



An Introductory Message from the Editor

2018, 1(1), 1-3
doi: 10.5505/jaltc.2017.10820

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Welcome to the first edition of a new 21st century Initiative: Journal of Aging and Long-Term Care.

We are most pleased and extremely grateful to announce that through the vision and generosity of Professor. Dr. Ismail Tufan who is currently the Chairperson of the Department of Gerontology at Akdeniz University in Antalya, Turkey that this new journal has been launched through the National Association of Social and Applied Gerontology (NASAG). The Ismail Foundation has assumed responsibility for the initial planning and allied costs associated with the introduction and sustainability of the new journal to be known as the *Journal of Aging and Long-term Care (JALTC)*. With world societies facing rapid increases in their respective older populations, there is a need for new 21st century visions, practices, cultural sensitivities and evidenced-based policies that assist in examining topics about aging as well as balancing the tensions between informal and formal long-term care support and services. The JALTC is being launched as the official journal of the NASAG. The preceding journal aims to foster new scholarship contributions that address theoretical, clinical and practical issues related to aging and long-term care. It is intended that the JALTC will be first and foremost a multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary cross-cultural journal seeking to use research to build quality based public policies for long-term health care for older adults.

This international journal represents a genuine commitment to establish a vehicle whereby professionals and practitioners in different aspects of aging and long-term care can access information on a range of research initiatives, intervention strategies, policy developments and philosophical approaches relating to aging and long-term care. We offer the *Journal of Aging and long-term Care* as an important global forum for opening discussion, debate, sharing of research, promotion of innovative ideas, issues and challenges that can assist in developing our understandings and sensitivities surrounding the ethical care of older people made vulnerable by the passage of time. For the first time in human history, increasing numbers of people will live into older age. There is no doubt that the aging of the world's population will significantly affect the overall demand for the provision of aged care services. In the case of the World, the current ratio of the older adult population aged 65 years or over to the rest of the population below the age of 65 years is around 8.4% with the expectation that it will be close to 17% by 2050. Moreover the ratio of oldest-old population aged above 80 years or over is expected to increase three times over during the period 2015 to 2050. Similar trends exist for societies worldwide. The overall improvement in human longevity has expanded the number of older people requiring a diverse range of care and support from either informal or formal caregivers. What we need to comprehend is that while older people have always been part of all societies we now have a situation that highlights the fact that for both the present and the foreseeable future there will be many more older people. Considering the great diversity among the of aged population including the absolute increase in numbers of older people raises the issue of 'scarce resources' along with related issues concerning fairness, availability, affordability and opportunity to access quality aged care. Policy makers and aged care researchers will need to adopt improved levels of cooperation and coordination in order to facilitate the translation of research findings into appropriate policy and strategic planning in order to facilitate the development, implementati-

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Published Online: 20 April 2017



on and evaluation of intervention programs and practices. It will be critically important that health care systems along with the diverse range of aged care providers, policy makers and researchers can establish effective pathways to work towards establishing an integrated and sustainable aged care sector to support the growing numbers of older people needing care. It is well to be reminded that aged care sectors worldwide contribute to employment across a large range of occupations with implications for 1) ensuring that appropriate skills and competencies exist among the care workforce 2) the need to meet the challenges arising from existing or likely skills shortages in either direct or indirect care occupations and 3) the need for regular review to ascertain if there exists actions to upgrade skills requirements in the aged care workforce. More than ever, the aged care sector needs to encourage input by way of critical scholarship, and in line with meeting this need we invite contributions from authors from diverse backgrounds and career levels to share their insights, information, perspectives and emerging challenges related to the growing field of aged care services. In launching a new journal we became aware of many challenges not the least of which include:

- Soliciting academic manuscripts from a range of disciplines that offer new ways of thinking about aged care drawing upon both qualitative and quantitative research methods;
- Motivating future contributors to undertake cooperative and collaborative work in the preparation of manuscripts that advance knowledge and understandings surrounding the delivery of aged care services and programs;
- Attracting people to the editorial board who offer multi-disciplinary and /or interdisciplinary experiences in aged care who can professionally assist in the critique of manuscripts submitted for publication;
- Establishing an advisory mechanism to support potential authors who may need assistance to translate their manuscripts into English;
- Encouraging readers worldwide to use *the Journal of Aging and Long-Term care* as a means for

enhancing their understandings and knowledge surrounding approaches to the delivery of aged care services and programs within a global context;

- To regularly review the publication process with the view of making meaningful changes that assist authors and the those directly and indirectly engaged in the preparation and completion of each edition of the journal.

Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches are required to address the emerging challenges facing the field of aged care services and delivery.

Also, it is widely accepted that aging and long-term care is open to a diverse range of interpretations which in turn creates a differential set of implications for research, policy and practice. As a consequence, the primary focus of the *Journal of Aging and Long-Term Care* will be to include insights and perspectives that consider and review the full gamut of health, family, and social services that are available in the home and the wider community to assist those older people who have or are losing the capacity to fully care for themselves. The adoption of a broader view of aging and long-term care allows for a continuum of care support and service systems that include home based family and nursing care, respite day care centers, hospital, palliative and hospice care, residential care, and rehabilitation services. It is also crucial to be aware that life circumstances can change suddenly and dramatically resulting in the need for transitional care arrangements requiring responsive, available, accessible, affordable and flexible health care service provision. Incorporating professional knowledge arising among theorists, scientists, practitioners about long-term care will help to foster a critical analyses aged care systems. Cross-cultural and culture specific applications about long-term care will also help us to clarify common and unique themes about long-term care within specific geographical, regional, national and international contexts..

Serious consideration must be given to the dynamic relationship between the older individual, family and society, understanding bio-psycho-socio-cultural aspects of older adults and their fa-

families, finding possible solutions for their needs and managing aged care within an ever changing world as an essential part of accepting the moral mandate to nurture and protect human rights. In this respect, building and keeping a bridge between scientific and experience-based knowledge surrounding aged care represents a common-sense approach to supporting older adults in need of care.

To incorporate scientific and experience-based knowledge, the *Journal of Aging and Long-Term Care* marks a timely opportunity to address issues and concerns relating to aging and long-term care. The quantitative, qualitative and mixed-method research approaches are welcome from disciplines including but not limited to education, gerontology, geriatrics, nursing, elderly care and hospice, social work, psychology, sociology, biology, anthropology, economics and business administration, engineering, gerontechnology, law, human rights, public policy, architecture, women studies, rehabilitation, and dietetics. Prospective authors are cordially invited to contribute clearly written original empirical research manuscripts, reviews, short communications, and case studies including innovative practices from the field as

well as relevant philosophical and ethical perspectives on long-term care and older adults. Implementation of a new 21st century visions, practices, cultural sensitivities and evidenced-based policies will assist in examining topics about aging as well as balancing the tensions between informal and formal long-term care support and services. In essence, this journal offers valuable opportunities for examining the status quo of aged care sectors within a global context that can open the way for new approaches and possibilities for introducing care based practices that facilitate positive change. Indeed, the nature of aged care services and delivery will be under constant pressure due to an ever changing mix of demographic, consumer, technological and economic factors. The challenges ahead for the provision of quality based aged care services are enormously complex and varied but not insurmountable. Humane approaches to aging and long-term care will only occur through a combined vision of care that is scientifically grounded in concert with a clearly articulated philosophic and ethical framework that recognizes the changes needed to bring the vision into reality.