Supportive Care for the Renal Patient

is one in a series of supportive care textbooks. The text provides the renal professional with much needed information on the care of the patient with renal failure from a different perspective. The editors bring together a number of experts in the field of supportive and palliative care.

Dr Alvin Moss introduces the nine recommended guidelines with regard to decision making about withholding or withdrawing dialysis and the care of patients who are not appropriate for dialysis. These guidelines and a process for ethical decision making provide the basis for the ethics case analysis presented throughout the book. The text is divided into 15 chapters. Chapter titles include initiation and withdrawal of dialysis, the concept of supportive care for the renal patient, planning a palliative care program, health related quality of life in chronic renal failure and symptoms of renal disease and their management. One symptom we often struggle with is pain and a chapter is dedicated entirely to the management of pain in renal failure. Chapters on the psychological and spiritual care of patients guide the health care professional toward a more holistic approach as we journey with the patient and family. This journey is often long and must involve a multidisciplinary approach. The emphasis is on a continuum of palliative care intervention from diagnosis through to end of life care.

This must have text was published in 2004 but I was only made aware of it by our palliative care consultant who purchased a copy while on a conference overseas. My shelves are full of renal textbooks and I had been meaning to stretch my imagination beyond the usual nursing care of the dialysis patient and this book has filled the gap. As a clinical nurse consultant, I have begun to realise that most of my clinical work is not what it used to be – teaching nurses to do dialysis. I am still involved in trouble shooting difficult dialysis problems but now the emphasis is more on supporting nurses, patients and families in quality of life and end of life issues.

The book is invaluable for all members of the multidisciplinary team involved in the care of patients requiring renal replacement therapy. The text is also an asset for planning care for the patient managed on a conservative pathway. Keeping patients alive in end stage renal failure is no longer a problem but supporting patients in achieving an optimum quality of life and a peaceful supported end of life is the new challenge.

The Renal Society of Australasia is seeking expressions of interest from persons interested in undertaking the role of Renal Society of Australasia Journal (RSAJ) Associate Editor.

The role of the Associate Editor includes supporting the RSAJ Chief Editor to provide members with a high quality, peer-reviewed publication which promotes and supports the aims of the Renal Society of Australasia (RSA). It is envisaged that there will be more than one position offered.

Essential Criteria

- Be an RSA Member with experience in the field of nephrology practice
- Possess current knowledge of contemporary nephrology practices, education and professional issues
- Actively interested in journal publication and be available to give time to this position as required
- Have proven interpersonal and written skills
- Have a high degree of computer literacy and regular and confidential access to e-mail and internet services

For further details and copy of the RSAJ Associate Editor Position Description please contact Mr Paul Bennett, RSAJ Editor at: paul.bennett@flinders.edu.au.

If you wish to apply for the position(s) please address application to: Renal Society of Australasia Journal Editor, PO Box 155 Heidelberg VIC 3084 Australia. Please address selection criteria and include your current CV in your application. Closing date for applications will be 5pm Friday 22nd December 2006.