Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Online Journal of Cultural Competence in Nursing and Healthcare (OJCCNH). Funded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the OJCCNH is a peer-reviewed, quarterly journal that focuses on culturally competent nursing and healthcare for individuals, groups, communities, and organizations of diverse backgrounds.

The OJCCNH has its genesis in HRSA's Nurse Education Practice, Quality, and Retention (NEPQR) Program and the project titled, Developing Nurses' Cultural Competencies: Evidence-based and Best Practices (http://www.cultural-competence-project.org), which is funded from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011. The journal will be sustained through several funding sources including but not limited to advertising revenues and future grants.

The Cultural Competence Project is based on a partnership between the nursing programs at the University of Michigan-Flint and Madonna University, with the support of the Transcultural Nursing Society and other organizations that have missions aimed at developing the cultural competencies of nurses, nurse practitioners, nursing faculty, and nursing students. Among the objectives of the
Cultural Competence Project is the dissemination of information about cultural competence reflecting a theoretical, evidence-based, and best practices foundation. A key feature of the OJCCNH is its electronic format which facilitates the rapid, timely communication of information on cultural competence to nurses and other health care professionals nationally and globally.

Recognizing that cultural competence is a complex concept with literally hundreds of different definitions, the goal of the OJCCNH is to present diverse perspectives on the definitions, conceptual analysis, measurement, provision, and evaluation of culturally competent nursing and healthcare. Cultural competence is an essential component of accessible, responsive, and high quality healthcare services. Ensuring cultural competence is a key strategy in HRSA’s commitment to achieving the goal of providing access to quality health care for all.

The electronic format of the OJCCNH facilitates: 1) dynamic, in-depth dialogue between and among authors and readers; and 2) e-discussion and debate on topics of interest and concern in cultural competence from the perspectives of clinical practice, education, research, administration, and health care policy. The OJCCNH also includes a section called Developing Scholars for students from nursing and other healthcare disciplines to disseminate their original work and engage in an intellectually rigorous and constructively critical e-discourse with OJCCNH readers.

After reading the articles in the inaugural issue of the OJCCNH, I invite you to participate in an electronic exchange and critique of ideas with the authors. I also welcome you to submit your own manuscripts, serve as a reviewer, and become actively engaged in shaping the future of cultural competence in nursing and healthcare.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret M. Andrews, PhD, RN, FAAN, CTN
Editor

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