dyspnea and anxiety in patients with heart failure. Both studies involved the psychological indicators of the patients and their findings would enhance nurses' understanding of psychological care. Early identification of psychological problems and effective nursing interventions may help symptom management and rehabilitation in cardiac patients.

In spite of its vital role in informing practice, nursing research may not necessarily be included in the daily duty or mandatory duty of nurses. Nurses frequently complain about

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lacking of time and skill to conduct research. One article in the current issue reported similar challenges in the development of critical care nursing in Hunan, a province in South Central China. In this article, the development of critical care nursing in that region was presented. In addition, specialty research was encouraged and recommended as one of the strategies to promote the professional development in critical care.

Apart from conducting research, disseminating research findings through publications and/or conference presentations is of equal importance. **CONNECT: The World of Critical Care Nursing** is an online journal providing free access to anyone in the world. Moreover, the World Federation of Critical Care Nurses (WFCCN) hosts an annual international conference for nurses and experts worldwide to communicate with each other. Nurses and practitioners are welcome to make full use of the platforms of **CONNECT** and **WFCCN** conference to share their studies on any aspect of critical care nursing practice, research, education or management.

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