Intergenerational Relationships: Conversations on Practice and Research Across Cultures

Editors: Elizabeth Larkin, EdD, Dov Friedlander, PhD, Sally Newman, PhD, Richard Goff, MA, PhD(c); 2005; Binghamton, NY: The Haworth Press, Inc.; 233 pages; softcover; $34.95

This book can be highly recommended to nursing educators and students in intergenerational studies; researchers exploring intergenerational relationships and social change; international policymakers; and interdisciplinary scholars in developmental psychology, education, gerontology, sociology, and political science.

In particular, this book focuses on how family and community relationships are affected by crucial social problems. The international authors’ research articles describe well how cultures from Africa, Asia, the United States, and Europe value relations among people of different cultures. The diverse range of cultural content presents a comprehensive perspective of the transformation of societies by modern technologies and illustrates the importance of maintaining a firm cultural identity through the relationships of different age groups.

This book explores the following issues: the devastation of intergenerational relationships in Nigeria because of AIDS; intergenerational cultural transmission among the Akan of Ghana; African views of elderly adults in folklore and literature; transitional changes in contemporary intergenerational relationships in India; intergenerational initiatives in Sweden; faith-based health and wellness programs in the United States; intergenerational relationships in U.S. communities; relationships among differing age groups among the Tumbuka of northern Malawi; transformations over time in generational relationships in Africa; and intergenerational developments in England.

Myonghwa Park, PhD, RN
Assistant Professor, College of Nursing
Keimyung University
Daegu, Republic of Korea

Matteson & McConnell’s Gerontological Nursing: Concepts and Practice (3rd ed.)

Editors: Adrienne Dill Linton, PhD, RN, Helen W. Lach, PhD, RN, CS; 2007; Philadelphia: Saunders Elsevier; 1040 pages; hardcover; $74.95

The recent edition of Matteson & McConnell’s Gerontological Nursing: Concepts and Practice continues the tradition of previous editions by providing a comprehensive overview of nursing care for older adults. This book explores a range of topics from competencies for gerontological and advanced practice nurses to issues in multiple care settings. The contents provide a background on gerontology and normal aging changes, as well as in-depth, research-based reviews of clinical topics, such as psychosocial aging, and aging changes and health deviations for the major physiological systems.

This revision includes several features addressing the latest topics of importance for today’s gerontological nurses. A background chapter on gerontology reviews the latest theories of biological aging. The book also includes an overview of evidence-based practice, arguably the hottest topic in nursing today, and a review of current evidence-based guidelines for care of older adults. In addition, for those focusing on clinical competencies, there are multiple chapters addressing gerontological nursing roles and leadership, including interdisciplinary collaboration, case management, end of life, and health promotion concepts.

A number of qualified contributors lent their expertise to the text. Many chapters include “reflections” from expert nurses, describing their personal experiences in applying the chapter content to the practice setting. For example, the chapter on leadership includes comments from May Wykle, a living legend in gerontological nursing.

This book would serve as a comprehensive reference for all nurses with an interest in the care of older adults. For those preparing for certification in this field, the book reviews all of the key topics listed for RNs and clinical nurse specialists. For nurse practitioners, the book does not go into great detail about clinical management but provides all of the foundational information needed for practice. This text should be on the bookshelf of every gerontological nurse.

Melanie Krause, MS, RN
Predoctoral Trainee, School of Nursing, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, Nurse Clinician, Badger Prairie Health Care Center, Verona, Wisconsin

Kathleen C. Buckwalter, PhD, RN, FAAN
Editor, Journal of Gerontological Nursing, Sally Mathis Hartwig Professor of Gerontological Nursing Research, Director, The University of Iowa John A. Hartford Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence, Iowa City, Iowa