

EDITORIAL

***CJNR* Celebrates Its Ruby Anniversary**

This issue of *CJNR* marks a significant milestone for the Journal and for Canadian nursing scholarship. With this special commemorative issue we look back on 40 years of continuous publication. This, our ruby anniversary, is a time to pause, to reflect, and to celebrate what has been accomplished in a relatively short span of years, in part because of the unusual partnership that has developed between the Journal and the community of Canadian nurse scholars.

Wedding anniversaries mark the passing of another year of a couple's life together, their commitment to each other, and an accumulation of time that is irreplaceable. The practice of celebrating an anniversary with a symbol that increases in value or in strength with each passing year reflects the investment that the couple has made in the partnership and in the other (Scoble & Field, 2004).

These same ideals apply to the anniversary of a publication. This journal has been a labour of love and commitment for many people. To not merely survive but actually thrive is a rarity among academic journals housed within universities. Ours is one of a few independent journals owned and operated by a university, in this case McGill University. The investment of time, energy, and space has been enormous, on the part of many. I will return to this topic shortly, but first I would like to comment on the ruby.

With its inherent strength and unparalleled beauty, the ruby is the 40th-anniversary symbol. Red is the colour most associated with love, passion, power, vitality, warmth, dynamism, and purpose. Ruby is the colour we chose for the cover of this issue of the Journal. Our designers, Cait Beattie and Jean Louis Martin, retained their original cover design for this special issue, but with a difference. If you look carefully, you will see that they inserted, as background filigree, a list of focus topics we have featured over the past decade. And they chose different shades of ruby, to communicate the power of ideas, the vitality, warmth, and dynamism that we share with our readers and our community of scholars, and our determination to create a journal dedicated to nursing research as a basis for compassionate and informed nursing care. Finally, red is the symbol of heart and fire — appropriate metaphors for guiding us in the production of this quarterly publication.

Toasting Our Partners

In the past few years several of our editorials have celebrated the achievements of nursing scholarship (see, for example, Gottlieb, 2007). In this 40th-anniversary editorial I would like to focus on *CJNR* itself and the many partners that make it possible. The Journal, originally called *Nursing Papers*, was founded by Moyra Allen. Dr. Allen envisaged the creation of a forum for the exchange of scholarly ideas among researchers across our vast country. Following through on this vision, Mary Ellen Jeans, the second editor, transformed *Nursing Papers* into a research journal and renamed it the *Canadian Journal of Nursing Research*. Her own vision was to establish a credible journal for the dissemination of original research. Dr. Jeans set out to create a peer-review system and to capture the emergence of nursing scholarship.

In 1992 I assumed the editorship, and in partnership with three successive associate editors — Mary Grossman (1992–98), Anita Gagnon (1999–2003), and Sean Clarke (2004–present) — have put systems in place that have allowed us to respond to changing demands and anticipate new trends in nursing, nursing research, health care, and publishing. We have attempted to set new directions in order to capture Canadian nursing scholarship for the purpose of transforming nursing practice. All of my associate editors have been superb — visionary, passionate, daring, committed, and hardworking. They have been true partners in this adventure.

In the first year of my editorship, I came to the realization that for *CJNR* to be truly Canadian it would have to capitalize on the talent and expertise of leading Canadian nurse scholars. The challenge was how to remain a general research journal while focusing on emerging areas. Rather than choose one approach over the other, I decided to combine the two. I visited Joan Anderson at the University of British Columbia. We brainstormed, came up with focus topics, and identified some possible guest editors. In that first year I also sat in Mary Grossman's kitchen as we developed a new format for the Journal. We came up with three features that would appear in every issue and would be written by leading thinkers in nursing and other health-related fields. Thus were born Discourse, Happenings, and Designer's Corner. The Designer's Corner feature has now been replaced by Best Practices in Research Methods, a column expertly overseen by Feature Associate Editor Souraya Sidani. Dr. Sidani has brought rigour to the emerging area of research into nursing methodologies.

Since 1993, with the publication of our first focus issue — Coping and Adaptation, with Judith Ritchie as guest editor — I have worked with more than 60 guest editors. Together we have laboured hard to craft

each issue. It has been an honour and a privilege to collaborate with these leading nurse scholars. The guest editors have enthusiastically embraced the role, giving generously and tirelessly of their time, energy, and expertise. They have enlisted friends and colleagues to submit manuscripts, serve as reviewers, and write invited pieces. They have been superb teachers, encouraging authors to improve their manuscripts and guiding them along the road to publication. It is with a sense of awe that we witness each issue come into being. Our guest editors are not only our partners but also the midwives of *CJNR*'s focus issues.

For five years our editors at large, Sean Clarke (formerly of the United States), Sioban Nelson (formerly of Australia), and Kate Seers (the United Kingdom and Europe), brought an important perspective to the Journal. Their support, involvement, and wisdom proved critical at an important juncture in the Journal's development.

We also have paid tribute to our many reviewers (see, for example, Gottlieb & Clarke, 2007). We know that our reviewers hold the key to the quality of the articles that we publish in the Journal. We rely on their knowledge, skills, and judgement to guide us in our decisions and to help authors refine their manuscripts. Under the leadership of first Anita Gagnon and now Sean Clarke, a system for maintaining a bank of reviewers and working closely with them has developed and evolved over the years. Our reviewers donate countless hours to *CJNR*, and we are indebted to them for imparting to researchers their knowledge and expertise, which ultimately translate into improved nursing practice. These are the Journal's other unsung heroes, and our indispensable partners.

Another critical partner, and the glue that holds *CJNR* together, is our managing editor. We have been fortunate to have two outstanding managing editors, first Jill Martis (1993–97) and now Joanna Toti. Jill set the standard. She created the structure that would enable us to produce an independent journal of the highest quality on a shoestring budget. She set the bar very high and left an indelible mark on the Journal.

Joanna Toti has served as *CJNR*'s managing editor for the past 12 years, and we are deeply indebted to her. Joanna is a joy to work with. She is the consummate professional and a behind-the-scenes magician who makes everything look effortless as she juggles a hundred balls in the air at once. She is committed, compassionate, and caring. She is the perfect orchestra conductor, coordinating the activities of many, including Melanie Girard, our assistant managing editor; Jane Broderick, our meticulous copy editor; Cait Beattie and Jean Louis Martin, our layout and design team; Lou Lamontagne, our translator; and countless other individuals, so that they work in harmony and synchronicity. And she is the face of *CJNR*, communicating with the associate editor, the guest

editors, and our reviewers, authors, and readers. Everyone sings her praises.

The Journal would not exist without the support of McGill University and its School of Nursing. The School's current director, H el ene Ezer, continues the tradition of the directors offering their unwavering support. Although independent in every aspect of its operations, *CJNR* relies on the School for office space and on the University for administrative support.

These are our partners, and one could not wish for better ones. They have supported, nurtured, and sustained *CJNR*.

Celebrating the Past Ten Years of Publication

Ten years ago we published a 30th-anniversary commemorative issue covering our first three decades. When we realized that *CJNR*'s 40th anniversary was upon us, we made the decision to publish another commemorative issue. We have been party to the acceleration of knowledge generation and changes in the health-care culture with respect to nursing scholarship and its valuable role in shaping health-care policy and health-care research. In planning this milestone issue, we wanted to capture the excitement of these past 10 years. We settled on three sections: The Decade in Context, Memorable Passages From Editorials and Discourses of the Past Ten Years, and Landmark Articles From Volumes 31 to 40.

The Decade in Context

What better way to begin a commemorative issue than to put the past in context? We invited nursing leaders to assist us with this task. Who better than Judith Shamian to help us understand the social, political, and economic forces that have shaped the health-care, nursing, and research agenda during the past 10 years? Dr. Shamian, in her role as Executive Director of Nursing Policy at Health Canada (1999–2004), travelled this country, listened to the concerns of nurses, enjoyed the confidence of government, and acted as the voice of nurses and nursing. She has a gift for seeing the larger picture and understanding the interrelationship among forces, and she is able to distil complexity and communicate the essence. In the pages that follow, Dr. Shamian provides us with important insights and perspectives.

It is well known that the growth in nursing scholarship is due in large measure to the establishment of PhD programs in nursing, the building of nursing research capacity, and the dedication of grant monies to nursing research. These developments did not spring out of nowhere. It was the vision and tireless efforts of the first and second wave of nurse scholars, and their determination to gain legitimacy for nursing scholar-

ship and secure adequate funding, that made the difference. We invited Mary Ellen Jeans and Dorothy Pringle to reflect on these matters. Dr. Jeans, in her role as Director General of the National Health Research and Development Program (1992–96) and Executive Director of the Canadian Nurses Association (1996–2001), and Dr. Pringle, in her position as Dean of the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Toronto (1988–99) and President of the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing (1997–99), took up the torch of early nurse leaders and carried it, along with others, to the finish line. Because they were key players at the helm of the charge in securing funds for nursing research and creating PhD programs in nursing, Drs. Jeans and Pringle are able to share their unique perspectives. They recount in detail for us how events unfolded.

Finally, we invited Joan Anderson to comment on conceptual and methodological issues in nursing research over the past decade. Dr. Anderson is a pioneer in Canadian research, breaking new ground with her creativity and her innovative approaches to nursing scholarship. She has played a role in *CJNR* since its inception, working first with Moyra Allen and then with me during the 17 years of my stewardship. She has been a regular contributor, as guest editor, author, and reviewer, and has penned more of the Journal's Discourses than any other contributor. A unique wisdom, honed through years of study, accumulated knowledge, and experience, is evident in her beautifully written piece capturing the major trends in nursing research over the past decade.

Memorable Passages From Editorials and Discourses of the Past Ten Years

We decided to excerpt memorable passages and key ideas from editorials and from Discourses by leading scholars that appeared in *CJNR* during the past decade.

We originally intended to extract “sound bites” to convey a *double entendre* based on a dissection of each word. The first *entendre*, or meaning, with emphasis on the word “sound,” would convey the importance of an idea — a sound idea. The second would place emphasis on the word “bite.” A “bite” serves to communicate a big idea using a few pithy words or an insightful phrase. We met our first objective of finding passages from past editorials and Discourses that provided important insights. However, we failed to find the one “bite” that captured the message in a memorable sentence or phrase. Instead, we settled on brief excerpts from past editorials and Discourses, and hope they will pique the interest of our readers such that they will be motivated to consult the full text.

Editors use their publication's editorial column in very different ways. Some use it to introduce the current issue of their journal or magazine. We have used *CJNR*'s editorial column to raise awareness, share concerns, make a point, inform, instruct, and celebrate. Nursing research is our primary focus: we examine issues such as current societal, economic, or health-care forces in terms of how they will affect nursing research. Our editorials have focused on matters of immediate concern that may have long-term as well as short-term effects. We have written editorials to inform our readers about current debates in the publishing world — a world for which the past 10 years have been tumultuous. We have devoted editorials to laying bare our decision-making process and making our editorial decisions transparent.

We have been privileged to have leading scholars in nursing and other health fields, from Canada and abroad, agree to write the Discourse on various focus topics. These eminent scholars have given considerable thought to their Discourse contribution. Many have been provocative, asking us to question sacred myths and assumptions. Some have been comforting, encouraging us to reaffirm nursing's core values in the face of challenges. And others have pointed us in new directions. The Discourses, like our guest editorials, are an invaluable resource, replete with historical insights, wisdom, and unique perspectives. They are well worth reading.

Landmark Articles From Volumes 31–40

Our third section belongs to our authors. We wrote to the guest editors of the past decade inviting them to nominate one article from their focus issue and to give us their rationale for this choice. We decided to include only articles that had appeared in the focus section. A total of 38 articles were nominated — a list that had to be whittled down to a selection of 15. We discussed the merits of each nomination. We drew up our lists, defended our choices, provided our rationale, and in the end came to agreement. We selected articles that we considered *groundbreaking* inasmuch as they identify new directions for nursing or nursing research (“Values That Matter, Barriers That Interfere: The Struggle of Canadian Nurses to Enact Their Values,” by Brenda Beagan and Carolyn Ells; “Discourses Influencing Nurses’ Perceptions of First Nations Patients,” by Annette J. Browne; “Mapping the Research Utilization Field in Nursing,” by Carole A. Estabrooks), could become a *classic* in the field by setting a new standard for research (“Nurse Staffing and Patient Outcomes: Evolution of an International Study,” by Julie Sochalski, Carole A. Estabrooks, and Charles K. Humphrey), are *innovative* either in their approach to research or because they look at old problems through new lenses (“Considering *Place* in Community Health Nursing,” by Amy

Bender, Laurie Clune, and Sepali Guruge; “A Narrative Study of Refugee Women Who Have Experienced Violence in the Context of War,” by Helene Berman, Estella Rosa Irías Girón, and Antonia Ponce Marroquín; “Evaluation of the AIDS Prevention Street Nurse Program: One Step at a Time,” by B. Ann Hilton, Ray Thompson, and Laura Moore-Dempsey; “Lesbian Disclosure: Disrupting the Taken for Granted,” by Carol McDonald; “An Exploration of Participants’ Treatment Preferences in a Partial RCT,” by Joyal Miranda; “Navigating Towards a Moral Horizon: A Multisite Qualitative Study of Ethical Practice in Nursing,” by Paddy Rodney, Colleen Varcoe, Janet L. Storch, Gladys McPherson, Karen Mahoney, Helen Brown, Bernadette Pauly, Gwen Hartrick, and Rosalie Starzomski), serve to remind us of the *essence of nursing* (“The Costs and Effects of Addressing the Needs of Vulnerable Populations: Results of 10 Years of Research,” by Gina Browne, Jacqueline Roberts, Carolyn Byrne, Amiram Gafni, Robin Weir, and Basanti Majumdar; “Transforming Hope: How Elderly Palliative Patients Live With Hope,” by Wendy Duggleby and Karen Wright; “Economism, Efficiency, and the Moral Ecology of Good Nursing Practice,” by Sara M. Weiss, Ruth E. Malone, Joseph R. Merighi, and Patricia Benner), or serve the cause of *health* within an *important population* (“Sticks and Stones: Racism as Experienced by Adolescents in New Brunswick,” by Cynthia Baker, Manju Varma, and Connie Tanaka; “Learning to Live With Early Dementia,” by Leona Werezak and Norma Stewart).

Sponsors, Supporters, and Sustainers

We have been deeply moved and heartened by the financial support and encouragement we have received. Our financial partner for this landmark issue is Associated Medical Services. AMS has made a significant contribution to the history of medicine, bioethics, and education. It has long supported the documentation of nursing history through the Hannah Development Grant. AMS generously provided *CJNR* with a grant to help offset the costs associated with the publication of this commemorative issue. In so doing, AMS recognizes the critical role played by the Journal in documenting the historical development of Canadian nursing research.

We are indebted to the many colleagues and friends who have supported *CJNR* over the past four decades. We are gratified by the enthusiastic endorsement of so many, in the form of advertisements and congratulatory messages.

This commemorative issue has been two years in the making. The publication process has involved a great many people. However, I want to single out Sean Clarke, the associate editor, who has been a true col-

laborator, involved in all aspects of producing this special issue, and Joanna Toti, the managing editor, who has taken our ideas and made them happen. Our work is conducted in an atmosphere of respect for even the most outlandish ideas, kibitzing, laughter, and great fun.

This issue reflects what *CJNR* is all about. It embodies our values and our commitment to excellence in nursing scholarship and nursing practice that is respectful of its roots in caring, compassion, and humanism.

This anniversary issue communicates what makes the Journal unique. It reflects a 40-year commitment, not by one or two players but by the many players who are our partners. It embodies the ruby — love, passion, vitality, and dynamism. This is the bedrock upon which *CJNR* is built, the bedrock that will sustain *CJNR* as it advances towards its jubilee 50th anniversary.

Laurie N. Gottlieb
Editor-in-Chief

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The Decade in Context

*Mise en contexte
d'une décennie*



