

Editorial

Letter from the Editor: Welcome

Jeri W. Dunkin, PhD, RN, Editor

Welcome to the *Online Journal of Rural Nursing and Health Care*, the official Journal of the Rural Nurse Organization. In this time of rapidly expanding knowledge and shrinking resources, the time is appropriate to have a mechanism for rural health professionals to access current research and practice information in an expedient and economical manner. I hope you find the *Journal* informative and easy to use. We have tried to make the format "user friendly." Please feel free to contact me with comments and suggestions as we continue to refine the style and format of the *Journal*. You will notice several features that make the *Journal* unique. For example, each article has a discussion forum attached that facilitates discussion and networking among readers and author(s). Additionally, each of the columns has the e-mail address of the editorial board member responsible for that column so that you, the reader, can provide feedback and suggestions for future topics. You can be as interactive as you wish, and we hope that you will become very involved in the discussion groups. Finally, the citations in the text are "linked" to an alert box so that you can see the full reference immediately without losing your place in the article. Also, each citation in the reference list is linked to its respective MEDLINE record, should one exist, which takes advantage of the National Library of Medicine's PubMed service.

The Online Journal of Rural Nursing and Health Care is a peer-reviewed interdisciplinary journal that focuses primarily on rural nursing but not exclusively. This decision was made by the board of The Rural Nurse Organization as the *Journal* concept was developed because rural practice is necessarily interdisciplinary. Future plans call for the *Journal* to be indexed in

CINAHL and MEDLINE within the upcoming year. There are requirements for listing that includes numbers of issues published that must be met first, but rest assured that our Managing Editor, Dr. Steven MacCall, will have the *Journal* listed as soon as possible.

On behalf of the Editorial Board of the *Online Journal of Rural Nursing and Health Care* and the Rural Nurse Organization, I thank you for being a part of this new venture. If I can be of assistance please do not hesitate to e-mail me at jdunkin@nursing.ua.edu.