To Whom Do We Publish, and Who Truly Benefits?

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Research is an integral part of healthcare professionals' activities, including nursing. Clinical processes such as anamnesis, physical examinations, and laboratory data collection are routine procedures and fundamental mechanisms for gathering evidence-based data to support clinical decision-making. These data are subsequently analyzed to assess patient progress—whether improving, stagnating, or deteriorating. Hospitals and healthcare facilities use continuous data collection in everyday clinical practice. However, a critical question arises: To what extent does this data effectively address patient issues? Is data collection genuinely aimed at improving patient care, or is it primarily conducted to fulfill educational requirements for students and research objectives for academics?

In nursing research, patient data undeniably serve as the core foundation. Research originating from clinical problems is expected to provide solutions preventing similar issues from recurring in other patients. However, in many cases, research problems are often formulated based on the guidance of supervisors whose focus is more aligned with their research roadmap than with the immediate needs of patients. Consequently, nursing research may lean more toward managerial aspects, community health concerns, or national health policies rather than addressing the direct clinical needs of patients. Conversely, some research is highly fundamental, such as studies investigating pathological processes using animal models, where the benefits for patients may only be realized in the long term.

Another critical issue is that research frequently becomes merely a requirement for academic qualifications or a means for researchers to advance their careers through journal publications. Unfortunately, in many cases, patients who serve as data sources do not receive any direct benefits from the research findings. This highlights a significant gap between producing academic knowledge and its practical application in clinical settings, where it could have a tangible impact on patient outcomes.

In an increasingly competitive research landscape, a new challenge emerges concerning the relevance and real-world impact of research, particularly with the rapid advancement of technology, including artificial intelligence (AI) (Mckenna, 2015)(Yusuf, 2024). AI has created vast opportunities to accelerate data collection, analysis, translation, and manuscript revision, as demonstrated by generative AI models such as ChatGPT (Yusuf, 2023). While these advancements offer efficiency, they also present ethical dilemmas, particularly regarding the integrity and originality of scientific research. Integrating AI should facilitate researchers' work and contribute positively to patient care by optimizing data-driven, evidence-based healthcare services.

Balancing academic demands with societal needs is a fundamental challenge for researchers, particularly in healthcare. While indicators such as impact factors play

a role in evaluating journal credibility, the real significance of the research lies in its tangible contributions to patients and society. Therefore, the academic community and healthcare practitioners must ensure that research efforts go beyond achieving high citation metrics and actively contribute to improving healthcare quality and overall public well-being.

As part of this effort, the editorial board of **ICON Journal** emphasizes the importance of **contribution to global nursing practice**. Nursing research frequently utilizes various forms of public data, so its findings must be translated back into improved patient outcomes and enhanced healthcare services (McKenna, 2015). Thus, research should not merely serve as an academic instrument but also as a transformative tool in nursing practice, directly benefiting patient well-being and the broader healthcare system.

References
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