

Announcing IJOPN's 2019 Awards

While the usual rhythm of our yearly awards has been slowed by the ongoing pandemic, our enthusiasm for the research published in the *International Journal of Older People Nursing* (2019 Impact Factor of 1.597) —and for the many authors, reviewers and editorial board members who support this research—continues undimmed. As we announce the winners of this year's awards, we are reminded of the privilege that it is to edit a journal born of a community whose creativity and commitment to rigour continue to lift IJOPN from excellence to eminence.

Our paper awards this year were supported by a jury of internationally leading nurse academics. Dr Jo Fitzpatrick, Dr Jennifer Baumbusch and Dr Hiromi Hirata were joined for the first time by Dr Ruth Ludwick and Dr Siobhan O'Connor. Based on their expert opinion, we are pleased to announce the following winners.

Outstanding Methodological Innovation in Gerontological Nursing Research

Two awards were presented in this category: to Dr Rosemary Frey (University of Auckland) and colleagues for 'What factors predict the confidence of palliative care delivery in long-term care staff? A mixed-methods study' and Dr Karl Hedman (Jönköping University) for 'Strengths and support of older people affected by precarity in South Louisiana'.

Both papers deployed qualitative methods in innovative ways, and used these methods in the service of a fuller understanding of their target phenomena. Indeed, Dr Frey cited as inspiration for her research that her team 'simply wanted to go "beyond the numbers" to truly understand the best way to improve nursing confidence in palliative care delivery'. Dr Hedman echoed this by describing the inspiration for his research: 'Having lived and worked in Louisiana over the years spending time in senior centers, churches and other social venues I was inspired by the older people who also became my friends in those places. Older people I

met before and during the study exhibited wisdom, resilience and vulnerability which inspired me to undertake my ethnographic research at community centers in Louisiana.’

An additional award was presented in this category for research undertaken by a student: to Mr Anders Møller Jensen (University of Southern Denmark) for ‘Nurses’ experiences of delivering acute orthopaedic care to patients with dementia’. Mr. Jensen expressed real delight in receiving the award as it was part of work completed for his PhD. He said ‘Looking into the future and recognizing the challenges that the healthcare sector, and society, faces with a rising number of people with dementia, I decided to contribute with knowledge on acute orthopaedic care for patients with dementia. By diving deep into the nurse’s discontentment and negative preconceived perception of this group of patients, the hope is that future interventions and staff education will take this aspect into consideration, to evolve a better nursing practice and care for patients with dementia.’

Outstanding Scholarly Contribution to Gerontological Nursing Practice

This award was presented to Dr Rebecca Abbott (University of Exeter) and colleagues for their paper ‘How do “robopets” impact the health and well-being of residents in care homes? A systematic review of qualitative and quantitative evidence’. This paper, which used cutting edge evidence synthesis methods, represents a landmark contribution to the therapeutic understanding of robopets in nursing home contexts. Dr Abbott reflected on the topic of the paper: ‘What a lovely surprise and honour to have our systematic review on robopets receive this award from the IJOPN. And it’s even more special as the impetus for undertaking the review originated from the care home community themselves, who as part of our PenCLAHRC (<https://www.arc-swp.nihr.ac.uk/>) research prioritisation process, had suggested the topic of “animal therapies for care home residents”.’ Describing the research process, which even included the team adopting two robopets of their own, Dr Abbott noted that ‘this review was

very much a team effort and a review that became close to our hearts as we immersed ourselves in the literature world of care homes and robopets.’

An additional award was presented in this category for research undertaken by a student: to Ms Marta Woolford (Monash University) and colleagues for ‘Recommendations for the prevention of deaths among nursing home residents with unexplained absences’, which described national recommendations that balance the safety of nursing home residents with regard for their autonomy. Ms Woolford described the inspiration behind her research: ‘The fundamental purpose for the paper was to inform various stakeholders, in particular care providers and governments, in how to prevent injury and death in nursing home residents, whilst at the same time support independence... Being passionate about the concept of dignity of risk makes this award even more delightful and I am truly grateful.’

Outstanding Peer Review Awards

Now, for a fourth time, we present awards to peer reviewers whose contributions to *IJOPN* come in the form of especially excellent reviews of manuscripts submitted to the journal. We are especially pleased this year to present awards to three scholars, who reviewed papers during 2019, and whom the senior scholar of international repute who arbitrated the awards characterized as excellent and feeding forward to advance the scholarly works in review and the overall character of Gerontological Nursing scholarship. The recipients of these three awards offered their inspiration and insights on peer review.

Dr Noreen Orr (University of Exeter) noted ‘It is wonderful to be recognised by *IJOPN* for peer reviewing as it sometimes feels that it is part of the academic’s ‘invisible work’. For me, peer reviewing is part of my job and is about contributing to the academic community – after all, if I don’t review papers then why should someone do it for me? Reviewing challenges me to think critically about a manuscript and on how best to provide constructive feedback. Giving the kind of review I would like to receive is very important, and I always strive to

provide authors with meaningful and helpful suggestions. I believe that peer reviewing also helps me reflect on my own research practice and writing.’ Dr Chaya Koren (University of Haifa) said ‘My motivation to peer review is to be a part of promoting scientific knowledge by assisting authors to bring their work to the best result possible. I enjoy accompanying the process and seeing how each version of the manuscript develops until reaching the satisfactory result for the editor’s decision.’ Dr Rebecca Abbott (University of Exeter) reflected that ‘It’s lovely to be recognised by IJOPN for peer reviewing. I see peer review as an essential part of my role as an active researcher. Peer reviewing provides the opportunity to be reflective on the research process itself, which hopefully benefits both reviewer and authors. Often I have found myself thinking more critically about my own work after peer reviewing others. It’s also important to help each other in the academic community: if I can’t make time for it, why should I expect others to make time to review my submissions. That said, because to do them properly takes time, I find myself sadly turning away more than I accept. But when I do accept, I give the paper my full attention and at the forefront of my mind with my feedback, is the author. We have all been on the end of reviewer’s comments that have either been short, unhelpful or simply rude – the ‘reviewer3 phenomenon’. So I aim to be as constructive and supportive as possible, and imagine myself in their shoes.’

Editorial Board Member Award

Finally, we are again thrilled to recognize the unsung hero of academic publishing – the Editorial Board Member – with the IJOPN Editorial Board Member Award. This year, we are delighted to recognize Dr Jennifer Baumbusch (University of British Columbia). Dr Baumbusch was cited by the selection team for peer reviews that are always timely and brimming with insight, the sheer number of reviews she completes annually, and her leading presence social media – specifically Twitter – highlighting IJOPN and advocating for critical issues regarding aging and disability. On receiving news of her selection for the award, Dr

Baumbusch shared her delight and said ‘I am very honoured to receive this award. Being a member of the Editorial Board of this journal is a highlight of my career. The recognition of the quality of my manuscript reviews, in particular, is appreciated given the importance of reviews in the final stages of knowledge generation. The role of IJOPN is pivotal to the development and communication of the disciplinary specialty of nursing care of older people across health and social care and I am happy to have a small role in this work.’

Please join us, particularly in these challenging times, in sharing this moment of joy with our award recipients. They represent a rich and robust community of readers, authors, reviewers, and editorial team members within Gerontological Nursing and beyond. The challenges we face today remind us of the centrality of community and the power of connection now and always.