

2003: A NEW BEGINNING...

The Council of Editors at REEUSP (University of Sao Paulo School of Nursing Journal) has worked to make the reading of our journal more pleasant by fostering a partnership and cooperation from the School of Communication and Arts (ECA) within our university. We have worked to broaden the scope of our journal by changing the kinds of studies accepted and by including new categories. We believe that the function of a periodical is not only to inform researchers and professionals about scientific advances, but also to serve as a history of the profession and help in the creation of criteria for the execution and evaluation of work processes. We hope that the new categories created will bring about this change.

Scientific production is not complete until it is published, read and cited. But we also believe that more readable texts are more easily understood by readers, assisting the learning process and making them memorable, thus improving the chances that the ideas will be assimilated and implemented.

The first issue for 2003 contains articles which address the role of nursing with patients' families to show that support for teenage mothers with hospitalized children is fundamental.

This edition brings, in the surgical-medical area, an article that describes impotence in post-operative cardiac surgery patients, comparing this nursing diagnosis in post operative valve and coronary surgery patients, and a critical historical review of the significance of rituals in medical-surgical nursing. And still another review of literature on the care of burn patients, describing the topical agents and types of coverings that have been recommended, and discussing the implications of these products.

The intensive care unit appears in this edition in articles that analyze the occurrence of physical contact, affection and non-verbal communication and what it means to nursing professionals and patients in ICU and semi-intensive surgical units. In home care emerges an article that characterizes the profile of home glycemics as a strategy for insulin therapy adjustments in patients with type 1 mellitus diabetes.

The instruments/strategies that we have employed, to qualify our service, are represented in an article that evaluates the reliability of interevaluators as an instrument for classification of Kappa coefficient patients, which indicate good concordance; in an article that identifies the infection incidence of surgical sites and risk factors of patients submitted to elective gastroenterological surgery; and in the in vitro evaluation of antimicrobial activity of paraformaldehyde tablets, according to methodology established by the Association of Official Analytical Chemists, replicating conditions found in Brazilian health institutions.

This edition demonstrate the work, with clearly subjective strategies, of our nursing assistant team members, such as the therapeutic assistants from the Psychosocial Care Center.

The articles are based on research carried out in earnest and in response to queries and Brazilian needs, or rather, they are the product of our intellectual and academic activities to harmonize nursing and healthcare to fulfill the promise of the SUS (Unified Health System).

It is our commitment and duty to publish, above all, nationally, because our society—lacking in nursing and health innovations—largely finances the researchers and research, not to mention the journal itself.

We are in favor of dissemination of our research abroad, but to put our ideas beyond our borders must have good reason. A good example can be found in this edition. Our findings make sense to other countries, since nursing science in Brazil has developed over the last few decades and we therefore have much to tell others, which is born out by the invitations for publication received by our researchers from foreign journals at our 2nd International Meeting for Nursing Research held in October of 2002.

Dear subscriber, for these reasons, we invite you to read and reflect on our truly Brazilian and internationally contributed articles for the advancement of nursing!

We are counting on your cooperation more than ever with more categories of publication of original work. We hope you will be pleased with our efforts.

Enjoy!