

Editorial

Dear colleagues,

the year 2015 was quite rich in various events in the world, European and national scale. The extensive migration crisis has jolted; prognosticators emphasize progressive degradation of demographic and health conditions of European population; and universities in Slovakia are going through the process of national accreditation. The facts stated above bring on new challenges and priorities also to a nursing profession, both at the academic-research level or clinical-practical level.

The American Nurses Association, The International Council of Nurses and other nursing-related research institutions characterize the role of research in Nursing, giving significant knowledge for nursing practice and status of a nursing profession, as the ability to apply this scientific background in order to support health of population in a local socio-cultural context. The current social issues may influence the development of research in Nursing, which usually arise from multifactorial determinants of health as well as from ethical or socio-economical aspects. In 2012 the member states of the European area belonging to WHO adopted a new health policy – the document called *Health 2020* – which main goal is a significant improvement of health and well-being of population, boosting and ensuring sustainable health systems of high quality, which are focused on people. Taking into consideration complexity of issues mentioned above, the interdisciplinary characteristic of nursing-related research and co-operation with other humanistic, social and biomedical sciences should be made stronger. The implementation of research and clinical competences for nurses into the new curricula and development of life-long education should guarantee that educational institutions will train nurses how to overcome notional barriers between “academic theory” and real-life clinical practice, and integrate it creatively in their work. There are several barriers when trying to reach the goals of nursing-related research and education – long-lasting lack of financial support for education and science, decrease of motivation to study Nursing, low social status of a nurses, brain-drain of young well-educated nurses working abroad, or stagnation of passing a law in this field of science. So are we really ready for new challenges?

Mgr. Ivana Bóriková, PhD.
Comenius University in Bratislava,
Jessenius Medical Faculty in Martin,
Department of Nursing