

EDITORIAL,

Inaugurating a new century and a new millennium is the first edition of the University of São Paulo School of Nursing Journal. Presented here are the works of scholars and students of different levels of education and experience - undergraduate to post-doctoral - that are representative of the health care issues that surround nursing education at the undergraduate level.

These studies are important with respect to scientific modernization. One study in particular should be highlighted here, as it is the result of multi-professional work in the field of hypertension: the study headed by one of our teachers, Dr. Angela Geraldo Pierin, draws the profile of a group of hypertensive patients according to their knowledge and the seriousness of the disease.

Other works deal with the evaluation and profiling of battered children and adolescents, the evaluation of infant nutrition, the family perception of chronic disease in children and the risk perception of HIV/Aids by poor women living in shanty towns. These studies, among others, demonstrate the Nursing effort to reveal information relevant to the health-disease processes active in the Brazilian population, from the point of view of the Objects and of Tools available for nursing intervention. The studies on medical interaction and on different forms of punctures in the arteriovenous fistula are noticeable as an example of the Tools of the labor process.

Offered in this edition are the important and at the same time challenging aspects of Nursing as a profession and its teaching methods. The readers will find texts about smoking among undergraduate nursing students, their perception concerning the care of surgical patients, the evaluation of professional education publications and the use of computer science resources by undergraduate students. The roots and the historical development of Nursing in Brazil and the study of midwives' education in São Paulo are essential for the understanding of the profession - of nurses and of midwives - and gives perspective for the changes needed in professional education.

The content of this edition will certainly stimulate the discussion of important issues relevant to the Nursing profession. To continue generating important discussion, the USP School of Nursing journal would like to extend an invitation to all health professionals to help in the dissemination of valuable knowledge through the publication of their scientific research.

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