We have a dedicated program of research on knowledge translation, led by Professors Gill Harvey and Alison Kitson. Both Alison and Gill were recognised for their research in the field of knowledge translation with a recent listing in the Thomson-Reuters Highly Cited Researchers 2014. Our knowledge translation research programme includes studies in a number of distinct areas.

Synthesising evidence of best practice
The Centre for Evidence-Based Practice South Australia (CEPSA), an affiliate centre of the Joanna Briggs Institute, is located within the School of Nursing, led by Dr Rick Wiechula. We undertake systematic reviews of evidence relevant to nursing practice and offer training in the methodology of systematic reviewing. This includes undertaking umbrella reviews (reviews of reviews) to inform policy and practice in key areas relating to healthy ageing (another of the School of Nursing research programmes).

Examining the evidence-practice gap to identify potential for improvement
This research is focused on examining current practice and comparing it to recognised best practice (for example, in the form of clinical guidelines or systematic reviews) to identify opportunities for improvement. Current studies include a PhD project exploring the provision of evidence based practice, outcomes and ‘lived experience’ for women with cardiovascular disease during pregnancy. Other research involves using the concept of patient journey mapping to explore patients’ experiences along the pathway of care and how these compare to evidence-based recommendations.

Implementing and evaluating the implementation of evidence into clinical practice
This area of research is concerned with implementing and evaluating the translation of evidence into practice. We have undertaken research in the Royal Adelaide Hospital to prevent and reduce weight loss in older adults experiencing acute care and currently have a study underway to improve hydration in acute care patients. At the Lyell McEwin hospital, we are undertaking a project to look at safe and effective care post-Caesarean discharge.

Understanding processes of disinvestment and de-implementation
As well as understanding how to implement best evidence into practice, we are also studying how to stop the use of practices that are known to be ineffective or potentially harmful. For example, we are currently studying the processes of decision making in wound care to identify strategies that could reduce the use of ineffective or inappropriate wound care products.

Conceptual and methodological development to inform knowledge translation
This strand of work is concerned with the development and evaluation of methodologies and frameworks to inform and guide the knowledge translation process, underpinned by a view of implementation as complex, non-linear and context-dependent. Alison Kitson and Gill Harvey led the development of the Promoting Action on Research Implementation in Health Services (PARIHS) framework, which is one of the most widely applied conceptual frameworks in the field of implementation science. Work is ongoing to further refine and evaluate this framework, as evidenced through the recent publication of the integrated or i-PARIHS framework. Other methodological developments are focused on integrated knowledge translation activity at a population, health systems level to analyse, implement and evaluate solutions to high priority health issues, for example, improving integrated care for older people in the community. Within the University of Adelaide, we led the work of the Faculty of Health Sciences’ Translational Science Taskforce, which focused on developing strategies and processes to further embed knowledge translation within research, learning and teaching.

For further enquiries
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