



Jordan Journal of Nursing Research

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COMMENTARY

Do We Really Need a New Journal of Nursing?

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I was very pleased to receive the news of establishing *the Jordan Journal of Nursing Research* supported by one of the most respected universities in Jordan and the region and funded by the Scientific Research Fund-Jordan. I was also pleased with the editorial board list which included respected scholars of nursing in Jordan who I had the honor to learn from and work with.

However, many individuals might ask: *Do we really need a new journal of nursing?* The short answer is absolutely yes. A journal of nursing would definitely close a gap that has been there for too long. This would be a positive step towards enhancing the field of nursing on the local and regional levels. I hope that local, regional and international readers will understand the need and support this new journal.

Supporting the Establishment of the Journal

The profession of nursing, in contrast to other health disciplines, has not established a specialized journal in Jordan to be a venue for researchers, academics and student graduates to engage in research. A quick review of publication venues of Jordanian nursing studies within the Jordanian Database for Nursing Research on the Jordan Nursing Council (JNC) website revealed the absence of a specialized local journal of nursing (Jordan

Nursing Council, 2022). A new nursing journal in Jordan will improve the credibility of nursing programs and hence the profession. Nursing researchers, academics and professionals from different institutions could contribute to solving many of the local healthcare challenges through this venue. Institutions concerned include more than 15 nursing faculties and colleges across Jordan providing more than 20 undergraduate and postgraduate programs, graduating more than 1500 nurses, clinicians and researchers a year, in addition to more than 36000 Jordanian nurses of whom more than 20000 working in the local market (Jordan Nurses and Midwives Council, 2022). This corpus of researchers, scholars and professionals could facilitate networking and knowledge sharing, contributing to the growth of the profession and increase appreciation for the expertise.

Another important reason for a local journal in nursing research is the presence of a local venue for addressing local problems. Local nursing problems need to be presented in local journals, which might be difficult or irrelevant to present in regional or international venues (Kitson et al., 2011). On the personal level, I found it difficult during my career to publish some of my research studies because of its local nature and applicability “*international vs. local*

implications". Therefore, this journal might help local researchers become more sensitive to local problems. Having a national board would also better address local problems, particularly culturally sensitive issues. It is important to remember that the health-care challenges and the nursing-profession issues increase day by day and hence require a local venue to initiate discussions and exchange information among researchers and clinicians. An increasing number of local discoveries, inventions and interventions often requires local documentation and critique. There is also a need to extend knowledge on issues related to the nursing profession across Jordan in accordance with the national health-research priorities (Ministry of Health, 2012). A major issue which calls for a response by academic institutions is the spread of predatory journals on a very wide scale. Predatory journals are a global problem which requires a coordinated response by all researchers and related institutions (Lalu et al., 2017). Having this genuine and official journal would be a positive response.

In addition to its contribution to the nursing body of knowledge, quality of care would improve by more publications which are the golden standard for the profession. If publications do not improve quality of care, then what purpose do they serve? If they are not advancing the discipline, then what purpose do they serve? We also know that many institutions require nursing staff and administrative staff to contribute to the scientific community by participating in publications as a part of their continuing professional development (CPD) requirements. I believe that the new journal will serve this purpose very well. I believe that a local peer-reviewed journal with an international perspective would be an excellent forum for continuous advances of healthcare-quality practices in our environment and a venue for presenting creative and scientific solutions. This will add to the quality of our nursing graduates who have already achieved regional and international respect.

Challenges and Opportunities

While I prefer to be optimistic abstaining from discussing fears, it's better to call for widespread support by all parties, including organizations,

institutions and individual nurses. The launch of a new journal is always faced with challenges. The most important thing is to have a vision for this journal and to work hard towards achieving it. Achieving a high level of journal quality requires a careful review process by accredited experts. It is also important to be competitive and to have a very energetic team striving for opportunities to market this journal and widen its influence. This can be accomplished in many ways, including adopting the publication of peer-reviewed local conference proceedings, forums and nursing news.

To be indexed in an international indexing authority makes another challenge. To achieve this goal, it would be enough to adopt an approach that fulfills international standards of scientific rigor. An international indexing body (e.g. SCOPUS) to recognize a journal necessitates an extensive assessment of the process of publication adopted by the journal. Other approaches might include adopting some innovative styles of presenting publications, such as "*Scientific Writing for Enjoyable Reading*". Regular experts' consultation with interest in bibliographic databases would pave the way toward expanded indexing (Gasparyan & Kitas, 2021). Besides being the local language, Arabic is spoken by more than 400 million persons in more than 22 countries. Therefore, the inclusion of an Arabic abstract could also be a positive step and help disseminate knowledge to the wider community of nurses and health professionals of the Arab world (Alharbi & Swales, 2011).

Another technical issue that is worth to be mentioned is assuring some gender balance in the editorial board, guest reviewers and invited editorials. A reasonable review time with abstinence from bureaucracy and complicated administrative procedures would also keep the journal's reputation high.

Closing Remark

I call on the editor in-chief and the editorial board to make all required efforts to draw a successful story of establishing this journal, taking into consideration its importance for the local nursing scholars and professionals. I wish the editorial board all the best to achieve "our" ambitions in developing a high-class journal and in carrying this burden and responsibility in pushing the boundaries of the discipline.

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