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Handing over the reins: looking back and looking forward.

It has been a wonderful honour and privilege to serve as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Clinical Nursing* for the past several years, and as Editor for several years prior to that. Joining the editorial team in 2007, I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to learn much about editing from Professor Roger Watson who was Editor-in-Chief when I was first appointed, and then was very honoured to have the opportunity to step into his shoes when he took up his post at the *Journal of Advanced Nursing*. I am enormously indebted to Roger and the team at Wiley, and to each and every one of the editorial team I have worked with over the years; all of whom have helped to make the journal into what it is today – not only the largest nursing journal in the world, but a journal that is internationally respected and recognised as an authoritative voice for all areas of nursing research, theory and practice .

Over the years of my tenure at the *Journal of Clinical Nursing* I have witnessed enormous change and development in nursing research and scholarship and have been very privileged indeed to be able to read the many thousands of submissions to the journal about all aspects of nursing from all over the world. I have learned a great deal from the many manuscripts we have handled at the journal. Each and every one of those submitted manuscripts represents a huge amount of labour of the part of the authors. Every manuscript received at the journal is tangible evidence of the desire nurses everywhere have to generate the knowledge that will improve outcomes for patients and communities, and support the nursing workforce to be the best we can be to better meet our social obligation to lead and deliver the care that will generate better health outcomes for people everywhere. Nursing research is chronically under-resourced in many parts of the world, and so that labour, the labour associated with generating manuscripts, and all the work that goes into a paper before the actual submission, is often done by nurses in their own time, in evenings and weekends. Such is the dedication and passion nurses have for nursing, and for generating the knowledge needed to improve practice.

It is important to also acknowledge the work of the peer reviewers of the journal. Peer review is such an important role and, in many ways, quite thankless, but we are fortunate in that our peer reviewers give generously and willingly of their time and their expertise to contribute to nursing science. The sheer volume of papers submitted to the journal means that our peer reviewers at the *Journal of Clinical Nursing* work very hard indeed and I thank them most sincerely for their collegial generosity. Similarly, our wonderful team of statisticians headed by Dr Kay Penny also work tirelessly to contribute to nursing

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science through the provision of statistical review. I thank and honour the statistical and peer reviewers who so generously serve the journal.

During my term with the journal, I have been able to work with a great editorial team and editorial board and especially pleased that at the *Journal of Clinical Nursing* we have been able to contribute to future capacity-building in nursing editorship through succession planning and other activities that have helped many people gain experience in this important area of service to nursing. Journal editorship is not for everybody, but we have been extremely fortunate to have had some outstanding editors over the years many of whom are still serving the journal and many more who are continuing to serve the wider discipline of nursing in various other roles.

One of the things that I am proudest of is the editorial content of the *Journal of Clinical Nursing*. The journal has provided a forum for comment on some of the very important issues facing nursing and communities more broadly, including racism and the Black Lives Matter movement (Baptiste et al 2020), hostility towards researchers working in certain fields (Bradbury-Jones & Keeling 2020), and issues for Indigenous peoples in the context of COVID-19 (Power et al 2020). We have also published editorials about topics as diverse as the use and misuse of titles (Hayter & Jackson 2020), nurses transitioning into practice (Pascale Blakey & Jackson 2016) and tips for nurses entering academic life (Massey et al 2019).

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted and reinforced the absolute need for a skilled, strong, and sustainable nursing workforce (Jackson et al 2020). This is also a year in which we have seen more than 1500 nurses lose their lives to the pandemic and this tragic loss of life raises questions about how we can best protect and support nurses working in the context of infectious disease and disaster (Jackson et al 2020b). There is so much more to be done and still so much we do not know. Nursing research is vitally important in generating the knowledge that will help us better prepare for future pandemics, and support nurses in providing evidence-based care to people and communities everywhere. As the world moves into the post-pandemic phase nurses will remain at the front line to support individuals and communities regain health, support families devastated by this pandemic and seek to ensure that we are better prepared for subsequent pandemics. The team at the *Journal of Clinical Nursing* stand ready to support nurses everywhere in these crucial activities, and to continue to be a strong voice for nursing in this recovery phase.

After 14 great years with the *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, it is time for me to move on and for the journal to have new leadership. While I have some sadness to be leaving the *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, I know that the journal will continue to develop and grow under the strong and visionary leadership of Professor Mark

Hayter, who is stepping into the role of Editor-in-Chief. Mark has a long history with the journal as an author and peer reviewer and has also previously served the journal as an Editor. Mark returns to the *Journal of Clinical Nursing* from service to the *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, and so comes very ably prepared to take up this crucial role. Mark is innovative, forward looking, courageous, dedicated, fair-minded and compassionate. He is committed to inclusion and embracing diversity, and he has a global view of nursing. In his new role Mark is supported by a great team of experienced editors, a dynamic and supportive team at Wiley, and a very strong and highly skilled editorial board. Mark has a strong vision for the *Journal of Clinical Nursing* and I look forward to seeing him take the journal from strength to strength and continue to hold its place as one of the most respected and trusted journals in the field. The future is very bright for the *Journal of Clinical Nursing*.

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