**PAPER NUMBER #172**

**The Role of Facilitation in an Evidence-based Implementation Program**

**Presenting Authors**

Dr Lucylynn Lizarondo, and Alexa McArthur

**Affiliation**

The Joanna Briggs Institute, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Adelaide

**Country of residence**

Australia

**Objectives/aims**

Facilitation has emerged as a mechanism for strengthening the uptake of evidence-based healthcare into day-to-day clinical practice. The Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) offers a clinical fellowship program as part of its strategy to promote evidence implementation. A key aspect of the JBI clinical fellowship program is facilitation. The objective of the study was to identify features of facilitation in a JBI clinical fellowship program that promote the use of evidence into clinical practice, and to explore the views and perspectives of clinical fellows and JBI facilitators regarding the value of facilitation, ‘what works’ and ‘what doesn’t work’ and how the facilitation might be improved to achieve better implementation outcomes.

**Methods**

A mixed methods study utilising a survey and interviews with purposively selected clinical fellows and JBI facilitators was conducted.

**Main findings**

The majority of survey respondents were nurses working in senior roles. The survey identified a combination of internal facilitation responsibilities for clinical fellows and external facilitation roles for the assigned JBI facilitator. Major elements of internal facilitation included planning for change, implementing and managing change, and monitoring progress whereas external facilitation was related to capacity building and provision of support and mentoring. Interviews with clinical fellows and JBI facilitators validated the survey findings and identified other facilitation-related activities and strategies to improve JBI’s approach to the clinical fellowship program. Facilitation in an evidence implementation program is a collaborative effort that involves a set of internal and external facilitation activities.