

## Summary Abstracts Second Quarter 2023 *Journal*

### **Editor's Column**

This standard feature provides commentary from the current *Journal* Editor, Kim Stanchfield, RN, COHN-S. She reflects on the importance of caring for the caregivers and shares her personal experience being cared for while suffering from atrial fibrillation.

### **Staying Current on Government Affairs**

In his *Journal* column, Stephen Burt, MFA, BS, AOHP Government Affairs Committee Chair, provides analysis of recent government affairs activities. For this issue, he examines the potential for a federal nurse safe staffing regulation based on the signing of a new state law in Washington State, which becomes effective January 1, 2024, that requires hospitals to meet more stringent nurse staffing requirements.

### **Association Community Liaison Report**

This regular *Journal* article details how AOHP is gaining visibility as an expert regarding occupational health issues. In this edition, Bobbi Jo Hurst, BSN, RN, MBA, COHN-S, provides updates from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Healthcare Safety Network, and Small Business Advocacy Review Panel for Workplace Violence.

### **Perspectives in Healthcare Safety**

Cory Worden, PhD (ABD), MS, CSHM, CSP, CHSP, ARM, REM, CESCO, shares his insights on occupational safety in healthcare in this standing column. This issue's feature – *Safety, Interrupted* – explores how workplace conversation interruptions can have a variety of physiological, psychological, political, and legal implications.

### **The Factors That Influence Chemotherapy Exposure Among Nurses**

Exposure to chemotherapy is an occupational hazard predisposing nurses to severe health effects. In this integrative review, authors Dania Abu-Alhija, PhD, RN; Tamilyn Bakas, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN; Elizabeth Shaughnessy, MD, PhD; and Elaine Miller, PhD, RN, CRRN, FAAN, FAHA, identify recent literature describing the risk factors for occupational exposure to chemotherapy among nurses and how addressing these risks would protect these nurses.

### **Economics of Caring: Improving Population Health by Valuing Care Workers**

Alina Baci, MPH, PhD, reports on the Roundtable on Population Health Improvement's December 16, 2021 workshop – Economic Innovations to Support Health, Equity, and Well-Being: Exploring Policies that Further the Well-Being of Care Economy Workers. The workshop was developed by a planning committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to explore research, practices, and policies (being considered or already implemented at the federal, state, and local level) relevant to the health and economic stability of families and of workers (e.g., in the care economy).

### **How to Become More Comfortable with Change**

The pace of change has increased significantly since the onset of the pandemic. Too many people have the mindset that change is temporary, so they cope with it rather than accepting it. Kathryn Clubb and Jeni Fan of BTS, a human-centered consulting firm, instruct readers on how to move from a change-

averse mindset to a change-ready mindset by recognizing that change is continuous and a source of opportunity.

### **Identifying and Decreasing Sharps Injuries Through Root Cause Analysis in a Large Urban Hospital System**

Despite safety mandates and interventions, sharps injuries remain an occupational risk for registered nurses (RNs). Sharps and needlestick injuries increase the risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens. Post-exposure direct and indirect costs of these percutaneous injuries have been estimated at about \$700 per incident. The goal of this quality improvement project was to identify root causes of sharps injuries for RNs at a large urban hospital system. Authors include Christopher Stallard, APRN, FNP-C, COHN-S; Karen Heaton, PhD, COHN-S, FNP-BC, FAAN, FAAOHN; Aoyjai P. Montgomery, PhD, BSN; Roseann Trimble, RN; and Stephanie Hammond, DNP, CRNP, CNP-BC, COHN-S.

### **The Need for a Multi-Dimensional Risk Analysis**

Cory Worden, PhD (ABD), MS, CSP, CSHM, CHSP, ARM, REM, CESCO, reviews five questionable statements that can arise when conducting a diligent risk assessment and how to counter them to ensure the most reasonably safe working conditions and the most reasonable expectations of safe work practices.