



Become an Author and Share Your Knowledge

MARY C. BRUCKER, PhD, CNM, FACNM



a

A recent conversation with a friend revealed that she was planning to retire after more than four decades as a nurse in a surgical intensive care unit. I knew she had worked at the same hospital, now a medical center, for years. However, I hadn't appreciated for how long until she laughingly told me that she was entitled to a retirement reception that included *both* chicken wings *and* meatballs.

Our conversation turned to the question of what the unit was going to do without her. She quickly reminded me that she has been the person orienting new nurses for the last several years. During this time, she developed new skills in teaching about the ever-changing health care landscape, encouraging leadership and professionalism and reminding new graduates that HIPAA included all the variations of social media and not just the offhand comment

in hospital elevators and cafeteria. Therefore, she had engaged in succession planning. Yes, she says she still expects some phone calls after she formally retires, but overall she feels the unit is in good hands due to her work and the support of nurses on the unit who continued mentoring these new nurses.

The conversation reminded me about how impressed I've been with the enthusiasm, intelligence and passion I've observed among today's students and new graduates. Simultaneously, I've been delighted with the number of manuscripts *Nursing for Women's Health* is receiving that are of particular value for all nurses,



Mary C. Brucker, PhD, CNM, FACNM, is a professor (retired) at the Louise Herrington School of Nursing at Baylor University in Dallas, TX, and she is the editor of *Nursing for Women's Health*.

DOI:10.1111/1751-486X.12044



including nurses new to women's health, maternity or neonatal care.

At the recent AWHONN annual convention, one of the keynote speakers talked about every nurse having a story, and I'm delighted to say that many practicing nurses are submitting them to *Nursing for Women's Health*. Some of the manuscripts are unique self-reflections, while some

Becoming an author expands the number of others who learn about and share your ideas; thus, the learning reaches well beyond the individual unit or facility

others describe the implementation of change in a facility. The latter include the lessons that nurses learned in the process with suggestions for others in similar situations. These are just two examples of the many types of articles authors submit, but all have the common goal of sharing knowledge to help nurses and other clinicians improve the care of women and newborns.

We've all learned from the stories and mentorship of the nurses in our lives. Becoming an author expands the number of others who learn about and share your ideas; thus, the learning reaches well beyond the individual unit or facility. Most authors who submit articles to the journal are staff nurses or managers engaged in the day-to-day practice of nursing. Some potential authors are in formal courses and their faculty encourage them to disseminate their projects or papers. Dissemination is an important term, but it seems too passive to me for this process.



I prefer "sharing" because it connotes a much more active event, especially because readers today may comment online through blogs, Twitter, Facebook, etc., and also be spurred to respond by submitting information about similar projects from which we all can learn and react. In addition to every nurse having a story, every nurse can share knowledge, thoughts and stories with others as an author.

In general, I think women's health will continue to be in good hands, not simply because of new graduates, but because of the rich sharing from practicing nurses today. And I'm delighted with this intellectual food—although I'm still hoping for an invitation to my colleague's retirement party, since I like both wings and meatballs. **NWH**



Do you have a story to share?

Maybe it's funny. Maybe it's sad. Whatever it is, it just might resonate with other *Nursing for Women's Health* readers.

So consider submitting a personal essay of 1,500 words or less to our regular back-page feature "Reflections on Women's Health."

To view our author guidelines or to submit an essay, visit <http://www.editorialmanager.com/nwh> and click on "Instructions for Authors."

Reflections on Women's Health