

Turning the Page

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It is with great pleasure that I am writing this editorial for *Connect*. For those not aware of its history, I started the journal in 2001, with my friend and colleague Lynne Harrison as co-editor. At the time, The European federation of Critical Care Nursing associations (EfCCNa) was not long established, and we worked in association with EfCCNa to provide an open access journal for European critical care nurses. Thus, its original subtitle was *Critical Care Nursing in Europe*. Its theme of making connections was established throughout the journal via publication of various connect-themed articles, such as *Research Connections* and *Global Connections*, which continue to the present day. The “connect” theme was intended to embrace ideas about collaboration and sharing, and we wrote in our first editorial that we wanted *Connect* to become “the voice of critical care nurses.” In this context, establishing the journal as open access was philosophically important to us. Making the journal available free of charge helped to ensure its accessibility—particularly for nurses working in low-resourced countries. However, its original format was in paper form, and this posed financial challenges for us with every issue. Not only did we have to find funds to print the issue, but its postage throughout Europe also needed to be funded. We were very grateful to Ashley Wallis and Greycoat Publishing in the United Kingdom, who helped us to establish and manage the journal for us for the first six issues during the initial two years of operation.

In 2003, the journal entered a new era. *Connect* commenced a collaboration with the World Federation of Critical Care Nurses (WFCCN), which had been established in 2001, to extend the reach

of the journal globally. Extremely significant at that time was its transition to become an online only journal. This helped considerably to reduce production costs and enable the journal to be accessed much more easily by nurses anywhere in the world. Thus, the title of the first editorial for the new journal was “Connect the World” and with it came a new journal title: *Connect: The World of Critical Care Nursing*. Lynne Harrison continued with me as co-editor until the end of 2009, and made a massive contribution to the journal for which I will be forever grateful. From 2010 until a few years ago, as sole editor and producer of the journal, it was difficult to keep the journal going. It received very little income and was produced primarily on a voluntary basis. Nevertheless, we managed to keep the journal going, publishing on average three issues per year. During this period, authors from all over the world published in *Connect*; many of them publishing for the first time, and most writing in English, which was not their first language. That *Connect* has supported so many authors to publish in their nonnative language is one of the journal’s greatest achievements.

In 2014 I donated the journal to WFCCN, and transferred its ownership the Federation. Issue 9.3 of that year became the first issue published under the ownership of WFCCN. The same year I was awarded the title of Emeritus Editor, and WFCCN appointed two new chief editors: Sek Ying Chair from Hong Kong and Elizabeth Papathanassoglou from Canada. Together, we have produced the journal to date. Last year, WFCCN commenced negotiation with Springer Publishing to produce the journal, and last year a contract was signed. The result is this, our

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“new look” first issue in association with Springer Publishing. This is a significant event in the history of Connect. Springer’s philosophy is consistent with that of both the journal and the Federation, and together we will continue to produce an open access journal that is freely available to critical care nurses throughout the world.

I trust that the journal is in safe hands, and will continue to disseminate quality research and information that matter to critical care nurses and inform nursing practice globally. In this way, Connect will indeed live up to its originally proposed intention to be the voice of critical care

nurses. To all of those past and present, who have contributed to Connect, whether your role was as an author, editor, reviewer, or one the many who are unseen in the background but are vital to “making it happen,” I would like thank you all. Together we have done a great thing for our profession and in doing so have contributed to the care of those that matter most: our patients and their families.

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