

CAHE's Evidence Translation Groups

JBI Evidence Synthesis Group in New Zealand

A Joanna Briggs Institute Evidence Synthesis Group (ESG) has been formed in New Zealand and will focus on nursing, midwifery & social work. The group, linked to the Centre for Allied Health Evidence (CAHE), is located in the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health at Victoria University of Wellington.

They join fifteen other groups who currently form the JBI International Evidence Synthesis Network (ESN), a coordinated body of systematic reviewers from around the world. The group, who have all completed JBI Comprehensive Systematic Review Training, are excited about having an opportunity to connect with others who have cognate interests and expertise and are engaged in the review and synthesis of health evidence.

Professor Jan Duke, Convenor of the group, has an extensive background in nursing, education, social work and professional regulation. She says of the group, "We hope that this work will both strengthen and focus our current research agenda and generate opportunities to network with others around the synthesis of health evidence to inform decision making".

"The team here in Wellington have made significant inroads with their innovative thinking around practice and its development. They are quickly building an international reputation for their work and having an opportunity to extend this work in a systematic and comprehensive way will most certainly be valuable."

The ESG also includes members Professor Ken Walsh, Professor Jo Walton, Associate Professor Cheryl Moss and Dr Joan Skinner. The team bring with them extensive experience in research, education and practice. They come from a diverse range of backgrounds from social work and mental health to midwifery but are all interested in further developing health practice and theory in ways that are feasible, appropriate, meaningful and effective for both service users and providers.

The group hopes to undertake systematic reviews that relate to cultures of care and learning, communities of practice and solution focussed approaches to organisational development. It is anticipated that this work will build on the current body of work being undertaken in the field of practice development and assist in its continued evolution.

Stop Press: CAHE's Dr Saravana Kumar was awarded the 2007 UniSA Quality Teaching award! Professor Peter L Lee, Pro Vice Chancellor & Vice President: Academic, UniSA, announced the award on 4 October 2007. Saravana is delighted and stated the he embraces the ongoing commitment in developing a vibrant Teaching and Learning environment at UniSA.



CAHE Journal Clubs continue their evolution!

The demand for sustainable allied health Journal Club grows

Over the past couple of months the CAHE Journal Club procedures have undergone some radical changes as the Centre for Allied Health Evidence (CAHE) has been inundated with enquiries. We've focused on providing a more useful website which helps organisations determine whether a CAHE Journal Club is suitable for them, and the steps involved in setting up a sustainable Journal Club.

A part of this streamlining process has been designating staff to monitor and manage the needs of Journal Clubs. A shining light in the CAHE team is Mathew Prior, who has embraced his new role working with the Journal Clubs and is keen to see them grow locally and nationally. He aims to have the CAHE Journal Club recognised internationally as one of the foremost sustainable JC models.

Continued on page 2

CAHE Journal Clubs continue their evolution! *Cont from page 1*

Matthew joined the CAHE team in April 2007, and has worked on the New Zealand ACC Back-2-Action lower back pain project, in the role of researcher and project assistant.



Mat has recently taken on the position of Senior Project Researcher for the CAHE Allied Health Journal Clubs, which have prospered since they were initiated in a series of pilot studies earlier this year under the care of Matt Sutton. Mat's role is to communicate in an ongoing manner with the individual Journal Clubs and ensure that each club receives the most appropriate critically appraised article that meet the requirements of the clinical scenario and PICO format presented to him by the JCs.

Mat recently graduated from the University of South Australia's Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Hons) and his past research includes projects such as the *Prevalence of low back pain in parents of physically disabled children between 5-12yrs*. Mat is currently systematically reviewing the risk and treatment for hamstring strains with a view to presenting his findings in conference and clinical workshop settings to exercise scientists and other allied health disciplines. Mat can be contacted regarding the initiation of a CAHE Allied Health Journal Club at UniSA (Mathew.Prior@unisa.edu.au). He will be happy to help you with any queries regarding the processes of establishing a CAHE Allied Health Journal Club, and how to manage them on an ongoing basis.

October 2007 Bulletin from DoHSA's Acting Principal Advisor, Allied Health, Bev Gaughwin

CAHE and DoHSA working together for AH!

As Catherine Turnbull advised in the last edition she is acting as Director of Clinical Systems in the Department of Health until March 2008. I commenced in the role of Acting Principal Allied Health Advisor very recently, after a whirlwind handover from Catherine before she left for the UK.

Within days of starting I was working on collaborative research grant applications that have strong relevance to the health reform agenda. I quickly appreciated the value of the alliances that have developed and strengthened within AH, the Dept of Health and across the state since the role of Principal AH Advisor was established a year ago.

The relationship with the Centre for Allied Health Evidence is a key enabler for Allied Health to develop, share and implement evidence that can influence not only current practice but can contribute to the reform agenda. From my former experience as Director of Physiotherapy at Flinders Medical Centre I understand the challenges for clinicians of undertaking research in busy clinical environments, and implementing evidence into practice. Sometimes a little assistance goes a long way to converting intentions into action and the CAHE provides valuable, assistance and support.

The CAHE Journal Club initiative has been an example of the ability of CAHE to engage with Allied Health clinicians to build capacity for searching, critically analysing and applying evidence. I hope many of you have gained a lot from this work and will continue to do so.

I continue to be impressed by the dedication, commitment, collaboration and camaraderie that exist as the diverse knowledge, and experience of many in health and education focus their efforts on achieving targets within the SA Health Plan. Evidence is a very strong lever in the change process and I urge you to engage with CAHE to increase your knowledge and contribute to the evidence that underpins AH practice.

A reminder that the Joanna Briggs Institute International Convention *Pebbles of Knowledge: Evidence for Excellence* is being held in Adelaide, 26-28 November 2007, and I am delighted that the Department of Health will be providing some scholarships to enable Allied Health attendance. Information will be available shortly.

I look forward to meeting and working with many of you during the next 6 months.
Cheers, Bev Gaughwin

To receive CAHE updates, please register online at www.unisa.edu.au/cahe

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