



## EDITORIAL

**Theresa Shaw and Jan Dewing**

Growing scholarship  
Innovate, create, flourish  
Person, culture, care



As an introduction to this editorial, we share with you a haiku that we have created which reflects our aspirations for the journal. We also offer you the image\* as a gift; purely to enjoy, or to evoke your thoughts, views and perspectives about practice development and your hopes for this journal.

As part of the introduction of the Foundation of Nursing Studies' (FoNS) online Centre for Nursing Innovation last year, we created a space for a journal, as a first step towards fulfilling a long-term ambition. To have realised this ambition so soon is a real triumph. As an organisation, FoNS has always been ambitious, never letting its size or limited resources stand in the way of aspirations. Indeed, our size and independence have often been an advantage as they have encouraged creative thinking around how to get things done. This together with our strong commitment to partnership working has helped us achieve a great deal, none more exciting than the launch of this open access, online, international journal in close partnership with the International Practice Development Collaborative (IPDC).

We believe the International Practice Development Journal is much needed and timely. Whilst it might be argued that there are a vast number of nursing and healthcare journals available, few scholarly journals offer open access in the way that the International Practice Development Journal does. We intend to publish papers across a wide range of fields within the healthcare professions and we hope from other stakeholder groups as well. We firmly believe publication must also have a purpose beyond the 'treadmill' of research outputs and routine dissemination and so the editors of the International Practice Development Journal will publish papers that strengthen our understanding of effective ways of enabling and sustaining innovation in different contexts across healthcare. At a time when the drive for innovation is so great, sharing different forms of knowledge, expertise and experience will help and support leaders and practitioners alike. Ultimately we want to enable an improved experience of care and services for patients.

For both FoNS and the IPDC, different approaches to practice development offer the opportunity for people to share theoretical and practice knowledge. We would like the journal to make a contribution to promoting the development of more person-centred healthcare cultures for all and to demonstrate that the use of effective methodologies such as practice development and related approaches have much to offer.

FoNS and the IPDC share a commitment to nurture the talents of practitioners and to this end, the International Practice Development Journal will offer mentorship to new and novice writers. As an internet based publication, we also hope to increase interaction virtually and in real-time that will build on the growing knowledge based on how to get the better and longer lasting outcomes from service improvement, innovation and practice transformations.

And so to the journal. To get us started, we hope you will be able to navigate easily through the simple layout the web-medium offers and experience a taster of what the journal can offer. The contribution of papers by IPDC members, along with other practice developers has been important to achieving this first issue. Whilst FoNS and the IPDC are partners, this journal has been developed to reach out to the growing community of practitioners, managers, educators, researchers and service users involved in practice development. So we welcome and actively seek submissions that offer a colourful diversity of approaches and experiences with practice development.

We have organised the journal into three sections: original practice development and research papers, critical reflections on practice developments and ideas and influences. The practice development and research papers will be longer and more in-depth papers. We are also aiming to build in commentaries and then a response by the authors to many of these papers in this section. The reflective papers will offer a space for shorter and more individualistic accounts or papers. In both sections we encourage a range of creative approaches and styles. The aim of the final section is to bring to wider attention or even champion, the ideas and influences that have had a significant effect on practice development work in some way. As a reminder the guidelines for authors are available at <http://www.fons.org/library/author-guidelines.aspx>.

And now, this our first issue. Many people have contributed to getting this issue out and their efforts are recognised and to them we offer our gratitude. However, we should particularly acknowledge the contribution of our Managing Editor, Kate Sanders and Administrator, Rebecca Hellmuth who have worked creatively and steadfastly to achieve not just this first issue but an infrastructure for the longevity of the journal. In this issue, we have a selection of papers that are in one way or another around the theme of evaluation and outcomes from some international practice development work. The focus of the papers varies, as does the scale or size of the practice development work being discussed. For example, Angie Titchen, Brendan McCormack, Val Wilson and Annette Solman share an emerging methodology to remind us that developing new worldviews and knowledge needs to be an outcome from practice development work. Val Wilson shows us how, through multiple evaluation, it is possible to start building a model that can be further tested. Even when undertaking small-scale practice development, it is possible to build in evaluation and begin to position outcomes on the strategic agenda as Jan Dewing, and colleagues (Sue Moore, Ella Wilder, Rachel Lohrey, Julia Hoogesteger, Zena Sale and Chris Winstanley) illustrate in their paper. The paper by Kim Manley, Jackie Crisp and Cheryl Moss discusses why and how advancing practice development outcomes are crucial. In the critical reflection section we have contributions by seven people engaged in practice development work; Philip Eldridge; Angie Titchen; Teatske van der Zijpp, Famke van Lieshout and Donna Frost; Jennifer Haynes and Nadine Janes; all of whom are at different points in realising their own practice development expertise. Some of these contributors are first time authors and we congratulate them for their courage and now, their success. Finally, Loretta

Bellman, who is a participatory action researcher, shares with us a summary of the work of Annette Street along with the influence it had on her thinking.

We cannot let it go without saying that we are delighted to be launching this first issue and hope that the content will enthuse and stimulate you as it has us. We welcome your feedback and most importantly your contributions, so that together, we promote a culture of sharing and inspiring improvement and transformation for the ultimate benefit of patient care.

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