John Adams scans a range of journals and highlights their relevance for nurses who work with older people

Comparison of quality of life measures in heart failure
*Nursing Research* 52, 4, 207-216
It is noticeable that the attention of clinical researchers worldwide is increasingly being focused upon the effects of heart failure, which in the past may not have had the attention given to other conditions. Despite a range of innovative treatments, morbidity and mortality rates in heart failure remain high. In this American study, the psychometric properties of three quality of life scales were compared. These were the Chronic Heart Failure Questionnaire (CHFQ), the Minnesota Living with Heart Failure Questionnaire (LHFQ), and the General Health Survey Short-Form-12 (SF-12). A convenience sample of 211 patients with heart failure completed baseline questionnaires via telephone interviews. Follow-up interviews were conducted at four, eight and 26 weeks. A total of 165 patients (78 per cent) completed the study, while 11 patients (5 per cent) died during the course of the research project. Overall, the results indicated that patients had a low-to-moderate health-related quality of life. All three instruments proved to be valid and reliable, but the CHQ and LHFQ were more sensitive in detecting clinically important changes over time.

Developing a postbasic gerontology program for international learners: considerations for the process
*Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing* 34, 4, 177-183
Educational provision in nursing was once confined within national boundaries, but the development of the internet has encouraged the formation of international links. In this paper, the experience of delivering a course in gerontology developed by a Canadian School of Nursing through a partnership arrangement with a private university in Chile is described. The language issue was only one of many that had to be considered. A mapping exercise located the role of technical nurses in Chile as covering aspects of the work of both licensed practical nurses and registered nurses in Canada, so the course content had to reflect that. The distance learning programme was based upon a Canadian textbook, and it proved difficult to locate a Spanish equivalent. Visits and discussions between representatives of the two universities facilitated the adaptation of course materials to reflect Chilean cultural norms.

An exploration of the contribution of the community nurse to rehabilitation
*Health and Social Care in the Community* 11, 4, 321-328
In all the recent discussion of the need to improve the co-ordination and delivery of rehabilitation services for older people, community nurses often feel, with some justice, that their potential contribution has been overlooked. So this paper is timely in its focus on an area of nursing practice that is ripe for development. The researchers used a grounded theory approach to the analysis of data generated by focus group discussions and individual interviews with district nurses. The results indicated that community nurses described their practice as 'holistic' in combining both health and social aspects. They were involved in making assessments, referrals, teaching and educating, and providing technical care. Despite this major contribution, many of the nurses felt that their role in rehabilitation was not clearly defined or accorded sufficient recognition by other service providers.

Postoperative cognitive changes among older Taiwanese patients
*Journal of Clinical Nursing* 12, 4, 579-588
Delirium, sometimes known as acute confusion, poses a major challenge in the post-operative care of many older people. For this study, 106 patients ranging in age from 65 to 93 (mean 73.9), and undergoing orthopaedic or urological surgery, were selected. Around 40 per cent of the sample subsequently developed delirium. Detailed measurements using the Mini Mental State Examination are reported.

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