

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Nursing & Health Sciences Research Journal

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A Peer Reviewed Journal in a Healthcare System: An Innovative Way of Dissemination

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At the 2021 American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) National Magnet and Pathway to Excellence Conference, I was honored to share the *Nursing & Health Sciences Research Journal* (N&HSRJ) success in a podium presentation. The presentation, titled “A Peer Reviewed Journal in a Healthcare System: An Innovative Way of Dissemination,” sparked many questions and gratitude from frontline healthcare nurses about the publication process.

An important question I received was “How do you empower nurses and other frontline healthcare workers to write and publish?” My answer included some of the sentiments I will offer here.

Frontline hospital healthcare workers advance their practice by conducting research, developing projects, and publishing the results of these efforts nationally. When these professionals publish results, the shared innovations and improvements add new evidence to their fields. Furthermore, published results can lead to effective replication or the avoidance of efforts already shown to be ineffective.

Because Magnet designation recognizes healthcare organizations that provide nursing excellence, nurses are encouraged to disseminate new knowledge to internal and external audiences. Additionally, institutions of higher education expect doctoral students and clinical residents to publish their scholarly work. To meet these organizational needs at Baptist Health South Florida (BHSF), the N&HSRJ is a peer-reviewed journal, created to provide a platform for hospitals’ frontline healthcare workers to publish their work.

The N&HSRJ is free to authors and readers and accessible, without subscription, via academic databases including Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL) and the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). The journal is a collaborative effort among nurse scientists, academics, and librarians. Editorial Board members, editors, and reviewers are leaders, experts clinicians, researchers, and experienced authors from across the nation.

Frontline healthcare workers constantly engage in research, projects, and innovative practices to meet the needs of current healthcare challenges and provide quality patient care. However, many of them do not have experience writing and publishing and have not had a good experience with the peer review process involved in scholarly writing. Through the N&HSRJ, nurse scientists provide a nurturing environment for novice researchers and writers.

At Baptist Health South Florida, nurse scientists have a long history of providing mentorship and support to nurses, students, residents, and clinicians as they develop research, quality improvement, and evidence-based practice projects in hospitals. Nurse scientists:

- lead research and evidence-based practice councils
- oversee facilitative reviews of research studies
- obtain grants to fund research and projects
- provide ongoing research education
- mentor clinicians with research and projects
- assist investigators to meet Institutional Review

Board research requirements on human subject protection

Nurse scientists also collaborate with academic institutions on research initiatives, develop workshops, conferences, and assist investigators with abstracts, posters, and presentations. They are catalyst agents in building a culture of inquiry and excellence in healthcare organizations.

The N&HSRJ has published regularly every year since the inaugural volume. Publishing four volumes with more than 17,222 downloads, 9734 abstract views, from 1111 institutions, and 132 different countries in four consecutive years demonstrates the value and reach of this journal. As a high-quality, successful collaboration among nationally-known academics and diverse clinicians, the journal has increased our System's reputation nationally through its recognition as a Magnet exemplar by the ANCC.

Frontline healthcare workers frequently develop new ideas that can be researched and practice improvement processes and new treatments for today's most difficult patients' health issues. The N&HSRJ is an innovative way to disseminate research and practice findings for frontline healthcare workers who want to publish their discoveries and innovations successfully with the support of mentors, academics, and experts in the field.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The author reports no conflicts of interest. The author alone is responsible for the content and writing of the paper.

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