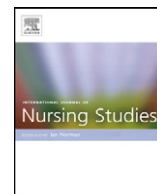




ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

International Journal of Nursing Studies

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/ijns

Call for Papers

Improving the care of older persons: Call for papers to a special issue

Keywords:

Care of older persons
Gerontological nursing
Geriatric nursing

Trends in population aging, especially among the world's developed nations, are demonstrating unprecedented growth. Although there is some variation in the magnitude and rate of aging populations among nations, the overall number of older persons has tripled over the past 50 years and is expected to triple again midway through the twenty-first century ([World Population Ageing, 2011](#)). This phenomenon has profound social, economic, and health implications, not least of which is that many persons in these societies will live longer, develop chronic illnesses, and utilize resources and services to maintain quality of life along the way. Nurses will be critical assets in this process, in helping older adults live independently in their homes or other community settings as well as in providing in-patient, rehabilitative, nursing home or end-of-life care. Facilitating safe transitions across these care settings and treatment approaches is a major challenge. As such, nurses need to be well versed in the management of aspects of care most relevant to aging adults such as the reduction of disability, the management of multiple chronic health problems and their often complicated treatment regimes, and the prevention of common syndromes such as delirium, incontinence, pressure ulcers and falls. Nurses' impact on health-related quality of life among older persons, especially those with dementia, requires incorporation of physical, palliative, and psychosocial skills.

Unfortunately, most countries with a high proportion of older adults do not have a nurse workforce with the expertise (or health system support) in geriatrics to address these complex clinical challenges. In addition to a scarcity of geriatric nursing specialists, few nurses have received adequate education in the core competencies for geriatric care. Current and expected shortages of nurses will further complicate this problem. Enhancing nurse preparation in elder care will also require involving more direct care workers, informal caregivers, and older persons themselves in care delivery. Along with this, organizational and technological innovations are needed to support the

implementation of evidence-based care in the most efficient manner possible.

With the ultimate aim of improving the quality of care of older persons, research in geriatric and gerontological nursing and related fields is urgently needed. Whether this research focuses on the development and/or evaluation of effective interventions, models of care, or educational approaches, the time is ripe to build nursing science in this area that can be disseminated more broadly across the globe. This call for papers is for a special issue of the *International Journal of Nursing Studies* dedicated to the care of older persons. We invite high quality papers presenting the findings of controlled studies evaluating interventions and innovations, descriptive studies using either or both quantitative or qualitative approaches, as well as systematic reviews investigating the state of the science in discrete areas of elder care in any setting. The journal's usual peer review, editorial processes and standards will be followed. Following the journal's author guidelines, contributors should submit their full manuscripts for consideration to the *International Journal of Nursing Studies* at <http://ees.elsevier.com/ijns> by 30 June 2012. When asked to choose article type, authors should select 'special issue: care of older persons'.

Conflict of interest

None.

Reference

World Population Ageing: 1950–2050, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, United Nations. From: <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/worldageing19502050/> (accessed August 26, 2011).

Jan P.H. Hamers*
Maastricht University, Department of Health
Services Research, PO Box 616, 6200 MD Maastricht,
The Netherlands

Elizabeth Capezuti**
New York University College of Nursing, 726 Broadway, Room
1042, New York, NY 10003, United States

*Corresponding author. Tel.: +31 433881549

**Corresponding author. Tel.: +1 212 998 5376

E-mail addresses: ec65@nyu.edu
jph.hamers@maastrichtuniversity.nl (J. Hamers)