RGN Matters
Celebrating Milestones

With Research in Gerontological Nursing (RGN) now in its sixth year of publication, it is a good time to celebrate accomplishments and remind readers, authors, and potential new authors of the importance of the Journal to achieving a variety of significant collective goals. As nurse researchers, we find ourselves currently facing rapid changes in health care delivery, cuts in research funding, and challenges in developing a new generation of qualified researchers. Understanding this climate, our editorial team has worked hard to make RGN an important venue for advancing high-quality science needed to improve health, disseminating work quickly and broadly, and helping scientists advance their careers and programs of research.

The impact factor (IF) is a measure of how many times articles in a journal have been cited by other authors (Thomson Reuters, 2013). It is surprising how many excellent nursing journals are not currently listed with an IF score in the Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports (JCR). RGN achieved status as a major venue for publishing high-quality scientific research quickly when vetting by Thomson Reuters led to listing in the JCR in 2011. Inclusion in JCR is reserved for the world’s most important and influential scholarly journals and allows us to track the progress of RGN in impacting advancements in the science of gerontological health and health care.

Our increasingly fast-paced world has ramped up the importance of the time it takes to get a manuscript reviewed, in press, and published online and in print. Research proposals are more likely to be favorably reviewed when recent preliminary work is listed as in press or published in a prestigious journal. Quick dissemination also increases the likelihood that researchers in our specific area of inquiry will connect, provide feedback, and potentially partner with us at critical junctures in our program of research. At RGN, our times from submission to first decision, acceptance to online publication, and acceptance to print publication are all exceptionally fast, averaging a few short weeks to months.

For our research to influence science and clinical practice, others need to have easy access to our work. RGN is widely available from popular bibliographic databases including PubMed and Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL). RGN is also listed in highly selective bibliographic citation databases. For example, inclusion in MEDLINE® is reserved for journals that have passed a stringent application and review process (National Institutes of Health [NIH] U.S. National Library of Medicine, 2013). The decision regarding whether or not to index a journal in MEDLINE is an important one that is made by the Director of the National Library of Medicine based on review by the Literature Selection Technical Review Committee. This advisory committee of external experts is chartered by the NIH and is analogous to the committees that review NIH grant applications (NIH U.S. National Library of Medicine, 2013). Inclusion in MEDLINE puts us in the company of other premier research journals and allows readers to access RGN from a prestigious database.

Our yearly State of the Science Commentary, appearing in each January issue, has become an important, anticipated, and thought-provoking publication in the field of gerontology. This commentary brings together top experts in a specific area of inquiry to review progress, highlight breakthrough research, chart the course of future research, and coalesce priorities. Bold and clear recommendations for future research from visionary leaders are useful for increasing progress in generating relevant health knowledge and wisely making decisions regarding the allocation of increasingly scarce research resources.

We also celebrate the fact that in 2014 RGN moves from a quarterly to bimonthly publication. The increase to six issues per year will continue to increase the journal’s visibility and the speed with which we can get more manuscripts into online and print publication.

RGN’s achievements would not have been possible
without a lot of people being very good at what they do. We are grateful for the contributions of founding editor Kathleen C. Buckwalter, PhD, RN, FAAN, at the journal’s inception. I am grateful that a cadre of talented editorial board members, reviewers, editors, and publishers are tirelessly dedicated to the Journal. Their expertise and standards have helped RGN to be recognized internationally as a premier science journal. As always, we welcome feedback from readers who can contact our editorial staff directly (rgn@slackinc.com). We look forward to continuing to serve our readers and advance science that will improve health care, health outcomes, and quality of living by older adults.

REFERENCES

Christine R. Kovach, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA
Editor

The author has disclosed no potential conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise.

doi:10.3928/19404921-20131216-01