

EDITORIAL

Spotlight on literature reviews


Welcome to the final issue of what has been a busy year for the journal! This issue has a special focus on literature reviews.


Literature reviews are often the most read and best-cited papers in our journal¹ and in general² because, when done well, they provide an up-to-date summary of the state of the science on a topic and may or may not provide a statistical summary of the evidence. This makes it easier for busy clinicians to find current evidence quickly and from one source. To further underscore the value of reviews, this issue opens with an interesting editorial,³ written by our associate editors, which advocates for and provides guidance on the co-authorship of literature reviews and their publication in academic journals. Furthermore, at the first joint conference of the British and Irish Associations of Critical Care Nurses held in Belfast last October, the editors delivered a well-received literature review workshop to describe the different types of reviews and their indications and to provide tips on their planning and implementation.

This issue features six reviews that showcase some different review types: two systematic reviews with a meta-analysis^{4,5}; two systematic reviews without a meta-analysis^{6,7} and two scoping reviews.^{8,9} These investigate the prevalence of depressive symptoms among intensive care nurses and the effect of enteral immunomodulatory nutrition formula on the outcomes of critically ill patients; targeted temperature management in acute liver failure and the compatibility of prolonged antibiotic infusion administration; and the use of virtual reality in intensive care units and educational interventions to reduce the use of physical restraints, respectively.

The other papers in this issue employ a range of methodologies to address various clinically relevant topics, namely delirium in critically ill adults¹⁰ and children¹¹; nurse–nurse¹² and nurse–doctor collaboration¹³ and teamwork¹⁴; sleep quality^{15,16}; sedation and pressure injuries¹⁷ and ABCDE bundle implementation.¹⁸

We hope you will enjoy this issue and gain a greater understanding of literature reviews.

Lyvonne Tume, Professor of Critical Care Nursing, Co-Editor,
Nursing in Critical Care¹ 

Josef Trapani, Senior Lecturer & Deputy Dean, Co-Editor,
Nursing in Critical Care² 

¹Faculty of Health, Social Care & Medicine, Edge Hill University,
England, UK

²Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Malta, Msida, Malta

Correspondence

Josef Trapani, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Malta,
Msida, Malta.

Email: josef.trapani@um.edu.mt

ORCID

Lyvonne Tume  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2547-8209>

Josef Trapani  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0888-5045>

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