Changes in the New Year

This month, the Journal of Nursing Education begins its 56th year of disseminating leading edge research, innovative ideas, and opinion pieces to advance the field of nursing education and extend its science. As we embark upon the new year, we say thank you to one member of our senior editorial team whose role has changed, while we promote another, welcome two others, introduce a new quarterly column, and add a new manuscript category. We also issue a call for new reviewers to assist with the high volume of manuscript submissions we continue to receive each year.

First and foremost, we are so grateful to Karen H. Morin, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANEF, who has served as Associate Editor for the past 4.5 years. In this role, she has shared senior editorial duties; managed the review and decision process for hundreds of manuscripts; advised authors; consulted with our peer reviewers; contributed numerous editorials; continuously recommended improvements to the Journal; and shared the review process for nominating published articles to be considered for the Christine A. Tanner Scholarly Writing Award. Now Professor Emerita at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, it pleases us that Karen has agreed to continue to serve on the Journal’s Editorial Board, a role she filled for 19 years prior to becoming Associate Editor. We are fortunate to be able to continue to benefit from her extensive experience and expertise. Thank you, Karen!

I am pleased to announce that Amy Barton, PhD, RN, FAAN, who has served as Assistant Editor for the past year, has been promoted to the role of Associate Editor. Amy joined the Journal’s Review Panel in 2005 and was promoted to the Editorial Board in 2011. She continues to serve as Professor and Daniel and Janet Mordecai Endowed Chair in Rural Health Nursing and Associate Dean for Clinical and Community Affairs at the University of Colorado, Denver. Congratulations, Amy!

Concurrently with Karen’s return to our Editorial Board and Amy’s promotion to the Associate Editor role, we welcome Teri A. Murray, PhD, APHN-BC, RN, FAAN, as our new Assistant Editor. Teri joined the Journal as a reviewer in 2006 and was promoted to the Editorial Board in 2008. She currently serves as Dean of the Saint Louis University School of Nursing in Saint Louis, Missouri. Amy and Teri will share editorial responsibilities with the Editor-in-Chief, and assist in managing the large volume of manuscript submissions we receive each year to ensure that we continue to publish the high-quality, informative articles our readers have come to depend on. Welcome, Teri!

Another change our readers can expect to see this year is the addition of a new quarterly column that focuses on nursing education research methodologies and related issues. I’m pleased to share that Darrell Spurlock, Jr., PhD, RN, NEA-BC, ANEF, has been appointed Editor of the Methodology Corner column. Darrell currently serves as Associate Professor of Nursing at Widener University in Chester, Pennsylvania, and has extensive experience in measurement, testing, instrument development, data analysis, quality improvement, and evidence-based practice. Darrell has served as a peer reviewer for the Journal since 2005 and was promoted to the Editorial Board in 2006. The new column will debut in next month’s issue and appear each year in the February, May, August, and November issues of the Journal. Welcome, Darrell!

With the growing number of manuscripts we receive that are reports of quality improvement projects, we’ve decided to add a new manuscript category focused on such projects. Quality Improvement (QI) Briefs are reports of systematic, data-based interventions designed to achieve improvements in one or more areas of nursing education. QI Briefs are expected to include a detailed description of the intervention and outcomes and to follow SQUIRE guidelines, available at http://www.squire-statement.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewPage&pageID=471&nodeID=1. DNP capstone projects with a focus on nursing education may be particularly suited for submission to this manuscript category. Similar to our other Briefs categories, QI Briefs manuscripts should be limited to 8 pages, exclusive of abstract and references, and include no more than 2 tables or figures.

Finally, the high volume of manuscript submissions we continue to receive each year requires that we maintain a large cadre of peer reviewers. Reviewers assist the editorial team with the review process and help ensure that the Journal publishes work that advances the science of nursing education, offers readers evidence-based and innovative ideas to continually improve the field, and enables nurse educators to stay abreast of new developments for educating the future nursing workforce. We invite readers who have themselves published in the
peer-reviewed nursing literature to consider joining the Journal’s Review Panel. Those who are interested should send a brief cover letter and their curriculum vita to Jaime Harker, Executive Editor, jharker@slackinc.com.

As always, we welcome feedback and suggestions from our readers to help us continually improve the Journal and its contributions to the field of nursing education. I feel a great sense of pride in serving as the Journal’s Editor and am so grateful for our editorial team, which includes my fellow editors, the talented staff at Slack, Inc., and the members of our Editorial Board and Review Panel.

Welcome to the Journal’s 56th year—and Happy New Year!

Janis P. Bellack, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANEF
Editor
The author has disclosed no potential conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise. doi:10.3928/01484834-20161219-01