Wales Centre for Evidence Based Care (WCEBC)
A JBI Centre of Excellence
Centre Report 2017-2021
Wales Centre for Evidence Based Care

The Wales Centre for Evidence Based Care, a JBI Centre of Excellence was launched in 2006 and is based in the School of Healthcare Sciences Cardiff University. We celebrated our 15th anniversary as a centre in 2021.

The main activities of the centre include education, publication of systematic reviews and supporting centre members to engage in scholarly activity through publishing and presenting work at national and international conferences. We are also involved in evidence implementation projects, including the publication of implementation reports, and contribute to the development of JBI systematic review methodology through contributions to JBI methodological groups and editorial board. We facilitate annual workshops for external participants and staff wishing to support PGT and PGR students or who are doing systematic reviews for grant funded projects.

Systematic reviews are also undertaken to support research themes and research funding applications. We have undertaken a wide variety of commissioned and grant funded work for both internal and external organisations including the Schools of Psychology and
Engineering at Cardiff University, the James Lind Alliance, Welsh Assembly Government, NHS Mental Health Delivery Unit, Royal College of Midwives.

The Wales Centre for Evidence Based Care has developed two successful educational modules which incorporate JBI teaching materials. These are:

- NRT080: MSc Systematic Review dissertation
- PGR Evidence Synthesis module (formerly NRR004):–Systematic reviewing of the literature

Over 300 healthcare students from all disciplines have successfully completed the MSc systematic review dissertation NRT080 module in the last 11 years. Evaluations from both students and the external examiner have indicated that the module provides an excellent student experience.

Over 70 students successfully completed NRR004 which again had excellent student evaluations and was commended by the external examiner. This module has now been replaced by a PGR evidence synthesis module open to all PGR students.

In 2019 we hosted the European Regional Symposium, as part of which we held a series of events starting from the 27th April. First, we began with a 5-day JBI comprehensive systematic review (CSR) training, which had nine internal and seven external attendees, some of them from as far afield as Norway.

On 1st May the centre hosted directors from 14 centres across Europe to the annual regional European Directors meeting. This was followed by a dinner in Aberdare Hall with some local Welsh entertainment, sponsored by Wolters Kluwer. The WCEBC then facilitated a realist synthesis workshop, facilitated by Professor Jo Rycroft-Malone and Dr Lynne Williams from Bangor University for
the European directors on 2\textsuperscript{nd} May, attended by 31 people. This was followed by an afternoon 'mystery walk' to Cathays Cemetery. The week’s events culminated in a symposium on 3\textsuperscript{rd} May for which 150 people, including the European directors, clinicians, public health staff, information specialists and academics booked to attend.

All events were organised by the WCEBC steering group, a group of Cardiff University healthcare (HCARE) academics affiliated to the centre, led by Dr Judith Carrier, Director of the WCEBC and chair of the European regional group for 2019.

The WCEBC finally hosted two training events between 4\textsuperscript{th}-9\textsuperscript{th} May for the JBI Evidence based clinical fellowship programme and the JBI CSR train the trainer facilitated by Professor Zac Munn from Australia.
The JBI Collaboration

JBI is an international research organisation based in the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences at the University of Adelaide, South Australia. JBI develops and delivers unique evidence-based information, software, education and training designed to improve healthcare practice and health outcomes. The JBI Collaboration (JBIC) is the engine that drives the worldwide effort to promote and support the use of the best available evidence to inform decisions made at the point of care. The functions of the JBI Collaboration are directed towards the knowledge needs of local clinicians and consumers, with each Collaborating Entity leading evidence-based initiatives in their region, country, state or specialty.

The JBI Collaboration has existed since JBI’s inception in 1996 and has grown from a small group of seven Centres to more than 75 Collaborating Entities across 40 countries. The JBIC consists of JBI Centres of Excellence and JBI Affiliated Groups that are driven by a united desire to contribute to improvements in the quality and outcomes of healthcare globally through the delivery of high quality programs of evidence synthesis, transfer and implementation.

The JBIC is the largest global collaboration to integrate evidence-based healthcare within a theory informed model that brings together academic entities with hospitals and health systems.

JBI maintains that regular communication with and between Entities across the JBIC is of great importance. As such, JBI invests in bringing Centre of Excellence Directors, Affiliated Group Convenors, Regional Chairs and JBI staff together via one online meeting in quarter two and one face-to-face meeting in quarter four of each year.
European Collaboration

The Wales Centre for Evidence Based Care is part of the JBI European group. The JBI European Group comprises all JBI European Centres (Collaborating and Affiliate). Its purpose and aims are to strengthen the working relationships between European centres, enhance the production of evidence syntheses and improve our opportunities for applying for EU funding.

The specific aims of the group are to:

- Develop a coherent and strong regional presence within the JBI Collaboration;
- Develop peer support and working partnerships among European Centres to support and extend JBI collaborative activity;
- Pool expertise and resources to pursue appropriate research, synthesis and translation activity including funded projects;
- Coordinate regional responses to issues raised by the JBI research centre.

The Group meet face-to-face twice a year, once in Europe (Spring) and once at the Convention/ Colloquium (Autumn) and via SKYPE/ teleconference between face-to-face meetings. Virtual meetings are scheduled as required for specific projects with an expectation that there will be one SKYPE/ teleconference between face-to-face meetings.

The spring meeting normally includes at least a half-day symposium. The date and host of the meeting are decided at the preceding annual European face-to-face meeting. The host of the spring meeting and symposium offer a meeting venue and accommodation for Directors at no cost to JBI collaborating centres.

Coordination of the meetings is undertaken on a rotational basis. Two Centre Directors are nominated at each face-to-face meeting to coordinate and Chair the virtual and face-to-face meetings in the
following year. Normally, the role of the chair is taken by the deputy chair the following year.

The members of the group set the agenda for each meeting. The spring meeting provides the opportunity to share experiences, identify collaborative opportunities, undertake working group activity and engage with a range of stakeholders and academic colleagues. In addition, meetings provide the opportunity to discuss issues arising from JBI/University of Adelaide and the Committee of Directors meetings/ teleconferences.

**WCEBC – Centre Members**

**Senior Associate Member**  
Deborah Edwards

**Core Staff**  
Dr Clare Bennett  
Dr Nicola Evans  
Elizabeth Gillen  
Dr Clare Hawker  
Dr Alison James  
Dr Mike Johnson  
Dr Ray Samuriwo  
Dr Anna Sydor  
Dr Anna Jones

**Adjunct Staff**  
Gina Newbury  
Lara Cowpe  
Anne Rebafka
Publications 2016 – 2021

Editorials

Protocols
Edwards D, Carrier J, Hopkinson J. Assistance at mealtimes in hospital settings and rehabilitation units for older adults (>65 years) from the perspective of patients, families and healthcare professionals: A mixed methods systematic review. International Journal of Nursing Studies. 2017; 69(4):100-118


Lockwood C, Stannard D, Munn Z, Porritt K, Carrier J, Rittenmeyer L, Bjerrum M, Salmond S. Experiences and perceptions of physical restraint policies and practices by health professionals in the acute care sector: A qualitative systematic review protocol. JBI Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports. 2018; 16(5):1103-08.


**Systematic Reviews and methods papers**

Edwards D, Carrier J, Hopkinson J. Assistance at mealtimes in hospital settings and rehabilitation units for older adults (>65 years) from the perspective of patients, families and healthcare professionals: a mixed methods systematic review. International Journal of Nursing Studies. 2017; 69(4):100-118. 
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijnurstu.2017.01.013


Evans N, Edwards D. What are the barriers and facilitators to implementing relational and environmental risk management approaches that address suicidality in inpatient mental health and learning disability services? Journal of Mental Health Training, Education and Practice. In press


Edwards D, Williams J, Carrier C, Davies D. Technologies used to facilitate remote rehabilitation of adults with deconditioning, musculoskeletal conditions, stroke, or traumatic brain injury – An umbrella review. JBI Evidence Synthesis. In press
**MSc student publications**


**Conference presentations**


https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD202001


Carrier J. 2021. Practical solutions to bring evidence into practice. Presented at: JBIC gLOCAL Solution Room, Bucharest, Romania, 21 May 2021, Online

Smith C. 2021. Enhancing the clinical supervision experience of staff members working within Primary and Community Care: a best practice implementation project. Presented at: JBI European Symposium & SPIDER Multiplier Event, Madrid, 24th June 2021, Online


**Mentorship**

The WCEBC are mentoring a new JBI centre based in the Institute of Global Health Equity Research, Kigali, Rwanda. We have run a webinar to support staff with developing protocols and have matched WCEBC members with GHER members to support publishing of protocols and SRs. This partnership led to the submission of an NIHR Global Health Groups grant along with the University of Zambia which was unfortunately not successful.

Informal mentoring arrangements are also in place to support partner centres in Belgium and Spain with publications and to assist the development of a centre in Freiburg, Germany.

**EU project Erasmus and Spider**

The Strategic Partnership in Innovation and Development of Evidence-Based Healthcare (SPIDER) project commenced in 2019 and was extended until October 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The project, which provides the JBI Evidence Implementation Training Programme (EIMTP) for colleagues from Portugal, Wales, Spain, and Romania, is being led by the Czech Republic centre for Evidence-Based Healthcare and Knowledge Translation. The four EU-JBI centres from Portugal, Wales, Spain, and Romania have contributed to the delivery of the programme.
In total, 24 healthcare professionals will successfully complete the JBI Evidence Implementation Training Programme. Two HCARE staff members have completed this programme and are in the process of finalising publications to JBI Evidence Implementation. The other two HCARE participants will complete part 2 in January 2022 and will complete their work by the project’s end. Due to Covid-19, event dates were amended and moved to online delivery. Three of the HCARE participants presented their work virtually at the JBI European/SPIDER symposium in Madrid on 24th June 2021.

**Joint research collaboration fund**

In 2019, Dr Judith Carrier and Dr Jane Harden visited KU Leuven, Belgium with Dr Catrin Evans from Nottingham University. This visit was a result of a successful bid for funding from the joint research collaboration fund between Cardiff University and KU Leuven to develop a collaborative partnership with Dr Karin Hannes to further JBI qualitative methodology. A strategic plan was developed for a proposed joint systematic review. Unfortunately, however, we were unable to progress this work in 2020 due to the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**JBI Comprehensive Systematic Review Programme (CSRTP)**

Two members of the WCEBC completed the JBI CSRTP train the trainer, taking our pool of trainers to three people.

- Ray Samuriwo in 2017/18
- Deborah Edwards 2018/19

We have run three further JBI CSR training programmes, out of which two were in person and one was online. One of the in-person trainings was held in September 2017 (with seven internal and three external attendees from Malawi, visiting as part of an Erasmus + International Credit Mobility Award) and one was in May 2019 (with
nine internal and seven external including three participants from Norway). The online raining was run remotely over Zoom (June 2021) (with 11 internal and two external attendees). In summary, thirty-nine people have completed the JBI CSRTP.

**JBI Evidence Implementation Training Programme (JBI EITP)**

Dr Clare Bennett completed the JBI EITP (formally Clinical Fellowship Training Programme) train the trainer training in 2019. Whilst we have been unable to run this training locally due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Clare has participated as a trainer and mentor in the SPIDER project.

**Commissions and grants**

**Focused literature searches**

*Interventions to support family carers of people living with dementia*

Requestor: Prof Jane Hopkinson  
Funding: None  
Date conducted: February 2018  
Output: Informed a NIHR funding bid that included a systematic review which was subsequently unsuccessful

*Positive reappraisal coping intervention in breast cancer settings*

Requestor: Prof Jacky Boivin, School of Psychology, Cardiff University  
Funding: None  
Date conducted: January 2019  
Output: Informed an ESRC funding bid that included a rapid review which was subsequently unsuccessful

**Focused literature searches and summaries**

*Decision making about the delivery of skin care to patients with advanced cancer at the end of life care*

Requestor: Dr Ray Samuriwo
Funding: WCEBC costed (5k) as part of a wider research study funded by GNC
Date conducted: June to September 2017
Output: Summary document which fed into the wider study final report

*Compassion fatigue in community nurses*
Requestor: Wales Centre for Primary and Emergency (including Unscheduled) Care Research - PRIME
Funding: WCEBC externally funded as part of a wider package of commissioned work from PRIME (30K)
Date conducted: May to July 2017
Output: Summary document which informed the development of a funding bid

*Alternatives to using antipsychotics to manage behavioural issues in people living with dementia*
Requestor: Dr Jane Harden / Welsh Government
Funding: Externally funded through Welsh Government as part of a wider research study (Total Grant 30K)
Date conducted: May 2018
Output: Informed the development of a wider body of work which is ongoing as part of the WG 10 year dementia plan

*Living with and beyond cancer (20 priority areas)*
Requestor: James Lind Alliance
Funding: WCEBC externally funded through James Lind Alliance (15K)
Date conducted: February to May 2018
Output: Informed James Lind’s priority setting exercise for future funding

*Future of Nursing*
Requestor: Prof Davina Allen
Funding: None
Date conducted: October 2018
Output: Summary document for School Board
Memory aids for individuals with dementia or cognitive impairments
Requestor: Prof Jane Hopkinson
Funding: Externally funded through Welsh Government as part of a wider research study (Total Grant 34K)
Date conducted: November to December 2018
Output: Summary document which informed the intervention development for the wider study, conference abstract and a video animation

Treatment continuation interventions
Requestor: Prof Jacky Boivin, School of Psychology, Cardiff University
Funding: WCEBC costed (5.5k), part of a wider research study externally funded through Merck
Date conducted: December 2020 to March 2021
Output: Summary document which informed the intervention development for the wider study

Optimising availability of midwifery expertise
Requestor: Prof Billie Hunter
Funding: None
Date conducted: March 2021
Output: A summary which fed into a Royal College of Midwives rapid analytic scoping review. The review informed the new RCM midwifery led care guidance.

Rapid scoping reviews
Evidence based practice nursing (care plans, communication and mentoring)
Requestor: Dr Judith Carrier
Funding: WCEBC costed (2.5K) into a successful funded bid through Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) as part of a wider research study
Date conducted: July 2018
Output: Informed wider study and peer reviewed publication
Dr Judith Carrier and Deborah Edwards undertook rapid review training at the University of Sheffield as part of this funding.

**Fear of infertility in Africa**
Requestor: Prof Jacky Boivin, School of Psychology, Cardiff University
Funding: WCEBC costed (2.3k) into a successful funded bid (Global Challenges Research Fund) as part of a wider research study
Date conducted: February to April 2019
Output: A [peer reviewed publication](#) and fed into wider study final report

**Evaluation of a practice development unit, Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital Malawi**
Requestor: Professor Dianne Watkins/Dr Judith Carrier
Funding: Deborah Edwards and Judith Carrier costed into a successful GCRF bid to undertake rapid reviews as part of a wider evaluation (40k)
Output: Informed development of practice development unit in Malawi, publication and report in progress

**Umbrella reviews**

**Remote rehabilitation of adults with deconditioning, musculoskeletal conditions, stroke, or traumatic brain injury**
Requestor: Dr Jennifer Davies and Prof Cathy Holt, School of Engineering, Cardiff University
Funding: WCEBC costed (12k) into a successful funded bid through Ser Cymru as part of a wider research study
Date conducted: November 2020 to March 2021
Output: A [JBI umbrella review](#)

**Systematic reviews**

**Access to cancer services and experiences of cancer care for adults with a physical disability**
Requestor: Dr Dikaios Sakellariou
Funding: Externally funded through Tenovus as part of a wider research study (2.5K)  
Date conducted: August to December 2019  
Output: A peer reviewed publication

Rapid reviews
Managing suicidality in inpatient care  
Requestor: NHS Mental Health Delivery Unit  
Funding: £11,431K  
Date conducted: November 2019 to February 2020  
Output: A peer reviewed publication and a presentation to the Mental Health and Learning Disability Serious Untoward Incident Group

Unsuccessful funding bids
Interventions for managing sleep problems in people living with fibromyalgia (MySLEEP). A mixed methods umbrella review and evidence gap map  
Requestor: NIHR-HTA commissioned call  
Funding: WCEBC developed a funding application (£144,868.00)  
Date: September 2021  
Output: Application generated but unsuccessful

e-learning website to support staff manage COVID-19 uncertainty in fertility clinics  
Requestor: Prof Jacky Boivin, School of Psychology, Cardiff University  
Funding: WCEBC costed to undertake rapid review as part of a wider funding bid to the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE Research Grant 2021)  
Date conducted: April 2021  
Output: Application generated but unsuccessful
Dementia Crisis Resolution in the community: Coproduction of a home treatment approach
Requestor: Prof Jane Hopkinson, School of Healthcare Studies, Cardiff University
Funding: WCEBC costed to undertake a systematic review as part of a wider funding bid to ESRC/NIHR £320,280.77
Date: March 2018
Output: Application generated but unsuccessful

COVID rapid reviews
The WCEBC has been commissioned as a collaborating partner for 2 years from May 2021 until end of March 2023 by the Wales Covid-19 Evidence Centre to develop rapid reviews (£262,904).

The team employed to deliver this work consists of Judith Carrier (0.2 FTE) Deborah Edwards (FT), Elizabeth Gillen (0.4 FTE) and Judit Csontos (0.8 FTE). Maggie Hendry was also employed as a causal researcher for a 12 week period.

Three rapid reviews and one rapid evidence summary have been completed and published.


Report 3 was incorporated into a Technical Advisory Group report that influenced the decision of Welsh Government to not to invest in ozone machines (see press release)

The results of these reviews have been reported back to Welsh Government through evidence briefing sessions and practice symposiums.


Clinical Partnership

In 2018, Judith Carrier and Jane Harden provided two one-day workshops focused on evidence synthesis, evidence implementation and writing for publication to staff as part of a clinical partnership arrangement that continued until 2020. The aim of the workshops was to support nurses to Aneurin Bevan University Health Board implement effective evidence-based practice to provide the best possible patient care. Both workshops were well attended. Staff from ABUHB shared the outcomes of their collaborative working with Cardiff University and the JBI at the 2019 European Symposium
Methodological expertise and editorial appointments

Contributing case examples to the World Health Organisation document ‘Facilitating evidence-based practice in nursing and midwifery in the WHO European Region’ available at:

Dr Judith Carrier was appointed as Associate Editor JBI Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports in 2018 and then as Senior Associate editor in 2019 and continues to be part of qualitative and mixed methods steering groups.

Deborah Edwards is part of the JBI textual evidence methods group and is a Systematic review consultant and editorial board member of Arts and Health Journal.

Dr Judith Carrier and Deborah Edwards represent the WCEBC on the Wales COVID-19 Evidence Centre Methods group and have peer reviewed abstracts for JBI conferences/colloquia and European symposiums.

JBI Scientific Writer’s programme

Two core members, Deborah Edwards and Alison James contribute to the scientific writer’s programme. JBI Scientific Writers are an international group of expert authors who summarise the latest evidence-based information. Scientific Writers follow detailed guidance and search selected databases for recent, relevant, high-quality evidence related to a topic, critically appraise the evidence, update a JBI Evidence Summary in line with the evidence, and outline the process in a technical development report. The updated JBI Evidence Summary then undergoes peer review before being published in the JBI EBP Database.
Future plans for the WCEBC

We will continue to expand the remit of our work to enable us to

- Publish annual systematic reviews
- Make available PhD opportunities using systematic reviews
- Apply for funding to undertake systematic reviews for health care providers and research funders
- Provide a programme of systematic review training for HCare staff, UHB staff and external candidates
- Upskill junior researchers in undertaking systematic reviews
- Strengthen existing and develop new collaborations
- Pump prime preliminary research to target external grant funders
- Target externally funded grant applications
- Supporting ongoing projects within the School
- Develop partnerships with external NHS organisations in relation to evidence synthesis and implementation
For further information please contact:

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