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Science is awesome!

JBI International Methodology Symposium 2015

‘Science is a wonderful thing if one does not have to earn one’s living at it.’ Assoc Prof Zoe Jordan opened her welcome speech at the JBI International Methodology Symposium 2015 with this famous quote by Albert Einstein. ‘This is why the focus for JBI this year has been on both the business and the science of evidence translation,’ she said.

Held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Adelaide, on 3–4 September, the Symposium was the first event Assoc Prof Jordan officiated in her capacity as newly appointed Executive Director of JBI (see page 7). The event had followed an enormously productive and positive joint business meeting of the Joanna Briggs Collaboration Committee of Directors and the Joanna Briggs Institute Advisory Committee (see page 15).

‘But now it is time we move to the science: the science of synthesis,’ Assoc Prof Jordan said of the Symposium, ‘and JBI has a lot to offer in this field.’

The two-day symposium specifically focused on presenting and discussing the unique approaches developed by JBI and the Collaboration to evidence synthesis and evidence implementation. Aimed at the evidence-based healthcare enthusiast and the systematic review methodologist, the symposium delved into the varied approaches of conducting systematic reviews across a broad spectrum of methodologies, including but not limited to, effectiveness, diagnosis, mixed methods and qualitative review.

A phenomenal nine plenary sessions addressing supporting methodologies for the synthesis of different types of research evidence to inform policy and practice, and eight concurrent presentations of pragmatic examples of JBI methodology and method in practice made up proceedings for the symposium.

These sessions were presented by JBI methodology groups established with the remit of investigating, reviewing and developing new methods of synthesis for JBI.

‘Many of you here have been actively involved in these JBI Methodology Groups and I thank you for your engagement and commitment to developing the science behind what JBI does,’ Assoc Prof Jordan said.

‘To borrow from a fascinating and slightly quirky famous Australian, Tim Minchin, “Science is not a body of knowledge nor a system of belief; it is just a term which describes humankind’s incremental acquisition of understanding through observation. Science is awesome.”’
'We should never, never forget that what we do is as much about furthering other scientific programs and endeavours as it is about improving health outcomes in communities globally.'

In closing, Assoc Prof Jordan reiterated: ‘science is awesome!’

**Plenary sessions**

The JBI International Methodology Symposium 2015 included nine plenary sessions from JBI methodology groups. On behalf to their groups the following presenters delivered presentations on their methodologies as well as reports on the activities of each group.

**Effectiveness reviews – Dr Catalin Tufanaru**

In his presentation, Dr Catalin Tufanaru discussed the differences between clinical heterogeneity, methodological heterogeneity, and statistical heterogeneity and presented the $I^2$ index for heterogeneity that will be available in the new version of SUMARI.

On publication bias, he elaborated on statistical approaches for publication bias and the three statistical tests for publication bias (the Begg’s Test, Egger’s Test and Harbord Test) that will be available in the new version of SUMARI.

Lastly, Dr Tufanaru presented the new guidance on how to decide which model to use for meta-analysis (fixed or random).

**Qualitative reviews – Assoc Prof Craig Lockwood**

Qualitative reviews using the JBI innovative and world leading signature tool, JBI-QARI, was the focus of Assoc Prof Craig’s presentation. He provided an overview of the theoretical foundations of meta-aggregation, and how the JBI methodology is based upon systematic review methodology to promote rigour and reliability while being informed by the traditions of qualitative research to ensure congruency with the critical and interpretive paradigms. The presentation also discussed the foundational assumptions within meta-aggregation and how these differ from other methods of qualitative synthesis. In particular, the alignment to pragmatism and Husserlian transcendental phenomenology was highlighted.

In situating JBI’s approach in meta-aggregation, Assoc Prof Lockwood touched on ‘thin’ versus ‘thick’ descriptions and how the JBI approach seeks to maintain congruency with systematic review methodology. He touched on the definitions of findings, categories, synthesised findings, and credibility versus plausibility; and the rating and coding of findings. New and emerging aspects of meta-aggregation were touched upon, including how credibility of individual findings is established, and whether findings might be able to be coded for sub group-like analysis of key characteristics.
Economic reviews – Dr Judith Gomersall
Economic evidence in evidence-based health care is evidence on incremental resource use, costs and/or costs and effects for an intervention and its comparator. It sheds light on the following aspects of an intervention compared to another: resource requirements, costs, and cost and health effect consequences (i.e. value for money).
Dr Streak Gomersall presented on the JBI methodology for systematic review of economic evaluations. Her presentation:
- Described the nature and importance of primary economic evaluation evidence in evidence based healthcare
- Described the purpose, methods and main findings of the JBI systematic review of economic evaluation evidence working group
- Described the purpose, methods and main findings of the JBI Systematic Review of Economic Evidence Working Group
- Identified weaknesses/issues to be addressed in the updated guidance for systematic review of economic evaluation evidence.
Dr Drew Riddle and Dr Yuri Jadotte fielded questions from the floor after the presentation.

Aetiology and risk reviews, prevalence or incidence reviews – Sandeep Moola
Systematic reviews of aetiological studies are important in informing health care planning and resource allocation, particularly in the public health domain. They are invaluable for any attempt on behalf of health care to initiate informed strategies and treatments for the prevention and management of disease, and they assist health professionals to differentiate alternative diagnoses, and better inform and manage their patients.

In his presentation, Sandeep Moola took the audience through the JBI methodology for synthesising evidence related to aetiology and risk, going into detail about the inclusion criteria, critical appraisal and data synthesis of this methodology. He also provided insight into the JBI methodology for synthesising evidence related to prevalence and incidence where he covered the related inclusion criteria, critical appraisal and meta-analysis for this methodology.

Diagnostic test accuracy reviews – Dr Jared Campbell
Diagnostic tests are used by clinicians to identify the presence or absence of a condition in a patient. They can include imaging and biochemical technologies, pathological and psychological investigation, signs and symptoms observed during history taking and clinical evaluations. Diagnostic test accuracy (DTA) reviews are important as they provide clinicians and other healthcare practitioners with access to high level evidence on the accuracy of the diagnostic tests.

In his presentation, Dr Jared Campbell explained in detail the two main types of studies of DTA – case control and cross-sectional studies, as well as measures of diagnostic test accuracy. He provided details on the systematic review methods for DTA reviews.

Narrative, opinion and text reviews – Alexa Arthur
The focus of Alexa’s presentation was the reasons for conducting a systematic review of text and opinion, or policy data, and the methods for undertaking this type of review.

Text and expert opinion (from review papers, discussion papers or policy reports) present information that arises out of experience or observation. Much of the resources drawn on to develop policy are narrative and textual in nature, rather than the outcomes of formal research.

The opinions of experienced clinical leaders and professional organizations draw on the collective wisdom of experienced experts and are often referred to for guidance in relation to policy.
making and professional practice.

In explaining the methodology, Alexa covered the inclusion criteria, searching, critical appraisal, textual data extraction and synthesis and assessing confidence through ConQual.

Umbrella/overview reviews – Assoc Prof Edoardo Aromataris

An umbrella review is an attempt to identify and appraise, extract and summarise all the evidence from research syntheses related to a topic or question. It is also referred to as overview of reviews, review of reviews, summary of systematic reviews and synthesis of reviews.

In his presentation, Assoc Prof Edoardo Aromataris went into the reasons for undertaking umbrella reviews. Currently there is an explosion of systematic reviews and research syntheses, and decision makers are increasingly required to make evidence informed policy decisions rapidly. Umbrella reviews are a useful approach to rapid reviews and offer the possibility to address a broad scope of issues related to a topic of interest.

Assoc Prof Aromataris elaborated on the types and key features of umbrella review, and the steps, and specifically, JBI’s approach, in conducting such a review, highlighting the differences between umbrella reviews and a normal systematic review in the areas of search, data extraction, critical appraisal, summary (not synthesis) and recommendations. He provided examples of how to present summaries of findings for this type of reviews.

Scoping reviews – Dr Micah Peters

Evidence-based practice is an expanding field and with the rapid increase in primary research, the conduct of reviews has also escalated. Scoping reviews, also called “mapping” reviews, are a method of mapping the evidence from a wide variety of evidence and review types.

In his presentation, Dr Micah Peters explained that, broadly, scoping reviews report on the examination of the extent, range and nature of research, determine the value of undertaking systematic reviews, summarise/disseminate research, and identify gaps in research. Scoping reviews are suited for cases where there is emerging, disparate or diverse evidence, evidence that is difficult to systematically review or where the question/objective is not a systematic review question.

Dr Peters emphasised the importance for scoping reviews to include a clear and focused objective and review question and spoke about the need for scoping reviews to still remain focused despite the fact that they do not seek to answer the precise questions of systematic reviews of effectiveness.

He also talked about the differences between stand-alone scoping reviews and scoping ‘exercises’. He then went into detail regarding population, concept, and context, and the JBI scoping review methodology.

Dr Christina Godfrey from the Queen’s Joanna Briggs Collaboration for Patient Safety and Assoc Prof Cassia Baldini Soares from the Brazilian Centre for Evidence-based Healthcare discussed examples of their experience with undertaking scoping reviews.

Levels of evidence/grades of recommendation

With a touch of humour, Dr Zachary Munn began his presentation with an image that posed the question – are levels of evidence dead?

In assessing quality of evidence (if not by study design), the two critical questions are: How can we ascertain the ‘quality’ of the evidence? What impacts our ‘confidence’ regarding the evidence? Dr Munn went on to explain the factors that affect the quality of evidence: methodological limitations, inconsistency of results, indirectness of evidence, imprecision of results and publication bias.

Dr Munn said that the following can raise the quality of evidence: a large, consistent, precise effect, a clear dose-response gradient, and the
effect of plausible residual confounding working. He also emphasised that the hierarchy of evidence is useful for pre-ranking in the GRADE approach, educational purposes, structuring searches and rapid evidence synthesis/appraisal products.

On Grades of Recommendations, Dr Munn alluded to the JBI approach of FAME (Feasibility, Appropriateness, Meaningfulness and Effectiveness) to inform recommendations. He also touched on the case for and against recommendations in systematic reviews, i.e. should recommendations only be made in clinical guidelines?

The verdict at the end of his presentation was – levels of evidence are still alive and breathing, and recommendations should be made in systematic reviews!

**SUMARI in the spotlight**

A comprehensive and much awaited presentation on the JBI-SUMARI Systematic Review Software by Dr Zachary Munn and the IT team took centre stage as a pre-Symposium workshop on the afternoon of 2 September.

In the presentation, Dr Munn gave a detailed history of the evolution of SUMARI from its first iteration in 2001 when QARI, JBI’s first software program, was developed. QARI later became SUMARI, and from 2002 to 2006, MASTARI, NOTARI and ACTUARI followed. SUMARI 5.0 resulted, which became the first software in the world capable of appraising and synthesising evidence from a broad spectrum of sources.

With the current availability of various types of systematic review software, there is an imperative to advance and create a new system that will enable appraisal and synthesis of evidence from an even broader spectrum of sources – which has been the thrust of the current SUMARI redevelopment.

An ‘agile’ software development is being followed for the new SUMARI. Agile solutions evolve through collaboration between cross functional teams. It promotes adaptive planning, evolutionary development, early delivery, continuous improvement, and encourages rapid and flexible response to change.

Dr Munn said the major features of the new SUMARI will be: a dashboard for review management; participant/author management; web-based; study selection function; generation of PRISMA; and improved citation management.

A demonstration of work done on the new SUMARI so far followed Dr Munn’s presentation.

The SUMARI team comprises James Farrow, Technical Lead; Gilli Atkinson, Senior Architect; Paul Malyschko, Senior Programmer; and Dr Zachary Munn, Product Owner.

A presentation on JBI-PACES followed. Alexa McArthur took the audience through the A to Z of the JBI clinical audit approach and process using PACES.

Her presentation included a full demonstration of PACES, incorporating the GRIP module for identifying barriers and strategies for evidence implementation.

**The Symposium Storified!**

Want to relive the Symposium? Check out a summary of all the tweets and other social media activity on the Symposium on Storify.
Assoc Prof Zoe Jordan appointed as JBI Executive Director

JBI Matters congratulates Assoc Prof Zoe Jordan on her appointment as JBI Executive Director on 14 August.

In the words of Prof Alastair Burt, Executive of the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Adelaide, ‘Assoc Prof Jordan has held a number of roles in the JBI since 2000. She obtained her PhD from the University of Adelaide though the JBI. She was formerly Director of Communication Science, Joanna Briggs Institute/Deputy Head of School and Coordinator of Learning and Teaching, School of Translational Health Science. For the past year she has been Acting Director, working very effectively with its 80+ international collaborating entities across the world to lead the development, execution and review of the Institute’s strategic and business plans.

‘She will continue to oversee the research and learning and teaching programs of the Institute as well as the important commercial partnership with Wolters Kluwer Health and other external relationships. She has developed a comprehensive understanding of translation science and evidence based healthcare methods and methodologies as well as contemporary approaches to communication, specifically with regard to the emerging interrelationship and convergence of communication, media and culture in the context of a global society. I am sure that in the substantive role as Executive Director she will continue to lead the further development of this important unit.’

A word from the newly appointed Executive Director

Dear JBI stakeholders,

I am delighted to officially take on the role of Executive Director of the Joanna Briggs Institute. JBI is an organisation that I am very proud to have been involved with for over 15 years and I feel very lucky every day to work with such a committed and enthusiastic team both in Adelaide and internationally.

Last week we hosted the inaugural joint meeting of the JBC Committee of Directors and the JBI Advisory Committee and associated symposium, which I am delighted to report were a great success. The high levels of engagement, enthusiasm and support were overwhelming and the positive and productive nature of the discussions were reassuring that we are progressing in the right way.

We have achieved a lot already over the course of this year, including the development of our new strategic plan. I would like to thank everyone for their open, honest and constructive feedback throughout this process. There is, of course, still much to do but I am confident about our direction and our ability to achieve the goals we have set for ourselves over the course of the next five years.

I am excited about moving forward with all of you to take JBI in new directions and believe that the future is indeed bright.

Assoc Prof Zoe Jordan
The JBI International Methodology Symposium 2015 in pictures
Clinical Fellowship

The March intake of Clinical Fellows returned for their Week 2 training on 17–21 August. The trainers were Alexa McArthur, Dr Micah Peters and Sandeep Moola. All but one of the nine participants completed their clinical fellowship.

The participants were from ACH (two), Fudan University (three), RAH (one), Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (one), LaTrobe University (one) and Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane (one).

Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Program

An unprecedented 21 participants attended a Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Program held at the JBI Headquarters on 7–11 September, run by Assoc Prof Craig Lockwood and Dr Jared Campbell.

The participants were from Flinders University; Flinders Medical Centre; Hampstead Dialysis Centre; HK Hospital Authority; King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, Thai Red Cross Society; Royal Adelaide Hospital; South Australia Health and Medical Research Centre; The Queen Elizabeth Hospital; University of South Australia; University of Adelaide; University of Newcastle and University of Tasmania.

Knighted!

On 16 April, Prof Preben Ulrich Pedersen, Director of the Danish Centre of Systematic Reviews, was bestowed the Knight of The Dannebrog Order.

The Order of the Dannebrog is awarded by Queen Margre II as a means of honouring and rewarding the faithful servants of the modern Danish state for meritorious civil or military service, for a particular contribution to the arts, sciences or business life or for those working for Danish interests. Sir Pedersen is the first Danish nursing researcher who has received this order.
Cancer Nursing Journal to continue publishing CNCF review summaries in 2016

The Cochrane Nursing Care Field (CNCF) is pleased to advise the Cancer Nursing Journal has agreed to continue publishing our Cochrane review summaries into 2016.

Published by the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care, Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins and with an impact factor of 1.931, this journal addresses the whole spectrum of problems arising in the care and support of cancer patients – prevention and early detection, geriatric and paediatric cancer nursing, medical and surgical oncology, ambulatory care, nutritional support, psychosocial aspects of cancer, patient responses to all treatment modalities, and specific nursing interventions.

The journal offers unparalleled coverage of cancer care delivery practices worldwide, as well as ground-breaking research findings and their practical applications.

Published

A paper co-written by Dr Jared Campbell, Research Fellow, Implementation Science, was published in Reproductive BioMedicine Online. The title is ‘Paternal obesity negatively affects male fertility and assisted reproduction outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis’.
Limited Special Offer!

Course dates have been set for 2016 and we are pleased to announce a Limited Special Offer: enrol in 2016 courses before 31 October 2015 and secure 2015 pricing!

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:

May intake
Week 2: 12–16 October

June intake
Week 2: 16–20 November

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: 8 January 2016

May intake
Week 1: 16–20 May
Week 2: 17–21 October
Enrol by: 5 April 2016

June intake
Week 1: 20–24 June
Week 2: 21–25 November
Enrol by: 6 May 2016

August intake
Week 1: 22–26 August
Week 2: 30 Jan – 3 Feb 2017
Enrol by: 8 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: 8 January 2016

May intake
Program: Tuesday 17 May
Enrol by: 1 April 2016

June intake
Program: Tuesday 21 June
Enrol by: 6 May 2016

August intake
Program: Tuesday 23 August
Enrol by: 8 July 2016

For information on these two programs and to enrol contact jbleducation@adelaide.edu.au.
Comprehensive Systematic Review Full Training Program (Modules 1, 2 and 3)

Five days
Learn how to conduct reviews using qualitative and quantitative data.

Special intake subject to minimum enrolment requirement:
30 Nov – 4 Dec (Enrol by: 6 November)

Program dates for 2016:
4–8 April (Enrol by: 19 February 2016)
2–6 May (Enrol by: 18 March 2016)
18–22 July (Enrol by: 3 June 2016)
5–9 September (Enrol by: 22 July 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)

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)

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: 19 February 2016)
3–4 May (Enrol by: 18 March 2016)
19–20 July (Enrol by: 3 June 2016)
6–7 September (Enrol by: 22 July 2016)

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

Two days

Program dates for 2016:
14–18 September

2015 JBI International Methodology Symposium

Slides from the 2015 JBI International Methodology Symposium held from 3-4 September 2015 at the Crowne Plaza Adelaide are available on the JBI website under ‘Past JBI Events’

UCSF Center for Evidence-Based Patient and Family Care

Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Program for 2015

Clinical Fellowship Program

Week 1: 12–16 October 2015
Week 2: 12–18 March 2016

View the flyer for further information and registration.
3rd NUS-NUH International Nursing Conference and 20th Joint Singapore-Malaysia Nursing Conference

Transforming nursing education and practice in meeting the future needs of the community
18–20 November 2015, Singapore
Call for abstracts: 17 July, 2015
See flyer and website for more information.

Scottish Centre for Evidence-based Multi-professional Practice

Comprehensive Systematic Review Training is being offered from 5–9 October 2015
Module 1: Introduction to Evidence-Based Health Care and the Systematic Review of Evidence
Module 1: The Systematic Review of Evidence generated through Quantitative Research
Module 1: The Systematic Review of Evidence generated by Qualitative Research, Narrative and Text
Cost: GBP 500
Venue: Scottish Centre for Evidence-based Multi-professional Practice
Faculty of Health and Social Care
Robert Gordon University
Garthdee Road, Aberdeen
Scotland, UK
AB10 7QG

For further details please contact Dr Kay Cooper, Deputy Director, on k.cooper@rgu.ac.uk or +44 (0) 1224 262677 or Pamela Kirkpatrick, Director, on p.kirkpatrick@rgu.ac.uk or +44 (0) 1224 263276.
53rd CoD meeting

by Adriana Turner

The annual face-to-face meeting is always a wonderful opportunity for the JBC to come together and work through strategies and directions, and to forge new partnerships for further collaboration in evidence based health care.

The 53rd meeting was held in Adelaide on 31 August – 2 September at the Freemasons Hall, Adelaide. This was the first joint meeting of the JBC Committee of Directors and the JBI Advisory Committee, held prior to the JBI International Methodology Symposium 2015.

This year, a new format was introduced – attendees sat in round tables and workshoped and discussed various topics. There was very positive feedback and discussion about the future and strategic direction of JBI and JBC, with presentations on the redevelopment of SUMARI and exciting plans and opportunities for JBI tools and products (see page 7).
Festa Italiana!
by Alex Mignone

After the high level engagement of the initial two days of the JBI Inaugural Joint Meeting of the JBC Committee of Directors and Advisory Committee, the Informal Dinner held on the evening of 1 September provided the first opportunity for our international guests to unwind and relax with staff in a more informal setting.

Held at Rumours in Union House on the University campus, and with a menu and décor that reflected the Italian theme for the occasion, this dinner demonstrated the unique and special relationship between JBI and its international collaboration.

After indulging in some of the culinary delights of the region, JBI staff had organised a series of activities for those in attendance. The first activity involved each table working collaboratively at constructing a Leaning Tower of Pisa out of the limited materials provided, such as empty tissue boxes, carton rolls and sticky tape. All tables participated enthusiastically in this activity and the result was a series of fairly questionable looking constructs that vaguely resembled the intended building. Following this, each table was asked to nominate a person to be dressed in a toga, fashioned only from toilet paper and tape. By this point in the evening, the merriment had sufficiently progressed and the participants not only looked amazing in their carefully crafted garments, but the audience was also treated to an impromptu fashion parade. JBI’s own Dr Micah Peters did an exceptional job of being the nominated Master of Ceremonies and judging the winners of the scheduled activities.

The table of delegates from China (pictured, bottom right) took out the Leaning Tower of Pisa Challenge while Pamela Kirkpatrick (pictured, bottom left) from the Scottish Centre for Evidence-Based Multi-professional Practice won the Toga Challenge.
Flight reimbursements

Please continue to email your supporting travel documentation for reimbursement to jbc@adelaide.edu.au. In order for Finance to process your reimbursement, you will need to complete and return a copy of the transfer form and invoice along with your supporting receipt. The deadline for all travel reimbursements is **1 November 2015**.
HDR Annual Reviews – October

With the exception of students enrolled in 2015, or those who submit a thesis to the Adelaide Graduate Centre on or before 31 October 2015, or those whose candidature lapses on or before 31 October 2015, or those who withdraw from candidature on or before 31 October 2015, all students, including those who are full-time, half-time, remote, or on leave of absence or study leave, must participate in the 2015 Annual Review of Progress.

Click here to download the Annual Review form.

HDR student Omar Breik submits for examination

Another of our HDR Students, Omar Breik, (February 2013 Intake) has submitted his thesis for examination, titled, ‘Mandibular distraction osteogenesis in the management of airway obstruction in children with micrognathia: a systematic review’.

Dr Omar Breik is a Maxillofacial Surgery registrar who commenced a Masters of Clinical Science at JBI in 2013. He completed a Bachelor of Dentistry at the University of Melbourne in 2006, and then went on to complete a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at the University of Adelaide in 2012.

He has since been working at the Royal Adelaide Hospital until his recent appointment as a Maxillofacial Surgery registrar at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

His systematic review topic was targeted at determining the efficacy of mandibular distraction osteogenesis in the management of children with upper airway obstruction secondary to micrognathia. He has submitted three papers for publication in different journals.

We wish Omar well with the examination process.

His supervisor, Dr Kandiah Umapathysivam, writes: ‘Dr Omar Breik’s thesis topic is of worldwide significance to medical and surgical clinicians in the disciplines involved in managing children with upper airway obstruction. This is reflected in the range of paediatric and surgical journals to which the outcomes have been sent for publication.

‘The study is a very significant piece of work and he has been invited to present his findings at International conferences. In conjunction with his academic studies, Omar has advanced his clinical training with a busy Surgical RMO rotation including neurosurgery and craniofacial surgery. This has culminated in his starting higher training in Oral and Maxillofacial surgery in Melbourne, where he has the opportunity to apply some of his academic studies to clinical practice.’

Kate Davis to graduate

Kate Davis (February 2013 intake) has submitted her final thesis and will be part of the University of Adelaide’s Graduating Ceremony on 17 September.

Kate has over 20 years leadership experience in nursing education and general staff development in both the private and public sectors. Kate is passionate about clinical and professional learning experiences and how these can be contextualised within health care settings, previously in the acute care setting, but more recently in the remote and isolated practice setting.

Having recently completed her Masters in Clinical Science, Kate is keen to continue her research by taking up PhD studies next year, and progress her
research interest in learning, practice development and workplace contexts.

On her student, former JBI Research Fellow and Academic Supervisor, Dr Sarah Louise White, writes:

‘Kate was a delight to supervise. Her attention to detail and hardworking disposition ensured that a solid and meaningful body of work was produced. I know we all wish her well in her future projects. Kate’s systematic thesis and the systematic review that underpins it unpack the ways in which workplace culture impacts upon nurses’ learning. Fourteen qualitative studies were critically appraised and included in the review. Ninety-one findings were drawn from the papers to generate eight categories based on similarity of meaning.

‘Categories were then summarised to generate the following synthesised findings:

- Organisational influences: Enabling nurses to demonstrate accountability for their own learning, along with clear organisational systems that provide resources, time, adequate staffing demonstrate and value of nurses learning and education.
- Nurses value their peers, expert nurses, preceptors, mentors and educators to facilitate and encourage their learning and professional development.

‘Kate’s work highlights how crucial creating a workplace that is supportive to learning so that nurses can continue to develop professionally.’

On her student experience, Kate writes: ‘I loved doing my Masters in Clinical Science, especially because it was so relevant to my work. I chose my research field because I am passionate about nurses’ learning in the workplace, and the culture, dynamics and relationships that can support this. I believe that for nurses, working and learning is an integrated experience and is crucial to achieving the safest and best possible patient outcomes. The patient or client is central in nursing care and supporting the nurse’s learning experience also supports the patient’s experience.’

‘I believe in intuition and inspiration. Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution. It is, strictly speaking, a real factor in scientific research.’

~ Albert Einstein
A word from the President

Hello my fellow Fellows

First point of the month is a fantastic hooray and big thank you to all fellows and executives who attended the JBI Alumni Breakfast! The Breakfast was part of the 2015 JBI International Methodology Symposium held on 2–4 September.

We were pleased to hear a presentation by Professor Daphne Stannard, Director of UCSF Center for Evidence-Based Patient and Family Care. Professor Stannard described her experiences with the JBI as the most positive and valuable resource for developing their new Clinical Fellows program and outlined how the fellowship will continue into the future within their organisation.

We had four new clinical fellows introduced to the Alumni at the breakfast, and they were presented with their medallions. I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge them in this newsletter and formally welcome them into the Fellows Alumni:

Rochelle Kurmis (2010)  
Natalia Adanichkin (12/2014)  
Sarah Giuliani (12/2014)  
Jessie Songli (08/2015)

The breakfast was a great opportunity for Alumni members to have a social/professional catch-up during the symposium, and there were some interesting discussions on the projects that fellows are undertaking across the globe. While listening to these experiences, it occurred to me that clinical fellows of the JBI are indeed the leaders of the “mission, vision and values” of the institute. We are like missionaries, getting research into practice out there and pushing the benefits of evidence-based healthcare and best practice.

Finally it’s time for another reminder to all Alumni members to be more engaged in the Alumni subgroup of the JBI Stakeholders Group on LinkedIn and continue to engage in JBI’s professional social media channels. This is the contemporary vehicle for global communication among us and I encourage members to become regular participants in blogs and forums.

I have made the suggestion previously, and I’d like to mention again – I think it would be a great idea for Fellows to have a motto, such as the Latin motto of ‘PULATIM’ which means “little by little”, because that’s our lived experience of utilising evidence-based healthcare to enhance policy and practice. Feedback is most welcomed.

Drew Dwyer