Every year we acknowledge the Board and reviewers because they are vital to our success as a journal. Normally that acknowledgment occurs in the November issue because I give thanks for having such an incredibly talented team available as thought partners. You may have noticed that it is not November (although with the wild weather we have had this spring, it is possible it will still feel like November as you read this!), yet I am writing about the Board. Let me tell you why.

We just finished a conference call with those available for the call, which was the majority of our members. I provided four broad topics as stimulation for conversation. What a lively time we had! For example, the first topic was the recent Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) study on quality and safety (www.ahrq.gov/research/findings/evidence-based-reports/ptsafetyuptp.html). Although I have written two editorials based on this report, the implications are tremendous for nursing. Out of this discussion grew the idea of having some “hot topics” related to new developments about safety and especially some related to equipment, which is so prevalent in healthcare today. Everyone’s ideas meshed with prior comments and provided a springboard for the next offered comments. In essence, synergy was happening.

During the next year, we will solicit manuscripts related to specific topics, such as patient safety and how to keep staff apprised of the numerous and dramatic changes in equipment we manage for patients. We are not going to a focused publication (e.g., the safety issue; the competency issue); rather, we want to be sure we stimulate prospective authors’ thinking about issues and what is working (or not) in relation to making care better.

Because of the diversity of backgrounds and interests of our Board members, JCEN has far more ideas for important topics to pursue. The perspectives from states, settings, type of work, and so forth provide this broad range of ideas to pursue. The Board and the reviewers are the “gate keepers” of quality for the journal. They are also the “gate openers” for new ideas and approaches. A journal asks its Board and reviewers to do the former every day. When a journal asks its Board to do the latter, new work emerges.

So rather than waiting until Thanksgiving to give thanks, I want to acknowledge the exceptional contributions of your leadership team. Look at the masthead, which appears right after the table of contents in this issue. If you know any of those individuals, please thank them on behalf of the profession for the work they do. It is invaluable and so are they!

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