
From the editor

This issue marks the beginning of the fifth year of publication of ANS. In our short history, we have been well received by members of the nursing profession and enjoy a solid reputation as a scholarly journal of quality. The basic purposes for which ANS was founded have remained unchanged throughout the past 4 years; we have found that the need for literature that contributes to the development of nursing science continues to be a primary need. Some of the policies and procedures that are used in producing each issue have been altered to make the production process more efficient and effective, but we have retained our early commitment to the peer review, referee process, in selecting articles that are published in ANS. One "behind the scenes" policy that we have retained has been to share with every author the comments and recommendations made by the reviewers regarding their manuscript. This is done in the spirit of providing constructive and substantive assistance to prospective authors who are seeking publication, and the members of our board of review have given generously of their time and energy to accomplish this aim.

There are three major ways in which readers contribute significantly to the continued success and development of a journal such as ANS. First, subscribing to a journal is a major way that you, the reader, indicate your support for the journal. It is an important vote in favor of the success of the publication.

Second, your letters in response to articles published in the journal or giving us your ideas and suggestions regarding what you would like to see happen in the future development of the journal are important contributions. We have received some thoughtful letters in response to articles published. We have attempted to publish these along with the re-

sponse from the author of the article to provide a forum for debate and critique of ideas published in the journal. We want to continue to hear from you, and we will continue to use your ideas to improve the journal and to provide for the exchange of ideas in our discipline.

Third, a journal such as ANS cannot exist without having sufficient numbers of unsolicited articles from which to select material for publication. This issue marked an all-time high for ANS in this regard. We received over 70 unsolicited articles to be considered for publication in this issue. The nature of this topic seemed to attract an unusual amount of attention from the nursing community, suggesting that there are significant efforts being made to develop theory in our discipline. We urge that you as readers continue to keep informed of the forthcoming issue topics that are listed in the "Information for Authors" section of each issue. As your own work coincides with the topics that are projected, we invite you to support the continued development of the journal with your work.

About 30% of the articles submitted were eligible for publication in this issue, but all of these could not be included in a single ANS issue. The articles that appear in this issue were selected because of their emphasis on the idea of *application* of theory. The remaining articles, since they are excellent as well, will appear in a book titled *Advances in Nursing Theory Development*, which will be published by Aspen in December of this year. I am sure that every reader of ANS will find it an equally valuable contribution to our nursing literature.

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Editor