



Metro South Health Research Snapshot

Throughout the year, Metro South Health has continued to showcase its investment in research and has ensured we are well placed to continue to contribute to embedding research in clinical practice. MSH's significant achievements in advancing quality of care and improving health outcomes through research throughout 2023 are highlighted below.

» **ACCISS Addresses Complex Cases Head-On with Advanced Healthcare Technology** By founding ACCISS (Australian Centre for Complex Integrated Surgical Solutions), Dr. Michael Wagels set out to provide a service that offers hospitals support for the most complex patient cases. Dr Wagels' research addresses defects of bone, skin and soft tissue, and peripheral nerve. ACCISS continues to maximise academic and industry partnerships to help patients and the clinicians who care for them in accessing innovative medical device technology. ACCISS is now an integrated service within PA Hospital assisting in more than 100 cases per month.

» **Joint UK/Australia initiative aims to help patients after cancer diagnosis** Surgery for rectal cancer often cures people of cancer, but patients can be left with problematic bowel symptoms, as low anterior resection syndrome (LARS), that can impact their quality of life. QEII Colorectal surgeon and researcher, Dr Andrea Warwick is the co-lead of a joint Australian and UK study investigating how to improve symptoms and quality of life for patients diagnosed with LARS following treatment of rectal cancer.

» **Research grant to improve quality of life in adults with severe mental illness** Nearly 200 ground-breaking medical research projects, including one led by Metro South Health researchers, will share in more than \$382 million in grants through the Medical Research Future Fund. Metro South Health will be a key partner in a project that was awarded a grant of more than \$591,000 to improve the quality of life in adults with severe mental illness. One of the investigators on the project Dr Justin Chapman from Metro South Addiction and Mental Health Services says even though there are many factors that contribute to our health and wellbeing, exercise as therapy should be supported in healthcare settings across the spectrum of promotion and prevention, early intervention, and management of health.

» **Dedicated PA Researcher awarded coveted Research Fellowship** Dedicated researcher and PA Hospital Dementia and Delirium CNC, Dr Fred Graham, has secured funding for his first fellowship through Metro South Health Research. The coveted \$300k Metro South Health SERTA Future Research Leader Fellowship allows Dr Graham and his team to continue research into improving hospital care for people with dementia and delirium and follows-on from his already impressive body of research.

» **'SUPERB' research grant awarded to ED docs** The treatment of upper limb injuries in emergency departments could soon be enhanced thanks to a new study at Redland Hospital. A \$90,000 research grant was awarded to Dr Henry Tsao and a small team of Bayside clinicians who will embark on a study to compare two different methods used to numb the arm to treat fractures and/or dislocations. The Emergency Department (ED) Staff Specialist said the 'SUPERB' (SUPraclavicular block for Emergency Reduction of upper limb injuries vs Bier block) study was a randomised control trial launched in March this year that would run for the next 12-18months.

» **Award honour for Professor H Peter Soyer** Professor H. Peter Soyer has been awarded the 2023 Silver Medal by the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) – its highest award. The award is presented annually to Fellows who have demonstrated valuable service to the ACD and distinguished service to dermatology over several years. Professor Soyer, who is the Director of the Dermatology Research Centre (DRC) at UQ's Frazer Institute, and the former Medical Director of PAH Dermatology, said he is very humbled and honoured by the award.

» **Research key to treating painful condition** In recent years, there has been a notable rise in the instance of inflammatory bowel disease with many patients suffering severe, and frequently debilitating, chronic gastrointestinal symptoms. Thanks to a Metro South Health Research co-funded collaboration grant, a joint research collaboration between the Translational Research Institute and PA Hospital is investigating factors at play with inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) and disorders of the gut brain interaction (DGBI). PAH Director of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Professor Gerald Holtmann said the influx of patients seeking treatment highlighted a need for novel approaches.

>1300
Active Studies

>300
Active Clinical Trials

>800
Publications

\$31m
Direct Research Expenditure
2022/23

