Farewelling the man at the helm

Cherished moments: Prof Alan Pearson with former associates from Deakin University

JBI Matters
The monthly newsletter of The Joanna Briggs Institute

Nov/Dec: 2013

Farewelling the man at the helm

page 4
Message from the Executive Director

A tribute to the man behind JBI
Farewell to the ring master
Appropriate care for families experiencing a stillbirth
CREATE creates waves
Rhodes Scholar
Joanna Briggs Foundation news
Overweight and obesity among Aboriginal children
Clinical Fellowship programs
NEW JBI ConNECT+ app
National Dementia Congress
Our experts in the media
She left her heart in Adelaide
Introducing new JBI staff
Go8-C9 shadowing program
Presentation at Burns seminar
CAN-Implement redevelopment
Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Programs 2014

Collaboration Matters

Happy Christmas and New Year to all Collaborating Centres!
CSTRP in Jimma University
Committee of Director meeting dates for 2014
New Director at Sydney Centre

New moniker for Thailand Centre
Thank you to peer reviewers
Welcome Czech Centre
University of Nottingham Centre course dates for 2014
Six-monthly check-in

Member Matters

New JBI ConNECT+ app

HDR Matters

Yee Mei: grey is the new colour
Graduate Research Seminar Series - 2013
HDR Annual Reviews
HD Major Reviews
Feb 2014 intake of HDR students
Music connects me to my past
An end-of-year quote
School blog

Alumni Matters

A word from the President
Farewell to 2013 and happy holidays
Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to the final issue of JBI Matters for 2013. First and foremost I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Alan Pearson AM who is the founder and Executive Director of the Joanna Briggs Institute and Head of the School of Translational Health Science and who is retiring at the end of this year.

American cartoonist Charles M Schultz once said: ‘Why can’t we get all the people together in the world that we really like and then just stay together? I guess that wouldn’t work. Someone would leave. Someone always leaves. Then we would have to say good-bye. I hate good-byes. I know what I need. I need more hellos.’

Well, luckily for us Professor Pearson is someone that we really like and this is not really a goodbye. Professor Pearson will still be involved with supervision of students and as the Director of the new Centre for Research Excellence (which you can learn more about in this issue). That said, JBI and the School will not be the same without him at the helm. He has been a most passionate, dedicated, intense, inspirational leader, mentor and friend to colleagues all over the world. It has been a great honour and privilege to work with him and we wish him all the very best in his ‘semi-retirement’. This issue of JBI Matters includes a tribute to him that I know readers will enjoy.

As the year draws to a close we naturally reflect on the achievements of the year, of which there have been many for the Institute this year. Both in research and teaching it has been an active and vibrant year for us and, although a little tired, we are proud of how much we have accomplished. I would also like to thank all of you for your dedicated engagement with us and your ongoing support. Students, alumni, subscribers, members and collaborators make the work we do every day so much more meaningful and enjoyable and we would not be here without you.

From everyone at the Joanna Briggs Institute I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a safe and happy holiday season and a prosperous and productive New Year! We look forward to working with you all again in 2014.

Associate Professor Zoe Jordan
Acting Executive Director
A tribute to the man behind JBI

Trail blazer, strategist, mentor

‘I look forward to the day when we see a Nobel Laureate who receives the award for discovering a new strategy to feed people with dementia who will not open their mouths.’

Prof Alan Pearson AM was quoted saying this in an interview published in a Nursing Researcher 2010 issue.

Whether or not said tongue in cheek, it epitomises the premise of Prof Pearson’s passion for practice-led research, the mainstay of evidence-based practice which has become synonymous with ‘the man behind JBI’.

While this orientation towards knowledge-informed real life practice was not yet in his make-up when he initially started as a nursing cadet in 1964, its seeds were sowed some eight years later in Papua New Guinea. There, as a young nurse working in a remote area, he was confronted with the reality of looking after a community with malnourished children. Without

Season’s greetings to all Collaborating Centres, students, members and alumni – from all of us at the Joanna Briggs Institute and the School of Translational Health Science. See you in 2014!

Our offices will be closed from 20 December 2013 to 6 January 2014.
any research training, he ‘tested’ a few different strategies on different groups and was excited to find one that had a very good effect. He did not know at the time that he was in fact conducting rudimentary research until someone said it was a good example of practice-led research.

Later, he was to redefine the contribution made by nurses to the field of health care in the United Kingdom. Little did he know then that he was sitting on the cusp of a revolution of nursing research that took it from studying phenomena to a focus on the fundamentals of care.

The rest, as we know, is history. With a pioneering spirit reminiscent of that which spurred settlers in Colonial days, Prof Pearson broke new ground.

From a six-page proposal and a grant from the Royal Adelaide Hospital, Prof Pearson created the Joanna Briggs Institute in 1996, and morphed it into the great global organisation it is today. Through opposition and adversity he spearheaded leading-edge health care research, honing in on ‘closing the gap’ and on evidence to inform best practice.

The result – an ‘empire’ of a growing, dynamic international collaboration involving nursing, medical and allied health researchers, clinicians, academics and quality managers across 40 countries in every continent.

In the words of Prof Justin Beilby, Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Adelaide, ‘his accomplishments have been tremendous, and his contribution and influence globally immeasurable’.

**A huge wrench**

For the man who made all this happen, taking a step back, or several, as it would mean with a ‘semi-retirement’, cannot be easy.

‘Working in the Joanna Briggs Institute has been the highlight of my career, partly because of the exciting and growing JBC family but largely because of the great JBI team here in Adelaide,’ Prof Pearson said. ‘It is a huge wrench to be leaving it all!’

As Prof Pearson moves into the next phase of his life journey – a part-time role as Director of the Centre of Research Excellence in Aboriginal Chronic Disease Knowledge Translation and Exchange (CREATE) and supervising higher degree by research students – it is fitting that we highlight some, among the copious, achievements that will etch his name in the annals of the evidence-based movement:

- Pioneered revolutionary ways of nursing in the United Kingdom
- Foundation Dean of Nursing at Deakin University, Australia (a national first)
First Head of the Department of Nursing at the University of Adelaide

Founder of the Joanna Briggs Institute

It was Prof Pearson’s idea to create the System for the Unified Management, Assessment and Review of Information (SUMARI) suite and he was the driver of new methodologies for synthesising different kinds of evidence (a world first)

It was Prof Pearson’s idea to create an online manual builder and clinical information service (which became the Clinical Online Network of Evidence for Care and Therapeutics [JBI CONnECT+]), a world first

Conceptualised these JBI applications: Practical Application of Clinical Evidence System (PACES), Patient/Client Outcomes Online (POOL) and Rapid Assessment Protocol internet database (RAPid)

Drove the move to the University of Adelaide and the commercial partnership with Ovid (both milestones in JBI’s history)

It was Prof Pearson’s idea to run an international convention every two years

It was Prof Pearson’s idea to start the Joanna Briggs Foundation (and driving JBI’s work in Africa and developing countries).

Farewell to the ring master

Prof Alan Pearson’s longstanding fascination for the circus and clowns took full flight at the surprise farewell party organised for him on 13 December. Fritz the Clown and staff adorning red clown noses created the perfect backdrop for saying a big thank you to him on his last day at the office before his retirement.

An outpour of accolades was the order of the evening, which came from near and afar – in the form of an ode (from Assoc Prof Zoe Jordan, Director Communications Science and Acting Executive Director), speeches (from Assoc Prof Craig Lockwood, Director Implementation Science), messages from those unable to attend (read by Assoc Prof Ed Aromataris, Director Synthesis Science) and a PowerPoint presentation with a montage of stills and video clips featuring heartfelt (and on occasion humorous) farewell messages from staff from the Joanna Briggs Collaboration.

By the time the last video clip was played, sentiment was running high. After receiving his farewell gift – Captain’s Club Membership of the Redlegs – and choking back tears, Prof Pearson said a few words that had many people unable to hold back their emotions themselves.

‘My passion for practice found its full expression in JBI’ was Prof Pearson’s swan song. Though not a performance per se, it articulated the essence of his JBI ‘performance’ in the last 18 years.

‘There is something magical about helping people,’ he said.

Reflecting on his early days, Prof Pearson cited his time at Deakin University as being a poignant phase in his career. ‘It was a very powerful experience for me.’

Wine flowed till late that night, with many, especially the special guests from Deakin, who flew in just for the event, taking the opportunity to share moments with the ‘man behind JBI’ before he finally left, leaving behind a trail of applause.
The ring master in his element
Appropriate care for families experiencing a stillbirth

Stillbirth as a phenomenon continues to baffle the medical profession and to cause untold devastation to families unfortunate enough to experience it. And even though it is much more common than Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), it is not as commonly discussed or researched.

As importantly, we need to ask: are health care professionals equipped with the right knowledge on how to care for families wrenched by this phenomena?

The Joanna Briggs Institute has secured a grant from the Stillbirth Foundation to conduct a systematic review titled, 'Provision of effective, meaningful and appropriate care for families who have experienced stillbirth: a comprehensive review of the evidence and best practice guidance'.

This project aims to develop best practice information and a set of recommendations that will provide relevant caregivers (e.g. doctors, nurses and specialists) with evidence-based guidance on how to best support and care for families affected by stillbirth.

The research project has caught the attention of the media was featured in a Sydney Morning Herald article on 27 November on stillbirths (scroll down midway).

CREATE creates waves

The Centre of Research Excellence for Translational Research in the Management of Chronic Disease in Indigenous Populations, which was established earlier this year from a $2.48 million grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), has had a name change. It is now the Centre for Research Excellence in Aboriginal Chronic Disease Knowledge Translation and Exchange (CREATE).

Steadily gathering momentum, current work on the CREATE project includes developing the first of a series of Systematic Review Overview papers to be published early in 2014. The aim of the first overview paper is to identify, assess and provide a birds-eye view description of all systematic reviews on chronic disease outcomes, prevention, management and treatment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. More specifically the objectives are:

- To identify all the systematic reviews (published and unpublished) on chronic disease outcomes and/or, prevention and/or management and/or treatment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and reflect on the methodological quality of the reviews.
- To provide a descriptive account of the systematic reviews relating to chronic disease outcomes and/or, prevention and/or management and/or treatment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and reflect on the methodological quality of the reviews.
outcomes, prevention, management and treatment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people covering: (i) review objectives/research questions; (ii) review inclusion criteria (population, intervention/phenomena of interest, context, outcome and research design/evidence type); (iii) search strategy and restrictions (e.g. language and year); (iv) approach used for assessing methodological quality considered studies; (v) data extraction and synthesis approach; (vi) source(s) of funding.

- To enhance understanding about the nature, strengths and limitations of the systematic review evidence base on the issue of chronic disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the kinds of overview papers that will be useful to develop in the near future to support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander chronic disease knowledge translation agenda.

**New Research Fellow appointed**

Dr Karla Canuto was appointed as Research Fellow of CREATE in early November. Dr Canuto, a Torres Strait Islander woman, recently completed her PhD. She brings with her strong research skills and a passion for improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. Dr Canuto will be based at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI).

Dr Canuto joins Dr Judith Streak Gomersall from the Joanna Briggs Institute as the present two research fellows for CREATE.

**Upgraded to Chief Investigator**

Another development has been the upgrading of Assoc Prof Ed Aromataris, Director Synthesis Science, from Associate Investigator to Chief Investigator E within CREATE, taking the number of Chief Investigators to five.

This has been due to Assoc Prof Aromataris’ increased role within the CREATE program, particularly with the synthesis component of work conducted in the Centre.

**Rhodes Scholar**

University of Adelaide medical student (and son of the Joanna Briggs Institute staff Dr Kandiah Umapathysivam) Mahesh Umapathysivam is the 2014 Rhodes Scholar for South Australia, becoming the University’s 107th Rhodes Scholar.

Mahesh will undertake a Masters degree in Evidence Based Healthcare at the University of Oxford – and ‘join the fight to close the gap between research and clinical practice’.

‘As a future medical specialist, research and health advocate, I want to improve the lives of others through the delivery of up-to-date, targeted and effective healthcare,’ he said. ‘I believe that a more disciplined evidence-based approach to clinical practice, as well as improvements to the systems that underpin the delivery of medical care, are necessary to ensure a more effective use of limited health resources.’
Joanna Briggs Foundation ends 2013 on a high

by Sandy Davis

2013 has been a dynamic year for the Joanna Briggs Foundation (JBF), with the appointment of our new Fundraising Manager Sandy Davis, JBF Advisory Committee Chair Philip Pledge, and several new members. These appointments have led to a hive of activity throughout the latter part of 2013.

The Advertiser Sunday Mail Foundation Melbourne Cup Luncheon of which the Foundation was a beneficiary raised $20,000 and proved to be a most successful partnership.

The Foundation was also successful in a proposal submitted to the CMV Group and received a donation of $10,000. These two donations of $30,000 will be supporting the JBI Clinical Fellowships Program.

The Foundation also received a very generous donation of $1000 from the Texas Collaborating Centre in October, and our sincere thanks to Susan Weeks, Director, Texas Christian University Center for Evidence Based Practice and Research.

The Ladies Committee held a movie night showing The Butler in October at the Capri in Goodwood, Adelaide, which was well represented and raised $886.

2014 is shaping up to be a very exciting year for the Foundation with several activities currently being planned.

Overweight and obesity among Aboriginal children

What do overweight and obesity in children mean in Aboriginal communities? What does existing evidence suggest about the extent that factors such as gender, geographical location, birth weight and age play in the prevalence of overweight and obesity in Aboriginal children?

These are among the questions to be addressed in a recently funded interdisciplinary research project funded by the Adelaide University’s Faulty of Health and involving the Joana Briggs Institute (Dr Judith Streak Gomersall).

The project will also address the limitations of the existing research quantifying the extent and characteristics of overweight and obesity in Aboriginal children, and how data collection systems should be changed to provide better direction to policy makers working on design and implementation of strategies to address obesity in Aboriginal children.

The project, which will begin with a systematic review, is being led by Dr Jackie Street from the School of Population Health. Other partners are Dr Anne Taylor from the School of Medicine, Dr Dylan Coleman from the School of Population Health and Dr Carol Davy from the Aboriginal and Research Unit of the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI).

The work that will be conducted in 2014 will be used to develop a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grant proposal which will be submitted in early 2015.
Clinical Fellowship programs

Three Clinical Fellowship programs were conducted at the Joanna Briggs Institute headquarters in Adelaide in the last two months of 2013.

Three Malaysians are among the participants of a Clinical Fellowship program conducted in early November. The other participants were from various parts of Australia.

In second half of November, nine HCF clinical fellows who were participating as part of the Hospital Contributions Fund (HCF) Health and Medical Research Foundation (Category 1 funding) secured by JBI in January this year, attended their Week 2 Clinical Fellowship Program.

And in mid December, three participants from Fudan University, Shanghai, and three from Anglicare Queensland attended their Week 2 Clinical Fellowship program, which was the last for the year. Total laryngectomy is the focus of the projects undertaken by the Chinese clinical fellows, whereas the Queensland fellows’ topics are on nutritional screening, sleep assessment in aged care, and falls risk assessment in the community.

NEW JBI COnNECT+ app

Accessing evidence-based information is now easier and quicker through our new JBI COnNECT+ app which was recently launched.

See page 16 for details.

National Dementia Congress

For those who are interested, the 5th Annual National Dementia Congress 2014 will be held on 20–21 February 2014 at Novotel Melbourne on Collins.

The congress is a national event examining dementia case studies and the latest innovations from across the whole dementia pathway, from diagnosis to end-of-life, focusing on the theme of ‘Making Dementia Care Transformation Happen Today’.

Our experts in the media

A letter to the editor co-authored by Dr Catalin Tufanaru, Research Fellow, Implementation Science, and Prof Jon Jureidini, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Adelaide, was published in the December 2013 issue of JAMA Psychiatry.

In the letter Dr Tufanaru and Prof Jureidini discuss the misinterpretation of statistical results presented in a meta-analysis previously published in the same journal that examined the epidemiological association between antidepressant medication exposure during pregnancy and spontaneous abortion.

A write up by Dr Micah Peters, Research Fellow, Synthesis Science, ‘Cochrane in Nursing: 20 years and counting of evidence-based health care’ was published in the Evidence-based Nursing blog of the MBJ Group Blogs.

The BMJ Group is an organisation that advances health care worldwide by sharing knowledge and expertise to improve experiences, outcomes and value.
She left her heart in Adelaide

‘I am the luckiest trainee,’ said Ohnmar Myint, Assistant Lecturer, Adult Health Nursing Department, Military Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences, Myanmar, who left the Joanna Briggs Institute to return to Myanmar on 6 November after spending 13 weeks in Adelaide.

‘Without the guidance, care, supervision and understanding of JBI staff, I would not have overcome my difficulties and adapted to the new environment,’ she said.

With a slight stature but a big heart, Ohnmar certainly endeared herself to all at JBI. No matter how busy, she was quick to lend a hand at anything that needed doing, especially during the Convention.

Along with the many other tasks she undertook as trainee librarian, she conducted searches for two umbrella reviews and one systematic review during her time here. Back in Myanmar and armed with skills acquired, she hopes to be involved in three systematic reviews her centre plans to conduct.

At a farewell morning tea held for her, she said, ‘I won’t forget the good days here forever and I think I have left my heart here in Adelaide!’

Introducing new JBI staff

You Hu joined the Institute on 7 November as IT Support Programmer in Communication Science. He has a Master of Software Engineering from the University of Adelaide and a Bachelor of Computer and Application from the Beijing Information Technology Institute. Previously working for Westpac Bank as an Application Analyst/Developer, he is skilled in computer languages, databases and tools, and in developing business systems.

Go8-C9 shadowing program

Assoc Prof Zoe Jordan, Director Communication Science and Acting Executive Director, has been successful in her application for the Go8-C9 Research and Academic Research Shadowing Program 2014-2015. (Go8-C9 stands for Group of Eight Australia – Consortium of China Nine Research Universities.)

For a two-week period between January to July next year, Assoc Prof Zoe Jordan will be at the Fudan Evidence-based Nursing Center in Shanghai for a two-way shadowing visit while Prof Hu Yan, Director of the Fudan Evidence-based Nursing Center, will be here in Adelaide during the same period.

Presentation at Burns seminar

Dr Zachary Munn, Research Fellow, Implementation Science, presented at the SA Health Burns Education Seminar Day on 6 December. His presentation was titled, ‘Evidence-Based Burns Care’.
CAN-Implement redevelopment

Following their trip in late November to Queen’s University in Kingston, Canada, to discuss the development of CAN-Implement, Assoc Prof Craig Lockwood, Director Implementation Science, and Dr Jeremy Swift, Research Fellow/ICT, Communication Science, have come up with a new design (version 3) of the application.

At Queen’s University, they met with Prof Margaret Harrison and Joan van den Hoek who shared their experiences in developing a similar application. Subsequent teleconferences with them have taken place.

The redevelopment is progressing steadily, and a visit is planned for the first quarter next year for a walk through of the full development site before formal beta testing.

CAN-IMPLEMENT is a practical guide to assist individuals and groups engaged in adapting existing guidelines for local use. The new design incorporates enhancements to the functionality and usability of the system.

Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Programs 2014

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

The 2014 program will be available soon. For more information or to register your interest, email: jbieducation@adelaide.edu.au.
Happy Christmas and New Year to all Collaborating Centres!

The Joanna Briggs Collaboration (JBC) support office would like to wish the JBC a happy Christmas and a wonderful holiday. Please note that our offices will be closed from 20 December 2013 to 6 January 2014.

We look forward to working with you all in the New Year!

CSTRP in Jimma University

A five-day Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Program (CSRTTP) was conducted from 18 to 22 November 2013 by the Ethiopian Collaborating Centre housed in the Health Education and Behavioural Sciences Department, Jimma University.

Of the 15 participants four were from the School of Public Health and School of Statistics, Makerere University, Uganda.

Professor Abraham Haileamlak, Dean of College of Public Health and Medical Sciences, who inaugurated the course, emphasised the importance of the course in building the capacity of African professionals in evidence-based health care and the use of evidence for policy making and at the point of care.

This course was facilitated by Mr Kalkidan and others with the guidance of Prof Morankar Sudhakar, Director, Ethiopian Centre for Evidence Based Health Care.

Two more training programs in Jimma University have been planned for next year in January and March.

Committee of Director meeting dates for 2014

Dates for the 49th Meeting of the Committee of Directors will be sent out to all Directors early in the New Year. These meetings will be held in regional groups and occur by teleconference, as usual.
New Director at Sydney Centre
Dr Evan Atlantis has commenced his role as the Director of The New South Wales Centre for Evidence Based Health Care: a Collaborating Centre of the Joanna Briggs Institute. Prof Rhonda Griffiths will continue working with the Centre as Deputy Director, and we thank her for her significant contributions to the JBC over her term as Director.

New moniker for Thailand Centre
The Thailand Centre has modified its name to The Thailand Centre for Evidence Based Nursing, Midwifery and Health Science.

Thank you to peer reviewers
The JBI Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports will be publishing a thank you to peer reviewers who contributed to the journal in 2013, in the December Issue. We thank all members of the JBC who peer reviewed the work of their colleagues; the journal could not exist without your support.

Welcome Czech Republic Centre
We are pleased to announce that The Czech Republic (Middle European) Centre for Evidence-Based Health Care: an Affiliated Centre of the Joanna Briggs Institute has officially joined the Collaboration.

The centre is based at the Department of Social Medicine and Health Policy, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at Palacký University, in Olomouc in the Czech Republic. Headed by Director Dr Miloslav Klugar and Deputy Director Dr Jana Mareckova, the centre will focus on systematic reviews.

We now have 51 Centres in the Collaboration.

University of Nottingham Centre course dates for 2014
Dates for Evidence Based Health Care courses in 2014:

30 June–4 July 2014 (5 days): Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Program (Modules 1, 2 and 3)
3–5 Sept 2014 (3 days): Systematic Reviews of Quantitative Evidence (Modules 1 and 2)
10–12 Sept 2014 (3 days): Systematic Reviews of Qualitative Evidence (Modules 1 and 3)

Six-monthly check-in
Dr Cindy Stern, Senior Research Fellow, Communication Science, and Dr Karolina Lisy, Research Fellow, Communication Science, will begin compiling data on Centre output for the six-monthly check-in in January, and Centres will receive their performance updates in February.

This check-in serves to advise Centres of their output prior to the Annual Review in July, and is designed to show you what work your Centre may need to undertake in the upcoming six months to remain/work towards Collaborating Centre status.
New JBI COnNECT+ app

The Joanna Briggs Institute has developed an app so you can access JBI COnNECT+ from your android or iOS smartphone. The app is designed for both iPhone, iPad and iPod touch and is also optimized for iPhone 5.

You can download the app from free from iTunes by visiting the Joanna Briggs Institute website or the JBI COnNECT+ page in iTunes.
Yee Mei: grey is the new colour

Recently the School of Translational Health Science said goodbye to one of our PhD students, Yee Mei Lee. As well as being talented, Yee Mei had a generous heart and warmth that was felt by all staff within the School. She loved Australia and our School, and transitioned easily into the Australian culture. Yee Mei was a wonderful person and her presence has been missed.

Prior to Yee Mei leaving, the HDR Team pulled her up for a ‘departure message’ for our newsletter. Here it is:

‘The first step means something different for everyone, but for me, it meant a new page of my life that was yet to be written at the beginning of this journey.

Adelaide has become my third home away from home. Being among Aussies and their peculiarities has improved my communication – from being vague to some level of clarity. And I thought I was conversing in the English language before.

The learning experience was the most memorable. I have been most impressed by the willingness to share and the exchange of ideas in an academic atmosphere and among multidisciplinary fellow students. I was also fascinated with the passion and pride students had in their work and achievements. The same passion, if not more, was also observed in supervisors and research fellows who never hesitated to affirm and who kept the flicker of curiosity and enthusiasm alive. We were encouraged to venture, explore and push the boundaries of learning and discovering.

This journey has been life-changing, not only because of an additional degree but the growth in all areas of my life. I have learnt to accept that grey is the new colour and there are many shades of it; caring is the first step to effective learning and teaching, and the PhD journey is a process and not an end to its means.’

Graduate Research Seminar Series ends on a high note

The HDR Team has completed a strong agenda for the 2013 seminar series. The program was finished on a high note on 29 November, with presentations from our own Joann Briggs Institute staff.

Dr Matthew Stephenson, Research Fellow, Implementation Science, presented on the topic of ‘Alcohol Cultural Change: A Literature Review’, Dr Micah Peters, Research Fellow, Synthesis Science, presented on the topic of ‘Community grant programs targeting the reduction of risk factors for lifestyle-related chronic disease’, and Mark McMillan, Research Fellow, Communication Science, and Sandeep Moola, Research Fellow, Implementation Science, conducted a combined presentation on the topic of ‘Unplanned hospital readmission rates and their use in clinical practice and health service management: a rapid review’.

The HDR Team is currently planning the agenda for the 2014 series and we anticipate a highly engaging program for the New Year.
HDR Annual Reviews

Recently the 2012 HDR student cohort sat for their Annual Review of Progress. The School of Translational Health Science is pleased to confirm that all required students satisfied this academic milestone. Most students used the session productively, seeking to identify areas for improvement with their supervisors and plan for the future.

Course Coordinator Assoc Prof Craig Lockwood and our HDR supervisors were pleased with the outcomes achieved and we look forward to several degree completions in 2014.

HDR Major Reviews

In February 2014, students from the February 2013 intake will be sitting their Major Review of Progress. The Major Review is one of the main assessments in a HDR student’s candidature, when supervisors, the Course Coordinator and School must determine whether students have the ability to complete their degree within the timeframe set by the University.

In preparation for this session, it is recommended that students download the Major Review form and become familiar with the questions that will be asked of them as part of this assessment process.

Students are encouraged to discuss the form and the review process with their supervisors in preparation for the session.

We wish those students good luck with their Major Review.

Feb 2014 intake of HDR students

Assoc Prof Craig Lockwood and JBI academic staff are currently deliberating over all applications received for the next intake into the Master of Clinical Science (MClinSc).

The quality of candidates has been extraordinary, which has made the shortlisting exceptionally difficult. With the professional and educational backgrounds of most applicants, it is certain the next cohort will contribute significantly to the program.

The Master in Clinical Science is developing much wider appeal amongst health care professionals and interest in the program has broadened considerably in recent years, which is evident by the volume of interstate and international applications being received.

This degree by research is unique to our School, and the absence of any tertiary fees to Australian and New Zealand residents makes it a highly attractive qualification. With no requirements to attend weekly lectures or submit regular written assignments, health professionals with high workloads will find the program well suited.

Students benefit from intensive training in the unique Joanna Briggs Institute methodologies and software, and undertake a systematic review on a topic of their choice, in consultation with their JBI allocated supervisor/s.

All who participate in the program have the opportunity to be published in the international Joanna Briggs Institute Library, which also forms the basis of the requirements for a dissertation that is accepted by the University for the Master of Clinical Science. It is a full one to two year program, and students who complete all the program requirements within 12 months of enrolment may be eligible to apply for an upgrade to PhD.

Applications for the next intake will be considered right up until 24 January 2014.

“Going back for my PhD was a good idea . . . Going back for my PhD was good idea . . . Going back . . .”
Music connects me to my past
by Alex Mignone, HDR Program Administrator

Since playing the guitar at the opening entertainment of the recent International Convention, I’ve had several staff and students ask about my musical background and experience.

Music performance is something I’ve grown up with; I barely recall life without it. My father, grandfather and uncle were all musicians, so I grew up in an environment of musical performance, with an assortment of instruments lying around the house.

I started learning to play early in life and by age 13 was a capable guitarist, and later developed a competency on percussion. Throughout my 20s and 30s I performed on and off in several professional groups, playing the corporate ‘gig’ circuit in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. My experience has also given me the opportunity to perform with some incredibly talented Australian musicians. Although not my primary focus, music will always be an important part of my life, and something that connects me to my past.

In terms of musical influence, I love the rock ‘n’ roll classics of the 50s, 60s and 70s, mainly due to my family influence. Artists such as Frank Sinatra, The Beatles and Deep Purple would be my greatest influences.

Special mention must go to the vocalist at the convention entertainment, Tracey Aberle. She has finally popped out her baby! Mum and bubs are doing extremely well.

An end-of-year quote

‘I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forego their use. It has always seemed to me extreme presumptuousness on the part of those who want to make human ability the measure of what nature can and knows how to do, since, when one comes down to it, there is not one effect in nature, no matter how small, that even the most speculative minds can fully understand. All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered, the point is to discover them. God could cause us considerable embarrassment by revealing all the secrets of nature to us we should not know what to do for sheer apathy and boredom.'

~ Galileo

School blog

Don’t forget to visit the School of Translational Health Science blog to read the latest news, events and important information to students, supervisors, Faculty members and the general community. Note that the blog does not replace the current HDR Facebook page, which is a ‘closed group’ to active students and supervisors.
A word from the President

Hello my fellow fellows

Christmas has arrived and the end of the year is nigh. We recently joined the fellowship at the International Convention in Adelaide. There was a great attendance at the Alumni Breakfast and we were privileged to receive a leadership presentation on clinical leadership from Dr Susan Neuhaus, Executive Committee Member, Military Surgery Section, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

For me it was a great catch up with Susan as we served together on active operations in peacekeeping some 20 years ago. The fellowship also decided to vote and select the representatives of the different continents, so that collaboration in your own area of the globe can be enhanced.

We intend to establish a service within the JBI web portal that will enable us all to communicate and present projects we are all working on. Until that takes off, we have the established JBI Alumni Facebook page and I encourage you all to go there and post stories on what you are doing in your field of practice.

If you haven’t already, please join our Alumni Facebook 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!

I have commenced a forum in the our Facebook page. It is on the topic, ‘What evidence did you use today to improve or enhance practice?’

I hope to see a number of you get busy and tell us what it was you did or achieved today using evidence-based health care and your knowledge as a Fellow. This should be a place to come and tell the world about your trials and tribulations. Or At least the ‘alumni world’.

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

Merry Christmas and season’s greetings to you all, have a happy and joyous New Year see you next year.

Drew Dwyer

Farewell to 2013 and happy holidays

2013 has been a very exciting and busy year. We are very pleased that we expanded our Alumni by 47 members in 2013! Hearty congratulations to all of you for working so hard to complete your Clinical Fellowships this year. Below is an interesting chart showing where in the world our 2013 Clinical Fellows.

Thank you for all your support and we look forward to hearing from you all in the New Year as you begin work on any new projects and we develop a new and interactive space on our website. Don’t forget to keep an eye on the Joanna Briggs Institute website.

2013 CF’s

Australia 68%

SA 38%

NSW 4%

QLD 4%

VIC 11%

ACT 4%

WA 6%

Malawi 2%

Kenya 6%

Ghana 2%

Ethiopia 2%

Myanmar 4%

China 13%