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Editorial

Our Environment



There has been so much information and news recently about the changing weather globally and about national and international climate related disasters. The National Audubon Society recently sent me an email claiming 3 billion birds are gone since 1970 due to environmental changes (National Audubon Society, 2019). We discharge patients, especially elderly or very frail patients into some significant weather extremes and/or they may go home to environments that are not friendly, for example, no air conditioning or no/poor heat source. Social determinants of health (SDOH) include environment *so we need to take notice, now*. I was also moved recently when I heard the founder of the Youth Strike for Climate movement founder, 16 year old Greta Thunberg's recent speech at the United Nations (Thunberg, 2019). Nurses really need to give attention to the phenomena of climate change and its impact on patients. In Greta's 2018 COP24 Conference Speech (Thunberg, 2018) in Poland she said, "... imagine what we could do together ...". Isn't this a good lesson for nurses? Together we could help make a difference through our actions and also by educating others. Please see the resources available to nurses at the end of this editorial. Become active locally at the minimum. Make what changes you can in your own home by reusing, repurposing and recycling. Don't forget the judicious use of supplies at work, too, and the impact on the environment.

Health disparities include not only disparity in health status but also disparity in access to medical care (Barr, 2010). According to the American Medical Association in many areas in the US there are a limited number of health insurers from which to choose due to market concentration (American Medical Association, 2019). Health care coverage is not just an issue and public health problem in the United States (US) but in the world. In late September the International Council of Nurses (ICN) issued a statement highlighting the crucial role of nurses in universal health (International Council of Nurses, 2019). Despite over 20-plus million nurses the ICN stated there is a deficit of 18 million health care workers and called for allocation of funding for workers. The numbers are staggering... I am still trying to absorb these. I am especially proud to see the Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing's (ARIN's) reach and the *Journal of Radiology Nursing's* reach that are helping influence global radiology patient care. For example, some ARIN members have lectured abroad and have participated in RAD-AID International (<https://www.rad-aid.org/>) making a difference in the radiological care of patients and *JRN* is being read around the globe.

This year on November 8th the worldwide International Day of Radiology (IDoR, 2019) was focused on the topic of musculoskeletal radiology and sports imaging (International Day of

Radiology, 2019). All of the weekday and weekend warriors out there can probably appreciate the value of new imaging procedures to confirm diagnosis and treatment of MSK problems. What I have found especially interesting about this topic is the number of new examinations that assist radiologists in making a diagnosis or treating problems. I am currently looking for authors to write on some of these techniques/procedures (in ultrasound, and with multi-detector computed tomography [MDCT] or magnetic resonance imaging [MRI]) so please feel free to refer any contacts to me.

I would like to draw your attention to the new call for manuscripts on ***A Culture of Safety in the Imaging Department*** that is in this issue. Please post this call in your departments, schools of nursing, and other locations and encourage your colleagues to submit collaborative works. If you have other ideas for manuscripts, please speak with the editor via at kathleen.gross@arinursing.org. The topics listed on the call are only sample topics to help inspire authors.

On the subject of safety "*Past Imaging History*" is now being suggested as part of the patient's medical history (Tsioulpas et al., 2019). Past medical imaging may hold clues to pertinent clinical information that would be useful to providers. The Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) will be used to aid in this effort.

Throughout the year the editorial board members review submitted manuscripts. I also draw from the expertise of others not on the editorial board. I wish to thank all the editorial board members as listed in the front pages of the journal and the following individuals for their assistance and their generous gift of time to the journal by providing reviews of manuscripts during the past year.

Javid Azadi, MD
 Aylin Tekes-Brady, MD
 Cathy Cartwright, MSN, RN-BC, PCNS, FAAN
 Jeffrey Cheng, MD
 Lawrence T. Dauer, PhD
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 Larry (Ty) Fout, MS, APRN, FNP-C, MSRT, (R), (MR)
 Karen Green, MHA, BSN, RN, CRN
 Robert Gould, DSc
 Tenley Hansberger Johnson, BSN, RN, CCRN, CRN
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 Sanjeeva Kalva, MBBS
 Elizabeth A. Krupinski, MD
 Greg Laukhuf, ND, CRN, RN-BC, NE-BC
 DaiWai Olson, PhD, RN
 Ashwani K. Sharma, MD

Mary Sousa, BSN, RN
V. Amanda White, DNP, RN

Finally, to all my colleagues, I wish you a healthy and happy holiday season and prosperous 2020!

Resources

Articles

Zalon, ML (2019). Preparing older citizens for global climate change. *American Nurse Today*. Available on line at <https://www.americannursetoday.com/older-citizens-climate-change/Professional>

Practice in a Changing World: The Changing Climate (2019). *Creative Nursing: A Journal of Values, Issues, Experience, and Collaboration*, [separate issue], 25(3).

The *American Journal of Nursing* has published a collection of 16 articles related to environmental health and impact on physical and mental health. (see <https://journals.lww.com/ajnonline/pages/results.aspx?txtKeywords=climate>)

Book

Environmental Health in Nursing. Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (AHNE). Available at <https://envirn.org/>

International Contact

- International Council of Nurses “Nurses, Climate Change, and Health”

National Contacts

- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
 - Nurses Climate Challenge
 - 2019 US Call to Action on Climate, Health, and Equity: A Policy Action Agenda
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References

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- Tsioulpas, C., Cameli, M., Mandoli, G.E., & Maccherini, M. (2019) Past imaging history. A new term to be introduced systematically in a patient's medical history. *Current Problems in Diagnostic Radiology*. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0363018819302117>. Accessed September 26, 2019.

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