



Editorial

Welcome to JAFN

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Join Our Excitement- A New Journal!!

Welcome to our first edition of the Journal of the Academy of Forensic Nursing (JAFN). It has been a little while coming- many new discoveries as the idea grew, a long wait and much labour! We are excited to begin this journey to provide you with a source of evidence and information for your forensic nursing practice. The Academy of Forensic Nursing (AFN) is committed to excellence in evidence-based, trauma-informed forensic nursing practice. Forensic nursing is rapidly expanding globally, unfortunately in response to growing violence, disasters and increasing recognition of the impact of violence across the lifespan. Nurses bring an understanding of the impact of trauma and medicolegal considerations into their comprehensive practice. This requires that the forensic nurse is continually learning. As such, we have developed this peer-reviewed journal to address numerous aspects of practice. Our new journal adds to the tools that a forensic nurse can use to remain current. The journal is “open source”, meaning that anyone can access these articles. This is important for supporting evidence based practice.

There are four peer-reviewed sections in the journal. In our “original research” section, we have new research articles to support your evidence-based practice. Our “best practices” section provides current guidelines and best evidence to support practice. The “contemporary issues” are factors that may not be directly covered in forensic nursing programs or guidelines, but which have actual or potential impact on our work. The use of case studies is a valuable learning tool, and we invite practitioners to submit cases to help expand others’ learning.

In addition to the peer reviewed articles, we have global updates from our international members, and summaries of research reviews by the AFN Journal Club. In issue 2 we will be introducing a “policies and legislation” with updates relevant to forensic nursing. Another new section will be added- a research corner to walk clinicians through aspects of best methods and assessing the literature for the quality of evidence. We welcome suggestions for topics within any of these sections as well as ideas for new sections.

Another value of AFN is collaboration between forensic nurses and organizations. We are a community of forensic nurses and want to share, collaborate and co-create knowledge with

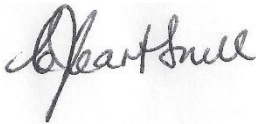
Journal of the Academy of Forensic Nursing-JAFN, 2023, 1(1)

forensic nurses and organizations, as well as community partners. In this way we can advance the practice, influence policy and legislation, and better serve our communities. Collaboration includes supporting new writers. Not everyone feels comfortable writing and submitting their work to a journal and yet it is so important that we hear what you are doing. There are AFN members both on the editorial board and in the general membership that have committed to mentoring authors to ensure the articles are scholarly and ready for publication. Bring your ideas and innovations and we can connect you with a mentor. If the work is mainly cosmetic they are happy to assist. If there is substantial revision, they may ask to co-author with you but you would be first author. In the spirit of collaboration and multidisciplinary practice we also invite non-nurses to share their articles if they have relevance to forensic nursing practice.

JAFN is fortunate to have many skilled clinicians and academics on the editorial board and in our membership. We are committed to promoting high levels of scholarship and, if desired, mentorship. Let's work together to make this new journal a source of information and innovation to which all can contribute.

Many thanks to the editorial board, writers and the AFN Board members who contributed to this inaugural journal! We hope to see your name in print soon as well!

March 20, 2023



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March 20, 2023