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Raising BRN: Growth of a journal

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Raising BRN: Growth of a Journal

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Editorial

Raising *BRN*: Growth of a Journal

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6 It is unbelievable how quickly time flies by when you're having fun. We have now been editing
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8 BRN for 8.5 years and we are still speaking to one another! Over this time, numerous changes have
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10 occurred in our editorial procedures. We started our editing positions working in adjoining offices at the
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12 University of Florida, yelling back and forth to one another; we now work 2200 miles from each other,
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14 communicating on a regular basis via email. We started off using a homemade database combined with
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16 a complicated email filing system; we now use ScholarOne's Manuscript Central, a web-based system
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18 easily accessible to both of us as well as to our guest editors, reviewers and authors. When we took on
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20 this project, the journal was a mere toddler of 3 years. We signed an initial contract with Sage and had
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22 no idea what might happen at the end of that period. We have since signed two more contracts and
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24 now find ourselves the proud editors of a "tween"; sometimes we just can't believe how much our little
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26 upstart has grown.
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31 Initially each four-issue volume of BRN contained 320 print pages and no online prepublication,
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33 and we struggled to attract the 40 or so manuscripts per year it took to fill the pages. The journal has
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35 since grown to 416 pages per volume with online publication ahead of print and still we have a queue of
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37 manuscripts awaiting print publication. In 2009, we processed 99 new submissions and 70 revised
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39 submissions. Of the new submissions, 64% were reports of original research, 19% were literature
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41 reviews, and the remainder were methodological or theoretical manuscripts. This year, we are on pace
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43 to receive more than 100 new submissions for the first time. As the volume and quality of submissions
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45 has increased, our acceptance rate, of necessity, has decreased. In the early days, we accepted nearly all
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47 of the manuscripts submitted. These days, our acceptance rate is less than 63% [#mss accepted/(#mss
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49 accepted + #mss rejected)]. Our journal has grown more worldly over this time period as well. Once
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51 upon a time, it was a big event to receive a submission from outside of the U.S. Last year, only 70% of
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53 our submissions came from within the U.S., with the majority of the rest coming from Asia (17%) and
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Europe (6%). But perhaps the biggest change we’ve seen over these 8.5 years—and one that undoubtedly both grew out of and fed into the others—was watching our young journal enter the “big leagues” with its inclusion, in 2005, in what is now Thomson Reuters *Science Citation Index*® and the publication of its first impact factor in the 2007 index.

And one more change is coming with our very next issue. Our publication year used to go from July → October → January → April, following the fiscal year rather than the calendar year. Beginning in January 2011, our publication year will follow the calendar year; thus the January issue will be number 1 of volume 13. This change means that there will be no issues 3 and 4 for volume 12, so take care not blame the dog for eating these issues before you had a chance to look them over!

There are a few things that haven’t changed over our years with the journal, however. We remain committed to a prompt, efficient review process, and our average time from submission to first editorial decision has never exceeded 40 days. We continue to be blessed with an outstanding editorial board made up of nurses and individuals outside of the nursing profession from both the U.S. and other parts of the world who are as dedicated to the success of the journal as we are. We’ve worked with a number of outstanding guest editors, some of whom have been board members and some not, who have gone far above the call of duty to create our annual special issues, which have been truly special. In particular, you now hold in your hands (or on your computer monitor) the second part of the first special issue we have ever published that was so successful it could not be contained in just one issue! We are also fortunate to continue to find reviewers both within and outside of nursing, who provide high quality, critical reviews that have facilitated the maintenance of high editorial standards. And there are our authors, of course, who not only have provided us with the outstanding material to create the journal but have been a true pleasure to work with and really make the job worthwhile. We both continue to enjoy our editorial responsibilities and take pride in knowing that our efforts have made a difference in the quality of this journal and in the impact that biological research in nursing has had and

will continue to have on the scientific literature. We thank you, our readers, for your support of our efforts.

For Peer Review