

# Nurse Author & Editor

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### From Fear to Success: Writing for the Global Nursing Community

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Apparently the problem of encouraging nurses to write is global. Universally, nurses lack confidence in their writing abilities, fear rejection of their ideas, and express a lack of time, motivation and experience to be successful in writing for publication. This issue of *Nurse Author & Editor* articulates that point with three different proposals from three different continents. It's remarkable to me that all three of these manuscripts were submitted within 60 days of one another and without any effort on my part to develop a "theme" issue. As a nurse who has been in academia, clinical practice, and publishing, I find this wide spread interest in helping nurses do research and write for publication very encouraging.

These three articles present workable options to help those readers who are in academic or administrative positions encourage increased scholarly output. Although not every school will have the resources or expertise to develop an on-line journal as proposed by Andrew and McElhinney from the Glasgow Caledonian University in the United Kingdom, their article provides a starting point for faculties from other interested institutions to develop a system of peer-editorial review and publication. Supportive mentoring can boost confidence of potential authors by allowing them to go through the process of writing and submitting a manuscript and revising their work based on constructive peer reviews. A positive authorship experience can lay the foundation for successful submissions in the future. There is a lot to be said for this kind of mentorship; conversely, such mentorship is often lacking in many schools of nursing.

Mentorship can take many other forms: Bennett offers a blueprint for workshops to prepare and encourage groups of nurses to write for publication. His workshops have been successful in Australia and he is proposing to more formally evaluate the process he uses. Many nursing organizations arrange and sponsor such workshops at professional meetings; alternatively, nursing administration can support writing workshops for nurses in a variety of work settings. Using another approach, Heinrich talks about writing partnerships, only one form of mentorship and support for writing she has discussed in her many books and articles. Her helpful tips address some of the issues of nurturing such partnerships across great geographic distances in the United States and are equally applicable to other locations and collaborations.

For those who are successful authors, reviewers, and editors and who want to promote a culture of writing and publication in nursing, I have the following suggestions: 1) be constructive in your feedback to authors; 2) offer to mentor or collaborate with promising new authors; and 3) share your expertise generously with colleagues who are struggling to write and publish. There are many ways we can accomplish these simple objectives. First, it doesn't take any more time to say something constructive rather than destructive when reviewing manuscripts. There is a 12-page guide to reviewing scholarly manuscripts available free on this site

(<http://www.nurseauthoreditor.com/uploads/files/Guidelines%20for%20Manuscript%20Reveiwers.pdf>)

that will help reviewers structure a constructive and supportive review. Second, mentorship can be rewarding for both the mentor and the mentee. We are comfortable mentoring students and new nurses in the clinical setting; we need to learn to do the same in the academic and writing arenas. Finally, sharing our expertise is a vital part of our continued professional development. When we offer our support and guidance to novice authors we grow professionally and give back to the nursing community at-large. There are many excellent resources for writing and publishing on this website, and access to them is free.

A common theme throughout these articles is that many nurses lack confidence in their ability to write for publication. Any one of the ideas offered here could provide the support novice writers need to change that fear to excitement and motivate them to contribute to the nursing literature worldwide.

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