JBI Matters
The monthly newsletter of The Joanna Briggs Institute

October: 2013

JBI 2013 International Convention makes it mark

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Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to the October issue of JBI Matters.

It has been our busiest month of the year and I am sure you will enjoy reading all about the International Convention we hosted in Adelaide on 21–23 of October. It was, by far, our most successful event to date with a strong academic program of high quality speakers in both plenary and concurrent sessions and, of course, a wonderful gala dinner with fantastic entertainment, great food and dancing well into the night. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for attending and making it such a great success. I would also like to thank the wonderful JBI team who made it all happen so seamlessly and professionally.

In the lead up to this event I was busy travelling, spending time in London meeting with the JBI Mixed Methods Methodology Group, in Denmark to speak at a national conference, and in Quebec, Canada, to attend the Cochrane Colloquium and to run the JBI Train-the-Trainer program. All in all a very hectic but productive and enjoyable trip.

Around the Convention we also hosted a number of important meetings and training programs and this year was no exception. The JBI Advisory Board and Joanna Briggs Foundation Advisory Committee met prior to the Convention and both were pleased with the progress being made. The Foundation has certainly hit its straps with a plethora of fundraising events and activities planned for this year and next year. I do hope that you are able to participate and contribute to this worthy cause. We had a particularly rewarding experience this year with a group of Fellows from across Africa, Myanmar and Brazil and we would very much like to be able to continue to offer this program to health professionals in developing countries as we see the incredible impact it is having on health outcomes for these communities.

Following the Convention we had the annual two-day face-to-face meeting of the Joanna Briggs Collaboration Committee of Directors, which was also filled with robust discussion and debate. A particularly valuable addition has been the methodology groups, which are developing guidance on current and new approaches to the systematic review of different sources of evidence to guide practice.

You will see there is much happening in the Institute at the moment and I trust you will enjoy reading all about it in this issue. Although the years end draws closer there is still much to do and the team isn’t slowing down just yet! We have already started preparations for next year, so keep a look out for what we have in store for you and make sure you start to save the dates in your diaries.

Professor Alan Pearson AM
Executive Director
‘We cannot wait for the world to change’

Election fever gripped some 300 delegates from 30 countries as they joined the campaign at the Joanna Briggs Institute 2013 International Convention, themed ‘The 2013 campaign for getting evidence into policy’, held on 21–23 October at the InterContinental Adelaide.

‘We cannot wait for the world to change,’ said Prof Alan Pearson AM, Executive Director of Joanna Briggs Institute/Head of School of Translational Health Science, in mock campaign style in his welcome address. ‘It’s about choice and our challenge is to move the evidence-based health care movement forward and to reaffirm values and convictions.’

Six plenary sessions, one oration, two debates, 62 concurrent sessions, four workshops, five regional meetings and several posters had delegates delving into the complexities and intricacies of evidence-based health care and the reality of the difficulties in getting evidence into policy.

Keynote speeches by world renowned speakers touched on thought-provoking topics ranging from increasing the use of high quality evidence in the political process, creative ways to engage the public to patient-centred care.

Concurrent sessions, cited by Prof Pearson as by far the best the Convention has seen, covered a myriad of topics reflecting the depth and breadth of evidence synthesis and translation activities and the rigour of evidence-based research being conducted throughout the world.

Laura Garza-Gongora, from the Texan Christian University Center for Evidence Based Practice and Research, the United States, took away the Best Concurrent Session Presentation prize, with a perfect 15 score in Originality, Technical Strength and Presentation. Her presentation was titled, The effect of vitamin D supplementation on glycemic control and body mass index in the obese, vitamin d deficient adult with type 2 diabetes mellitus: a systematic review.

Workshops on various aspects of evidence synthesis, evidence implementation, methodologies for mixed methods and umbrella reviews, and levels of evidence, to name a few, saw JBI scientific staff not only sharing their
scientific knowledge but facilitating participants in conducting practical hands-on exercises.

Delegates from our Collaborating Centres exchanged reports, ideas and feedback in five concurrent Regional Meetings, a rare face-to-face opportunity given the enormous geographical distances separating some of the centres.

Dr Samson Gwer, from the Kenya Medical Research Centre, Africa, won the ‘Election Vote’ with his winning entry to the question, ‘What is the first evidence-based decision you would make to improve global health if you were voted president of the World Health Organization?’

2014 international colloquium
The Convention ended on a high, with delegates eagerly awaiting 2014 for the next colloquium which will be hosted in Singapore.

The 9th Biennial Joanna Briggs International Colloquium, Singapore 2014, themed, ‘Scaling new heights: challenging the status quo’, will be hosted by the Evidence-based Nursing Unit, National University Hospital: an Affiliate Centre of the Joanna Briggs Institute, from 10–12 November 2014. Save these dates in your diaries!

Stand-up comedy dressed as ‘debate’

Despite their seriousness in both intent and subject matter, the two debates offered refreshing ‘light’ entertainment at the Convention.

Members for the Affirmative of the first debate, held on Day 1, ‘The motion is that the house believes that the good of the people is best served by policy informed by evidence rather than policy that is popular’, spun out hilarious takes on what they defined as ‘popular’.

And for the second debate, held on Day 2, ‘The motion is that this house believes that the Joanna Briggs Institute has a role to play in getting evidence into policy’, references to JBI’s ‘imperialist’ approach and Prof Pearson’s ‘still expanding empire’ had the audience in stitches.

The first debate had nearly even scores for both sides, with the suggestion that a balance of policy based on evidence and that which is popular is probably best. The second debate concluded with a draw for both sides.
Addressing a disturbing health and social issue

For Asahngwa Constantine, conducting a systematic review on obstetric fistula was a way to start the process of addressing a complex and disturbing health issue in his home country, Cameroon. Obstetric fistula is an abnormal communication between the vagina and the bladder (or rectum) of a woman that results in a constant leakage of urine and/or faeces. This is caused by delays of obstructed labour without timely medical intervention such as a caesarean section. At the heart of this traumatic medical condition are causes rooted in a cocktail of traditional, social and public health issues – early/forced marriages, teenage pregnancy and poor quality of health services.

While seeming to be a drop in an ocean of much-needed socio-cultural change, particular in northern Cameroon where child/teenage marriages still occur, Asahngwa’s systematic review on the experiences of women and young girls living with obstetric fistula in developing countries, presented on Day 1 of the Convention, was ‘an important first step’.

‘This is a sensitive issue. There is a lot of stigma attached to this condition, and women suffer deep psychological trauma as a result. In some cases, unsuccessful surgery leaves the patients worse off,’ he said.

Limitations in health care are only part of the story. Traditional mores and beliefs present a major obstacle – community perception towards the patients, and beliefs that the condition is untreatable or even caused by evil spirits. Women with the condition are ostracised, rejected and cursed by their spouses and the community as they are deemed to be unattractive due to their odours and hygiene issues, and even if corrective surgery is successful, some men abandon their wives due to the required abstinence from sexual activities.

As Centre Director of the Cameroon Centre for Evidence-based Health Care, Asahngwa believes that his research can pave the way forward.

Apart from illuminating crucial evidence of the experiences of women living with this condition, the review highlights the dire need for a focus beyond biomedicine that includes changes to socio-cultural believes and practices to effectively manage the disease.

Sleep disorders and dementia

With a grandmother who is 103 years old, Assoc Prof Miyae Yamakama is no stranger to the health challenges facing the elderly. Her research project on building evidence to improve sleep wandering or sleep disturbances in patients with dementia by...
objective measurements, presented on Day 2 of the Convention, tracked this often overlooked problem. As well, it assessed the effectiveness of nursing interventions.

The idea behind the project – to ultimately reduce hotel admissions by dementia patients. Assoc Prof Yamakama, who is the Co-Director of the Japan Centre for Evidence-based Practice, explained the correlation, ‘Sleep disorders aggravate the symptoms of dementia.’

Using scientific tools and gadgets such as an integrated circuit tag monitoring system which measured the temporal and spatial movement patterns of patients, and non-wear actigraphy, the research found that nursing interventions led to remarkable results. These included improvement in symptoms in 11 of the 17 patients, and excessive night time wandering of a 60 year-old Alzheimer’s disease patient decreasing from 20km to 10km per day.

With a special affinity with the elderly, Assoc Prof Yamakama hopes that building evidence on sleep disturbance and night time wandering using objective indicators can provide crucial clues to addressing these problems in dementia patients.

**Plenary sessions that push the envelop**

Global research knowledge may not be as accessible as meets the eye.

In his plenary session delivered on Day 1, keynote speaker **Prof Gerd Antes**, Director of the German Cochrane Centre, University Medical Centre, Freiburg, Germany, presented facts and trends in relation to published research that showed the reality of the ‘division of the world’.

Titled ‘Increasing the use of high quality evidence in the political process’, his presentation highlighted the need for greater transparency in the publication of research literature and scientific evidence. In order that we have a global knowledge system, more equity between countries is needed, he said.

To illustrate this, Prof Antes pointed out that only five per cent of the world population uses English and yet most scientific literature is published mainly in English language journals/publications. It is imperative therefore that research results are presented in local languages to increase their accessibility, he said.

As well, only a part of all randomised controlled trials are published in English, and only parts of approved and conducted research are published. There also may be significant delays of between the completion of research and publication of the results. An example was a research involving one million children, where the randomised controlled trials were finalised in 2005 but the results published only in 2012.

In conclusion, Prof Antes stressed that the ‘evidence process’ needed to be accelerated and become more flexible to increase its usage in the political process.

**Editor’s note:** JBI ConNeCT+ currently offers evidence-based resources in the following languages: Chinese, Japanese, Spanish and soon, Romanian.
Evidence is not enough to change attitude

In her plenary session, ‘Engaging the public in evidence-based healthcare: a (social) marketer’s perspective’, delivered on Day 2 of the Convention, keynote speaker Prof Sandra Jones, Australian Research Council (ARC) Future Fellow, and Director, Centre for Health Initiatives, University of Wollongong, maintained that evidence is not enough to change attitude.

‘For an attitude change to occur, knowledge needs to be taken to the public in a way that is believable and understandable’, Prof Jones said. Similarly, the environment in which the evidence is communicated, and support by the community are critical factors in the social marketing of evidence.

The ‘environment’ included formats that the target audience use or are familiar with which will increase the effectiveness of the messages, e.g. fun ways for kids to be active in order to address child obesity.

Prof Jones illustrated her points with inspiring examples of social marketing campaigns, including instances of empowering the public and the community to lobby for changes based on the evidence of the effectiveness of strategies where government support was not forthcoming.

Other plenary sessions delivered at the Convention were:

‘Putting Patients First: The Evidence Linking Quality, Safety and Satisfaction to the Practice of Patient-Centered Care’ by Dr Susan Frampton, President, Planetree.

‘Science and pseudoscience in health’ by Prof Marcello Costa, Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor and Professor of Neurophysiology, Department of Physiology, School of Medicine, Flinders University.

The JBI Oration

‘Surgical trials and tribulations’ was the title of the Joanna Briggs Oration, delivered on Day 2 by Prof Guy Maddern, RP Jepson Professor of Surgery; Head, Discipline of Surgery, University of Adelaide; and Director, Basil Hetzel Institute. In his oration, Prof Maddern covered extensive ground in relation to contemporary issues in surgery, and the difficulties in substantiating today’s extensive serendipitous discoveries.
Black and white at its best

Black and white was the order of the night and delegates did not disappoint. From elegant ball gowns to glitzy cocktail dresses, ladies came dressed to the nines. The Gala Dinner, held on Day 2 in the Ballroom, was the highlight of the Convention’s social agenda. Adorned and bejewelled, delegates let their hair down to drinks and nibbles in the foyer followed by a scrumptious three-course meal.

In her welcome speech, Assoc Prof Zoe Jordan, Director Communication Science, paid tribute to Prof Alan Pearson AM, as the Convention was his last. In a specially composed poem, she captured the sentiment of the Institute towards Prof Pearson’s contribution to the evidence-based health care movement:

‘...It looks like Prof Pearson was not in fact wrong After all of these years, maybe the evidence really DID belong! In the hands of everyone at the point of care And he too would vote to ensure it was there.’

It didn’t take long after entertainment, provided by acrobatic trio Circus Trapeze and sixties girl group The Rubys, and dessert, for delegates to hit the dance floor. From thence they danced the night away, session or no session the following day!
Special report: Joanna Briggs Institute 2013 International Convention

The Convention in photos
London, Copenhagen and Quebec City

Through most of October, Prof Alan Pearson AM, Executive Director, Joanna Briggs Institute/Head of School of Translational Health Science, was overseas on a business trip, as summarised below:

**London: 9–11 October**
Prof Pearson attended a very productive three-day face-to-face meeting of the Mixed Methods Group at the University of West London which resulted in the finalisation of the proposed chapter for the reviewers manual. He was ‘very pleased with the outcome and impressed with their output’.

The group ran a workshop at the International Convention which Prof Pearson introduced.

**Denmark: 13–17 October**
On Friday 13 October, Prof Pearson participated in a large workshop at the Danish Centre of Systematic Reviews in Nursing (a JBI affiliate centre) all day in Copenhagen which went really well. He then travelled by train to Aarhus and ran a two-day masterclass on systematic reviews for 38 PhD students from the University of Aarhus (pictured below).

On Monday 14 October, Prof Pearson spoke as keynote speaker at the National Conference of the Danish Nursing Society.

**Quebec, Canada: 17–27 October**
Prof Pearson then flew to Quebec (after some flight delays) to attend the 21st Cochrane Colloquium which was ‘scientifically disappointing and not as well run as previous years’.

From 24–27 October, Prof Pearson conducted a four-day JBI Train-the-Trainer at the Quebec Hilton for ‘a very enthusiastic group’ of six participants from University of California, San Francisco.

**Joint JBI Advisory Board/JBF Advisory Committee meeting**

The 50th meeting of the JBI Advisory Board was held at JBI’s headquarters in Adelaide on 20 October, the eve of the JBI International Convention.

The day went very well, and included a Wolters Kluwer Ovid presentation, and, for the first time, a joint meeting with Joanna Briggs Foundation Advisory Committee. Three Developing Countries Clinical Fellows who had recently completed their clinical fellowship in Adelaide presented their implementation reports at the meeting.

**Master student featured on ABC 7.30 Report**

Sally Cavenett, a Master of Clinical Science student of the School of Translational Health Science, was featured in *ABC 7.30 Report* on 24 October. Sally, a self-described body mechanic, was assisting Gill Hicks, a victim of the London terrorist bombings in July 2005, with her new artificial legs.
New Joanna Briggs Foundation Advisory Committee members

A big welcome to the following new members of the Joanna Briggs Foundation (JBF) Advisory Committee:

Robert Underdown, Managing Director, Bespoke Approach

As Managing Director of Bespoke Approach, a firm specialising in discreet, strategic corporate and political advice, Robert works with the partners on the day-to-day operations of the firm and its growth strategy as well as providing solutions to a range of blue-chip clients.

Alastair McDonald, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank

Alastair is an executive in the Change function of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank.

Alastair has extensive global experience having set up the Strategic Change Management function for Credit Suisse in the Asia Pacific. He developed the team to 35 staff over five years, delivering a variety of projects across the APAC region.

Andrew Kay, Managing Director, Wirra Wirra Vineyards

After completing a Business degree, Andrew commenced a career in marketing that has spanned over 25 years, building some of Australia’s best known retail brands in Australia and overseas.

Joining the wine industry in 2000, he completed an MBA in International Business and spent three years in London running the UK/Europe business for the Orlando Wyndham Wine Group before returning to Australia to join Wirra Wirra in 2006.

The Butler movie premiere

The Joanna Briggs Foundation organised a movie premiere to raise funds. Lee Daniels’ The Butler was screened on 31 October at the Capri at Goodwood, Adelaide.

The Butler, with a cast of thousands, tells the story of a White House butler who served eight American presidents over three decades. The film traces the dramatic changes that swept American society during this time, from the civil rights movement to Vietnam and beyond, and how those changes affected this man’s life and family.

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In the words of a JBF Advisory Committee member

A high profile marketer once said that trouble begins when an organisation starts to fall in love with its own advertising. In the same vein, an accolade from an outsider always carries more weight.

Dr Gavin Moodie, Principal Policy Adviser at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (and also Advisory Committee member of the Joanna Briggs Foundation), has this to say:

‘The JBI 2013 International Convention was different from the numerous other conferences I have attended in its innovativeness and celebration of achievement. Opening with a musical duet was new and unexpected but most effective in setting the convention’s theme in a musical form. The informality and humour of the welcome and convention debate were novel and highlighted the serious purpose of the convention and its participants. All the while the hall was festooned with the flags of countries represented, and the walls were informatively decorated with well-designed posters of interesting projects conducted and sponsored by the Institute.

The diversity of participants’ cultures, disciplines, projects and perspectives ensured that there was much to interest participants with varied backgrounds, unified by an interest in informing health policy and practice with evidence.’

Award for Wolters Kluwer

Wolters Kluwer Health won one of 10 Innovation Champion Awards from Adelaide Research and Innovation Pty Ltd, the University’s commercial development company, for their partnership with JBI. Prof Alan Pearson AM accepted the award on their behalf at a presentation ceremony held in the State Library on 25 October.

The Adelaide Innovation Champion Awards recognise organisations who are working with the University of Adelaide to change the world through research and development – resulting in commercial, environment and/or social benefit through more effective products, processes, services, policies, technologies or ideas.

Translation training

Three overseas visitors, two from Romania and one from Vietnam (pictured with Dr Zachary Munn), were at the Joanna Briggs Institute headquarters in Adelaide on 16–18 October to learn how to undertake translation of content on JBICOnNECT+, with guidance from Dr Zachary Munn, Research Fellow Translation Science.

Translating evidence-based resources into various languages is a priority of the Joanna Briggs Institute and currently the Institute offers resources in Chinese, Japanese, Spanish and soon, Romanian.
Assoc Prof Jordan visits Taiwan

Assoc Prof Zoe Jordan, Director Communication Science, was in Taipei, Taiwan, on 5 October to present at a conference, ‘Translating Research Evidence into Practice – Barriers and Strategies’, organised by the Taipei Veterans General Hospital.

Her opening keynote address was titled ‘Translational gaps when translating evidence into practice’. She also ran a workshop on effective programs to close the evidence-practice gap.

‘It was great to speak with a new audience who are less familiar with JBI and our approach to translation science. There were some very senior health professionals from a broad range of disciplines. Unfortunately there was a typhoon, which meant it was very stormy! All round a positive experience though,’ she said.

New JBI website

The refreshed and revamped JBI website is now live! The new website boasts enhanced navigation, scrolling promotional images on the home page, and an improved interactive world map of the Joanna Briggs Collaboration. There is also a brand new Public Engagement section where members of the public can directly provide feedback on our Best Practice Information Sheets, and access the toolkit.

Bumper training

October saw a peak in training at the Joanna Briggs Institute headquarters in Adelaide.

Developing Countries Clinical Fellowship

Participants: Nine from Brazil, Myanmar, Kenya, Ghana, Malawi and Ethiopia participating in the last two weeks of their second Adelaide residency after having implemented their research projects in their home countries in the last five months.

Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Program (CSRTP)

Participants: 19 (seven from Fudan University, three from King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center, and King Fahad Medical City, and the rest from New Zealand, UK, Australia and JBI).

CSRTP Train-the-trainer

Participants: 13 from Myanmar, Aberdeen, Texas, Japan, Romania, Brazil, Switzerland and various part of Australia.
Our staff share their expertise

Dr Karolina Lisy, Research Fellow, Collaboration Support, gave a presentation at the Chronic Care Model Reference Group Meeting held at the Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute on 3 October. Her presentation, ‘Facilitators and barriers to the implementation of primary health care interventions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with chronic disease’, was on the results of the systematic review she is working on with South Australian Medical and Health Research Institute (SAHMRI). The audience comprised researchers, clinicians and field experts as well as Indigenous elders and representatives, and members of the Chronic Care Model Reference Group.

Introducing new staff

Dr Kywat Kywat Swe, Research Fellow in Translation Science, join the Joanna Briggs Institute/School of Translational Health Science on 30 September. Dr Kywat Kywat Swe has held the position of Lecturer/Head of Department at the Department of Adult Health Nursing, Military Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences in Yangon, Myanmar, and has been a Director of the Yangon Centre for Evidence Based Health Care: an Affiliate Centre of the Joanna Briggs Institute for five years. She has a Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Nursing Science, Master of Nursing Science, Diploma in Medical Education and Doctorate of Philosophy.

Evidence implementation manual

The final draft of the JBI Evidence Implementation Project Manual has been completed. The Manual is designed to provide project teams with a comprehensive guide to conducting a JBI Evidence Implementation Project (EIP). It outlines the process of planning, undertaking and writing up the results of an EIP, as well as JBI support mechanisms for those doing evidence implementation work and opportunities for publication and training. The JBI EIM Manual is to be used in conjunction with the PACES User Guide.

Visit us on Facebook

Wolters Kluwer is putting together an online recording of their next webinar, ‘Appraising economic evidence: from effectiveness to efficiency in evidence-based care’ featuring Dr Judith Gomersall, Research Fellow, Centre of Research Excellence, and Dr Juri Jadotte from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

The online recording of Dr Gomersall’s presentation was done on 14 October. The webinar will be made available via Ovid in mid November.
Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Programs 2013

The JBI Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Programs (CSRTPs) are designed to prepare researchers and clinicians to develop, conduct and report comprehensive systematic reviews of evidence using the Joanna Briggs Institute SUMARI software.

**Full program (consisting of modules 0001, 0002 and 0003):**

Five days  
2 – 6 December

**Individual CSRTP modules:**

**CSR Module 0001:**  
Introduction to Evidence-Based Healthcare and the Systematic Review of Evidence  
One day  
2 December

**CSR Module 0002:**  
The Systematic Review of Evidence Generated through Quantitative Research  
Two days  
3 – 4 December

**CSR Module 0003:**  
The Systematic Review of Evidence Generated by Qualitative Research, Narrative and Text  
Two days  
5 – 6 December  
For more information or to register your interest, email: jbieducation@adelaide.edu.au.
48th Meeting of the Committee of Directors

It was great to see everyone gather together for the 48th Meeting of the Committee of Directors, which was held in Adelaide on 22–24 October. It was a lively and interesting meeting with highlights including the launch of the new JBI CONNeCT+ app, updates on the progress of the JBI Library, overhaul of the CSR training program and discussion of the new Executive Director. Minutes will be available on the JBC Intranet page soon.

Tequila, tacos and big moustaches

by Joan O'Loghlin

What a night! Ponchos, Mexican hats, moustaches (some even worn by the ladies!) and tequila. You guessed it – it all spells Mexican, with Dr Micah Peters, Research Fellow Synthesis Science, as MC extraordinaire, ably assisted by Pam Fletcher, Administration Officer, Synthesis Science. The Mexican Fiesta night held on 24 October was a night of fun and frivolity.

The series of games and quizzes were an outstanding success, with individual tables shouting, (in jest of course), across to each other ‘cheat!’ and ‘we won!’ Who said the human species weren’t a competitive race! The final game of the evening consisted of constructing the highest free-standing building using 60 straws only, with the stipulation being to have some ‘Mexicana’ attached. This tested the skills of even the most creative and some fierce competition arose between the tables but all in good fun.

Congratulations to the winning table and Dr Daphne Stannard, who collected the winner’s trophy.

Hot and spicy Mexican food was served, complete with tacos and nachos. Tequila, accompanied by the obligatory slice of lemon and salt, was being consumed in, shall we say, rather large quantities. Last seen as we walked out the door, a competition appeared to be in progress with tequilas being tossed back with abandon.

Organised as a social event as part of the Committee of Directors meeting, the evening highlighted team and relationship building and engendered convivial collegiality between people from around the world. A big thank you to JBI staff who organised the event: Jasmine Wan, Carl McGee, Jeremy Swift and Kym Elson.
Mexican Fiesta Night in photos!
What they are saying

JBI recognises the value of human contact and that is why we continue to bring people together each year for an International Convention. It is a forum where people can talk, network and hear leading clinical experts who inspire and motivate.

We asked our delegates to tell us their views. Below are what some of them, including our members, said:

**What aspect of the convention did you gain the most from?**

‘Speakers knew how to keep the audience engaged and workshop sessions were thought-provoking and challenging.’

‘There was also a good blend of people who were novices and those who were experts; the novice could learn a lot from the experts.’

‘Contemplations on the barriers and resistance to evidence-based practice as well as hearing about positive outcomes and how they have been brought about.’

‘The workshop sessions and lively discussions, meeting and talking with a wide range of individuals.’

‘Mixed Methods and Umbrella Review workshops were great!’

**What was the most enjoyable part of the convention?**

‘The comforting affirmation that people from all over the civilised world have similar health care issues and can share their experiences and solutions in a supportive environment.’

‘The paper presentations were fantastic, workshops as well. There was great opportunity for networking.’

‘Friendly opportunities for debate and discussion.’

‘Dinner, excellent entertainment, dancing, everyone joining in.’

‘Great vibe and lots of positive energy.’
HDR students at the JBI International Convention

It was inspiring to see some of our HDR students in attendance at the recent JBI International Convention, playing their part in joining the election to get evidence into policy.

Students experienced a truly international event, with delegates from across the globe travelling to our state to support the JBI crusade to promote evidence based practice, and push towards a uniform approach to medical treatment and care. The message of the occasion was, ‘We can’t wait for the world to change, but must be proactive in the support of evidence-based best practice.’ Students had the opportunity to hear from a host of speakers, over three full days of information and workshop sessions. The eminence of the speakers and their contributions was enormous, and the momentum of the occasion was significantly felt.

In true JBI style, fun and festivities were also on the agenda, with several opportunities throughout the convention for JBI staff, students, invited guests and delegates to kick off their heels and party! JBI played host to several evening celebrations, including a Gala Ball held in the Ballroom of the Intercontinental Hotel. Even the daily proceedings were coloured with entertainment, with several debates that, although may have deviated from conventional practices, played out hysterically well and still managed to get the point across about JBI’s best practice ethos.

Vote 1 for evidence!

The stand that stood out!

The convention was a perfect opportunity to promote our Masters in Clinical Science program. There was considerable interest from international attendees about the specific nature of our program, with several discussions about its potential relevance and appeal to staff within our collaborating centres. In the coming weeks, the School will be pursuing these opportunities further, which may result in greater international representation in our program.
HDR Matters

HDR student annual reviews/academic panels

All HDR students from the Feb 2012 intake and prior will have sat their Annual Review by 31 October 2013. Most students from the July 2013 intake have completed their Academic Panels, with the remainder scheduled to complete in the coming weeks. So far, feedback from the School of Translational Health Science supervisors has been strong, with students generally progressing well through their candidature.

Many students are also utilising the School resources at their disposal and finding the direct contact with staff beneficial. All advice indicates students are satisfied with the support received from their supervisors, and all milestones are being managed within those times prescribed by the Adelaide Graduate Centre.

Dr Suzanne Robertson-Malt, Director Implementation Science, who was on Stephen Walter’s panel, commented:

‘Christy Pirone who is currently the Principal Consultant, Safety and Quality, Department of Health, South Australia, was a member of the Academic Panel who recently reviewed and approved Stephen Walter’s defence of his systematic review protocol. The primary aim and objectives of Stephen’s thesis on the validation of collaboration within multidisciplinary health care team(s) have great importance for the current focus of Christy’s work on improving safety culture and health care design. Like Christy, we all look forward to hearing from Stephen what the existing research has to say on this very important element of patient care.’

Graduate Research Seminar Series

Date: 3.30pm, Friday 8 November
Venue: JBI Conference Room, Level 1, 115 Grenfell Street, Adelaide
Speaker: Prof Alan Pearson AM, Head of School of Translational Health Science
Topic: The newly established Centre of Research Excellence for Translational Research in the Management of Chronic Diseases in Indigenous populations, a collaboration between the University of Adelaide, the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)

As always, there will be complimentary cheese and wine prior to the session.

Quote of the month

Einstein didn’t go around racking his brain, muttering to himself, ‘How, oh how, can I come up with a Great Idea?’ The bottom line is that invention, science and research are much more like falling off a log than like sawing one in two.

~ Douglas R Hofstadter

School blog

Don’t forget to visit the School of Translational Health Science blog to read the latest news, events and important information to students, supervisors, Faculty members and the general community.

Note that the blog does not replace the current HDR Facebook page, which is a ‘closed group’ to active students and supervisors.
A successful Alumni Breakfast

It was wonderful to see such a great turnout for such an early start to the day! Everyone enjoyed the Alumni Breakfast while listening to our guest speaker, Assoc Prof Susan Neuhaus, Executive Committee Member, Military Surgery Section, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, give a talk on leadership. It was great to hear comments from so many alumni saying how inspiring they found it!

New expanded Executive

The Alumni Fellows Annual General Meeting was held during the Alumni Breakfast. A motion was made during the Alumni Breakfast. A motion was made to expand the Executive for the Alumni to include members from each region. We are very pleased to announce our new expanded Executive.

President: Drew Dywer (back row, right)
Vice President: Trish McReynolds (not in picture)

Regional representatives:
Australia: Katherine Trowbridge (front row, right)
Africa: Timothy Panga (back row, left) and Richard Mangwi (back row, centre)
Asia: Ying Gu (front row, left)
Middle East: Loendi van der Westhuizen (front row, centre)