

## Editorial

*Journal of Clinical Nursing* is an international forum for exchanging high quality information between nurses, midwives, health visitors and public health nurses. Up-to-date practice needs to be based on critical analysis of the way we work in all areas of nursing practice and research, and sharing knowledge and experience across a wide variety of cultures and healthcare systems will help us to deliver high quality care. We publish articles reporting evaluations of evidence-based practice and research relevant to practice, including literature reviews, which use rigorous methods of generating evidence and presenting their findings. We aim to promote understanding of practice development and sound research methods among practitioners and help authors to develop their writing skills. Articles focusing on practice are welcomed from all healthcare disciplines.

The first editorial of the new year is an opportunity to look back on another successful year for the Journal and forward to even better in the future!

After the substantial increase in manuscript submissions in the previous couple of years, submissions fell slightly in number in 2001, probably as an effect of the Research Assessment Exercise in the UK in 2000. British authors perhaps felt that they deserved a rest after working hard to get the required four articles accepted for the 31 December 2000 deadline. However, feelings of security or complacency are not justified! UK writers need to be getting ahead already with publishing for the next RAE, the exact date of which has not yet been announced. I think they have now got the message, because I am pleased to see that we are up to our previous healthy numbers again.

Having their articles published quickly after they have been accepted is very important to authors and we have been able to reduce this time to eight months or less. We will keep an eye on this and if increasing submissions threaten to increase the time, then we will look at raising the number of pages per issue again, as we have done several times in the past few years. Our very first issue in January 1992 had 56 pages but recently we have had 150 or more.

We continue to do well in international comparisons with other journals, our latest 'impact factor' being 0.473 (for an explanation and more discussion on what this means, see the Editorials in JCN 10;1:1–2 and *Journal of Advanced Nursing* 36;2:167–168). JCN is listed 23rd out of 43 of the international journals included and is the top international *clinical* journal. It is one of three UK-based international journals in the top 25 on the list.

In the coming year our Special Issue in May 2002 will be on Cross-boundary Work for the Future and for May 2003 the focus is on implementation, with a working title of *New Ways of Working* – from theories to practice. To have an article published in that Special Issue, you need to get it to us by 31 July 2002. This may seem like a long way ahead, but you need to be getting your articles ready soon!

We also plan to develop our website further in 2002. Now that so many people use the Internet, we can put author guidelines, special editorials and other up-to-the-minute material there for easy access. Already the SYNERGY online service gives searching facilities to all Blackwell journals, including JCN, at <http://www.blackwell-science.com/jcn>.

We have just come to the end of the first 10 years of JCN and look forward to exciting new developments in publishing JCN in the next 10. To advance our already high standards, we need your help. So visit our website and get writing!

CHRISTINE WEBB