

Dear colleagues,

*it is a great honour to have had the opportunity to be a guest Health & Caring editor and to participate in publishing of the second journal issue. The interesting activity brings the pleasure of the quality texts, sometimes minor disappointments, sometimes difficult decisions. I have been thinking about the relevance and practical impact of the findings in the issue, as well as how each article will be received by readers. Let me now reflect with you via the editorial on the role of professional journals and scholarly articles in nursing.*

*Historically, the writing of scholarly articles and the associated peer review process have been forms of a kind of disputation, i. e. a scholarly debate, conducted remotely. The professional scientific journals emerged through the institutionalization of the original writing and forwarding of personal letters and responses between the scholars. The author of the manuscript defended his ideas and debated with other experts in the field. The importance of the practices consisted in the dissemination of new knowledge, the critical evaluation, and the provision of a certain continuity of knowledge and the popularisation of ideas.*

*Today, in our field, we also use such original principles, which can be traced back to the 17th century. The quality of publications, the methodology of research, the presentation of results and the ethical principles of publishing have changed considerably. The quality of publications increases with the quality of the reviewers, editorial team, and editorial board of the journal. Nevertheless, the role of communication remains the same. We want to share new findings, ideas, research results or conclusions of the research grants. The publication serves not only as a means of the result popularization, but also as a basis for other scientists in different parts of the world who can begin to build on our research and enrich it back with their own findings. However, together with the "positive" findings and successes, we also need to publish the findings and research that have led to failure and dead ends. The approach will help others not to re-explore paths that were proven to lead nowhere. It is safe to say that most "new problems" that we find at a particular workplace in practice can be answered within tens of minutes. We can follow the EBN principles (Evidence Based Nursing) to find the best possible solutions based on the scientific evidence. Today, the publication of peer-reviewed articles combined with modern technology allows us to benefit from a certain collective global consciousness of our scientific community. To seek the best and most effective methods, expert interventions, clinical recommendations.*

*Even though the modern technologies have been significantly pushing the boundaries of knowledge and allowing the dissemination and popularization of the latest findings in a short time, publishing in the scientific journals shows certain weak points. Unfortunately, one of the*

*biggest weaknesses is slow implementation of the latest findings and procedures into practice. A limiting factor consists in the number of journal readers who work in practice. Again, researchers are more likely to read scientific articles (especially in a foreign language). In the Czech environment, it is not exactly the order of the day for healthcare professionals in practice to keep up to date with knowledge in the field by studying the latest publications in the highly ranked journals. Similarly, the important findings are poorly disseminated to policymakers and stakeholders who together can best influence the disease prevention.*

*The role of a professional journal therefore remains very similar to the past. The importance of the roles is even increasing thanks to the higher quality of expert contributions, modern communication technologies and collective awareness and knowledge in the field. However, the challenge for the future is to increase the readership. Such a shift is not possible without a change in the personal attitudes of the healthcare professionals in practice and the development of the self-education culture based on their own intrinsic motivation. The publishers, editors, and manuscript writers can seek the ways to encourage and cultivate the desirable development. The teachers can motivate students, the supervisors can motivate staff. But it is the intrinsic motivation of the employees themselves that has the greatest effect.*

Vít Blanař