This text presents the "state of the science" based on King's conceptual system and theory of goal attainment. Continuing development and testing of propositions and formulations from nursing theory are critical for the continued evolution of nursing science. In this text, the editors and contributors highlight significant work in middle range theory development using King’s Conceptual System and Theory of Goal Attainment.

Explored in the three sections of this volume are:
- An overview of the foundations on which middle range theories are built from within King's Conceptual System, including a chapter by Dr. King
- Presentation of a variety of middle range theories applied to individuals, groups and families, and organizations--from children to the elderly
- Examination of post-middle range theory development and challenges for further nursing research and education

Each chapter has a consistent format and includes a wide-range of perspectives and geographical locations, allowing readers to compare knowledge-building efforts across international lines.