

The journey continues

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Here is the second special issue of the journal *Acta BioMedica*, dedicated to the health professions.

The publication of the first issue gave rise to diverse reactions - all positive - in the relevant circles. The main reaction, certainly a desired one, of the nursing profession was the wish to emulate their colleagues who have already published contributions. The possibility of having available a scientific journal indexed on international search engines, available online, read all over the world and quoted by many researchers, has constituted and continues to constitute a significant stimulus for them to publish the results of their own research. In the other health professions or those disciplines that collaborate with them, there has been a desire to seek interdisciplinary dialogue designed to enhance the themes of assistance with contributions coming from different schools of thought. It gives me pleasure to be able to relate that, as a consequence of the publication in the first issue of a contribution by a Senegalese researcher, he has had several offers of employment from local research structures.

Another significant sign of appreciation has been shown by those teaching in undergraduate and post-graduate degree courses for the health professions. As a result of the invitation in the editorial of the first issue to send to the journal contributions taken from undergraduate degree theses, conclusive papers from Master's Level I and II degrees or doctorate theses considered worthy of publication, numerous articles have appeared on the editor's desk, some of which are published in this issue.

A most welcome collaboration was that proposed by the national association of nurses specialising in the risk of infection (ANIPIO). Indeed, the journal sees

collaboration with scientific societies of nurses and other health professionals as a possibility to communicate to the scientific world the results of studies that have always been conducted in the context of these organizations, but which are often not adequately aired. It is thus hoped that this collaboration will be followed by other similar ones and that it will soon be possible to publish the results of scientific conferences of numerous scientific societies.

In this issue ample space is given over to interprofessional relations. An initial contribution, by Tomelleri et al., illustrates the ways in which symbolic representations of reality can affect collaborative interactions in the current situation of social and economic change. Different approaches to collaborative interactions between health professionals are represented by three metaphors that illustrate open, plural and highly heterogeneous professional settings. A second contribution reports the results of a research study carried out during a doctorate course. Sollami et al. analyse the stereotypes relating to the nursing and medical professions, evaluating the influence in work relationships of the professionals of the two disciplines. An original point of view is taken into consideration in the study by the professionals undergoing training: the students of the degree courses in Nursing and in Medicine and Surgery.

The viewpoint of social psychology is expressed in the article by Mancini and Secchiaroli, which analyses the impact of lipodystrophy syndrome following antiretroviral therapy on the quality of life of HIV-positive patients. The impact is not only clinical, but also psychological and psychosocial. The article by Gonzi et al. also uses the instruments of social psychology to

investigate the relationship between training for basic life support defibrillation, motivation of professionals, perception of the ability to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and quality of the same. The analysis was conducted on a large sample of professionals, by means of simulations.

In this issue of the journal, space is also dedicated to considerations on the changes in society. The contribution by Vesperoni and Masera tackles the theme of the integration of immigrant workers, focusing on nurses practicing in the Parma area. From the interviews, positive and negative aspects emerge that allow for consideration as to the role that can be played by foreign workers in our health organization.

The review by Foà et al. analyses the factors that influence the experience of myocardial infarction in female patients. It reveals gender differences in responses to symptoms, therapeutic compliance and willingness to change lifestyles. The review by Marletta et al. also

reports the first results of a doctorate research study, and, starting from the hypothesis of contact expressed by Allport, tackles the theme of the role that encounters with professionals of different cultures can play in reducing prejudice against diversity in the nursing profession. A look is taken at the contributions from the literature that discuss the role of contact in the nursing-education setting, in the relationship among nurse practitioners, and between nurses and patients.

Particularly interesting is the contribution by Mastrillo, which concludes this issue of the journal. The author examines the development over the last few decades of the training procedures for the health professions, correlating the said evolution with the succession of new laws, with the role played by the professional colleges and the regional and ministerial watchdogs, and, finally, with the possibilities for employment for new graduates, which have fallen drastically in recent years.