Welcome to the post conference picture special edition of enGIne!

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A Word from The Chair…

Many thanks to everyone who made the first joint G-I-N conference with the Joanna Briggs Institute such a success! Those of you who made the trip to Adelaide will have learned a lot from the excellent programme, with varied sessions and great speakers covering a range of key topics. The Gala dinner was spectacular, and the warm Spring weather and beautiful views of the River Torrens added to a sense of optimism! I hope everyone left the conference feeling inspired and positive about opportunities for the future.

It was clear at the conference that a lot has changed in the world of guidelines since G-I-N was established 17 years ago. The volume and type of evidence continues to increase and diversify, there are new sources of data, and the use of digital systems in healthcare mean we must consider the format and presentation of our guidelines to keep them relevant. These challenging topics will continue to be a focus for the future.

Following the recent elections, I was really pleased to welcome Holger Schünemann back to the board and to have Joseph Mathew and Patrick Okwen on the board for the first time. As they joined the board in Adelaide, we sadly said farewell to Sophie Blanchard, Amir Qaseem and Sue Huckson. They have all made a great contribution to the board over many years, and G-I-N has benefited from their time and energy.

We are now looking forward to a busy year ahead with changes planned to the G-I-N website and library, as well as taking forward the new guideline developer credentialing programme through our partnership with McMaster University. It’s fantastic that Sara Twaddle, former Chair of G-I-N, is working with us on these initiatives as a senior project manager. Her energy and expertise will be fantastic!

We’re already planning next year’s conference in Toronto, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Gillian Leng

G-I-N Chair
Chief Executive Officer’s Governance Update

Our 2019 annual general meeting with our members took place, as is customary, prior to our conference welcome reception at our Adelaide joint conference with JBI.

All of the formal business, including the election of the Trustees had been approved by the organisational members in advance via online voting. The results were presented at the meeting.

The highlights from the year were presented by the Chair, Gillian Leng, followed by the financial details, presented by Duncan Service, the Treasurer. Please take a look at our Annual Report for the full details.

The Trustee election results were announced, with Holger Schünemann rejoining the board after one year away and Joseph Mathew and Patrick Okwen being elected as new Trustees – you can read all of their bios on our website. We bid farewell to Amir Qaseem, a previous Chair, who retired from the Board after serving 9 years and the Individual Trustee and previous vice-chair, Sue Huckson, at the end of her third term, as well as Sophie Blanchard after serving a three-year term.

Gillian Leng has been appointed by the Trustees as Chair for a second year, supported by Zac Munn as vice chair and Duncan Service will continue as Treasurer.

Gillian Leng gave a brief overview of the priorities for the coming year, then Elaine Harrow reminded everyone of the dates for the 2020 conference, which will take place in Toronto and will be hosted by McMaster university. Organisational members who would like to learn more about hosting a future conference should contact me directly.

Finally, we used the opportunity of our annual member’s meeting to recognise the important contribution made by long-standing members of G-I-N. We awarded certificates to all members who have been with us for over 10 years, and of course there was the inevitable photo opportunities! It was great to see so many of the 15 original founder members of G-I-N at the conference

The AGM presentation is available on our website for G-I-N members, along with the draft minute.

Elaine Harrow
Chief Executive Officer
More pictures can be found in our gallery on the website.
2019 Conference Summary

Healthcare professionals, policymakers, researchers and academics from around the globe gathered in Adelaide from 30 October to 2 November 2019 to help shape the future of evidence-based healthcare and evidence-based guidelines for healthcare at the G-I-N & JBI 2019 Conference.

The conference, themed ‘Trustworthy evidence for questions that matter: The value of guideline s in 21st century healthcare’, was attended by more than 400 delegates, and we were delighted to partner with the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) for the first time and also to work with our fantastic local host the University of South Australia (UniSA).

The Adelaide Convention Centre, with its expansive views of the River Torrens, was the central meeting point for conference delegates who represented more than 40 international countries. The River Torrens was an important gathering place of the traditional custodians of Adelaide and its plains, the Kaurna people. Fittingly, it was the Kaurna people who opened G-I-N & JBI 2019 with ‘Welcome to Country’ for delegates who had also come together on the banks of the River Torrens.

‘Welcome to Country’ is important protocol for Aboriginal people: “it is our duty, as traditional owners of the land, to welcome guests as part of the Country so that you are welcomed and safeguarded by our spiritual ancestors as well”, said Elder Jack Buckskin before singing and dancing delegates into Country. A smoking ceremony, which creates a pathway for a brighter future, was also performed as part of Welcome to Country and was enjoyed by everyone in the room.

The scientific committee, chaired by Professor Ian Olver of University of Adelaide and Assoc Professor Zachary Munn of JBI rose to the challenge of presenting a scientific program which was aligned with the conference theme, and which was diverse but cohesive, seamlessly integrating content relevant to G-I-N and JBI stakeholders. Professor Olver explains:

“The scientific program was diverse to accommodate a range of international interests, but one theme that recurred from plenaries through to rapid presentations was the future of clinical decision-making. There is an increasing requirement to involve the consumer voice. Also, how will guidelines need to evolve in a world of big data and artificial intelligence to maintain their relevance and trustworthiness?”

The scientific program commenced with the opening plenary, ‘Clinical Guidelines in 21st Century Healthcare: Extinction or Evolution?’ with Professor Davina Gherisi of the National Health and Medical Research Council highlighting extinction characteristics and concluding with controversy regarding the future role of clinical practice guidelines. Professor Jako Burgers of Maastricht University then presented on the need for promoting personalised care and appropriate guideline use, followed by Professor Allison Tong from the University of Sydney who highlighted the role of patients and consumers in guideline development.

The opening plenary set the stage for the three days of high-quality scientific presentations on all aspects of clinical practice guidelines and evidence-based healthcare including methods, methodology and implementation. Implementation Science Director at JBI, Assoc Professor Craig Lockwood, enthused:
“The diversity of evidence presented, and the focus on rapid adaptation of new evidence into existing guidelines showed that evolution, not extinction is how the global guideline community is responding, while the conference itself set a new standard for integration of diverse content and a renewed focus on implementation science”.

Implementation was the focus of the closing plenary that concluded the G-I-N & JBI 2019 scientific program.

In addition to three plenaries the scientific program comprised a series of workshops, short and long oral presentations and carefully selected special sessions. The inclusion of the special sessions added exceptional quality to the G-I-N & JBI 2019 scientific program. These sessions included ‘Revealing the “black box” of guideline development’ with G-I-N Board Members Professor Ina Kopp and Duncan Service, and ‘Advances in GRADE methodology’ with lead Professor Holger Schünemann. Also included in the impressive offering of special sessions was ‘Evolving methods of evidence synthesis’ with lead Dr Andrea Tricco.

The workshops and oral presentations also attracted high praise from delegates, but G-I-N & JBI 2019 wasn’t all about the scientific program; It was ‘evidently about having fun, too!’  Delegates experienced Aussie culture and had a bit of fun on the wild side at the Welcome Reception meeting and greeting the locals.

A number of our Working Groups and Regional Communities also met throughout the conference and held very fruitful and informative meetings attracting a number of new members. Keep an eye on the group’s web pages as minutes and notes from the meetings are being continually added.

The Gala Dinner, ‘Under the Southern Skies’, showcased South Australian food and wine, featured a bush band welcome and provided the opportunity for delegates to take up bush dancing.

It was back to business on the final day of the conference, which saw the best poster awarded to Shin-Shang Chou from Taipei Veterans General Hospital for her work on the utilisation analysis of evidence-based guidelines for cancer-related symptoms in clinical settings using the JBI Model of Evidence-based Healthcare.

G-I-N & JBI 2019 2019 was very much focused on the science of developing trustworthy guidelines and the use of technology to develop those guidelines into the future. But it was also very much about the people, from Professor Tong’s opening plenary presentation on involving patients as partners to Professor Kunnamo’s closing plenary presentation on personalised recommendations for patients and shared decision-making.

Thank you all so much for joining us in Adelaide, we appreciate how far it was to travel for many of our delegates, but we hope you found it insightful, challenging and informative.

We really hope you will join us in Toronto for #GIN2020 on Toronto where our local host will be McMaster University.

This is what our delegates had to say about their #GINJBI2019 experience - https://youtu.be/XYPAwmnZ0os
Najoua Mlika-Cabanne Award Winner 2019

Congratulations to David Phillippo who was awarded the 7th Najoua Mlika-Cabanne award at the G-I-N 2019 conference.

David is early in his career, having only recently completed his MSc in Statistics at the University of Bristol in 2015, after which he took up his current position as Research Associate in Evidence Synthesis, working with the Multiparameter Evidence Synthesis group and the NICE Technical Support Unit. Within this time, he has been thinking innovatively around how we test confidence in recommendations based on network meta-analyses in a guideline development context.

David said “I am honoured to receive the 2019 NMC award. It is a wonderful recognition of my research, and I hope to continue to make an impact in guideline methodology and development in the future. I am very thankful to my colleagues at the University of Bristol and at NICE, and to G-I-N for presenting me with this award”

Full details on David’s nominations can be found here.

Nominations for the 2020 Najoua Mlika-Cabanne award are now open!

We are now accepting nominations for the 8th Annual Najoua Mlika-Cabanne award. All organisational members of G-I-N are invited to nominate candidates to be recognised with this award – the winner will receive complimentary registration to the 2020 conference in addition to their flight to Toronto and accommodation while there. They will be presented with the award at the opening ceremony in front of up to 500 international delegates.

For full details on the full nomination process including all eligibility please refer to the G-I-N website.

Nominations should be sent to office@g-i-n.net no later than 30 January 2020.
Best Poster

The winner of the best poster at the G-I-N 2019 Conference in Adelaide was Shin-Shang Chou, Deputy Director, Department of Nursing, Taipei Veterans General Hospital - Congratulations!

LMIC Grant Recipients

G-I-N supported three of our members from Low and Lower-Middle income countries to attend the Adelaide Conference; to learn about their unique experiences from Adelaide, please click here.

Awuor Ponge
Etienne Ngeh
Gouri Bhattacharyya
Looking to the future…

We are delighted to announce the 16th Guidelines International Network conference in 2020! This will take place between 29 September and 2 October in the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel in Toronto, Canada. Keep watching our website for more details in the near future.

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Introducing the new Chairs

Welcome to the new Chairs representing the below Working Groups:

Co-Chair – Mouna Jameleddine
m.jameleddine@ineas.tn

Chair – Lisa Fatheree
lfather@cap.org
Announcement of the International Guideline Credentialing & Certification (INGUIDE) Programme

Practice guidelines assist practitioners and patients to make complex healthcare decisions. For most areas in the health sector, proper certification is needed. However, guideline development processes vary substantially, and many guidelines do not meet basic quality criteria.

Organisations and individuals with varying backgrounds and levels of experience currently develop guidelines or recommendations. Their level of qualification is not managed or monitored. Guidelines and recommendations are presently developed and published without formal training of their developers. In part this is due to a lack of a widely accepted certification standard.

To address this shortcoming, Guidelines International Network and McMaster University have partnered to develop the INternational GUIDEline Credentialing & Certification (INGUIDE) Programme to offer certification and credentialing courses in guideline development, including planning, implementation, evaluation and updating. The goal is to improve practice guideline quality by training guideline panel members and developers from around the world in a structured and transparent fashion, with a focus on implementing modern, evidence-based guideline research.

Programme launch is planned at the 2020 G-I-N conference in Toronto, Canada (29 September – 2 October, 2020). To best tailor our program to the needs of established and future guideline developers, we kindly ask you take 5 minutes to complete a brief survey, available here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TR76KDN. For further program information, or to sign up for program updates, please visit https://inguide.org/. You can also follow us on Twitter @INGUIDE_Program.

David Sackett’s Prize 2019 to Sir Iain Chalmers

The 9th International Conference for Evidence-based Health Care Teachers and Developers, organised by long term G-I-N member, the GIMBE Foundation as a joint meeting with the 8th Conference of the International Society for Evidence-Based Health Care, took place in the enchanting setting of Taormina (Sicily, Italy) between 6th and 9th November.

In the presence of over 200 delegates, the GIMBE Foundation presented an award named in memory of David Sackett, the undisputed father of Evidence-Based Medicine to Sir Iain Chalmers.

In his touching speech of thanks, Sir Iain referred to Sackett’s inspired and inspiring leadership of the Evidence-Based Medicine movement, his invaluable contribution as the first chair of the Cochrane Collaboration, and his precious contributions to the James Lind Library. The report of the ceremony is available at: www.ebhcconference.org/previous_editions/2019/presentations/02.04.%20Cartabellotta_Sackett_Prize.pdf
Welcome to all our new members who have joined us since the last edition of enGINe!
The G-I-N Library Project

Since taking up the role as G-I-N Senior Project Manager, Sara Twaddle has been working on plans to improve the guidelines library and increase its usefulness for members. As part of this work she will be conducting qualitative research, using focus groups and semi-structured interviews, with members from organisations across the globe.

We will be considering several areas, including functionality of the library, the tools needed to support effective searching and what is required to incorporate guidelines in development.

Thanks to everyone who has agreed to participate at such a busy time of year.

However, if you missed the opportunity and have views on any of these issues, please contact Sara at mailto:sara@g-i-n.net. It’s not too late!

Important Dates

Please note that the G-I-N Office will be closed from Friday 20th Dec at 4.00pm GMT and will reopen on Monday 6th Jan 2020.

Wishing you all the best for the festive season!

Newsletter Production & Editorial Team

Allison & Jenna

“Have Your Say”

We would love to hear your feedback on enGiNe, especially your thoughts on the frequency, layout and general content?

Any additional general feedback you would like to give would also be welcome!

Please forward your feedback via email to: Allison Smith or Jenna Docherty