

Editorial

International Journal of Critical Care and Welcoming new Managing Editor

Wendy Pollock, Ged Williams

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PhD, MSc, RGN, FAAN

&

Professor Wendy Pollock

RN, RM, GCALL, GD Crit Care

NSG, GD Ed, PhD

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Professor Violeta Lopez

RN, MNA, MPET, PhD, TCNS



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Best wishes for the New Year and we hope 2026 has started well for you. This year marks an exciting change in the publication pattern for the *International Journal of Critical Care* (IJCC). From 2026 onwards, IJCC will be published four times per year, in February, May, August and November. Furthermore, **there is an open call for papers**. Please consider publishing your work in the IJCC, do not wait for a specific topic of interest call for papers. Have a look at the author guidelines and consider whether your work meets the scope and aim of the journal. If you have conducted critical care research, have an innovation to share and evidence of improvement of patient outcomes, we would love to hear from you. Likewise, if you have a reflection about critical care practice or a discursive paper on a contemporary topic relevant to critical care, please consider making a submission to IJCC.

In this first edition for 2026, Volume 20, Issue 1, there are four original research reports and one letter to the editor. The first by Carter and colleagues (2026), reports an evaluation of a short train the trainers' workshop for nurses in 16 public hospitals in Zambia on the safe use of oxygen therapy. A qualitative study using focus groups was conducted, identifying four themes: impact of the training on the trainers, learning to be a trainer, multidisciplinary training and realities of using oxygen. The study confirmed that oxygen delivery in ward settings is complex due to the limited availability, however, nurses highly valued the education opportunity and thrived when training others.

The next paper, reports on a study conducted by Mkoka and Mdangu (2026) on nurses' practices and perceived challenges of meeting nutrition needs of critically ill patients through enteral feeding in Tanzania. Data were gathered by observation of practices and individual interviews. Mkoka and Mdangu (2026) found that observance of safety protocols of enteral feeding, availability of appropriate feeding tubes, continuous training for nurses, and close supervision of relatives who feed their patients is required.

The third paper by Tanskanen and colleagues (2026), evaluated Health Related Quality of Life (HRQL) after ICU stay in COVID-19 patients and compared their HRQL with patients admitted to the ICU before the pandemic to see if patients admitted to ICU with COVID-19 fared worse than patients admitted to ICU before the pandemic. Although COVID-19 patients were younger and had longer duration of mechanical ventilation, the HRQL did not differ between ICU patients admitted before and during the pandemic.

The fourth original research paper in this issue is by Askeland and colleagues (2026), who report on the experiences of critical care nurses providing care to ICU patients receiving support by the Impella® device (Abiomed) a tiny ventricular assist device placed, by a catheter via the femoral artery, in the left ventricle across the aortic valve. Following two focus groups, three main themes were identified (1:) Experiences of stressful and demanding situations when caring for patients with Impella® support, (2:) Lack of standard guidelines for treatment with Impella® support including education and training, (3:) Teamwork and allocation of responsibilities reduces stress. These findings highlight the benefit of education and training, and positive work environments to support ICU nurses with their work.

Finally, we publish a letter to the editor, in which an alternative to preparing vasoactive medication infusions is proposed, which may be of benefit for nurses working in organisations without clinical procedure guidelines. By publishing this letter, IJCC is not endorsing the content. We urge readers to follow the policies and procedures of their employer or relevant official regulatory bodies. However, in clinical settings without such guidance, the instructions provided by Saran (2026) may provide helpful and practical advice.

Notable in this issue, is the vast range of practice environments that ICU nurses work in. The first two papers highlight the challenges of working in low-resource settings (Carter et al., 2026; Mkoka & Mdangu, 2026), whilst Askeland and colleagues (2026) provide stark contrast reporting on a high-resource intervention. Evident is a shared need to provide the best patient-centred care for the circumstances, and the need to support nurses to do their work with education and training.

Introducing Dr Violeta Lopez, Managing Editor



On behalf of the IJCC editorial team we are delighted to welcome Dr Violeta Lopez into the role of Managing Editor.

Violeta brings a lifetime of experience, knowledge and expertise to the role. She completed her education in Australia obtaining a Master degree in Management, a Master degree in Professional Education and Training, and a PhD in Nursing. She has been a tenured Professor since 2000 and has worked in the Middle East, Hong Kong, Singapore, China and the Philippines. Her past notable positions have been as Head of the School of Nursing at the Australian Catholic University and as an International

Dean of the College of Nursing in Hubei University of Medicine, China. Her landmark achievements include securing \$5 million in research grants and publishing 350 journal articles, chapters and books. She is a respected peer reviewer and serves on the editorial boards of numerous medical and nursing journals and Associate Editor of three nursing journals. She has been inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Researcher Hall of Fame as a Transcultural Nursing Scholar. She is the President Emeritus of the Filipino Nursing Diaspora Network. Professor Lopez has nurtured 30 international PhD students, and her esteemed research reputation has led her to serve as external examiner for 60 PhD students from 12 countries. She has extensive involvement with WFCCN as Board Member 2015-2022, WFCCN Corporate Secretary until 2022 and is a WFCCN Honorary Ambassador since 2015. In 2023 and 2025, she was honoured by Stanford and Elsevier in the top 2% World Scientist.

Violeta is an incredible person with a real commitment to nurturing aspiring nursing academics and leaders and we are very pleased she has chosen IJCC for the next chapter of her amazing career.

We hope you enjoy this first issue of IJCC for 2026 and look forward to receiving submissions of your work.

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Wendy Pollock

RN, RM, GCALL, GD Crit Care Nsg, GD Ed, PhD
Professor of Nursing and Midwifery
School of Nursing and Midwifery
Monash University
Australia

Ged Williams AO

RN, Bach. App. Sc. (Midwifery), Crit. Care Cert., LLM, MHA, GAICD, FACN, FACHSM, FAAN
Chief Nursing Officer and Executive Director of Nursing
Bayside Health – Alfred Care Group
Australia