

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



# Nursing & Health Sciences Research Journal

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## Publishing in Peer-Reviewed Journals

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Knowledge generated from clinical research can provide evidence to improve practice, positively impact patients' outcomes, and save lives. Healthcare urgently needs innovations that result from clinical research, and clinicians have valuable ideas and important discoveries. Clinicians are subject-matter experts in their specialties and on the issues they investigate. They are in an excellent position to generate evidence to improve healthcare.

However, most clinicians don't receive training on how to write and publish, which can be intimidating and difficult. Given the potential positive impact of clinical research and the importance of disseminating findings, clinicians should be empowered to write and publish research.

But writing takes time and most of us are not writers. Therefore, finding a mentor with experience as a writer gives first time authors the confidence to write and publish. Mentors can help new writers visualize the end result and encourage them during the sometimes prolonged process of publishing. I encourage clinicians to create an outline with the different manuscript sections and to set personal deadlines to ensure completion of the manuscript. I don't mean a rigid schedule – more like a realistic plan to allow adequate time to write, receive feedback on drafts, edit, and improve manuscripts based on the feedback.

Begin with the easiest sections of the manuscript and write small parts during times when you are at your most productive and when you feel like writing. Finding a quiet place with minimal interruptions also

helps. Unlike poetry and fiction, writing research manuscripts uses clear, simple language to communicate both the process and results of your research.

As an author, I welcome the feedback I receive on manuscripts and I'm grateful for the time editors spend reviewing my papers. As an editor, I invest time to make revisions to increase the chances that an author has to reach their goal – publication. The bottom line is that the author and reviewers are both working towards the same goal – to publish the manuscript.

Journals are discipline-specific. Choosing the right journal for a manuscript is the first step for acceptance. As an editor, I have had to reject excellent manuscripts just because they don't fit into the scope of the journal. It is essential to follow author's guidelines carefully. For first time authors, a free, open access peer-reviewed journal with a short term peer review process and high acceptance rate is best.

Significant clinical research findings can reach many other professionals who also want to improve their practice. Granted, it takes extra effort to write and the publishing process is not always comfortable but by publishing research findings, clinicians can help improve their field – and the world.

Keep writing!

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