

JBI ADELAIDE

GRADE

CENTRE



JBI ADELAIDE GRADE CENTRE

2019 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. We are now an established and well supported GRADE Centre providing training, methods support, consultancy, methods research and a forum to discuss GRADE advances in our region and with the JBI Collaboration.

The highlight for the year was the opportunity for our centre to host the GRADE Working Group meeting adjacent to the Guidelines International Network/JBI Conference here in Adelaide in November. This was a great opportunity for many of our centre staff to attend one of these events in person for the first time, further encouraging growth and engagement with the centre. The event itself was a success with vigorous and riveting discussions regarding new proposals from the GRADE Working Group both during the meeting and over lunch and dinner. Another personal highlight was the chance to visit McMaster University mid-2019 to attend the GRADE Working Group 2-day meeting.

Prior to the GRADE Working Group meeting we were also pleased to launch our new centre website (<https://jbi.global/grade>). This new website contains further information regarding the work of the Centre, links to relevant resources and information on how to engage with our work.

In 2019, not only did we see the increased uptake of GRADE Summary of Findings Tables in JBI Systematic Reviews, we also launched interactive Summary of Findings tables in our journal JBI Evidence Synthesis, and were one of the first journals to implement this as an editorial requirement.

Finally, in addition to continuing to run our successful 1-day GRADE workshops, we also completed additional consultancy and methodological support work with 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.

Zachary Munn
JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre Director



Dr Tim Barker presenting during a JBI Adelaide GRADE Workshop in Adelaide.

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 JBI 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. For more information, visit <https://jbi.global/grade>

This report outlines the activities of the Centre during its third full year of operation in 2019.

GRADE WORKING GROUP MEETING IN ADELAIDE

On the 3rd of November 2019, the JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre, in collaboration with the Melbourne GRADE Centre, hosted the GRADE Working Group annual meeting aligned with the Guidelines International Network conference. There were approximately 40 attendees in person along with many others joining the call online. The meeting was chaired by Professor Holger Schünemann following a welcome by JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre Director Assoc Prof Zachary Munn. An exciting agenda covering many advances in GRADE structured the day, with proposals discussing GRADE for network meta-analysis and GRADE and non-randomised studies. After a fruitful day of meetings the working group members celebrated with a dinner and drinks looking over the Torrens river in Adelaide to finish off a wonderful day and GIN/JBI conference week.

JBI ADELAIDE GRADE CENTRE MEMBERS

- Associate Professor Zachary Munn, Centre Director
- Associate Professor Edoardo Aromataris, Centre Deputy Director
- Dr Timothy Barker, Centre Lead Research Fellow
- Associate Professor Craig Lockwood
- Professor Zoe Jordan
- Dr Cindy Stern
- Dr Kylie Porritt
- Dr Micah Peters
- Mrs Alexa McArthur
- Dr Judith Gomersall
- Professor Patraporn Tungpunkom
- Professor Miloslav Klugar
- Dr Rasika Jayasekara
- Dr Richard Wiechula
- Dr Sasja Jul Hakonsen
- Dr Nilakshi Waidyatillake
- Dr Wendel Santos
- Adjunct Professor Kim Moretti
- Associate Professor Jitka Klugarova
- Associate Professor Dru Riddle
- Mr Robin Pap
- Dr Emily Reeve
- Associate Professor Motohide Miyahara
- Ms Jennifer Stone
- Dr Clifford Mwita
- Dr Denny John
- Dr Nagendra Dudi-Venkata



GRADE Working Group members at the GRADE Working Group Meeting in Adelaide.

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 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 2019, including the number of participants registered, is included below.

Adelaide training

- Three external 1-day workshops (total of 34 participants)
- 1 Internal workshop for JBI/University of Adelaide Students (24 participants)

Total = 58 participants

Other GRADE presentations

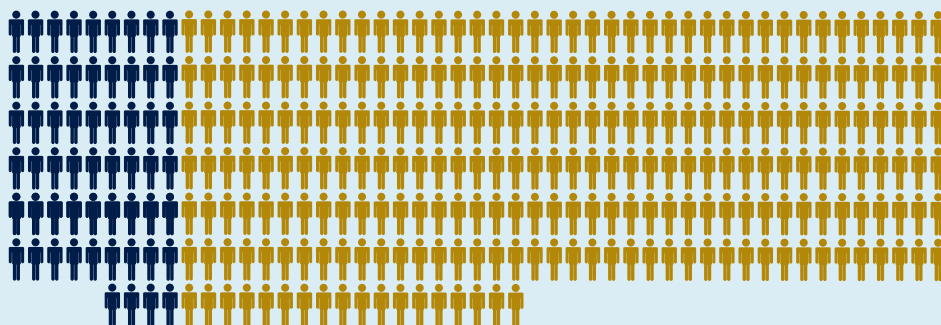
- Associate Professor Zachary Munn delivered the keynote presentation for the JBI European Regional Symposium in Cardiff, Wales on the 3rd of May 2019. The talk, titled “GRADE: A trustworthy approach to move from evidence synthesis to implementable recommendations” was very well received by the approximately 200 attendees.

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 2019, 45 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 1222 participants, all who were introduced to GRADE methods.

GRADE WORKSHOP TRAINING

■ Adelaide = 58 ■ Wales = 200



Assoc Prof Zachary Munn during a GRADE workshop.

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, GRADE NRS and GRADE Multiple Comparisons.

INTERACTIVE SUMMARY OF FINDINGS TABLES IN JBI EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS

The JBI Evidence Synthesis editorial team was proud to announce that, where appropriate, GRADE Summary of Findings (SoF) tables are now included in all systematic reviews in a new interactive format, iSoF tables. The interactive version of GRADE Summary of Findings presents key information from systematic reviews in several formats that vary in content and graphical layout.

“This is an exciting innovation for JBI”, said JBI Evidence Synthesis Editor, Assoc Prof Edoardo Aromataris. “iSoF presents results of reviews in ways that are easier for the end user to understand and engage with.

Ultimately, it’s about facilitating the use of evidence in practice by health professionals”, Assoc Prof Aromataris added. The journal iSoF team was supported by Professor Holger Schünemann, GRADE Working Group co-chair, who is delighted that JBI

will include iSoF tables in all systematic reviews. “[This] will make for better evidence integration in decision tools and sharing globally”, Professor Schünemann stated. An editorial by Professor Schünemann and colleagues highlighted this advancement in the March issue 2019, which can be viewed here.

GRADE Summary of Findings tables are already used for all JBI systematic reviews to improve the accessibility and readability of key messages in systematic reviews. However, as Assoc Prof Zachary Munn, Director of the JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre said, “these interactive versions go beyond that to really enable people to interpret and understand the major findings. This is a great step forward for JBI in increasing the accessibility and interpretability of our reviews for all audiences, which is key to the mission of JBI to promote the use of systematic review results (and evidence) in practice”.



Figure 1: The new iSoF tables are linked from the standard SoF and contents of a JBISRRR systematic review



Figure: Editorial on iSoF tables

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
 - Secretariat support for the centre
 - A JBI GRADE social media account (@JBI_GRADE)
 - Maintaining centre member lists with the expanding membership
 - Maintaining a registry of GRADE expertise across Australia
 - Website for the centre
 - Development of promotional materials
 - Hosting of Centre 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. In 2019 we completed a guideline development project with the 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 2019, 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.



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>.

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.

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 2019.

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, 75% of quantitative reviews in the journal now have SoF tables.

CONCLUSION

Our third full year of operation has been a breakthrough year for our GRADE centre. A significant amount of work has occurred, particularly in relation to teaching activities, improving SoF tables in JBI reviews and promotional efforts with a new website and twitter account. In following years we aim to improve our contribution in terms of GRADE methodological work, 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	2019 SRs published	SoF Grade	%
Total SRs	36	17	47%
Qualitative	8	0	0%
Quantitative	20	15	75%
Scoping	6	0	0%
Umbrella	2	2	100%

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

