Shedding light on shared decision making in elective surgery

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Should I or shouldn’t I undergo surgery?

This crucial question confronts most patients facing the option of elective surgery.

Shared decision making (SDM) between clinicians and patients in elective surgery is the cornerstone of patient-centred care. It provides a collaborative process to help the patient understand their choices and make an informed decision, and considers both the practitioners’ expertise and the patients’ preferences and values.

The reality however is that SDM is not widely adopted in clinical practice, and its uptake remains a challenge for many healthcare practitioners. Literature suggests the presence of many patient-, practitioner- and systems-related barriers to its adoption, the lack of time by practitioners to engage in the extended dialogues that SDM demands, for one.

As part of a larger SDM project, the Joanna Briggs Institute has been commissioned to conduct a systematic review to investigate evidence on SDM and promote the use of related evidence-based tools by surgeons. ‘Strategies for implementing shared decision making by healthcare practitioners in elective surgery’ will identify and collect relevant international scientific evidence on strategies aimed to facilitate or improve healthcare practitioners’ adoption of SDM in elective surgery, and evaluate the effectiveness of these strategies for implementation.

The JBI project team comprises Implementation Science Research Fellow Dr Lucylynn Lizarondo (project leader), Director Synthesis Science Associate Professor Edoardo Aromataris, and Director Transfer Science Associate Professor Zachary Munn. Scientists from other schools in the Faculty of Health Sciences will also be involved in the project.

The project will be conducted in the first half of this year.

A new chapter for the JBISRIR

After an extended period of negotiations, training, testing and transferring, the contract between JBI and Wolters Kluwer (WK) has been signed, representing a milestone for the JBI Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports. From 15 April, Volume 14, Issue 3 of the journal will be published by Wolters Kluwer/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins (LWW).

‘This is an excellent collaboration for our journal as we hand over our production processes to our new publisher,’ says Editor-in-Chief Associate Professor Edoardo Aromataris. ‘We look forward to working together with the team at WK to ensure a smooth transition and seeing a new look, style and layout of our journal articles.’

Post April 2016, Editorial Manager will be our new editorial system where authors to which authors will be directed to upload new submissions.
New partnership with Cochrane

Cochrane and the Joanna Briggs Institute recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop a working partnership aimed at improving the knowledge base for making decisions in health care and global health policy.

The partnership brings together the synergy of visions, missions, goals, values, principles, and products of both organisations who believe that systematic and rigorous approaches to research synthesis improve the knowledge base for making decisions in health care, and that this leads to better-informed choices by policymakers, practitioners, and members of the public.

Building on the strengths of each organisation, the partnership will explore how Cochrane and JBI can work together effectively to avoid duplication of effort, and maximize their impact in delivering better global health decision-making.

Cochrane CEO Mark Wilson said: ‘We are excited by our new partnership with the Joanna Briggs Institute. We think that our work with JBI will help us extend the reach of Cochrane evidence into policy and practice more effectively around the world, through the materials JBI produces and through developing joint knowledge translation initiatives. Cochrane’s mission to deliver timely, accessible, credible evidence on which health decisions can be taken has never been more important for improving global health outcomes, and we are confident that this new partnership will help us do that.’

These sentiments were echoed by JBI Executive Director, Associate Professor Zoe Jordan, who said: ‘We absolutely recognize that there are several areas of complementarity where collaboration between our two organizations will serve the broader evidence-based community and movement well.’

Cochrane and JBI plan to explore opportunities for scientific and methodological research, as well as the sharing of data for the efficiency of evidence synthesis processes, and joint representation at major healthcare events.

The official partnership will run for an initial two years, in which time the two organizations will have the opportunity to assess the feasibility and benefits of a deeper integration.

Presentation at EQUATOR symposium

Associate Professor Edoardo Aromataris, Director Implementation Science, presented a paper at an Australian-first symposium on improving the quality of medical and health research literature, in-line with the launch of the Australasian EQUATOR (Enhancing the Quality And Transparency Of health Research) Centre.

The symposium, hosted by Bond University’s Centre for Research in Evidence-Based Practice (CREBP), was held on 3 March at Bond University, Robina, Queensland. It brought together Australia’s leading academics in the field to discuss strategies for ensuring research reporting meets the benchmarks of transparency, accuracy, reproducibility and usability, in a bid to reduce ‘research waste’.

Associate Professor Aromataris’ paper, titled, ‘The importance of reporting guidance for qualitative research’, was well received, generating lots of interest and discussion.

The international EQUATOR Centre initiative was founded in the United Kingdom in 2006, with Australasia becoming the fourth centre worldwide, joining existing branches in Canada and France.
JBI 20th Anniversary

Promote your papers on social media!

2016 is a year of recognising and promoting our achievements. One of the ‘events’ we are supporting is the collaboration-wide promotion of papers written by members of the JBI/JBC. JBI/JBC has an extensive social media network and we would like to use this to promote papers you have written about your JBI work, whether they be opinion pieces, editorials, research, or scholarly outputs.

Socialising key papers does not require them to be recent; older papers, original work can be messaged to promote the concepts of EBHC as practiced through the collaboration just as readily as recent papers. Systematic review reports or implementation reports will not be included unless they are clearly have a methodological focus.

We will be promoting two papers per month throughout 2016 using social media. If you are not already following us on Twitter, check out our handle, JBIEBHC and #JBI20 to see the latest papers released. Feel free to retweet the links.

If you would like to have one of your papers promoted, please email the paper to craig.lockwood@adelaide.edu.au. Please also:

1. Provide your twitter ID
2. Follow the JBI twitter handle (@JBIEBHC)
3. When you re-tweet, use the #JBI20 to be able to participate!

Where in the world is Alan? – the adventures of Alan the Bobblehead

Alan spent the month of February in Singapore visiting the teams at JBI-IMH Centre for Evidence-based Practices Institute of Mental Health and the Singapore National University Hospital Centre for Evidence-based Nursing. Arriving during the Chinese New Year celebrations meant Alan had a few days for some R&R following his flight from Perth and recent surgery. Once the national holidays were over, he quickly got ‘back on his feet’ and got involved in some of the daily events at the centres. Thanks to everyone who welcomed Alan. It looks like they had a lot of fun with him.

Follow more of Alan’s travels via twitter, https://twitter.com/JBIEBHC or #whereisJBIalan
JBI 20th Anniversary Conference

9-11 November 2016
The National Wine Centre
Adelaide, Australia

The JBI 20th Anniversary Conference website is now live! Be sure to visit it for information about the event and check back regularly for updates.

Call for abstracts

JBI invites you to submit an abstract for an oral or poster presentation for the 20th Anniversary Conference themed ‘The Ripple Effect: Influencing global health since 1996’. This event seeks to link theory to practice and past to future, celebrating what makes JBI unique as well as our past successes and our vision for the future.

Abstracts must address one of the following topics and must specifically relate to JBI methodologies and/or methods. Abstracts that do not follow this requirement will not be considered.

- Evidence synthesis
- Evidence transfer
- Evidence implementation.

Presenters are invited to submit from all health disciplines (surgery, nursing, midwifery, medicine, physiotherapy, podiatry, dentistry, speech pathology, diagnostic imaging, mental health and more).

Call for abstracts and how to apply

First clinical fellowship for 2016

Seven clinical fellows commenced their Week I of the Evidence based Clinical Fellowship, the first for 2016, on 22-26 February. Two were from Victoria (Njernda Aboriginal Corporation Echuca and RMIT), two from ACT Health, one from Toowoomba, Queensland Health, and two from SA (RAH and Hampstead Dialysis Unit).

The JBI facilitators were Implementation Science Research Fellows Dr Lucylynn Lizarondo, Dr Catalin Tufanaru, Dr Karolina Lisy, Dr Matthew Stephenson, Dr Micah Peters and Alexa McArthur.

On the Friday, the clinical fellows presented their topics, among which were ‘Diabetes risk identification and prevention and treatment management within the indigenous community’, ‘Best practice for replacement of IV cannulas in surgical patients’ and ‘Acupuncture in management of post-operative nausea and vomiting’.
Comprehensive systematic review training in Adelaide

Eleven participants attended a Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Program (CSRTP) in the JBI headquarters in Adelaide on 4–8 April. They were from various parts of the country, including University of Newcastle (NSW), ACT Health, Curtin University (WA), Children’s Health (Queensland), Latrobe University (Victoria) and Hesse Rural Health Service (Victoria), as well as health organisations from Adelaide. The trainers were Dr Catalin Tufanaru and Dr Micah Peters, Implementation Science Research fellows.

New students for Master of Public Health (Translational Health Sciences)

The Master of Public Health (Translational Health Science) has received enrolments from several new students. Five students have enrolled in the course ‘Introduction to translational health science’, five in ‘Developing clinical guidelines’, and two in ‘Clinical wisdom’.

‘A softer place to land’

‘Provision of effective, meaningful and appropriate care for families who have experienced still birth,’ the systematic review conducted by JBI for the Stillbirth Foundation in 2014, is featured in the University of Adelaide’s ‘Research Impact’, a publication showcasing the breadth and impact of the University’s research capabilities.

The publication cites the JBI project as ‘showing the way for improved quality of care for parents of stillborn babies Australia-wide’.

Presentation in India

Sandeep Moola, Implementation Science Research Fellow, delivered a presentation at the International Workshop on Impact of Micro Finance on the Poor in South Asia on 11 February at IIT Madras, Chennai, India.

The presentation, titled, ‘People’s views and experiences of participating in microfinance programmes: a systematic review of qualitative evidence’, went well, with the audience recognising the degree of complexity in the methods. The audience consisted of mostly experts in microfinance and management with a focus on South Asia. The Director of IIT Madras was also present at the workshop.

Sandeep’s presentation was followed by reflections on the report and discussions. Positive comments were received, particularly from experts in microfinance, on the complex task of undertaking the review, and the quality of the report and review team.
Presentation at Women's and Children's Health Network

Transfer Science Director Dr Zachary Munn gave an hour-long presentation on 25 February to the Nutrition Department at the Women's and Children's Health Network. His presentation was on JBI and evidence-based health care to promote our work, training courses and JBI’s 20th Anniversary activities.

He was invited to present by the senior dietician in the department. The presentation went well and they spent the last 15 minutes discussing how the group could become engaged with and use JBI resources.

Paper published

An article co-authored by Implementation Science Research Fellows Dr Jared Campbell, Dr Micah Peters and Dr Matthew Stephenson has recently been published. The article is titled, ‘Fluoropyrimidine and platinum toxicity pharmacogenetics: an umbrella review of systematic reviews and meta-analyses’.

School of Dentistry presentation

Sandeep Moola, Implementation Science Research Fellow, delivered a seminar presentation to a group of new cohort of postgraduate students from the School of Dentistry on 7 March in the Medical School building. The topic was ‘Reviewing the literature: Systematic reviews’.

There were around 15 new postgraduate students who had just finished their undergraduate studies. It was a one-hour presentation on evidence based health care with a focus on the methodologies for the conduct of systematic reviews.

Training in Hobart

Implementation Science Research Fellows Dr Catalin Tufanaru and Dr Micah Peters went to University of Tasmania in Hobart to conduct a Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Program for 21 participants in mid-February. The training went very well.

JBC in the media

ICT Infection Control Today recently ran a story on the release of two new practice documents focused on infection prevention by the Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates (SGNA). Incorporated in the revised documents are new details on storage that come from the systematic review of research by SGNA Scholars, a partnership with the Joanna Briggs Institute and Texas Christian University, USA.

SGNA Releases Two Infection Prevention Practice Documents for GI Professionals

Yesterday 8 Comments
Posted in News, Infection Prevention, Endoscope Reprocesssing, Disinfection & Sterilization

The Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc (SGNA) announces the release of two new practice documents focused on infection prevention. The recent standards of infection prevention in reprocessing of flexible gastrointestinal endoscopes (2015) details the recommended steps for successful reprocessing; the new standard of infection prevention in the gastrointestinal setting (2015) includes specific considerations to maintain infection prevention and safety during GI procedures.
Presentation at the Robinson Institute

On 11 March, Catalin was invited to present a one hour seminar for the Critical and Ethical Mental Health (CEMH) research group at the University of Adelaide’s Robinson Research Institute. The topic was, ‘Statistical significance, practical significance and clinical significance’. Catalin is an affiliate researcher at the Centre of Ethical Research in Mental Health and received some excellent feedback from the 40 participants who attended.

‘Thank you for a great and informative seminar today. I’m a frequentist Statistician and find your talk very useful and easy to understand when explaining to my colleagues,’ a statistician said.

Visitors from Italy

On 4 March two guests from Italy visited the JBI Headquarters in Adelaide. They were in Adelaide on holiday and one of them was a nurse, who had placed a visit to JBI at the top of her list of things to do! She was very effusive about the opportunity to visit JBI and talk to some of our staff, and mentioned repeatedly how important our work was to her practice.

Two-day masterclass

Dr Marion Eckert, Chair of the JBI Cancer Care Node Expert Reference Group, organised a two day masterclass with Professor Lonneke Van de Poll-Franse, a highly distinguished researcher working in Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the Netherlands and United States. One of Professor van de Poll-Franse’s most significant contributions has been the establishment of the PROFILES (Patient Reported Outcomes Following Initial treatment and Long-term Evaluation of Survivorship) registry that combines population-based cancer registry data with patient reported outcomes.

Professor van de Poll-Franse and the group discussed methodological considerations when setting up a database of PRO data to be integrated with clinical cancer (registry) data and how PRO data can be used to evaluate and improve clinical practice. Comparison of the assessment of PROs in clinical trials, comparative effectiveness studies, and daily clinical care was also discussed. Chris Christensen, Deputy Chair of Cancer Voices S.A (another member of the JBI Cancer Care Node ERG) also presented to the group on the integration of consumer perspectives in the development of appropriate PROs.

CNCF to extend publication agreement with International Journal of Older People Nursing

One of the Cochrane Nursing Care Field’s (CNCF) existing collaborating journals, the International Journal of Older People Nursing (IJOPN), has sought to continue its existing publication agreement and requested the Field produce a further seven Cochrane review summaries to feature in their journal.

The IJOPN is an international forum for advancing knowledge in gerontological nursing. The Journal publishes scholarly and accessible material that challenges assumptions and promotes new ideas, helping nurses develop and inform their practice and engage in debates about the health and social care services for older people. Each issue features practice development on a key aspect of older people nursing. We look forward to our continued publication within this respectable periodical.
‘Lovely people – I had a great time!’

Fernanda Ayache Nishi spent two productive weeks at the JBI headquarters in Adelaide in late March/early April to further the conduct of her systematic review.

A registered nurse, Fernanda is a core staff member of the Brazilian Centre for Evidence-based Healthcare, based at the School of Nursing, University of São Paulo, Brazil.

‘It was a wonderful opportunity to discuss and learn from specialists at JBI,’ she said. ‘I spent most of my time developing my systematic review. Ed was particularly helpful in helping me refine my ideas and thoughts on methodology and results presentation.’

Fernanda’s systematic review, titled, ‘Assessing sensitivity and specificity of the Manchester Triage System in the evaluation of acute coronary syndrome in adult patients in emergency care’, will go towards her PhD.

‘Ed also made great suggestions for my PhD thesis. I also had the opportunity to present a new protocol and received many suggestions from Catalin who taught me about meta-analysis.

‘Thanks to everyone at JBI!’

CNCF’s summary writer in focus

The Cochrane Nursing Care Field (CNCF) continues to expand the number of summaries produced within its international collaboration of nursing journals and widen its reach in the dissemination of best practices evidence in frontline primary healthcare, and much of the Field’s success is reliant on the substantial contributions of its volunteer writing staff. Dr.

Natalie Bradford has become an active contributor to the CNCF and has produced numerous Cochrane Review Summaries that have been featured in many of the Field’s collaborating journals.

With an extensive clinical background, Natalie has enjoyed a nursing career spanning over 25 years. She commenced her nursing career in paediatric oncology and palliative care where she worked on a part-time basis while her children were young. In 2009 Natalie started a research project with the University of Queensland, which opened up a whole new world for her. She started her Masters in Public Health at this time and developed a keen interest in study design and epidemiological studies. During this time, Natalie led numerous small research projects and was successful in getting this work published. Working within an academic environment,
Natalie eventually decided to commence her PhD, which she completed in 2014. Her thesis investigated how home telehealth technologies could be used to deliver specialist palliative care services for children living in rural and remote parts of Queensland. Natalie now works as a Nurse Researcher for the Queensland Youth Cancer Service and holds an academic position with Queensland University of Technology.

On her reasons for joining and actively supporting the CNCF, Natalie writes: 'Research has become a really important part of my practice and I get excited about the possibilities of making a difference and being able to improve outcomes for patients, or the quality and efficiency of services. I completed a Cochrane review with some colleagues in 2014 and was simultaneously intrigued, inspired and daunted by the level of detail, and the rigour and depth required to complete the review! I also knew that many other nurses wouldn’t have the time or opportunity to even read the whole review, let alone partake in undertaking one. This is why the CNCF Cochrane summaries are so important. They make the evidence generated in a full review accessible and digestible for nurses. I really enjoy writing for the CNCF; preparing a summary is a great way to stay on top of the current evidence, and to share relevant evidence with others.'
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 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.

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**

**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

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:**

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)

Program dates for 2016:
18 July (Enrol by: 17 June 2016)
5 September (Enrol by: 5 August 2016)
31 October (Enrol by: 30 September 2016)

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

Two days

Program dates for 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:
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 external events page of the JBI website:

UCSF Centre for Synthesis and Implementation

2016 Evidence Based Clinical Fellowship and CSRTP training dates:
Evidence Based Clinical Fellowship Program
Week 1: 13–17 June 2016
Week 2: 14–18 November 2016
Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Program (CSRTP)
25–29 April 2016
12–16 September 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

The Queen’s University School of Nursing and the Queen’s Joanna Briggs Collaboration 2016 Conference of the Americas
2016 event dates
29 September – 1 October 2016

The Northeast Institute for Evidence Synthesis and Translation (NEST), Rutgers School of Nursing
2016 CSRTP dates

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

2016 CSRTP dates:
5–9 September 2016

The Queensland Centre for Evidence-Based Nursing and Midwifery
2016 CSRTP dates:
4–6 July 2016
If you wish to advertise your event on the JBI website, please send your request to Anna-Lee Mason via email jbieducation@adelaide.edu.au. This will ensure your event is included in the JBI Matters newsletter.
Centre changes

The Brazilian Centre for Evidence-based Healthcare (Sao Paulo, Brazil)

Prof Cassia Baldini Soares has resigned from the position of Centre Director and Prof Doná Monteiro da Cruz has been named as the incoming director. We thank Prof Soares for her great contribution to the centre and we welcome Prof da Cruz to the collaboration.

The Scottish Centre for Evidence-Based Multi-professional Practice (Aberdeen, Scotland)

With regret and immediate effect, Prof Pamela Kirkpatrick has stood down from the position of Centre Director. Prof Kirkpatrick will continue to support the centre in the position of Deputy Director, while Dr Kay Cooper (k.cooper@rgu.ac.uk) has been appointed as her successor and we welcome her as the new Centre Director.

We would like to thank Prof Kirkpatrick for her invaluable work and we wish Dr Cooper every success in taking the centre forward.

Social media: socialising 20 years of success

2016 is a year of recognising and promoting the impressive achievements we have all been contributors to. One of the ‘events’ we would like to support is the collaboration wide promotion of papers written by any member of the JBI/JBC. JBI/JBC has an extensive social media network and we would like to use this to promote papers you have written about your JBI work, whether they be opinion pieces, editorials, research, or scholarly outputs.

Socialising key papers does not require them to be recent, older papers, original work can be messaged to promote the concepts of EBHC as practised through the collaboration just as readily as recent papers. Systematic review reports or implementation reports will not be included unless they are clearly have a methodological focus.

We would like to promote two papers per month for the year of 2016, and we invite you to participate by providing citation details for any papers you have authored since joining the JBC/JBI.

Please email your papers to Craig (craig.lockwood@adelaide.edu.au) and:
1. Provide your twitter ID
2. Follow the JBI twitter handle (@JBIEBHC), and
3. When you re-tweet, use the #JBI20 to be able to participate!

54th Meeting of the Committee of Directors

Thank you to all who participated in the 54th Committee of Directors teleconference held from 8–10 March. The supporting papers and documents arising from the meeting will be made available on the JBC intranet for your perusal.

56th CoD face-to-face and JBI 20th Anniversary

Adelaide, 7–11 Nov 2016

A reminder to any centres requiring visa letters for travel to Australia to email Adriana Turner with a request adriana.turner@adelaide.edu.au.
Research funding

We extend our congratulations to the Queen’s Joanna Briggs Collaboration for Patient Safety. They recently received funding for a number of research projects:

- Development, delivery and evaluation of a preceptor workshop to PHCNP preceptors, utilizing the Capability Framework as the theoretical foundation for the workshop.

- Nurse practitioner prescribing of controlled drugs and substances for individuals with complex and chronic disease: development of an e-learning resource.

- Building individual and institutional capacity in Africa by assisting and supporting healthcare teams in the rigorous process of evidence synthesis and critical appraisal of literature.

- Education and practice in perioperative pain management at two academic medical centres in Rwanda.
Joanna Briggs Institute – Scholars Award for Academic Excellence

On 2 March 2016, the JBI-HDRP released information about the Joanna Briggs Institute – Scholars Award for Academic Excellence. This award was made possible due to the generosity of a JBI past scholar and will run for a period of five years commencing in 2016.

This annual award is for JBI higher degree students who have demonstrated high standards of academic rigour, engagement and participation with all aspects of the JBI-HDR program, and collegiality within the wider student cohort throughout their candidature. Students of both the Master of Clinical Science and Doctorate of Philosophy are eligible. The award will consist of an annual prize of $2000 that will be used to assist a student (who has completed within the calendar year) to either attend an international conference, or publish their work in an open access journal either in that or the immediate following calendar year.

Nominations for the award must be in by the end of Oct each year. In the first week of November, the nominations will be collated and a review panel will consider the merits of each nomination. The review panel will meet in the second week of November each year and confer the award to the student who best meets the combined criteria. The successful candidate will be advised on the outcome within the first week of December each year.

In addition to the cash prize, the successful student will receive a certificate that demonstrate the award is for Academic Excellence. The certificate will be awarded on conclusion of an oral presentation at the next scheduled HDR Research School.

Further information about this award and the nomination process can be obtained from the Higher Degree Program Administrator at Alex.Mignone@adelaide.edu.au

First Research School for 2016

Running simultaneously with the return of our commencing students for the second week of their core program, the JBI-HDRP will be holding its first Research School/Symposium for this year on 13–14 April 2016!

The April Research School will be a jam-packed two-day event and comprise a full agenda including staff-led presentations, guest speakers, workshops and research and methodological presentations by many of our existing and commencing students. Current HDR students will have the option of attending for a third day, which has been reserved for private discussion with supervisors.
Commencement of our new 2016 HDR Student Group

On 8 February, JBI welcomed 17 new Masters and PhD students to its higher degree program. The developing awareness and interest in the Joanna Briggs Institute – Higher Degrees by Research Program (JBI-HDRP) is becoming progressively more evident with each new intake, with this latest group comprising highly experienced and qualified healthcare professionals from interstate and overseas, all with diverse backgrounds and hoping to make a significant contribution to their respective field of medical research.

Under the guidance of Associate Professor Craig Lockwood and Dr Catalin Tufanaru, our new students received their initial training in protocol development, qualitative research methods and statistical analysis. As always, it can be quite a heavy going first week for our commencing students, but this latest cohort rose to the challenges and are already well on the way to meeting academic expectations at this early stage in their candidature. This first week intensive has equipped our new students with sufficient preliminary understanding of our JBI methodologies to commence preparation of a systematic review.

The student PICO presentations during the Friday agenda revealed some ambitious work being undertaken within this latest group, and demonstrated the genuine interest our new students have in the concepts they are working to validate. JBI academic staff were all in attendance for these presentations, which gave our commencing students the opportunity to receive valuable feedback as they work towards refining their research questions and developing their systematic review.

Our commencing students have now all successfully completed their first academic milestone, the Adelaide Graduate Centre Research Induction, with the Core Component of the Structured Program being their next major milestone to be completed by August 2016. This assessment will include each of the new students sitting for their panel defence where they will face an appropriately selected panel and defend a critical appraisal of their work.
April Graduation Ceremony

The JBI-HDRP will have the following students take part in the University of Adelaide – April Graduation Ceremony:
- Peter Hallett
- Anita Taylor
- Catalin Tufanaru
- Omar Breik
- Christine Hunt
- Caroline Whiteford
- Janelle Jacobson.

The Graduation Ceremony is an important occasion for our graduating students and also a good opportunity for our academic staff to share in that success with their students.

The ceremony for Faculty of Health Science graduates will be held at 11:00am, Wednesday 4 May in the Bonython Hall. Academic staff are also invited to attend the relevant Graduation Luncheons which are held at 12.30pm in the Augustus Short Room, Ground Floor, Mitchell Building on the day of the graduation ceremony.

Return of the Graduate Research Seminar Series in May

The Graduate Research Seminar Series will recommence in May 2016. The series will be held six times a year and take place on the last Wednesday of the nominated month for one hour from 12:30pm in the JBI Conference Room. Our 2016 series will commence with a very special presentation by JBI’s own Dr Catalin Tufanaru speaking on topic: ‘Statistics and Evidence-Based Health Care’. We ask that all academic staff attend and strongly encourage their students to engage in these scheduled presentations.

HDR commencing student: Kenneth Lo (Feb 2016 intake)

Kenneth Lo is one of the talented new students who has joined our HDR program as part of the Feb 2016 intake. His research topic is titled, ‘The effectiveness of robotic assisted rehabilitation for mobility and functional ability in adult stroke patients’.

Kenneth has relocated to Adelaide from Singapore for the sole purpose of attending the JBI-HDRP. Kenneth writes: ‘While working at a university in Singapore, I was handling a course program that involved students working on design-based projects, so I approached several hospitals to engage them as project partners. Through this engagement, I came across various challenges that these hospitals faced. These were process, operational and equipment challenges. During discussions on designing an automated device for patients, some parameters were based on best practice while others were dependent on the experience of clinicians. This triggered my interest in evidence-based healthcare practices and as I delved into this topic, my interest in this field grew. This eventually
led me to the research work and systematic review methodologies of JBI.’

Kenneth has had a good start to program and is already a well-liked student amongst academic staff. On his commencement at JBI, Kenneth writes: ‘It has been an exciting start to the first core program week. Systematic review protocols, statistics and text searching techniques is quite a lot to absorb within a week. At the end of each day, my mind felt saturated, but at the same time I looked forward to the next day to find out more about the topic of evidence-based systematic review. It was not easy going, but the enthusiasm and knowledge of the course lecturers helped to sustain my attention span through the day. The class environment was also conducive and well organised, which facilitated a smooth learning experience. Towards the end of the week the class had to prepare a presentation of our research topics focusing on the, by now well ingrained, PICO statement. All in all, systematic review methodology is an interesting one, whereby one examines various types of data and synthesizes them in order to reach a conclusion to the research question. This is intriguing, considering that clinical trials are heterogeneous and diverse in nature. Doing an objective, methodical review when there are many inherent variables is something I wish to learn more about. Already I am looking forward to the second core week in April.’