

Creating a Shared Vision for Nursing

As we launch into the Year of the Nurse and Mid-wife, marking the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth, there is much to look forward to in 2020. Numerous events and celebrations have been planned throughout the year, particularly with some schools of nursing also marking significant anniversaries. Indeed, in this country and others, there are many accomplishments to be celebrated in the context of the profession's evolution over the last two centuries. We should be proud but remain ever vigilant and appropriately responsive to circumstances that threaten our ability to sustain and effectively evolve into the future.

In this issue, our contributors focus on a topic that has been rife with controversy, causing much acrimony and upset within the Canadian nursing family and beyond. We have five years of experience since Canadian nurse regulators made a unilateral decision to move to the American licensure examination and while somewhat less of a dominant professional issue for most Canadian nurses today, it remains a thorny issue on many fronts. As you read through the papers in this issue, it is our hope that you will appreciate and lend your voice to the injustices experienced in the aftermath of this decision, for those within and those striving to become a part of the profession. Given the contentious nature of the issue, I am particularly grateful to Dr. Barbara Mildon for her willingness to accept the invitation to serve as guest editor. She has brought unwavering courage, passion and a critical lens to the NCLEX experience which is clearly substantiated by the contributing authors in this issue. Together we invite you to contribute to the ongoing dialogue and debate. Only through the power of our collective voices can we create a shared vision and future for Canadian nursing.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank two of our editors, Dr. Carol Wong (Research) and Dr. Lianne Jeffs (Practice) for their respective contributions to the journal over the past few years. Their commitment of time, expertise and thoughtful reviews of papers has been invaluable and very much appreciated by our editorial team and myself. Thank you both!

And now, it is my utmost pleasure to welcome two new members to the editorial team.

Our new editor for practice is Dr. Mary McAllister. Mary is currently associate chief, nursing practice at The Hospital for Sick Children. In this role, she is advancing innovative, high-quality child and family-centred care, and

spearheading the translation of research into clinical practice. With a wealth of experience in pediatrics and administration, she not only pioneered the nurse practitioner role in neonatology, but was also actively involved in defining the scope of practice of the nurse practitioner in acute care.

Our new editor for research is Dr. Joan Almost, an associate professor in the School of Nursing at Queens University. Joan is currently the scholar in residence with the Canadian Nurses Association and has over 10 years of acute care nursing experience, and 20 years of teaching experience. She is a strong advocate for healthy practice environments and collegial workplace relationships, having conducted extensive research in this area over the past 20 years.

At this juncture, you will have possibly consumed all of our authors' perspectives, findings and food for thought. With hopes that you share the view that the implications are far too serious to ignore, I implore you to consider adding your voice to the discussion thus far. In the year of the Nurse and Midwife, take a stand for the sake of Canadian nursing and ask yourself: "Why don't I speak out?" While it is safer to be silent than vocal, Foucault's "parrhesia" or bringing truth to power will but help to illuminate the way forward for not just a few, for all of us.