



A message from the Editor of *European Diabetes Nursing* on the journal's first birthday



European Diabetes Nursing is celebrating its first birthday together with the 10th anniversary of FEND! Over the past year it has become increasingly evident that across Europe nurses working in diabetes need and want a specialist publication in which they can inform and become informed. This first birthday issue demonstrates, by the breadth of the contributions and an increase in page numbers, just how much the journal is needed.

There are original research papers describing nursed initiatives from Germany and Turkey, and there are reports from diabetes nurse Associations in Slovenia and in Italy, which are working to improve professional education, while aiming to enhance the status of the professional diabetes nurse in those countries. A short report from EURADIA presents a resource for nurse researchers around Europe; authors who publish their work in *EDN* should ensure that they are represented in the EURADIA database.

There is a network of nurse researchers submitting manuscripts to *EDN* and these same people are in turn working as reviewers on manuscripts submitted by their peers. The network is growing larger and also more experienced; I hope that everyone who has had contact with the journal either as an author or as a reviewer will have found the experience positive and encouraging.

Our referees are mainly chosen from nurses working in research in Europe, but on occasion colleagues are called upon from other health sciences. A few referees have been from outside Europe, which is another way to 'spread the word' about *EDN*. Each manuscript is allocated at least three and usually four referees; almost always the referees are themselves published authors, but occasionally one may be less experienced. For this reason we send a guided referee sheet, which requests the reviewer to analyse each section of the manuscript and ensures that no referee can send us advice or recommendation to accept or reject a manuscript without giving a clear justification! In this way we hope that all authors, accepted or rejected, will gain positively from the experience.

At the journal we also understand the difficulties of writing a manuscript in English when the language is

not your mother tongue. This is something that native English speakers do not always appreciate – it is double the work to write in a foreign language, finding ways in which to express the meanings and significance of precious work that has taken months or years to complete. It is difficult and expensive to find translators and they do not always convey the correct message to the reader.

At *EDN* we recognise this problem and I think we are doing our best to help authors produce the best work possible when it is finally in print. (Although please don't send us articles to translate personally: spare time these days is rare!) Becoming proficient at writing in English (something many mother-tongue speakers are not always good at) will be a great advantage when it comes to communicating and publishing in the future. As well as developing expertise in *writing* it is also a good idea to *read* nursing (and other) research in English. This will give you a better idea of how to construct a manuscript while developing a specific research vocabulary. There is an accepted format for presenting research for publication and there are many books, articles and on-line resources on how to do this, some specifically for nursing journals.^{1,2} If you follow the established format you will help yourself (and help us at *EDN*) to get your work published more quickly and with less need for lengthy correspondence.

Publishing your work in *EDN* can provide a platform and international exposure. An original manuscript or a review article is the result of your technical and intellectual labour, and the final published article is a calling card into a growing network of future collaborators and colleagues.

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References

1. Albarran JW, Scholes J. How to get published: seven easy steps. *Nursing in Critical Care* 2005; **10**: 72–77.
2. Lambert VA, Lambert CE, Tsukahara M. Basic tips about writing a scholarly manuscript. *Nursing and Health Sciences* 2003; **5**: 1–2.