



## Annual Report 2023-2024 – JAFN

January 2, 2025

This year finished with the publication of our fourth issue of the Journal of the Academy of Forensic Nursing (JAFN) in December 2024. The completion of each edition would not have been possible without the significant input and contributions from the editorial board, which included:

Dr. Paul Clements- Associate Editor  
Dr. Theresa Fay-Hillier- Associate Editor  
Dr. Kathleen Thimsen- Associate Editor  
Ms. Kristi Mayo- Marketing and final copyeditor  
Ms. Valerie Sievers – editor Case Studies  
Ms. Teresa Devitt-Lynch – editor at large  
Dr. Jennifer Johnson, editor Clinical Perspectives  
Dr. Annie Lewis-O’Connor- editor Research Corner,  
Ms. Debbie Holbrook- president-AFN representative, editor Policies and Legislation  
Ms. Christine Foote-Lucero, editor Research Reviews

I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of previous members who were with us at the beginning of the year, but were unable to continue due to work commitments: Ms. Valeria Kaegi and Ms. Dominica Hagi from Switzerland, who contributed to the international updates, and the substantial work of Drs. Patricia Speck and Rachel Ekroos.

### Current Successes

#### a) Innovations

- *Flow chart editorial processes* – we created a [flowchart](#) for processes for the editorial team to clarify roles starting with the submission, assignment to section editors, peer reviewing, author interaction, copyediting and final galleys.
- *Peer reviewer support* – although we have quite a few users who indicated they would be peer reviewers, their bio and key areas of expertise are blank in at least half of their accounts. Without this information, the section editors will not be able to select the reviewers as they do not know if the article is relevant to their expertise. The process to set up the user account as a peer reviewer and be selected was summarized and added to the [website](#).

#### b) Readership and User Roles

Readership statistics are shown for both 2024 and 2023, in part for comparison but also because this is the first official annual report since the journal began. Some documentation of both years is therefore indicated.

- *Users*- there are 108 users registered on the system as of Dec 31, 2024. This does not provide a complete picture of use, however, as articles and issues can be read or downloaded without an account. An account is needed to be a peer reviewer, editor or author.
- *Peer reviewers*- we currently have 82 registered peer reviewers.

c) Article Reads and Downloads

The following are the statistics regarding how many articles were read and how many were downloaded for both 2023 and 2024. PLEASE NOTE: The data for 2(2) only cover two weeks as the data were captured Dec 31 and the issue came out Dec 10<sup>th</sup>. Data will be updated in the 2025 annual report. The highest read and most downloaded for each issue are shown in bold.

**2023**

1(1)	Whole journal			782
	Editorial	Welcome to JAFN	150	151
	Original research	Self-collection of evidence in sexual assault	<b>723</b>	<b>861</b>
	Original research	Sexual assault services in the pandemic	395	318
	Clinical perspectives	Trauma informed care	<b>519</b>	<b>739</b>
	Clinical perspectives	Suburban and rural gangs	276	371
	Research Reviews	Spring	169	574
	Case Study	One awe-inspiring projectile	223	205
	Community Updates	International updates	146	232
	Community Updates	FNCB updates	162	134
			Totals	2763 4367
			<b>Read</b>	<b>Download</b>
1(2)	Whole journal			699
	Editorial	Still Making Sense of the Senseless	160	148
	Original research	Recognition of trauma informed responses	512	345
	Original research	Multiple case study analysis elopement	163	288
	Clinical perspectives	Xylazine: Cause of death in corrections	432	<b>361</b>
	Policy	Violence against women act implications	301	223
	Research Corner	Trustworthiness of research results	<b>658</b>	303
	Research Reviews	Summer/fall	150	93
	Case Study	Is this Elder Abuse	303	176
	Community Updates	International	116	143
	Community Updates:	FNCB	126	105
	Thank you		103	109
			Totals	3024 2993

## 2024

2(1)	Whole journal			350
	Editorial	Taking the Publishing Plunge	127	82
	Clinical perspectives	Remember the ACEs and PACEs	450	<b>470</b>
	Clinical perspectives	Through the Shadows: Exploring child torture	<b>730</b>	252
	Research Corner	Looking for High Quality Research Evidence	209	84
	Research Corner	Spring	119	52
	Research Corner	Health Care needs of sex trafficking patients	324	144
	Research Corner	Stirring the Forensic Nursing Pot in South Africa	72	57
	Research Corner	International Updates	64	50
	Research Corner	FNCB	115	68
	Research Corner	Editor	77	56
			2287	1665
	<b>*Note: Data Shows only 3 weeks post-publication</b>		<b>Read</b>	<b>Download</b>
2(1)	Whole journal			<b>134</b>
	Editorial	Let it Go	313	68
	Original research	Delphi Study: Forensic Nursing competencies	<b>382</b>	101
	Original research	Wellbeing of SANE nurses during training	<b>356</b>	68
	Clinical perspectives	Mock Testimony	315	51
	Research Reviews	Summer/fall	282	31
	Case Study	Psychiatric Deprescribing	333	<b>131</b>
	Community Updates	International	74	44
	Community Updates:	FNCB	75	58
	Letter to the Editor	re Sex trafficking	78	64
	Thank you		61	43
			2269	793

### d) Peer Reviewers Process

- In addition to the need for peer reviewer resources, we are also having issues with the length of time to hear from peer reviewers and to obtain feedback for authors. They originally had 2 weeks to respond to the invitation, then 4 weeks to review, If their review was late they were given a reminder to get it in within 7 days. If it is not received then another reviewer has to be chosen. We agreed to shorten the turnaround to two weeks to reduce wait time for authors. The times are therefore:
  - Invitation to review – 1 week
  - If accepted – 2 weeks to review with a 7 day late reminder
- There is some ongoing development needs for editors to collate the comments- not all comments are relevant or need to be returned to author. The format was also an issue. We agreed upon a summary sheet to send to authors to itemize the comments and the line number they are on, and the author can provided the completed summary sheet along with the revised manuscript. The [comment sheet](#) is in the shared folder for the editors.

## Plans for 2025

### a) Editorial Team changes

- *Associate Editor*- Paul stepping back for one year- he will be replaced in the interim with another member of editorial team (Dr. Annie Lewis-O'Connor) – this

position has to come from within the editorial board existing members to ensure familiarity with the processes, standards.

- *New section editor*-research: Dr. Victor Petreca has accepted the role of section editor for research.

b) Increasing Research Article Submissions

- There are two major certifications we hope to achieve in the next two years-the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and membership in the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). Information is included below. There are strict criteria to be approved. Unfortunately one of these for both organizations is to publish at least five research articles a year total. We only had 2 this year and 4 the year prior.
- Kristi will be sending an invitation to all North American graduate schools of nursing to encourage publication in JAFN. The Cathy and Kathy T are compiling the list of agencies and emails and members of the editorial board are asked to reach out their schools as well.
  - DOAJ approval - The directory of open access journals ([DOAJ](#)) is an important certificate to be able to add to our site. It confirms that we have been reviewed as per strict criteria for peer review and quality and are not a predatory journal. Many academic institutions are now supporting funding for research publications only if they use DOAJ approved journals. It also increases our visibility. It requires us meeting some key pieces, which we currently do, such as the depth of information on the website, qualifications of the editorial committee, peer review process and open access. We meet those but also have to have at least 5 research publications a year, which we do not.
  - COPE membership- The committee on publication ethics (COPE) is an organization that sets the standards for publication ethics, and an important organization for us to join. While there are individual memberships, if you are editor of a journal you can only join as part of journal application. We were unable to join until we had at least a full year of publications issued and [at least 20 original peer reviewed research](#) articles, with a yearly publication as well of at least five scholarly articles per year. This will take time but hopefully a concerted effort over next two years will allow us to apply in 2026. Membership provides guidelines on ethics in publication, plagiarism, post-publication amendments, and access to other member resources to improve the integrity of a professional journal. There are further criteria including the qualifications of the editor and statements on journal site related to copyright, ethics etc and the journal is rigorously reviewed.
  - INANE membership - This is a network of nurse editors that discusses key issues arising in ethics and publication, many of which arise with COPE. The membership to the listserve is free. All members of the editorial team will be encouraged to join.

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c) Professional Development

- Conferences- It is important for the editorial team to attend professional development related to publishing ethics, peer review and writing. The INANE membership occasionally offers free webinars but the most comprehensive are through COPE. The Editor-in-chief is recommending that at least 1-3 of the editorial board be funded to attend the annual COPE conference or one with equivalent content each year. Editorial board members could rotate through the opportunities until each has had a chance. This will be proposed on the 2025 budget as well.
- The editor-in-chief and associate editors will plan some upcoming webinars for the editorial team to share strategies for peer review feedback and writing support
- The editor-in-chief will also provide a webinar in 2025 for AFN on putting ideas into print.

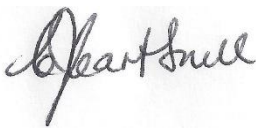
d) Tech support

- We currently have a webmaster for the journal but it is important for continuity that we involve our AFN technical support person in understanding the journal and publication process, and current supports. In this way, if the editor-in-chief is not available, the AFN tech support person will know how to get help. I will be inviting Kevin Z to join the editorial group on an ad-hoc basis and will be spending time with him in the new year to go over the site and site resources.

e) Liability Insurance

- The budget is submitted separately but the key (and almost only) expense JAFN has incurred is the liability insurance of \$8000/year. This is up for renewal in April 2025. The Board were informed via legal that this was important, despite the fact that this is an open source journal, the authors retain copyright and attest that they own copyright of all figures, images and content when they submit. Cathy did an informal survey of other open source journals and editors and only those associated with the large publishing companies required this insurance. This is thought to be because they offer authors an option of open source or closed. If closed, the journal retains the copyright and therefore the liability. The editorial board and executive will revisit this issue.

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the editorial team,



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