Evidence-based healthcare and traditional Chinese medicine

Dr Matthew Stephenson and Associate Professor Zachary Munn with research staff and nurses from Dongzhimen TCM Hospital in Beijing, China.
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From the Executive Director

Welcome to the last issue of JBI Matters for 2017. I would like to start by thanking each and every one of you for the energy and enthusiasm with which you conducted yourselves as part of the JBI team this year. Whether as a member of staff here in Adelaide, as part of the broader Joanna Briggs Collaboration or as a student, you all continue to make an important contribution to JBI. It has been an exciting year, full of achievements in both teaching and research, which climaxied with the inaugural Global Evidence Summit in Cape Town, South Africa. Of course there were things we could quickly identify to improve on for future events of this kind, but for me personally it was a very rewarding experience. To see JBI and the JBC sit alongside other organisations like the Cochrane Collaboration, the Campbell Collaboration and G-I-N and truly hold our own in that space was indeed a proud moment. The year 2018 will bring with it a new set of challenges, as every year does, and will require new efforts and ideas for us to remain the successful, innovative organisation that we are. In the meantime, I wish you all a very safe and joyous festive season and a well-earned break with family and friends.

Professor Zoe Jordan
A visit to Beijing, China

Associate Professor Zachary Munn and Dr Matthew Stephenson were invited to Beijing, China, by one of the JBI collaborating centres, The Beijing University of Chinese Medicine (BUCM) Centre for Evidence-based Nursing, from 6th-10th November 2017. The purpose of this centre is to combine the concepts and patterns of Evidence-Based Nursing (EBN) with the characteristics of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) nursing, to instruct the TCM nursing personnel to apply the best evidence for clinical practice, to improve the effectiveness of TCM nursing practice and health care outcomes, to promote it globally and to improve the level of clinical and scientific research of TCM Nursing.

Associate Professor Zachary Munn and Dr Matthew Stephenson toured the centre’s facilities at the new BUCM campus and learnt about education of TCM nurses and the synthesis and implementation work of the centre. They were keynote speakers at a symposium on knowledge translation hosted in conjunction with the other JBI centre in Beijing at the Peking University School of Nursing. Associate Professor Zachary Munn presented an overview of evidence synthesis and Dr Matthew Stephenson presented on evidence implementation. They also visited two sites of the Dongzhimen TCM Hospital where they experienced TCM first hand and engaged in useful discussions regarding evidence-based healthcare in a TCM context. It was a successful trip.
Train the Trainer program

Associate Professor Ed Aromataris and Associate Professor Craig Lockwood taught the Comprehensive Systematic Review Training (CSRT) Train the Trainer program from 23-27 October 2017 at the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. After the program, the School of Nursing of University of Sao Paulo (EEUSP) connected to the University Hospital of the University of Sao Paulo (HU-USP), celebrated their 75th anniversary and this coincided with the 2017 Conference of the Americas - Evidence Implementation. Associate Professor Ed Aromataris said the two day conference and anniversary celebrations were excellent.

Global CSRTP Training

Over 70 JBI Collaborating Entities across the globe work with JBI towards our shared vision of a world in which the best available evidence is used to inform policy and practice to improve health in communities globally. In line with this vision JBI and the Joanna Briggs Collaboration (JBC) offer short courses to promote and facilitate evidence-based practice in health settings globally. So far this year, almost 100 short courses have been offered for clinicians, researchers, health scientists and library scientists globally.

Portugal Centre for Evidence Based Practice: A Joanna Briggs Institute Centre of Excellence ran three CSRTPs

Participants at the CSRTP at Afya Research Africa (ARA): A Joanna Briggs Institute Centre of Excellence
Participants at The Japan Centre for Evidence Based Practice: A Joanna Briggs Centre of Excellence for the CSRTP (above).

CSRTP participants at The Brazilian Centre for Evidence Informed Healthcare: a Joanna Briggs Institute Centre of Excellence (below left).

Clinical fellows presentations, Shanghai, China

Clinical fellows from Shanghai, China, Chenfei Fang and Wei Cao from Huadong Hospital and Xiao Bin Lai from the School of Nursing in Fudan University, presented their implementation projects on the 13th of October at the JBI presentation room in Norwich House, Adelaide, South Australia. Dr Matthew Stephenson and Dr Lucy Lizarondo provided facilitation support to the fellows through the entire duration of their project. The executive team and all research fellows from the Implementation Science team attended the presentation and all were very pleased with the outcomes of their projects. Congratulations to Fang, Cao and Lai on completing the clinical fellowship program.
Clinical fellows presentations, Sydney, Australia

Twelve clinical fellows from the South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD) presented their implementation projects to the Directors of Nursing and Midwifery at Liverpool Hospital, Sydney, Australia, on the 24th of November 2017. Implementation projects covered areas such as medication administration, diabetes care, mental health care planning, falls prevention, pressure injury documentation and patient admission assessment. Ms Alexa McArthur and Dr Lucy Lizarondo facilitated this group of hard-working fellows.

Emeritus Professor Alan Pearson presents in Myanmar

Emeritus Professor Alan Pearson recently presented in Myanmar. In the photo below he is surrounded by his wife Pauline, staff and PhD candidates at the Military Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences. During his visit, Emeritus Professor Alan and his wife attended the national races village, Mahapasana cave and a royal green river cruise in the Yangon River. Khin Sanda Tun, core staff member from The Yangon Centre for Evidence Based Health Care: A Joanna Briggs Institute Centre of Excellence Myanmar, said the couple seemed a bit tired in the end but happy.

Systematic reviews and implementation reports

The JBI Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports (JBISRIR) will publish issue 12 on 8th December 2017. The latest issue will include topics on nursing, smoking, drug and alcohol, paediatrics and infectious disease. Also, journal promotions are ongoing and information related to open access articles or promotional weeks/months are communicated via our Twitter page and the JBI Facebook page. Click here to access the journal online http://journals.lww.com/jbisrir/Pages/default.aspx
Cochrane Nursing Care Field Matters

The Cochrane Nursing Care Field (CNCF) continues to widen its reach in the dissemination of Cochrane best practice evidence, and it is pleased to report on another high impact international journal joining its mission. The Journal in Research in Nursing and Health has recognised the valuable work the CNCF is doing in getting best evidence into practice and has agreed to publish the Field’s Cochrane review summaries, entering into an initial arrangement for the monthly publication of a ‘Cochrane Corner’ column. This is an exciting new endeavour for the Field that will see its Cochrane review summaries feature in this highly regarded international journal throughout 2018. With an impact rating of 1.693, the Journal for Research in Nursing and Health is a general peer-reviewed research periodical devoted to publication of a wide range of research and theory that informs the practice of nursing and other health disciplines. The journal invites research reports on nursing practice education, administration and history, on health issues relevant to nursing and on the testing of research findings in practice.

Master of Public Health (Evidence-based Healthcare)

The Master of Public Health (Evidence-based Healthcare) is offered as a joint initiative of the School of Public Health within the University of Adelaide and JBI. Offered in an online teaching format, the specialisation is designed to meet the needs of a diverse and international student body from a wide range of disciplines and at all stages of career. This specialisation equips graduates with skills to contribute professionally to evidence-based healthcare in public health and clinical settings.

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GRADE Workshop

The Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) approach reflects ‘best practice’ in terms of clinical guideline development and has been endorsed by organisations across the globe.

The JBI Adelaide GRADE Center offers a one-day workshop designed for systematic reviewers, guideline developers and others wanting to learn more about GRADE methodology, particularly the creation of Summary of Findings tables and Evidence Profiles. The course includes information on the theory of GRADE along with hands-on activities.

Click here to register for the next workshop scheduled for 16 March 2018 for 9am-4:30pm.

Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Program (Modules 1, 2 and 3)

The CSRTP is a one-three-or-five day program which prepares researchers and clinicians to develop, conduct and report systematic reviews in order to provide the strongest possible evidence to inform decision making or clinical guidelines in healthcare. The program incorporates both theory and hands on experience so that participants learn how to develop a focused question, search for relevant literature, and appraise and synthesise evidence arising from research. By the end of the program participants will have a completed protocol and be ready to commence a review.

On successful completion of the program participants can become Certified Reviewers. Certified Reviewers are accredited for a period of two years as authors in the JBI Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports (JBISRIR), a refereed online journal, the content of which is indexed in Embase, Scopus, Mosby’s Index (Elsevier), CINAHL (EBSCO) and MEDLINE.

Click here to register for the 19 March 2018 intake of the Systematic Review Training Program.

Evidence-based Clinical Fellowship Program

This six-month program involves two five-day intensive training workshops at JBI and a six-month evidence-based implementation project. Participants develop and engage in processes to further develop their leadership skills and strengths, conduct clinical audits, and develop and execute strategies to implement evidence-based practice in their own work environment.

Next intake: 5 March 2018

http://joannabriggs.org/education/short-courses/clinical-fellowship

Clinical Leadership Program

This one-day workshop is ideal for health professionals to develop the knowledge and tools required to be effective clinical leaders. It helps participants identify strategies that will assist in managing difficult behaviour, building productive teams and implementing change, thereby enabling effective leadership of projects and people. This workshop is based on JBI’s history over the past 20 years, together with the best available evidence regarding clinical leadership.

Click here to register for the March 2018 intake of the Clinical Fellowship Program.
Collaborating Entity news

New Affiliated Group

The Joanna Briggs Institute and the Joanna Briggs Collaboration welcome a new Affiliated Group: PR China Nanfang Nursing Centre for Evidence-based Practice: A Joanna Briggs Institute Affiliated Group, Guangzhou China, led by Professor Chunlan Zhou with Ms Yanni Wu, as Deputy Director.

First JBI Affiliated Group becomes a Centre of Excellence

JBI would like to congratulate Aligning Health Needs and Evidence for Transformative Change (AH-NET-C): A Joanna Briggs Institute Centre of Excellence, on becoming the first Affiliated Group to vary to Centre of Excellence membership.

Change of Leadership

JBI farewells Palle Larsen as he steps down as Director of the Danish Centre of Systematic Reviews: A Joanna Briggs Institute Centre of Excellence. JBI welcomes back Professor Preben Pederson who returns to the leadership role.

ESGs and EIGs move to the new JBC Framework

The following former Evidence Synthesis and Evidence Implementation Groups have varied to the new JBC Framework as Affiliated Groups:

- The University of New Brunswick (UNB) Saint John Collaboration for Evidence-Informed Healthcare: A Joanna Briggs Institute Affiliated Group in Canada with Dr Lisa Keeping-Burke as the new Group Convenor and Dr Rose McCloskey the deputy;
- The Centre for Chronic Illnesses: A Joanna Briggs Institute Affiliated Group in Gaborone, Botswana with Sheila Shaibu as the Convenor; and
- The Centre for Nursing Education BCNU Thailand: a Joanna Briggs Institute Affiliated Group at Boromarajonani College of Nursing Udon Thani with Dr Adchara Khammathit as Convenor.

Merete Bender Bjerrum is also now a joint Deputy Director with Sasja Jul Håkonsen.

JBI Colloquium 2018 in Belgium

The 10th Biennial JBI Colloquium #JBIcolloq2018 (2-4 May 2018) is now just four months away.

Directors and Convenors have now received information regarding the Committee of Directors meeting (30 April and 1 May 2018). Your advice regarding attendance at the meeting is appreciated by 15 December 2017.

If you need a VISA invitation letter please do not hesitate to email Pam and ask for one! jbc@adelaide.edu.au

Early Bird registrations are available until 31 December 2018 at http://bit.ly/JBIcolloq2018

JBI clinical fellow awarded scholarship for HDR program

JBI clinical fellow, Sylvia John, has been successful at securing a University of Adelaide study scholarship to attend our higher degree by research program. Working in a remote part of Papua New Guinea, Sylvia is a fully qualified registered specialist nurse with 20 years of clinical experience. Initially, Sylvia was attracted to the JBI short course because the clinical audit would enable the implementation of new medical interventions to her workplace, and make changes to practices unsupported by evidence. During her attendance in the short course, Sylvia heard about the Master of Clinical Science offered by JBI and was curious about the prospect of conducting a systematic review on how asthma is managed in her workplace. With the support of JBI, Sylvia made the application for one of the University’s limited scholarships and was successful amongst a competitive pool of candidates. On her interest in the JBI Master’s program, Sylvia said, ‘For many years I noticed that asthma management was very poor in my clinical facility. Other common diseases were also under diagnosed and mishandled. I wanted to make some changes, but lacked the knowledge to do so effectively. When I heard about the JBI LMIC Clinical Fellowship 2017 program I applied as soon I could, with an interest to do a clinical audit on asthma management. This is when I heard about the JBI Master’s program where I could undertake a systematic review, and the possibility of receiving a scholarship offered by the University of Adelaide to complete the program. I was thankful when my scholarship application was successful. I am so happy to be commencing the JBI research program in 2018.’ Sylvia will return to Adelaide in December 2017 for the JBI clinical fellows presentations/graduations.

Dr Andrew Chan – commencing 2018 HDR student

In February 2018 the Joanna Briggs Institute will welcome Dr Andrew Chan to its commencing group of higher degree by research students. After completing a Bachelor of Dental Surgery from the University of Adelaide in 2009, Andrew practiced medicine in the private sector for four years. In 2013, he gained Fellowship to the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons, after which he commenced a Doctorate of Medicine at Flinders University. During his time working as a private dentist, Andrew tutored undergraduate students at Melbourne University Dental School, in addition to undertaking volunteer work in the Northern Territory, Australia, Cambodia and Ghana, Africa, providing free dental treatment and education within underprivileged communities. In addition to his exhaustive professional pursuits, Andrew is an active father of two boys and enjoys travelling and cooking. During his professional career Andrew has been involved in a number of research projects, including a study that developed the first validated patient reported outcome tool to assess the results of cleft lip and/or palate surgery. He was also involved in a study that looked at the inter and intra operator reliability of assessing tibial rotation on CT imaging. Andrew is currently undertaking a pilot study, working with both the Royal Adelaide Hospital Maxillofacial Surgery - Plastic Surgery Department and Women’s and Children’s Hospital Craniofacial Department, which is looking at the outcomes of isolated medical orbital wall fractures. It was during this project that Andrew started the process of conducting a
systematic review with a view to incorporating it into his final paper. He spoke to several librarians at the time and formulated a search strategy, which triggered his interest in the potential of systematic review outcomes. After working with citation management software and collating abstracts in EndNote, Andrew started to consider the possibility of doing the Master of Clinical Science through JBI, a program he was made aware of through a colleague. Andrew states, ‘I am interested in undertaking a Master of Clinical Science to bolster my understanding of research methodologies, improve my interpretation of research and to contribute knowledge to my field of interest. I believe undertaking a Master of Clinical Science will make me a better clinician and put me in a good position to continue undertaking research throughout my career.’ During his JBI Master’s candidature, Andrew’s supervisory panel will be joined by external supervisor, Professor Paul Sambrook, who is Head of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. On his proposed research topic Andrew writes: ‘I brainstormed many possible systematic review topics and met with Professor Paul Sambrook to present and discuss my top four project ideas. I presented topics regarding mandibular reconstruction, computer guided implant placement, orthognathic surgery and temporomandibular joint disorders. Through our discussions I have since decided to conduct a research project relating to computer guided mandibular reconstruction outcomes.’ We wish Andrew all the very best.

**Vivienne Leigh (2017 intake) becomes new HDR Student Rep**

We are pleased to welcome Vivienne Leigh (2017 intake) to our JBI-HDRP Student Representative Panel. Recognising that most of our HDR students have significant constraints on time due to career and study workloads, building the student body into an active collegial group, and encouraging participation in the decision making processes of the program can be challenging. The Student Representatives are elected to represent the views and interests of all our higher degree students on issues that directly affect candidacy and all our students are encouraged to engage with them and contribute to the activities of our degree program.

**Graduating HDR student, Samantha Butenko**

Joanna Briggs Institute – Higher Degrees by Research – Master’s candidate, Samantha (Sam) Butenko (2015 Intake), recently took part in the September 2017 University of Adelaide graduation ceremony. Sam was a consensus student from the start and was quick to develop strong bonds with her fellow students and JBI academic staff. She found it easy to communicate her excitement about embarking on her higher degree journey, but throughout candidature also needed to navigate some challenges within her project. But despite any hesitation or trepidation she may have felt, Sam never backed down and persevered with her research to complete a strong thesis. On her involvement in the JBI higher degree program Sam writes: ‘The backgrounds and histories of my fellow students may have been diverse, but we approached the
program united, with many referring to their studies as "my masters". Despite the heterogeneity that existed amongst us, once synthesized down, it quickly became apparent we were all unified in our goal to make a difference to those we are privileged to care for in the healthcare context.' Sam freely admits that she had to step out of her normal life and move forward into academia with a sense of trepidation. On her initial experience entering program Sam writes: 'I felt as prepared as I could, I had gathered my required equipment and had course work resources at the ready. The first week was about adjusting to my new conditions and exposure to the elements of scholarly thought. By day two it dawned on me that embarking on the higher degree program was going to be a personal and professional journey of discovery. I was thankful that my fellow cohort of students were just as nervous anticipating what was to come, but together they were united and committed.' Sam recalls that during the protocol development stage of candidature there were times of sacrifice and compromise, with academic challenges in the unknown she needed to contend with. But despite these challenges, Sam recalls the ever-present steadfast support from the JBI supervisory staff who were experts in the methodologies she was endeavouring to master. And on the strength of this support, and her own capacity to commit and sustain, Sam was able to fulfill the requirements of the degree program, receive her parchment at the University of Adelaide – Graduation ceremony, and now counts herself amongst the prestigious JBI HDR alumni that have come before her.

Higher degree students to commence in February 2018

The Joanna Briggs Institute – Higher Degrees by Research Program (JBI-HDRP) has now finalised its next intake of research students, with 19 new Master of Clinical Science candidates set to commence in February 2018. JBI’s non-discipline specific higher degree program continues to attract both local and interstate candidates, with a strong cohort set to commence encompassing healthcare expertise in a variety of disciplines including radiography, dentistry, psychology, nursing, surgery and healthcare education.

The JBI-HDRP aims to educate students in research methodologies and techniques specific to the needs of evidence-based healthcare, as well as the critical evaluation of evidence and research. The program is based on the JBI methodology and software for systematic reviews, used by the Institute’s Collaboration of 75 centres and entities around the world. All students are given intensive training in the methodologies and software, and are then required to conduct a systematic review on a topic of their choice through their candidature in consultation with their supervisors. We look forward to welcoming our latest group of higher degree students to program in February 2018.

HDR Major Reviews – due 6 February 2018

To academic staff supervising HDR students from the 2017 intake (in full time candidature), please take note that their Major Review of Progress will be due for submission in February 2018. Given the busy lead up to Christmas and period of leave, staff are encouraged to commence this assessment prior to the close of 2017. This is not an online process, the required form can be accessed here:


Master of Clinical Science (Evidence-based Healthcare)

This is a postgraduate research degree which aims to train students in research methodologies and techniques specific to the needs of evidence-based healthcare, as well as the critical evaluation of evidence and research. This degree includes a full-time, one-semester program offered at JBI and provides the option to transfer to a PhD on a fast-track enrolment.

Enquiries to alex.mignone@adelaide.edu.au
Doctor of Philosophy
(Evidence-based Healthcare)

This postgraduate research degree aims to train independent researchers with the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to become active, independent contributors to the global development of evidence-based healthcare. Successful PhD candidates are recognised for their capacity to contribute to evidence-based healthcare as demonstrated through their completion of a program of research on aspects of collaboration, synthesis, transfer and/or implementation science.

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