

## CareSearch eNews

December 2004

### From the Website

We will be highlighting various features of this research tool over the coming months in this newsletter. If you feel that the research platform may be useful for your research study or quality assurance activity please contact [Jennifer.Tieman@rgh.sa.gov.au](mailto:Jennifer.Tieman@rgh.sa.gov.au)

Patsy Yates has reviewed the latest **Hot Pick**. Her selection for review was *Ahmed N, Bestall J, Ahmedzai S, Payne S, Clark D, Noble B* [Systematic review of the problems and issues of accessing specialist palliative care by patients, carers and health care and social care professionals](#)

### Evaluating conference abstracts

As we add items to the CareSearch conference abstract database we need help in evaluating these items.

If you are a clinician or researcher and are interested in helping please contact the CareSearch project team.

### Knowledge Network

The CareSearch website holds the latest information on this project. There have been several new items included on this webpage including the draft site map for the Network, the power point for the Knowledge Network Tour presentation and the results of the online needs assessment. Those wanting more information on the project can email [Jennifer.Tieman@rgh.sa.gov.au](mailto:Jennifer.Tieman@rgh.sa.gov.au)

### Resources Focus: Research

Listed below are a series of resources that may be of use to researchers in palliative care:

The Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education provides some points for developing an idea into a research proposal. The website can be found at <http://www.cpre.com/default.htm>

Statistical calculators can be valuable in analysing data. There are several available on-line:

VassarStats at

<http://faculty.vassar.edu/lowry/vshome.html>

UCLA Department of Statistics at

[http://calculators.stat.ucla.edu/index\\_body.php](http://calculators.stat.ucla.edu/index_body.php)

The National Library of Medicine provides a self-study course dealing with finding and using health statistics. This can be found at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/usestats/index.htm>

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has a large collection of health and social care data that is available on-line. This can be accessed at

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/>

Google has just introduced a new service "Google Scholar". This engine searches a subset of Google's index and lists academic research that appears most relevant to the request filtering out non-scientific search results. The search tool can be found at

<http://scholar.google.com/>

TRIAGE is a collection of web based resources supporting health research. This gateway of resources can be accessed at

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/triage/>

### From the Web

The International Association of Hospice and Palliative Care has made available on their website the IAHPC (2nd ed.) Manual of Palliative Care. It can be accessed at [www.hospicecare.com/manual/IAHPCmanual.htm](http://www.hospicecare.com/manual/IAHPCmanual.htm)

If you're relatively new to using the web and would like to develop and practise your Internet skills, then there are tutorials that can make you feel more confident about locating and assessing web resources. You can try one maintained by Biome such as Internet for

Allied Health at

<http://www.vts.rdn.ac.uk/tutorial/allied?sid=3631239&op=preview&manifestid=75&itemid=6337>

### **About the Research Platform: Question formats**

One of the significant advantages of the research platform is the ability to design forms, surveys and questionnaires online. These can then be completed online or printed and completed in a paper version.

Various types of question formats can be used including

- multi-line text fields where ordinary text can be entered
- checkboxes that need to be ticked allowing more than one choice
- radio buttons where one answer from a list of options is selected
- dropdown lists where one or more choices can be selected
- matrix questions where answers are given on a scale or set of scales (very handy for assessment tools).

Researchers or clinicians interested in using the platform can be given access to some sample surveys and reports to see how the platform works.

The research platform is available without cost for those conducting research in palliative care. Researchers from other fields interested in using the platform should contact the CareSearch team about costs associated with using the platform.

### **Search Strategies in PubMed**

We'd be interested in hearing from users on what additional topics we should be adding to the automatic searches. The current searches held on the website are: advance directives, anorexia, bereavement, cachexia, dyspnoea, euthanasia, nausea, pain, resuscitation orders, terminal care, and vomiting. We'd love to know what would be useful for you so send us an email with search topics you'd like to see included.

### **Clinical resources and education**

Roger Woodruff has recently completed the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of PALLIATIVE MEDICINE. It is published by Oxford University Press.

The Department of Palliative and Supportive Services has introduced a new topic "Palliative Care for Indigenous Population – Health, Culture and Society". A limited number of scholarships are available for 2005. For details, email: [pallcare@flinders.edu.au](mailto:pallcare@flinders.edu.au)

Other courses available through the Department include:

Graduate Certificate: Palliative Care in Aged Care

Graduate Diploma Palliative Care in Aged Care

Graduate Certificate in Health (Palliative Care)

Graduate Diploma in Palliative Care

Enquiries: (08) 8275 1603 or email: [pallcare@flinders.edu.au](mailto:pallcare@flinders.edu.au)

If you are offering educational programs in palliative care and wish them to be included in this newsletter, please forward details to [Jennifer.Tieman@rgh.sa.gov.au](mailto:Jennifer.Tieman@rgh.sa.gov.au)

### **Helpful Hints for Searching the Literature Databases**

This edition we're going to look at Wild Cards. These can be helpful if you can't quite remember the name of an author or can remember only part of a word.

1. If the "author" check box is selected then an implicit \$ wild card character will be added to the end (but not the beginning) of the entered keyword/s.

Eg. Searching for author 'Good\$' will pick up authors, Goodwood, Goodwin, Goode and Goodkin.

2. If the "author" check box is selected along with any of the other check boxes (eg Title, Keywords, Abstract) implicit \$ wild card characters will be added to the beginning and end of the entered key/word/s.

Eg Searching for author and title '\$Good\$' will pick up abstracts containing authors in point 1 AND the word 'good' anywhere in the title.

3. If any check boxes except author is selected then implicit \$ wild card characters will be added to the beginning and end of entered keyword/s.

Eg This will then find the word '\$Good\$' in the title, abstracts and keywords and NOT in author.

4. If explicit wildcard characters are added to the beginning and/or end of the entered

keyword/s, then implicit characters will not be added.

Eg. Good \$1 with the title selected will not have implicit \$ added to the end of Goods.

If you would like a copy of the full list of Helpful Hints for Searching the Literature Database, email Harshini for a copy at [Harshini.Carey@rgh.sa.gov.au](mailto:Harshini.Carey@rgh.sa.gov.au)

### **Feedback survey**

Twenty people completed the survey. The majority of them (65%) worked more than 50% of their time in palliative care. The majority of respondents were nurses.

The major ways respondents found out about the website were

- Recommended by colleague
- Read about in a journal
- Email promotion

All respondents except one found the site very useful or useful. Ninety percent of respondents said they would visit the site again.

### **Conferences in 2005**

Below is a summary of conferences being run in 2005 that may be of interest to those involved in palliative care. Further details and contact links can be found on the Resources page of the CareSearch website.

23-25 February 6th National Allied Health Conference: Innovation or extinction? Adapting roles and practise.

24 - 25 February 2005 Shifting Paradigms in Health Care: Leading Practice in Carer Support Inaugural conference.

24-25 February 2005 7th National Breast Care Nurses Conference: Today, Tomorrow - The Future

4 March 2005 Annual Paediatric Palliative Care Symposium

10 –13 March 2005 8th National Rural Health Conference: Central to health sustaining well-being in remote and rural Australia

12-13 May 2005 Ethics in Human Research Conference: Investing in Australia's Health

20 –22 June 2005 Australian Society for Geriatric Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting: Dementia: Molecules to Management

11 - 13 July 2005 3<sup>rd</sup> Australasian Conference for Safety and Quality in Health Care

26-28 July 2005 General Practice & Primary Health Care Research Conference.

18 - 19 August 2005 Partners in Pain: Patients, Clinicians & Pain Management

21-26 August 2005 International Association for the Study of Pain: 11th World Congress on Pain

24 –27 August 2005 Australasian Society for HI Medicine (ASHM) 17th Australasian Conference

30 August - 2 September 8th Australian Palliative Care Conference 2005 - New Horizons

25-28 September 36th Public Health Association of Australia Annual Conference

The CareSearch website and the Evidence Based project are supported by a grant from the Department of Health and Ageing.