

Nurse Author & Editor

Volume 22 - March 2012, Issue 1

Emerging and Recurring Themes in Writing for Publication

Charon Pierson

In March 2008 when I wrote my first article for *Nurse Author & Editor* as the newly-selected editor I stated that I was searching for new features to help authors, reviewers, and editors in their work. During the past four years, we have seen several innovative and practical ideas emerge from authors such as using word processing programs to turn tables into text, turning poster presentations into manuscripts, and generating enthusiasm for sharing nursing knowledge. We have posted a monograph on reviewing manuscripts and one on writing for publication. We have also tackled difficult issues related to publication ethics and misconduct.

Wide-spread availability of plagiarism detection and prevention software for both academic institutions and publishing houses has led to an improved ability to detect publication misconduct. Confronted with several instances of plagiarism in publishing and academia, I used my research to write several articles and a book chapter as well as develop some educational offerings to authors and academics on the topic of publication ethics. Based on a need to reach online nursing students, I developed a video series on publication ethics for the nursing audience. With the support of the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), where I have been on the faculty for the past 6 years, we published through our UTEP YouTube channel a 5-part Publication Ethics Video Series. The videos and accompanying handouts are available without charge to anyone by logging into the UTEP Nursing site (<http://nursing.utep.edu/resources/publication-ethics/>). The topics include an overview, managing authorship, avoiding plagiarism and conflicts of interest, and dealing with retractions in the literature. The presentation draws heavily on ethical guidelines and other resources developed by organizations such as the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE; www.publicationethics.org), the International Council of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE; <http://www.icmje.org/>), The World Association of Medical Editors (WAME; <http://wame.org/>), the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Research Integrity (<http://ori.hhs.gov/>) and the International Academy of Nursing Editors (INANE; <http://www.nursingeditors-inane.org/>). Searching www.YouTube.com with the term "publication ethics" will also bring up several other video presentations on similar topics. Editors can reference and possibly even link any appropriate websites and content to their author guidelines and journal home pages. There is no shortage of current, accessible information on publication ethics for a variety of audiences, needs, and platforms.

Another topic we have addressed over the past few years is encouraging nurses to write. One entire issue was devoted to that topic (December 2008) when three submissions from three different continents (Australia, North America, and Europe) were submitted within weeks of one another. Encouraging and improving scholarly output from nurses around the world is a high priority; without dissemination of our research and practice, we will not move forward in nursing science. It's

important to remember that we have a tremendous variety of nursing journals to which authors can submit. The link to the Journals Directory on the *Nurse Author & Editor* website is a place to begin. Additionally, there are periodic brief articles from nurse editors about their respective journals ("Editors Speak"), a feature started by Suzanne Hall-Johnson, founding editor of *Nurse Author & Editor*. Most editors will agree that a major reason for rejection of manuscripts is a mismatch between the article and the journal's audience. This newsletter has many resources to assist novice and experienced authors in crafting a good manuscript and submitting that manuscript to an appropriate journal.

Nursing science is advanced by nurse researchers throughout the world in academia and in practice. Dissemination of nursing knowledge is considered a professional obligation and an essential activity to advance nursing science but one that may not be taught in depth in nursing programs. Many graduate students develop manuscripts for publication through the dedicated mentorship of faculty in one-on-one sessions or small group seminars where the focus may be more on the science than on the thorny questions of publication ethics. Both the content and the process are important in developing nurses' skills in knowledge dissemination. As an academic, I have spent many hours working with students and novice authors on papers, posters, abstracts, theses, and dissertations. I have participated in and delivered many workshops on writing for publication and I have read many articles and books on writing, teaching writing, and mentoring. As an author, I have struggled to synthesize and interpret the work of others to lead readers to new understandings of complex topics based on my own insights. As an editor, I have uncovered many instances of ethical infractions, including plagiarism, research misconduct, questionable authorship provenance, and competing interests of authors and reviewers. Educators and mentors can make a big difference in the lives of novice authors by sharing their wisdom on the process as well as the content of disseminating nursing science. *Nurse Author & Editor* is a resource for the process of writing and there are many more topics to pursue.

So, following this issue, I leave this wonderful newsletter in the capable hands of Dr. Marilyn Oermann, editor of the *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*. I encourage those who have ideas about how to teach nurses the important lessons related to the process of writing and publishing and how to motivate and encourage nurses who have much to share with their peers to submit articles by an email attachment to [**NurseAuthorEditor@wiley.com**](mailto:NurseAuthorEditor@wiley.com)

Charon A. Pierson, PhD, GNP-BC, FAANP, is a Clinical Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Aging at the University of Texas El Paso School of Nursing and the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners*. She is also the outgoing Editor of *Nurse Author & Editor*.

Copyright 2012: The Author.

Journal Compilation Copyright 2012: Blackwell Publishing Ltd

[Print this article](#)

[Email it to a friend](#)

[Back to Table of contents](#) | [View all articles in this issue](#)