

What CAHE can do for you.

CAHE's consultancy service & other initiatives.

There are regular questions raised by CAHE readers regarding costs of research, and in particular costs of undertaking systematic reviews. When clinicians undertake such activities without training, dedicated time to do so or inadequate library resources, they generally find that projects cannot be completed successfully because of the technical difficulties of undertaking review tasks, and unforeseen barriers to literature identification and retrieval. Partnerships between clinicians and technical experts are probably the best way of tackling such tasks, in order to recruit the required expertise and link it with clinical knowledge. CAHE aims to develop constructive working partnerships with clinicians.

The Centre for Allied Health Evidence has invested heavily over the past years in staff training, and is now proud to offer staff with specialty expertise in areas such as guideline development, literature searching and systematic reviewing, program evaluation, database construction/management and systems or statistical analysis.

Formal partnerships between CAHE staff and clinicians to undertake targeted systematic reviews is just one way of utilising the huge range of skills and consultative services offered by our highly motivated researchers. The CAHE team offers clients a time effective service to undertake tasks that each can efficiently complete using their expertise. CAHE will assist client to establish achievable goals when structuring questions, and create questions that will maximise available resources.

The staff at CAHE are focused on creating dedicated research projects that enable their clients to access the information they need to better achieve their goals. CAHE is keen to establish partnerships with clinicians that can attract funding and answer pressing clinical questions. Contact [Karen Gimmer](mailto:karen.gimmer@unisa.edu.au) for information on collaborative systematic reviewing.

Stop press: CAHE is now trialling its new DOH (SA) AH question service on-line! Visit www.unisa.edu.au/cahe for more information on this new service and find out how CAHE is helping local SA government to decipher allied health queries (email cahe@unisa.edu.au)!

CAHE Executive Summaries

Continued from CAHE Newsletter 29.

Literature Evaluation for Clinical Education Models (Queensland Health)

This completed project provided benchmark information to Queensland Health on the evidence underpinning different models of clinical education for undergraduate and graduate-entry therapy students. It assisted Queensland Health staff in deciding what funding to put to what initiatives to ensure best practice education for young graduates in the therapies. This work has produced one peer-reviewed paper. Project researchers involved were Mr Peter Lekkas, Ms Leah Nyland, Mr Thomas Larsen and Dr Saravana Kumar. Visit www.unisa.edu.au/cahe for Exec Summary.

Literature Review on Evidence for Community Intervention Projects for Individuals at Risk of Type 2 Diabetes (Central Northern Adelaide Health Svc)

This project was recently completed for the Central Northern Adelaide Health Service (CNAHS). The primary researcher conducting the technical review was Dr Caroline Smith. This project provided CNAHS with the best current evidence regarding community interventions for effective reduction of weight for individuals

considered to be at risk of Type 2 diabetes. The review examined the peer-reviewed and grey literature for processes and outcomes of community intervention strategies within Australia and nationally. This information will frame CNAHS initiatives to improve community awareness of healthy eating, and to provide appropriate supports for patients at risk of Type 2 diabetes. Contact [Maria Zucco](mailto:Maria.Zucco@unisa.edu.au) at CNAHS for further information.

Evaluation of the National Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Conditions Improvement Grants (NAMCIG) 2004

This was an evaluative report on 28 projects funded under the NAMCIG program, focusing on project aims and their achievement, project sustainability, the application of evidence-based practice. The evaluation revealed a broad range of success in meeting the evaluative criteria. The projects which scored highest consistently tested self-efficacy interventions. Recommendations by the evaluation team for future projects included a clearer and more academic focus, the detailing and measurement of specific outcomes, the use of standard reporting templates, mentoring projects which are at risk of non-completion, and project self evaluation through critical appraisal instruments.



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Evaluation of Quality and Findings of Guidelines for Sports Participation in Hot Weather (Sports Medicine Australia, SA)

This project involved two aspects undertaken for Sports Medicine Australia, SA, with funding from the Office for Sport and Recreation, SA – a synthesis of the evidence from clinical guidelines published around the world on safe participation in sports in the heat, and a practical application of guideline synthesis with respect to hot weather data from the Bureau of Meteorology in South Australia to identify which areas in South Australia needed to heed which aspects of the guidelines. Other team members were Mr Thomas Larsen, Dr Saravana Kumar and Ms Ellie King. One peer-reviewed paper has recently been published in the Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport, and a second paper is in press in this journal. The findings from this project have assisted Sports Medicine Australia to establish recommendations for safe sports participation in the heat around Australia, and to empower local sporting organisations to take charge of making decisions locally about whether sports participation in local hot weather conditions is a risk to health. Grimmer K, King E, Larsen T, Farquharson T, Potter A, Sharpe P, de Wit H (2006): *Prevalence of hot weather conditions related to sports participants guideline: A South Australian investigation. Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport Elsevier.* 21-FEB-2006 DOI information: 10.1016/j.jsams.2006.02.006 9: 72-80. The next paper will be out in the next volume of this journal

Guidelines for Forearm Pain Diagnosis and Management

This project is approximately one-third through, in the development of clinical guidelines for the diagnosis and management of forearm pain for the New Zealand Workplace Accident Compensation Corporation. A Guideline Development Team and a Delphi consensus group, both managed by CAHE, are assisting in developing recommendations where there is insufficient evidence from the research literature. Project manager is Peter Lekkas, assisted by Dr Nicola Massy-Westropp, Dr Saravana Kumar and Prof Karen Grimmer

Evaluation of Models of Pain Assessment

This project has just commenced for NZ ACC. It involves a critical evaluation of multidisciplinary models of assessment for patients with chronic pain, with respect to clinical utility, rigour of development, and established psychometric properties. Project Officer is Ms Sally Murray, joint project leaders are Dr Saravana Kumar and Prof Karen Grimmer

Research: The 'Holy Grail' or 'Mission Impossible'

Presentation at the 2006 Loddon Mallee Allied Health Network Conference

Recent movies formed the theme of a recent workshop conducted by Dr Saravana Kumar and Ms Leah Nyland at the 2006 Loddon Mallee Allied Health Network Conference, *The Way Forward Excellence in Care and Co-ordination* in Bendigo on 29 May 2006.

The workshop provided AH practitioners with a background on evidence based practice (EBP) and quality in health care. The aims were to improve their understanding of EBP and the processes involved, including the challenges and barriers to the uptake of EBP. Participants had an opportunity to develop their own search question and to consider the potential barriers and opportunities to overcome these when implementing research evidence. Feedback after the workshop was very positive and participants found it both interesting and informative.

Introducing: Joanna Briggs Institute's CONNECT

The Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) is seeking to establish *JBIConnect* – an online portal to a re-designed Clinical Information database, along with other JBI products. Users of *JBIConnect* will now for the first time be able to access the entire database or a specialised subsection of *Connect* such as Physio Connect, OT Connect, Aged Care Connect or Bums Care Connect. JBI aims to develop a number of 'nodes' in these areas, and each node will be supported by an Expert Reference Group and Corresponding Reference Group. The Expert Reference Group will provide advice on topics to be included and contribute to the development of 'Care Bundles' (currently known as Recommended Practices or Interventions), among other things. CAHE's role in *JBIConnect* will be to guide the development of Expert Reference Groups, initially for Physiotherapy, Podiatry and Complementary and Alternative Therapies and to develop 'Care Bundles' in these disciplines. AH clinicians interested in being a member of an Expert Reference Group are encouraged to contact Leah Nyland, (leah.nyland@unisa.edu.au)

CAHE Allied Health News in Review is a go!

CAHE is proud to launch its new initiative with the commencement of *AH News in Review* series of critiques on the relevancy and accuracy of allied health references in today's media. The first review has been uploaded to the news section on the [CAHE website](http://www.unisa.edu.au/cahe) which explores the relationship between Acupuncture, in true and placebo form, and its effectiveness in relieving knee pain caused by Osteoarthritis as featured in *The Sydney Morning Herald* on 6 July 2006.

CONTACTS

www.unisa.com.au/cahe

karen.grimmer@unisa.edu.au

Telephone (08) 8302 2769

Facsimile (08) 8302 2766

University of South Australia
GPO Box 2471
Adelaide SA 5001
Australia

CRICOS provider number:
00121B

