



THE UNIVERSITY  
of ADELAIDE

# JBI HONOURS AND POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH DEGREES 2024



make  
history.

“At the **HEART** of  
JBI’s vision and mission  
is a fundamental desire  
to build a brighter  
future for generations  
to come”

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# Introduction to JBI

JBI is a global organisation promoting and supporting evidence-based decisions that improve health and health service delivery. JBI offers a unique range of solutions to access, appraise and apply the best available evidence.

Based within the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences at the University of Adelaide, JBI partners with 85+ universities, hospitals and NGOs from 40+ countries through its global collaborative evidence network, the JBI Collaboration. In doing so JBI ensures that the research evidence we seek to synthesise, transfer and implement is culturally inclusive and relevant across the diversity of healthcare internationally.

JBI's approach to evidence-based healthcare is unique. JBI considers evidence-based healthcare as decision-making that considers the feasibility, appropriateness, meaningfulness and effectiveness (FAME) of healthcare practices.

The global evidence-based research community commonly appraise studies related to the effects of therapeutic medical interventions, which limits the relevance to a narrow audience. This leaves many important questions related to feasibility, applicability and meaningfulness of healthcare practice unanswered.

JBI addresses this gap with a diverse range of resources that go beyond therapeutics, to look at patient and caregiver experiences, to report on costs, diagnostics, and prognostics. JBI understands that different clinical questions require the appraisal of different types of evidence and different approaches to evidence-synthesis which is why it has developed 10 different rigorous systematic and scoping review methodologies.

The JBI Model of Evidence-based Healthcare, considered a benchmark in the healthcare industry, underpins JBI's resources, products and services which ensures health professionals can access high quality evidence, appraise diverse types of evidence and apply evidence at the point of care.

## JBI Model of Evidence Based Healthcare



Our research team delivers world-class scholarly work with a focus on understanding how knowledge is translated into policy and practice. They conduct conceptual (analytical exploration, critique, and development of new theories), methodological (developing and improving methodologies and methods) and applied (systematic inquiry involving the practical application and evaluation of new methodologies and methods) research that seeks to provide both insights and impact to the community.

JBI staff supervise Honours, Masters and PhD students with an interest in evidence review and synthesis; evidence transfer and safety and quality; evidence implementation and organisational change; and evidence partnerships and policy.

Honours and Postgraduate Research Degree students enrolled with the School of Public Health in The University of Adelaide and receiving supervision within JBI are provided with access to all JBI resources and have the opportunity to be integrated into JBI's extensive international work program.

Jordan, Z. Lockwood, C. Munn, Z. Aromataris, E. The updated Joanna Briggs Institute Model of Evidence-Based Healthcare. *International Journal of Evidence-Based Healthcare*. 17(1):58-71, March 2019.

# Evidence-Based Healthcare Research

Honours and Postgraduate Research Degree students in JBI translate scientific discovery towards meaningful outcomes for the wider community; contributing to knowledge and best practice for the health professions.

**Synthesis Science** – a critical component of research translation that employs rigorous methodologies to evaluate and analyse a wide range of research evidence to better inform practice and policy in health care. This is the science of evidence synthesis and systematic reviews. This field encompasses exploration of the methodologies and methods that underpin multiple review types and approaches to conduct of reviews; including reviews to assess the effects of interventions, those focused on qualitative evidence, risk factors, as well as mixed-methods, umbrella, and scoping reviews to name a few. The program also extends to theoretical and applied research in the field.

**Transfer Science** – aims to bridge the gap between knowledge generated through research and its application in clinical settings. It refers to the methodology and methods of translating research findings into practical applications and involves active dissemination, education and integration of evidence into clinical systems.

**Implementation Science** – a dynamic and rapidly expanding field of study on what evidence works for who in which

context and how to best design and facilitate policy or practice change for individuals, organisations and healthcare systems. Implementation Science includes applied, methodological and scholarly inquiry across theories, models, mechanisms and methods for best practice implementation aligned with the JBI Model for EBHC.

**Global Relations** – seeks to understand how diverse contributors from across the global evidence ecosystem can partner and collaborate more efficiently and effectively. Establishing methodologies for equity, diversity, and inclusion across global collaborative evidence networks and examining strategies for global priority setting (i.e. Sustainable Development Goals) across the global evidence ecosystem.

## Where will studying at JBI take you?

Studying at JBI can provide you with a wide range of career opportunities in public health, healthcare research, and academia. By undertaking research at JBI, you will acquire the necessary skills to work as a researcher in public health agencies, research institutions, or healthcare organisations. In addition to teaching and mentoring students, academic careers typically involve conducting research, publishing scientific papers, and securing research grants. The research findings you generate can have a significant impact on clinical decision making, informing clinical practice guidelines, health policy development, and evaluation.



# Researchers and Available Projects



## Edoardo Aromataris

### Synthesis Science

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Associate Professor Edoardo Aromataris is a proponent for the use of available research evidence to inform clinical practice and policy decisions in health care, and the research that underpins this best practice. He has a PhD in cellular electrophysiology, however changed direction in his research pursuits towards evidence-based health care some years ago to maximise the opportunity for his work to more directly and rapidly influence the health outcomes of people. He is the Director of Synthesis Science at JBI and the lead of the contract and consultant research program for JBI in the School of Public Health at The University of Adelaide; he is the founding Editor-in-Chief of the scientific journal, JBI Evidence Synthesis, and the co-Deputy Director of the JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre.

Well conducted systematic reviews are recognised as fundamental in the knowledge translation cycle to promote and ensure the continued trajectory of trustworthy evidence to end users. Edoardo is committed to furthering the development and understanding of methodology and methods of both conduct and reporting of evidence syntheses, including systematic and scoping reviews. Alongside active investment in the development of methodology and methods of synthesis, Edoardo also applies his research towards the improvement of health outcomes, practices and policies, working with relevant stakeholders both nationally and internationally.

A/Prof Aromataris also has a well-developed interest in publishing and publication ethics. He created and launched the journal, JBI Evidence Synthesis, as a principal publication outlet for systematic reviews and scoping reviews to directly inform health practice, as well as future health research. During the course of leading the evolution of this successful journal, A/Prof Aromataris has developed research interests in best practice conduct and reporting of research, publication ethics, peer review practices, and also appropriate and informed research question development to alleviate research waste.

## Available projects

### Question prioritisation for evidence syntheses

Research waste is rife; oftentimes it is not simply due to poor conduct of research, but rather that the questions or objectives being pursued are of little priority or importance. Research must be useful and relevant to end users and have an avenue for impact. Engagement with end users is essential for impactful research. This project focuses on identifying clinically relevant questions that will inform the conduct of evidence syntheses and systematic reviews that have potential to effect change in practice using an established dataset of clinically derived questions. The results of this work will be disseminated to the JBI society to then pursue priority questions for their evidence syntheses.

### Scoping evidence syntheses

The evidence synthesis family includes multiple types of systematic reviews and also scoping reviews. The latter are increasingly popular, and many authors are pursuing their conduct due to apparent misperceptions about their lack of complexity and because they believe they are seemingly easier prospects to complete than a systematic review. This project aims to determine differences between the conduct of the different types of review undertakings (different types of systematic reviews and scoping reviews) using an established and publicly available datasets.

### Journalology and publication practices

Research focussed on the science and practices of publishing, specifically evidence syntheses. The scientific periodical, JBI Evidence Synthesis, forms a readily available dataset, along with others that are publicly available to explore diverse aspects of publishing this type of research. Current projects are focussed on practices in the conduct of peer review, and adherence to desired standards of review conduct and reporting by reviewers.



## Amy Finlay

### Transfer Science

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Dr Amy Finlay is a research fellow in the Transfer Science Division who is passionate about connecting evidence to practice and improving patient outcomes. She works to bring the latest and most up to date evidence to health professionals around the world. Amy has experience in both teaching and academic research, as well as experience working in a pediatric disability clinic working alongside allied health professionals. Her focus areas are working within multidiscipline clinical teams that support rehabilitation, disability and mental health. She is also interested in cancer, rehabilitation, disability, assistive technology, electronic and mobile health, neurodivergence, PTSD, complex mental health disorders, suicide prevention and trauma. Her PhD based at South Australia Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) was exploring how prostate cancer survivors use online health promotion material to support healthy lifestyles post-treatment which received Dean's Commendation for Thesis Excellence.

### Available projects

#### Mapping Evidence-based Point of Care Resources

The JBI Transfer Science Division is responsible for developing and updating evidence-based resources (Evidence Summaries and Recommended Practices) that sit within the JBI EBP Database. These resources assist to inform and guide healthcare decision making and are organized by over 30+ specialty field areas such as aged

care, mental health, women's and children health. Ensuring the development of clinically appropriate and relevant resources is a priority. Current projects are focused on mapping existing resources to industry priority areas and conducting a gap analysis to the field's taxonomy. The result of this work will assist with identify and prioritizing topics areas for development.

#### Allied Health Evidence Based Practice Study

JBI's mission involves improving health outcomes in communities globally by promoting evidence-based health care. From a local Australian perspective, it is unknown what evidence is being accessed by allied health professionals, especially those working within the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The aim of this study is to explore how allied health professionals' access and use evidence in their clinical decision making. This study will be developed alongside the Transfer Science Division team regarding the best methods to answer this question. This project will involve the development of survey and /or interviews to determine where allied health professionals get their evidence from, explore the access and barriers to evidence uptake, and application of the evidence to their practice. The goal of this project is to begin to build up a picture of access use and use this to begin conversations with stakeholders about improving access to evidence based practice within allied health settings.





## Nahal Habibi

### Synthesis Science

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Dr Nahal Habibi is a lecturer at the University of Adelaide where she teaches and mentors researchers, clinicians and authors of scientific publications on various topics related to research methodology including evidence synthesis in the area of health, risk of bias assessment, stakeholder engagement, and GRADE (Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation). Dr Habibi is passionate about integrating these research methodology components with health topics, including but not limited to diet and nutrition, chronic disease, obesity, and reproductive health in order to advance evidence-based practices and decision-making in the field.

In her capacity as an associate editor, Dr Habibi contributes to the advancement of science and research communication in the area of evidence-based healthcare. This role allows her to critically assess the quality and rigour of health research, while also staying abreast of emerging trends and breakthroughs in relevant disciplines.

Additionally, Dr Habibi is actively engaged in academic and professional communities. She serves as the Biomedical Representative of the Robinson Research Institute EMCR Council, where she contributes to the organisation of

events such as conferences and seminars. Furthermore, Dr Habibi is a co-lead for the mentoring committee for Health in Preconception, Pregnancy, and Postpartum (HiPPP) collective, enabling her to collaborate with like-minded researchers and professionals to empower researchers and clinicians in this area.

### Available projects

#### Stakeholder engagement in secondary research

Although involving stakeholders, such as patients, clinicians, and policymakers, in research holds potential benefits, the extent and nature of their involvement in synthesising evidence across various research fields such as chronic disease or reproductive health remain unclear. Synthesised evidence, such as systematic reviews, forms the foundation of clinical guidelines, aiming to improve health outcomes and address health issues. This knowledge gap highlights the need for a comprehensive investigation into stakeholder engagement practices. The emerging topic of stakeholder engagement in evidence synthesis holds significant importance in attracting funding for research projects. Active projects are available in this area for HDR candidates to join.







## Romy Jia

### Synthesis Science

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Romy Jia is an associate lecturer at the Synthesis Science Division, JBI, University of Adelaide. She has extensive teaching experience in health and social science, including the conduct of systematic review and scoping reviews in evidence-based healthcare. Romy is an experienced researcher and has been involved in the conduct of diverse types of systematic reviews and scoping reviews in the healthcare domain. She is the coordinator of the JBI Scoping Review Network and the convenor of JBI scoping review methodology group, an esteemed international collective dedicated to enhancing the rigor and quality of scoping reviews. Additionally, she actively contributes to the product design and development of JBI SUMARI, a software widely used for conducting systematic reviews.

Romy's research background encompasses information science and social science, with a specific focus on major life transitions, marginalized communities, and health information behaviour. Her extensive research training, coupled with a strong commitment to community engagement, has provided her with a deep understanding of the challenges faced by marginalized populations. During her PhD, she developed grounded conceptualisations of the online peer interactions and meaning-making information practices that acknowledge the needs, goals, and values of sexuality- and gender-marginalised LGBTQIA+ young adults going through their identity transitions. Romy's work highlights the importance of embodied information and social interactions in the construction of personal meaning during identity transitions.

### Available projects

#### The conceptualization and analysis of health-related major life transitions

Although involving stakeholders, such as patients, clinicians, and policymakers, in research holds potential benefits, the extent and nature of their involvement in synthesising evidence across various research fields such as chronic disease or reproductive health remain unclear. Synthesised evidence, such as systematic reviews, forms the foundation of clinical guidelines, aiming to improve health outcomes and address health issues. This knowledge gap highlights the need for a comprehensive investigation into stakeholder engagement practices. The emerging topic of stakeholder engagement in evidence synthesis holds significant importance in attracting funding for research projects. Active projects are available in this area for HDR candidates to join.

#### The information journey of systematic reviewers

Systematic reviewers' have unique and complex information needs and their work activities involve the seek and use of large amounts of quality information. Using a comprehensive and contextual approach, this project aims to examine the systematic reviewers' information journey, including but not limited to their information needs during various stages of conducting systematic reviews, subjective factors that impact the information seeking process, information judgments, information use, and information sharing. The project will inform the development of systematic review software, enabling the integration of diverse stages within the information journey.





## Zoe Jordan

### Executive Director

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Professor Zoe Jordan is the Executive Director of JBI and has held numerous leadership positions over the past 20 years working to promote and support evidence-based healthcare globally. Professor Jordan is interested in the relationship between communication theory, engagement, and translation science, particularly in an increasingly global context. She is also interested in international, cross-cultural collaboration, including but not limited to discursive competence, cultural brokering, and relational empathy. Professor Jordan has a keen interest in research and synthesis prioritisation and the role of global collaborative evidence networks in addressing global health issues. As a systematic review methodologist Professor Jordan believes in the importance of stakeholder engagement and having an inclusive approach to what constitutes evidence to guide policy and practice. Thus, her research also examines the role of different types of evidence (such as textual evidence) and the role of various actors in the evidence ecosystem in developing guidance to achieve best practice

### Available projects

#### **Pragmatic utility of the JBI Model of EBHC: a mapping exercise.**

The JBI Model for Evidence-Based Healthcare was first conceptualized in 2005. This developmental framework for evidence-based practice situated healthcare evidence, in its broadest sense, and its role and use within complex healthcare settings. The Model was then reviewed in 2015 with a view to understanding its utility by health professionals, researchers and policy makers, and the analysis revealed a need to reconsider the composition and language of the Model to ensure its currency on the international stage. The application of the principles of the JBI Model can be quite different across contexts and so this small study will seek to map the instances of the Model across various media and its application across clinical, education, research sectors and settings.

#### **The first 100 days: the experience of joining a global collaborative evidence network.**

Collaboration across organisational, geographic, and cultural boundaries extends the possibilities of science. However, it is critical to ensure that new collaborations are nurtured and appropriately supported to achieve success and to contribute to the network in meaningful ways. This seminal work would involve interviewing entity directors who have joined a global collaborative evidence network (JBI) in the last five years to build a baseline understanding of challenges and facilitators to establishing a new entity and navigating existing matrices and relationships.

#### **Bringing worlds together: the role of cultural brokering in global collaborative evidence networks.**

Cultural brokering is the act of bridging, linking, or mediating between groups or persons of different cultural backgrounds for the purpose of achieving common goals or objectives and to enhance creativity and innovation. It is important for global networks to leverage diverse knowledge, ideas, and resources to generate meaningful outcomes. Although individuals may be connected through mutual membership of a network they often belong to different “sub-groups” based on cultural backgrounds. This study will seek to investigate pragmatic theories, models, and frameworks to achieve cultural brokering in an academic global network through the conduct of a scoping review.

#### **Empathy in global collaborative evidence networks**

Empathy provides the foundation for deep and authentic understanding between collaborative partners. It has the potential to build trust and transparency and to facilitate innovation through shared intentionality and understanding. Empathy can also support the co-design of collaborative activities, enabling rich exploration of diverse ideas and maximising collective wisdom. The meaningful dialogues and relationship building that occurs through an empathic approach to collaboration has the potential to generate positive collective cultures across international borders. This study will seek to utilise an empathy mapping approach to uncover, through a qualitative field study, participant experiences of global collaborative evidence network engagement.



# Lucylynn Lizarondo

## Implementation Science

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Dr Lucy Lizarondo's research is focused on ensuring that healthcare is evidence-based and advancing the science of evidence-based healthcare through the development of methods for evidence synthesis and implementation. She has extensive experience in partnering with clinicians to facilitate change in practice and improve the overall quality and safety of healthcare. Her work on evidence synthesis methodology focuses on integrating quantitative and qualitative evidence (mixed studies) to inform clinical and policy decision making. To facilitate uptake of evidence, she provides technical support to various clinical groups and health partners locally and internationally to develop context-specific strategies for improving health service delivery and outcomes. Dr Lizarondo has also established herself as a high quality supervisor to graduate and post-graduate students in Australia and Philippines who conduct systematic reviews and translate research findings into clinical practice.

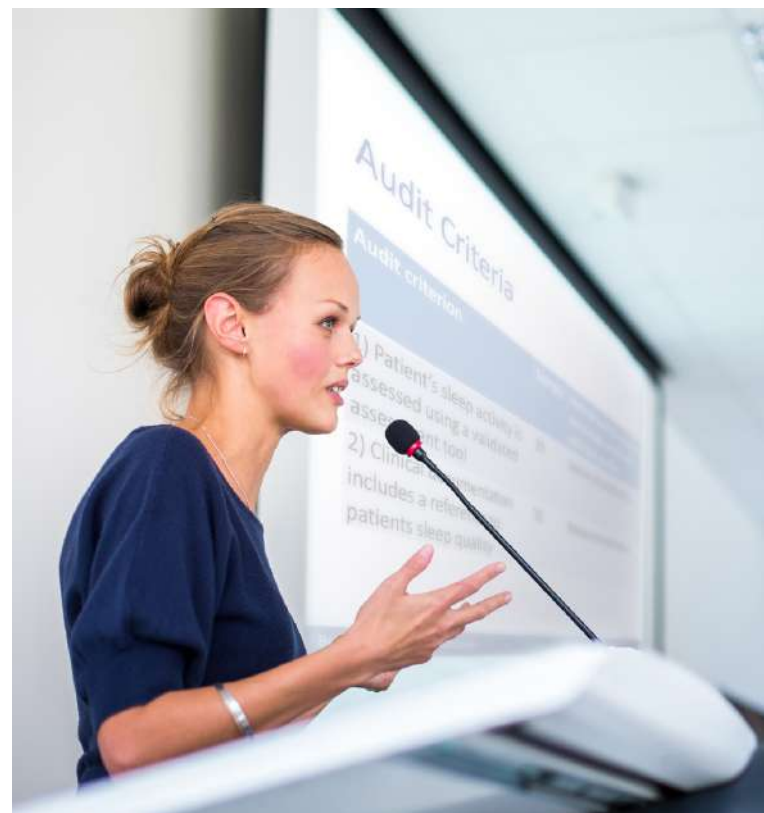
### Available projects

#### Mixed methods systematic review methodology

Mixed methods systematic reviews have been recognised as an important development in the field of evidence-based healthcare as it provides a better and deeper understanding of a phenomenon of interest than that currently offered by single method reviews. While mixed methods reviews share the same steps as any type of systematic review, they have distinct features for synthesis and integration as they combine findings from primary quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods research. Although substantive foundational work has been undertaken in this field, significant knowledge gaps have yet to be explored to better understand the methodology in mixed methods systematic reviews. This offers an excellent opportunity for students to engage in methodological research including but not limited to the assessment of the certainty of evidence from mixed methods reviews, reporting standards and methods for configuration.

#### Evidence implementation methodology

The field of implementation science focuses on methods and methodologies to facilitate the use of the best available evidence into clinical practice and policy. It seeks to bridge the gap between best practice and current practice to achieve the most optimal healthcare outcomes. This field of study is relatively new and therefore various opportunities are available for students to generate scientific knowledge and explore the complexity of real-world settings. Research projects in this area can be conceptual or applied, and may be undertaken in specific clinical areas that align with the student's clinical background. They can range from studies aimed at understanding the behaviour of healthcare professionals, consumers and family members, healthcare organisation and policy makers through to the evaluation of strategies to adopt and integrate evidence-based practices into routine clinical practice. These studies typically utilise a mix of quantitative and qualitative approaches and involve multi- and interdisciplinary teams across different levels of the healthcare system.





## Craig Lockwood

### Implementation Science

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Associate Professor Craig Lockwood leads international programs for implementation, implementation science and knowledge translation and maintains a program of inquiry into qualitative evidence synthesis. Craig leads national and international programs of on implementation of evidence-based healthcare, including scholarly, methods and applied research suited to facilitate successful Honours research projects that contribute to programmatic research. As Editor in Chief of a highly ranked world-leading implementation journal, Craig encourages potential students from any health profession who are also interested in publication to apply.

#### Available projects

##### Implementation Science

Implementation Science is the study of models, methods and mechanisms of action that promote policy or practice change, it includes knowledge translation. Fields of inquiry include applied or methodological investigation into uptake and use-cases for theories, models and frameworks, including evaluation studies of utility and impact. Students curious about the role of applied quantitative or qualitative inquiry for topics across methods and effects of clinical audit and organisational practice change are encouraged to apply. Equally, students interested in a health services career should consider contributing to programmatic research on evaluation and transformation of organisational culture and the contextual factors that enhance or inhibit implementation. These methods include small scale, rapid cycle change methods, action research, case series and other primary research methods for upscaling of practice change to achieve organisational and systems impact.

There are numerous opportunities for evaluation studies in implementation science, especially in relation to JBI tools, resources, software, and teaching programs for evidence implementation. These are methodologically informed by the JBI EBHC Model, ensuring each study has a robust framework. The opportunities are immediately available, achievable within a Honours or higher degree program and leads to publishable results.

##### Qualitative Evidence Synthesis

Students with an aptitude or strong interest in the philosophy and methodology associated with qualitative synthesis are welcome to consider projects examining epistemological and ontological assumptions underpinning the JBI approach to synthesising qualitative evidence. Additional qualitative research fields suited to student-led research include investigation of reflexivity, transferability, context analysis, and evaluation of experiences, phenomena of interest and usability of outputs of qualitative synthesis.





## Vincent Pearson

### Transfer Science

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Vincent is a clinical academic with expertise in cardiovascular nursing and nursing education. He currently holds positions at both the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) and the University of Adelaide, where he works as a Research Fellow at the JBI. Vincent's career began as a Registered Nurse in various clinical specialty units at RAH, including Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit (CT-ICU), Acute Assessment Unit (AAU), and Cardiology. He remains passionate about cardiovascular nursing and maintains strong connections with the Department of Cardiology at RAH.

In 2019, Vincent transitioned to an academic career and joined Flinders University College of Nursing and Health Sciences. At Flinders, he was responsible for curriculum design, course coordination, tutorial delivery, assignment marking, student placement facilitation, and clinical simulation laboratory supervision. Vincent has also authored and co-authored manuscripts in various peer-reviewed journals, reflecting his research interests in cardiovascular risk factors, nurse-led interventions, telehealth, and nursing education.

### Available projects

#### Visual Aids in Clinical Practice

In an era where evidence-based practice informs clinical decision-making, ensuring that clinicians can fully comprehend and apply research findings is critical. By investigating how various forms of visual aids like infographics and diagrams can enhance the understanding and application of research findings, this project could significantly improve the dissemination and utilisation of scientific knowledge in healthcare. Findings could influence how researchers present data and how educators teach in medical and health sciences programs.

#### Review of Clinical Guidelines

Clinical guidelines should ideally reflect the most current and robust evidence, but discrepancies can arise given the rapid pace of medical and health sciences research. This research will identify these gaps for a clinical topic in a specialised area such as cardiovascular care. It will also create educational materials to bridge them, ensuring clinicians have the most recent, relevant knowledge. By facilitating the application of the latest evidence in clinical practice, it could contribute to improved patient outcomes and enhanced efficiency in healthcare. In a broader sense, it also promotes the fundamental principle of evidence-based practice, fostering a culture of continuous learning.





# Kylie Porritt

## Transfer Science

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Dr Kylie Porritt is a highly accomplished and passionate healthcare professional who has dedicated her career to improving the quality of healthcare by ensuring clinical decisions and practices are grounded in the best available evidence. With expertise in research synthesis, the transfer of evidence to practice, and the implementation of evidence into everyday clinical decision making, she has made significant contributions to improving the quality of healthcare delivery. She is the Director of the Transfer Science Division at JBI and the Editor-in-Chief of the JBI EBP Database, an active, contributing member to several international methodology groups and evidence-based practice committees, a core staff member of JBI Adelaide GRADE, an editor for the International Journal of Nursing Practice, as well as a peer reviewer for several nursing, evidence synthesis, and implementation journals.

Kylie's expertise within the field of evidence-based healthcare expands over nearly two decades. She is an experienced, published researcher having been involved in the conduct of multiple systematic reviews and various health-related research projects. She has had, and continues to have, a critical contribution in developing the methodology for the synthesis of qualitative evidence, endorsed by JBI, and used by researchers around the world. She also has a particular interest in advancing the methodology underpinning the development of evidence-based, clinical point-of-care resources with a particular focus on stakeholder partnerships, active dissemination, education and systems integration.

### Available projects

#### Qualitative Evidence Synthesis

Qualitative evidence synthesis is important to healthcare as it allows for a comprehensive understanding of complex phenomena, incorporating diverse perspectives and addressing research questions that quantitative methods may not capture. It informs policy and practice, bridges the gap between quantitative and qualitative research approaches, and ensures the trustworthiness of synthesized evidence through its rigorous approach. This project aims to examine systematic reviews utilizing JBIs approach to evidence synthesis and their adherence to methodological standards. The findings of this research will assist in improving the reporting standards for the JBI qualitative evidence synthesis approach. There are numerous opportunities for evaluation studies in implementation

science, especially in relation to JBI tools, resources, software, and teaching programs for evidence implementation. These are methodologically informed by the JBI EBHC Model, ensuring each study has a robust framework. The opportunities are immediately available, achievable within a Honours or higher degree program and leads to publishable results.

#### Qualitative Evidence Synthesis

Students with an aptitude or strong interest in the philosophy and methodology associated with qualitative synthesis are welcome to consider projects examining epistemological and ontological assumptions underpinning the JBI approach to synthesising qualitative evidence. Additional qualitative research fields suited to student-led research include investigation of reflexivity, transferability, context analysis, and evaluation of experiences, phenomena of interest and usability of outputs of qualitative synthesis.

#### Mapping Evidence-based Point of Care Resources

The JBI Transfer Science Division is responsible for developing and updating evidence-based resources (Evidence Summaries and Recommended Practices) that sit within the JBI EBP Database. These resources assist to inform and guide healthcare decision making and are organized by over 30+ specialty field areas such as aged care, mental health, women's and children health. Ensuring the development of clinically appropriate and relevant resources is a priority. Current projects are focused on mapping existing resources to industry priority areas and conducting a gap analysis to the field's taxonomy. The result of this work will assist with identifying and prioritizing topics areas for development.

#### Partnerships for Practice Improvement

Developing clinically relevant, trustworthy evidence-based resources to connect research to practice and assist with informing clinical decision making is central to the improvement of healthcare outcomes. Development of such resources requires a multi-faceted, coordinated, collaborative partnership approach. The JBI Transfer Science team engage and collaborate with key stakeholders across 30+ specialty field areas to develop rigorous, up-to-date, clinically relevant evidence-based resources to inform clinical practice. This project aims to examine and understanding the values, beliefs and perceptions of our stakeholders, this findings of which will contribute to and inform a larger project aimed at formalizing and developing a stakeholder engagement framework.



## Cindy Stern

### Synthesis Science

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Dr Cindy Stern is a Senior Postdoctoral Research Fellow within the Synthesis Science program of JBI situated in the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences. She has actively contributed to the field of evidence-based health care for over two decades, largely in the area of evidence synthesis and methodology.

Dr Stern is the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of JBI Evidence Synthesis, an international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary health care journal. She is co-convenor of the JBI Mixed Methods Methodology Group, co-chair of the JBI Languages other than English Working Group, member of the JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre, and the JBI Predatory Publishing Practices Group; all of which are international groups that focus on enhancing the rigour and conduct of systematic reviews.

### Available projects

#### Mixed Methods Systematic Review Methodology

Systematic reviews aim to provide a comprehensive, unbiased synthesis of relevant evidence using rigorous and transparent methods. Mixed methods reviews are reviews that contain both qualitative and quantitative evidence. Various opportunities exist to explore and enhance this methodology including but not limited to:

- Evaluation of the application of current mixed methods guidance via the conduct of a user survey
- Examining adherence to conduct guidance for mixed method systematic reviews
- Scoping review of appraisal tools used for primary mixed method studies
- Systematic review on barriers and enablers to implementation of pressure injury prevention in hospitalized adults utilising the mixed methods methodology

#### Journalology

Journalology relates to the science of publication practices and the activities and processes that aim to improve the quality of scholarly research. This includes aspects such as publication ethics, reporting guidance and adherence and peer review practices.

- Various project opportunities exist utilising a large data set of published systematic and scoping reviews and protocols to measure and report on aspects related to methodologies, methods and publishing
- Cross-sectional analysis of peer review practices in evidence syntheses

#### Software to support systematic reviews/evidence synthesis

Systematic reviews/evidence syntheses are an important part of providing care and treatment based on the best available evidence however they can be labour intensive and take many months to complete. To make the process easier, there are software tools available that help with various stages of the synthesis process, including those using artificial intelligence. Various opportunities exist to explore these tools within the realm of evidence synthesis including but not limited to:

- Usability survey of systematic review software
- Comparative analysis of tools and resources used in evidence synthesis
- Investigation into the role of automation in assisting systematic reviews



## Jennifer C. Stone

### Synthesis Science

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Dr Jennifer Stone is a highly accomplished Research Fellow at JBI, University of Adelaide. With a strong background in psychology, Dr Stone has dedicated her career to working with vulnerable populations, particularly children and adolescents with developmental trauma and in refugee resettlement. Dr Stone entered the field of clinical epidemiology in 2013 and has a specific focus on evidence synthesis methodology. This field focuses on producing novel methodologies for systematically reviewing and synthesising existing research to provide reliable and comprehensive evidence for healthcare decision-making.

Dr Stone has been in the vanguard of research into risk of bias assessment of primary research for use in evidence synthesis and has made several transformational developments within this field. Such developments include a tool to assess bias across analytic study designs, a new classification system for understanding components of bias, and a quantitative bias assessment framework that progresses bias assessments to the adjustment of pooled meta-analytic results. Her extensive experience and knowledge contribute to the advancement of evidence-based practice, ultimately benefiting healthcare professionals, policymakers, and most importantly, the individuals who rely on evidence-based interventions and treatments.

### Available projects

#### Evidence synthesis methodology

Evidence synthesis is the process of systematically gathering, evaluating, and integrating research evidence from multiple studies to generate comprehensive and reliable summaries of knowledge on a particular topic. Through rigorous methods, including systematic reviews and meta-analyses, evidence synthesis aims to inform evidence-based decision-making and support the development of policies in various fields. There are several research programs available to students in this field that focus on methodological advancements, including in the area of bias assessment and bias adjustment methodologies and the creation of methodological guidance pertaining to systematic reviews of aetiology and risk.

#### Predatory publishing/ Journalology

Deceptive journals pose a significant challenge to the integrity of scholarly publishing. These predatory publications mimic legitimate academic journals, employing questionable practices such as fake peer review, minimal editorial oversight, and misleading indexing claims. Identifying deceptive journals requires a comprehensive understanding of their characteristics. This research program involves creating a ranking system for academic journals based on legitimacy considering various factors. A robust ranking system would require careful validation and a comparison with existing systems to ensure its effectiveness and reliability. This ranking system can help promote responsible publishing practices and safeguard the integrity of scientific research.

#### Communicating healthcare science

In the age of misinformation and widespread access to information, understanding how lay audiences interpret and comprehend scientific research is crucial. This research program aims to investigate the knowledge and understanding of lay audiences when it comes to crucial aspects of healthcare research. This research will explore how lay individuals comprehend complex research methodologies and reliability of the evidence and will thus provide insights into the potential misconceptions and gaps in knowledge among lay audiences when engaging with healthcare science.







# Ashley Whitehorn

## Transfer Science

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Dr Ashley Whitehorn is a successful Research Fellow at JBI who is passionate about evidence-based healthcare. Although Dr Whitehorn's background is in nutritional physiology, more recently she has focused her work on evidence-based healthcare specifically in reproductive health and for women, children and adolescents. With expertise in research synthesis methods including systematic and scoping reviews, and the transfer and implementation of evidence into clinical practice, she has made significant contributions to improving the quality of healthcare delivery globally. She has a particular interest in advancing the methodology underpinning the development of evidence-based, clinical point-of-care resources with a focus on literature surveillance and artificial intelligence.

### Available projects

#### Evidence Syntheses

##### (Systematic and Scoping reviews)

Systematic reviews aim to provide a comprehensive, unbiased synthesis of many relevant studies in a single document using rigorous and transparent methods. Scoping

reviews aim to identify and map the breadth of evidence available on a particular topic, field, concept, or issue. Both synthesis types play a different but important role in evidence-based healthcare. Systematic and scoping review projects that focus on topics within reproductive, women's and children's health following JBI methodologies are available, including but not limited to childbirth, neonatal care and terminology.

#### Mapping Evidence-based Point-of-Care Resources

The JBI Transfer Science Division is responsible for developing and updating evidence-based resources (Evidence Summaries and Recommended Practices) that sit within the JBI EBP Database. Ensuring the development of clinically appropriate and relevant resources is the Transfer division's primary focus. Current available projects are focused on mapping existing resources to industry priority areas such as quality indicators for maternity and neonatal care. The result of this work will assist with identifying and prioritizing topic areas for development.



# Master of Clinical Science: A High Impact Research Degree

## Are you a medical, allied health or nursing professional with an interest in evidence-based practice?

If you are looking for an opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills to improve your clinical practice, or assist with career advancement, the Master of Clinical Science is for you. This University degree program educates candidates in research methods, techniques for evidence-based healthcare, and how to search for, appraise, extract and synthesise evidence (in the form of a systematic review). Topics are drawn directly from a students' practice experience and thus have immediate 'real world' applicability. Our focus is on practical outcomes, enabling students to publish their research whilst in program and ensuring a relevant experience.

This unique program is offered over 2 years (fee-free to Australian citizens and permanent residents) by global leaders in evidence-based healthcare- JBI, in the School of Public Health, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, The University of Adelaide. Program commences – 12 February 2024, attendance is limited to two full weeks of training in Semester 1 and a two-day Research School in each semester.

## For more information and to register your interest, contact:

Associate Professor Edoardo Aromataris  
JBI Postgraduate Coordinator

Email: [jbipostgrad@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:jbipostgrad@adelaide.edu.au)  
<https://jbi.global>

## MClinSc 2024 Program Schedule

### SEMESTER 1 – 2024

#### February 12 – 16

First Core Training Week

#### March 18 – 22

Second Core Training Week &  
First Research School

### SEMESTER 2 – 2024

#### August 14 – 15

Second Research School





## FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES

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Published 2023  
CRICOS 00123M

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