From the ANA-NY President's desk: Another historical milestone for our organization

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Welcome to the first edition of the American Nurses Association of New York (ANA-NY) Open Access Journal. Congratulations to Edmund J. Y. Pajarillo, PhD, RN BC, CPHQ, NEA BC, ANEF, the first Editor-in-Chief and the entire editorial board and staff for this achievement.

The Journal of the American Nurses Association–New York (JANANY) is a peer-reviewed, international, open access journal that will encourage the dissemination of scholarship for members and non-members around the world. The importance of scholarship and evidence-based practice in guiding our practice is reinforced by the opportunities for both in this new journal.

I encourage all of you, in all spheres of nursing practice, research, and education, to take advantage of this member benefit to share the valuable work that you and your colleagues are doing. Spread the word among students and colleagues that JANANY is here and ready to go! Make a point of reviewing the journal articles regularly to learn about innovations in practice, new knowledge from research, and insights into education for the workforce of the future.

We are proud of this latest accomplishment from ANA-NY members. Well done!

The editor's vantage point: The historical grit of nurses

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We have heard many testimonials from a variety of patients, fellow healthcare professionals, co-workers, family and friends that nurses are hard-working, trustworthy, caring, resilient, knowledgeable, self-sacrificing and patient-centric. Every time we hear someone speaking about nurses in this vein, we cannot help but stand tall and proud that we are in the company of the best and truly remarkable group of professionals. These compliments are not new and have been resonating globally for many decades now. Negative comments we hear about nurses are few, isolated and an aberration from the many who epitomize the goodness and professionalism of nurses.

This is the 19th year that the nursing profession continues to be ranked by the Gallup Poll as the most trusted and ethical among all professions (Reinhart, 2020). The World Health Organization named the year 2020 as the “Year of the Nurse and Midwife”. The year 2020 also marked the 200th year birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, considered the founder of modern nursing (Rushlau, 2020). And what a year it was to honor nurses and midwives! The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) descended upon us, and a year later, it continues to wreak havoc to now millions of lives all over the world.

Nurses and other healthcare professionals treat and manage the health needs of many patients involved in all types of unexpected and catastrophic emergencies and disasters, e.g. mass shootings, natural calamities, epidemics and pandemics, terrorist casualties,

daily motor vehicular pile-ups, rise in chronic illnesses and communicable diseases, etc. Working on the frontlines is not unusual for us. It is not surprising, therefore, that during this pandemic, nurses and other healthcare professionals are again battling this ferocious virus that continues to plague the world. Even in the midst of adversities, i.e., shortage of personal protective equipment, mechanical ventilators, the complexities of the COVID-19 virus, deteriorating mental health resulting from the surge of and persistent mortalities, we continue to thread along. Yes, it is excruciating. Yes, it is mentally, emotionally and physically challenging; but continuing to work our day beyond our regular working hours became the norm for us.

One would think that the horrific experiences we face on a daily basis would deter us from continuing on with our vocation. While it is true that some have retired when COVID-19 hit, it was more for self-preservation which we are not known for. Our colleagues were some of the pandemic's earliest victims, and most of those who passed away were those beyond 60 years of age, have chronic and compromising health conditions, and immune systems that have met the wear and tear of years of working as a nurse.

There are many reports that some of those who retired eventually came back to the workforce to help with the dire shortage of nursing staff who are overwhelmed with the number of COVID patients (Buppert, 2020; Jividen, 2020; Thompson, 2020). We also know of newly-minted nurses who fearlessly

accepted jobs as soon as they finished their schooling (Rutgers, 2020), sans the usual celebration of graduation or the required license to practice nursing.

Even technology, after having taken over every aspect of our lives, is not at par with dealing with the pandemic. The nature of COVID-19 is multifarious for technology to even catch up with. Contact tracing of potentially exposed individuals is a challenge even with the use of technology. Testing comes in various forms, accuracy, purpose, and availability (U.S. Food & Drug Administration, 2020). In the midst of all these are the misinformation and disinformation that add to the confusion of what to believe in, because of not being able or one's inability to vet the information properly.

Yet, nurses continue to care for the growing number of COVID-infested patients and those who are seriously compromised. Working long stretches of days lead us to experience mental distraught, some reaching the point of PTSD.

Despite these conditions in healthcare, prospective students continue to enroll in nursing schools (Assessment Technologies Institute, 2020). There is evidence of a 10% - 15% rise from the usual average of applications to enter nursing schools. Of course, the usual concerns pre-COVID continue to exist, e.g., limit in the number of admissions for lack of resources, decreased number of qualified faculty and diminished availability in clinical placement sites. Because of the pandemic, clinical sites are deliberately decreasing student placements to avoid overcrowding in patient care units.

If we do not take the lead in coursing the direction of nursing, the circumstances that we are currently faced with will dictate what our future will be. We are the members of this nursing community. We have the knowledge, skills and attitude to mold the future of nursing. And we rightfully should forge and write the envisioned "new" nursing.

We have the capability to think of innovations that will work for us and our patients. Throughout our education, critical and creative thinking have always been instilled in us. Having the foundational nursing knowledge and skills, the understanding of the health-illness continuum, and the social determinants of health, we can think of many ways to translate our soft skills and develop new but relevant roles. Re-envisioned roles that use concepts in informatics, innovation, data analytics, population health, interpersonal relationships, crisis intervention, interprofessional collaboration, and of course, research and evidence-based practice.

Scholarly work is never complete without disseminating results to our colleagues for practice translation, application, and consumption. Since the inception of the American Nurses Association - New York (ANA-NY) in 2012, our members have

been clamoring for an academic journal to serve as the repository and source of scholarship and recent research. More and more scholarly work is being done with the increasing number of nurses obtaining either the PhD (one who conducts original and significant contribution to a body of knowledge in a particular field) or the practice or professional doctorate (one whose interest is in the practical application of knowledge in a practice setting). One of the goals of the Institute of Medicine – Robert Wood Johnson initiative, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* (2011), is to double the number of nurses with doctoral degrees by 2020. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) doctorate is now being offered in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. There are 348 DNP programs with another 98 new applications as of 2019 (AACN, 2019). Between nurses with PhDs and DNPs, there are now 38,520 in 2018 as compared to only 1,814 in 2010 (AARP, AARP Foundation and RWJ Foundation, 2020).

Like any new organization, one can only accomplish as much. In the summer of 2020, the ANA-NY Board of Directors (BOD) approved the proposal to establish the Journal of the American Nurses Association – New York (JANANY). ANA-NY is the only constituent member of ANA that, so far, will have its own peer-reviewed open access journal that meets the organizational goal of "fostering high standards of nursing and promoting the professional and educational advancement of nurses to improve health care for all." It is an add-on benefit to its members. Since it is open access, original research, reviews, quality and evidence-based initiatives, case studies and contemporary commentaries will be readily available to all.

ANA-NY has grown in leaps and bounds since its establishment in 2012. It is our hope that JANANY will be the mechanism for the coming together of research consumers, research translators and knowledge discoverers to collaborate and increase the body of knowledge of nursing science. This is one way we can primarily influence the direction of our future. If we do not grab the bull by its horn, we will always be told what roles we will be able to do. We do not want that, do we? We know what is good for our patients and for us! Knowing that nurses have grit, we know we will prevail.

We encourage all nurses, whether members or non-members of ANA-NY to examine the journal and the original research that we publish, and validate, replicate, or challenge its findings to develop new knowledge. We envision a future of increasing collaboration on innovations and future directions. We see our future where more nurses will be conducting original, application and translational research to enhance nursing practice, education, and administration.

Summary Table

Number of people receiving nursing doctoral degrees annually (AACN, 2019)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
DNP	1,282	1,595	1,858	2,443	3,065	4,100	4,855	6,090	7,039	32,327
PhD	532	601	610	628	743	709	773	796	801	6,193
Total	1,814	2,196	2,468	3,071	3,808	4,809	5,628	6,886	7,840	38,520

Finally, this journal would not be possible without the belief and support of the 2020 ANA-NY BOD and staff. We also immensely thank the inaugural U.S. and international editorial advisory board, *JANANY* staff, and our contributors and peer reviewers who took the first step to allow us to begin our mission. We have lined up an excellent array of original research on various topics and a commentary on publishing your research successfully, in the hopes that we can encourage others who are waiting in the wings to submit your manuscripts to *JANANY*. This initiative is another manifest proof to the grit of nurses.

We, at *JANANY* and ANA-NY, are excited about this new initiative. We hope you are too!

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