

Year in review and appreciation for 2020 reviewers

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What a year it has been, which started as the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife, designated by the World Health Organization, but was swiftly consumed by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic world-wide. Looking back on the *Korean Journal of Women Health Nursing* (KJWHN), we had a dynamic year as well, which I hope to summarize in this editorial, while sharing plans for the upcoming year.

Year in review and preparing for 2021

This year KJWHN transitioned to a greater number of review articles and an increase in manuscripts available in English. Out of the total number of original manuscripts this year we have published six review papers (including four in this issue), and will continue to welcome integrative reviews, scoping reviews, and systematic reviews and/or meta-analyses that fit our aims and scope. As for increasing English manuscripts in 2020, 13 out of 38 published papers (34.2%; 32 unsolicited, six commissioned manuscripts) and seven out of 32 unsolicited articles (21.9%) were published in English, which will no doubt promote visibility of the important contributions of our authors. KJWHN seeks to steadily increase the proportion of English manuscripts for the benefit of our readers, especially those that offer an international perspective.

This year KJWHN published rich topics in our *Issues and Perspectives* section, starting with the push for nurses to become more familiar with artificial intelligence (AI) in research, education, and practice [1]. COVID-19 has brought limitations in both in-class teaching and clinical practicum, especially for women's health nursing education. It has also heightened the importance of big data and digital competency. As such, we hope to see more research on how nurses have used digital technology in teaching and are exploring AI application in research and practice.

Another issue paper analyzed the impact of COVID-19 on women and underscored the need for a gendered perspective of data collection in Korea [2]. Since then, an analysis of published COVID-19 research papers have shown that women's authorship is disproportionately low [3]. Also a study on work status following COVID-19 in Gyeonggido province, Korea, reported how women's work is being negatively affected while their caregiving burden is increasing [4]. Although gender inequalities in health care is not a new issue, it has certainly emerged with greater importance since COVID-19 [5] and will no doubt challenge us to approach the multiple issues relevant for women with the ongoing pandemic. KJWHN invites commentaries or original manuscripts specifically on COVID-19 impact on women's health.

In response to our third issue paper's challenge to nurses and midwives to share their stories as a

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way to inform the public and promote our profession [6], the Korean Society of Women Health Nursing sent out a call for creative submissions related to nursing and women's health. Readers can find the essay that won first prize in this issue of KJWHN, and other selected works are posted on the society's webpage (<https://women-health-nursing.or.kr/>).

Our last issue paper (December issue) presents a call to action for strengthening midwives as a strategy to alleviate the ultra-low birth rate in Korea. The challenge of Korea's low birth rate demands serious attention and the Presidential Committee on Ageing Society and Population Policy (PCASPP) has announced the Fourth Framework Plans for Korea on December 15, 2020, which will be the road map for the period 2021 to 2025 [7]. This Framework Plan does not specifically note the potential role of midwives and KJWHN intends to follow up on these developments in 2021, with a paper from PCASPP members and/or key experts.

On another note, author guidelines have been updated as of the December 2020 issue for manuscript length (English manuscripts within 5,000 words, excluding tables, figures, and references) and removing the restriction of overall number of references (although supportive citations in the text should be two or less per argument). These changes have been made to reflect international trends and are available online.

Appreciation for 2020 reviewers

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Journal statistics

Data on manuscripts submitted to KJWHN this year, as of December 19, 2020, are presented in [Table 1](#). While there have been reports of manuscript submissions fluctuating and review

Table 1. Basic statistics on manuscripts submitted to the *Korean Journal of Women Health Nursing* in 2020

Category	Data	Notes
Commissioned manuscripts (n)	6	2 Editorials, 4 Issues Et Perspectives
Unsolicited manuscripts (n)	47	
Accepted manuscripts (n)	32	
Non-accepted manuscripts (n)	13	11 Rejected, 2 withdrawn
Manuscripts reviewed and determined (n)	43	32 Accepted and published, 11 rejected
Manuscripts under review or revision (n)	2	Under revision
Acceptance rate (%)	71.1	32/45 = 0.711
Average time from submission to acceptance (days)	51.37	

processes taking longer with the ongoing COVID-19 [8], KJWHN is fortunate to have had a steady flow of submissions and we thank our authors and society members for their dedication to research and dissemination.

Upcoming developments

In 2021 KJWHN will offer a series of methods papers on instrument development and validity and reliability, and statistical reports relevant to women's health in Korea, as collaborative work with Statistics Korea. As noted above, KJWHN will also continue to follow the issues on the ultra-low birth rate in Korea. We hope you will stay tuned for these developments and consider becoming an active part of the dialogue by submitting your scholarly works for publication.

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Authors' contributions

All work was done by Kim S.

Conflict of interest

Sue Kim has been editor-in-chief of the *Korean Journal of Women Health Nursing* since January 2020. She was not involved in the review process of this editorial. Otherwise, there was no conflict of interest.

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Data availability

Please contact the corresponding author for data availability.

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