

BOOK REVIEW

Gray and Grove's contribution to training for nursing research

Contribución de Gray y Grove a la formación para la investigación en enfermería

Book: Burns and Grove's *The Practice of Nursing Research: Appraisal, Synthesis, and Generation of Evidence* (9th Edition)

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.71164/socialmedicine.v19i1.2026.2383>

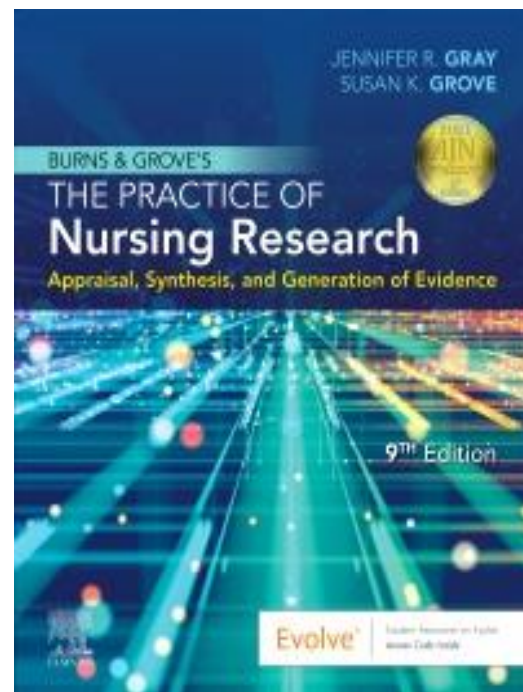
1. Persuasiveness of the Author's Thesis

The thesis of the authors—that nursing research is critical to improving patient outcomes and advancing the nursing profession—is a crucial argument that serves as the foundation of this book. Gray and Grove stress the close connection between nursing research and evidence-based practice (EBP), and illustrate how nursing research can change clinical care. Their argument strikes a chord against the backdrop of contemporary healthcare, in which evidence-based practice is a keystone for providing the best quality of care.

The vigor of this case rests not merely on its common-sense appeal, but on the authors' skill in linking research to practical results. They accomplish this by effectively incorporating real life examples demonstrating how research evidence can impact clinical decision-making. Gray and Grove take their argument about the applicability of their thesis beyond mere theory, by detailing how research techniques—from the development of studies to the presentation and dissemination of data—directly inform and influence the delivery of care at the bedside.

In addition, the authors discuss how healthcare is becoming more complex, and the role of the nurse is evolving in this environment. This is convincing, as it does not characterize nursing

research as a purely academic discipline, but as interdependent with the multidisciplinary approaches inherent in contemporary health care. In locating nursing research regarding clinical practice, patient outcomes and questioning policy, the book describes in clear detail what practical nursing research is and why nurses should contribute to it.



2. Originality of the Subject Matter and Theoretical Framework

Nursing research is not a new topic, but the approach to it by Gray and Grove is novel because it reflects a mix of traditional research methodologies and current trends, making the book highly relevant. The novelty of this text is its focus on actually utilizing the research in nursing. Whereas most research texts focus on how to design and conduct studies, what to do with results in terms of practice change, clinical intervention, advocacy, and policy, and on the theories and theorists of research, this book moves beyond the realm of learning about research methodologies and into the discipline of using individual studies to bring about actual change in practice and healthcare policy.

The book is theoretically strong and very “next-wave.” It incorporates traditional nursing research with both qualitative and quantitative methods, and also includes more contemporary approaches such as mixed method, outcomes focused research, and evidence-based practice. The writers manage to span the history of their profession, from the basic building blocks of nursing research development to the very latest techniques, so that readers can get a sense of how the field has changed over time and where it is headed.

Specifically, applying the concept of evidence synthesis (SR and MA) as a framework for enhancing clinical practices is highly topical and pertinent. In the age where collaboration across professions is valued in healthcare, the author’s repeated recommendation to incorporate a variety of sources of information—ranging from experimental to experiential (or qualitative data)—makes their framework more comprehensive and useful as it applies to caring for patients with complex clinical presentations.

3. Clarity and Coherence of the Author's Presentation

The use of “The Practice of Nursing Research” as a teaching text is realized by its clarity. Gray and Grove “demystify research” for readers, particularly those new to the subject, by dividing

their book into manageable sections that follow a logical sequence. They attain such clarity with didactic voices that balance technical precision and accessibility.

The clarity of the book is reinforced by its structure, which is organized into five units. Each module is independent, offered in both English and Spanish, and tailored to different stages of the research process—from introductory nursing research to advanced topics such as data collection, statistical analysis, and research dissemination. This organization allows readers to engage with the material step by step, building confidence as they progress from foundational concepts to more advanced themes.

The authors provide visualizations in the form of figures, tables, flow diagrams, and summaries throughout the text. These supports actively help unpack complex topics such as sampling methods, data analysis strategies, and research design decisions. For example, the book includes models that illustrate the connections between research questions, study design, and data collection. Such models can be invaluable for students or practitioners who struggle to translate abstract concepts into concrete links.

In addition, the integration of application questions, brief scenarios, and step-by-step instructions for library research adds to the book’s user-friendly design. This combination of theoretical depth and practical accessibility ensures that the book is valuable for readers across a wide range of backgrounds and levels of experience with research.

4. Sound, Accurate, and Thorough Scholarship

The scholarship in this book is enviable—tight, precise, and thorough. Gray and Grove integrate recent findings in nursing and health care research with an extensive review of existing literature, making the book both a valuable reference and a comprehensive teaching resource on research processes and principles. The authors have thoughtfully updated this edition to include new theoretical perspectives, emphasizing how nursing philosophies shape professional practice and influence the evolving role of the nurse.

An area in which the book particularly excels is its treatment of ethics and the depth of detail devoted to this topic. Ethical considerations are central to nursing research, and Gray and Grove dedicate an entire chapter to the subject, covering the history of ethical codes, the laws guiding human subjects research, and current issues affecting informed consent and confidentiality. This emphasis on moral integrity enables nurses not only to learn what research should be pursued, but also how it can be conducted in a manner that safeguards participants' rights and dignity.

The book's treatment of qualitative and quantitative research is equally balanced. The authors demonstrate a nuanced understanding of when qualitative approaches are most appropriate and when a mixed-method design may be more effective. The thorough coverage of both paradigms ensures that readers learn not only how to design research studies but also how to critically evaluate existing literature—an essential skill for interpreting and applying research findings in patient care.

5. Effectiveness of the Writing Style and Organization of the Book

Gray and Grove's writing style is clear, straightforward, and authoritative. The book is also well-structured, with each chapter logically leading to the next. This organization helps novice readers of nursing research approach the material in an encouraging and systematic manner.

Each unit begins with an introduction to key topics, followed by a detailed exploration of the subject, and concludes with a concise summary. This format not only enhances understanding but also enables readers to see how the various components of research fit together into a coherent whole. End-of-chapter review questions, exercises, and discussion prompts further encourage active learning and engagement.

With its lucid writing, well-organized chapters, and thoughtfully designed structure, this book serves as an ideal textbook—both inside and outside the classroom. For instructors, it is a valuable teaching resource; for students, it

provides both an accessible introduction and a lasting reference.

6. Contribution to Academic Discussion within the Field

This volume makes a significant contribution to the literature on nursing research. The authors are to be commended for bridging the gap between theory and practice, addressing a longstanding challenge in nursing education: the translation of evidence into practice. Although this focus is not unique to this text, its emphasis on critical analysis, literature synthesis, and integration of diverse methodologies establishes it as an indispensable guide for advancing nursing practice.

In addition, *The Practice of Nursing Research* enriches understanding of mixed methods and outcomes research, areas that are increasingly vital as the evidence-based practice paradigm expands to encompass a wider range of evidence. The inclusion of these emerging methodologies reflects the authors' awareness of contemporary challenges in health research and their commitment to preparing nurses to address them effectively.

By emphasizing both *research translation* and *the translation of research into practice*, the authors contribute meaningfully to the field of implementation science, which examines how evidence-based practices can be integrated into routine care. This focus is especially relevant in today's healthcare landscape, where organizations are increasingly adopting evidence-based guidelines to enhance patient outcomes and reduce costs.

7. Audience Suitability

This book holds broad appeal across all levels of the nursing profession. For student nurses, it serves as a gentle introduction to the fundamentals of research writing; for practicing nurses, it becomes a wise companion in navigating the challenges of scholarly writing and publication. Clear and practical in tone, it is well suited to graduate students and advanced undergraduates

alike, as well as to seasoned professionals seeking a comprehensive reference.

The text equips advanced practice nurses, nurse educators, and clinical researchers with critical knowledge and competencies for every stage of the research process, spanning diverse methodologies. The inclusion of mixed-methods and outcomes research is especially valuable for nurse administrators, reflecting the growing emphasis in nursing research on generating evidence-based practice and elevating standards of care.

In summary, *The Practice of Nursing Research* is a vital resource for nursing personnel at all stages of their careers, from students to practitioners,

offering both foundational understanding and advanced insight into the art and science of nursing research.

Conclusion

Burns and Grove's The Practice of Nursing Research: Appraisal, Synthesis, and Generation of Evidence (9th Edition) is a well-crafted, comprehensive resource that successfully integrates research theory with practical application in the nursing field. It provides a clear, rigorous, and accessible framework for understanding and applying nursing research to improve patient care. Gray and Grove's contribution to nursing research education is indispensable, making this text essential for nursing students, practitioners, and educators.

Book Information: Authors: Jennifer R. Gray, PhD, RN, FAAN & Susan K. Grove, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, GNP-BC, **Title:** *Burns and Grove's The Practice of Nursing Research: Appraisal, Synthesis, and Generation of Evidence* (9th Edition), **Publisher:** Elsevier, **Publication Year:** 2021, **ISBN:** 978-0-323-67317-4
<https://evolve.elsevier.com/cs/product/9780323673174?role=student>



Social Medicine

Health For All

ISSN: 1557-7112