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Editorial

The International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) Nursing Home Initiative

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Nursing homes have a long history of providing inconsistent standards of care quality to older persons.^{1,2} In 2010, under the leadership of Professor Bruno Vellas, the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) developed a task force to focus on the needs of nursing homes and how to develop research in nursing homes. This led to a position paper setting out a global development agenda on nursing homes³ that was widely publicized.^{4–7} The position paper focused on 4 major areas:

1. Reputational enhancement and leadership
2. Clinical essentials and care quality indicators
3. Practitioner education
4. Research

As part of the need to focus on education concerning nursing homes, the IAGG organized 2 pilot conferences in Hong Kong and Chengdu, China, in 2011 and a miniconference in New Delhi, India, in 2012. It also sponsored a symposium at the IAGG International Meeting in South Korea in 2013.

Based on the popularity of these courses, the IAGG developed a core international curriculum to support the development of nursing home practice with physicians and other health care professionals. The curriculum is set out in a book, *Nursing Home Care*, authored by John Morley, Debbie Tolson, Joseph Ouslander, and Bruno Vellas, and takes an evidence-informed and values-based interprofessional approach (McGraw-Hill Education, 2013, London, UK) (Figure 1). It has 4 sections: (1) An introduction to nursing home life and alternatives, which also focuses on aging in place and nursing home design; (2) fundamentals of nursing home practice, which looks at models of nursing home care, interprofessional teams, education, and research; (3) managing age-related syndromes and changes, which examines approaches to common conditions associated with aging; and (4) disease management, which explores the specific differences in care that are appropriate in nursing homes. The text takes an international perspective to

NURSING HOME CARE



A CORE CURRICULUM FROM THE INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOR GERONTOLOGY
AND GERIATRICS

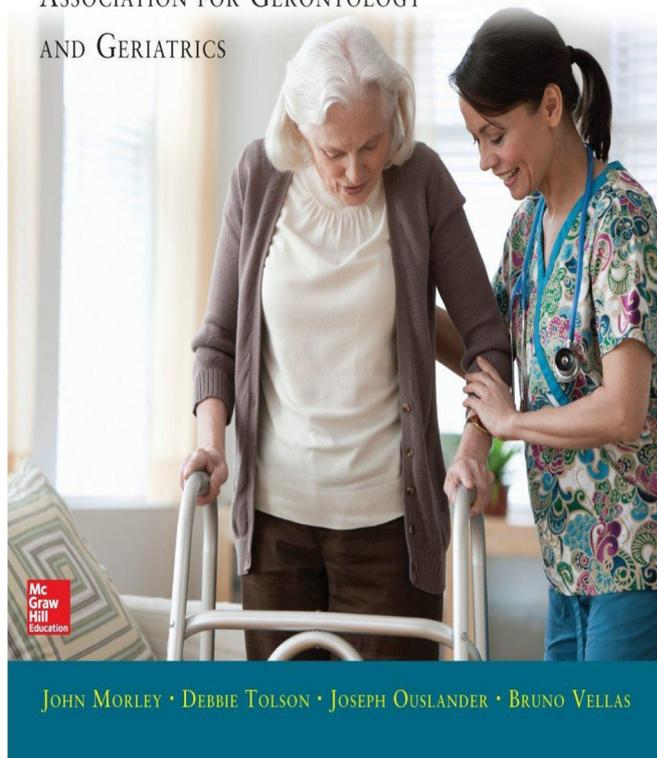


Fig. 1. Cover of the book, *Nursing Home Care*.

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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nursing homes. Associated with it are more than 1000 slides that are available free to instructors at www.iaggnursinghomecare.com. See the section for instructors.

The IAGG nursing home task force also organized a nursing home research conference in St Louis, MO, in November 2013. The proceedings of this conference are published in this issue of the *Journal*.⁸

The task force also has started to collect information on nursing homes around the world and international research priorities for nursing homes. The first publication focused on the types of nursing homes and found that social and nursing models were much more common than physician (medicalized) models outside of the United States.⁹ In this issue of the *Journal*, the task force publishes its international survey of research priorities in nursing homes.¹⁰ Projects under way include developing a universally acceptable definition for nursing homes (Angela Sanford and Martin Orrell, group leaders) and exploring meaningful activities in nursing homes (Angela Sanford, group leader). Future projects that are being planned include variation in functional status in nursing homes around the world, pain and its treatment in nursing homes in developing countries, and quality of life of residents in nursing homes around the world. Anyone interested in being the group leader for any of these projects or who has other ideas for projects should contact John Morley (morley@slu.edu).

Finally, the IAGG has published 2 other position papers with important implications for nursing home residents: one on frailty^{11,12} and one on diabetes mellitus in older persons.^{13,14}

Overall, the IAGG has made a substantial contribution to enhancing awareness of the importance of nursing homes. It is hoped that the ongoing research projects will further lead to enhanced quality of care for older residents of nursing homes.

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