



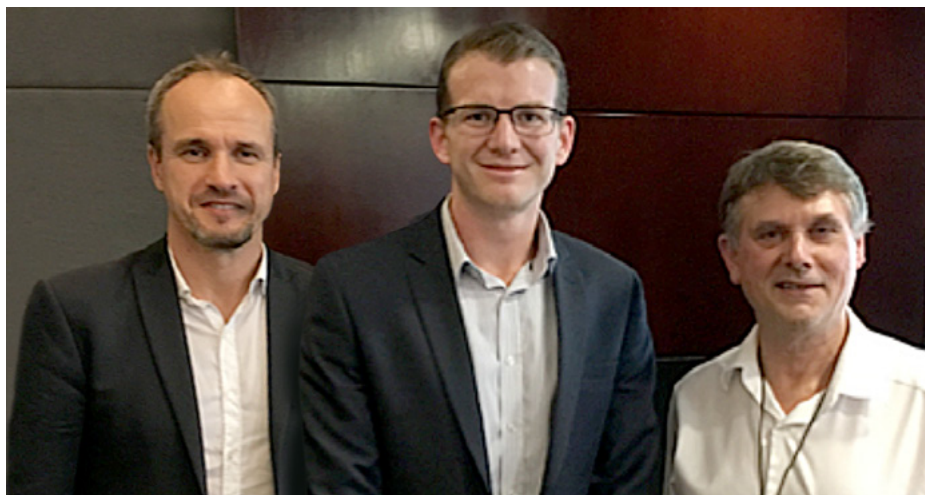
JBI ADELAIDE GRADE CENTRE

2018 Annual Report

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JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre Director Associate Professor Zachary Munn (centre) with GRADE Working Group co-chairs Professor Holger Schünemann (left) and Distinguished Professor Gordon Guyatt (right)

MESSAGE FROM THE CENTRE DIRECTOR

This year has been one of success for our GRADE Centre as we continued to achieve new milestones in our educational offerings, support work and implementation of GRADE methods in our systematic reviews. With the focus in 2017 largely on establishing the centre and ensuring relevant financial, educational and human resource structures were in place, 2018 has been a year where we truly were able to build on the impact we made throughout our efforts in 2017. It has been fantastic to see that our centre is becoming better known throughout the systematic review and guideline development communities in Australia but also throughout the Joanna Briggs Collaboration. In 2018, in addition to continuing to run our successful 1-day GRADE workshops, we also completed additional consultancy and methodological support work with multiple guideline development groups in Australia. Our Centre staff members also continue to engage with the GRADE Working Group project groups, with all centre staff contributing to one or more of these groups and helping to advance GRADE approaches. In 2018, we also saw the increased uptake of GRADE Summary of Findings Tables in JBI Systematic Reviews, which is a key goal of the centre and highlights the fantastic work of our authors but also the JBI Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports (JBISIRI)

editorial staff (and particularly JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre Deputy Director Edoardo Aromataris and Centre Member Cindy Stern) for continuing to support authors to produce Summary of Findings tables. We also continue to contribute to a number of GRADE Project Groups and the work of GRADE at large, with a personal highlight being the opportunity to attend the GRADE Working Group meeting in Manchester. Finally, it has been exciting to see the Joanna Briggs Collaboration embrace GRADE approaches, with training occurring in Joanna Briggs Collaborating Centres in Belgium, Thailand and the Czech Republic. It has been especially pleasing to see JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre staff members (Prof Miloslav Klugar and Associate Prof Jitka Klugarová) establish their own GRADE Centre (Masaryk GRADE Centre) in the Czech Republic. It is gratifying to see additional JBC groups becoming GRADE Centres and we look forward to collaborating with this GRADE Centre and the entire GRADE Working Group to continue to support, promote and disseminate GRADE methods in the region.

Zachary Munn
JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre Director



Dr Tim Barker presenting during a JBI Adelaide GRADE Workshop in Adelaide, November 2018

INTRODUCTION

The JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre, established in November 2016, was the first GRADE centre in Australia and New Zealand and has acted as a central hub of GRADE related research and teaching in the region. In addition, it was the first GRADE Centre to be established within the Joanna Briggs Collaboration, and as such supports and promotes the use of GRADE amongst this group. The centre offers training in GRADE methods and contributes to the scientific development of GRADE methods, focusing on promoting the use of GRADE for systematic reviews and guideline development. This report outlines the activities of the Centre during its second full year of operation in 2018.

JBI ADELAIDE GRADE CENTRE MEMBERS

- Associate Professor Zachary Munn PhD, GradDipHlthSc, BMedRad
- Associate Professor Edoardo Aromataris PhD, Bsc(Hons)
- Associate Professor Craig Lockwood PhD, RN
- Associate Professor Zoe Jordan PhD
- Emeritus Professor Alan Pearson PhD, MSc, DipAdvNurs,
- Dr Catalin Tufanaru PhD, MD, MPH, MClSci
- Dr Cindy Stern PhD, BHSc
- Dr Kylie Porritt PhD, RN
- Dr Micah Peters PhD
- Dr Mafalda Dias PhD, MClSci, BPharm
- Mrs Alexa McArthur MClSci, RN, RM
- Dr Judith Gomersall PhD
- Professor Patraporn Tungpunkom, PhD, RN
- Professor Miloslav Klugar, Ph.D., PhDr., M.Sc.
- Dr Rasika Jayasekara, PhD, RN
- Dr Richard Wiechula, PhD, RN
- Dr Sasja Jul Hakonsen PhD
- Dr Nilakshi Waidyatillake
- Dr Wendel Santos
- Adjunct Professor Kim Moretti
- Associate Professor Jitka Klugarova
- Dr Timothy Barker

TEACHING REPORT

In Australia, New Zealand and across the Joanna Briggs Collaboration, JBI Adelaide GRADE Members run workshops on GRADE using the JBI Adelaide GRADE teaching materials which have been developed and reviewed by GRADE Centre staff. These teaching and training activities serve as a way to promote the use of GRADE across Australia and New Zealand. These materials have been shared with the leads of the GRADE Training and Credentialing working group, although no feedback has been received. These materials are regularly reviewed and updated by centre members. These materials have also been shared with the Masaryk GRADE Centre with their modifications to the slides also being shared with our centre, which is a great example of collaboration across the GRADE centres.

A brief summary of our training activities during 2018, including the number of participants registered, is included below.

Adelaide training

- Three external 1-day workshops (total of 43 participants)
- 1 Internal workshops for JBI/University of Adelaide Students (24 participants)

Total = 67 participants

Other GRADE workshops/ training

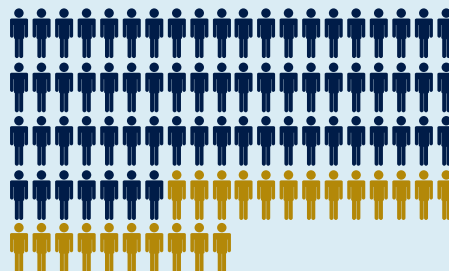
- Belgium GRADE Workshop delivered with Professor Holger Schünemann (23 participants)

Systematic Review Training (including GRADE)

In addition to the dedicated GRADE training mentioned above, a GRADE module has been incorporated into the JBI global Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Program. In 2018, 32 of our centres hosted courses across the globe (Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Denmark, England, Ethiopia, Japan, Kenya, Myanmar, Portugal, China, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, USA) with 986 participants, all who were introduced to GRADE methods.

GRADE WORKSHOP TRAINING

■ Adelaide = 67 ■ Belgium = 23



Associate Professor Zachary Munn teaching during the a GRADE workshop in Antwerp in May, 2018

METHODOLOGICAL AND RESEARCH PROJECT WORK

The JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre are involved in a number of methodological and scholarly projects related to GRADE. This includes methodological development work as part of the GRADE Project groups and also in other projects relating to JBI related implementation and use of GRADE. Members work on projects relating to the development of GRADE methods, evaluation of GRADE, experiences of using GRADE and any other GRADE related scholarly work. Members also generate their own projects for scholarly consideration and these are discussed within the GRADE centre and where appropriate the broader GRADE working group.

JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre staff contribute to or are members of the following GRADE Working Groups: Overviews, CERQual, Training and Credentialing, Prognosis, Stakeholders, Wording of recommendations, Rapid guidelines, Implementation, Technology, Evidence to decisions, Certainty in evidence and Philosophy of GRADE.

A highlight of our centre's work in 2018 was the development and publication of a protocol to evaluate the use of GRADE in Australian clinical practice guidelines, led by Dr Mafalda Dias. This work is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW PROTOCOL

Use of GRADE in Australian clinical practice guidelines: a methodological review protocol

Mafalda M. Dias¹ • Zachary Munn¹ • Kylie Porritt¹ • Catalin Tufanaru¹ • Cindy Stern¹ • Edoardo Aromataris¹ • Rick Wiechula^{2,5} • Sue Brennan³ • Holger Schünemann⁴

¹Joanna Briggs Institute and Adelaide GRADE Centre, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, The University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia, ²Adelaide Nursing School, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, The University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia, ³Cochrane Australia and Melbourne GRADE Centre, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, ⁴Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact, Cochrane Canada, and McMaster GRADE Centre, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, and ⁵The Centre for Evidence-based Practice South Australia (CEPSA): a Joanna Briggs Institute Centre of Excellence

Research question/objective: The purpose of this methodological review is to determine whether and to what extent GRADE (Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation) methodology has been and is currently being used in Australian clinical practice guidelines.

Keywords: Australia; clinical; GRADE; Grading of Recommendations Assessment Development and Evaluation
JBI Database System Rev Implement Rep 2018; 16(11):2092–2096.

Introduction

Clinical practice guidelines are commonly defined as systematically developed statements to assist practitioner and patient decisions about appropriate healthcare for specific clinical circumstances.¹⁻³ Development of clinical practice guide-

appraising, and synthesizing the evidence underpinning guideline recommendations.^{4,11,14,16,21} These studies have also emphasized the need for guideline developers to be transparent about, and guideline users to have an understanding of, the evidence basis for guideline recommendations that will guide



ORGANISATION AND LOGISTICS

The Centre has in-kind support from the Joanna Briggs Institute, but as we continue to expand we have invested in ensuring we have the relevant structure and frameworks in place to support our growth. As such, we have developed or are developing the following:

- An engagement framework for the JBI Adelaide Centre
- Investigating and maintaining a social media presence via the JBI accounts
- Secretariat support for the centre
- Maintaining centre member lists with the expanding membership (24 members of the Centre currently as of December 2018)
- Maintaining a registry of GRADE expertise across Australia
- Website for the centre
- Development of promotional materials
- Hosting of four meetings per year for the centre including agenda and minutes development
- Establishing a separate budget line for GRADE Centre work within the JBI budget to ensure sustainability and enable growth

USING GRADE IN GUIDELINES, SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS AND HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENTS

GRADE Centre members are actively using GRADE methods in guidelines and systematic reviews. We are undertaking guideline development projects with bodies such as the National Heart Foundation of Australia and Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) to facilitate and support them to use the GRADE approach. Our work with the RACGP was a highlight of 2018, as we co-chaired the guideline panel and worked through the entire systematic review and evidence to decision framework with the group.

PROMOTION AND SUPPORTING THE USE OF GRADE WITHIN AUSTRALIA AND THE JBC

The JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre aim to promote and support the use of GRADE throughout Australia and New Zealand and the Joanna Briggs Collaboration. Since our launch, we have received numerous inquiries regarding GRADE work via email, phone and in person. Meetings and teleconferences have been held with various guideline developers and professional societies to introduce them to GRADE and to highlight the benefits of this approach. We have also seen increased interest in GRADE from across JBI's 80 collaborating entities across the globe, with additional requests from them to join the working group and even establish their own GRADE centres, such as our entities in Thailand and Czech Republic. Additionally, we were very pleased to be able to acquire Professor Holger Schünemann as a keynote speaker at the Joanna Briggs Colloquium in Antwerp.



Australian GRADE Newsletter

JBI ADELAIDE

GRADE
CENTRE

MELBOURNE

GRADE
CENTRE

Newsletter 2018 issue 1

Welcome to the inaugural Australian GRADE Newsletter.

The Australian GRADE newsletter is a joint initiative of the JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre and the Melbourne GRADE Centre. The newsletter aims to highlight current and future GRADE activities within the Australasian region and to provide reference to current publications and methodological guidance. We aim to keep you informed with the latest happenings in GRADE by providing you with a 'road map' to help you source information that matters to you. If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see in the newsletter we would love to hear from you.

We have established a newsletter for our GRADE Centre (in collaboration with the Melbourne GRADE Centre) which is available here: <http://bit.ly/2oA2vv4>. This work has been led by Dr Kylie Porritt, JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre member.

JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre Director, Associate Professor Zachary Munn, has also been active in promoting GRADE in his role as a member of the NHMRC Synthesis and Translation of Research Evidence Committee. This has included taking on an editorial role for some chapters of the new NHMRC Guidelines for Guidelines as well as filming a video regarding GRADE which is hosted on the NHMRC website here: <http://ow.ly/1BrJ30mNkWk>.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS TABLES IN JBI REVIEWS

Previously, systematic reviewers submitting to the JBI Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports were strongly encouraged to include a GRADE Summary of Findings (SoF) table. This was made compulsory in 2017 so that all JBI reviews of effects include a GRADE SoF table in the future. Although not every review has a SoF table yet, with a recent update to the author guidelines and the JBI Reviewer's Manual for the journal to ensure GRADE SoF are included, we expected increased numbers in 2018.

The 2018 report shows some quantitative reviews do not have SoF tables included, however these are likely aetiology/risk reviews or prevalence/incidence reviews. Peer review forms have been updated asking if the peer reviewers have SoF expertise. As can be seen in table 1, 78% of quantitative reviews in the journal now have SoF tables, which is a large increase compared to 39% in 2017.

In other exciting news for the JBI journal, co-chair of the GRADE Working Group Professor Holger Schünemann has joined the Editorial Advisory Board. With his appointment we expect to see the quality and quantity of summary of findings tables in JBI reviews to increase, in addition to some additional work focusing on interactive summary of findings tables in 2019.

CONCLUSION

We believe a significant amount of work has occurred during the second year of operation of the JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre, particularly in relation to teaching activities and promotional efforts. In following years we aim to improve our contribution in terms of GRADE methodological work, focus on improving the quality and format of SoF tables in JBI reviews, ensuring we provide a hub of expertise in the use of GRADE across Australia, and to collaborate further with the Melbourne GRADE Centre in Australia wide activities.

Year	2018 SRs published	SoF Grade	%
Total SRs	33	14	42%
Comprehensive	1	0	
Qualitative	10	0	0%
Quantitative	18	14	78%
Scoping	3	0	0%
Umbrella	1	0	0%

Table 1: Total Systematic reviews published and percentage of summary of findings tables

The screenshot shows a public consultation page for the 'Assessing certainty of evidence' module. The page is part of the NHMRC 'BUILDING A HEALTHY AUSTRALIA' initiative. It features a navigation bar with five steps: 'Forming the questions', 'Identifying the evidence', 'Synthesising evidence', 'Assessing risk of bias', and 'Assessing certainty of evidence' (which is currently selected). Below the navigation bar, the title 'Assessing certainty of evidence' is displayed, followed by a message: 'This draft module is currently open for public consultation. You are encouraged to make a submission through the online public consultation portal available at consultations.nhmrc.gov.au. Consultation closes on Wednesday 6 February 2019 at 5:00pm AEDT.' A video player is embedded on the page, showing Associate Professor Zechary Munn from the Joanna Briggs Institute speaking. To the right of the video, there is a text prompt: 'Watch Associate Professor Zechary Munn from the Joanna Briggs Institute take us through the GRADE approach to guideline development.'