

Final Number for 2003

Dear Reader,

This year was one of great change and success for the REEUSP staff. It was possible to deliver to our readers their issues more promptly, to modify the journal's layout to make it easier to read, to create new categories for publication to boost participation, to renew and update our body of reviewers and to broaden the diversity of participants with international articles.

It has been an arduous task at times, but we are certain that the journal is worth the investment, keeping in mind that we are referring to a periodical that has been disseminating the ideas and discoveries of our colleagues for 36 years.

Nursing professionals are increasingly aware of the importance of writing, recording and reflecting on the practice of nursing. This makes the profession more scientific, human, critical and effective. In this issue, for example, one of the articles addresses the Cartesian Paradigm (modern) and that of complexity (by Edgar Morin), with the objective to deepen reflection and understanding of nursing care. It proposes the participation of patients in the planning of health care.

Reflection on teaching is present in the article that analyzes the plans for courses in four universities, identifying the courses they have in common and distributing them according to the level of health service in an effort to identify the participation of nurses in the integration process for handicapped people.

Next we have an article that highlights the need for more research in nursing care for the anesthetic recuperation period. A national bibliographical study of periodicals published between 1990 and 2002 reveals only 16 articles addressing the topic.

Modern nursing practice is based on evidence. This approach involves the definition of a problem, gathering and critical evaluation of available evidence and the implementation and evaluation of results obtained. This issue also presents a study with theoretical considerations on the hierarchy of evidence and information regarding the best sources for evidence.

Other colleagues analyzed writing errors in electronic medical prescriptions by studying 1,351 prescriptions and interviewing 84 medical and nursing professionals at a university hospital. Despite the advantages found in the use of this type of prescription, the authors concluded that an overhaul of the system and additional staff training is needed.

A study conducted in cooperation with nurses that participate in the acquisition, distribution and utilization processes for surgical sutures in 74 hospitals in the city of São Paulo identified and described the criteria adopted for the planning and supply of surgical units, according to the public or private nature of the institutions.

In an effort to better understand patients, a study shows the experience of women in their contact with the health system during delivery. Another article records an investigation that presents the three cultural universes of patients with hypertension, diabetes and arthrosis. Another study confirms that the use of phytotherapy on children who frequent health centers in the city of São Paulo. One of these centers is located in an urban area and the other in an outlying district. The results showed that of the sample of 120 mothers that frequent the two health centers, 66% use some type of phytotherapy!

The family is also a patient that requires nursing care. This prompted a study at the Psycho-Social Care Center located in a rural area of São Paulo state. We also have a study whose objective was to understand the reasons that lead nursing technicians and assistants to embark on undergraduate studies in nursing.

The last article addresses the percentage of expected and unexpected absences at a teaching hospital. The variation in indices found in each unit is possible evidence of work overload in some of these units.

It is amazing to reflect on everything we have learned, thought and accomplished in 2003!

It was possible because we are a team and because our profession has learned to listen to and value the experience of others.

Let's share! Despite our differences or indeed because of them.

Finally we close out the year with a blue cover symbolizing equilibrium, in the hope that you, our reader, can also conclude your year in this manner. From all of us here at the REEUSP Editorial Council.

Remember Drummond, he say*

*Para ganhar um Ano-Novo
que mereça este nome,
Você, meu caro, tem que merecê-lo,
tem que fazê-lo de novo,
eu sei que não é fácil,
mas tente, experimente, consciente.
É dentro de você que o Ano-Novo
Cochila e espera desde sempre.*

We are counting on all of you for your continued support.

(*) Brazilian poet – Carlos Drummond de Andrade – “Receita de Ano-Novo”. Poesias Completas.