

# Nursing and Health Policy Perspectives

## Welcome to the first issue for 2011

As for all the first issues of every calendar year, the total contents of this issue of the *International Nursing Review* (INR) are available as a free download on your (or your library's) computer. This is a huge benefit, especially as INR's first issues contain more pages than any subsequent issue in a given year. Does your university or college library know about the free download? Please ask your librarians, for in this major global recession, academic journal subscriptions are frequently the first expense to be sacrificed to budget cuts.

This is also the official issue for the 2011 ICN Conference and meeting of the Council of National Representatives, taking place in Malta from 2 to 8 May, and therefore hard copies will be available at no charge at the ICN Conference Exhibition stand. You may have noticed that the conference theme, *Nurses driving access, quality and health*, appears as a banner on the front cover.

On the inside cover you will find listed the names of the members of our newly expanded Editorial Board. I welcome them all, and thank them for their invaluable service to INR. Members of the Editorial Board review manuscripts; provide extensive advice to authors to help them achieve publication; and promote the journal in the course of their daily work. For the first time, the INR Editorial Board includes a person who is not a nurse, Dr Sue Jordan. This development acknowledges the increasing breadth of articles published in INR, all of crucial importance for, but not necessarily written by, nurses. Dr Jordan is the author of numerous articles for nurses on medication safety, and I am sure that many readers are familiar with her work. Her textbook, *Pharmacology for Midwives: the Evidence Base for Safe Practice* (Jordan 2010), is now in its second edition.

The current issue also features an innovation in terms of its contents – two articles are followed by Commentaries. The

*Concise Oxford English Dictionary* defines a commentary as 'a set of critical or explanatory notes on a text'.

The article *Nursing research in three regions in China: a bibliometric study* (pp. 21–25) is followed by a commentary from Professor Michael Traynor titled *Bibliometrics as politics: the case of emerging disciplines* (pp. 26–27). He discusses the increasing trend for nurses to use bibliometrics in countries where the academization of nursing is being promoted. Dr Traynor draws interesting parallels with the academic socialisation of psychology more than a century ago. He believes that the designation of 'science' is merely descriptive, and that it is just one cultural activity alongside others, albeit often highly rewarded.

The Commentary written by Dr Sue Jordan, *Signposting the causes of medication errors* (pp. 45–46), contextualises an important paper on *The relationship between incidence and report of medication errors and working conditions* (pp. 37–44). Amongst other comments, Dr Jordan states that an important aspect of the paper is the availability of the raw data (published as Supporting Information) as this 'not only fosters transparency and openness in research reporting but also allows individual studies to be integrated into meta-analyses'.

In these two very different Commentaries, we have examples of the critical thinking that academic nursing aims to instil in its practitioners. We plan to include Commentaries as an occasional feature in subsequent issues of INR and we hope that they will provoke discussion and possibly correspondence in the form of 'Letters to the Editor'.

Jane J.A. Robinson FRCN, MA, PhD, Editor

## Reference

Jordan, S. (2010) *Pharmacology for Midwives: the Evidence Base for Safe Practice*. Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke.