

# CAHE Allied Health Journal Clubs

## CAHE talks to Journal Club facilitators about JCs in the workplace

Since March 2007 the Centre for Allied Health Evidence, in partnership with the Department of Health (SA), has established a number of Allied Health Journal Clubs, based on a sustainable model developed by CAHE staff. CAHE talks to the facilitators of a further two of these Journal Clubs to see how they are working, and what impacts they are having in the workplace.

Philippa Robert, Occupational Therapist, Bellevue Community Therapy Services, ECH Inc, attended the CAHE JC training workshop in June 2007. Philippa and the ECH Inc team had been discussing the need for an interactive Journal Club for the previous 12 months. After hearing about the CAHE Journal Clubs through the CAHE newsletters Philippa said she found the CAHE website a useful first step in the JC process. She then contacted CAHE directly and she has now been facilitating the ECH Inc Journal Club since July 2007.

The ECH Inc JC meets monthly and has five members, made up of a number of allied health disciplines: occupational therapy, podiatry, physiotherapy and speech therapy. ECH Inc was looking for JC format that enabled this diverse group to work together.

Having now worked together during 2007 the general consensus was that the CAHE JC format created a forum for all the disciplines to get together and discuss articles and applications relevant to one or more disciplines, and the issues that arise out of the summaries. Philippa stated *'The CAHE Journal Club provides a unique opportunity for team building as well providing productive discussion'*.

Philippa commented that getting together has helped informally and at other levels to improve communication and understanding between the JC members, and staff would be receptive to implementing relevant outcomes that would benefit patients.

One noted issue is that it can be difficult to find topics that cover all disciplines so rather than seeing this as a negative the ECH Inc JC have focused on one discipline at a time when necessary. This has created an environment for JC members to learn about the issues facing other AH practitioners and develop a more comprehensive understanding of each other's strength and expertise.

Philippa retired at the end of 2007, much to the dismay of her co-workers and all of us here at CAHE. ECH Inc is moving premises at the start of 2008, and the new CAHE JC Facilitator will take on Philippa's mantle when the move is complete in April 2008. We wish Philippa all the best in her retirement and thank her for her enthusiasm and support of CAHE Journal Clubs!

Matt Sutton, initial instigator of the CAHE Journal Club formats and training is now the facilitator with the Lyell McEwin Hospital Journal Club (LMHJC).

Since the CAHE JC Pilot was launched in March 2007 the Lyell McEwin Hospital JC has worked with CAHE testing and streamlining the CAHE Journal Club processes at their monthly meetings. The LMHJC was initiated by LMH's Paula Harris, Manager, Physiotherapy, who had expressed great enthusiasm for a journal club format within her department. After Matt Sutton introduced the CAHE Journal Club format to Paula LMH came on board and the LMHJC has been going from strength to strength, with about 15 JC member and most members attending all JC meetings.



THE LMHJC is a single discipline format and has provided Matt (pictured left) with a unique opportunity. From his initial position as CAHE's Journal Club developer Matt recently took a position on staff at the LMH and can see the evolution of a CAHE JC in action. This firsthand exposure has enabled him to ascertain the sustainability of a CAHE JC in his clinical environment of physiotherapy.

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Issues assisting sustainability that Matt has had his attention drawn to are:

- ◆ Relevant topics
- ◆ CAPs That provide clear outcomes
- ◆ CAPs that provide sufficient detail on the intervention process that enables the JC to reproduce this process in a Relevant topics
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- ◆ CAPs that provide sufficient detail on the intervention process that enables the JC to reproduce this process in a clinical setting.
- ◆ Statistical mini-tutorial that are included in the CAP summary

Matt is confident that the CAHE JC format is sustainable, particularly with the support and encouragement of the CAHE JC team. When asked if there were any impacts on clinical practice Matt stated that *'the Lyell McEwin Hospital Journal Club will assist in the development of guidelines and service delivery models being carried out at the hospital.'*

**Don't forget to visit the CAHE website if you team are interested in beginning your own JC (<http://www.unisa.edu.au/cahe/CAHEJC/default.asp>) for all the latest info!**

**STOP PRESS: Have you ordered your copy of CAHE's FOUR new Outcomes Calculators (OCs)? The new OCs include: revised Musculoskeletal, Incontinence, Neurological and Chronic Diseases. These valuable outcomes measurement tools will be available on CD-ROM for just \$100 (+ GST) including the CAHE OC User Manuals. Order your CAHE OC CD-ROM online today!**



### February 2008 Bulletin from the Department of Health's Catherine Turnbull A/Director, Clinical Systems

Well, I have been the SA Health, A/Director Clinical Systems for six months now and was very pleased to be asked to do a 'guest spot' in the Principal Allied Health Advisor column. So...what has been happening...?

SA Health has continued to provide funding for the CAHE to ensure the brilliant work that has so far occurred continues. This means we are now looking at how to roll the Online Journal Club out beyond the very successful SA Health pilot sites to other healthcare agencies and interstate. We are also investigating how to ensure the evidence discovered through the Journal Clubs is then implemented into the development of service delivery and models. We are calling this Evidence Translation, which you will hear more about over the coming months.

CAHE is also working on a number of projects for SA Health, including analysis of the evidence for speech pathology practice in paediatrics and podiatry for the ages of 16 -18yos, and analysis of communication patterns of clinicians. This is an exceedingly exciting time for allied health within SA Health as there really is a move towards Health acknowledging the work of the CAHE and utilising the centre in appropriate and timely ways to assist in the major changes that are occurring as part of the SA Health State Healthcare Plan.

I hope that most allied health professionals have heard about the World Congress on Allied Health being held in Perth at the end of March (and are going if possible). If you are not able to attend then look out for flyers advertising seminars by the Chief Health Professions Officer's from England and Scotland (Karen Middleton and Jacqui Lunday respectively) as they are visiting some states and territories following their attendance at the Perth congress. Given the major NHS reforms that have affected the allied health professions in the UK there are many lessons that we can learn from these colleagues.

On a final note, I would like to congratulate a group of AH clinicians who recently launched *Clinical Leadership: Mental health professionals achieving consumer centred care* which reminded me that one of the great strengths of the allied health professions is including consumers and being client centred which is exactly why we are working within health... but now you are getting me onto Safety and Quality issues which is within my acting role...

So signing off now...stay safe and enjoy the long weekend next month.

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