



## EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

You are reading the new issue of the journal *Nursing and Midwifery*, a venue for the publication of new scientific knowledge and the results of original research. Such activity is important for the development of our discipline, because research is the basis for the development of theory, practice and the improvement of education.

I would argue that the emancipation process that brought nursing and midwifery professional independence and autonomy in the field of research is still ongoing. As such, we face a lack of funds, international grants and a shortage of researchers. In Slovakia, as well as in the Czech Republic, most research is carried out by academics, whose academic affiliation affords them access to research funding. However we need to see more research by clinical practitioners, who are uniquely well placed to identify important issues, gather evidence and assess the relevance of research to clinical interventions. Therefore I believe that facilitating cooperation between clinical practitioners and researchers at universities is a major challenge for the advancement of the emergent trend of evidence-based practice. I find it a pity that good qualifying diploma theses remain filed in the archives, and I know that if published they would be very conducive to the development of the field.

As things stand, nurses and midwives are highly competent professionals, but they lack research experience, especially in the field of methodology, as well as familiarity with the techniques of scientific writing. Hence every effort of clinical practitioners who wish to share their results with the scientific community should be all the more deeply appreciated and encouraged. By the same token, clinicians should learn to accept the comments and advice of reviewers with good grace and use them to improve the quality of their publications.

I wish all our readers the very best.

**Katarína Žiaková**

*Member, Editorial Board*

*Department of Nursing, Jessenius Faculty of Medicine, Martin, Slovakia*