Sowing the seeds – cocktail function organised by the Joanna Briggs Foundation at the Bendigo Bank building late last year. From left: Matthew Rowe (then the CEO of Hood Sweeney), Senator David Fawcett, Sandy Davis (JBF Manager) and Philip Pledge (JBF Chairman)
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Season’s greetings to all centres, students, alumni, collaborators and friends – from all of us at the Joanna Briggs Institute. See you in 2016!

Our offices will be closed from 25 December 2015 and will reopen on 11 January 2016.
Joanna Briggs Foundation notches a fruitful 2015
by Sandy Davis, JBF Manager

The Joanna Briggs Foundation (JBF) is thrilled with the support from Australian companies and foundations for the JBI Evidence Based Clinical Fellowship Program. Through their support, the Foundation can extend the reach of the program to both developing countries and Indigenous communities in Australia.

Through the efforts of the Foundation, the exceptional work of the Joanna Briggs Institute has been widely promoted in the South Australian business community and Government.

Late last year Senator David Fawcett attended a JBF cocktail function held in the stunning new Bendigo Bank building and was very impressed with the work of the JBI, so much so that he delivered a speech later in the Senate outlining the work of the Institute and Foundation.

Over the past 12 months, JBF has raised in excess of $200,000 for the JBI Evidence Based Clinical Fellowship Program, including several three-year commitments. From February 2016, the Foundation will fund two clinical fellows from Indigenous communities in South Australia to participate in the program.

The second clinical fellowship program to be funded by JBF will commence in June 2016 and will be attended by selected participants from developing countries. The Foundation hopes to raise funds to support ten clinical fellows to this program. Applications are now open for this program (see page 12).

In April 2016 (date to be announced), JBF will be hosting a luncheon and will be held at the Adelaide Oval. The event is currently being planned and more details will be finalised in January. Our hope is to have approximately 400 guests, so please secure your seat when the date is announced. All funds raised will support the Evidence Based Clinical Fellowship Program. Please contact the Foundation’s Manager, Sandy Davis, with your expression of interest.

The Foundation would like to thank the donors for their support throughout the year and look forward to working with each of you in 2016 and beyond.

The Foundation Chairman, Philip Pledge, and Fundraising Manager, Sandy Davis, would like to thank the Foundation Advisory Committee for their support. Without their time and expertise, the great results reached this year would not have been possible.

Macquarie supports the Foundation in style

Macquarie Private Wealth hosted a Boardroom Dinner for the Joanna Briggs Foundation on 29 October which was enjoyed by selected corporate guests of the Foundation. Macquarie provided a superb meal that was accompanied with a selection of ‘top shelf’ Wirra Wirra wines, once again generously donated by Chief Executive Officer and Foundation Advisory Committee member Andrew Kay.

The dinner provided an opportunity to discuss the work of the Joanna Briggs Institute and the Foundation with guests and Implementation Science Research Fellow Alexa McArthur spoke about the JBI Evidence Based Clinical Fellowship Program. Guests were very supportive and impressed with the work of the JBI and pledged their support. The night raised funds to support more than four clinical fellows from disadvantaged communities.

Both Philip Pledge, Chairman of the Foundation, and Sandy Davis, Foundation Manager, were delighted with the very generous support of their guests and Macquarie Private Wealth for their hospitality.
We are turning 20!

In 2016 JBI will celebrate 20 years of activity and what an amazing journey it has been. We have achieved much since our founding by Emeritus Prof Alan Pearson in 1996 and now have an impressive array of accomplishments behind us.

There will be much activity throughout the course of next year across all of our five regions, but it will all culminate in a celebratory conference and spectacular gala dinner during the week starting 7 November.

We hope that many of you will be able to join us to celebrate this milestone and encourage you to save the dates and keep an eye out for more information.

A website and program will be released early in the new year so start planning and we look forward to seeing you in Adelaide!

A personal visit from the man who started it all

As part of JBI’s 20th Anniversary celebrations, a bobblehead figurine of Emeritus Professor Alan Pearson will ‘travel around the globe’ to ten of our collaborating centres (two from each region) and our commercial partners, Wolters Kluwer, in the lead up to the 20th Anniversary conference in Adelaide in November 2016.

The idea was suggested during the recent Committee of Directors meeting and we loved it!

The aims are to celebrate the journey of the JBI global network of Collaborating and Affiliate Centres over the last 20 years and to invite each region to reflect on this journey and look to a new future as you join with us in November.

Live Twitter feeds will be updated along with ‘on-location’ photos of Alan at various centres around the globe. He arrived at JBI this week and has already begun his adventures around Adelaide and will depart ‘overseas’ just prior to Christmas. Keep a look out on Twitter for updates over the coming months. #whereisJIAlan
Clinical fellows make their mark

The months of October to December saw three cohorts of clinical fellows return to the JBI headquarters in Adelaide to continue and conclude their Evidence Based Clinical Fellowship Program.

Participants from the May intake of clinical fellows returned to Adelaide on 12–16 Oct for their second week of the program. Four of the participants were from Fudan University, China, and one from the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Their topics cover areas such as high acuity cardiothoracic care, post-stroke dysphasia, constipation in cancer patients, chemotherapy induced nausea, and fluid-intake restrictions in hemodialysis patients.

Facilitators were Implementation Science Research Fellows Alexa McArthur, Dr Micah Peters, Lucyllyn Lizarando, Dr Catalin Tufanaru and Dr Jared Campbell.

In the last week of November, JBI hosted another group of clinical fellows who finalised their implementation projects. Three were from our Fudan Centre in China (topics included perineal pain in postpartum women, pelvic floor muscle training and urinary catheter management), and one (Renee Blackman) was a CREATE (Centre of Research Excellence in Aboriginal Chronic Disease Knowledge Translation and Exchange) Fellow who works in Indigenous health in Brisbane. Renee’s project focused on diabetes management and elevated HbA1c readings.

To the right is a link to a YouTube clip on a diabetes eye awareness health promotion project with which Renee is involved. This is an example of the great work being done by our clinical fellows.

Facilitators were Alexa, Dr Campbell, Dr Tufanary and Sandeep Moola, also an Implementation Science Research Fellow.

Their topics ranged from discharge plans for preterm infants in neonatal unit, assessment and treatment of fever in paediatric patients in triage nursing and peritoneal dialysis patients. Their presentations drew an extraordinarily hectic year of JBI short course training to a close.
Associate Professor Lockwood’s highly productive European trip

Director Implementation Science Associate Professor Craig Lockwood went on a business trip to Europe in mid-October. Below is a first-hand account of how it went:

The Cochrane Review Methods Training

I travelled to Pardabice in the Czech Republic to hold a two-day program on Cochrane systematic review methods and use of Review Manager to set up protocols, conduct a review and complete meta-analysis. The participants were a varied group, including academic staff and PhD students. Dr Jan Pospichal and Dr Petra Mandysova – who also know and collaborate with the JBC centre staff in Olomouc – set up the opportunity to present on Cochrane methods with a nursing perspective. There was also opportunity to give a brief presentation on JBI including our tools and resources for best practice.

Cochrane Colloquium

From Pardabice, I went to Vienna for the Cochrane Colloquium. The Colloquium was again a very strong event scientifically, with presentations on the role of big data in health care, and many overviews of Cochrane programs and activities. Again the Nursing Care Field was highlighted by the Cochrane executive group for its expertise in knowledge translation. With over 1300 attendees, the Colloquium was a very busy event and many good sessions. These included updates from the Translation working group, Cochrane Innovations (the commercial arm of Cochrane responsible for the growth in revenue through new systems and resources) and groups involved in projects to facilitate faster progress through systematic reviews.

It was also good to meet up with a number of JBI Centre Directors at the Colloquium with Professors Hanan Khali, Trish McInerney as well as Margaret Harrison in attendance. The Fields executive group meeting was very positive and went well, with a high level of interest in advancing knowledge translation within the Fields, and I made sure to catch up with the staff from the EPPI Centre who are busy with the peer review of our (almost) complete qualitative systematic review on microfinance in South East Asia.

Guideline International Network Conference

From Vienna Prof Margaret Harrison and Joan van Den Hoek joined me in Amsterdam for the Guidelines International Network (G-I-N) conference. The theme was ‘Engaging all stakeholders: guidelines from a societal perspective’ and it lived up to this reputation! The first speaker on day one used balls of wool to show how connected attendees were; this resulted in lots of wool being thrown around, eventually creating an impressive and strong network (and neatly illustrating the complex interactions involved).
Associate Professor Zoe Jordan presents in Sydney

Executive Director Associate Professor Zoe Jordan was in Sydney on 27–28 October to present at 4th Annual NHMRC (National Health and Medical Research Council) Symposium on Research Translation, organised jointly with CIPHER (Centre for Informing Policy in Health with Evidence from Research). The theme of the conference was ‘Policy and Research: Working together to improve the health of Australians’. The event was opened by new NHMRC Chief Executive Officer Prof Anne Kelso AO.

‘It was interesting to hear a broad array of speakers talk on the interaction between policy and research,’ Associate Professor Jordan said.

South Australia’s Australian of the Year 2016

Burns surgeon Dr John Greenwood has been named South Australia’s 2016 Australian of the Year. Dr Greenwood and the Royal Adelaide Hospital Burns Unit have been major supporters of the JBI Burns node in the past.

New Chair of Cancer Care Expert Reference Group

Dr Marion Eckert, who is the Chair of the SA Health Cancer Services Strategy Committee and the General Manager of Support, Research, and Policy at Cancer Council SA, is now the Chair of the ERG for JBI’s Cancer Care Node. Dr Eckert was previously the Director of Nursing and Midwifery Education and Research at the Centre for Nursing, Midwifery Education and Research, Flinders Medical Centre. Dr Eckert is also familiar with JBI, having worked here as Project Officer – Evaluations. Dr Eckert’s wealth of knowledge and experience of local and international issues in the cancer care field will be a great asset to the Node and JBI.

Burns association meeting

Dr Jared Campbell, Implementation Science Research Fellow, attended the ANZBA (Australian and New Zealand Burns Association) 39th Annual Scientific Meeting in Melbourne on 20–23 October where he gave a talk, titled, ‘Burns care: a critical appraisal of systematic review quality over time’, under the ‘Psychosocial’ themed session.

Panel of Health Technology Assessments

Associate Professor Ed Aromataris, Director Synthesis Science, was in Canberra on 29 October to attend an information session at the Department of Health, organised for their Panel of Health Technology Assessments.

He was representing JBI on the panel. Two other staff from the School of Public Health also attended the session.

Online learning via CE Connection

Dr Zachary Munn, Director Transfer Science, provided an online demonstration of JBI online courses which will be available via the WK platform “CE Connection” very shortly. The demonstration was held at a JBI Teaching and Education Committee in early November.

These courses will be live for purchase in the upcoming weeks and will be an important promotional activity for JBI.
Two students complete Master of Public Health (Translational Health Science stream) courses

The JBI online program, the Master of Public Health (Translational Health Science stream) recently had two students complete and pass their second semester core courses. The courses are Synthesising Qualitative Evidence and Synthesising Economic Evidence.

The Master of Public Health is an innovative research-led degree which enables students to think creatively about the social, cultural, economic and environmental determinants of health and illness in populations. This interesting and in-depth degree explores the organisation and delivery of public and clinical health services, including policies and practices that both support and improve people’s health.

Relationships SA/The Advertiser Family Forum Panel

Implementation Science Research Fellow Dr Micah Peters was recently nominated to represent JBI on Relationships SA/The Advertiser’s ‘Family Forum’ panel in place of Associate Professor Zoe Jordan.

Family Forum is an initiative of The Advertiser, which aims to answer questions submitted by the community about families, relationships, health, and finances. Family Forum panel members also write short articles on ‘hot topics’ for publication in The Saturday Advertiser and Weekend Extra.

Dr Peters has been asked to submit a column based around JBI’s recent work around how parents and families who have experienced stillbirth can be meaningfully and appropriately supported.

Advanced Bibliographic Database Searching Workshop

Implementation Science Research Fellow Dr Micah Peters recently attended a workshop on advanced search techniques for systematic reviews, Health Technology Assessment (HTAs), and guidelines, presented by Julie Glanville, Associate Director of York Health Economics Consortium at the University of York, UK, and co-convenor of the Cochrane Information Retrieval Methods Group.

The Advanced Search Techniques for Systematic Reviews, Health Technology Assessment and Guidelines: An Advanced Bibliographic Database Searching Workshop covered search filter design and appraisal, and the efficient identification of research evidence for systematic reviews, economic evaluations and models, and health technology assessments. The well-attended session provided opportunities to learn new techniques, to discuss best approaches, to share insights and to assess variations in current best practice. Wolters Kluwer Health, JBI’s corporate partner, sponsored the event which was attended by medical librarians from health services around Adelaide, many of whom gave excellent feedback regarding JBI COnNECT+.
Reducing the Gap between Research, Policy and Practice breakfast and workshop

Implementation Science Research Fellow Dr Micah Peters recently attended a breakfast workshop organised as a unique collaboration between the Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand (HSRAANZ), Primary Health Care Research and Information Service (PHCRIS), South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), and Cancer Voices SA.

The workshop focussed on how to best support productive engagement and collaborations between researchers and research users. The session was led by consumer representatives and researchers with diverse perspectives around improving communication and effective work between research, policy and practice domains.

Dr Peters spoke about the usefulness of the JBI Clinical Fellowship Program for transferring research evidence into clinical practice and policy, and engaged with representatives from Cancer Voices and the Health Consumers Alliance regarding the JBI COnNECT+ Cancer Care node.

Altmetric score of BMJ article continues to rise

The BMJ article co-authored by Implementation Science Research Fellow Dr Catalin Tufanaru (Restoring Study 329: efficacy and harms of paroxetine and imipramine in treatment of major depression in adolescence) has reached an Altmetric score greater than 1000!

The Altmetric score of 1228 was calculated when the research output was last mentioned on 3 December 2015.

The article is currently ranked:

- #14 out of 24,869 outputs from the British Medical Journal (Clinical Research Edition)
- #279 out of 4,590,914 outputs from all research outputs.
Farewell to Dr Lesley Long

A morning tea was held for Dr Lesley Long on 7 December to acknowledge her contributions to JBI, particularly her work managing the Cochrane Nursing Care Field Trials Register. The CNCF Trials Register has been a reliable source of evidence for the international nursing community, informing nursing practice and identifying gaps in nursing knowledge. The Register contains in excess of 2,500 randomised controlled trials associated with the delivery of nursing care across a wide range of specialties and settings, which currently cannot be accessed via the Cochrane Library. While Dr Long has generated significant output in the identification of trials that contribute to the CNCF, that work will discontinue at the end of 2015. The Institute acknowledge and thank Dr Long for her valuable contribution to the field.

The American Journal of Nursing to continue with CNCF in 2016

The Cochrane Nursing Care Field (CNCF) is pleased to announce that the American Journal of Nursing has agreed to develop a new publication contract for ‘Cochrane Corners’ in 2016. With an impact factor of 1.389, the American Journal of Nursing is the oldest and most honoured broad-based nursing journal in the world.

The continuation of CNCF’s association with this journal is a sound acknowledgement that the CNCF is producing high quality summaries of Cochrane Reviews with relevance for the international nursing community and associated healthcare professions.

International Journal of Nursing Practice has joined CNCF collaboration

The International Journal of Nursing Practice has joined the CNCF evidence dissemination mission and agreed to publish eight ‘Cochrane Corners’ in 2016.

This periodical is a fully refereed journal that publishes original scholarly work that advances the international understanding and development of nursing, both as a profession and as an academic discipline. The journal focuses on research papers and professional discussion papers that have a sound scientific, theoretical or philosophical base.

Last Comprehensive Systematic Review training for the year

The last Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Program for 2015 was conducted at the JBI Headquarters in Adelaide from 30 November to 4 December. There were 16 participants – two from Christchurch Hospital, New Zealand, and Murdoch University, Perth, and the rest from Adelaide based organisations (University of Adelaide, JBI, South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute and Centre of Research Excellence in Aboriginal Chronic Disease Knowledge Translation and Exchange).

Facilitators were Director Synthesis Science Associate Professor Ed Aromataris, Director Transfer Science Dr Zachary Munn, and Implementation Science Research Fellows Dr Matthew Stephenson and Dr Catalin Tufanaru.
Evidence-Based Clinical Fellowship Program

Learn about clinical leadership and how to implement evidence in practice to improve patient outcomes.

The Evidence-Based Clinical Fellowship Program is a six-month workplace, evidence-based, implementation program involving two five-day intensive training workshops in the Joanna Briggs Institute, and a workplace evidence implementation project in the intervening months.

Program dates for 2015:

July intake
Week 2: 7–11 December

Program dates for 2016:

February intake
Week 1: 22-26 February
Week 2: 8–12 August
Enrol by: 22 January 2016

May intake
Week 1: 16–20 May
Week 2: 17–21 October
Enrol by: 15 April 2016

August intake
Week 1: 22–26 August
Week 2: 30 Jan–3 Feb 2017
Enrol by: 22 July 2016

Clinical Leadership Program

The Clinical Leadership Program is open to all clinical leaders and leaders-to-be in all health care disciplines. Dates for 2016 are now available for this one-day program delivered by Proteus Leadership:

Program dates for 2016:

February intake
Program: Tuesday 23 February
Enrol by: 22 January 2016

May intake
Program: Tuesday 17 May
Enrol by: 15 April 2016

June intake
Program: Tuesday 21 June

Enrol by: 6 May 2016

August intake
Program: Tuesday 23 August
Enrol by: 22 July 2016

For information on these two programs and to enrol contact jbieducation@adelaide.edu.au.

The JBI Developing Countries Clinical Fellowship

Call for applications now open.

The Joanna Briggs Foundation has been established to raise funds that enable health professionals from developing countries to undertake the JBI Clinical Fellowship program. The JBI Evidence-Based Clinical Fellowship Program is a six-month workplace, evidence-based, implementation program involving two ten-day intensive training workshops in the Joanna Briggs Institute in Adelaide, and conducting a workplace evidence implementation project in the intervening months.

Week 1: 20–29 June
Week 2: 9–18 November

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

Five days

Learn how to conduct reviews using qualitative and quantitative data.

Program dates for 2016:

4–8 April (Enrol by: 4 March 2016)
2–6 May (Enrol by: 1 April 2016)
18–22 July (Enrol by: 17 June 2016)
5–9 September (Enrol by: 5 August 2016)
31 October – 4 November (Enrol by: 30 September 2016)

For information and to enrol contact jbieducation@adelaide.edu.au

CSR Module 1: Introduction to Evidence-Based Healthcare and the Systematic Review of Evidence

One day (Mandatory pre-requisite for Modules 2 and 3)

CSR Module 2: The Systematic Review of Quantitative Data from Experimental and Non-experimental Studies

Two days

Program dates for 2016:

5–6 April (Enrol by: 4 March 2016)
3–4 May (Enrol by: 1 April 2016)
19–20 July (Enrol by: 17 June 2016)
6–7 September (Enrol by: 5 August 2016)
1–2 November (Enrol by: 30 September 2016)

CSR Module 3: The Systematic Review of Evidence Generated by Qualitative Research, Narrative and Text

Two days

Program dates for 2016:

7–8 April (Enrol by: 19 February 2016)
5–6 May (Enrol by: 18 March 2016)
21–22 July (Enrol by: 3 June 2016)

8–9 September (Enrol by: 22 July 2016)
3–4 November (Enrol by: 30 September 2016)

External events

Further information and registration forms for the following events are located on the JBI website, under external events.

UCSF Centre for Evidence-Based Patient and Family Care

2016 CSRTP and Evidence Based Clinical Fellowship Training dates:

Clinical Fellowship Program

Week 1: 25–29 January, 2016
Week 2: 13–17 June, 2016

Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Program (CSRTP)

22–26 February, 2016
14–18 March, 2016
25–29 April, 2016
12–16 September, 2016
University of West London Centre for Evidence-Based Healthcare

2016 CSRTP dates:
15–19 February 2016

Czech Republic (Middle European) Centre for Evidence-Based Healthcare

2016 CSRTP dates:
8–12 February 2016
5–9 September 2016

The Queensland Centre for Evidence-Based Nursing and Midwifery

2016 CSRTP dates:
15–19 February 2016
4–6 July 2016

Portugal Centre for Evidence-Based Practice

2016 CSRTP dates:
30 May–3 June 2016

5th Congress on Nursing Research of Ibero-American and Portuguese-speaking Countries

2016 event dates:
6–8 June 2016

Call for abstracts: 15 January 2016
Reflections on 2015

2015 has been another successful year in the partnership between Wolters Kluwer and the Joanna Briggs Institute. It was a year that started with a thoughtful re-examination of JBI’s mission and vision, and ended with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment from JBI stakeholders at every level. All of us at Wolters Kluwer fully support the JBI Executive Team and global Collaboration partners, and their shared goal to derive the best-available evidence and develop resources and tools that enable healthcare professionals to translate that evidence quickly and effectively to improve patient outcomes.

2016 brings JBI’s 20th anniversary, which will be an exciting time (see page 5).

Later in 2016, the reintroduction of SUMARI and CAN-IMPLEMENT will improve the ability of healthcare professionals to create systematic reviews and adapt clinical guidelines for local use, removing additional barriers to putting evidence into practice.

Our first evidence-based practice YouTube video, called ‘Evidence-Based Practice: Improving Practice, Improving Outcomes’, just passed 21,000 views, which is an exciting benchmark.

Yet we know we are still in the midst of changing how all healthcare professionals understand evidence.

We know that global health can only be improved if healthcare professionals have access to the best available evidence, if it is imbedded into their workflow, and if they have access to tools that evaluate whether interventions have made an impact on outcomes.

The Joanna Briggs Institute and its Collaboration continue to lead evidence translation and implementation worldwide and Wolters Kluwer is proud to be your partner, helping ensure that your message is heard around the globe.

On behalf of the entire team at Wolters Kluwer, we offer our best wishes to all of you for a happy and healthy 2016.

Dr Anne Dabrow Woods
Chief Nurse
Wolters Kluwer
Centre changes

Afya Research Africa: an Affiliate Centre of The Joanna Briggs Institute

Leah Mwai has stepped down as the Director of Afya Research Africa and has accepted a position with the International Development Research Centre in Canada. We thank her for all her contributions and efforts with the centre, and wish her every success in her new role. While Leah will be based in Ottawa, she will continue to lend her support to, and remain engaged with, the activities of Afya Research Africa. JBI welcomes Dr Clifford Mwita as the incoming Director, who will be supported by Dr Samson Gwer as the centre’s Deputy Director.

First Czech Republic Comprehensive Systematic Review training a success

The Czech Republic (Middle European) Centre for Evidence Based Health Care conducted its first ever Comprehensive Systematic Review training on 7–11 September and it was a great success. All eight participants passed the course. Congratulations to the centre for its efforts.

New member of Czech Republic Centre!

The Czech Republic (Middle European) Centre for Evidence Based Health Care celebrated the arrival of its newest member recently – Miloslav Ludvik Klugar who arrived at 6:47am, weighing 3kg and measuring 50cm long.

The proud parents are Dr Jitka Klugarova and Dr Miloslav Klugar. Both Dr Klugarova and baby are doing well.
Texas Christian University Centre hosts visitors from Taiwan

Several core staff from our Texas Christian University Center for Evidence Based Practice played host to Professor Pei-Fan Mu, Director of the Taiwan Joanna Briggs Collaborating Centre, and Associate Professor Ya-Jung Wang, its Deputy Director.

The Taiwanese visitors were in Fort Worth, Texas, for a week-long visit to learn more about the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, advanced practice nursing in the US, and to visit the Texas centre.
New intake of exceptional HDR students to commence in February 2016

After a series of thorough candidate interviews conducted by Associate Professor Craig Lockwood, the Joanna Briggs Institute – Higher Degrees by Research Program (JBI-HDRP) is set to commence with a strong and talented new cohort in February 2016.

Each candidate for our next HDR intake has been carefully considered and scrutinised to ensure the school takes on only the finest students. Academic credentials and professional experience have determined a candidate’s eligibility, with alignment of an applicant’s interests with an area of research as a primary consideration.

The non-discipline specific nature of our program appeals to a broad range of healthcare professionals, with our newest cohort coming from areas such as paramedicine, epidemiology, mental health, paediatrics, orthopaedics and midwifery. There are several nurses enrolled, in addition to Surgical Residents from the Lyell McEwin Hospital and Royal Adelaide Hospital.

The JBI-HDRP 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. It is a research degree covered under the Government’s Research Training Scheme (RTS), which means it has no fees attached (to Australian and New Zealand citizens and/or residents), there is no expectation to attend weekly lectures or submit regular written assignments and it can be completed in full time enrolment with minimal contact hours, or remotely for interstate participates. 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 supervisor/s.

Whether it is an international or domestic applicant, the application process for the Master of Clinical Science is straightforward and full details on the process can be obtained by contacting the Adelaide Graduate Centre or directly through the school by contacting the HDR Program Administrator, Alex Mignone, Alex.Mignone@adelaide.edu.au

JBI-HDRP ranks highly for completions in 2015

On Friday, 27 November the Planning and Performance Reporting Division of the University of Adelaide released a brief summary on the 2015 HDR Completions and we are pleased to report that the JBI-HDRP ranked highly within the Faculty of Health Sciences – adjusted accordingly for our size and number of staff. With a total of 12 completions for 2015, and with more completions anticipated in the first half of 2016, JBI has performed exceptionally well and is now well positioned to take on a more substantial cohort in February 2016.

This outcome is directly attributed to the tireless work of our academic staff and we acknowledge the outstanding efforts of supervisors in getting students through such a difficult academic achievement.

“There is no such thing as failure. Failure is just life trying to move us in another direction.”

~ Oprah Winfrey
Omar Breik blitzes the examination process

Omar Breik (February 2013 Intake) recently submitted his thesis titled: ‘Mandibular distraction osteogenesis in the management of airway obstruction in children with micrognathia: a systematic review’ and has successfully satisfied the requirements of the examination process, achieving a High Distinction for his research work.

Omar’s supervisory team are delighted with their student’s efforts and we take this opportunity to wish Omar continued professional and academic success as he takes his place amongst our JBI student alumni.

Susan Bellman to become contributor for The Advertiser

Master of Clinical Science student Susan Bellman was recently featured in The Advertiser. Through Susan’s work at Diabetes SA, she has been asked to write a regular article for the Boomers section in The Advertiser around diabetes. The Advertiser has since asked Susan to prepare an article each month for publication. We congratulate Susan on this unique opportunity to write regularly for one of Adelaide’s most prominent news publications.

Diabetes must keep up with health checks

SUSAN BELLMAN
DIABETES EDUCATOR, MEDICAM, PHARMACIST

BRING on charge of your diabetes is very important to ensure you stay healthy, and that includes being aware of health checks you should be having on a regular basis.

Blood pressure should be measured by your doctor at each visit. In general, treatment should be started if your pressure is persistently 140/90 or above. Higher pressures are to be managed by your doctor.

Blood glucose levels should be measured by your doctor every three to six months. A normal fasting blood glucose level is less than 5.6 mEq/L and is assessed by your doctor. Check blood glucose levels yourself to control your diabetes.

The first step is to identify your risk factors. This includes your age, weight, family history and your risk of developing diabetes.

Blood pressure is one of the most important risk factors for developing diabetes. A normal blood pressure is less than 120/80 mmHg. Treatment should be started if your pressure is persistently 140/90 or above. Higher pressures are to be managed by your doctor.

Blood glucose levels should be checked by your doctor every three to six months. A normal fasting blood glucose level is less than 5.6 mEq/L and is assessed by your doctor. Check blood glucose levels yourself to control your diabetes.

Blood glucose levels should be checked by your doctor every three to six months. A normal fasting blood glucose level is less than 5.6 mEq/L and is assessed by your doctor. Check blood glucose levels yourself to control your diabetes.

High distinction for Peter Hallett

HDR student Peter Hallett’s masters thesis, titled, ‘Adult cancer survivors’ experiences of healthcare interactions and unmet needs in healthcare services’, has been awarded a High Distinction by the examining examiner.

His supervisors, Associate Professor Edoardo Aromataris and Dr Matthew Stephenson, are pleased with their student’s efforts.

Dr Catalin Tufanaru awaits outcome of examination

PhD student Dr Catalin Tufanaru has submitted his PhD thesis for examination. His topic is ‘Theoretical foundations of meta-aggregation: insights from Husserlian phenomenology and American pragmatism’.

Dr Tufanaru’s principal supervisor and former JBI Executive Director, Emeritus Prof Alan Pearson AM, is extremely pleased with the outcome of his thesis and is optimistic he will perform well in the examination process.

Emeritus Prof Alan Pearson AM says: ‘After only two years, Catalin has submitted his PhD dissertation for examination. This has been a mammoth task, given the complexities of his theoretical examination of the JBI approach to the aggregation of qualitative evidence and its alignment with Husserlian phenomenology and with American pragmatism. The work will add greatly, I think, to the further scientific development of JBI’s qualitative review methodology.

‘The international field of qualitative synthesis (led largely by medical sociologists and social scientists) is dominated by an approach referred to as meta-ethnography and the JBI approach (led largely by clinicians) has, at times, been sneered at by meta-ethnographers – who often...’
argue that the JBI approach is not theoretically or scientifically based. From its beginnings, the JBI approach has always laid claim to a strong theoretical base – and these arguments have been supported by the PhD theses of Kylie Porrit and Craig Lockwood (and in published papers by Craig and Karin Hannes). The new theoretical understandings that have emerged from Catalin’s work enhance this earlier work and provide new bases for the methodology. We wish Catalin well as he sits through the long wait for the results of the examination of his thesis!’

We take this opportunity to wish Dr Tufanaru well with the assessment of his PhD dissertation.

Early submission and overseas presentation for Stephen Kao

HDR student Stephen Kao has been granted special leave by the Dean of Graduate Studies to submit his thesis early for examination. Stephen was part of our latest February 2015 intake and has made exceptional progress in finalising his dissertation, titled, ‘Swallowing outcomes following primary surgical resection and primary free flap reconstruction for oral and oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinomas: a systematic review of quantitative evidence’.

Stephen’s principal supervisor, Dr Micah Peters, is pleased with his student’s commitment to program and the outcome of his research work. We wish Stephen well with the examination process.

In addition to early submission of his thesis, Stephen also presented the findings from his systematic review at the New Zealand Society of Otolaryngology Head Neck Surgery (NZSOHNS) Annual General Scientific Meeting in Nelson, New Zealand, on 23 October 2015.

The NZSOHNS is an organisation that represents otolaryngologists/head and neck surgeons (ear, nose and throat surgeons) in New Zealand. Otolaryngology and head and neck surgery is a branch of medicine that specialises in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the ear, nose, throat, and head and neck. In conjunction with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the NZSOHNS administers the New Zealand National Training Program to educate New Zealand’s future otolaryngologists/head and neck surgeons.

Dagmara Riitano successfully completes requirements of master’s program

Former JBI member of staff, Dagmara Riitano, recently submitted her master’s thesis for examination, titled, ‘The effectiveness of interventions designed to improve the academic outcomes of children and adolescents in out-of-home care: a systematic review’ and has since been approved for completion. Her principal supervisor, Associate Professor Edoardo Aromataris, is very happy with her completed work. We take this opportunity to congratulate Dagmara on finalising her degree.
Dagmara Riitano – a journey of personal growth

In 2014, our office sadly farewelled JBI staff member Dagmara Riitano. Dagmara was a valued member of JBI’s Synthesis Science Team, and was also a JBI-HDR student.

On the reasons for her departure Dagmara writes: ‘Midway through my HDR candidature, my husband and I decided we would take an extended holiday to visit family abroad whom we missed dearly. We spent just over a year living in a small, coastal town in the south of Italy, enjoying the local Mediterranean culture and cuisine. We also explored other beautiful regions of Italy (Sicily, Piedmont, Umbria, Lombardy, Lazio) and visited other European countries.’

On how the experience has changed her life, Dagmara writes: ‘For me, the opportunity to see first-hand how others live is a wonderful learning experience in and of itself. Immersing yourself in another culture challenges your way of thinking, gives you an appreciation of what you have back home.’

Although Dagmara left JBI and Australia behind, she used her newly found freedom to complete her master’s program. On managing study and her life in a foreign country, Dagmara writes: ‘I was tempted to give up my studies so I could travel unencumbered. However, I was re-inspired to continue with my candidature when I stopped seeing it as a burden and started seeing it as a journey of personal growth. Although this was difficult, I kept myself motivated by celebrating every small milestone, knowing that as long as I kept making progress, no matter how small, I would eventually complete. And complete I did. I am thrilled to not only be gaining a Masters of Clinical Science but a sense of accomplishment for my persistence and hard work.’

‘I was grateful that my decision to move overseas did not in any way adversely impact on my progress in the program. I’m not sure that I would have been able to complete my studies had it not been for the high level of support that was offered to me. Staff from JBI were responsive and helpful to my requests for guidance on certain aspects of my thesis and the administrative requirements of the program. Despite me being so far away, the HDR program was flexible and accommodating, which I was very thankful for, especially during my transition and at the point of submission.’

Dagmara is currently in Atlanta, Georgia, where she is apparently indulging in copious amounts of BBQ ribs and fried chicken, whilst enjoying the beautiful autumn foliage and taking road trips across the American Southwest. We wish Dagmara well for the remainder of her travels abroad and look forward to seeing her again on her return to Australia.

New JBI student award to commence in 2016

Due to the generosity of one of our completing students, the JBI-HDRP is pleased to offer a new annual student award for academic excellence.

The award will be given to one higher degree student each year for the next five years, either masters or PhD enrolled, to recognise high level academic rigour, engagement and participation with all aspects of program, and for collegiality within the wider student cohort throughout candidature. Students can either nominate themselves for this award, or academic staff can nominate those students they feel demonstrate such commitment to program and academic excellence.

The award criteria have been developed, which will be fully detailed in the 2016 edition of the JBI-HDRP handbook currently in development.
A word from the Chair

Hello my fellow fellows,

Christmas is approaching and the end of the year is nigh. It’s almost impossible to see where the time has gone and I believe it’s only going to get busier in healthcare sectors globally.

We recently had Katherine Trowbridge, the clinical fellow delegate for Adelaide, liaising with Alumni on the proposal from the JBI Executive in regards to the development process of the JBI Strategic Business Review.

The JBI Executive is seeking feedback from clinical fellows on both Proposal 1 and Proposal 2 as well as a draft version of their Vision and Mission statements.

I hope you all have had the opportunity to read and provide feedback, as it is important that we Alumni keep evolving over the next 20 years. It will be exciting to see the next step that JBI takes in re-shaping the global collaboration.

If you haven’t already, please join our JBI Stakeholders LinkedIn – Alumni Group: it’s a great way to keep in touch, network, receive support and advice from JBI staff on any projects you might be involved in, and much, much more!

Next year will be a big one as we Alumni will have the opportunity to join JBI to celebrate its 20th Anniversary, which is a major milestone for the Institute. Keep your eyes peeled for all correspondence on this and plan ahead for the conference as it will be a special one, I am sure.

Time to go and catch some sun in my sunny parts of the world (Noosa, Queensland, and Thailand).

Merry Christmas to you all, have a happy and joyous new year, God Bless and see you next year safe and sound.

Dr Drew Dwyer

Recapping an outstanding year for JBI Alumni

As we leave 2015 behind and move into 2016, it is a good time to reflect on our achievements for the year.

Highlights for 2015:

- Alumni representation on the JBI Strategic Plan Working Group – you all would have received emails from Katherine Trowbridge keeping us up-to-date with ongoing planning for the future direction of the JBI.

- A successful Alumni Breakfast where we heard from Daphne Stannard, Director, UCSF JBI Center for Synthesis and Implementation, who shared and international perspective on the JBI Clinical Fellowship – it was a wonderful opportunity to network and share details of new work being done.

- Welcoming 30 new clinical fellows to our Alumni – some topics covered this year were:
  - Hep C – preventative strategies among nurses in hospitals
  - Dysphasia – best practice in assessment and management by nursing staff
  - Best practice for assessment of cognitive impairment following stroke and non-drug intervention
  - Best practice management of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting
  - Best practices for education and management of antenatal care of women with gestational diabetes, and their newborn baby in the first 24 hours after delivery.
We are exceptionally proud of our JBI clinical fellows and the work that you do in flying the flag for Best Evidence in Practice. We know that it is not always easy to implement changes, but the impact that you can (and do) achieve can be far reaching and worth the challenge.

Keep it up and we would love to hear about any new and exciting projects you are undertaking, so please share these by emailing sarah.silver@adelaide.edu.au.

Course dates 2016
Please see page 12 for 2016 course dates.