On Transitions

It's a new year, the United States has a new president, and Shirley A. Smoyak, RN, PhD, FAAN, has transitioned from Editor to Editor Emerita of the Journal of Psychosocial Nursing and Mental Health Services (JPN).

I have known Shirley for many years, first as an author in the journal, and then through our psychiatric–mental health nursing circles (e.g., the American Psychiatric Nurses Association [APNA]), and in more recent years, through our work on the psychiatric–mental health and substance use expert panel of the American Academy of Nursing. But I have gotten to know Shirley even more the past few months through our work on this transition.

A few words about my experience of Shirley. You may call this transfer-ence, but Shirley and my mother are approximately the same age and similar in more ways than age. They are super sharp; they “tell it like they see it” and are not at all afraid to ruffle some feathers in the process. They are fierce, and stubborn, holding on strongly to what they believe. They are incredibly resilient. Each has had major losses in the past few years—Shirley's husband, Neil, died in 2010, and my mother's two ex-husbands and her boyfriend died within the past year or so—but are seemingly even stronger than ever. Shirley and my mother have what I call “spunk”—they are courageous and determined. Both are still working, each saying, “just a couple more years.” They are in their early 80s. That is longevity.

Shirley has been the editor of JPN for 35 years, fostering the journal to become the premier clinical practice journal for psychiatric–mental health nurses. My plan is to build on what Shirley has created, to grow and expand the reach of the journal with more and more cutting edge, clinically relevant feature articles and regular columns.

As happens with transitions, some things will change, whereas others will stay the same. For example, the journal has had three regular columns—Aging Matters, Youth in Mind, and Psychopharmacology—and those will continue. Jeanne Sorrell, PhD, RN, FAAN, is our long-time section editor of the Aging Matters column and she will continue in that role. Teena McGuinness, PhD, CRNP, FAAN, the section editor of Youth in Mind, has stepped down after 10 years. Thank you, Teena, for your years of service to the journal. We certainly hope to continue to receive manuscripts from you and your colleagues. I would like to introduce the readership to Erin Ellington, DNP, RN, PMHNP-BC, the journal's new Youth in Mind section editor. Erin is a steering committee member of the child and adolescent council of the APNA, and member of the Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nurses of the International Society of Psychiatric Nurses. Erin is a family psychiatric–mental health nurse practitioner and received a doctor of nursing practice degree from the University of Missouri Kansas City. She received a master's degree in nursing from Vanderbilt University, and a baccalaureate degree from Western Kentucky University. Erin’s first column, which will appear in the February issue, is an interesting article on nail biting.

Psychopharmacology, a popular monthly column, will continue but under a new section editor. Thank you, Robert Howland, MD, for your 11 years of service to the journal. We are excited to have Laura Leahy, DrNP, APRN, PMH-CNS/FNP, BC, as our new section editor for this column. Laura is an experienced psychiatric–mental health nurse practitioner. She is president of the Society of Advanced Practice Nurses. She received a doctor of nursing practice degree from Drexel University, a post-master’s certificate as a psychiatric–mental health family nurse practitioner from the University of South Alabama, a master's degree in child and family psychiatric–mental health nursing from the University of Pennsylvania, and a baccalaureate...
degree in nursing, also from the University of Pennsylvania. Before that, she graduated from Duke University with a baccalaureate degree in psychology and human development. Laura has a wealth of psychopharmacology experience that she will share with our readers, starting with a timely and relevant article this month about medication-assisted treatment for opioid dependence.

In addition to the above-mentioned columns, we have added a new column, Substance Use and Related Disorders, which will appear quarterly and be edited by substance misuse and “doctor shopping” expert Julie Worley, PhD, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC. Julie received a PhD in nursing from my alma mater, the University of Tennessee Knoxville. Prior to entering doctoral study, she received a post-master’s certificate as a psychiatric–mental health nurse practitioner from the University of South Alabama, a master’s degree in nursing as a family nurse practitioner from the University of Illinois Chicago, a baccalaureate degree in nursing from Northern Illinois University, and a diploma in nursing from Ravenswood Hospital Medical Center. We are pleased that Julie has joined our editorial team to share her knowledge about substance misuse and addictions.

What else is new? The journal has a redesigned cover, which debuted in this issue. The journal also has an application (app), which JPN subscribers may download so they can easily read content on their phones or tablets. The free app can be downloaded on iTunes (access http://ow.ly/Jzq03052695) or Google Play (access http://ow.ly/U0Ca30526bu).

We also have an active Twitter account, so please follow the journal @JPNJournal and me, @MonaShattell, and tag us in your relevant tweets.

This is an exciting time for JPN. I encourage writers to send us your manuscripts; authors to volunteer to serve on our review panel or editorial board; and readers to keep reading, citing, and sharing.

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Editor

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