

More on CAHE Journal Clubs

Journal club pilots and workshops get underway!

One of CAHE's newest additions, Matthew Sutton, is making headlines in the allied health arena with the launch of the new Allied Health Journal Clubs, which we introduced in last month's newsletter. Matt has a diverse history in AH locally, nationally and internationally. Working in the UK from 2003 to 2006 Matt was employed by the National Health Service as a Senior Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist. Prior to this he was employed by Tweed City Medical Centre (NSW) as the Managing Physiotherapist and worked for Queensland Health in Hervey Bay and Maryborough Hospitals as a New Graduate Physiotherapist.

Matt worked for the Centre for Allied Health Research (UniSA) in 2000, and joined the Centre for Allied Health Evidence mid last year, as a key coordinator in a number of intensive allied health projects. Currently Matt is focused on CAHE's Allied Health Journal Clubs, as well as the development of systematic review on stroke outcome measures, and the development of discharge pathways for paediatric conditions.

Matt was originally attracted to allied health due to his interest in anatomy and physiology, and enjoys working with and helping people. His primary goal whilst working with CAHE is to assist in implementation of Evidence Based Practice in multiple health domains.

As the driving project manager behind the new Journal Club (JC) pilot program Matt presented the first JC last month and the second this week. The initial feedback from AH stakeholders is very positive, and a thorough evaluation will take place on completion of the pilot in just over a month. Matt's role is to ensure that the JC process ensured interest in the topic and ongoing reflection on current clinical practice. Matt has commenced training to start JC's in other health arenas such as rural, multidisciplinary and community health.

Matt will hold workshops which will focus on training in how to organise and conduct a JC, learn about clinical epidemiology and biostatistics, understanding of hierarchy of evidence and different study designs. The initial workshop response has been very strong, and many AH groups are keen to commence their own JC.

The workshops enable participants to learn about current research concepts, and expand knowledge and help form the basis to implement evidence based practice in their clinical setting. Attendees will learn critical appraisal skills in addition to developing alternative teaching and learning skills. If you would like any further information about Journal Clubs and workshops contact CAHE's Matt Sutton (Matthew.Sutton@unisa.edu.au).



Translating Evidence into Clinical Practice: Eyre Peninsula Workshop in Streaky Bay

The Centre for Allied Health Evidence (University of South Australia), in conjunction with the Department of Health South Australia, is conducting a workshop, presentation and focus group on evidence-based practice (EBP) in Streaky Bay SA on 18 May 2007. Any allied health practitioner of any discipline working in any setting (public or private) is welcome to attend. Sessions will include:

- Historical relevance and growing importance of evidence based practice
- Identifying barriers to uptake and incentives for EBP
- Finding evidence to answer clinical questions
- Formulating and asking the right question
- Evaluation of available the evidence
- Interpreting the evidence into clinical decisions
- Evaluating whether using EBP has been worthwhile.

If you would like to attend this FREE workshop please RSVP to Helen Walker by Tuesday, 8 May 2007 (hwalker@bigpond.com).



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New CAHE staff member Lifern Kok is passionate about best practice!

Lifern Kok has recently joined the CAHE team as a part-time research assistant working alongside CAHE staff on a number of major projects. Lifern completed her Bachelor of Physiotherapy in 2003 and became a registered Fitness Instructor and Personal Trainer in 2002. Lifern has had a wide range of multidisciplinary experience in acute, chronic and rehabilitation settings.



Lifern also works part time at the North East Division of General Practice as their Allied Health Care Coordinator working on a project which is aimed at establishing stronger referral pathways and better access between GPs and allied health disciplines for clients with chronic conditions. Her interests are best practice methods and motivating people towards active management. Lifern is currently working with Dr Saravana Kumar on a hearing loss project, and will be a key researcher on the NZ back pain study.

NY social worker & data miner Professor Epstein in Adelaide for workshop

Clinical data mining in practice based research: a workshop for practitioners

Professor Epstein occupies the Helen Rehr Chair in Applied Social Work Research, at the School of Social Work, Hunter College, New York. He has conducted practice-based research workshops at universities and social agencies in the United States, Australia, Europe and Israel. Co-author of several books and numerous articles on social worker professionalisation and research utilisation, his current interest is in exploring clinical data-mining as a practice-research methodology. CAHE staff will meet with Professor Epstein whilst he is in Adelaide to discuss clinical data mining and how this impacts on evidence-based research and practice.

Professor Epstein will be holding a Clinical Data Mining workshop on Friday, 8 June 2007 at UniSA (City West Campus), the purpose of which is to inform practitioners about Clinical Data Mining and how it can be used in their practice. Professor Epstein will also provide an opportunity for people to bring along ideas for discussion on how they could develop a Clinical Data Mining Research Project in their workplace. One of the benefits of Clinical Data mining is that it can foster co-operation between professionals. It is to this end that we invite other professionals to attend this workshop. For further information contact Jenny Harding (AASW Branch Office) on 08 8231 9977. (*Workshop sponsored by the Australian Assoc of Social Workers.*)



March/April Bulletin from Dept of Health (SA) Principal AH Advisor: Catherine Turnbull

In the last CAHE newsletter I wrote about C.A.T's (Critical Appraisal Tools) and had decided to move on from acronyms this month. But I can't resist just one more that Professor Alan Pearson, Director, Joanna Briggs Institute, recommended during an extremely informative visit I recently made to the Adelaide centre – the RAPid.

The RAPid is a tool modelled on the C.A.T. The RAPid can be used to analyse both quantitative and qualitative research papers and is available online through JBI. There is also a RAP library in which you can publish your RAP papers.

During my visit to the JBI Centre Professor Pearson explained very succinctly the international context of evidence and JBI. Put very simply the UK has the medically based Cochrane Collaboration, the USA has the social welfare orientated Campbell Collaboration and Australia has the nursing based JBI. Each of the evidence based organisations have collaborating centres or groups around the world. JBI is the only one with a dedicated centre for allied health – the Centre for Allied Health Evidence. With JBI holding its next convention in November 2007 in Adelaide there is a great opportunity for Australians and others to attend to find out more about the evidence orientated organisations and to get involved with the JBI and the CAHE.

In my position as Principal Allied Health Advisor SA I have been considering how to encourage an increase in the uptake of evidence based activities within allied health. So next month I will provide some thoughts around how to influence change in complex organisations. In the meantime, have a safe and happy Easter.

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