

Workshop 4 - Evidence Based Practice and Audiological Interventions

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Learning objectives for participants:

- to understand the principles of Evidence Based Practice (EBP)
- to develop skills in critically appraising research about audiological interventions
- to develop skills in relating evidence to clients

Evidence Based Practice (EBP) is a buzz phrase in modern day healthcare, and audiology is no exception. Many researchers and clinicians stress the importance of this approach but it is not always clear what is understood by the term and what is actually happening to ensure that EBP occurs in clinical settings. In this interactive workshop the presenters will first provide background information about EBP and the 5 steps of the process:

- 1) Ask a question
- 2) Access the information
- 3) Appraise the articles
- 4) Apply the information
- 5) Audit the outcomes

Subsequently, participants will work in groups to further explore steps 3 and 4 in particular. In relation to step 3, appraising the articles, they will be introduced to a critical appraisal checklist developed for evaluating research studies. The checklist is divided into three sections that address the key quality questions about each piece of evidence:

- 1) does the research about the intervention have internal validity? (i.e., has the research been conducted appropriately?)
- 2) is the impact of the intervention large enough to have clinical significance?
- 3) does the information from the research apply to my client/s?

In relation to step 4, applying the information, participants will learn about principles of shared decision making and practice the skills necessary for this to occur in a clinical setting.

The basis for the workshop is the presenters' new book "Evidence Based Practice in Audiology: Evaluating Interventions for Children and Adults with Hearing Impairment." (Plural Publishing, 2011).