**Leaders in Translational Research**

**Clinical Problem**

Basic science &/or clinical research

Evaluation of efficacy of research results on clinical problem (including clinical trials)

Health Service Research (can the solution be applied to routine practice?)

Clinical Solution

**PEOPLE INVOLVED**

Scientists and Clinicians

Patients

Clinicians & Hospital / Health Managers

Regulatory Authority

*Improved Medical Care*
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Over many years at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, I have witnessed the development of a research ethos and our researchers who have made and continue to make impressive advances in basic, clinical and translational research. These advances have directly contributed to better healthcare delivery and practice to our Queensland community. These breakthroughs have been made possible because of the passion, dedication, and commitment of our researchers. It is important that we recognise the need to facilitate and support imaginative and rigorous research – basic, clinical, translational, policy-oriented - in all disciplines and fields. It is also important that we recognise and support, within major tertiary teaching hospitals, those that undertake clinical and translational research.

This year’s PAH Week “Transplantation: Now and in the Future” was a great success providing an opportunity to showcase and celebrate our advancements in medical practice, delivery of clinical care, education and research. There were many highlights during the week including presentations by our young investigators with more than 75 abstracts and 60 clinical posters presented for judging.

The Translational Research Institute, which will be located at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, is on schedule and is expected to open in 2012. Brisbane firms, Wilson Architects and Donovan Hill, were successful in a bid for this new multi-million dollar institute. The capability of the facility which will include discovery, production, clinical testing and manufacturing of new biopharmaceuticals will further enhance Queensland’s research. The research milieu and culture at the hospital will continue to increase which is important for the translation of research and integral to the development of the future generation of scientists and clinician researchers.

The quality and impact of the research conducted at the hospital is achieved as result of the commitment, hard work and dedication of the entire research community.

This report showcases the quality of the research output and the many local, national and international collaborations. Researchers at the Princess Alexandra continue to attract substantial funding across a range of specialties, including cancer, immunology, cardiovascular, metabolic disorders, aged care and telehealth, and therapeutics. We have seen a record increase in research income, in research publications and postgraduate student enrolment and completions.
The report provides an overview of the multitude of research achievements and documents many highlights, including three significant grants awarded by the Queensland Smart State to entities at PAH: $3million towards scientific and analytical equipment for the Molecular Cancer Research in Pathology; $2million to establish the Australian-Canada Prostate Cancer Research Alliance; and $1.25million Head and Neck Cancer Centre of Excellence for Asia Pacific at the Princess Alexandra Hospital for research into head and neck cancers that severely affect people in developing nations.

The report concludes with a list of publications, funding and staff. Further details of the research conducted by the Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and Metabolic Medicine, The University of Queensland and the Queensland University of Technology are contained in their respective annual reports.

The Centres for Health Research under the leadership of Professor John Prins and Ms Areti Gavrilidis is a vital part of the Princess Alexandra Hospital’s commitment to research. The Centres promotes, fosters and facilitates excellence in research; provides advice on strategic and operational policy on research direction; oversees the process for effective management of research infrastructure; and coordinates and facilitates the administration of research activities and the conduct of medical research within the hospital.

I congratulate and thank Professor John Prins for his ongoing leadership and his contribution throughout another successful year.

My appreciation goes to the entire research and clinical community, the Human Research Ethics Committee, to our donors, the PA Foundation, to our partners and research collaborators whose tireless dedication and commitment to the research endeavour continues to shape the research and to contribute to delivery of patient care at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and Queensland.

Professor David Theile (Snr)
District Chief Executive Officer
Metro South Health Service District

“The quality and impact of the research conducted at the hospital is achieved as result of the commitment, hard work and dedication of the entire research community.”
2008 was again a highly successful year for research at Princess Alexandra Hospital, evidenced by significant increases in all standard indices and metrics. These include publications, research grants, higher degree students and applications to the Human Research Ethics Committee.

The Human Research Ethics Committee warrants special mention. Chaired by Dr Jennifer Fleming, the Committee reviewed over 270 protocols in 2008 – representing the highest number of new submissions and approximately a 7% increase over 2007. Particularly pleasing for me is the progressive increase in the number of investigator-driven research protocols whilst recognising the involvement in industry-sponsored clinical trials. The committee has substantially reduced time to approval throughout the year through a combination of efficiencies within the ethical and contractual review processes and in the general administration of the applications, with reforms directed by Ms Areti Gavrilidis.

The future of research on the campus bodes well, with a number of exciting initiatives. Building work has begun on the Pharmacy Australia Centre of Excellence (PACE), due for completion at the end of 2009. This beautiful building, fronting Cornwall St, will house The University of Queensland Pharmacy School and its researchers in addition to pharmacy-related commercial partners. It will add significantly to research and education activity on the campus, and contribute to the aim of complete integration of clinical practice, teaching and research in all disciplines. Planning for the Translational Research Institute continues, with the majority of funds for the proposed $350M budget already acquired from State and Federal Governments and Universities. This exciting venture will house over 600 Researchers from the Princess Alexandra Hospital, The University of Queensland, Queensland Institute of Technology and the Mater Medical Research Institute in addition to the PA-Southside Clinical School and substantial teaching facilities. These initiatives, along with other precinct developments including the Boggo Rd Development, the Queensland Children’s Hospital and developments within the PAH itself will position us as a lead player in translational research.

Despite these enviable positives, we still need to work to address some issues. We need to seek greater uniformity of research performance across the campus. As is evident from this report, we have international-standard research in many disciplines. However, some areas are relatively less productive, despite a surfeit of clinical material and a world class research
facility and collaborative opportunities. The onus is on individuals within the less productive areas to increase their research performance – this is the responsibility of a truly tertiary facility. Such improvement is also highly achievable – evidenced by the tremendous improvements in quality and quantity of research in, for example, allied health research and trauma research.

Finally, we need to ensure that management and government processes keep pace with the increase in research activity. We must ensure ongoing appropriate ethical standards are applied, that we audit our research activities and that we maximise funding and collaborative opportunities. This is an essential component of a world class research campus and will ensure that we will be able to accommodate the increasing levels of scrutiny. More importantly however, such activities will facilitate ongoing efficient and productive research, thus maximising the benefit to the health of our community.

Professor John Prins
Chair, Centres for Health Research
Princess Alexandra Hospital

“These initiatives, along with other precinct developments including the Boggo Rd Development, the Queensland Children’s Hospital and developments within the PAH itself will position us as a lead player in translational research.”
Researchers at the Princess Alexandra Hospital have had a record year of achievements on a number of fronts including number and total value of peer reviewed grants received, the number of students supervised and awarded higher degree qualifications, and in the dissemination of knowledge through publication and presentations. A number of researchers received awards including: Professor Ian Frazer received the Ramaciotti Medal for Excellence in Biomedical Research, 2008 Prime Minister’s Prize for Science and the 2008 Balzan Prize for Preventive Medicine; Professor Bryan Burmeister received the Queensland Health Australia Day award, Australia Day Certificate of Achievement and a Certificate of Exemplary Service by Cancer Council Australia, and Professor David Johnson was Queensland Finalist, Australian of the Year. Congratulations to the many clinician scientists, clinician researchers, scientists and all those involved in supporting the research endeavours.

Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and Metabolic Medicine

The University of Queensland’s Diamantina Institute for Cancer Immunology and Metabolic Medicine was officially opened on Tuesday April 22, 2008 at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. The Institute created on January 1, 2007 through the amalgamation of the Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research and the Centre for Diabetes and Endocrinology Research, houses approximately 200 researchers and students. There are eleven research teams who work in areas of cancer cell biology, immunology, and metabolic medicine.

The Diamantina Institute received a $3.2M grant from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF) to undertake the creation of a unique, integrated genetics and genomics facility on the PAH campus. This grant was aimed at boosting and integrating cancer gene discovery, gene characterisation and translation to clinical practice. It has allowed researchers to buy the latest high technology tools which will enable them to sequence nearly a billion DNA bases per day, where previously it took many months. The new centre is now known as the ACRF Comprehensive Cancer Genomics Facility.
Key research group highlights

Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia

Associate Professors Devinder Gill and Nigel McMillan, along with the PAH and UQ’s DICMM research teams, made two significant breakthroughs in the world’s most common form of leukaemia – Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia (CLL). The groundbreaking discovery that could ultimately lead to a cure of CLL, could see a new therapeutic agent trialed in patients in about five years. The research breakthrough included being able to keep CLL cells alive for up to three months in culture flasks and the discovery of two new growth factors which keep the leukaemic cells alive.

Clinical Decision Making Tools for Older Patients

One of the key drivers of the research effort of the Academic Unit in Geriatric is the desire to make specialist expertise available to all frail older people, including in rural and remote communities. The team has developed and evaluated some important service innovations which are likely to make this possible. Using nursing assessors in rural settings to perform standardized assessments of older people, and entering the information into a web-based “clinical decision support system”, geriatricians in Brisbane are now able to provide reliable, safe and effective assessments and management plans. This is unique world-wide.

A second innovation is to conduct ward rounds using mobile wireless video-conferencing equipment. Brisbane based geriatricians are able to conduct full ward rounds, interacting with staff, patients and family members at the bedside. This approach is associated with considerable cost savings, and has been found to be very acceptable to patients – in some respects even more satisfying than traditional in person rounds. This work is ongoing, with plans to extend these approaches to older people in nursing home and even in their own homes.
Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disease

Continuation of the second Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disease, by Professor Thomas Marwick. This multidisciplinary group will undertake a series of unique studies aimed at understanding and preventing early cardiovascular complications of several metabolic conditions. Sensitive new cardiovascular imaging techniques will be used to detect preclinical abnormalities in the structure, function and metabolism of the heart and vasculature, facilitating the development of new strategies of exercise and lifestyle intervention to prevent these complications. While built on the successful initial CCRE in Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disease, including multidisciplinary clinical research training, the new application involves major new directions in the interface between the liver and metabolic syndrome, and strategies for community-based prevention programs.

Test for Type 1 Diabetes

Professor Ranjeny Thomas and her team developed a simple test which could allow for the early prediction of the onset of Type 1 diabetes in children, after identifying a cellular pathway known as NF-kappa B that is activated in blood cells of people with Type 1 diabetes.

Guidelines for Primary Aldosteronism

Associate Professor Stowasser served as one of seven members of an international task force, sponsored by the US Endocrine Society, to develop a practice guideline on case detection, diagnosis and management of primary aldosteronism (the commonest potentially curable and specifically treatable form of hypertension). These guidelines, which were published in The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism and have since been widely distributed and already frequently cited, marked a “coming of age” of the concept that primary aldosteronism plays an important role in cardiovascular disease states and should be systematically sought and specifically treated. That the Unit was involved in their creation was a reflection of its reputation as a world leader in this field.
The Australasian Kidney Trials Network (AKTN) is a resource which is inclusive of all researchers in the area kidney disease within Australia and New Zealand. This network was established to foster investigator initiated trials in renal disease examining the efficacy and safety of technologies, such as drug, or non-drug therapies and diagnostic or screening tools, and in particular to engage and enhance opportunities to improve technology.

Prior to the establishment of the AKTN, there was no formalised renal trials’ network operating within Australia. In October 2003, a proposal led by Dr Carmel Hawley, in response to a request by the ANZSN and KHA for expressions of interest to run such a clinical trials network, was developed and submitted. In August 2004, ANZSN and KHA endorsed this proposal to pursue the initiation and running of the Australasian Kidney Trial Network involving a Brisbane-based Operations Secretariat with a successful NMRC Enabling Grant awarded to the network. The group was supported in early stages by staff from the Princess Alexandra Hospital Centres for Health Research, Professor Don Cameron AO, Chair and Ms Areti Gavrilidis, Director Research Development and Ethics.

Research infrastructure has been established to effectively connect Australian and New Zealand researchers and the practising nephrology community. The AKTN brings together critical mass of expertise in trial design, obtaining research funding, electronic data capture, data management, trial conduct, analysis and reporting. The membership of the network is diverse and includes physicians, epidemiologists, biostatisticians, nurses, allied health professionals and scientists involved in clinical and translational renal research.

Key achievements of the network include the establishment of a vibrant clinical and translational research network and infrastructure that fosters collaborations between clinical research investigators in Australia and New Zealand. Other achievements include:

• Success with competitive funding particular from Commonwealth funding opportunities and international competitive grants.

• Bilateral links with national organisations including the Queensland State Government, Queensland Clinical Trials Network, Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology, Kidney Health Australia, ANZDATA Registry, CARI Guidelines, and Cochrane Renal Group to ensure consensus in targeted research strategies.

• Clinical trial initiation and development with a robust process for the development of trial concepts into high quality clinical trials.

• The development of proposals for clinical trials with over 30 trials proposed to date.

• Successful patient recruitment (strategies have included extending invitations to participate in the trials to all nephrology centres in Australia and New Zealand thus establishing a link between practising nephrologists and researchers).

• Focusing on patient-centred outcomes in priority areas through an established rigorous peer-review.
process of assessing all clinical trial proposals.

- **Strategy to successfully train, educate and mentor the next generation of clinician researchers.**
  Leading nephrologists provide key leadership to enhance the clinical research capacity and expand the critical mass of senior clinician mentors for junior clinician researchers.

The network has been actively involved in discussions with clinician researchers in Malaysia, China, United Kingdom and Canada around collaborations in clinical trials. The vision is to continue to consolidate on current strengths and focus on key strategic scientific and operational goals. These include:

- **Establishing of the AKTN as a key group in a Global Kidney Trials Consortium to not only engage Australasian colleagues in international projects, but to help Australasian researchers and their clinical and translational research gain international recognition.**

- **Consolidating AKTN’s position as a national leader in renal research and broaden the range of trials performed and forge closer links with existing groups and infrastructure to maximise on collaborations and efficiency.**

- **Strengthening the Scientific Program and enable the development of new ideas, fill gaps in translational research and evidence in the practice of nephrology, widen focus of trials and to enhance links with existing organisations in conducting high priority studies for Indigenous communities throughout Australia Indigenous health.**

- **Developing early-career researchers by continuing to actively encourage and promote young researchers, provide scholarships for PhD programs and Masters Degree courses, and continue with educational workshops on clinical trials design, methods, analysis and conduct.**

The group are currently running four trials, three of which are being run in Australasia and one trial involves Malaysia and the UK. Plans are underway to commence a further Australasian trial in November.

The AKTN is continuing to forge its position as a leader in clinical trials in nephrology. The next five years promise to strengthen and diversity the activities of AKTN and to deliver the results a number of trials which will improve the outcomes of patients with kidney disease.

*Associate Professor Carmel Hawley*
*Chair, Operations Secretariat*
The University of Queensland at the Princess Alexandra Hospital

Faculty of Health Sciences

The University of Queensland’s Faculty of Health Sciences (www.uq.edu.au/health) has strong ties with multidisciplinary research groups at the Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH). The faculty comprises seven schools: medicine; nursing and midwifery; population health; pharmacy; human movement studies; dentistry and health; and rehabilitation sciences.

There are many conjoint appointments and honorary academic appointments across the hospital and the University attached to these schools. Multidisciplinary research is a key strength, including the new NHMRC Program Grant awarded to Professor Tom Marwick and his group.

A number of school research centres are based at the hospital including the Endocrine Hypertension Research Centre and the Renal Research Centre. There is a range of less formal collaborations that combine clinical expertise with patient-focused research in ground breaking development activities. This innovative research translates directly into optimal patient care.

In exciting developments, the Faculty of Health Sciences will collaborate with the Diamantina Institute. The School of Pharmacy will be increasing collaborations across the campus with the ongoing development of the Pharmacy Australia Centre of Excellence (PACE). The PACE project is expected to be completed by 2010 with the relocation of the School of Pharmacy to the site adjoining the hospital. PACE will also host the professional pharmacy organisations and associated health industries. It is planned that to increase links with industry, the pharmacy profession and the hospital and greatly expand the school’s research portfolio and provide greater opportunities for postgraduate research training.

The University of Queensland, especially the Faculty of Health Sciences, look to increasing research ties with this major hospital campus, with the focus on improving health outcomes through excellence in research.

School of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences

The University of Queensland’s School of Medicine is recognised as one of four world-class medical schools in the country and offers a variety of clinical rotations within Australia and overseas. Most of its 1328 medical students have rotated through clinical placements at the PAH during their four years’ study.

The School of Medicine is currently composed of 10 clinical schools in Queensland, Brunei and New Orleans; more than 60 research groups; and a medical program at UQ’s Ipswich campus. Queensland Health and private health service providers are the School’s main partners and more than 1450 staff contribute to its teaching and research activities.
More clinical schools are planned as student numbers increase and teaching and research at the various sites/hospitals support 11 academic disciplines: anaesthesiology and critical care; molecular and cellular pathology; general practice; paediatrics and child health; medical education; psychiatry; medical imaging; rural and remote medicine; medicine; surgery; obstetrics and gynaecology.

As a tertiary-level facility with more than 700 beds, the PAH facilitates research ranging from understanding fundamental bodily processes to applying such knowledge to improve clinical practice. Just over 100 School of Medicine staff were based at the PAH in 2008, attracting $4.49M in research funding for the year.

School of Medicine groups represented at the PAH include: the Cardiovascular Imaging Group, the Academic Unit in Geriatric Medicine and the Endocrine Hypertension Research Centre. Urology, liver and ophthalmology research is also conducted by School staff, along with studies in the clinical departments of gastroenterology & hepatology; intensive care; ear, nose & throat; the renal and respiratory units.

Many of the 700 plus PAH medical staff also hold joint positions or academic titles with the School of Medicine and multiple partnerships with research groups, other universities and hospitals are also encouraged. There are many collaborative studies underway, including research into heart failure, liver disease, schizophrenia, diabetes, geriatric medicine, psychiatry, hypertension and clinical pharmacology.

The Professorial Chair of Dermatology was implemented as a joint initiative of The University of Queensland and the Queensland Skin and Cancer Foundation to represent Queensland’s first professorial research unit led by specialist dermatologists. The Dermatology Group, is co-located at the hospital dermatology department, is directed by renowned Austrian clinical and academic dermatologist Professor H. Peter Soyer. Their research primary objectives are developing in focus particularly in the areas of teledermatology, cutaneous bio-imaging and cutaneous systems biology. The Head of the Mater Clinical School, Professor David McIntyre has expanded links between the hospital and the school’s research groups. In collaboration with the Head of PA Southside Clinical School, Professor John Prins, he has fostered the development of the Princess Alexandra Hospital Collaborative Organisation for Research and Education which aims to further integrate the activities of these groups. This group will form a major part of the proposed Translational Research Institute to be based at Princess Alexandra Hospital.

The School of Medicine also encourages staff and graduates to conduct research relevant to communities served by the School and to publish results in national and international peer-reviewed journals. Such research informs clinical academics’ teaching in the MBBS Program and postgraduate courses, and is subject to monitoring by the PAH and UQ’s human research ethics committees. Research into effective education methods is also a component of the MBBS Program.

Professor David Wilkinson
The University of Technology at the Princess Alexandra Hospital

The current partnership between Queensland University of Technology and the Princess Alexandra Hospital will continue to expand. The opening of the Translational Research Institute (TRI) in 2012 will further foster and strengthen partnership arrangements and collaborations in basic, clinical and translational research. The TRI, which will combine research groups from QUT’s Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, brings together QUT, The University of Queensland (Diamantina Institute and School of Medicine), the Mater Medical Research Institute, and the Princess Alexandra Hospital. Currently, QUT research programs represented at the hospital include trauma, wound healing, prostate cancer, and nursing practice.

### Trauma

The QUT Trauma Research Group headed by Professor Michael Schuetz, orthopaedic and trauma surgeon, includes engineers and computer scientists, working with surgeons, and emergency specialists at the PAH. This Group improves community capacity to respond to trauma and creates more effective clinical services for severely injured patients. It focuses on bone fracture healing through computer modelling, developing bone substitutes and infection resistant implant coatings.

To date, the Group has had success creating new models to help researchers better understand the fracture healing process, how effective current surgical interventions are in fracture healing, and better ways to measure the fit of surgical implants.

In the future, the public will benefit from this planned research into how diseases such as osteoporosis, infections and drugs affect fracture healing. The group plans to explore new ways of treating soft tissue trauma.

### Wound Healing

The QUT Wound Research Program is led by Professor Helen Edwards and Professor Zee Upton. It is a collaboration between scientists, engineers, nurses, and surgeons from QUT and the Princess Alexandra Hospital committed to the uptake of research into health practice. The group advises governments, healthcare providers and the community concerning improved wound care. Clinical research includes development of therapeutics and dressings, evaluation of bandaging techniques, new devices and creating a DNA and proteomics databank of wounds.

The Program’s discovery of a novel growth factor complex VitroGro® led to the establishment of a start-up company, Tissue Therapies Ltd. This company now conducts clinical trials of VitroGro® in Australia and Canada.
The public will benefit from the program’s continued collaborative research into accelerated healing and reduced scarring of wounds. The continued refinement of the program’s human skin equivalent will also dramatically improve the ability to test cosmetics and pharmaceuticals without involving animals.

Prostate Cancer

“Our major achievements during the year were the ACRF grant and the Australian-Canadian Prostate Cancer research Alliance funding (July) and First inaugural meeting in November with the PCEA”

The QUT Prostate Cancer Program, directed by Professor Colleen Nelson and Professor Judith Clements, examines therapeutic and biomarker development for prostate cancer and involves geneticists, protein chemists, urologists, oncologists and clinical pharmacologists. It employs high throughput bioprofiling of prostate cancer tissues to characterize the molecular mechanisms underlying disease progression. The research validates the relevance of potential targets through the expression of candidate genes on tissue microarrays elucidating pathways associated with poor response to treatment.

The program is working collaboratively with commercial partners in the United States and the United Kingdom, and has established the national Australian Prostate Cancer Bio-resource. In 2008 the Australian-Canadian Prostate Cancer Research Alliance was established, funded by a $2 million Smart State National and International Research Alliance Program grant. The alliance brings together specialists from the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, the Princess Alexandra Hospital Biomedical Precinct, Vancouver, and 28 other partners throughout Australia and Canada.

Professor Nelson was also named as a Chief Investigator on the Australian Cancer Research Foundation Comprehensive Cancer Genomics Facility, which was awarded $3.2 million. This award brought to the Princess Alexandra Hospital research facility a state of the art microarray scanner, genotyping expansion, next generation sequencing, automated immunohistochemistry staining and digital slide scanning, and a scientific data management system. These instruments and software are critical to the ongoing developments of the translational Prostate Cancer Research Centre.

The program aspires to trial new potential prognostic biomarkers and therapeutics at the hospital, and is poised to create and evaluate new methods for more effective diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer.

Nursing Practice

QUT is conducting multiple nursing-specific research projects in collaboration with the Princess Alexandra Hospital. Led by Professor Patsy Yates, the QUT School of Nursing’s Director of Research, Professor Helen Edwards, Head of School, and Dr Alexandra McCarthy, Senior Lecturer, the collaboration incorporates various projects examining key health issues. Projects include: prevalence and determinants of health promotion...
and risk reduction of younger female cancer survivors; identifying the relationship between biochemical markers and healing in chronic leg ulcers treated with compression; evaluating novel methods for delivering non-pharmacological interventions for dyspnoea in cancer patients; evaluating a prescribed exercise intervention for patients with venous leg ulcers; cryotherapy for docetaxel-induced nail toxicities: Case control study; health promotion and risk-reduction behaviours of younger female survivors of breast and haematological cancers.

A pilot study into the effects of exercise as a nursing intervention to improve general physical health status in haemodialysis patients has just been completed by Dr McCarthy, who holds a joint appointment at QUT and the PAH.

Significant developments particularly in trauma and prostate cancer research were evident in 2008. The goals for 2009-2011 relate to building a stronger competitive grant base and stronger teams in our four areas of expertise. A significant focus in 2009 will be in prostate cancer.
“Working at the PA provides an excellent opportunity to advance my research on the importance of sub-tropical grass pollens and IgE-producing B cells in hayfever and asthma.”

The theme of Dr Janet Davies’ research is antibody-antigen interaction and the development of B cell responses in autoimmunity and allergy. Her PhD studies, with Professor Carnegie at Perth’s Murdoch University, were on Lentivirus molecular mimicry in models of the autoimmune diseases multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis. During her post doctoral studies with Professor Mackay at Melbourne’s Monash University, Dr Davies mapped the binding sites for several clinically important auto-antibodies from patients with type 1 diabetes, primary biliary cirrhosis and rheumatoid arthritis using phage display technology and a novel data analysis protocol she had developed.

Dr Davies spent nine years at the Alfred Hospital and Monash University with Professors O’Hehir and Rolland researching IgE producing B cells and grass pollen allergy, an important contributing cause of asthma in many cases. A 2005 grant from the Victorian Asthma Foundation enabled cloning of the major allergen of the subtropical Bahia grass pollen. The success of this project lead to further development by the CRC for Asthma and Airways Disease of the research on Bahia grass pollen, an important allergen source capable of triggering hayfever and asthma throughout a prolonged season from spring to autumn. Under her leadership the two major allergens of Bahia grass have been characterised resulting in national and international patents on use of Bahia grass pollen for immunotherapy treatment of allergic diseases.

Dr Davies’ award-winning research has been recognised by several leading institutions in her field. She has held a honorary lectureship with Monash University since 2001, teaching immunology to undergraduate medical students and training many research students and visiting scientists in the laboratory preparing them for their own successful research careers. She was the post-doctoral representative to the executive committee of the Department of Immunology and convened the the departments’ research symposia in 2004 and 2005.

Dr Davies moved to Brisbane in July 2008 and joined The Queensland University School of Medicine Respiratory Medicine Research Group based at the hospital and lead by Professor John Upham. She is developing the group’s Smart State research into the beneficial effects of bacterial lipopeptides in switching...
off allergic responses to allergens, including house dust mites and grass pollens.

She will continue investigating the immunological relationship between pollen allergens of Bahia and temperate grasses, as well as the prevalence of allergic sensitization to subtropical grass pollens in different climatic regions of Australia, especially in Brisbane where these grasses predominate. With support from The University of Queensland she will also pursue research of grass pollen-specific IgE antibody producing B cells and their role in triggering and perpetuating allergic diseases.

"Having worked in Oncology since 1995, I’m pleased to be part of a multidisciplinary team at the PA committed to cancer research”

Dr McCarthy joined Cancer Services as Senior Research Fellow in 2008, holding a joint appointment with QUT’s School of Nursing and Midwifery and the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation. She completed her PhD in 2005. Her research to date has been in oncology with a focus on the management of the acute and long-term effects of cancer treatments in all domains of health.

Current funded studies include a suite of projects related to the long-term outcomes and behavioural risks associated with cancer survivorship; including a large study funded by the Department of Health and Ageing lead by Professor Patsy Yates, Dr McCarthy, and Associate Professor Debra Anderson. The outcome of this work is an intervention to enhance cancer patients’ self-management of their health after discharge, which is about to be trialled.

Other projects include an intervention to manage the hand and nail toxicities associated with docetaxel, undertaken in collaboration with researchers and clinicians from Infection Control at PAH; an investigation of evidence-based nursing management of citrate toxicity during apheresis procedures; and a project that examines issues related to health care facility-acquired infection of central venous access devices, again undertaken in conjunction with staff from Infection Control.

A baseline study to assess the prevalence and nutrition impact of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting is underway in collaboration with the PAH’s nutrition and dietetics researchers and clinicians. This multidisciplinary team have a suite of projects planned with respect to the management of cancer-related nausea and vomiting, once baseline data are collected.

Dr McCarthy is a medical sociologist by higher degree training. As a result, many of these projects are multimethod. They not only measure the effect of nursing interventions, they often have an equally interesting component addressing the quality of life and sociocultural implications of cancer and its treatments for the patients involved. Nursing clinicians have key roles in these studies, providing the opportunity to use relevant projects as a vehicle for the thesis component of their higher degree studies.
Dr William Petchey
Renal Research Fellow

“I’m delighted to be working with world-renown researchers at the Princess Alexandra Hospital while completing my postdoctoral research”

Originally from London, Dr Petchey trained in Southampton and worked as a junior doctor in various hospitals throughout the south of England. After completing his MRCP he obtained a specialist training in renal and general (internal) medicine at Addenbrooke’s Hospital in Cambridge.

With special dispensation from Cambridge, Dr Petchey came to Brisbane in late 2008 to undertake his PhD with Professor David Johnson and Associate Professor Nicole Isbel at the Princess Alexandra Hospital’s Renal Research Department. Dr Petchey’s PhD examines the pleiotropic action of vitamin D in patients with chronic kidney disease, specifically its role in modulating inflammatory burden, ameliorating insulin resistance and its effects on cardiovascular structure and function.

Since joining the Princess Alexandra Hospital Dr Petchey’s research has also included the Landmark 3 trial, a multidisciplinary approach to aggressive cardiovascular risk factor medication in patients with chronic kidney disease; obesity, the relationship with inflammatory burden and its predictive ability for cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in the pre-dialysis renal population; and, the role of vitamin K in extra-osseous calcification.

Links with The University of Queensland’s Centre for Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE) have also provided Dr Petchey the opportunity to work with Professor Tom Marwick (cardiology) and Professor John Prins (endocrinology). He has had exposure to world-leading cardiac imaging techniques, introduction to and involvement with cutting-edge concepts such as the role of bone in glucose metabolism. With Dr Hickman of the Diamantina Institute he has established the euglycaemic clamp technique locally, which is seen as the gold-standard when measuring insulin resistance and is only performed by a handful of research teams world-wide.

Maintaining his enjoyment of medical education, Dr Petchey teaches undergraduate medical students regularly and was invited to join the Faculty of Medicine as an Associate Lecturer. Highlights so far have included seeing his first peer-reviewed journal articles in press, presenting abstracts at the Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology meeting and being an invited speaker at the International Meeting for the Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine. He secured competitive research funding from Roche and the Princess Alexandra Hospital Foundation Trust, and has received support from a CCRE scholarship towards his PhD completion.
"Complementary medicines’ conjures up something that lacks evidence and queries as to its efficacy, while ‘alternative medicine’ hints at there being other alternatives to medicine. There should only be one medicine, and that is evidence-based medicine.”

Associate Professor Luis Vitetta, a graduate of The University of Melbourne, was previously the Senior Research Fellow with the Centre for Molecular Biology and Medicine at Melbourne’s Epworth Medical Centre and Deputy Head and Director of Research at the Graduate School of Integrative Medicine at Swinburne University.

His interests are in the areas of clinical epidemiology, functional foods/immune function, mind body medicine and cellular metabolism pro-oxidant signalling systems. He has undertaken research aimed at investigating the scientific evidence-base for a variety of treatments commonly known as ‘complementary medicine’ or ‘alternative medicine’. He dismisses the myth that integrative medicine and alternative medicine are synonymous, saying alternative medicine comprises therapies not taught in conventional medical schools, based on the ideas ranging from sensible (and worth including in mainstream medicine) to those that are extremely foolish and a few that are very dangerous. His research is partly designed to prove to the complementary medicine industry that it would be better served by an integrative medical model.

A $660,000 grant from the National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM) allowed him to establish a NICM Collaborative Centre for Transitional Preclinical and Clinical Research in Nutraceuticals and Herbal Medicines. The Centre draws together leading expertise in complementary and conventional medicine to support complementary and alternative medicine with evidence-based research.

Australia is one of the largest per capita users of complementary medicines in the western world, and Associate Professor Vitetta believes it is important to thoroughly investigate the efficacy and safety of practices and products that are not part of conventional medicine. Such rigorous research may ultimately replace terms such as ‘complementary medicines’ and perhaps lead to their inclusion into mainstream medicine.

Associate Professor Vitetta’s area of interest emphasises two key components being the scientific nature of the work and the philosophy of recognising only one type of medicine.
“It has been a big change moving from clinical work to research, but I’ve developed many new skills and a different perspective on medicine already.”

Dr Barraclough completed her basic medical training and first six months of nephrology training in Melbourne, and then undertook a further 18 months’ training in Vancouver and New Delhi. She returned to Australia in 2008 to complete her final year of advanced training at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Given Dr Barraclough’s long-term goal to work in renal transplantation, she commenced a PhD focussing on BK nephropathy in adult kidney transplant recipients, supervised by renal transplant physician Dr Nicole Isbel (Department of Nephrology, PAH) and research fellow Dr Christine Staatz (Department of Pharmacology, UQ).

BK nephropathy is caused by a polyoma virus called ‘BK’. It is an increasing problem for kidney transplant recipients because it’s emerging as a cause of graft loss. Knowledge regarding risk factors for the disease is extremely limited and inconsistent. The aim of Dr Barraclough’s PhD is to establish predictors for BK nephropathy. Given that this virus really only leads to clinical disease in the context of immunosuppression, she will attempt to better characterise and quantify overall immunosuppression burden and its relationship to the appearance of post-transplantation BK viraemia. Additionally the study will look into other novel donor, recipient and viral determinants of disease.

Dr Barraclough has spent the first year of her PhD planning an observational cohort study with a two-year follow-up period. Patient recruitment has commenced.
“There is a wonderful thrill that goes with when the goal is reached knowing that whatever contribution you make will be stamped in the literature forever.”

Professor Bryan Burmeister was awarded a doctor of medicine (MD) in July 2008. The title of his thesis was ‘The Role of Radiation Therapy in the Management of Carcinoma of the Oesophagus - a personal experience over 15 years’.

The thesis consisted of a review of 14 papers with himself as the first author or as a contributing author. The thesis was divided into three sections:

- Definitive radiation therapy for oesophageal cancer;
- Preoperative adjuvant radiation therapy for oesophageal cancer;
- Palliative radiation therapy for oesophageal cancer.

A clearer decision tree on management strategies for oesophageal cancer now exists, as a result of the thesis. Professor Burmeister believes that an MD is a wonderful challenge for a clinician as it provides a greater insight into your area of expertise but also combining research activity under one banner. Furthermore he believes that research has various positive benefits to your own personal and the hospital’s achievements, while fostering research encourages staff at all levels to come to the PAH.

Born in Zimbabwe and educated in South Africa, Bryan has been at the PAH since 2002, and officially as the Director of Radiation Oncology since 2004. He has witnessed considerable change and development in the radiation oncology field, particularly an increase in the service commitments, techniques and technology.

Since the award of his MD, ongoing research has included a published phase II trial using newer chemotherapy regimens in oesophageal cancer and a major PAH based randomised trial which has been presented in abstract form and is currently being prepared for formal publication. In future, Bryan would like to devote more time to teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students in the field of radiation oncology.

The pot of gold at the end of the rainbow and the subsequent flow on effects is what drives him to continue with research. He has inspired colleagues to pursue their own MD’s. His most recent achievement is a prestigious invitation to present a plenary presentation at the 2009 American Society for Therapeutic Radiation Oncology meeting on a recently completed randomised trial in melanoma which is his other major interest.
Carolyn Lang was based at The University of Queensland’s Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and Metabolic Medicine. Her advisor from UQ was Associate Professor Graeme Macdonald and from QUT, Professor Michael Dunne. The focus of Carolyn’s clinical epidemiology research was investigating the contribution of host and virological factors to symptoms of people living with chronic hepatitis C infection.

Hepatitis C (HCV) is a major cause of cirrhosis and liver-related deaths, and, for most people with HCV the major impacts are due to symptoms and quality of life. People living with HCV are interested in strategies that will ameliorate their symptoms.

Quality of Life in individuals living with HCV infection has been the subject of ongoing research. Two important aspects emerged from an earlier qualitative study: participants identified a variety of symptoms they attributed to HCV; and several participants reported episodic exacerbations with clustering of physical symptoms. Carolyn sought to quantify these symptoms and the phenomenon of clustering, and further sought to determine if the symptoms and symptom clusters were more prevalent and severe in people living with HCV than in the general community or among people living with other chronic liver diseases; and, to investigate host and virological correlates of these symptoms.

This research has provided greater understanding of the nature of the symptoms experienced by people living with HCV and has demonstrated that neuropsychiatric symptoms were more likely to be reported by people living with HCV than people with other liver diseases, and more likely to report gastrointestinal symptoms than people in the general community. Sleep problems were significantly associated with inflammation of the liver, the presence of steatosis in the liver, more fibrosis and genotype 3 infection; while people with increased fibrosis were more likely to report several neuropsychiatric symptoms (depression, mental tiredness and sleep problems).

Carolyn has presented her findings at International and Australian conferences, Hepatitis Council of Queensland support groups. Carolyn was awarded her PhD in 2008 and is currently an Epidemiologist with the Central Population Health Services of Queensland Health.
While working as an occupational therapist in Cancer Services, I was often involved with patients experiencing high levels of fatigue. Because traditional occupational therapy techniques have not been tested in cancer populations, there was limited information available to guide effective treatment of such patients.

An epidemiological study examining the contributing factors to fatigue during radiotherapy identified several behaviours, thereby supporting the concept of cancer-related fatigue as a multidimensional construct. The study was also used to help practitioners better understand the significance of changes in scores on the cancer-related fatigue assessment tool. Results of this study have been accepted for publication in the British Journal of Occupational Therapy, Supportive Care in Cancer.

Initial findings were used to guide the development of a second study: a randomised control trial examining the effects of education and support in reducing cancer-related fatigue and improving quality of life in patients undergoing radiotherapy. Education and support sessions developed by the multidisciplinary radiotherapy team were trialled at different points of radiotherapy treatment and were compared to standard care. This study is progressing on target, with recruitment finalised and data collection due for completion by June 2009.

Her postdoctoral studies have been supported by the radiation oncology and occupational therapy departments. She has received financial assistance from the Queensland Health Cancer Clinical Network, the Princess Alexandra Hospital Cancer Collaborative Group and Queensland Health’s Health Practitioner Research Scheme.
Committee Reports
The Allied Health Research Collaborative includes health professionals providing diagnostic, rehabilitative and clinical support to the hospital and community through specialised services. It produces internationally-relevant research on advanced health service delivery that is responsive to personal and environmental contexts.

In 2008 the committee continued to facilitate, encourage and support high quality research in allied health which has been nationally and internationally recognized.

The committee also continued to: coordinate and advocate for the dedicated allocation of resources to research in allied health; provide the support to increase the number of research proposals, publications, presentations and successful grant applications in allied health; increase the profile of allied health involvement in research at PAH and the community; ensure allied health research needs are represented and considered in strategic planning, encourage networking and collaborations with nursing and medical researchers and universities and, liaise with the Clinical Support Services Evidence Based Practice Network to encourage the uptake of research findings into clinical practice and facilitate clinically relevant research.

**Achievements**

Coupled with an increase in interdisciplinary research projects and international collaboration, research productivity also increased. Over $1.5 million of funding was secured in the areas of falls, exercise therapy, spinal cord injury, brain injury rehabilitation, ageing, cancer services, indigenous health services, health related quality of life and nutrition.

Other key achievements included: a significant increase in postgraduate research participants with more than 20 full-time and part-time higher degree students enrolled; over 30 publications in refereed journals and book chapters; increase in national and international collaborations/linkages and, increase in interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research projects.

Other highlights included the development of an Allied Health Research and Evidence Based Practice Strategic Plan 2008-2010; the co-ordination of a Metro South District bid for Health Practitioner Research positions in a proposed Centre for Functioning, Disability and Health Research; the inaugural Division of Rehabilitation Research Symposium; a forum highlighting the evidence based practice and research relationship in the Division of Clinical Support Services; and intranet website development.
Discoveries in translational and clinical cancer research:

Over 60 collaborative cancer-related research projects were being conducted in 2008, with studies including biology of leukaemias, osteosarcomas, skin and breast cancers.

Gene expression profiling studies have shown a distinct pattern in chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) patients, differentiating between stable disease and progressive disease. Research data implicate one of the bone cells (osteoclast) in the spread of osteosarcoma, and cancer databases have been mined, producing 14 publications regarding lymphoma, head and neck cancer, leukaemia and oesophageal cancer.

Establishment of novel, broadly applicable approaches to cancer control:

Basic and clinical research altered clinical paradigms, which led to better treatment for people with cancer. Research was relevant to several cancers but notably in the management of post-transplant related lymphomas, oesophageal cancers, leukaemias and head and neck cancers.

New training and career development opportunities:

Career development is strongly valued by the Cancer Collaborative. Since 2003, six PhD scholarships were awarded in various specialties as well two practitioner fellowships, one to an oncologist and another to allied health clinician. In addition, a post-doctoral scholarship was awarded to Dr Jennifer Fleming for tissue bank donor research. In 2008 a scholarship, jointly funded with the Australasian Research Management Society, was also awarded to Ms Gavrilidis to present a poster at the International Network of Research Management Societies 2008 Symposium in the UK. Ms Gavrilidis received special commendation on her poster.

Boost to collaborative use of facilities and expertise:

Microarray equipment has been incorporated into the genomic facility shared by researchers from the Diamantina Institute, QUT, Pathology Queensland, QIMR, Cancer Services Division, and IMVS (Adelaide). Tissue banks used by PAH clinicians are increasingly available to investigators in other institutions.

Researchers from the PAH campus, MMRI, QIMR, Griffith, ALLG, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and IMVS (Adelaide) now collaborate and the PAH/UQ Biostatistical Clinical Trials Centre has been established.

Significant funding has been leveraged:

In addition to financial and in kind support from the Cancer Council Queensland, the Princess Alexandra Hospital and the PA Foundation, the Cancer
Collaborative members secured substantial external funding. Major funding sources in 2008 include:

- An NHMRC Major Equipment and Infrastructure grant of $584,700 (Gabrielli, Whitehead, Thomas, McMillan, Saunders and Steptoe)

- An Australian Cancer Research Foundation grant of $3.2M to establish a comprehensive cancer genomics facility for the Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and Metabolic Medicine, UQ, on the PAH campus (Gonda, Brown, Nelson, Frazer and Saunders)

- A Pathology Queensland Smart State Equipment grant of $2.9M for clinical pathology research laboratory equipment (Francis, Marlton and Gill).

Translating research into practice:
Several methods have been used to share research results within the medical field and the community during the year. These included:

- The publication of 55 journal and 10 press articles;

- Three Cochrane reviews of which two related to breast cancer and one on radical prostatectomy for prostate cancer;

- Bi-monthly lunchtime seminars bringing together clinicians and scientists;

The Cancer Collaborative research website is accessible and continues to be improved and updated http://www.health.qld.gov.au/pahospital/research/ccg_default.asp
The Princess Alexandra Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee held 11 meetings during the year and reviewed 273 new research protocols, affirming the increasing volume and diversity of research being undertaken within the district. There were 101 PAH investigators’ research protocols, 29 studies by students, 56 commercially-sponsored projects and a range of collaborative and multidisciplinary projects with researchers at affiliated teaching hospitals, research institutes and academic institutions throughout Australia and internationally.

The Committee has continued its commitment to supporting the conduct of highly ethical and robust health research. Reflecting the diversity of research in the district, including the increase in early phase translational research, there was a change in Committee membership during 2008 with the appointment of Dr Jennifer Fleming as Chair in January and Dr Carl Kirkpatrick as a pharmacology representative.

Mrs Jan Maxwell, lay female representative, retired after more than two years of dedicated contribution. The Committee extended their appreciation and wished her well. Mrs Beverley Ryan was welcomed in her appointment as lay female representative.

Significant Events

The importance of professional development and training in research ethics and research practice for both HREC members and the research community is recognised and supported by the hospital.

Significant events during the year included the support of three committee members to attend the intensive research ethics course at Hepburn Springs, Victoria, organised by the Monash University’s Centre for Ethics in Medicine and Society.

Dr Fleming participated in the annual AHEC HREC Chairs Roundtable held at La Trobe University. She was an invited speaker and co-presenter on the ethical regulation of tissue banks at the Princess Alexandra Hospital Cancer Collaborative Group Seminar; the National Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group Conference held at Princess Alexandra Hospital, and the Australasian Biospecimens Network Annual Meeting held in Sydney.

The Chair and Ethics Manager presented at the PA Hospital Research Ethics Day, organised by the Centres for Health Research and the Nursing Research Development Unit.

New initiatives introduced during the year included the implementation of an expedited review process.
by a sub-committee to streamline approval of low and negligible risk research. This process is being further developed for implementation by Queensland Health and other state health bodies. Review and update of the PAH Ethics Website continues, along with review of approval processes, management of research ethics and governance practices in keeping with state, national and global regulatory frameworks.

New Protocol Submissions
January - December 2008

![Pie chart showing the distribution of new protocol submissions in 2008.]

Clinical (Research Trials) 26%
Audit and Survey 11%
Student Research 13%
Other 50%

Figure 1: New Protocol Submissions in 2008

New Protocol Submissions
2001-2008

![Bar chart showing the number of new protocol submissions from 2001 to 2008.]

No. of Submissions


Figure 2: New Protocol Submissions 2001-2008

The number of new protocol submissions continues to increase, as depicted in figure 2.
The PA Foundation

Mission Statement: To raise funds for health and medical research at the PAH campus for better treatment, prevention and cure of disease.

Vision Statement: To be the forefront provider of funds for collaborative world-class translational research, fostering and sustaining the next generation of science and clinical researchers.

The PA Foundation is situated at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and financially supports and promotes health research conducted on the hospital campus. This includes a research staff in excess of 600 people from Queensland Health, The University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology and Griffith University.

The Princess Alexandra Hospital is one of Australia’s leading teaching and research hospitals and is the tertiary referral centre for the Southern Zone of Queensland Health and the State centre for renal and liver transplantation and spinal injuries. Each year, over 5,500 staff care for more than 61,000 inpatients and 310,000 out-patient and emergency department patients.

The PA Foundation is a statutory authority appointed under an Act of Queensland Parliament and is controlled and managed by an independent Board of Directors. The Directors are drawn from the local business and medical community and are appointed by the Governor of Queensland.

Funds donated to and earned by the PA Foundation are awarded annually by an independent team of qualified health professionals, clinical and scientific researchers who conduct their medical research on the hospital campus. Each year, the PA Foundation invites researchers and scientists on the hospital campus to submit their application for research and/or project grants. These applications undergo a rigorous process and are assessed by the Research Committee.

A special mention must be made to welcome Professor John Prins who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Research Committee. This is in addition to his responsibility as one of the PA Foundation Board of Directors. Professor Prins has replaced Emeritus Professor Kenneth Donald who recently retired and we would like to take this opportunity to
thank Professor Donald for his immense support to the foundation over the years.

The PA Foundation relies solely on donations from the general public, the business community, bequests and the thousands of patients and their families who have benefited from the outstanding medical treatment provided by the Princess Alexandra Hospital. There are also many PAH staff who donate a percentage of their salary through the foundation’s Workplace Giving Program.

For the financial year ending June 2008, the PA Foundation raised and awarded over $1.2 Million dollars including $350,000 from private practice grants. This is an outstanding record amount awarded to our sole objective of financially supporting world class medical researchers at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Michael T Wille  
OAM, Chairman
Group Reports
The life expectancy of Australians is now among the highest in the world. While this is a wonderful achievement for our nation, with it comes the consequence that increasingly people advance into very old age, with the attendant risks of frailty, dementia, disability and dependence on others in the last few years of their lives. The future of the health system will increasingly be shaped by growing numbers of older people seeking diagnostic advice, supervision of their medical care and assistance with daily tasks.

The Academic Unit in Geriatric Medicine’s research and development program is targeted at this problem. Older citizens deserve good quality health care, and it is the unit’s mission to make sure that they receive it.

The Unit had an exceptionally successful year, securing three new NHMRC grants, comprising $1.2 million, in addition to $450,000 in other competitive grants. Using telemedicine and e-health strategies, the unit’s work focuses on ensuring older people have good access to geriatric specialist expertise. Several new projects will develop quality systems to ensure that hospital care for older people is at the highest possible standard.

Software systems developed by the Unit to support clinical care in hospitals are now implemented in seven hospitals. Mobile video-conference ward rounds, pioneered by the unit, are now planned for implementation in several hospitals across Queensland.

The Unit has grown to ten research staff and three PhD students, and will increase further into 2009.

Professor Len Gray  
Director, Academic Unit in Geriatric Medicine  
Associate Professor, Centre for Online Health

Dr Paul Varghese  
Director, Geriatric Medicine

Current Research Activities

Clinical Trials

Transition Care: Innovation and evidence (Cameron I, Crotty M, Gray L, et al.). This project will evaluate the efficacy of transition care (T-Care) models from a variety of clinical, economic and consumer perspectives. Several studies are planned: (i) An evaluation of in-home video-conference mediated T-Care; (ii) Development of Clinical Indicators for the T-Care Program and (iii) Predictors of receipt of T-Care. This research is funded through an NHMRC Health Services Research Program.

Clinical outcomes, staff and carer perceptions of acute hospitalisation of patients with dementia (Gray L, Byrne G, Pachana N). This work addresses the problem of dementia in hospital, including how often people with
dementia are admitted, what happens to them, how hospitals respond to their needs, and how well carers perceive their needs are met. The key objective is to inform better design of hospital procedures in order to provide a basis for planning a logical, careful response for people with dementia. Funded by an NHMRC Dementia Research Grant.

**Ambulatory monitoring of elderly patients in a rehabilitation setting** (Gray L, Cheung V, Karunanithi M, Yelland C). Acceleration data is collected using an accelerometer with the aim of assessing the accuracy and practicality of an activity classification algorithm in detecting the position and movement of elderly patients with an accelerometer device attached to their waist. If viable, it could be useful to improve clinical monitoring and patient management, particularly in assessing and prescribing activities in rehabilitation programs.

**Validation of an online geriatric assessment tool** (Wong L, Martin-Khan M, Gray L). This research will determine the reliability of administering the Rowland Universal Dementia Assessment Scale (RUDAS) through videoconferencing as compared to the gold standard of face-to-face administration. It aims to extend existing knowledge by examining the practicability and reliability of administering the RUDAS in a telemedicine setting. In particular, its validity across the cut-point score of 22/30 will be studied.

**Orthopaedic supplement to the interRAI AC** (Pulle R, Gray L). This project aims to develop a set of supplementary data collection items to act as diagnostic screeners, inform clinical decision making and predict outcomes. The initial stage was a literature review that identified potential candidate items. The items have been peer reviewed by a panel of experts and the supplement is being trialled in an orthopaedic ward.

**Evaluation of the impact of an online structured geriatric assessment system** (Wright O, Varghese P, Wootton R, Scuffham P, et al.). An e-health supported, geriatrician-led comprehensive geriatric assessment service has been successfully implemented at three Queensland Health hospitals. Funding for a rigorous evaluation of these systems was awarded by a Queensland Health Private Practice Trust Fund grant. Evaluation shows positive benefits in improved access to formal geriatric assessment and trends of reduced waiting times for assessment by Aged Care Assessment Teams.

**Validation of cognitive assessment using telecommunication** (Gray L, Flicker L, Wootton R, Loh PK, Martin-Khan M, et al.). This project assesses the use of video conferencing to enable geriatricians to assess and diagnose memory problems including dementia. Establishing the reliability of diagnosis and related assessments, and identifying which functions can confidently be carried out via video conferencing, is one step towards extending the availability of this service to rural and remote communities. This is an NHMRC funded project.

**Geriatric outcomes study in hospital (GOSH)** (Gray L, Hirdes J, Wilson A, Beller E, Lakhan P, et al.). A prospective study aiming to identify predictors of adverse outcomes (delirium, falls, functional decline, pressure ulcer, etc) within hospital among older medical patients. Ultimately it is aimed to develop an omnibus screening strategy that will risk profile patients at admission with an aim to better target prevention and treatment strategies. There will be “validation” of the inbuilt screeners for dementia, delirium, depression and malnutrition. This project is partly funded by the JO and JR Wicking Trust.

**Other Projects**

**Effectiveness of adherence to dementia risk reduction in everyday practice** (Martin-Khan M, Travers C, Lie D). This literature review will result in a report that will identify and summarise the current research evidence regarding the key outcome measures which demonstrate the effectiveness of strategies used to influence the translation of dementia risk reduction knowledge from the research arena into everyday clinical practice of Australian health professionals.

**Duplication of documentation in hospital study** (Pimm B, Wright O, Gray L). The aim of this study was to identify levels of documentation duplication and quality of data collected between health professionals for an acute admission episode for frail, aged clients. A retrospective audit of 100 medical charts has been completed and is currently being analysed.

**STEADI** (Lie D, Austin S). Streaming Technology as an Adjunct to Dementia Interventions (STEADI) is an intranet-based dementia resource trial. It will assess the utility of intranet based multi-media to assist dementia care in medical and surgical settings in a metropolitan teaching hospital. This project is funded for three years by the Dementia Collaborative Research Centre (Australian Government).
Awards & Prizes

Prabha Lakhan

Best poster presentation at the 7th National Conference of Emerging Researchers in Ageing for a poster entitled The elderly at risk in hospital? Project: Geriatric outcomes study in hospital.

Best nursing poster presentation at the 7th National Conference of Emerging Researchers in Ageing for a poster entitled The elderly at risk in hospital? Project: Geriatric outcomes study in hospital.

National & International Presentations

Len Gray

Transition Care - What Method is Right for Whom? National Transition Care Forum, Melbourne.

Can We Really Make Bed Blocking Go Away? National Transition Care Forum, Melbourne.

Melinda Martin-Khan, Leon Flicker, et al.

Assessing cognitive function via tele-consultation. 7th Biennial International Dementia Conference, Conference and Exhibition Centre Darling Harbour, Sydney.

Major Grants & Financial Support

Total NHMRC funding: $322,774
Other Competitive funding: $217,700
Funding from other sources: $175,818
Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Service

The Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Service is a specialist community rehabilitation service for people with acquired brain injury, their carers and service providers. The primary aim of the service is to facilitate successful community integration for people with acquired brain injury. ABIOS also provides training and consultancy to service providers and carers and conducts research and development activities to improve outcomes for people with acquired brain injury and their families.

The Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Service research highlights during the year have related to both new and concluding projects:

Implementing an ARC Linkage grant obtained for a collaborative study with University of Queensland, Griffith University and Disability Services Queensland looking at the service and support needs of people with acquired brain injury during the transition from hospital to home.

Successful completion and reporting of two applied research projects looking at the long term care needs of people with acquired brain injury and the development of parenting supports for people with acquired brain injury.

Ongoing funding for research into developing and sustaining models of service delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with acquired brain injury.

New research investigating the processes of discharge from long term residential and slow-stream rehabilitation facilities into the community for people with acquired brain injury.

Raymund Quinn
Manager

Current Research Activities

Other Projects

Improving community-based rehabilitation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait IslanderQueenslanders with Acquired Brain Injury (Gauld S, Smith S, Kendall M). This is an ongoing project that aims to develop and evaluate models of service delivery in community-based rehabilitation for people with acquired brain injury that are appropriate and relevant for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The project received funding in 2007 and 2008 and a submission has been made for 2009.

Determinants of successful community transition for individuals with acquired brain injury and their families (Fleming J, Worrall L, Cornwall P, Haines T, Ownsworth T, Kendall M, Chenoweth L). This ARC Linkage funded project involves a collaborative team of researchers from the University of Queensland, Griffith University and the Princess Alexandra Hospital. Industry partners include Disability Services Queensland and the Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Service. The project is a multisite project.
Understanding the changing community care needs of people with acquired brain injury (Kendall M, Quinn R). Data collection for this project was completed during 2008. The project utilised qualitative and quantitative methods to investigate the long term care needs of people with acquired brain injury. The project is now in the stage of manuscript preparation for publication.

Integrating individual parenting support into the community rehabilitation and case management context: A pilot study. (Black G, Kendall M, Roser J, Smith S, Wright S, Morriss E). Data collection from this pilot project was completed during 2008. The study involved the development and evaluation of a psychoeducational support for parents with acquired brain injury and their partners. The study is being funded internally by the Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Service to continue data collection during 2009.

Interventions for improving home and community re-engagement following traumatic brain injury (TBI) (Ownsworth T, Fleming J, Shum D, Kendall M). This study was completed and a manuscript prepared for publication in 2008. This study will form the basis of an application for a nationally competitive NHMRC grant in 2009. The study involved examining the effectiveness of metacognitive skills training to improve error self-regulation during daily activities following acquired brain injury.

Discharge to the community: Factors contributing to successful community re-integration following prolonged hospital admission (Turner B, Wisniowski, C). This new research was developed during 2008 to examine the factors that contribute to successful transition to the community from prolonged hospital admission, including slow stream rehabilitation and residential care. The aim of the study is to inform and develop discharge guidelines for hospitals and institutions who are discharging people with acquired brain injury to the community after many years.

National & International Presentations
Areti Kennedy & Raymund Quinn
Brain Injury Association of Queensland Japan Study Tour, Brisbane.
Japanese Seikatsuasha Network Study Tour, Brisbane.

Major Grants & Financial Support
Other Competitive funding: $98,034
Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

The use of Naltrexone and Acamprosate combined with Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) in the treatment of alcohol dependence (Feeney GFX, Connor JP Young, RMcD). Naltrexone and Acamprosate both independently and combined significantly add to the efficacy of CBT to improve treatment outcomes.

The measurement of alcohol craving (Statham D, Connor JP, Feeney GFX, Young, RMcD). A new psychometric tool to more accurately assess alcohol craving has been developed. It is currently undergoing reliability and validity testing.

The application of non-linear statistical techniques as an adjunct to clinical decision making in alcohol dependence treatment (Symons M, Connor, JP, Feeney GFX, Young RMcD). Based on 1200 patients that have received alcohol dependence treatment, non-linear statistical models have been developed to assess each new patient, identify excess and deficits and to provide a treatment prognosis.

Neuropsychological and psychosocial findings in liver transplantation for alcohol-related liver disease (Pegum N, Connor JP, Feeney GFX, Young RMcD). Ninety-two patients who underwent Orthotopic Liver Transplantation were assessed with standard neuropsychological and psychosocial instruments pre and 12 months post transplantation. Transplantation significantly improved memory, visuomotor speed, complex attention, psychological distress and psychosocial functioning.

Alexithymia and interpersonal functioning in Alcohol Use Disorders (Thorberg F, Young RMcD, Feeney GFX, Connor JP). Data from 146 patients identified a relationship between anxious attachment and alexithymia, as well as significantly higher levels of insecure attachment in those with combined alexithymia and alcohol misuse, compared to those with alcohol misuse alone.

Awards & Prizes

Associate Professor Jason Connor
Australian Psychological Society Early Career Award.

National & International Presentations

Associate Professor Jason Connor
Future Directions in Alcohol Use Disorder Research. 43rd Australian Psychological Society Annual Conference, Tasmania.
Research activity has reduced this year as a result of the conclusion of the projects relating to the management of acoustic neuromas and the completion of the collaborative vestibular research with the University of Queensland.

Evelyn Towers
Director

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

Single index measurement of hearing preservation following acoustic neuroma surgery (Brown-Rothwell D, Panizza B, Wilson W). Two surgical approaches were compared on a binaural single index of hearing and the change in the percentage loss of hearing calculated between the pre- and post-operative. The overall percentage difference between the approaches was not significant (N=39): 7.6% for the hearing preservation approach compared to 8.1% for the hearing sacrifice approach, but individual patients showed marked benefit. The finding showed the importance of individualising the approach for each patient.

National & International Presentations

David Brown-Rothwell
Preserving auditory function during skull base surgery, Auditory Brain Symposium, The University of Queensland, Brisbane.
The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit provides a tertiary assessment and rehabilitation service for those with acquired brain injury in the broad working age group. Cases are referred from Queensland, Northern New South Wales and interstate. The average age at admission to the inpatient environment was 36 years with 73% male and 65% of traumatic brain origin. Outcome measures included the Functional Independence Measure (FIM, developed by Buffalo University, New York State, USA) with the length of stay efficiency of 0.29 and an improvement in the Disability Rating Score for severe head trauma patients of two points. The FIM is the standard assessment used by Queensland Health to document a person’s basic functional level including ambulation, personal cares and basic cognition.

- A number of improvements have been made to the service including:
  - Development of a “family friendly area” within the ward
  - Formation of a hypertonicity (spasticity) management group
  - Implementation of electronic case conferencing.

**Dr R A Hazelton**

*Medical Director*

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**Major Grants & Financial Support**

Funding from other sources: $10,000
The Cardiology Department is a tertiary referral unit offering a comprehensive cardiac service including electrophysiology, invasive intervention, heart failure management and echocardiography. Supporting the medical officers are registered nurse specialists in Cardiology Rehabilitation, Cardiac Resuscitation, Pacing and Electrophysiology, Heart Failure and Cardiac Research, as well as Cardiac Scientists involved in echocardiography, pacemakers, ECG, holter recordings, exercise and pharmacological stress testing. Cardiology nursing personnel offer courses in cardiology and heart failure to city and country nurses.

The department offers a Cardiology Outreach Service to rural areas west and south of the district - Roma, Goondiwindi, Kingaroy and Cherberg. These visits are staffed by a Cardiologist, Sonographer and Cardiac Nurse specialist and provide clinical services to patients as well as specialist staff and patient education. Each rural region receives a visit from each of the cardiology specialities - heart failure, resuscitation, cardiology and electrophysiology.

Research: Over the past 19 years the expertise of the Cardiology Research Department has secured a large number of clinical trials from a variety of pharmaceutical companies as well as the National Institute of Health from the USA. The department’s cardiologists initiate and participate in Investigator-driven research. Collaboration with the Cardiac Surgery Department and the University of Queensland’s Cardiovascular Imaging Research Group ensures a wide range of cardiology modalities can be offered to prospective research organisations. Research areas cover coronary artery disease, cardiac arrhythmias, cardiac devices, acute/chronic systolic/diastolic heart failure, coronary angiography and percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty, cardiac echocardiography, cardiac magnetic resonance imaging and cardiac surgery. Full implementation of Good Clinical Research Practice and the high quality of source data is paramount to the success of the department.

Dr Paul Garrahy
Director

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

Active Study – Atrial fibrillation (Garrahy P)

Beautiful Study – Stable coronary artery disease and left ventricular systolic dysfunction (T Marwick)

Cardiome Study – Atrial fibrillation (Kaye G)

Champion Study – New reversible P2Y12 antagonist vs clopidogrel in subjects with Acute Coronary Syndrome undergoing PTCA (Garrahy P)

Danube Study – new drug vs placebo in subjects with chronic renal disease undergoing elective PTCA (Lim R)

Dionysis Study – new antiarrhythmic drug vs placebo in subjects with atrial fibrillation (Hill J)

Freedom Study (#1) – PTCA vs CABG in Diabetic Subjects. (Garrahy P)
Freedom Study (#2) – Cardiac device optimisation vs standard care, National Institute of Health, USA (Kaye G)

HAT Study – Anterior/lateral myocardial infarctions randomised to CPR or home automatic defibrillators (Marwick T)

I-Preserve Study – Heart Failure with diastolic dysfunction (Marwick T)

OAT Study – Myocardial infarction with occluded coronary artery > 3 days old, National Institute of Health, USA (Garrahy P)

Plato Study – New short-acting drug vs clopidogrel in subjects with Acute Coronary Syndrome (Garrahy P)

Red-HF Study – EPO vs placebo in subjects with anaemia associated with heart failure. (Marwick T)

dal-Outcomes Study – CEPT inhibition is Acute Coronary Syndrome (Garrahy P)

Rocket-AF Study – Warfarin vs. new drug in atrial fibrillation (Marwick T)

Shift Study – Congestive Heart Failure (Marwick T)

ZoMaxx II Study – Comparison of new drug-eluting stent vs TAXUS™ Express²™ Paclitaxel-Eluting Coronary Stent System in de novo coronary artery lesions (Garrahy P)

Other Research

Burden of Care: The Support Needs of Carers of Cardiac Surgery Patients (Robinson R) Monash University. Protect Study: an international study into the outcomes of selective site cardiac pacing (Kaye G). Dr Gerald Kaye is the international lead investigator and study chair. Professor Tom Marwick is Core Laboratory international lead investigator. The study commenced in 2007 and recruitment is currently 55% complete. Seventeen centres are involved internationally – 5 in Australia, 2 in New Zealand and 10 in the United Kingdom.

Study on the Comparison of Electrical Activation of the Left Ventricle with 3 Dimensional Echocardiographic Activation Mapping (Dauber K, Marwick T, Gould P).

Study on Changes in Stress and Strain in the Left Atrium and Cardiac Neurohormonal Function Post Ablation for Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation (Doneva S, Marwick T, Gould P).

National & International Presentations

Cindy Hall
Patient Recruitment: Beyond the Poster, Association of Regulatory and Clinical Scientists, Sydney.

Dr Dariusz Korczyk
Heart Failure Epidemic, Annual Thai College of Physician Meeting, Papaya.

Dr Richard Lim

Major Grants & Financial Support

Other Competitive funding: $ 60,000
Current Research Activities

Prospective randomized study to determine the clinical outcomes of tissue and mechanical aortic valve replacement in patients aged 55-70 years (Shah P, Mundy J, Marwick T). Tissue valves are increasingly used in the 55-70 age groups on the assumption that there are fewer valve related complications secondary to anticoagulation than with mechanical valves (1-2.5% per patient year). The disadvantage of tissue valves is that they require repeat open heart operation as the tissue valves degenerate with time (70% at 10 years and 90% at 15 years). The advantage of mechanical valves is that no late reoperation is required and that of tissue valve is no anticoagulation is required. These traditional considerations are being questioned - modern mechanical valves are of low profile requiring less anticoagulation, while for tissue valves, reoperation risk is only slightly more then initial operation.

This prospective randomized study will be the first to address which is the optimal valve in 55-70 year-old patients undergoing aortic valve replacement. At present, every surgeon has their own preference, but there is no evidence base to make strong recommendation. In this study, the group will seek whether there is any difference in valve related complications (MAPE: major adverse postoperative events i.e. reoperation, endocarditis, major bleeding orthromboembolism) and short/long term survival between patients receiving tissue vs mechanical valves. It will be a prospective randomized study using the two most commonly used valves - St Jude Mechanical (St Jude Medical) and Mosaic tissue (Medtronic). Patients who give consent will be randomized to either having tissue or mechanical valves. They will be followed up during their stay in hospital and yearly thereafter to gather data to obtain the information described below. Data will be gathered to identify the following: predictors of early and late mortality, long term survival, freedom from reoperation, freedom from TIA, stroke and thromboembolic episodes, freedom from endocarditis, freedom from hemorrhagic complications, freedom from hospitalization, rate of readmission and freedom from valve failure.

Polyunsaturated fatty acid composition of epicardial adipose tissue in coronary heart disease (CHD) patients and controls (Kostner K, Peters P, Shah P). This research study is undertaken to investigate whether epicardial fat contains omega 3 fatty acids (which are the fatty acids found in fish). Fish consumption has been shown to be very beneficial for heart disease, since it may prevent sudden cardiac death. These benefits are due to so called long chain fatty acids in fish. These fatty acids get incorporated into membranes and protect them from oxidation as well as keep them fluid. In the present study the group will measure these fatty acids
in epicardial fat (fat around the heart) by taking a small amount of adipose tissue and blood during the planned surgery.

*Dialysis and cardiac surgery (retrospective study in progress):* To define the predictors of short and long-term mortality and morbidity, long term survival and quality of life of dialysis patients undergoing cardiac surgery.

*Infective endocarditis (retrospective study in progress):* Valves affected, pathogenesis, short term mortality, morbidity, their predictors and long term follow up.

*Contemporary results following repair of acute type a aortic dissection (AAAD):* A single centre experience (Campbell Lloyd A, Mundy J, Shah P)

*Completed retrospective study:* Patients who undergo full arch replacement are at higher risk of poor neurological outcome. From this series, the only useful predictor of mortality is low EF. Discharged patients have reasonable long-term survival and good quality of life.

*Management approach and risk predictors for deep sternal wound infection (DSWI):* After cardiac surgery at a tertiary medical centre (Sawhey R, Mundy J, Shah P).

*Completed retrospective study:* Management approach and risk predictors for deep sternal wound infection (DSWI): After cardiac surgery at a tertiary medical centre (Sawhey R, Mundy J, Shah P). Peri operative blood glucose management and limitation of transfusion may be the practises associated with reduced DSWI.

*HbA1c: Is it a predictor of short term outcomes in diabetic patients undergoing primary CABG?* (Strahan S, Mundy J, Shah P)

*Completed retrospective study:* HbA1c cannot be used as a single prognostic indicator of short-term outcomes in diabetic patients undergoing primary CABG

Cardiac tumours in adults: modes of presentations, surgical management and short term follow up results at a tertiary teaching hospital (Matebele M, Mundy J, Shah P)

*Completed retrospective study:* Echocardiogram is the principal mode of diagnosis for cardiac tumours. Surgical intervention is the treatment of choice for patients with benign cardiac tumours with very low morbidity and mortality and excellent long term survival. Surgical treatment of malignant tumours is associated with good local control and palliation but with very poor prognosis. Extending this study to other Australian institutions would give a more statistically significant result.

**National and International Presentations (invited only)**

*N Butler, Julie Mundy, Pallav Shah*  

*P Wiemers, Julie Mundy, Pallav Shah*  
Post infarction V.S.D: Results and long term survival. 2008 Australasian Conference of Cardio-thoracic Surgeons, Noosa.

**Major Grants & Financial Support**

Other Competitive funding:  
$100,000
Cardiovascular Imaging

This group provides clinical and research capability in cardiac imaging and image processing. The Imaging group has expertise in new echocardiographic imaging technologies, myocardial viability, early detection of atherosclerosis, assessment of contractile reserve, and studies of how cardiac imaging techniques can influence patient outcomes and cost-effectiveness of care. This work is carried out in the research echo/stress area in the Cardiology Department and an image processing area in The University of Queensland Department of Medicine.

Highlights of 2008 were the preparation for the initiation of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Program support (in collaboration with the Baker Institute), continuation of the second Centre of Clinical Research Excellence award and Dr Jim Sharman’s NHMRC Project grant for central BP measurement (BP guide).

*Professor Tom Marwick*
Director

**Current Research Activities**

Evaluation of myocardial structure using ultrasound backscatter and tissue Doppler. Changes in the nature of the returning sound waves may be a marker of the underlying tissue characteristics. This work has been used to identify structural changes supporting the presence of a cardiomyopathy of diabetes and obesity, pre-clinical changes consistent with fibrosis in hypertensive patients, and evidence of ischemia (see below). This has generated unique diagnostic approaches and further developments seek to use these techniques to access the response of myocardium to various metabolic interventions including improved diabetic control.

Quantification of echo techniques for detection of myocardial ischemia, using tissue Doppler and speckle tracking techniques to measure myocardial strain and velocity.

Use of high frequency ultrasound to follow the progression of abnormal vascular structure and function.

The unique aspect of this work is the use of developmental edge-tracking software for objective quantification of vessel dimensions. These studies focus on patients with diabetes and renal disease as well as patients with heart failure. The group has recently completed two large-scale interventional studies that examine factors influencing vascular function and thereby progression of atherosclerosis. This work interfaces with Dr Kostner’s expertise in lipid management, especially novel plasma markers of atherosclerosis (lipoprotein (a), markers of complement activation and various apolipoproteins).

Evaluation of the incremental value of new imaging technologies (3D echo and strain) to clinical decision-making. A highlight of this work has been the completion of large-scale observational studies of the association of these measurements with outcomes.

Use of echocardiography to improve clinical decision-making (mitral regurgitation, peripheral vascular disease) has been augmented with a new collaboration...
with Prof Paul Scuffham, a health economist from Griffith University.

Application of new techniques for central BP measurement to clinical decision-making.

Effects of aggressive lipid lowering on the progression of aortic sclerosis.

Measurement of omega 3 fatty acids and use of omega 3 fatty acids to prevent atrial fibrillation post CABG.

Metabolism of Lp(a) in hypertension

Effect of various newer lipid lowering agents.

Clinical Projects

Clinical Centres of Research Excellence in Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disease – studies of cardiovascular effects of lifestyle therapies:

LIFESTYLE-1 concluded, showing benefits of lifestyle change are limited to T2DM patients with the most severe metabolic disturbance

LIFESTYLE-2 is in preliminary stages, showing a significant prevalence of autonomic dysfunction – these patients will be randomized to exercise training and aldosterone blockade

OB-01 involved lifestyle change and metformin therapy in obesity – and is currently being analysed

OB-02 will involve lifestyle change and aldosterone blockade, and is currently in preparation

LANDMARK-2 (a lifestyle intervention trial in ESRF) was completed, and showed no benefit of therapy on cardiac or vascular function

STRATIFY Study: The initial phase showed equivalence of RN-supervised beta-blockade vs. selective therapy based on dobutamine stress echo results. The second phase (to be completed in 2009) will examine the impact of aspirin, statins and beta-blockers on cardiac risk at noncardiac surgery.

PROTECT-PACE Core Laboratory: This study of optimal pacing site for RV pacing is ongoing. Optimization of cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT)

Use of perhexilene to improve cardiac function in viable myocardium

Importance of transmural distribution of scar to the diagnosis of myocardial viability

New techniques for quantitation of regional LV function

Raised LV filling pressure and hypertensive response to exercise – a study of echocardiographic and biochemical responses to anti-fibrotic therapy in LVH

Gold Coast Hyperlipidemia Atherosclerosis Regression trial

TARGET LDL Study

Atorvastatin Sepsis Trial

Various trials with Cordaptive (a new extended release nicotinic acid).

A multicenter, double-blind, randomized, 12-month, placebo-controlled study to evaluate the lipid-lowering effect, safety and tolerability of AVE5530 25 mg/day and 50mg/day when added to ongoing stable statin therapy (HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors) in patients with primary hypercholesterolemia. Sanofi Aventis

KOALA Study (RF management in obese children)

National & International Presentations

Professor Tom Marwick

New technologies in assessment and follow-up of CRT, Assessment of myocardial viability (Invited speaker), Asia-Pacific Congress of Heart Failure, Melbourne.


Advanced Echo Symposium (Organizer), Sydney.

ASEANZ CV and Lipid Forum (Organizing committee), Melbourne.

2D and 3D echo for measuring LV volumes, EF and mass, Hypertensive LVH with normal EF, Type 2 DM and occult myocardial dysfunction (Invited speaker); Diastolic stress test Session moderator. Myocardial imaging is optional before CRT (Plenary – Debate). American Society of Echocardiography, Toronto.

Cardiac Imaging is required for CRT (Plenary – Debate). Heart Failure 2008, Milan.

New techniques for quantification of LV function, Echo in cardiac resynchronization therapy (Invited speaker). Diabetic cardiomyopathy (Lunchtime symposium) Contrast echocardiography Session moderator. Cardiac Society - New Zealand, Queenstown.
Asymptomatic aortic stenosis (Invited speaker); Systolic and diastolic function – Diabetes and Diastolic heart failure (Focus session); imaging in 2020 – Ultrasound will do it all (Plenary). European Society of Cardiology, Munich.

Stress echocardiography for assessment of hemodynamics and perfusion; Viability assessment with echocardiography (Invited speaker), What imaging test to do next (Moderator). AHA Scientific Sessions, New Orleans.

Strain indices for monitoring therapy; Stress echo vs nuclear (Invited speaker). EuroEcho, Lyon.


**Associate Professor Karam Kostner**

How to manage difficult lipids. 6th annual Toowoomba CV meeting. (Invited speaker)

Third international symposium on healthy aging, Hong Kong: Total CV risk management (Invited speaker). (Invited speaker)

Does dietary cholesterol play an important role in the prevention and treatment of CV disease? Natural Therapies and Health Expo, Brisbane. (Invited speaker)

Invited speaker, State of the Art BP and Lipid Lowering. 12th annual National Malaysian Heart Association Meeting, Kuala Lumpur. (Invited speaker)

Emerging Science of HDL. Atherosclerosis Expert Input Forum Hong Kong, Seoul, Korea. (Invited speaker)


Managing hyperlipidemia in the context of absolute risk. Challenges in Cardiology VIII, Royal Brisbane Hospital. (Invited speaker)

Organiser, Pfizer Controversies in Cardiology (Advisory Board Member) and talk: exercise and Evaluating and treating genetic dyslipidemias. ASEANZ Melbourne.

Organiser, Hands on session on CV investigations. Cardiology in Paradise, Gold Coast.

**Major Grants & Financial Support**

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Clinical Pharmacology

The department continued to provide an expanded tacrolimus monitoring service for transplant centres throughout the state, and maintained an active research program. Numerous collaborations have been established, including an ongoing collaborative research agreement with Waters Corporation to investigate measurement of endogenous steroids utilising the latest mass spectrometer technology. Paul Taylor has developed a highly accurate aldosterone assay, a technique was developed for the measurement of oxypurinol, the active metabolite of allopurinol, for a collaborative research project, and research continues with dosage individualisation of the newer immunosuppressant drugs.

Drug utilisation and pharmacovigilance studies have included reviews of off-label use of rituximab and national reports of bleeding complications associated with antithrombotic drug combinations.

Associate Professor Peter Pillans
Director

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

Review of off-label use of rituximab (Butterly SJ, Pillans PI, Horn B, Miles R, Sturtevant J)

Bleeding complications associated with antithrombotic combinations (Ghiculescu RA, Pillans PI)

Other Projects

Optimizing detection of curable hypertension by the development of a highly accurate method for measuring aldosterone concentrations in human blood and urine (Taylor PJ, Stowasser M, Gordon RD)

The effects of exercise induced dehydration and glycerol rehydration on aldosterone and cortisol (van Rosendal S, Taylor PJ, Coombes J, Gordon RD, Stowasser M)

Improved patient outcomes through dosage individualisation of the newer immunosuppressant drugs (Staatz CE, Tett SE, Taylor PJ, Johnson DW, Lynch SV)

The role of hepcidin in iron regulation (Hall S, Taylor PJ, Fletcher L, Bird R, Saal R, Mudge DW, Crawford D)

The preventative effects of omega-3 fatty acids on cardiovascular disease (Salm P, Taylor PJ, Kostner K)

Awards & Prizes

Paul Taylor


National & International Presentations

Paul Taylor

Applying Quality Science in the Real World, The fitness of purpose of analytical methods, Brisbane.

Therapeutic Drug Monitoring in Optimizing the Immunosuppressive Therapy, Introduction to high-performance liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry: The gold standard for monitoring immunosuppressive drugs, Warsaw, Poland.

### Major Grants & Financial Support

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Dermatology

The Dermatology Group underwent significant growth during the year which is reflected in the increased size of the group and the research funding awarded. The group was awarded a seed grant of $46,000 from IVIMEDS (international virtual medical school) for a Dermatology Content Development Project. This project involves collaborating with academics from Dundee University, Barts and The London Medical School to develop an online teaching tool for dermatology within Medical Schools. Funding has also been received from Epiderm for the purchase of a confocal laser microscope and for a specialist operator. This microscope will be the third in Australia for the clinical use in in vivo imaging of neoplastic and inflammatory skin diseases.

Clinical research has also been supported with funding from the Gallipoli foundation to investigate morphological characterisation of pre-cursor skin cancer lesions which may help to refine early detection techniques and lead to improve patient outcomes. Scientific bench research has been given a head start with a grant awarded by the Scientific Research Fund for investigations into the genetic underpinnings of the inflammatory skin disease, psoriasis.

Throughout the year the group established strong ties with the staff and patients of the Princess Alexandra Hospital Dermatology Department, and the group remains committed to further expansion and funding to enable recognition as an internationally competitive group in dermatologic research.

Professor H. Peter Soyer  
Chair

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

Skin Emergency Telemedicine Service (SETS) Study (Sinnott M, Xu C, Muir J, Soyer HP). Patients presenting to the PA emergency department with acute skin conditions have images taken and sent to a dermatologist for remote analysis. Treatment recommendations are carried out by emergency physicians and follow-up consultation performed in dermatology within two weeks. Initial case studies demonstrate the feasibility of teledermatology in a skin emergency service.

Tele-PASI-Assessment: A Feasibility Study Using Digital Camera and Mobile Phone Images (Soyer HP, Jakowenko J, Wu J, Singh P). A comparison of Psoriasis Area and Severity (PASI) Index accuracy among face-to-face observers and also between the face-to-face assessments and “image-only” assessments. Relevant for the documentation and management of psoriasis patients receiving biologics treatments especially those living in remote areas.
A feasibility study on consumer use of mobile phone cameras for capturing clinical images of nevi (Soyer HP, Jakowenko J, Hofmann-Wellenhoff R). Despite the variability in the quality of images taken by the different participants, there was very little image quality difference between mobile phone cameras and nevi types. New generation mobile phones may produce diagnostically acceptable clinical images.

In vivo Diagnosis of Neoplastic and Inflammatory Skin Diseases by Reflectance Confocal Microscopy (Soyer HP). The confocal laser microscope has been used to examine healthy and diseased skin (inflammatory and neoplastic) and compared with imaging done with the Multiphoton microscope housed in the Therapeutics Research Unit. Interesting morphological characteristics have been observed and path the way for more targeted and detailed research.

Other Projects
Ivimeds Seed Funded Content Development in Dermatology (Soyer HP, Wilkinson D, Ozolins I, Ferguson J, Ibbotson S, McGregor J, Hubbard V). The content is aimed at Year 2 medical students and covers the basics of dermatology in addition to the three most common neoplastic and inflammatory skin diseases. Virtual patients have been developed as representative cases in each area and short online videos detailing the patient experience are included.

National & International Presentations
Professor H. Peter Soyer
Teledermatopathology. Telederm 2008, Chennai India.
Whither Teledermatology. Telederm 2008, Chennai India.
Mobile Teledermatology. Telederm 2008, Chennai India.
Skin Health, Skin Cancer and the Workplace. Sunsafe Workplace Program (Schools). Brisbane
Digital Dermatology. XXIX Symposium of the International Society of Dermatopathology, Graz
Dermoscopy Course. Maribor, Slovenia
Mobile Teledermatology Coming of Age. Teledermatology Workshop. EADV Congress, Paris
The impact of clinical information in the histopathologic diagnosis of melanocytic neoplasms. International Dermoscopy Society Dermoscopy Update, Paris
Certificate Advanced Dermoscopy and Dermal Imaging, Sydney
Academic Director, Dermoscopy by the Beach, Gold Coast
The clinic-pathologic dimension of melanocytic neoplasms. Skin Cancer Conference 2008, Gold Coast
Presentation at the Albinism Supporting Meeting, Brisbane
Melanocytic tumours: the case for a combined diagnostic approach of histopathologic and dermoscopic evaluation. Australasian Dermatopathology Society 29th Annual Conference, Melbourne
Reflectance Confocal Microscopy: a new era of optical imaging in dermatology. Australian Dermatology Update Symposium, Sydney
Basics of dermoscopy: from the diagnostic criteria to their histopathologic correlates. International Short Course on Dermoscopy, Medical University of Graz
Dermoscopic-Pathologic Correlation. Dermoscopy Masterclass, Gold Coast
Dermatopathologic Correlation. Certificate Advanced Dermoscopy and Dermal Imaging Workshop, Gold Coast
Skin Health, Skin Cancer and the Workplace. Sunsafe Workplace Program (Schools), Brisbane
The morphologic dimension in dermatology – the role of dermoscopy and teledermatology. Clinical meeting of the Dermatology Department at Royal Perth Hospital and the Western Australian Faculty of College, Perth
Dermatokopia Kursus. Society for Estonian Dermatovenerologists, Tallinn, Estonia
Professor H. Peter Soyer and Muir J
Dermoscopy: A Users Guide Theory & Practice Beginners. Royal Australian College of General
Practitioners (RACGP) Gold Coast Clinical Update Weekend, Gold Coast

Dermoscopy: A Users Guide Theory & Practice Advanced. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Gold Coast Clinical Update Weekend, Gold Coast

Test the Threshold – Biopsy or follow up. Dermoscopy Masterclass, Gold Coast

**Major Grants & Financial Support**

Competitive funding: $105,000

Funding from other sources: $96,396
Diabetes & Endocrinology

The department continues with its strong tradition of conducting translational research in the areas of obesity, diabetes and bone. The Centre of Clinical Research Excellence funded projects continue to provide strong collaborations with cardiology, gastroenterology and nephrology. Through the Australian Osteoporosis Genetics Consortium, Dr Duncan is establishing national and international partnerships. For her great research efforts, Dr Duncan has been awarded a prestigious NHMRC Career Development Award. Further international collaborations are developing with Professor Prins and Dr Russell working with Professor Nathan Efron from Queensland University of Technology and Professor Boulton from Manchester, United Kingdom, on a Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation funded project investigating novel markers of diabetic peripheral neuropathy.

The department is now physically separated from the laboratory, hence greater efforts are required to maintain the collaborations between the “scientists” and “clinicians”, but they continue.

Dr Anthony Russell
Director

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

Genetics of High Bone Mass (Duncan EL)

Risedronate in Adults with Osteogenesis Imperfecta (Duncan EL). This study assessed the bone density response of adults with OI to oral risedronate at standard doses used for osteoporosis.

A pilot study to assess adrenal function after pulsed high dose glucocorticoids in cytotoxic chemotherapy regimens (Duncan EL). High dose glucocorticoids used for prolonged periods of time can suppress the hypothalamic/pituitary/adrenal axis. This project aims to assess the effect of extremely high doses of glucocorticoids given in short intermittent doses, as part of standard chemotherapy for haematological malignancies.

Glucocorticoid-Induced Bone Loss in Lymphoma (Duncan EL). Bone loss and fracture are common problems in patients given glucocorticoid therapy. This project aims to quantify the effects of recurrent high dose glucocorticoids given as part of standard chemotherapy for haematological malignancies.

Osteoporosis Pharmacoepidemiology (Duncan EL). Osteoporosis is a costly disease – both in terms of consequences but also in terms of preventative therapies. This project looks at current osteoporosis prescribing in Australia.

Does Bone Regulate Energy Metabolism in Humans? Evidence from a Clinical Cohort of Obese and Non-Obese Individuals (Duncan EL, O’Moore-Sullivan TM, Prins JB)

The Inala Chronic Disease Management Project (Russell AW) A pilot project assessing an innovative model of care for the management of complex T2DM in the community by up-skilled general practitioners with the support of a specialist and a multi-disciplinary team.
Electrical Counselling for Maintenance of Physical Activity, Weight Loss & Glycaemic Control in Type 2 Diabetes (O’Moore-Sullivan T, Russell AW)

A longitudinal study of nerve morphology in diabetic neuropathy using novel non-invasive ophthalmic surrogate markers (Prins JB, Russell AW)

Using conversational computer technology to improve diabetes management: A randomised controlled trial (Russell AW)

Obesity-related inflammation and insulin resistance in chronic liver disease: Exercise and diet as treatment options (Hickman IJ, Macdonald GA, Prins JB, O’Moore-Sullivan TM)

Investigation of the effects of improving insulin sensitivity by lifestyle interventions or drug therapies on markers of vascular and cardiac function, in patients with obesity, T2DM and after renal transplantation (Prins JB, O’Moore-Sullivan TM)

Investigations into the links between obesity and blood clotting (Sullivan C, Hickman IJ, Macdonald GA, O’Moore-Sullivan TM, Prins JB)


Androgen status in obese men (Ong C, O’Moore-Sullivan TM, Liu P, Prins JB)


Role of 11β-Hydroxysteroid Dehydrogenase (HSD) in Insulin Resistance (Prins JB, Nisbet J)

Drug elimination and clearance in obesity (Russell AW, O’Moore-Sullivan TM in collaboration with Dr Bruce Green (Pharmacy School) and PhD student Ms Phey Yen Han.)

Lifestyle interventions in obesity and diabetes (Prins, J). In these studies, we are comparing the effects of different lifestyle changes (e.g. diet vs. exercise) to improve diabetes, heart disease and to reduce weight. The aim is to develop a set of “designer” lifestyle intervention programs that are tailor-made for individuals.

Obesity-related liver disease (Prins, J). Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) is a common problem in individuals with obesity and/or type 2 diabetes. It has a significant risk of progression to liver failure and of liver cancer-development. The causes of NAFLD and the impact of lifestyle intervention and some therapies to reduce the severity and/or progression of the disease are being studied.

Other Projects

Australian Osteoporosis Genetics Consortium (Duncan EL). Bone density is a highly heritable trait. This national multicentre study aims to identify the genes underlying bone density employing an extreme truncate selection approach. Dr Duncan is the national coordinator and chief scientist running this project.

Genetics of High Bone Mass (Duncan EL). Patients with high bone mass may harbour anabolic (bone-building) genes. This project aims to identify the genes underlying high bone mass, and hopes to use this information to understand new methods of approaching osteoporosis.

Bone Regulation of Energy Metabolism in Humans (Duncan EL). Proteins secreted from bone regulate glucose and fat metabolism in mice. This study aims to look at obese and non-obese adult humans aiming to identify if these pathways are similarly regulated in humans.

An assessment of the mechanical properties of bone utilising nanoindentation (Russell AW, Huang H, Cribb B)

Investigation of the production of the peptide hormone, Adiponectin, by human fat cells (adipocytes) and its post-translational modification and multimerisation within the secretory pathway of cells (Prins JB)

Adiponectin’s role in modulating postprandial oxidative, inflammatory and cardiovascular stress (Prins JB)

Studies on regulation of fat cell growth (Prins JB). These studies on human fat cells are aimed at identifying key regulators of fat cell growth, a key component of the development of obesity. Once regulators are identified, it may be possible to develop drugs to interfere with the growth process, thus creating new treatments for obesity.
Mechanisms of steroid-induced diabetes (Prins JB). Steroids are commonly used drugs that have a major side effect of increasing blood sugar, causing diabetes. The group are investigating the way in which the drugs cause this effect, with a view to either developing new steroids without this side effect, or developing drugs to counteract this effect of steroids.

**Awards & Prizes**

*Dr Emma Duncan*

Career Development Award (NHMRC)

PA Foundation Grant

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship for Women, University of Queensland

**National & International Presentations**

*Dr Emma Duncan*

International Transplantation Society Annual Scientific Meeting, Sydney

33rd European Symposium Calcified Tissues, Barcelona

Australian Gastroenterology Society Annual Scientific Meeting

Australian Association for Clinical Pharmacists Annual Scientific Meeting

Royal Australasian College of Physicians Queensland State Meeting

*Professor David McIntyre*

Session chair, International Association of Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Groups, Pasadena, USA

Identifying pre existing diabetes in the context of GDM

Overview of Diabetes in Pregnancy, Eli Lilly symposium for diabetes educators, Brisbane

The ADVANCE Study, Servier GP Information Evening, Noosa

DAFNE and intensive Type 1 diabetes care, Gympie general practice education group

Issues in Pre diabetes and diabetes, Frontier GP Education Meeting, Lindeman Island

Education in the Mater Clinical School, School of Medicine Colloquium, Brisbane

DAFNE in Type 1 diabetes care (public meeting), Diabetes Australia – Queensland, Brisbane

The DAFNE programme in Australia, Australian Diabetes Society Satellite Symposium, Melbourne

Obesity and Pregnancy Outcomes in HAPO, Australasian Diabetes in Pregnancy Society, Adelaide

Insulin analogues in pregnancy, Novo Nordisk meeting, Gold Coast

*Dr Trisha O’Moore-Sullivan*

Effective Clinical Interventions in the Treatment and Management of Obesity: Lifestyle Interventions, Invited symposium presentation Australian and New Zealand Obesity Society Annual Scientific Meeting, Brisbane

Earl use of insulin and antidiabetic drugs. National Prescribing Service Education Meeting, Brisbane

**Major Grants & Financial Support**

Total NHMRC funding: $ 894,291

Other Competitive funding: $ 10,000
Research in the Diamantina Institute has been greatly boosted after receiving a $3.2M grant in March from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation to investigate genes linked to cancer. The grant allowed researchers to buy the latest high technology tools which will enable them to sequence nearly a billion DNA bases per day, where previously it took many months.

Associate Professor Nigel McMillan and team made a groundbreaking discovery that could ultimately lead to a cure of the world’s most common form of leukaemia – Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia. In collaboration with clinicians from the Princess Alexandra Hospital, they managed to identify key growth factors that are essential for keeping the chronic lymphocytic leukemia cells alive, enabling the research community to gain a greater understanding of these cells. Research has previously been hindered because of the difficulty of keeping cells alive once removed from the body.

Professor Ranjeny Thomas and team have developed a simple test which should allow for the early prediction of the onset of Type 1 diabetes in children. The team identified a cellular pathway known as NF-kappa B that is activated in blood cells of people with Type 1 diabetes.

Professor Ian Frazer
Director

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

Strategies for delivering vaccines in the developing world (Frazer I). Vaccines to prevent cervical cancer need to be given to 12 year olds, and three shots are required for effective immunisation. Even in the developed world, only about 80% of children return for their third shot – many just forget. Studies are being conducted in Nepal and Vanuatu to find out whether distribution of a silicone wrist band printed with “remember your next vaccine shot” in the appropriate local language at the time of the first vaccine shot will enhance the rate of completion of the vaccine program.

Rheumatoid arthritis vaccine (Thomas R). Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are being enrolled in a phase 1 clinical trial of a modified dendritic cell vaccine, known as Rheumavax. The vaccine consists of dendritic cells, grown in the laboratory from the blood of the patient to be immunised, and an antigen relevant to the disease.

Vascular disease in rheumatoid arthritis (Thomas R). Researching into factors influencing the development and progression of cardiovascular disease in RA is underway. Atherosclerosis is measured using
ultrasound imaging of carotid and brachial arteries to examine whether plaque is present and to determine the elasticity of the vessel walls.

The group have found that changes in the lining of the blood vessel walls (the earliest signs of vascular disease) are reversible with suppression of inflammation in early RA. The immune system’s response to joint inflammation combines with factors traditionally associated with vascular disease, such as cholesterol, excessive weight and smoking, to accelerate vascular disease. The group are researching new molecules at the interface of these pathways which could determine a person’s risk for development of vascular disease.

Type 1 (Juvenile) diabetes (Thomas R). Studies by the group demonstrate high levels of systemic inflammation preceding the onset of type 1 diabetes in humans and mice. This includes increased levels of the cytokine interleukin-1 and activation of the NF-κB inflammatory pathway in blood cells. In humans this seems to be triggered by environmental factors in genetically susceptible individuals. The group have designed a blood test for early detection of Type 1 diabetes susceptibility. Children with an abnormal test will be followed for the next five years to determine the predictive value of the test. The next goal is to prevent disease in those whom the group identify as susceptible.

Lifestyle interventions in obesity and diabetes (Prins J). In these studies, the group are comparing the effects of different lifestyle changes (e.g. diet vs. exercise) to improve diabetes, heart disease and to reduce weight. The aim is to develop a set of “designer” lifestyle intervention programs that are tailor-made for individuals.

Obesity-related liver disease (Prins J). Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) is a common problem in individuals with obesity and/or Type 2 diabetes. It has a significant risk of progression to liver failure and of liver cancer-development. The causes of NAFLD and the impact of lifestyle intervention and some therapies to reduce the severity and/or progression of the disease are being studied.

Other Projects

Identification and characterisation of MYB target genes (Gonda T) The MYB oncogene codes for a transcription factor – that is, a protein that turns other genes (“target genes”) on or off. Therefore the key to understanding how MYB functions is to identify those target genes.

The group are currently doing this using microarray expression profiling to measure changes in thousands of genes that occur when MYB itself is switched on or off, and will combine this with advanced technology called ChIP-Seq to map where the Myb protein binds across the whole genome.

Role of MYB in breast cancer (Gonda T). One of the key findings in recent years has been that MYB plays a key role in growth of the most common type of human breast cancer “oestrogen receptor positive”. The group now have evidence that MYB protects breast cancer cells against killing by certain drugs and thus that blocking MYB in combination with such drugs may be a valuable approach for developing new breast cancer treatments.

Development of approaches for therapeutic targeting of MYB (Gonda T). MYB is required for the growth and survival of most human leukaemia cells, in addition to many breast cancers and bowel cancers. Therefore blocking MYB or its action could have widespread implications for cancer treatment. The group are developing several approaches to this end, including blocking Myb’s interaction with essential partner proteins and looking for compounds that can switch the MYB gene off.

High-throughput discovery of novel cancer genes (Gonda T, Gabrielli B). This collaborative project aims to establish a facility (the ARVEC project) using robotics and advanced imaging technology to generate and screen large gene libraries. Specifically, the group will identify genes that can enhance or block cancer-associated properties in cultured cells as such genes may represent novel targets against which new cancer drugs could be developed.

Investigation into the alternative splicing of steroid hormone regulated genes in breast cancer (Dowhan D). The primary objective of the research is to investigate and understanding the role of steroid hormone signalling pathways and the alternative splicing of RNA in cancer initiation and progression. This will be achieved by studying the role of specific splicing proteins and protein methylation signalling pathways in the alternative splicing of genes related to the initiation and progression of hormone-dependent cancers.

The study of BEX2 pathway in breast cancer (Naderi A). The group are investigating a novel breast cancer gene, BEX2, which is highly expressed in a subset of breast tumours and exploring the functional significance of this gene in the biology of breast cancer.
The study of androgen signalling pathway in molecular apocrine breast cancer (Naderi A). The group are investigating a subtype of breast cancer which is characterised by the lack of oestrogen receptor and the presence of androgen receptor. Currently there are very limited options for the treatment of this subtype of breast cancer and therefore, the results can lead to the discovery of better treatments for this disease. A Phase 2 clinical trial to study a novel therapeutic approach for this subtype of breast cancer has been set up, which will begin in 2009.

Examining normal cell proliferative controls and how they go wrong in cancer (Gabrielli B). In the first theme there are three projects: Defining the role of cdk2/cyclin A in G2/M progression; defining the molecular mechanism of the cell cycle response to suberythemal doses of ultraviolet radiation; investigating a novel mechanism that links cell signalling to G2/M progression. These projects examine mechanisms that can contribute to regulating normal cell division. The work of the group is demonstrating that cyclin A/cdk2 and its upstream regulator, cdc25B, are critical components controlling cell division that respond to many different signals. This pathway appears to be defective in a number of different cancer types, including melanoma. The cell cycle response to ultraviolet radiation is often defective in melanomas, and is being investigated as a potential drug target. The group have found that its normal role is to ensure that all the DNA damage that occurs as a consequence of ultraviolet radiation exposure is fully repaired. Ultraviolet radiation-induced DNA damage is a source of many of the mutations associated with skin cancer, particularly melanomas.

Targeting defective controls to selectively destroy cancer cells with these defects (Gabrielli B). Work in this project is based on the anti-cancer drugs, the histone deacetylase inhibitors. The group have demonstrated that much of the tumour selective effect of these drugs is based on their ability to selectively target a defective cell cycle control in the cancer cells. Normal tissue is protected by their intact controls. Based on work on the ultraviolet radiation response, which is often defective in melanomas, the group are investigating components of this response pathway as potential targets for new drugs that specifically destroy melanomas with this defective mechanism.

Gene silencing as a cancer treatment (McMillan N). The laboratory focuses much of its efforts on developing gene silencing treatments for cancer. Interest is around developing practical ways to implement this new technology. A major area the group have concentrated on is the ability of this technology to not only kill cancer cells but also to induce positive immune response in the animal models. This dual activity makes this treatment have the potential to be much more effective. Another major barrier in the use of this technology is the ability to deliver it in the bloodstream. Several projects, in collaboration with other researchers in the pharmacology area, are underway to develop novel delivery systems. The group are currently researching treatments for cervical cancer as well as melanoma.

Human papillomavirus in other cancers (McMillan N, Antonsson A). While human papillomavirus (HPV) is known to cause cervical cancer, we are unsure of its role in other common forms of cancer. The group have been investigating whether HPV can be found in both prostate and breast cancer using a novel test developed by Dr Annika Antonsson. She has found that HPV DNA is present in up to half of all breast and prostate cancers. In an extension of this work, she has found that HPV is present in the blood of normal healthy individuals. It appears that HPV is ubiquitous and its role of the development of other cancers is still uncertain.

Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (McMillan N). Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) is the most common adult leukaemia. However, current treatments only reduce disease burden and there is at present no cure. In collaboration with haematologists at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, the group have been working on ways to investigate novel treatments for CLL. The major problem is the normal tools available to investigate cancers, such as cell lines and animal models, do not exist for CLL. New techniques to keep these cells alive for up to three months have been developed which allows the investigation into new treatments. The group found a critical set of growth factors required to keep the cells alive which may form the basis of a new treatment.

Development of novel therapies for cutaneous and oral squamous cell carcinoma (Saunders N). Squamous differentiation occurs in the external lining of the skin or the lining of the mouth, nose and throat. In normal states this process of differentiation is tightly regulated. However, in squamous cell carcinomas, the cells of the lining (keratinocytes) have become disrupted such that they no longer control growth, differentiation or cell death appropriately. Over the past few years
the group have demonstrated that a key controller of differentiation in normal keratinocytes are the E2F factors. They have shown these factors are disrupted in squamous cell carcinomas. Significantly, if we reinstate normal control of the E2F factors in squamous cell carcinoma cells it reinstates normal differentiation mechanisms. These experiments have proved that the E2F factors are a valid target in squamous cell carcinomas. The group are currently developing the E2Fs as potential drug targets in the laboratory and will start in vivo tests of their potential as an anti-cancer target. Recently the group completed their first trial in patients of an agent that showed some potential as an anti-E2F drug.

**Identifying the biological basis for osteosarcoma metastasis (Saunders N).** Osteosarcoma is the most common primary bone cancer in children and adolescents. Patients who do not have evidence of lung metastases have an approximately 80% chance of being cured. In contrast, those patients who have evidence of lung metastases have only a 20% chance of cure. In order to improve cure rates for this disease (currently approximately 50% overall), it will be important to develop selective cures or preventive for metastatic lung disease. We have completed a study of patient samples and have discovered that those patients who will develop lung metastases also have lost a particular cell type (osteoclast) in the bone where the cancer arises. We have now shown that the loss of the osteoclasts is a contributing factor in the causation of lung metastases. We are now conducting laboratory and in vivo tests of potential therapeutics that may prevent the loss of osteoclasts and hence prevent the development of lung metastases.

**Genetics of ankylosing spondylitis (Brown M).** Ankylosing spondylitis affects ~0.5% of white Europeans. We are part of an international consortium studying the genetic determinants of this disease, involving Australia, North American and British colleagues. The group is principally responsible for the genetics component of this study and is also involved in studies of how the genes involved actually operate to cause the condition. We are also part of the Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium, and are performing genetic studies in association with this group particularly aiming to identify genes which affect the extent of bony fusion in ankylosing spondylitis, the main cause of disability in the disease. In association with colleagues based in Shanghai, China, the group are studying genetics of ankylosing spondylitis in Asian populations. 20% of Australians have some Chinese ancestry and the genes involved in ankylosing spondylitis in this group differ from those in white Europeans, from which more will be learned about what leads to the condition.

**Genetics of osteoporosis (Brown M).** The group is the main centre for the Australian Osteoporosis Genetics Consortium, working together with leading Australian osteoporosis researchers to identify genes involved in bone thickness and thus fracture risk. There are collaborations with the European Union funded Genetic Factors for Osteoporosis study (GEFOS), which is the main osteoporosis genetics group internationally. In collaboration with English colleagues, the group are involved in a program developing new mouse models of osteoporosis, by ENU mutagenesis.

**Genetics of multiple sclerosis (Brown M).** As members of the ANZGene Multiple Sclerosis Consortium we have performed a genomewide association study in multiple sclerosis this year, particularly focusing on primary progressive multiple sclerosis. This study has identified new genes involved in this severe and disabling disease, which throw new light onto the diseases aetiopathogenesis.

**Genetics of cervical cancer (Brown M).** Cervical cancer is caused by chronic infection with human papillomavirus (HPV). Funded by the Australian Cancer Research Foundation, we are working to identify genes which affect an individual’s ability to clear the HPV infection. Identifying such genes may point to potential therapies aimed at preventing cervical cancer by enabling carriers to clear HPV infection.

The group also collaborates with others in studies of the genetics of rheumatoid arthritis, schizophrenia and pseudo-exfoliation syndrome (a cause of glaucoma). A program is being established in obesity genetics in children in and around Brisbane, testing the ability of genetic screening to identify those at risk of poor outcomes, and identifying further genes involved in the condition.

**Overcoming local blocks to immunotherapy in skin (Frazer I).** We can immunise people with tumour specific proteins and induce immune responses that can kill tumour cells in the lab. However, when the same experiment is done in a patient, the right immune responses are induced but the immune cells do not seem able to kill the cancer cells. A range of cells and signalling proteins, some naturally produced in skin, and some produced by skin tumours, that instruct killer cells not to work in their environment have been discovered. The group are now researching ways to
overcome the blocks that these cells produce, and testing these in animals with a view to their use in humans.

*How we learn to live with ourselves (Frazer I).* The protein building blocks of our body’s cells are not marked to distinguish them from foreign invader proteins that form part of a virus or bug. So how does the body tell the good self proteins from the bad invaders? The damage the invader causes alerts the immune system that action is needed. However self proteins and invader proteins tend to get mixed up at the sites where an invading organism is creating a problem, so a series of checks are put in place to make sure we generally don’t attack ourselves. We are studying the mechanisms by which one of these checks, a regulatory T cell that prevents damage to cells only expressing self protein, can get in the way of tumour specific responses against skin cancer cells that might otherwise be able to get rid of the skin cancer. Understanding of the mechanisms by which these regulatory T cells do their job will enable design of custom tricks for switching them off temporarily to enable cancer immunotherapy to work.

*Rheumatoid arthritis vaccine (Thomas R).* In mouse studies, the survival and migration of injected dendritic cells in this vaccine to the lymph glands in models of rheumatoid arthritis and of type 1 diabetes is being analysed. The group formulated a cell-free technology deriving from this vaccine as microparticles. The microparticles contain a natural inhibitor, known as curcumin (from the spice turmeric), deliver antigen, and are taken up by dendritic cells in the lymph glands. They are a versatile platform technology, which can deliver different antigens or inhibitors.

*Cellular and molecular pathways of T-cell tolerance (Steptoe R).* Diseases of immune dysregulation, such as autoimmunity and allergies, develop because the normal mechanisms that control the immune system fail. Retraining the immune system through induction of T-cell tolerance is seen as an attractive therapeutic for many of these diseases. In this project molecular, biochemical and cellular immunological approaches in conjunction with established models of tolerance to define key molecular pathways and cellular interactions that underlie the induction and maintenance of T-cell tolerance are being used.

*Prevention and reversal of autoimmune diabetes (Steptoe R).* The group have previously shown that autoimmune (type 1) diabetes can be prevented by expression of key disease targets in dendritic cells. The group are testing in a range of models proof-of-principle studies that establish whether diabetes-causing immune responses can be terminated.

*Novel methods of gene delivery for tolerance (Steptoe R).* The group have developed substantial background expertise in the induction of antigen-specific tolerance in both naive and memory T cells. Currently available methods limit the potential for clinical application of antigen-specific immunotherapeutic gene therapy. Ways to develop vaccine-like approaches to facilitate gene-therapeutic induction of tolerance for application to autoimmune diseases are being investigated.

*Studies on regulation of fat cell growth (Prins JB).* These studies on human fat cells are aimed at identifying key regulators of fat cell growth, a key component of the development of obesity. Once regulators are identified, it may be possible to develop drugs to interfere with the growth process, thus creating new treatments for obesity.

*Mechanisms of steroid-induced diabetes (Prins JB).* Steroids are commonly used drugs that have a major side effect of increasing blood sugar, causing diabetes. The group are investigating the way in which the drugs cause this effect, with a view to either developing new steroids without this side effect, or developing drugs to counteract this effect of steroids.

**Awards & Prizes**

*Professor Ian Frazer*

Ramaciotti Medal for Excellence in Biomedical Research ($50,000), in recognition of his work that contributed to the development of the world’s first cervical cancer vaccines.

2008 Prime Minister’s Prize for Science ($300,000), for his outstanding achievement in science benefiting society.

2008 Balzan Prize for Preventive Medicine (over $1.08 million), for his outstanding scientific achievement and lasting contribution to preventive medicine through his role in the development of a vaccine that promises to prevent virus-induced carcinoma of the cervix, which claims 250,000 lives every year.

**National & International Presentations**

*Professor Ian Frazer*

Plenary Session, Specific Immunotherapy for skin disease: promises and pitfalls, American Academy of Dermatology, Texas, USA
Talk for World Cancer Day, Cancer Council, Canberra

Cancer Immunotherapy, Progress and Pitfalls, Lorne Cancer Conference, Melbourne

Research Launch – Importance of research, what CCA does Research Seminar. How research in Lab lead to Worldwide Programme, Cancer Council Tasmania, Tasmania

Talk about research and life in research and the trials and tribulations - as well as give an overview of vaccines in cancer prevention, Vaccine prevention symposium, Brisbane

Global Strategies for Cancer Reduction in the 21st Century, Medico-Legal Society Melbourne

Talk about the importance of an inquiry-based scientific methodology, the practices of scientists and the importance of scientific awareness in our current climate, Science 21 Teacher Conference, Brisbane

Plenary Address, Controlling Cancer through immunisation – a glass half full?, Sir Mark Oliphant Conference, Canberra

Australian Society of Gynaecologic Oncologists (ASGO). HPV vaccines – moving forwards, CSL, Hobart

Plenary Lecture IV, Immunotherapy for epithelial cancer: progress and pitfalls, Australasian Vaccines, Immuno Development Meeting, Gold Coast

Keynote Speaker, Is Cervical Cancer totally preventable?, AOGIN Bi-Annual Conference, Seoul

Cancer Immunology - why doesn’t immune surveillance work?, Visit to Queen Sirikit Centre for Breast Cancer, Bangkok

Vaccines to prevent and treat cervical cancer, Visit to Queen Siriki Centre for Breast Cancer, Bangkok

Never say Die – the solutions to cancer. What every WPO’er should know, World President’s Organisation, Sydney


Presentation about Leadership, Ethos Research Leaders Forum, Brisbane

General cancer prevention, the cervical cancer vaccine and the future, The Nationals Queensland Women’s Annual State Conference, Brisbane

HPV Vaccine Technology and Clinical Trial overview, Talk for South Australian Immunisation Network, Adelaide

By Teleconference, Advances in vaccine technology – where to next?, 6th Annual Australian Biotechnology Summit, Brisbane

Plenary 2, Preventing Cervical cancer - from bench to bedside and beyond, 2nd Clinical Research Excellence Conference, Brisbane

Microbiology and Immunology Department, University of Melbourne. Modelling immunotherapy for persistent viral infection Seminar. University of Melbourne, Melbourne

Presentation to Cancer Council Victoria on Cancer Council issues, Melbourne

Keynote Address, Harnessing the immune system to prevent cancer, Research Week 2008, St Vincent’s Hospital Research Meeting, Melbourne

Cervical Cancer: the place for Vaccination. Presentation on results of vaccination trials, UICC, Geneva

Lambie Dew Oration, Cancer and how to Avoid it, University of Sydney, Sydney

Symposium for CSL, Challenging our understanding of HPV Vaccines, PHAA Immunisation Conference, Gold Coast

Vaccines to prevent and to treat cervical cancer, Nambour Hospital

Seminar program at Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital and luncheon address to Medical Practitioners, ACCF, Nepal

Opening Address, When can I expect a vaccine for Osteoporosis, 2008 Australian Orthopaedic Conference, Hobart

Using the immune system to prevent and control cervical cancer, Australian Society of Microbiology, Hobart

Keynote Address, Therapeutic Immunisation - where are we heading?, World Vaccine Congress 2008, Sydney

Opening Lecture, Cervical cancer prevention in the 21st century – is there still a place for the colposcope?, IFCPC World Congress, Auckland
Symposium on Vaccine Development for Cancer and Infectious Diseases, HPV Vaccines, Gairdner Foundation, Toronto

Lecture at Guelph University, Harnessing the Immune System to control Cancer - 50 minutes, Gairdner Foundation, Toronto

Immunology of HPV: Natural infection and Vaccines, MSD Scientific Symposium at the 12th Biennial Meeting of the International Gynaecologic Cancer Society 2008, Bangkok

New recipes for new vaccines, ADOL Health Conference, Gold Coast

Guest Speaker, Experience as AOY and of bringing lab research to commercialisation, Medical Staff Council of the Mater, Annual Dinner, Sydney

Hasting Memorial Lecture, Cancer Control in the 21st Century, Annual Medical Symposium, St George Hospital, Sydney

Cancer Wars: The return of the Immune System, MEPSA – mutation and experimental pathology society of Australia, Brisbane

New Therapies Seminar on vaccines in clinical practice - Will vaccines fulfil their promise?, COSA ASM, Sydney

Opening Speaker in the Frontiers of Science Services, Brisbane

Presented the Burnet Oration, ASI, Canberra

Professor Tom Gonda

Pre-ASH Myeloid Workshop, San Francisco, California USA

Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation, San Diego, California, USA

Institute for Molecular Medicine, Trinity College, Dublin Ireland

Professor Matt Brown

Australian Human Genetics Association, Genomewide association studies – the hope, hype and where to from here? Adelaide

Australian Rheumatology Association, Genetics of Inflammatory Arthritis, Adelaide

Clare Valley Bone Conference, Identifying Osteoporosis Genes, Clare Valley, South Australia

Endocrine Society of Australia, Identifying Osteoporosis Genes, Melbourne

Australian Society of Medical Research, Ian Frazer Oration - The Shock of the New, Brisbane

European Congress of Rheumatology, Genetics of ankylosing spondylitis, Paris

American College of Rheumatology, Genetic screening for ankylosing spondylitis, San Francisco

International Spondyloarthritis Congress, Genetics and genomics of ankylosing spondylitis, Ghent, Belgium

Professor Ranjeny Thomas

Fiftieth Australian Rheumatology Association Scientific Meeting (ASM), invited opening plenary speaker, Adelaide, SA. Antigen-specific therapy for rheumatoid arthritis. Describes development and current and future clinical translation of antigen-specific vaccine for rheumatoid arthritis. Clinical audience of >400. Also gave invited workshop talk at that meeting on The pleasures and pitfalls on a career in medical research.

Australasian Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics Development Meeting, invited plenary speaker, Gold Coast. Antigen-specific vaccination for rheumatoid arthritis.

Invited plenary, Australian Society for Immunology ASM, Canberra. Antigen-specific therapy for autoimmune disease. This is Australia's most prestigious national immunology meeting. Few Australian speakers are asked to give plenary talks.

Associate Professor Nigel McMillan

Innate Sculpting of Adaptive Immunity, Hamilton Island

Discovery Science and Biotechnology, Brisbane

Merck Symposium on RNAi Delivery, AusBiotech

Epigenetics and RNA Biology, Sydney

Associate Professor Brian Gabrielli

Children’s Medical Research Institute, Westmead

Associate Professor Nicholas Saunders

E2Fs as anticancer targets. School of Pharmacy, University of Queensland, April.

The War on Cancer, Brisbane Institute, May.
Associate Professor Jon Whitehead
The Queenstown Signal Transduction Meeting, New players modulating adiponectin action, Queenstown, New Zealand

4th Scientific Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Diabetes and Obesity (APDO) Study Group, Mechanisms of Dex-induced inhibition of glucose uptake, Kobe, Japan

Australian Diabetes Society, New insights into adiponectin production, action and clearance, Melbourne

Associate Professor Edith Gardiner
Endocrine Society Meeting ENDO 2008, Symposium Presentation, Neural control of bone and fat, San Francisco, California

4th Australian Health and Medical Research Congress, Neural regulation of osteoblasts and adipocytes in skeletal tissue, Brisbane

Sydney University Tissue Engineering Network, Neural regulation of osteoblastic bone formation, Sydney

Patents


Expression system. National Phase / Grant, 2002, Australia, Canada, China, Europe, Japan, South Korea, US (Frazer I)

Immunomodulating Compositions and Uses Therefor. National Phase, 2005, Australia, Canada, China, Europe, India, Japan, US (Frazer I)

Method and polynucleotides for determining translational efficiency of a codon. National Phase / Grant, 1999, Australia, Canada, Europe, Japan, NZ, US (Frazer I)

Modified papilloma virus L2 protein and VLPs formed therefrom. National Phase / Grant, 1994, Australia, Canada, Europe, Japan, NZ, US, Singapore, South Korea (Frazer I)

Novel compositions and uses therefor. National Phase / Grant, 2001, Australia, Canada, Europe, US (Frazer I)

Nucleic acid sequence & method for selectively expressing a protein in a target cell or tissue. National Phase / Grant, 1997, Australia, Canada, Europe, US, Japan (Frazer I)

Papilloma virus vaccine. National Phase / Grant, 1991, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Europe, Japan, US, Singapore, South Korea (Frazer I)

Papillomavirus polyprotein constructs. National Phase / Grant, 1995, Australia, Canada, Europe, HK, Japan, NZ, US, South Africa (Frazer I, McMillan N)

Recombinant papilloma virus L1. National Phase / Grant, 1994, Australia, Canada, Europe, Japan, NZ, Singapore, US, South Korea (Frazer I)

Subunit papilloma virus vaccine and peptides for use therein. National Phase / Grant, 1990, Australia, Canada, Europe, Japan, South Korea, US (Frazer I)

Treatment of papillomavirus infections. National Phase / Grant, 1998, Australia, Canada, Europe, Japan, NZ, South Korea, US, Singapore, South Africa (Frazer I)

Variants of human papillomavirus antigen. National Phase / Grant, 1994, Australia, Canada, Europe, Japan, NZ, US, South Africa (Frazer I)


Combination therapy. PCT, 2007 (Saunders N)

Diagnostic markers & uses therefor. PCT, 2007 (Brown M)

Diagnostic markers & uses therefor. PCT, 2008 (Brown M)

Diagnostic markers & uses therefor. Provisional, 2008 (Brown M)

Diagnostic markers & uses therefor II. Provisional, 2008 (Brown M)

Major Grants and Financial Support

Total NHMRC funding: $5,184,202

Other Competitive funding: $5,326,740

Funding from commercial studies: $433,305

Funding from other sources: $15,160,165
Ear Nose Throat

The Ear Nose and Throat Department of the Princess Alexandra Hospital services the community nationally and internationally. The well established Head and Neck Cancer Clinic caters for patients from all over Queensland, interstate and internationally.

This department has built its reputation on its ability to obtain good results in patients with advanced head and neck cancer.

Professor William B Coman
Director / Chair

Awards & Prizes

Professor William B Coman

Tianjin Medical University – 2nd Teaching Hospital School Of Medicine, Visiting Professor, Tianjin Medical University, 2008-2009.

National & International Presentations

Invited Speaker, Role of organ preservation in advance hypopharyngeal carcinoma, Pan Pacific – Honolulu Conference, Honolulu, HI

Conference Chairman, Upover Downunder V International ENT Meeting, Campitello, Italy

Invited Speaker, Melanoma, Melanoma Patients Australia Gala Dinner, Brisbane

Invited Panel Member, Management of Laryngeal Cancer T1-T4, ASOHNS, Sheraton Resort, Perth

Invited Speaker, Is there a role for organ preservation in advanced hypopharyngeal cancer, RACS – CASC 2008, Hong Kong

Invited Speaker, Update on NPC Vaccine, 12th International Congress on Oral Cancer, Shanghai, China

Invited Speaker, Young Surgeons in Research. The Royal Society of Medicine, Joint Anglo American Meet Dublin. Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, Dublin, Ireland

Invited Speaker, Management by Conservation Partial Laryngectomy, 7th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, San Francisco USA

Invited Speaker, Quality of life, cost effectiveness, survival and functional outcomes following differential management of laryngeal cancer: Just how good are we at this stage?, The Garnat Passe and Rodney Williams Memorial Foundation Meeting, Noosa

Invited Speaker, Surgical Collaboration, The 2nd Australia-China Symposium on Science, Technology and Education, Gold Coast

Presenter, Christian Theodore Billroth – The Father of Modern Surgery, Princess Alexandra Hospital Surgical Grand Rounds, Brisbane
The Emergency Department is a designated Level 6 Trauma centre with 46,205 attendances and 15,530 admissions in 2008. This represents an increase of 4.5% and 11%, respectively to the previous year. The admission rate is amongst the highest in Australasia and demonstrates the high level of clinical acuity.

With the formation of the Queensland Emergency Medicine Research Fund the emergency department staff at the hospital received funding for two research applications during the year. This will contribute to increasing the research capacity.

Dr Phillip Kay
Director

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects
Improving pain management of abdominal pain in Paediatric Emergency patients using a pre-post: interventional study (Williams S, Bonney D, Gilhotra Y, Pitt R, Holzhauser K)

NHMRC/NICS Emergency Care Community of Practice Pain Initiative – National Pain Audit. NHMRC/NICS (Clark D, Davis C (PAH))

Other Projects
Mathematical modelling of flows in Emergency Department (Kozan E, Collier J, Sinnott M)

Trauma Registry – Queensland Trauma Registry (Queensland Health and Conrod)

An exploratory study to examine the phenomenon of ambulance ‘ramping’ at hospitals within the Queensland Southern Health Districts and Queensland Ambulance Service (Rose E, Shaban R, Holzhauser K, Fitzgerald G, Finucane J, Crilly J, Eeles D, Tippet V)

Regulatory systems for occupational exposures in emergency health care: Contemporary challenges for the emergency physician in prevention, control and management (Sinnott M, Shaban R, Devereux J)

Awards & Prizes
Kerri Holzhauser & Julie Finucane

Major Grants and Financial Support
Competitive funding: $ 144,878
In 2008 the Department of Gastroenterology had another productive year. One of the key highlights was that the NHMRC funded a project grant to investigate ‘Pharmacodynamics in Liver disease and in Liver surgery’ with Dr Macdonald and Dr Fletcher listed as Chief Investigators. The project will be led by Professor Michael Roberts and will build on previous studies conducted at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. Other achievements include Carolyn Lang being awarded her PhD for studies of Symptoms and quality of life in hepatitis C infection. The Clinical Trials Unit in the department continued to grow and a number of phase II and III studies of new agents for the management of viral hepatitis are underway. In addition, there are several long term studies nearing completion and it is anticipated there will be a number of publications relating to these in 2009.

Associate Professor Graeme Macdonald
Director

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

Clinical measures of obesity and risk of Barrett’s oesophagus (Macdonald GA, Whiteman DC, Kendall BJ). A study of the relationship between metabolic factors and obesity and risk of Barrett’s oesophagus. This is a follow on from work that demonstrated a link between serum leptin and risk of Barrett’s oesophagus in men.

CCRE in Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases (Marwick T, Prins JB, Macdonald G, Isbel N, Hegney D, Stowasser M). Collaborative study examining predictors of cardiovascular disease in a number of different disease states. In relation to liver disease the focus is on the prevalence of metabolic disturbance and cardiovascular disease following liver transplantation.

Obesity-related inflammation and insulin resistance in chronic liver disease (Macdonald GA, Hickman IJ, Prins JB, O’Moore-Sullivan T). This project is examining the link between cytokines, including adipokines, in chronic liver disease due to obesity and hepatitis C.

Pharmacodynamics in liver disease and in liver surgery (Roberts M, Weiss M, Macdonald GA, Fawcett J, Vitetta L, Fletcher L). Chronic liver disease and liver surgery can impact on drug metabolism. This has implications particularly in the preoperative period and also for patients undergoing liver transplantation. This project will examine the effect of liver disease and liver surgery on pharmacodynamics of a range of agents.

The role of adiponectin multimers and receptors in fatty liver disease (Nguyen T, Fletcher L, Murphy T, Lipka G, Macdonald GA, Whitehead J, Hickman I). HMW adiponectin multimers and adiponectin receptor expression are thought to play significant roles in the pathogenesis of liver disease. This project aims to correlate adiponectin multimer ratios and receptor expression in liver disease with a view to characterising their role in disease pathogenesis.

The pathogenesis of co-toxic liver disease (Fletcher L, Crawford D, Heritage M, Murphy T, Jaskowski L, Bridle K). Excess alcohol consumption, iron overload disease
and obesity are major public health issues which often lead to liver fibrosis and may progress to cirrhosis. Coexistence of more than one toxin may lead to accelerated disease. We aim to understanding the inter-dependent pathophysiological pathways in co-toxicity will allow us to move towards targeted therapeutic interventions to attenuate the fibrogenic process.

Rapamycin as an antifibrotic agent. Immunosuppression and the post-transplant hepatic fibrogenic response (Crawford D, Bridle K, Fletcher L, Sobbe A). This project explores the use of low dose rapamycin in novel animal models of liver disease to determine its value as an antifibrotic agent.

Industry Sponsored Clinical Trials

Schering Plough P02370 (Crawford DHG). Peg-Intron plus Rebetol for the treatment of subjects with chronic hepatitis C who failed to respond to previous combination therapy (any alfa Interferon treatment in combination with Ribavirin).

Schering Plough P02569 (Crawford DHG). Peg-Intron as maintenance therapy vs. an untreated control group in adults with compensated cirrhosis (METAVIR F4), secondary to chronic hepatitis C, who have failed to respond to therapy with any alfa Interferon plus Ribavirin.

Schering Plough P02570 (Crawford DHG). Peg-Intron maintenance therapy vs. an untreated control group for the prevention of progression of fibrosis in adult subjects with chronic Hepatitis C with fibrosis (Metavir fibrosis score of F2 or F3), who failed therapy withPeg-Intron plus Rebetol (in protocol P02370).

ATAHC NCHECR (Crawford DHG). A prospective non-randomised dual arm longitudinal cohort within which all subjects will be given the option of undergoing treatment involving a 24 week course of pegylated interferon monotherapy (180mcg/weekly ) at entry to study.(Australian Trial of Acute Hepatitis C).

IDENIX NV-02B-022 (Crawford DHG). An open label trial of Telbivudine (LdT) in adults with chronic hepatitis B previously treated in Idenix-sponsored Telbivudine studies.

Roche CHARIOT STUDY ML17908 (Crawford DHG). A phase IV, randomised, multicentre, efficacy and safety study examining the effect of Induction dosing with the combination of Peginterferon alfa 2a and Ribavirin in patients with chronic hepatitis C infected with genotype 1.

Roche Transplant Study ML17235 (Crawford DHG). A phase III, randomised, multicentre, efficacy and safety study examining the efficacy of the combination of Peginterferon alfa 2a and Ribavirin versus Peginterferon alfa 2a monotherapy in liver transplant recipients with recurrent hepatitis C virus infection.

Sanofi Aventis EFC 4492 (Macdonald GA). Satavaptan cirrhotic ascites study: a double blind, randomised, parallel-group comparison of treatment with Satavaptan at 5 to 10mg daily versus placebo on top of conventional treatment in patients with ascites due to cirrhosis of the liver.

Sanofi Aventis EFC 4493 (Macdonald GA). Satavaptan in the prevention of ascites recurrence: a double-blind, randomised, parallel-group comparison of treatment with Satavaptan at 5 to 10mg daily versus placebo in patients with recurrent ascites due to cirrhosis of the liver.


Gilead GS-US-174-0103 (Crawford DHG). A randomised, double-blind controlled evaluation of Tenofovir DF versus Adefovir Dipivoxil for the treatment of HBeAg positive chronic hepatitis B.

Bristol Myers Squibb AI463109 (Macdonald GA). Study of the antiviral activity of Entecavir in patients receiving liver transplant due to chronic hepatitis B virus infection.


ACHOS NCHECR (Macdonald GA). Australian chronic hepatitis C observational study.
Vertex Advance study (Macdonald GA). A phase III study of 2 dose regimens of Telaprevir in combination with Peginterferon alfa 2a (Pegasys) and Ribavirin in treatment naïve subjects with genotype 1 chronic hepatitis C.

Boehringer Ingelheim BI201335 NA (Macdonald GA). Antiviral effect, safety and pharmacokinetics of once daily BI201335 NA in hepatitis C virus genotype 1 infected treatment naïve patients for 12 or 24 weeks as combination therapy with pegylated interferon alfa-2a and ribavirin (double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled, Phase II).

National & International Presentations
Associate Professor Graeme Macdonald
American Transplant Congress, Toronto, Canada. “Insulin resistance: a metabolic pathway that contributes to chronic liver injury.”

Major Grants and Financial Support
Total NHMRC funding: $554,250
Other Competitive funding: $382,000
Funding from Commercial studies: $147,000
Funding from other sources: $529,000
The PAH Hypertension Unit conducts internationally-recognised clinical research into the pathogenesis and management of hypertension (HT), especially endocrine forms. Working with its sister unit at Greenslopes Hospital, it is considered a world authority on primary aldosteronism (PAL), a specifically treatable and potentially curable form of HT. Significant progress has been made in the quest to elucidate the genetic basis of PAL. Previous work identified a small region on Chromosome 7 that demonstrated genetic linkage with PAL in two Australian, one South American and two Italian affected families. In collaboration with Dr Kevin O’Shaughnessy (University of Cambridge, UK), sequencing of the genes in this region is underway. This work has the potential to lead to better detection of PAL and increase understanding of how PAL develops in the first place.

Other achievements have included:

The demonstration by Dr Sandie Staermose of elevated levels of the inflammatory marker, IL-6, in normotensive subjects with familial PAL. This work adds to existing evidence that aldosterone excess causes cardiovascular damage through inflammatory mechanisms that are not dependent on high blood pressure.

The development and further validation by Mr Paul Taylor, as part of his PhD, of a new, highly accurate method of measuring aldosterone and cortisol hormones in clinical samples using high-performance liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry. This achievement has been critically important given the major problems that exist with currently used methods of aldosterone measurement.

The demonstration by Dr Norlela Sukor as part of her PhD studies that unilateral adrenalectomy can be highly beneficial and should not be excluded as a treatment option in a selected subset of patients with bilateral PAL.

The participation by Associate Professor Stowasser as a member of a task force sponsored by the US Endocrine Society to develop clinical guidelines for the diagnosis and management of PAL which were published in J Clin Endocrinol Metab and have been widely distributed.

*Associate Professor Michael Stowasser*

Director, Hypertension Unit; Co-director, Endocrine Hypertension Research Centre and Associate Professor, University of Queensland School of Medicine
Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

*Clinical, biochemical, morphological and management aspects of primary aldosteronism* (Stowasser M, Gordon R, Sukor N, Ahmed A, Cowley D). Using meticulous new diagnostic approaches, the GHHU was first to demonstrate worldwide that PAL is approximately 10 times more common that previously thought. The combined PAHHU/GHHU has the largest number of patients (currently over 1400) with PAL worldwide who have been thoroughly studied and documented. This provides a unique resource for further research into the causes, diagnosis and treatment of mineralocorticoid hypertension. Ongoing projects in this area have included the demonstration by Dr Norlela Sukor as part of her PhD studies that unilateral adrenalectomy can be highly beneficial and should not be excluded as a treatment option in a selected subset of patients with bilateral PAL; and the assessment by Dr Ashraf Ahmed as part of his PhD of the effects of antidepressants and drugs containing female sex steroids (oral contraceptive agents and hormone replacement therapy) on the level of the aldosterone/renin ratio, used to screen patients for PAL.

*Elucidating the molecular basis of familial hyperaldosteronism type II* (Stowasser M, Gordon R, Sukor N, Dowling A, Jeske Y, O'Shaughnessy K, Mulatero P, Duffy D). The PAHHU is involved in collaborative research with the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, the University of Torino and the University of Cambridge (UK) in order to determine genetic mutations responsible for a new familial variety of PAL (FH-II) described by the GHHU in 1991. This has the potential to greatly facilitate detection of individuals with PALL through genetic testing while at the same time enhancing our understanding of the pathogenesis of this important, potentially curable and specifically treatable form of hypertension.

*Non-BP dependent adverse cardiovascular effects of aldosterone excess II* (Stowasser M, Gordon R, Staermose S, Dowling A, Marwick T). In 2008, the Unit’s previous findings in this area were extended by the demonstration that normotensive individuals with a familial variety of PAL (FH-I) had higher levels of the serum inflammatory marker IL-6 than matched normotensive controls.

A multi-centre, randomized, double-blind, placebo and active controlled, parallel group, dose finding study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of LC1699 compared to placebo after 8 weeks treatment in patients with essential hypertension (Stowasser M, Cowley D, Staermose S)

The Unit was chosen to participate in this Novartis sponsored multicentre clinical trial which will evaluate the efficacy and safety of a new form of antihypertensive medication.

Other Projects

*The development of a new, highly accurate method of measuring aldosterone using high performance liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry* (Taylor P, Stowasser M, Gordon R, Cooper D). Mr Paul Taylor, as part of his PhD, has successfully developed this technique, which is a critical advance as other currently available methods of measuring aldosterone lack reliability. His work in 2008 served to further validate the method in the clinical setting. He also extended the application of this method to include measurement of cortisol, with the aim of using this technique to improve accuracy of results obtained during adrenal venous sampling procedures, in which both aldosterone and cortisol levels are measured in adrenal and peripheral venous blood in order to differentiate unilateral from bilateral forms of PAL. This is a vital part of the diagnostic workup for PAL as it helps guide definitive management (usually unilateral adrenalectomy for unilateral forms and aldosterone antagonist medications for bilateral forms).

Awards & Prizes

*Associate Professor Michael Stowasser*
Visiting Professorship, Tung Wah Eastern Hospital, Hong Kong.

National & International Presentations

Stowasser M, Marwick TH, Sharman JE, Gordon R. Rediscovering aldosterone. 56th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, Adelaide, August.

Stowasser M, O'Shaughnessy K, So A, Jeske Y, Dowling A, Kelemen L, Duffy D, Gordon RD. Genetics of primary aldosteronism. Tung Wah Eastern Hospital, Hong Kong, November.

*Associate Professor Michael Stowasser & Emeritus Professor Richard Gordon*
Prevalence, diagnosis and genetics of primary
aldosteronism. 1st International Aldosterone Forum in Japan, Tokyo, May.

Diagnosis and management of primary aldosteronism. 22nd Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Hypertension, Berlin, June.

When and how to test for hyperaldosteronism. Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association, New Orleans, November.

Primary aldosteronism: prevalence, diagnosis and management. Tung Wah Eastern Hospital, Hong Kong, November.

Associate Professor Michael Stowasser
Guidelines of the Endocrine Society for the diagnosis and treatment of primary aldosteronism. 5th Meeting of the Endocrine Hypertension Working Group of the European Society of Hypertension, Berlin, June.

Management of patients with “difficult” hypertension. Tung Wah Eastern Hospital, Hong Kong, November.

Case discussions: practical issues about primary aldosteronism. Tung Wah Eastern Hospital, Hong Kong, November.

Primary aldosteronism arrives: the new US Endocrine Society guideline for case detection, diagnosis and management. Chinese University of Hong Kong, Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes, Hong Kong, November.

**Major Grants and Financial Support**

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<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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Infection Management

Infection Management Services continues to provide clinical infectious diseases programmes, sexual health services, provision of alternate site infusion services and infection control programmes at Princess Alexandra, Logan, Ipswich, QEII and Redland Hospitals.

The Department provides undergraduate and post-graduate teaching in all areas of infectious diseases, infection control, as well as some microbiology to Medical, Pharmacy and Science Students of the University of Queensland. Post-graduate education and activities are undertaken with a range of professional groups including doctors, nurses, pharmacists and laboratory scientists.

Research within the department primarily focuses on the epidemiology, prevention and therapy of healthcare associated infection, particularly:

- Healthcare acquired fungal nosocomial infection
- Healthcare acquired and community Staphylococcal infection
- Aspects of healthcare worker behaviour integral to the prevention of healthcare associated infection.

Dr Michael Whitby
Director

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

A phase III, double-blind, randomised study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of BAL8557 versus a caspofungin followed by Voriconazole regimen in the treatment of candidaemia and other invasive candida infections (Protocol No: WSA-CS-008).

A phase III, double-blind, randomised study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of BAL8557 versus voriconazole for primary treatment of invasive fungal disease caused by aspergillus species or other filamentous fungi (Protocol No: WSA-CS-004).

Open Label Study of Isavuconazole In the Treatment of Patients with Aspergillosis and Renal Impairment or of Patients with Invasive Fungal Disease caused by Rare Moulds, Yeasts or Dimorphic Fungi (Protocol WSA-CS-003).

Ethanol lock therapy for the prevention of tunnelled intravenous catheter-associated bacteraemias: a randomised controlled trial.

Prospective Surveillance of Invasive Fungal Infections in Australian Intensive Care Units.

A Phase 2 Randomised, Double-Blind, Double-Dummy Efficacy, Safety and Tolerability Study of IV Sulopenem with Switch to Oral PF-03709270 Compared to
Ceftriaxone with Step Down to Amoxycillin/Clavulanate Potassium in Subjects with Community Acquired Pneumonia requiring Hospitalisation (Protocol No: A8811020).

**Awards & Prizes**

**Dr Kate McCarthy**
Coviden Infection Control Scholarship: Rapid molecular detection of resistance mechanisms in Gram-negative bacilli. Awarded October 2008

**National & International Presentations**

**Dr David Looke**


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**Dr Geoffrey Playford**

**Major Grants and Financial Support**

Total NHMRC funding: $ 351,000

Other Competitive funding: $ 207,000
The Intensive Care Unit maintained its high level of research throughout the year. It has been an impressive year which is reflected in the department’s involvement in an increasing number of national and international clinical trials. Importantly, the research program has developed to reflect the multi-disciplinary nature of intensive care practice.

Several clinical trials have been completed during whose results are eagerly awaited. Many trials are still ongoing and several studies have progressed through to publication which demonstrates the high level of academic activity and research that occurs in the ICU. The unit are the instigating centre for the NHMRC funded STATINS trial which is recognised nationally, thanks to the hard work of our diligent research staff. The unit are proud of rising registrar involvement in research and the number of successfully completed registrar projects. The Critical Care Endocrinology and Metabolism Research Unit was also formally recognised by The University of Queensland.

This continued success is the result of a good team effort.

Professor Bala Venkatesh  
Director of Research  
Associate Professor Chris Joyce  
Director of Intensive Care

Current Research Activities

Clinical Trials

**DECRA (Decompressive craniectomy) study** (Venkatesh B, Joyce C). Multi-centre prospective randomised trial of early decompressive craniectomy in patients with severe traumatic brain injury.

**ENTERIC - The early Nasojejunal Tube to meet energy requirements in intensive care study** (Joyce C, Fraenkel D). A multi-centre randomised controlled trial comparing early jejunal feeding (using a frictional nasojejunal tube) and standard feeding in critical illness.

**RENAI (Joyce C, Kruger P). Multicentre, Unblinded, Randomised, Controlled Trial to Assess the Effect of Augmented Vs. Normal Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT) on 90-day all-cause mortality of Intensive Care Unit Patients with Severe Acute Renal Failure (ARF).

**CAS - The Continued Use of Atorvastatin in Sepsis Trial** (Kruger P). A phase II randomised, controlled trial in patients on statin therapy who develop sepsis to evaluate the effect of continued atorvastatin use on the incidence of severe sepsis.

**STATInS - Study of Atorvastatin therapy in Sepsis (STATInS)** (Kruger P). A Phase II randomised Controlled Trial of Atorvastatin therapy in Intensive Care Patients with Severe Sepsis.
ART-123 (Venkatesh B, Nunnink L, Walsham J). Randomised, Double Blind, Placebo Controlled, Phase-2B Study to Assess the Safety and Efficacy Effects of ART-123 on Subjects with Sepsis and Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation (PAH).

SAFE TBI II – (Venkatesh B, Joyce C). Fluid Resuscitation of Critically Ill Patients with Traumatic Brain Injury: potential mechanisms behind the detrimental effect of albumin resuscitation.

STRATIFY (Marwick T). Study of risk assessment to reduce cardiac events in patients following major surgery.

Other Projects
Changes in Body fluid dynamics and drug behaviour in critically ill patients– currently looking at neuromuscular blocking drugs (Cisatracurium) and antibiotic dosing in sepsis.

Sepsis prognosis.

Fluid responsiveness in sepsis.

Vancomycin kinetics study.

Fluid responsiveness study – preload study in ventilated post-CABG patients

Comparison of brain natriuretic peptide and tissue Doppler imaging in the prediction of fluid responsiveness in septic shock

Comparison of predictive value of brain natriuretic peptide, troponin and tissue doppler imaging in the prognosis of septic shock.

Early PN - Early Parenteral Nutrition Versus Standard Care in the Critically Ill Patient: A Level I Randomised Controlled Trial.

Testing a home-based rehabilitation program for survivors of a critical illness: a randomised controlled trial.

Routine Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) swabbing of inter hospital transferred patients.

The Impact of Nursing Rounds on the Practice Environment, Nurse Satisfaction and Processes of Care.

HECTIC - Health and Economic Outcomes of Critical Trauma Intensive Care Patients Study.

Intestinal Flora, Enteral Nutrition and diarrhoea Study.

Awards & Prizes

K Ranasinghe, B Venkatesh, M Roberts, S Cross, J Lipman


National and International Presentations (invited only)

Professor Bala Venkatesh

Adrenal dysfunction in critical illness- newer insights: International Congress of Critical Care and Emergency Medicine, Brussels, March.

Arterial PO2 : How low can you go? International Congress of Critical Care and Emergency Medicine, Brussels, March.

Tissue Doppler in critical illness. International Congress of Critical Care and Emergency Medicine, Brussels, March.


Which dynamic testing can be performed in critically ill patients and how? 10th International Consensus Conference in Intensive Care Medicine Florence, Italy, 17-18 April.

Data interpretation in critical illness, Malaysian Intensive Care Society course, Kualalumpur, November.

Biochemical data sets in critical illness, Malaysian Intensive Care Society course, Kualalumpur, November.

Arterial blood gases, Malaysian Intensive Care Society course, Kualalumpur, November.

Microbiology data interpretation, Malaysian Intensive Care Society course, Kualalumpur, November.

Neurointensive care, Malaysian Intensive Care Society course, Kualalumpur, November.

The JFICM Primary and Fellowship Examination, Supervisor of Training Workshop, JFICM meeting, Melbourne, June.

Demystifying the JFICM exam, ANZICS registrar course, Melbourne, July.

PO2 – how low can you go? ANZICS registrar course,
Melbourne July.

Workshop on arterial blood gases? ANZICS registrar course, Melbourne July.

Strong ion difference – does it matter? ANZICS registrar course, Melbourne July.

Neuromonitoring - state of the art. Asia Pacific Critical Care Congress, Sydney November.


Dr Peter Kruger

Observational Studies of Statins in Bacteraemia, 13th International Society of Infectious Diseases Annual meeting, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, June.

An update on the STATInS Trial - A multicentre phase II randomised controlled trial of atorvastatin therapy in intensive care patients with severe sepsis, ANZICS Clinical trials group meeting, Noosa, March.

An update on the STATInS Trial - A multicentre phase II randomised controlled trial of atorvastatin therapy in intensive care patients with severe sepsis, ANZICS Clinical trials group meeting, Sydney, October.

Dr David Cook

Control charts and Continuous Monitoring of Performance, Centre for Research Excellence in Patient Safety Registry Interest Group Meeting, Monash University, Melbourne, November.

Control Charts for Risk Adjusted Analysis, 2nd International Safety, Quality Audit and Outcomes Research in Intensive Care, Christchurch, 28-29 August.

Professor Leanne M Aitken

2008 Outcomes from trauma – what do we know? Invited paper presented at the Asia Pacific Critical Care 2008 Congress, Sydney, Australia.


Jane-Louise Cook

Pressures and pitfalls of starting in the ICU, Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) Conference, Brisbane, June 13-14, 2008.

Give a little – take a little: A respiratory trauma case study, Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) Conference, Brisbane, June 13-14, 2008.

Cheryl Buschel & Alison Juers

Current approaches to ventilation in the adult ICU patient, 13 June 2008. Presented at the Australian College of Critical Care Nurses Critical Care Nursing Continuing Education 9th Annual Meeting.

Alison Juers


Major Grants & Financial Support

Total NHMRC funding: $218,000

Other Competitive funding: $85,116
Internal Medicine & Clinical Epidemiology

The Department completed major literature reviews of: quality and safety improvement interventions targeting in-hospital care; interpretation by clinicians of validity and utility of diagnostic tests; applicability of pay for performance strategies to Australian healthcare settings; effectiveness of chronic disease management programs; value of ancillary tests in predicting cardiovascular risk in asymptomatic persons; potential pitfalls involved in the conduct and reporting of non-inferiority trials; assessment of need for an Australian registry in interventional cardiology; and prevalence, types, causes and remediation of errors in reasoning by clinicians.

Associate Professor Ian Scott
Director

Current Research Activities

Evidence of effectiveness of acute medical units: a systematic review (Scott IA, Vaughan L, Bell D). A review of both peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed literature assessing the effectiveness on clinical outcomes of acute medical units within hospitals.


Impact of hospital-wide process redesign on patient outcomes: a controlled study (Scott IA, Coory MD, Johnson V). A controlled interrupted time-series study of the changes in hospital access block, mortality, length of stay, and readmissions following implementation of a hospital-wide 6 month clinical process redesign program within 2 intervention hospitals compared to 3 control hospitals.

Validation study of use of c-codes within hospital administrative data in identifying potentially preventable adverse events related to healthcare of common medical conditions (Brand C, Scott IA, Jolley D, Sundararajan V). Study using Delphi consensus process involving randomly selected general physicians to identify candidate routinely coded ‘in-hospital’ complication (or c-code) diagnoses within casemix data as the basis for automated adverse event screening tools for acute myocardial infarction, chronic heart failure and pneumonia. Chosen codes will then be prospectively validated in an independent set of casemix data using expert review of clinical records.

Critical appraisal of validity and applicability of risk prediction and prognostication tools (Scott IA, Greenberg P for the Evidence-based Medicine Working Group of the Internal Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand). Literature review aimed at identifying pitfalls in the design and interpretation of studies of risk prediction and prognostication.
National & International Presentations

Associate Professor Ian Scott

New screening tests and biomarkers in assessing coronary risk. Do they help or hinder?; Pre-operative cardiac risk assessment. Presentations to the 6th Annual South-west Queensland Cardiovascular Scientific Meeting, Toowoomba, February.

Narrowing the gaps between best practice and routine care. Presentation to Internal Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand (NZ) Annual Scientific Meeting, Tauranga NZ, March.

Pay-for-performance programs in healthcare. Proceed with caution. Presentation to the Australian College of Health Service Executives Victorian Annual Meeting, Melbourne, April.

Comparing risk-prediction methods using administrative or clinical data in assessing excess in-hospital mortality in patients with acute myocardial infarction. Presentation to QUT-St Andrew’s Medical Institute seminar Driving excellence in clinical outcomes: Methods for monitoring and influencing change. Brisbane, May.

Improving acute and chronic care of patients with cardiac disease. Presentation to National Heart Foundation Challenges in Cardiology Conference, Brisbane, May.

Cautionary tales in clinical decision-making: the role of cognitive error; Pre-operative cardiac assessment. Presentations to the Royal Australasian College of Physicians Annual Scientific Meeting, Adelaide, May.

Public reporting of healthcare performance data. Presentation to Symposium on Public Reporting of Health Data, University of Queensland and QUT, Brisbane, May.

The culture of reporting and change management. Presentation to 8th Annual Adverse Events management Conference, Melbourne, June.


Putting evidence into practice within hospitals. Presentation to the Australasian Evidence-based Medicine Workshop, Bond University, Gold Coast, October.

Update on the management of acute coronary syndromes. Royal Australasian College of Physicians Queensland Annual Scientific Meeting, Mooloolaba, October.
Liver Research

The research laboratory is investigating mechanisms of hepatic fibrosis in response to chronic liver injury, where normal liver cells are replaced by collagen-containing scar tissue which results in a deterioration of liver function. Hepatic fibrosis can lead to cirrhosis and ultimately, liver transplantation may be required for patients with advanced cirrhosis. For patients with chronic liver injury, hepatic fibrosis can be a very slowly progressing disease and while some patients may develop cirrhosis within 10 years, for others it may take 30-40 years. One focus of the research is to try to determine why there is such a great difference between patients in their rate of disease progression. In particular, the group is interested in (1) determining the relationship between body mass index, liver fat and fibrosis progression and response to treatment in chronic HCV and other chronic liver diseases and (2) defining the role of hepatocyte senescence, hepatic progenitor cells and the ductular reaction in promoting fibrogenesis in human liver disease.

Some key achievements during the year included:

- Stuart McPherson, Winner, Young Investigator, Gastroenterology Society Annual Update, Coolum
- Elizabeth Powell, Invitation to chair ‘Meet the Professor Luncheon’ at the AASLD, San Francisco
- The continuation of international collaborations with Dr Herbert Tilg, University of Innsbruck (Austria), Dr Elizabeth Brunt, University of St Louis (USA) and Professor Derek Mann, University of Newcastle (UK).

*Associate Professor Elizabeth Powell*

*Joint Head*

*Associate Professor Julie Jonsson*

*Joint Head*

**Current Research Activities**

**Clinical Projects**

Non-invasive assessment of hepatic steatosis by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and spectroscopy (MRS) (Powell E, Cowin G, Galloway G, Volp A, Benson M, Clouston A, McPherson S, Jonsson J)


**Other Projects**

The role of steatosis in promoting cellular injury and fibrogenesis in human liver (Powell E, Jonsson J, Clouston A)

Hepatocyte replicative arrest, hepatic progenitor cells and the ductular reaction in hepatic fibrogenesis (Jonsson J, Clouston A, Powell E, Olynyk J, Knight B)
Awards & Prizes

Stuart McPherson
Winner, Young Investigator, Gastroenterology Society Annual Update 2008, Coolum.

National & International Presentations

Associate Professor Elizabeth Powell
Invitation to chair ‘Meet the Professor Luncheon’ at the AASLD, San Francisco, October.
Townsville Gut Club, August.

Associate Professor Andrew Clouston
Case Discussant – Liver Pathology, US-Canadian Academy of Pathology, 97th Annual Scientific Meeting, Denver USA, March.
Liver biopsy interpretation for the clinician, Johnson & Johnson Professional Practice Weekend for Gastroenterologists, Sydney, April.
Slide seminar – Gastrointestinal pathology, RCPA NSW Education Subcommittee, Sydney, May.
Infective liver diseases (slide seminar), International Academy of Pathology World Congress, Athens, Greece, September.
Inflammatory bowel disease – diagnosis, pitfalls and dysplasia (Colonic inflammatory lesions - Short Course), International Academy of Pathology World Congress, Athens, Greece, September.

Major Grants & Financial Support
Total NHMRC funding: $398,125
Other Competitive funding: $301,000
Medical Oncology

The Division of Cancer Services is a comprehensive, multidisciplinary adult cancer unit, incorporating the Departments of Medical Oncology, Clinical Haematology, Radiation Oncology and Palliative Care. Unique features include an established intellectual environment and research culture that brings together research scientists and clinicians across disciplines, strong tradition of basic and clinical research. In addition there are a range of multidisciplinary cancer clinics, a large clinical trials department and staff with national and international reputation.

The Medical Oncology Department is a tertiary-referral centre for cancer. Most clinics operate in a multi-disciplinary format with radiation oncology, surgical and allied health services. The Department has an active clinical trials program primarily in breast cancer, melanoma, gastroesophageal cancer, colorectal cancer, head and neck cancer, pancreatic cancer and lung cancer. Participation in clinical trials conducted under the auspices of national and international study groups such as the Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group (AGITG), the Australian New Zealand Germ Cell Trials Group (ANZGCTG), the Australian New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group (ANZBCTG), Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG), National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Group (NSABP), European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) has enabled the department access to and experience with the latest developments in treatments regimens for cancer patients.

The unit has a significant history in the conduct of industry-initiated research trials allowing the hospital, and ultimately the patient, access to potential cutting edge developments in cancer therapy. The department has a considerable infrastructure of clinical trial research staff and shares research nurses and data managers with the Haematology and the Radiation Oncology departments. New trials in sarcoma are due to start in 2009. Sadly, Dr Guminski resigned to take up a position in Sydney.

Associate Professor Damien Thomson
Director

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

20050181 (Panitumumab): A Randomised, Multicentre Phase III Study to Compare the Efficacy of Panitumumab in Combination with Chemotherapy to the Efficacy of Chemotherapy Alone in Patients with Previously Treated Metastatic Colorectal Cancer. Trial closed to accrual.

AGITG CO20: A Phase III Randomized Study of Brivanib Alaninate (BMS-582664) in Combination with Cetuximab (Erbitux®) versus Placebo in Combination with Cetuximab (Erbitux®) in Patients Previously Treated with Combination Chemotherapy for Metastatic Colorectal Carcinoma. Trial open to accrual.
AGITG CO7: A Clinical Trial Comparing 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU) Plus Leucovorin (LV) and Oxaliplatin with 5-FU with LV for the Treatment of Patients with stages II and III Carcinoma of the Colon. Trial closed to accrual.

ALTTO: A Randomised, Multi-centre, Open-label, Phase III Study of Adjuvant Lapatinib, Trastuzumab, their Sequence and their Combination in Patients with HER2/ ErbB2 Positive Primary Breast Cancer (BIG 2-06). Trial open to accrual.

ANZ0502 (NeoAdj Gem): A Phase II Trial Evaluating the Efficacy and Safety of Epirubicin and Cyclophosphamide (EC) followed by Docetaxel with Gemcitabine (DG) (+ Trastuzumab if HER2-positive) as Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy for Women with Large Operable or Locally Advanced Breast Carcinoma. Trial closed to accrual.


ATTAX (AG0603G): A Randomised Phase II Study Evaluating a Weekly Schedule of Docetaxel with Cisplatin and 5-FU (wTCF) or Capecitabine (wTX) in Advanced Oesophago-gastric Cancer. Trial closed to accrual.

ATTAX2: Phase II Study of Cetuximab (Erbitux) plus Weekly Docetaxel Chemotherapy in Docetaxel Refractory Patients with EGFR Positive Advanced Oesophago-gastric Cancer. PAH. Trial closed to accrual.

BCIRG 005: Treatment with Chemotherapy Before and After Surgery versus Surgery in Liver Metastases from Colorectal Cancer. Trial closed to accrual.

BCIRG 006 (GIST): A Phase III Randomized, Intergroup, International Trial Assessing the Clinical Activity of STI-571 at two dose levels in patients with Unresectable or Metastatic Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumours (GIST) Expressing the KIT Receptor Tyrosine Kinase (CD117). Trial closed to accrual.

EORTC 62005 (GIST): A Phase III Randomized, Intergroup, International Trial Assessing the Clinical Activity of STI-571 at two dose levels in patients with Unresectable or Metastatic Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumours (GIST) Expressing the KIT Receptor Tyrosine Kinase (CD117). Trial closed to accrual.

IBCSC 18-98 (BIG 1-98): A Phase III Study to Evaluate Letrozole as Adjuvant Endocrine Therapy for Postmenopausal Women with Receptor (ER and/or PgR) Positive Tumours. Trial closed to accrual.

IBCSC 20-98 (BIG 2-98): An Intergroup Phase III Trial to Evaluate the Activity of Docetaxel, Given Either Sequentially or in Combination with Doxorubicin, Followed by CMF, in Comparison to Doxorubicin Alone or in Combination with Cyclophosphamide, Followed by CMF, in the Adjuvant Setting Treatment of Node-Positive Breast Cancer Patients. Trial closed to accrual.

IFN β Vaccine: Therapeutic Human Melanoma Trial of Peptide Vaccine and Interferon Beta for Overcoming Melanoma Antigen Down-Regulation. Trial suspended.
INDY: A Phase II Study of Imatinib Mesylate in Patients with Neoplastic Diseases Involving Activated Tyrosine Kinases. Trial open to accrual.

LOTESS: The LOTESS Trial: A Clinical Study Investigating the Long Term Efficacy and Safety of Zometa® Treatment. (CZOL446EAU22). Trial closed to accrual.

Merkel Cell: Efficacy Study of Synchronous Weekly Carboplatin and Radiation in Merkel Cell Carcinoma of the Skin. Trial open to accrual.

P04720: A Study to Determine the Activity of SCH 717454 in Subjects with Osteosarcoma or Ewing’s Sarcoma That Has Relapsed After Standard Systemic Therapy (NCT00617890). Trial open to accrual.

PEG-Intron Melanoma: A Phase I Study of the Pharmacokinetics of PEG-Intron, Administered Weekly in Subjects with High Risk Melanoma (PO4831). PAH HREC Number: 2006/199. Trial closed to accrual

PI-88 w Dacarbazine: A Phase II Study of PI-88 with Dacarbazine in Patients with Metastatic Melanoma. Trial closed to accrual

QUASAR2: Multicentre International Study of Capecitabine +/- Bevacizumab as Adjuvant Treatment of Colon Cancer. Trial open to accrual.

STX 0206: Randomised comparative study of FOLFOX6m plus SIR-Spheres® versus FOLFOX6m alone as first line treatment in patients with non-resectable liver metastases from primary colorectal carcinoma. Trial open to accrual.


TROG 03.02: A Feasibility Study to Evaluate Adjuvant Chemoradiotherapy for Gastric Cancer. Trial closed to accrual.

TROG 03.07: A Randomised Phase II Study of Two Regimens of Palliative Chemoradiation Therapy in the Management of Locally Advanced Non Small Cell Lung Cancer. Trial closed to accrual.

TROG 05.01 (POST): Post-Operative Concurrent Chemoradiotherapy versus Post Operative Radiotherapy in High-Risk Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck. Trial open to accrual.

TROG 06.01 (EORTC 22033-26033): Primary chemotherapy with Temozolomide vs radiotherapy in patients with low grade gliomas after stratification for genetic 1p loss: a phase III study. Trial open to accrual.

TROG 08.02: A Randomized Phase III Study of Temozolomide and Short-course Radiation versus Short-course Radiation Alone in the Treatment of Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma Multiforme in Elderly Patients. Trial open to accrual.

Major Grants & Financial Support
Other Competitive funding: $80,623
Funding from other sources: $137,776
The Princess Alexandra Hospital Nephrology Department enjoys the best patient survival rates of any dialysis and kidney transplant centre in Australia and New Zealand. The unit performs over 130 renal transplants per year (more than any other unit in the southern hemisphere) and cares for approximately 650 established transplant patients and 500 dialysis patients. Each year, the unit provides over 20,000 occasions of outpatient service.

The department is the most productive Nephrology research unit in Australasia and is home to the University of Queensland Centre for Kidney Disease Research (CKDR), the Australasian Kidney Trials Network (a multi-centre Australasian renal clinical trials network endorsed by the NHMRC, Kidney Health Australia and the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology) and the NHMRC-endorsed Cardiovascular, Metabolic and Renal Centre of Clinical Research Excellence. There are over 80 projects currently underway in the department, examining such diverse areas as infection control, anaemia management, cardiac risk factor intervention, optimal timing of dialysis commencement, obesity and kidney disease, enhancement of dialysis adequacy, novel prevention strategies for acute renal failure, preservation of kidney function, monitoring healthcare delivery quality, optimization of the safety of anti-rejection drug protocols in transplantation, immunosuppressive drug pharmacokinetic studies, and skin cancer and lymphoma prevention in kidney transplant patients.

Over the last 5 years, several of the department’s research trials have earned national research awards and prompted changes in clinical practice guidelines. The CKDR’s basic science research focus is the investigation of mechanisms underpinning pathological kidney cell growth and fibrogenesis with a view to developing novel therapeutic strategies for the management of acute renal failure, chronic renal scarring and failure, and renal cell carcinoma.

Professor David Johnson
Director of Nephrology, Chair of Medicine, Professor of Medicine,
Professor of Population Health, Head of the Centre for Kidney Disease Research

Current Research Activities

Peritoneal Dialysis

The balANZ trial - A multicentre randomised controlled trial of Balance® in Australian and New Zealand PD patients (Johnson DW, Brown F, Woods F, Bali V).

Predictors of peritonitis in the Australian and New Zealand PD patient populations (Ghali J, Johnson DW, McDonald S, Bannister K).


Corynebacterium Peritonitis in Australian Peritoneal Dialysis Patients: Predictors, Treatment and Outcomes in 82 cases (Barraclough K, McDonald S, Hawley CM,


Peritoneal small solute clearance is non-linearly related to patient survival in the Australian and New Zealand peritoneal dialysis patient populations (Rumpsfeld M, McDonald SP, Johnson DW).

The effect of dialysis modality on decline of residual renal function (Hawley CM, Petrie J, Johnson DW).

The IMPENDIA trial – Multi-center, prospective, randomized trial to demonstrate Improved Metabolic Control of PPEN Vs DDDD in Diabetic CAPD patients (Johnson DW, Bali V).

Independent predictors of time to first peritonitis episode and peritonitis rate (and time to permanent catheter loss due to peritonitis) in the Australian and New Zealand PD patient populations (Johnson DW).

Outcomes following catheter removal for peritonitis (including outcomes upon recommencement of PD) (Barraclough K, Hawley CM, Johnson DW).

The impact of APD versus CAPD on peritonitis in the Australian and New Zealand PD patient populations (Barraclough K, Hawley CM, Johnson DW).

Predictors of recovery (and time to recovery) of dialysis-independent renal function in scleroderma renal crisis patients commencing PD or HD in Australia and New Zealand (Johnson DW).

The effect of dialysis modality on spontaneous recovery of dialysis-independent renal function in Australian and New Zealand dialysis patients with end-stage renal failure (Macdonald J, McDonald SP, Johnson DW).

A systematic review of the effects of biocompatible peritoneal dialysis solutions on patient outcomes (Wiggins K, Johnson DW).

The effect of dialysis modality on infectious mortality in the Australian and New Zealand PD patient populations (Johnson DW, Dent H, McDonald SP).

The effect of dialysis modality on cardiovascular mortality in the Australian and New Zealand PD patient populations (Johnson DW, Dent H, McDonald SP)

The effect of dialysis modality on the prevalence and incidence of hepatitis infections in the Asia-Pacific region (Johnson DW, Dent H).

Microbiology and outcomes of peritonitis in Australian peritoneal dialysis patients (Ghali J, McDonald SP, Bannister K, Johnson DW).

A randomised, controlled trial of exit site application of Medihoney™ Wound Gel for the prevention of catheter-associated infections in peritoneal dialysis patients (HONEYPOT trial) (Johnson DW, Hawley CM, Isbel NM, Clark C, Bali V).

A randomised controlled trial of oral HEMe iron polypeptide Against Treatment with Oral Controlled Release Iron Tablets for the correction of anaemia in peritoneal dialysis patients (HEMATOCRIT trial) (Barraclough K, Johnson DW, Hawley CM, Leary DR).

Predictors of residual renal function decline in Australian and New Zealand peritoneal dialysis patients (Badve S, Johnson DW, McDonald S).

A retrospective observational cohort study assessing the clinical outcomes of amputation in dialysis patients (Hawley C, Isbel N, Campbell SC, Johnson DW).

Effect of dialysis modality on infectious hospitalisation and outcomes (Clark C, Hawley CM, Isbel NM, Johnson DW).
Haemodialysis
Temporary vascular access in haemodialysis: reasons for process failure in incident dialysis patients (Hawley C, Nicholas P, Derhy A, Duke A for the Collaborative for Healthcare Improvement)

Ethanol lock therapy for the prevention of tunnelled catheter-related bacteraemia in haemodialysis patients (Broom J, Playford G, Johnson DW, Hawley CM)

A randomised, placebo-controlled trial of oxpentifylline on haemoglobin levels in patients with erythropoietin-resistant anaemia (The HERO trial) (Johnson DW, Hawley CM, Leary DR)

The impact of nocturnal home haemodialysis on patient outcomes (van Eps C, Hawley C, Isbel N, Campbell SB, Johnson DW).

Effects of Alternate Night Nocturnal Hemodialysis on Oxidative Stress and Antioxidant Enzymes (Van Eps C, Hawley C, Jeffries J).

Nutritional status and appetite regulation in alternate night nocturnal haemodialysis (Van Eps C, Hawley C, Jeffries J).

Bone mineral metabolism and histology in alternate nightly nocturnal haemodialysis (Van Eps C, Hawley C, Jeffries J).

Prognostic indices in post-transplantation lymphoproliferative disorders (PTLDs) after renal transplantation (Hourigan MJ, Mollee PN, Gill DS, Johnson DW, Gandhi MK).

Safety of immunosuppression cessation during chemotherapy for Post-Transplantation Lymphoproliferative Disorders (PTLD) in Renal Transplant Patients (Hourigan MJ, Mollee PN, Gill DS, Johnson DW, Gandhi MK).

A prospective trial of intradermal hepatitis B vaccination in dialysis patients who have failed to seroconvert following standard subcutaneous vaccination (Barraclough K, Wiggins K, Van Eps C, Hothersall E, Johnson DW, Campbell SB, Isbel N, Playford G, Hawley C).

A pure red cell aplasia surveillance program in haemodialysis patients receiving erythropoietin (Sudak J, Johnson DW).

A randomized, placebo-controlled study to assess the effects of Cholesterol-lowering therapy with a combination of simvastatin and Ezetimibe on the Risk of Major Cardiovascular Complication Among Individuals with Chronic Kidney disease (SHARP trial) (Johnson DW, Sudak J).

The initiating dialysis early and late (IDEAL) study (Johnson DW, Martin A, Leary DR).

Quality of life and alternate nightly home haemodialysis (van Eps C, Hawley CM, Jeffries J, Johnson DW, Campbell SB, Isbel NM, Mudge DW).

A randomised, controlled, open-label, multi-centre, parallel-group study to demonstrate the efficacy and safety of R00503821 when administered intravenously for the maintenance treatment of anaemia in patients with chronic kidney disease who are on dialysis (Johnson, DW, Sudak, J).

A randomized, controlled, open-label, multi-center, parallel-group study to compare the efficacy and safety of R00503821 with that of darbepoetin alfa administered intravenously at extended dosing intervals for the maintenance treatment of anaemia in patients with chronic kidney disease who are on hemodialysis (Johnson, DW, Edmunds, J).

A Randomized Study to Evaluate the Effects of Cinacalcet Plus Low Dose Vitamin D on Vascular Calcification in Subjects with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Receiving Hemodialysis (Advance) (Hawley C, Sudak J).

Evaluation of Cinacalcet HCl Therapy to Lower Cardiovascular Events (EOLVE) (Hawley C, Sudak J).

Transplantation
Outcomes associated with live donor renal transplantation in Queensland (Kaisar MO, Campbell SB, Isbel N, Hawley CM, Nicol DL, Johnson DW).

Intravenous versus oral iron supplementation for the correction of post-transplant anaemia (Mudge DW, Tan K, Haley CM, Campbell SB, Isbel NM, Nicol DL, Johnson DW, Leary DR).

The role of tumourectomised kidneys as a potential source of allografts for renal transplantation (Nicol DL, Johnson DW, Campbell SB, Isbel N, Hawley C, Martin A).

Polycystic kidneys as a potential source of allografts for renal transplantation (Nicol DL, Johnson DW, Campbell SB, Isbel N, Hawley C).

Predictors of graft function in recipients of kidneys from live donors (Hawley CM, Kearsley J, Campbell SB,

Adiponectin in renal transplant recipients (Kaisar MO, Armstrong K, Prins J, Johnson DW, Isbel N).

Impact of Aggressive Intervention in RTR with impaired glucose tolerance on insulin resistance and atheroma burden (Kaisar MO, Armstrong K, Prins J, Johnson DW, Isbel N).

Assessment of exercise and dietary factors associated with abnormal glucose tolerance in renal transplant recipients (Orazio L).

Identification of cardiovascular risk markers in live donors post nephrectomy: longitudinal follow-up. Focus on endothelial dysfunction, inflammation and oxidative stress (Kaisar MO, Isbel NM, Johnson DW).

Evaluation of Nephroprotection and Efficacy as First-line Immunosuppression Trial (BENEFIT) (Campbell, S, Leary DR).

A Randomized, Open-Label Study to Compare the Rate of New Non-melanoma Skin Cancer in Maintenance Renal Allograft Recipients Converted to a Sirolimus-based Regimen versus Continuation of a Calcineurin Inhibitor-based Regimen (Campbell S, Sonnenburg K).

Effectiveness of Dietician Involvement in a lifestyle intervention in renal transplant recipients with abnormal glucose tolerance (Orazio L, Isbel I, Armstrong K, Johnson D, Kaisar MO).

General Nephrology

A randomised controlled trial comparing the impact of aggressive risk factor and lifestyle modification utilising nurse led co-ordinated care with standard care to limit the progression of cardiovascular disease in patients with chronic kidney disease (Isbel, N, Petchey, W, Sonnenburg, K).

The role of novel biomarkers of cardiovascular disease in chronic kidney disease: focus on adiponectin and leptin (Kaisar MO, Johnson DW, Prins J, Isbel NM).

Opinions on the effect, content and structure of guidelines on CKD: Results of a national survey of nephrologists (Irving M, Walker R, Johnson DW).

Oxidative stress and cardiovascular disease in chronic kidney disease (Kaisar MO, Johnson DW, Isbel NM).

The use of Human Neutrophil Gelatinase-Associated Lipocalin as a predictor of contrast induced nephropathy in critical illness (Venkatesh B, Johnson DW).

The use of Human Neutrophil Gelatinase-Associated Lipocalin as a predictor of acute kidney injury in renal transplantation (Johnson DW).

A Randomised, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Study to Assess the Efficacy and Safety of Cinacalcet HCl in Chronic Kidney Disease Subjects with Secondary Hyper-parathyroidism Not Receiving Dialysis Protocol 20000178 (Hawley C, Sudak J).

A Sequential Adaptive Phase II/III Multi-Center, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Abatacept versus Placebo on a Background of Mycophenolate Mofetil and glucocorticosteroids in Subjects with Active Proliferative Glomerulonephritis due to Systemic Lupus Erythematous (SLE) (Mudge D, Edmunds J, Leary DR).

An Open-Label, Phasellllb, Multi-Centre, Randomised, Parallel-Group Study to Investigate the Efficacy and Safety of Three Dosing Schedules of Subcutaneous Dynepo in Adult Patients with Anaemia Associated with Chronic Kidney Disease who are Pre-Dialysis or Require Peritoneal Dialysis or Haemodialysis (Isbel N, Martin A, Bali, V).

An Open Label Tolerability and Safety Study of KRX-101 (Sulodexide Gelcaps) for the Treatment of Type 2 Diabetic Nephropathic Patients with Persistent Microalbuminuria in Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong (Isbel N, Franzen K, Martin, A).

An open-label, randomized, multicenter, parallel group study to demonstrate correction of anemia using once monthly subcutaneous injections of R005030821 in patients with chronic kidney disease who are not on dialysis (Isbel N, Edmunds J).

A Phase 3, Multi-center, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled, Parallel-arm Trial to Determine Long-term Safety and Efficacy of Oral Tolvaptan Tablet Regimens in Adult Subjects with Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (Mudge D., Edmunds J).

Randomised and Multi-Center Two-Group Clinical Trial to Assess the Best Treatment for Patients with High Blood Pressure and Renal Artery Stenosis: Stenting with Anti-Hypertensive Medical Therapy, Compared to Medical Therapy alone (Mudge D, Martin A).
PYR-210: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Multi-Center, Phase 2b Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Pyridorin™ (pyridoxamine dihydrochloride) in Participants with Nephropathy Due to Type 2 Diabetes (Isbel N, Halbush S).

The prevalence of 25 hydroxy vitamin D deficiency in patients with CKD living in a subtropical climate (Siva B, Isbel N).

The high prevalence of obesity in the CKD population (Frazier J, Isbel N).

Basic Science Research

Erythropoietin as a novel renoprotective agent in in vitro and in vivo models of acute ischaemic renal, brain and cardiac injury (Johnson DW, Vesey D, Gobe G, Endre Z).

Protective effect of Angelica sinensis on renal vascular endothelial cell damage induced by oxidative stress (Yamada M, Vesey DA, Gobe GC Johnson DW).


Expression and phosphorylation of P66SHC in young and old rats subjected to oxidative stress (Percy C, Brown L, Johnson DW, Gobe GC).


The role of protease activated receptors (PARs) in progressive renal scarring, inflammation and failure (Vesey D, Gobe G, Johnson DW).

Strategies for modifying acute renal ischemic injury: increasing the mobilisation and maturation of endothelial progenitor cells (Vesey D, Johnson DW, Gobe GC).

Apoptosis of tubulointerstitial chronic inflammatory cells in progressive renal fibrosis after cancer therapies (Johnson DW, Gobe GC).

The therapeutic application of adult mesenchymal stem cells in renal regeneration (Clark C, McTaggart S, Gobe GC, Johnson DW).

Awards & Prizes

Professor David Johnson
Queensland Finalist, Australian of the Year

Dr Katherine Barraclough
1st prize, Queensland Royal Australasian College of Physicians Medical Registrar Research Awards
Finalist, Young Investigator Awards, Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Annual Scientific Meeting

Dr Sridevi Govindarajulu
Richard Kemp Prize, Qld RACP Advanced Trainees’ Annual Scientific Meeting 2008

Ms Linda Orazio
Nestle New Emerging Researcher Award, Dietitians Best new researcher at Dieticians Association of Australia National Conference, ASM

National & International Presentations

Professor David Johnson
Erythropoietin and ischaemia-reperfusion injury, Amgen National Renal Weekend Symposium, Melbourne, 29 February – 2 March.
HONEYPOT trial update, Amgen National Renal Weekend Symposium, Melbourne, 29 February – 2 March.
Automated peritoneal dialysis, 5th Asia-Pacific PD College, Bangkok, Thailand, March.
Clinicopathological case discussion, 5th Asia-Pacific PD College, Bangkok, Thailand, March.
Effect of dialysis modality on quality of life and infectious outcomes, Zhongshan Hospital, Guangzhou, China, March.
Dialysis registry overview, Zhongshan Hospital, Guangzhou, China, March.
Effect of dialysis modality on infectious outcomes, Shanghai, China, March.
Automated peritoneal dialysis, Shanghai, China, March.
Biocompatible peritoneal dialysis solutions, Home Dialysis Therapies Symposium, Sydney, March.
APD versus CAPD, Home Dialysis Therapies Symposium, Sydney, March.
The contribution of chronic kidney disease to cardiovascular disease, GP Cardiovascular Symposia
Meetings, Brisbane, March.
Managing stage 3 Chronic Kidney Disease in General Practice, General Practice Conference, Cairns, May.

Hypertension Management, General Practice Symposium, Brisbane, May.

Management of stage 3 chronic kidney disease, General Practitioners’ Continuing Education Conference, Brisbane, September.

Cardiovascular care in chronic kidney disease, CKD Symposium, Prague, October.

Associate Professor Nicole Isbel
Diabetic Kidney disease 2008 GSK Gold Specialist and GP meeting, Sydney, May.

Circling around the problem – CKD and CVD ANZSN ASM, Newcastle, September

Associate Professor David Mudge
Management of Refractory Hypertension Sanofi-Aventis Hypertension Symposium, Brisbane, April.

Associate Professor Carmel Hawley
How to Get Blood into a Stone Renovascular Hypertension Symposium, Asia Pacific Forum in Nephrology, Melbourne, June.

eGFR: When To Refer Merck General Practice Education Meeting, Brisbane, July.

The Renaissance of Home Hemodialysis: Complications of Home Hemodialysis. 28th Annual Dialysis Conference, March, Rosen Shingle Creek, Florida, USA.

PD Fundamentals: Metabolically Challenged PD Patients. 28th Annual Dialysis Conference, March, Rosen Shingle Creek, Florida, USA.

HDF – The Brisbane Experience: the fact, the fiction & the future. Hong Kong Society of Nephrology, Hong Kong, May.

Bone Disease in Recipients of Kidney and Kidney/Pancreas transplants - Is there evidence of efficacy Breakfast Symposium, XXII international Society of Transplantation Meeting, Sydney, August.

Home Haemodialysis- the promise, process and pitfalls. South Australian Nephrology Group, November.

Major Grants and Financial Support
Total NHMRC funding: $ 677,500
Other Competitive funding: $ 1,250,900
Nursing Practice Development

The Nursing Practice Development Unit aims to increase the capacity for nurses to undertake research at the hospital. During the year two joint appointments commenced within the hospital. Dr Alexandra McCarthy joined the Division of Cancer Services as a Princess Alexandra Hospital /Queensland University of Technology Joint Senior Research Fellow in Cancer Services. This role aims to support nursing research across the Southern Cancer Clinical Network. Mr Ramon Shaban was appointed as a Princess Alexandra Hospital /Griffith University Joint Research Fellow in Infection Control.

Kerri Holzhauser
Acting Nursing Director, Research

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

National Emergency Care Pain Management Initiative (Huckson S, Bennetts S, Holzhauser K, Shaban R et al)

Improving pain management of abdominal pain in Paediatric Emergency patients using a pre-post: interventional study (Williams S, Bonney D, Gilhotra Y, Pitt R, Holzhauser K)

Regulatory systems for occupational exposures in emergency health care: Contemporary challenges for the emergency physician in prevention, control and management (Sinnott M, Shaban R, Devereux J)

An exploratory study to examine the phenomenon of ambulance ‘ramping’ at hospitals within the Queensland Southern Health Districts and Queensland Ambulance Service (Rose E, Shaban R, Holzhauser K, Fitzgerald G, Finucane J, Crilly J, Eeles D, Tippet V)


Fatuga’O Mania: Developing community capacity to prevent sick kidneys in the Samoan community of Logan (McCarthy A, Shaban R, Stone C, Martin-McDonald K)

A pilot study of the factors that influence the health promotion and risk-reduction behaviours of younger female survivors of breast and haematological cancers (McCarthy A, Shaban R, Winch S, Yates P, Clavarino A, Brunelli V)

Awards & Prizes

Kerri Holzhauser & Julie Finucane
College of Emergency Nursing Australasia 2008

Ramon Shaban
Appointment by invitation – Fellow, Royal College of Nursing Australia
Credentialed Infection Control Practitioner, Australian Infection Control Association

Major Grants and Financial Support

Total NHMRC funding: $ 101,730
Funding from other sources: $ 10,000
Nutrition and Dietetics

The department during the year presented three oral abstracts and five posters, and led three workshops at the Dietitians Association of Australia conference in May. Linda Orazio received the Nestle Nutrition Institute Award for Emerging Researcher at the conference.

There were a number of other staff achievements during the year. Winsome Abbott was awarded her PhD on ‘Fat soluble vitamins and function in adults awaiting liver transplantation’, Maree Ferguson was appointed as Adjunct Associate Professor at QUT and Griffith University, Angela Vivanti was appointed to Honorary Fellow at QUT and Adjunct Lecturer at Griffith University.

The department received $65,000 in grants for research into malnutrition, falls, dehydration and nutritional status of haemodialysis patients. The department partnered with Griffith University to provide eight research student placements.

Dr Maree Ferguson
Director

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

Management of patients with malnutrition at the Princess Alexandra Hospital (Ferguson M, Hedges K, O’Neill M, Vivanti A, Day S).

Nutrition as medicine for geriatric hospitalised patients with malnutrition (Ferguson M, Vivanti A Varghese P, Amin H, Dickson P).

Nutritional status, survivability and morbidity amongst haemodialysis patients (Vivanti, A Orazio L, Muller J, Campbell K).


Assessment of dietary factors and exercise associated with abnormal glucose tolerance in renal transplant recipients (Orazio L, Isbel N, Hickman I, Banks M).

Exploring the relative risk of nutritional status of older people presenting to the emergency department upon falls and hospital admission (Vivanti A, MacDonald C, Haines T, Sinnott M).


Awards & Prizes

Linda Orazio

Major Grants and Financial Support

Funding from other sources: $ 65,000
Occupational Therapy

Princess Alexandra Hospital occupational therapists are health professionals working in partnership with adults to overcome factors which limit their ability to function in their chosen ‘occupational roles’ and impact on their quality of life. Injury or illness, environmental, psychological or emotional difficulties, or the effects of aging can cause these limiting factors. Through developing research capacity and strength in a variety of clinical areas, occupational therapists are a major contributor to the clinical knowledge base, creating a strong research profile nationally and internationally, and enhancing evidenced based clinical decision making locally.

During the year research activity concentrated in the areas of brain injury rehabilitation, spinal cord injury research, aged care assessment and management, hand and upper limb rehabilitation, cancer, and cardiac services. Highlights included the commencement of an ARC Linkage grant for a multidisciplinary project on the transition from hospital to home after brain injury. Research outcomes continue to be disseminated through publication in peer-reviewed journals and by presentation at national rehabilitation and occupational therapy conferences. Currently, the department supports eight postgraduate research students conducting research in the fields of brain injury, aged care, cancer, and hand therapy.

Mary Whitehead
Director

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

Evaluation of rehabilitation strategies for prospective memory in individuals with traumatic brain injury (Fleming J, Shum D, Strong J). A NHMRC funded randomised controlled trial comparing remedial and compensatory approaches to rehabilitation. Findings indicate a compensatory approach is more effective in enhancing prospective memory performance and psychosocial outcomes, and a final manuscript of results is currently under preparation.

Community based rehabilitation after traumatic brain injury: a comparison of home and hospital based outpatient intervention (Doig E, Fleming J, Kuipers P). This PhD study compares goal attainment of individuals with TBI in two settings (outpatient clinic based rehabilitation and home/community based rehabilitation) using a within-subjects design and qualitative methodology.

A randomised control trial investigating the effects of group education and support in reducing cancer-related fatigue and improving quality of life in patients undergoing radiotherapy (Purcell A, Fleming J, Haines T, Burmeister, B). This examines the effectiveness and timing of a multidisciplinary group intervention to assist patients to manage cancer-related fatigue and reduce its debilitating effects on quality of life during and following radiotherapy treatment.

Other Projects

Validity of the Comprehensive Assessment of Prospective Memory (CAPM) for use with adults with...


From hospital to home: transition experiences and outcomes for individuals with ABI (Turner B, Fleming J, Ownsworth T, Cornwell P).


Past and current leisure activities of individuals in a brain injury rehabilitation unit (Braithwaite H, Fleming J, Gustafsson L, Griffin J).


Facilitation of self management of the upper limb following a stroke (Bower K, Hoffmann T, Gustafsson L).

Splinting to prevent forearm rotation – to what degree? (Slaughter A, Miles L).


Effects of prism adaptation on space perception following chronic and reversible cortical lesions (Mattingly J, Eramudugolla R, Irvine D, Boyce A).

Clinical utility, reliability and validity of the Self-Perceptions in Rehabilitation Scale (SPIRS) in brain injury rehabilitation (Ownsworth T, Fleming J, Ross J, Collier AM, Ea Stewart).

Awards & Prizes

Dr Jennifer Fleming

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Research Award for 2007 (Level C).

Major Grants & Financial Support

Competitive funding: $338,181
The Older Persons Mental Health Service (OPMHS) is the psychogeriatric service within the Princess Alexandra Health Service District.

A number of projects were undertaken within the Service to improve the quality of MH care provided by Queensland Health across the state:

- Standardisation of documentation used by OPMHS (Ms Jacinta Lipp).
- Work supporting the new statewide Mental Health Model of Service Delivery as it applies to older persons (Ms Leanne Izzard RN).
- Literature review of OPMH service completed supporting the Model (Dr. Deidre McLaughlin- Senior Lecturer, UQ).
- Development of a model and trial of telegeriatric psychiatry in collaboration with the Geriatric Medicine Department (Susan Austin RN).
- Development of a website for other OPMHS is allowing staff to access clinical information, tools and operating procedures in a user friendly format.
- In collaboration with the Academic Unit of Geriatric medicine, the service has housed the Queensland node of the Dementia Collaborative Research Centre 2: Prevention, Promotion and Early Intervention since 2007 which has resulted in a number of publications.
- A multimedia website went live on the hospital intranet which is being evaluated by log file analysis assessing the utility of net-based dementia education in the hospital environment across 2008-2009.

Dr David Lie
Director
**Current Research Activities**

**Clinical Projects**

*STEADI (Streaming Technology as an Adjunct to Dementia Intervention) Project* (Lie D, Austin S). Investigates the utility of web-based information in supporting clinical care and involved setting up a dementia related website on the PA server.

**Other Projects**

*KR1 Older Persons Mental health Documentation Project* (Lie D, Lipp J). A state-wide standardised documentation suite was developed for use in Older Persons Mental health services. This entailed reviewing mental health assessment, risk assessment and treatment from the older patient perspective and allowing for local variation across Health Districts. Funding and supported from the Patient Safety Centre arising from the Achieving Balance Report.

*Model of service Delivery* (Lie D, Izzard L, McLaughlin D). A consultation was held to inform an updated model of service delivery for OPMH to support the new Qld Plan for Mental Health 2007-2017. A literature review (author Dr. Deidre McLaughlin) and a summary of findings presented to the Statewide Mental Health Network. Protocols were developed to inform the use of telegeriatric psychiatry in QLD.

**National & International Presentations**

*Dr. David Lie*

Dementia in acute care – Redesigning healthcare for the ageing population. Mercure Hotel, Brisbane, May.

Streamed technology as an adjunct to dementia interventions – Eastern Australian Dementia Training Study Centre Guest Lecture, Uni Wollongong, May.

Intranet Technology educates Acute Care on Dementia Interventions- Stirling Conference at the University of Stirling, September.

**Major Grants & Financial Support**

Funding from other sources: $ 85,500
Pathology Queensland established a new research facility, the Molecular and Clinical Pathology Research Laboratory (MaCH R), on the campus of the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

The aims of the facility are:

To enable the translation of basic research into practical applications for the improvement of patient outcomes in cancer, through the creation of a state-of-the-art translational support facility dedicated to providing a link between basic science and clinical services for the direct benefit of cancer patients.

To facilitate the development of diagnostic/monitoring tests and novel predictive/prognostic biomarker assays to improve patient outcomes in cancer and to facilitate the development of targeted therapy for cancer.

With the completion of the human genome project there have been major advances in the field of molecular pathology with the identification of new therapeutic targets and biomarkers in cancer. Key technologies responsible for these advances include microarray-based gene expression profiling, functional genomics, high-throughput genetic profiling by single nucleotide polymorphism analysis, tissue microarray technology, next generation sequencing, digital slide scanning, computerised image analysis and automated Immunohistochemistry and automated in-situ hybridisation.

Funding of $2.96 million has been received through the Smart State Innovation Building Fund for purchasing of the required equipment. Training and initial work-up of the instruments is proceeding and the above technologies are being finalized at the facility.

A large database has been developed to integrate these biomarker results with patient outcome.

Dr Glenn Francis
Head of Molecular and Clinical Pathology Research Laboratory

Current Research Activities

Other Projects

**Phenotypic / genotypic profiling and outcome in breast cancer (Francis G, Stein S, Wagner S).** Aim of research project: The identification of biomarkers to determine outcome in breast cancer patients.

**Prediction of lymph node status in breast cancer patients (Francis G, Stein S, Wagner S).** Aim of research project: The prediction of the lymph node status from characteristics of the primary tumour.
Prospective assessment of patient response to treatment with the drug Trastuzumab (Francis G, Stein S, Wagner S). The aim of the research project is to determine biomarkers to predict response of HER2 positive patients to targeted therapy.

High-through-put tissue analysis of novel candidate biomarkers of breast cancer progression (Francis G, Stein S, Wagner S). The aim of the research project is to determine biomarkers to predict breast cancer progression in lymph node positive patients.

E-Health extraction of pathology data from text reports (Francis G, Stein S, Wagner S). The aim of the research project is to extract data from pathology reports into synoptic format.

Utilisation of biomarkers to determine outcome in HER2 positive breast cancer patients (Francis G, Stein S, Wagner S). The aim of the research project is to determine biomarkers to predict response of HER2 positive patients to therapy.

Gene expression analysis of breast cancer cell populations and correlation with metastatic clones using immuno-laser capture microdissection (Francis G, Stein S, Wagner S). The aim of the research project is to identify gene expression profiles of breast cancer cell populations and correlation with metastatic clones.

Identification and analysis of non-coding RNAs that contribute to advanced breast cancer (Francis G, Stein S, Wagner S). The aim of research project is to identify non-coding RNAs that contribute to advanced breast cancer.

An analysis of the Pathological Characteristics of a Proven Epidemiological Cluster of Breast Cancers (Francis G, Stein S, Wagner S). The aim of the research project is to review the pathology of the tumours from the breast cancer patient cluster.

Novel Strategies for Prediction and Control of Advanced Breast Cancer via Nanoscaled Epigenetic-Based Biosensors (Francis G, Stein S, Wagner S). The aim of the research project is the identification of DNA methylation profiles using nanotechnology that enables prediction advanced breast cancer.

Novel nanoparticle-based biosensor technology for multiplexed detection of methylation profiles in breast cancer metastases (Francis G, Stein S, Wagner S). The aim of the research project is to identify methylation profiles in breast cancer.

Translational pilot study of combined Androgen Receptor and ErbB2 inhibition in Molecular Apocrine subtype of Breast Cancer (Francis G, Stein S, Wagner S). Aim of research project: To identify androgen receptor status in apocrine type breast cancer.

The affect of MYB and associated genes being expression on estrogen-receptor positive and negative breast cancer cells and lines (Francis G, Stein S, Wagner S). The aim of the research project is to identify genes associated with MYB in breast cancer.

National & International Presentations
Dr Glenn Francis
Molecular classification of breast cancer, Queensland Cancer Oncology Group, October.

Major Grants & Financial Support
Competitive Funding: $ 2,960,000
Pharmacy

The Pharmacy department completed during the year both local and national Drug Use Evaluations (DUE). These have been conducted by pharmacists, pharmacists completing postgraduate studies, undergraduate pharmacy students, nursing and other clinical staff. The DUEs are co-ordinated by the Drug Use Evaluation pharmacist.

The department has a specialist pharmacist working in clinical trials who is involved in 90 Clinical trials, as well as an infectious diseases specialist pharmacist who is involved in six clinical trials and oncology pharmacists who are involved in 60 clinical trials.

_Lynette Loy_
_Director_

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

Evaluation of the Impacts of a Doctor - Pharmacist Collaborative Supplementary Prescribing Model in a Multidisciplinary Elective Surgery Pre-Admission Clinic (Hale A)

Proposed Supplementary Prescribing Model - A randomised controlled study, following ethical approval, is proposed to investigate the outcome of extending the role of the senior pharmacist, in Pre-Admission Clinic only, to the prescribing of the inpatient medication chart for the administration of medications on the ward peri-operatively.

Other Projects

Warfarin calculator – Clinicians views (Winckel K).

Potassium minibag trail in ICU (Badman B).

Evidence-Based Prescribing of Antiemetics in Chemotherapy Induced Nausea and Vomiting Sandhu G, Ng K, Yung E, Wojewoda D, Weir J).

Discharge Medications after Acute Coronary Syndrome (DMACS) a multicentre national study (Coombes J with Downie M and Slater K of cardiology research).

Audit of Medication Storage in ward refrigerators (Allam L)

Rituximab use off label and associated outcomes (Horn B, Sturtevant J).

Evaluation of medications in patients attending PAH Heart Failure Service clinic and rehabilitation class (Chan K, Chuan F).

An Audit of Secondary Prevention for stroke (Lau E, Amin H).

An Audit of Benzodiazepine use in mental health (Wu F, Mould S).
National & International Presentations

Jo Sturtevant
Invited speaker SHPA introductory seminar in clinical pharmacy practice, June.
Amgen Meeting, national Renal Symposium, Sydney.

Karl Winckel
Invited speaker SHPA introductory seminar in clinical pharmacy practice, June.

Judith Coombes,
Invited speaker SHPA introductory seminar in clinical pharmacy practice, June.

Badman B,
Invited Speaker SHPA seminar in critical care pharmacy.

Sean Unwin
Physiotherapy

The Physiotherapy Department had a very successful year with 10 publications in peer reviewed journals and in excess of $1 million dollars received in grant funding. Three research higher degree students continued to make substantial progress on their studies. The department farewelled Dr Terry Haines who returned to Melbourne to take up an Associate Professor position at Monash University. He will be surely missed. His publication and funding track record is substantial and the department wish him and his family well.

Kathy Grudzinskas
Director

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects


Validation of the acute brain injury physiotherapy assessment (Gesch J, Nascimento M, Passier L).


Treadmill walking to improve walking and fitness following stroke: a single blinded pilot randomized controlled trial. (Kuys SS, Brauer SG, Ada L).

Randomised controlled trial of multimedia patient education approaches to preventing in-hospital falls (Haines T, Hill K, Hoffmann T, Brauer SG, Oliver D, Hill A).

Evaluating health-related quality of life: new ideas for old problems (McPhail S, Beller E, Haines T).

Falling for misconceptions in hospital (Haines T, McPhail S, Varghese P).

Major Grants & Financial Support

Total NHMRC funding: $ 185,888
Other Competitive funding: $ 1,030,470
The Queensland Clinical Trials Centre was established in 2001 within The University of Queensland’s School of Population Health. The Centre is based at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, in recognition of the need for Queensland clinical trials to be methodological rigorous, properly conducted, ethical and feasible. The purpose of the Centre is to design and manage clinical trials, provide statistical consulting services and related academic activities to improve health through high-quality research for application in evidence-based practice locally and internationally.

The major research activity during the year included:

- Further development of the Australasian Kidney Trials Network
- The continuation of the Centres as the statistical office for an NHMRC funded Centre for Clinical Research Excellence (which has been funded for a second term of five years)
- Involvement in the statistical design and analysis of four Australasian trials in radiation oncology with the Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology group
- Involvement in the development of controlled trials with the Princess Alexandra Hospital Cancer Collaborative Group
- Contribution to controlled trials in leukaemia (Australian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group), physiotherapy, intensive care, emergency medicine, vascular surgery, diabetes, and renal medicine
- Providing biostatistical advice on design, conduct and analyses of observational, cohort, case-series and case-control studies in clinical departments of hospitals including: Radiation Oncology, Medical Oncology, Haematological Oncology, Orthopedics, Ent Surgery, Speech Therapy, Social Work, Physiotherapy, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Nursing Research, Geriatrics, Palliative Care, Anaesthetics, Endocrinology, Radiology, Cardiology, Trauma Surgery, Intensive Care, Emergency Medicine and The University of Queensland’s Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and Metabolic Medicine.

Elaine Beller
Director
Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

The HONEYPOT trial. A randomised clinical trials to determine whether Medihoney™ Antibacterial Wound Gel, is an effective treatment for the prevention of infections that occur in patients requiring peritoneal dialysis (PD) for kidney failure. This trial has secured more than $800,000 in funding and has commenced recruitment. 370 patients will be recruited over 2 years.

The FAVOURED Trial. A randomised, placebo-controlled clinical trial to determine whether the anti-platelet agents aspirin and fish oil, either alone or in combination, will effectively reduce the risk of early thrombosis (blood clots) in arterio-venous fistulae (AVF). This trial has secured $1.79 million in funding and has commenced recruitment. Twelve-hundred patients requiring haemodialysis will be recruited over three years.

The HERO Trial. A randomised, placebo-controlled trial to determine whether Oxpentifyline (Trental®) administration will effectively treat erythropoitin-resistant or darbepoietin-resistant anaemia in chronic kidney disease patients. The trial has secured more than $310,000 in funding and will commence recruitment in May 2009. One-hundred and ten patients will be recruited over two years.

The BLOCADE Trial. Investigating whether carvedilol (beta-blocker) reduces the incidence of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in patients receiving dialysis. A pilot study will initially be undertaken to determine recruitment rates, tolerability of carvedilol and event rates. The Pilot study has secured $755,000 and will commence recruitment at the end of 2009. One-hundred patients will be recruited over one year.

The Active Dialysis Trial. A prospective, randomised trial designed to provide definitive evidence on the benefits and costs of extending weekly haemodialysis hours beyond current standards, has recently received a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Project Grant of $1.25 million. This trial is run from the George Institute and endorsed by the AKTN.

The POST Trial. A prospective randomised trial of post-operative concurrent chemo-radiotherapy versus post-operative radiotherapy in high-risk cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck. This trial is an initiative of the PAH Cancer Collaborative (Dr Sandro Porceddu), and run through the Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG).

The TOAD Trial. A prospective randomised trial of the timing of intervention with androgen deprivation in prostate cancer patients with a rising PSA (TOAD). This TROG study is comparing early androgen deprivation treatment at PSA relapse, with standard treatment on clinical progression of disease.

TROG Advanced Oesophageal Trial. A randomised phase III study in advanced oesophageal cancer to compare quality of life and palliation of dysphagia in patients treated with radiotherapy versus chemo-radiotherapy.

TROG Bladder Cancer Trial. A randomised phase III study in advanced bladder cancer to compare relapse-free survival time in patients treated with radiotherapy versus chemo-radiotherapy. This study has closed to patient accrual, and will be analysed in 2010.

ALLG MM8 Amyloidosis Trial. A Phase II Study of Risk-Adapted IV Melphalan in patients with AL Amyloidosis. This is a national trial of the Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Study Group, looking at a potential new treatment for this rare disease. It is an initiative of the PAH Cancer Collaborative (Dr Peter Mollee).

Other Projects

ADVANCE trial cost-effectiveness analysis (Glasziou P, Beller E, Alexander J, Clarke P, Rajmokan M). This project is assessing the cost-effectiveness of strict blood glucose control and blood pressure lowering with a fixed combination of perindopril and indapamide in Type 2 diabetes mellitus: and is a substudy of the main ADVANCE trial coordinated by the George Institute for International Health.

National & International Presentations

Alan Cass

The Australasian Kidney Trial Network. NSW Paediatric Clinical Trials Research Roundtable. NSW Office for Science and Medical Research, Sydney.

Melissa Starfield


_Carmel Hawley_


**Major Grants & Financial Support**

- Total NHMRC funding: $767,700
- Other Competitive funding: $556,930
- Funding from other sources: $106,363
The Queensland Melanoma Project was originally established in 1963 by Dr Neville Davies to investigate issues such as the incidence of the disease and outcomes from treatment. The Project has developed over the years to include a multi-disciplinary clinic that involves General Surgeons (Surgical Oncology), Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology and Allied Health. This is the only specialist melanoma clinic in Queensland and offers patient care and advice to clinicians in Queensland and Northern New South Wales. It is through this clinic that a focus on clinical research has developed.

The Queensland Melanoma Project has been involved in local, national and international clinical trials. In 2008 the Queensland Melanoma Project became one of two sites in Australia participating in the phase II PV-10 trial where Rose Bengal is being injected directly into metastatic melanoma deposits. The project was also the first site in the world to open to recruitment and enrol a patient in a new phase III vaccine trial. The project continues to collect prospective data on all patients undergoing nodal surgery or isolated limb therapy. This data has been presented at National conferences.

**Associate Professor B Mark Smithers**

General Surgeon, Senior Lecturer The University of Queensland Department of Surgery,
Chairman Queensland Melanoma Project Princess Alexandra Hospital, Chairman Upper GI and Soft Tissue Unit Princess Alexandra Hospital

**Current Research Activities**

**Clinical Projects**

Multicenter Selective Lymphadenectomy for Melanoma Trial II (Smithers BM, Bayley G, Barbour A, Jones S, Allan C). A Phase III Multicenter Randomized Trial of Sentinel Lymphadenectomy and Complete Lymph Node Dissection versus Sentinel Lymphadenectomy Alone in Cutaneous Melanoma Patients with Molecular or Histopathological Evidence of Metastases in the Sentinel Node.

A Double blind, randomised, placebo-controlled Phase III study to assess the efficacy of recMAGE-A3 + AS15 ASCI as adjuvant therapy in patients with MAGE-A3 positive resected stage III melanoma (Smithers BM, Barbour A, Burmeister B, Walpole W, Bayley G, Allan C).

A Phase II study of intralesional PV-10 in the treatment of metastatic melanoma (Multicentred trial) (Smithers BM, Barbour A, Bayley G, Burmeister B, Allan C).


Phase I clinical trial of interferon modified B7 positive melanoma cell vaccine in patients with Stage IV malignant melanoma (Smithers BM, Barbour A, Burmeister B, Walpole E, Bayley G, Allan C).
Prospective study of the natural history of subjects who were entered in the MMAIT-03-001 and MMAIT-04-001 trials and underwent post-operative therapy with BCG plus placebo or BCG plus Canvaxin (Smithers BM, Bayley G, Barbour A).

Follow-up Study of randomised double-blind phase II trial of NY-ESO-1 Iscomatrix vaccine and Iscomatrix adjuvant alone in patients with resected stage IIc, II or IV malignant melanoma. (Multicentred trial) (Smithers BM, Barbour A, Burmeister B, Walpole E, Bayley G).

The natural history of patients who were entered into the MRPQ0161A study (Smithers BM, O’Rourke M, Schmidt C).

Other Projects

Melanoma Database – Nodal Dissection (Smithers BM, Jones S, Barbour A, Bayley G, Allan C). Established in 2004 data has been collected on all patients undergoing a sentinel lymph node dissection or complete lymph node dissection for metastatic melanoma. Retrospective data has been collected since 1997. There are currently 1117 patients.

Melanoma - Isolated Limb Infusion Database (Smithers BM, Jones S, Barbour A, Bayley G, Allan C). Data has been collected on all patients who have undergone an isolated limb infusion at the Princess Alexandra Hospital since 1997. The majority of these procedures have been for metastatic melanoma.

Major Grants & Financial Support

Funding from commercial studies: $ 264,167
Funding from other sources: $ 1,764
Queensland Spinal Cord Injuries

The Queensland Spinal Cord Injuries Service consists of the Spinal Injuries Unit, the Transitional Rehabilitation Program and the Spinal Outreach Team. All three services have active research programs.

Spinal Cord Injuries Unit

Research highlights in the Spinal Injuries Unit during the year have included: completion of the study “Autologous olfactory ensheathing cell transplantation in human paraplegia: a 3-year clinical trial” with the final paper being published in the journal Brain. Other ongoing research areas include studies related to Professional Boundaries, the effectiveness of the Spinal Cord Injury Response program and use of abdominal binders in people with spinal cord injury.

Dr Tim Geraghty
Director Queensland Spinal Cord Injuries Service, Rehabilitation Physician

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

The effect of an abdominal binder on respiratory and speech function in people who have suffered a spinal cord injury (Wadsworth B). This study investigates the effect of an abdominal binder on breathing, speech and blood pressure in newly injured patients admitted to the Spinal Injuries Unit of the hospital. Subjects with damage to T5 level or above and presenting as a complete injury have been recruited and followed over a 1 year period. To date, full data is available for three subjects, with seven subjects approaching the final data collection point of one year.

Long-term Outcomes of the use of Intermittent Clean Self-Catheterisation (ICSC) following Spinal Cord Injury (Eagarde E, Kendall M, Urquhart S, Geraghty T). This study is investigating the outcomes of the long term use if intermittent clean self catheterisation (ICSC) in people with spinal cord injury. Findings include that the majority of patients discharged using ICSC continue to do so in the long-term and despite the occurrence of complications and some inconvenience the majority not only persist with the technique but do not find it excessively demanding with respect to their daily living and quality of life.

Other Projects

National & International Presentations


Patricia Fronk & Melissa Kendall

Professional Boundaries: Are they still relevant to contemporary practice? Invited workshop conducted at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Spinal Cord Society, Christchurch New Zealand.

Patricia Fronk

Invited to participate in a Delegation of Australian Social Workers to Beijing, Guilin and Shanghai, China.

Spinal Outreach Team

The major research achievement for the Spinal Outreach Team was completion of the data collection phase of the Long Term Outcomes Study in Spinal Cord Injury. The study was conducted over five years and involved 270 participants. Data analysis has now commenced.

Kiley Pershouse
Programme Manager

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

Outcomes in long duration spinal cord injury: Documentation of multiple integrated trajectories of wellbeing and comparative analysis of outcome measures (Amsters D, Pershouse K, Barker R, Kuipers P, Schuurs, S). The study utilises a wave panel design with the longitudinal aspect stretching over 5 years. Data collection was completed in 2008. Analysis of data has commenced.

Transitional Rehabilitation Program

The Transitional Rehabilitation Program (TRP) provides post-primary rehabilitation services for people with spinal cord injuries, who have undergone in-patient rehabilitation in the Queensland Spinal Injuries Unit. TRP forms an integral part of the Queensland Spinal Cord Injuries Service (QSCIS). Rehabilitation services are provided in the community in client’s homes or in the home-like setting of TRP accommodation.

In 2008, the Transitional Rehabilitation Program has continued its active research focus on the consolidation and finalisation of several projects. This activity has resulted in the acceptance and publication of several papers related to applied research that has been conducted over many years in the clinical setting and the submission of a doctoral research thesis. New research commenced to investigate the nature of the therapeutic relationship in community rehabilitation settings.

Greg Ungerer
Manager
Current Research Activities

Other Projects

Exploring the therapeutic relationship in transitional rehabilitation (Myburg M, Kendall M). This project commenced during 2008 and aims to examine the nature and scope of the therapeutic relationship between therapist and client in community rehabilitation settings such as transitional rehabilitation, from the perspective of both therapist and client. This project is continuing during 2009 and was presented at an international conference in 2008.

Social support following spinal cord injury: A qualitative examination of friendships (Kendall M, Kendall E). This project aimed to develop a theory of friendship following spinal cord injury and was completed during 2008 and a doctoral thesis was submitted based on the findings. Clinical guidelines are currently being developed from this project.

Professional boundaries: Development and evaluation of an intervention to address staff knowledge, comfort, attitudes and behaviour (Fronek P, Kendall M, Ungerer G, Malt J, Eugarde E, Geraghty T). This project evaluated an intervention to address professional boundaries in practitioner/client relationships. This project was completed in 2008 and two papers have been accepted for publication in 2009.

Spinal Cord Injury Response: Evaluating a cross-departmental government initiative (Ungerer G, Geraghty T, Fronek P, Bigby A, Rowe C, Shepherd C, Thorne CM, Dwyer P, Harre D). This collaborative project involved an evaluation conducted by Griffith University and contracted by Disability Services Queensland. The project was completed during 2008 and presented at an international conference.

Awards & Prizes

Greg Ungerer

National & International Presentations

Patricia Fronek & Melissa Kendall
Professional Boundaries: Are they still relevant to contemporary practice? Invited workshop conducted at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Spinal Cord Society, Christchurch New Zealand.
Radiation Oncology
(Mater)

The department has continued to participate in a range of clinical research and is currently involved in 19 trials, 11 of which are still actively accruing patients. It has been pleasing to see increased participation of radiation therapy, physics and nursing staff in research trials. With the introduction of two linear accelerators which are equipped with on board imaging and Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy new protocols have been developed to allow the more accurate delivery of treatment and reduced side effects to critical normal tissues.

Associate Professor Michael Poulsen
Director

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

Investigation of Image Guidance Methods for Improved Localisation in External Beam Radiotherapy of the Prostate. (Deagan T). This study prospectively investigates the use of two methods of image-guidance, kV imaging and cone beam CT imaging, for localisation of the prostate during radiation treatment.

Clinical Trials

Tumour volume as an independent prognostic factor in patients with non-small cell lung cancer (TROG 99.05)

A randomised trial of preoperative radiotherapy for stage T3 adenocarcinoma of rectum (TROG 01.04)

A randomised clinical trial of surgery versus surgery plus adjuvant radiotherapy for regional control in patients with completely resected macroscopic nodal metastatic melanoma (TROG 02.01)

A randomised phase III study comparing radical chemo/radiotherapy versus radiotherapy alone in the definitive management of localised muscle invasive TCC of the urinary bladder (TROG 02.03)

A randomised phase III study in advanced oesophageal cancer to compare quality of life and palliation of dysphagia in patients treated with radiotherapy versus chemo-radiotherapy (TROG 03.01)

A randomised trial investigating the effect on survival and PSA control of different durations of adjuvant androgen deprivation in association with definitive radiation treatment for localised carcinoma of the prostate (RADAR) (TROG 03.04)

A phase III study of regional RT in early breast cancer (NCIC MA20) (TROG 03.05)

A phase III study of the Timing of Intervention with Androgen Deprivation in prostate cancer patients with a rising PSA (TOAD) (TROG 03.06)

A Phase III international randomised trial of Single vs. Multiple Fractions for Re-Irradiation of Painful Bone Metastases (TROG 03.08)

Post-operative Concurrent Chemo-Radiotherapy vs. Post-operative Radiotherapy in High-Risk cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck (POST) (TROG 05.01)

QUARTZ – Quality of life after radiotherapy and/or steroids (MRC LU24) (TROG 07.02)
A phase I study of synchronous weekly carboplatin and radiation in Merkel Cell Carcinoma of the skin – a collaborative study between Brisbane, Melbourne and Newcastle departments (Merkel Cell)

Efficacy Study of Synchronous Weekly Carboplatin and Radiation in Merkel Cell Carcinoma of the Skin (Merkel Cell Ph II)

Dexamethasone for the Radiation-Induced for Pain Flare following Palliative Radiotherapy for Bone Metastases – A Phase II Study (Dex for Mets)

A multi-centre randomised trial of standard or higher targets for transfusion during chemo-radiation for cervix cancer (ANZGOG0401) (HOSTT)

A phase III multi-centre randomised trial comparing adjuvant radiotherapy (RT) with surveillance and early salvage RT in patients with positive margin or extraprostatic disease following radical prostatectomy (RAVES) (TROG 08.03)

Randomized Phase III Trial Comparing Concurrent Chemoradiation and Adjuvant Chemotherapy with Pelvic Radiation Alone in High Risk and Advanced Stage Endometrial Carcinoma (PORTEC-3) (TROG 08.04)

Primary chemotherapy with Temozolomide vs radiotherapy in patients with low grade glioma after stratification for genetic 1p loss: a Phase III study (EORTC 22033-26033) (TROG 06.01)

A randomised Phase III study of radiation doses and fractionation schedules in non-low risk ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) of the breast (TROG 07.01)

National & International Presentations

Michael Poulsen, Jim Bishop, Kay Hull, Rhonda Coleman

Invited panel member. Building a cancer centre. Is there consensus about what constitutes a cancer centre? How are the needs of patients being met in a city, regional and rural areas? COSA November.

Kacy Baumann


Major Grants & Financial Support

Total NHMRC funding: $221,000
Funding from other sources: $81,440
Radiation Oncology
(Princess Alexandra Hospital)

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Radiation Oncology Department completed its seventh year of service. As in previous years there have been significant increases in both workload and staffing. Activity in clinical research studies remains high with 34 trials either recruiting patients or monitoring patients during the year. Eleven new trials are undergoing review to commence in 2009 including three protocols initiated by investigators at this centre.

Following the commencement of service of the third linear accelerator, considerable progress has been made in the use of new technology. Cone beam CT and the use of fiducial markers commenced in the management of prostate cancer. Cone beam CT has also been used in the management of lung cancer and in abdominal lymphoma. Late in 2008 it was also identified that intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) needed to become an integral part of therapy PAH. With that in mind, a dedicated project officer has been appointed to streamline the development of IMRT at PAH. The role out of the clinical information system, MOSAIQ continues to expand with more and more tasks being managed electronically. There has been a steady move towards the development of technology –based clinical trials both home-based and multi-centre which should continue in the future.

The Director of Radiation Oncology at the Princess Alexandra Hospital campus, Professor Bryan Burmeister, was promoted to a full professor at The University of Queensland in November. Professor Burmeister was also the recipient of an Australia Day Certificate of Achievement granted for his tireless efforts to improve the prognosis and quality of life of patients with cancer through the enthusiastic involvement in TROG and other research activities. He was also awarded a Certificate of Exemplary Service by Cancer Council Australia for his work in the development of Clinical Guidelines for the Management of Melanoma in Australia and New Zealand.

Professor Bryan Burmeister
Director

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

GOFURTGO - Phase II Study of Fixed Dose Rate Gemcitabine-Oxaliplatin Integrated with Concomitant 5FU and 3-D Conformal Radiotherapy for the Treatment of Localised Pancreatic Cancer. [2005/061] (Harvey J)

Merkel Cell - Efficacy Study of Synchronous Weekly Carboplatin and Radiation in Merkel Cell Carcinoma of the Skin. [2007/005] (Harvey J)
STARS (Pilot) - Pilot for a Randomised Comparison of Anastrozole Commenced Before and Continued During Adjuvant Radiotherapy for Breast Cancer versus Anastrozole and Subsequent Anti-Oestrogen Therapy Delayed Until After Radiotherapy. [2005/109] (Harvey J)

TROG 01.04 - A Randomised Trial of Preoperative Radiotherapy for Stage T3 Adenocarcinoma of the Rectum. [2001/002] (Burmeister B)

TROG 02.01 - A Randomised Clinical Trial of Surgery versus Surgery plus Adjuvant Radiotherapy for Regional Control in Patients with Completely Resected Macroscopic Nodal Metastatic Melanoma. [2002/009] (Burmeister B)

TROG 03.01 - A Randomised Phase III Study in Advanced Oesophageal Cancer to Compare Quality of Life and Palliation of Dysphagia in Patients Treated with Radiotherapy versus Chemoradiotherapy. [2003/056] (Harvey J)

TROG 03.02 - A Feasibility Study to Evaluate Adjuvant Chemoradiotherapy for Gastric Cancer. [2003/035] (Harvey J)

TROG 03.04 (RADAR) - A Randomised Trial Investigating the Effect on Biochemical (PSA) Control and Survival of Different Durations of Adjuvant Androgen Deprivation in Association with Definitive Radiation Treatment for Localised Carcinoma of the Prostate. [2003/092] (Lehman M)

TROG 03.05 (MA.20) - A Phase III Study of Regional Radiation Therapy in Early Breast Cancer. [2003/101] (Harvey J)

TROG 03.06 (TOAD) - A Collaborative Randomised Phase III Trial: The Timing of Intervention with Androgen Deprivation in Prostate Cancer Patients with a Rising PSA. [2004/306] (Lehman M)

TROG 03.07 - A Randomised Phase II Study of Two Regimens of Palliative Chemoradiation Therapy in the Management of Locally Advanced Non Small Cell Lung Cancer. [2003/180] (Burmeister B)

TROG 04.01 (Cavilon) - A Paired Double Blind Randomised Comparison of Cavilon Durable Barrier Cream(CDBC) to 10% Glycerine (Sorbolene) Cream in the Prophylactic Management of Post Mastectomy Irradiation Skin Care. [2004/307] (Harvey J)

TROG 05.01 (POST) - Post-Operative Concurrent Chemoradiotherapy versus Post Operative Radiotherapy in High-Risk Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck. [2004/218] (Porceddu S)

TROG 06.01 (EORTC 22033-26033) - Primary Chemotherapy with Temozolomide vs Radiotherapy in Patients with Low Grade Gliomas after Stratification for Genetic 1p Loss: A Phase III Study. [2007/043] (Lehman M)

TROG 06.02 (APBI) - A Multicentre Feasibility Study of Three-Dimensional Conformal Radiation Therapy for Accelerated Partial Breast Irradiation. [2007/098] (Lehman M)

TROG 07.01 (DCIS) - A Phase III Study of Radiation Dose Escalation and Fractionation in Women with Non-Low Risk Ductal Carcinoma In Situ (DCIS) Of The Breast. [2007/088] (Harvey J)

TROG 07.02 (QUARTZ) - A Phase III Multi-Centre Randomised Controlled Trial to Assess Whether Optimal Supportive Care Alone (Including Dexamethasone) is as Effective as Optimal Supporting Care (Including Dexamethasone) plus Whole Brain Radiotherapy in the Treatment of Patients with Inoperable Brain Metastases from Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer. (previously called OSCAR). [2007/079] (Mai T)

TROG 08.02 - A Randomized Phase III Study of Temozolomide and Short-course Radiation versus Short-course Radiation Alone in the Treatment of Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma Multiforme in Elderly Patients [2008/181] (Lehman M)

TROG 08.05 (WBRT) - Whole Brain Radiotherapy Following Local Treatment of Intracranial Metastases of Melanoma. [2008/179] (Burmeister B)

TROG 99.03 (ALLG NHLLOW5) - A Randomised Multicentre Trial of Involved Field Radiotherapy versus Involved Field Radiotherapy plus Chemotherapy for Stage I-II Low Grade Follicular Lymphoma. [2000/088] (Porceddu S)

TROG 99.04 - A Prospective, Non-Randomised Study of Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy for Osteolympoma. [2000/022] (Mills A)

TROG 99.05 - Tumour Volume as an Independent Prognostic Factor in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer. (Burmeister B)

Other Projects
A Randomised Control Trial Investigating the Effects of Group Education and Support in Reducing Cancer-
Related Fatigue and Improving Quality of Life in Patients Undergoing Radiotherapy. (Purcell A; Fleming J; Haines T; Bennett S; Burmeister B)

The study has recruited 110 participants and data collection is due for completion in June 2009.

PET-guided Management of the Neck in Node Positive Head and Neck Cancer. Porceddu S; Pryor D; Burmeister L; Burmeister B; Poulsen M; Thomson D; Coman S; Coman W.

HPV H&N - Human Papillomavirus in Oropharyngeal Carcinoma: Prognostic Significance and Interaction with Radiation Therapy. (Porceddu S)

A Retrospective Study Comparing the Treatment Accuracy of Three Treatment Positions for Chest Irradiation. (Tran J)

A Project to Determine the Benefit / Use of Cone Beam CT During Treatment of Breast Cancer. (Mauro M)

Integration of Evidence Based Practice Culture into Radiation Therapy Work Practices. (Davidson K)

Comparative Study of Fixation Devices Utilized in Radiation Therapy Treatment of Breast Cancer at Princess Alexandra Hospital. (Van Den Bosch K)

Conformal External Beam Radiotherapy in the Treatment of Anal Canal Carcinoma. A Retrospective Study of Genital Sparing Technique. (Bui T; Harvey J; Brown E; Scott M; Haines T; Davidson K)

Hitting a Moving Target: Do Implanted Gold Seed Fiducial Markers Help? A Study of Prostate Motion and Accuracy of External Beam Radiation Therapy Delivery in Patients with Prostate Cancer [2007/136] (Brown S; Lehman M; Ferrari J; Glyde A; Golding S; Davidson K)

Project to Develop an Implementation Plan for Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (Foley H)

Aims to Look at the Benefit / Use of 4D CT, Chest Immobilisation and Cone Beam CT During the Treatment of Lung Cancer. (Barnes N)

Patient Education Brochure to Increase Comfort and Ease of Positioning for Patients Undergoing Radiation Therapy for Breast Cancer. (O’Gorman H)

Awards & Prizes

Professor Bryan Burmeister
Queensland Health Australia Day award in January 2008 for research activity.

Associate Professor Sandro Porceddu
Elected President of the Australian Sarcoma Study Group

National & International Presentations

Professor Bryan Burmeister
RANZCR ASM Adelaide, October

Associate Professor Sandro Porceddu
International Head and Neck Congress, San Francisco

General Surgeons of Australia, Coolum, September

ANZ Head and Neck Society, Melbourne, October

Major Grants & Financial Support

Funding from other sources: $ 289,250
Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

Inflammatory markers in COPD (Upham J, Smith D, Yerkovich S): This project has examined blood levels of an anti-inflammatory molecule, the soluble receptor for advanced glycation end products (sRAGE). Plasma sRAGE levels were significantly reduced in patients with COPD, but not in healthy subjects (both smokers and non-smokers). Ongoing work is examining the mechanisms behind this observation.

Host defence against virus infections in asthma. (Upham J, Yerkovich S): The project is examining antiviral innate immunity in asthma, and has shown that people with asthma have a reduced capacity to respond to single stranded viral RNA.

Defining grass pollen allergy in sub-tropical regions of Australia (Davies J, Upham J): Most information regarding grass pollen allergy in Australia has been derived from cooler temperate regions of southern Australia. This project with define the role of sub-tropical grasses such as Bahia and Johnson grass in relation to grass pollen allergy in Queensland, and how this triggers asthma and allergic rhinitis.

Innate immune function in children with protracted bronchitis. (Upham J, Yerkovich S in collaboration with Dr Anne Chang, Royal Children’s Hospital): Recurrent or protracted bacterial bronchitis is common clinical problem in children. The project is examining immune function in these children.

More efficient diagnosis of obstructive sleep apnoea. (C. Hukins): This project is looking at the using of automated snoring and EEG analysis to diagnose and manage obstructive sleep apnoea in a more cost-effective manner.

Other Projects

Using components of bacteria to treat asthma and allergies (Upham J, Davies J): Some components of the cell walls of bacteria have powerful immune modulating properties. This project exploits the use of bacterial lipoproteins to inhibit allergic immune responses in vitro. Initial studies show this to be effective for house dust mite allergy.

Effects of allergens on dendritic cell function in asthma (Upham J, Yerkovich S). The ability of allergens to trigger allergic inflammation is mediated partly via dendritic cells. This project is examining the molecular mechanisms involved. Thrombomodulin has been identified as a novel protein expressed in dendritic cells after allergen exposure.
Awards & Prizes

*Dr Daniel Smith*
Best advanced trainee presentation, Thoracic Society of Queensland.

**National & International Presentations**

*Professor John Upham*

Novel role of thrombomodulin expression on dendritic cells in the pathogenesis of human atopy and asthma.

**Patents**


**Major Grants & Financial Support**

Total NHMRC funding: $210,000
Other Competitive funding: $495,000
The Rheumatology Department is actively involved in rheumatoid arthritis trials, mostly Phases II, III and IV. To date, the majority have been biologic therapy of various types. We are also currently supporting the clinical work for a PhD project in osteoarthritis.

Dr Phillip Vecchio
Director

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

Long-term extension study of safety during treatment with Tocilizumab (MRA) in patients completing treatment in MRA core studies.

A randomised, double-blind, parallel group, international study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of ocrelizumab compared to placebo in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis who have an inadequate response to at least one anti-TNF alpha therapy.

Protocol No DE013: Prospective multi centre randomised, double blind, active comparator controlled parallel group study comparing the fully human monoclonal anti-TNFα antibody D2E7 given every second week with Methotrexate given weekly and the combination of D2E7 and Methotrexate administered over two years in patients with early rheumatoid arthritis (PREMIER)

A multi-centre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel group, phase 2a clinical trial to assess the efficacy and safety of Cpn10 administered as twice weekly subcutaneous injections in participants with rheumatoid arthritis.

A Multi-centre, long term follow-up, open label trial to assess the efficacy and safety of Cpn10 in subjects with Rheumatoid Arthritis.

A Phase 2a, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Multicentre Study to Evaluate the Efficacy, Safety, and Tolerability of BG00012 When Given with Methotrexate to Participants with Active Rheumatoid Arthritis who have had an Inadequate Response to Conventional Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug Therapy.

A Phase 2, Dose – Ranging Study of Multiple Subcutaneous Doses of LY2127399, and Anti – BAFF Human Antibody, in Patients with Active Rheumatoid Arthritis despite ongoing Methotrexate Therapy.
The department continues to maintain its interest in practice-based research with work being undertaken by social workers primarily in the Rehabilitation and Disability as well as the Cancer Services Teams. Funding from Queensland Health and the Princess Alexandra Hospital Private Practice Grant have assisted in research projects and conference attendances during the year.

Sue Cumming
Director

Current Research Activities
Sociodemographic and psychosocial profile of newly referred head and neck cancer patients (Wilson A, McGrath P).

A pilot study of social support and its effect on the quality of life of patients with advanced cancer and their care givers (Whelan J, Burns C, Burmeister B).

Clinical Projects
Sociodemographic and psychosocial profile of newly referred head and neck cancer patients (Wilson A, McGrath P).

The research proposal will involve a chart audit using a mixture of both quantitative and qualitative methods.
De-identified sociodemographic information on patients along with clinical data on tumour location and staging data from the charts will be used.

A pilot study of social support and its effect on the quality of life of patients with advanced cancer and their care givers (Whelan J, Burns C, Burmeister B).

The project aims to identify the connection between the kind of social support available for patients and their care givers and the inter relationship of social support and its impact on the quality of life for patients with advanced cancer.

Other Projects

Caring for Carers (Candice Unger, Elisabeth Vale, Karleigh Kwapi, Patricia Fronke).

National & International Presentations
Patricia Fronke and Melissa Kendall
Pre-conference workshop entitled ‘Professional Boundaries: Are they still relevant to contemporary practice?’ at ANZSCoS (The Australian and New Zealand Spinal Cord Society Annual Scientific Meeting) held in Christchurch, New Zealand, November.

Major Grants & Financial Support
Other Competitive funding: $21,731
Funding from other sources: $40,553
Speech Pathology

The vision of the department is to further develop the evidence-base for clinical practice in the areas of communication and swallowing caused by illness, injury, or treatment through research. Research activity within the department has continued to expand. The areas of Acquired Brain Injury and Head and Neck Cancer remain strong foci for research, but now sit alongside the emerging areas of Critical Care and Aging. While many projects focus on speech pathology specific clinical practice, staff are also actively involved in a number of multidisciplinary research projects.

The department’s research profile through its keen staff continues to develop both nationally and internationally. Research outcomes have been disseminated in peer-reviewed publications and presentations at key national and international conferences, while continuing to attract research funding. Currently, the department supports seven postgraduate research students and one honours student conducting research, as well as assisting researchers from The University of Queensland in conducting their projects.

Wendy McCallum
Director

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects
Evaluation of heat and moisture systems as a treatment option in pulmonary rehabilitation after total laryngectomy or pharyngectomy (K Hancock, L Cahill, P Cornwell, M Parkin & W Coman).


Other Projects


Understanding the differential impact of acoustic speech parameters on the severity of motor speech disorders: effects on speech intelligibility and naturalness (P. Cornwell & M. McAuliffe).

The evaluation of multidisciplinary goals and goal setting processes in an adult rehabilitation setting (P. Cornwell, J. Fleming, T. Haines, & E. Leach).


Formatting written health information for people with aphasia (T. Rose & L. Worrall) (Sponsor – W. McCallum).

State-of-the-art physiological and neurophysiological assessment of articulatory function in adults with apraxia of speech: Pathway to more efficacious treatment for speech disorders following left hemisphere stroke (J. Goozee, B. Murdoch, & C. Bartle) (sponsor - W. McCallum).


Quality of life, cost effectiveness, survival and functional outcomes following differential management of laryngeal cancer (W. Coman, L. Cahill, K. Hancock, L. Ward & P. Cornwell).


Abdominal Binders – giving breath and voice to people who have suffered a spinal cord injury (B. Wadsworth, T. Haines, J. Paratz, P. Cornwell).

Major Grants & Financial Support
Funding from other sources: $132,682
The Therapeutics Research Unit continued to study the spectrum of basic and clinical therapeutics, ranging from theoretical mathematical modelling of drug disposition, through to very practical aspects such as drug trials in seriously ill patients. A major highlight was the extensive use of our Multiphoton microscope by researchers across a range of disciplines including topical drug ADMET studies and liver pharmacokinetics.

In targeted topical delivery, the unit succeeded in renewing its major support from NHMRC for a further three years. Highlights were two papers and two invited presentations on nanoparticles, where the unit is establishing a reputation as a world leader in a very controversial area. Important contributions to understanding the basic relationships between physicochemical properties and skin transport were made, while clinical studies in skin cancer progressed well.

In liver studies, NHMRC funding was secured for a further three years. Three publications and two invited international presentations resulted from the work.

In clinical studies, important contributions to defining the correct dosing regimen in critically ill patients were made. Key outcomes during the year were the award of a PhD to investigator, Jason Roberts and the publication of four peer-reviewed papers. A phase II randomised controlled trial of atorvastatin therapy in intensive care patients with severe sepsis progressed well, with the 100th patient being randomised. Chief Investigator Dr Peter Kruger has been invited to a major European intensive care meeting in March 2009 as an invited expert on statin use in sepsis.

The Quality Medication Care Team began a nationwide federal government (Department of Veterans’ Affairs) project. The primary aim of the project is Evaluation of the Dose Administration Aids Service to Veterans, to help the ageing veterans better manage their medications; to prevent any medical misadventures and reduce any unnecessary or earlier than required admission into the hospital.

Professor Mike Roberts
Director
Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects
Antibiotic dosing in the “at risk” critically ill patient (Roberts MS, Lipman J, Paterson D, Kirkpatrick C, Kruger P, Roberts JA).

A phase II randomised controlled trial of atorvastatin therapy in intensive care patients with severe sepsis (Roberts MS, Kruger P, Venkatesh B, Bellomo R, Kostner K, Cooper D).

Assessment of topically treated non melanoma skin cancers by sequential optical biopsies using multiphoton microscopy (Roberts MS).

Pharmacokinetics and liver vascularity (Roberts MS, Hung D, Crawford D).

Other Projects
Improved quantification of spatial and temporal changes in plasma and tissue drug levels and tissue pathology (Roberts MS).

Targeted delivery by topical application (Roberts MS).


Micronanoporation patches for minimally invasive and targeted delivery of genes and drugs to skin cells: from concept to technology platform (Kendall MA, Roberts MS).

Relationship between melanosome distribution and skin colour (Roberts MS, Zvyagin AV, Anissimov YG, Govindarajan R, Loy CJ).

Topical peptide delivery for cosmetic and therapeutic benefits (Roberts MS, Anissimov YG).

Dermal penetration of metal-based nanoparticles (Roberts MS)

Awards & Prizes
Kanchana Ranasinghe
Best Poster at the 14th Congress of the International Society for Burn Injuries, Montreal, Canada, 7-11 September, 2008, for her presentation entitled “The effect of thermal injury on interstitial tissue antibiotic distribution and the choice of resuscitation fluid”.

Co-authors were Venkatesh B, Lipman J, Dalley A, Robertson T, Roberts M, Cross S.

National & International Presentations
Professor Mike Roberts
7th International Conference and Workshop, Biological Barriers and Nanomedicine – Advanced Drug Delivery and Predictive non vivo Testing Technologies, Saarbrücken February. (Quantum Dots)

1st International Conference on Drug Design and Delivery, Dubai February. (Targeted topical drug delivery)

8th International Symposium of Controlled Release Society, Ahmedabad February (Targeted topical drug delivery)

3rd Workshop on Advanced Multiphoton and FLIM Techniques (FLIM 2008), Saarbrücken June. (In vitro and in vivo imaging of xenobiotic transport in human skin and in the rat liver)

10th International Conference on Perspectives in Percutaneous Penetration, France March. (Skin Science)

BIT 6th Annual Congress of International Drug Discovery Science and Technology, Beijing, October (Drug Structure-Hepatic Pharmacokinetic Relationships in Normal and Diseased Livers)

19th Annual Conference of the Australian College of Pharmacy Practice and Management, Norfolk Island

Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association Meeting, Canberra

10th Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) Forum, Darwin

Lions Q4 Convention, Hervey Bay

10th Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) Forum, Darwin

Controlled Release Society, Canberra

Major Grants & Financial Support
Total NHMRC funding: $ 517,139
Other Competitive funding: $ 545,230
Funding from commercial studies: $ 33,547
Funding from other sources: $ 134,000
The Upper Gastro-Intestinal Unit treats patients with oesophagogastric disease, including oesophageal and gastric cancer, and benign conditions such as gastro-oesophageal reflux, Barrett’s oesophagus and achalasia. It is the largest referral unit for oesophagogastric cancer in Australia. A special interest of the unit is minimally invasive surgery, and as a consequence the Department has the largest experience of minimally invasive oesophagectomy in the world, totalling over 500 cases.

A large proportion of patients seen within the department have a malignant cancer. The department conducts a multidisciplinary meeting and clinic for these patients in conjunction with General Surgeons, Medical Oncologists, Radiation Oncologists and Allied Health. All data on these patients are collected in a prospective database. The department is involved in local, national and international clinical trials and in 2008 completed recruitment in the adjuvant GIST trial in conjunction with the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer. In 2009 the department will begin recruiting in a clinical trial in oesophageal cancer that has been initiated by one of the hospital clinicians.

The department is also experienced in laparoscopic surgery for gastro-oesophageal reflux, hiatus hernia and achalasia, all of which is recorded (including progressive quality of life assessment) and stored. As of December 2008 there were 5080 patients whose data had been collected.

Associate Professor B Mark Smithers
General Surgeon, Senior Lecturer The University of Queensland Department of Surgery, Chairman Queensland Melanoma Project Princess Alexandra Hospital, Chairman Upper GI and Soft Tissue Unit Princess Alexandra Hospital

Current Research Activities

Clinical Projects

Basic Research Projects
Whether inhibition of the shh pathway represents a potential therapeutic target in gastric cancer (Barbour A, Gotley D, Woodhall E).

The identification and characterisation of cancer stem cells in oesophagogastric cancer cell lines (Barbour A, Gotley D, Woodhall E).

Other Projects
Oesophageal Cancer Database and Quality of Life. Established in 1997 the database currently has 1535 patients who have been diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus or OG junction. Quality of Life has been conducted on all curative intent patients at baseline, 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 36, 48 & 60 months. (Smithers BM, Gotley D, Martin I, Barbour A).
**Gastric Cancer Database.** Established in 2006 data has been collected both retrospectively and prospectively since 2000. The database currently has 293 patients who have been diagnosed with gastric cancer. (Barbour A, Smithers BM, Gotley D, Martin I).

**Gastro-intestinal Stromal Tumour Database.** Established in 2006 data has been collected both retrospectively and prospectively since 2000. The database currently has 78 patients diagnosed with GISTs. (Smithers BM, Gotley D, Martin I, Barbour A).

**Laparoscopic Fundoplication Database.** Established in 1991 data has been collected prospectively on all patients undergoing a Laparoscopic Fundoplication. The database currently has 3983 patients with quality of life on approximately 88% of patients. (Gotley D, Smithers BM, Martin I, Barbour A).

**Para-oesophageal Hernia Repair Database.** Established in 1991 data has been collected prospectively on all patients who have undergone a repair of a para-oesophageal hernia. The database currently has 627 patients with quality of life in over 88% of patients. (Gotley D, Smithers BM, Martin I, Barbour A).

**Redo Hiatal Surgery Database.** Established in 1991 data has been collected prospectively on all patients who have undergone a redo hiatus hernia repair. The database currently has 471 patients with quality of life in over 85% of patients. (Gotley D, Smithers BM, Martin I, Barbour A).

**National & International Presentations**

**Associate Professor Mark Smithers**

Video presentation of Revision fundoplication, Seminars in Operative Surgery, Adelaide, Australia

The role of surgery for GIST, North Coast Cancer Conference, Kingscliff, Australia

Revision Fundoplication, International Society of Surgery conference, Townsville, Australia

Minimally invasive oesophagectomy, International Society of Surgery conference, Townsville, Australia

The outcomes form treating Achalasia, Combined Annual Scientific Congress – Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and College of Surgeons of Hong Kong

Quality of life of anti-reflux surgery, Combined Annual Scientific Congress – Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and College of Surgeons of Hong Kong

Minimally invasive surgery and mid oesophageal cancers, Combined Annual Scientific Congress – Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and College of Surgeons of Hong Kong. Hong Kong, China

Does surgical technique influence outcome in oesophageal cancer, Combined Annual Scientific Congress – Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and College of Surgeons of Hong Kong. Hong Kong, China

Oesophageal cancer: the last 20 years and 20 years into the future, Combined Annual Scientific Congress – Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and College of Surgeons of Hong Kong. Hong Kong, China

Minimally invasive oesophagectomy – A masterclass, Combined Annual Scientific Congress – Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and College of Surgeons of Hong Kong. Hong Kong, China

The role of neoadjuvant therapy for oesophageal cancer, 5th Sino-Australian Surgical Oncology Meeting. Guangzhou, China

The management of high grade dysplasia in Barrett’s oesophagus, Australian Gastroenterology Week, Brisbane, Australia

The diagnosis and management of Barrett’s oesophagus, 2nd Asia Pacific Gastrooesophageal Cancer Congress, Hong Kong

High Grade Dysplasia in Barrett’s – EMR or Resection, 2nd Asia Pacific Gastrooesophageal Cancer Congress, Hong Kong

Video Presentation – Minimally invasive oesophagectomy, 2nd Asia Pacific Gastrooesophageal Cancer Congress, Hong Kong

The management of high grade dysplasia in Barrett’s Oesophagus, Sydney Upper GI Surgeons Society, Sydney

Oesophageal Cancer: Patterns of Care in Australia. Smithers BM, Doecke J, Corish T, Moore S, Whiteman D, Annual Scientific Meeting of the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia, Sydney


**Professor David Gotley**

Redo Fundoplications, Sydney Upper Gastrointestinal Surgeon’s Society. Sydney Australia
Minimally Invasive Oesophagectomy, Royal Adelaide Seminars. Adelaide Australia

Dr Ian Martin

Pre-operative weight loss and improved operative access, Combined Annual Scientific Congress – Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and College of Surgeons of Hong Kong. Hong Kong, China

Major Grants & Financial Support

Competitive funding: $ 160,000

Funding from commercial studies: $ 3,000

Funding from other sources: $ 45,780
### Summary of Publications and Postgraduate Students

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# Students supervised at the Princess Alexandra Hospital


Overcrowding and understaffing in modern health-care systems: key determinants in Meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus transmission. Lancet Infect Dis 8(7):427-434


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Centres for Health Research  Annual Research Report 2008


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Kaisar MO, Nicol DL, Hawley CM, Mudge DW, Johnson DW, Preston J, Wall DR, Griffin AD, Campbell SB, Isbel NM. Change in live donor characteristics over the last 25 years: a single center experience. Nephrology.


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Marwick TH, Venkatesh B et al. Use of a nurse led intervention to optimize beta blockade for reducing cardiac events after major non-cardiac surgery in press American Heart Journal

Marwick TH. Ischaemic mitral regurgitation: mechanisms and diagnosis. Heart.

Marwick TH. The deconstruction of diastole. J Am Coll Cardiol.


Marwick TH. Straining the guidelines with dysynchrony imaging. J Am Soc Echo.

Matelebe M, Mundy J, Shah P: Cardiac Tumours in Adults: Case series and review of literature. Under review in Heart Lung and Circulation.


O’Shea S, Duffull S, Johnson DW. Aminoglycosides in hemodialysis patients: is the current practice of post-dialysis dosing appropriate? Seminars in Dialysis.


Panchabhai TS, Dangayach NS, Krishnan A, Kothari VM, Karnad DR. Effect of oropharyngeal cleansing with 0.2% chlorhexidine in critically ill patients: an open-label randomized trial with 0.01% potassium permanganate as control. Chest.

Percy CJ, Pat B, Healy H, Johnson DW, Gobe G. Phosphorylation of caveolin-1...
is anti-apoptotic and promotes cell attachment during oxidative stress of kidney cells. Journal of Pathology.


Rajandram R, Pat BK, Li J, Johnson DW, Gobe GC. Expression of apoptotic tumour necrosis factor receptor-associated factor, caspase recruitment domain and cell death-inducing DFF-45 effector genes in therapy-treated renal cell carcinoma.. Nephrology.


Rumpsfeld M, McDonald SP, Johnson DW. Peritoneal small solute clearance is non-linearly related to patient survival in the Australian and New Zealand peritoneal dialysis patient populations. Peritoneal Dialysis International.


Scott IA. Non-inferiority trials – determining when alternative treatments are good enough. Medical Journal of Australia.

Scott IA. What are the most effective strategies for improving quality and safety of healthcare? Internal Medicine Journal


Singh MP, Armstrong J, Murphy MA, Coucher J, Onb B. Is this really pneumothorax? Thorax.


Tan KS, Johnson DW. Managing the cardiovascular complications of renal disease. Australian Prescriber


Thompson B, Austin R, Coory M, Walpole E, Francis G, Fritschi L. Histopathology reporting of breast cancer in Queensland: The impact on the quality of reporting as a result of the introduction of recommendations’ Pathology.


Turner B, Fleming J, Cornwell P, Haines T, Ownsworth T. Outcomes during the
transition from hospital to home for individuals with ABI and their family caregivers. Brain Injury.


Wadsworth BM, Haines TP, Cornwell PL, Paratz JD. Abdominal binder use in people with spinal cord injuries: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Spinal Cord advance online publication.


### ARC/ARC Discovery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Code</th>
<th>Funding Amount</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$245,000</td>
<td>Micronanoprojection patches for minimally invasive and targeted delivery of genes and drugs to skin cells: from concept to technology platform (Kendall MA, Roberts MS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$107,692</td>
<td>Designing robust reactive scheduling system for emergency medical services (Kozan E, Collier J, Sinnott M)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$86,000</td>
<td>Topical peptide delivery for cosmetic and therapeutic benefits (Roberts MS, Anissimov YG, Govindarajan R, Loy CJ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$74,230</td>
<td>Relationship between melanosome distribution and skin colour (Roberts MS, Zvyagin AV, Anissimov YG, Govindarajan R, Loy CJ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$51,871</td>
<td>Determinants of successful community transition for individuals with acquired brain injury and their families (Fleming J, Worrall L, Cornwell P, Haines T, Ownsworth T, Kendall M, Chenoweth L)</td>
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### NHMRC Grants

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<tr>
<td>$640,000</td>
<td>Immunological therapies for cancer and autoimmunity (Frazer I, Thomas, R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$438,750</td>
<td>Retroviral Expression Cloning using an Arrayed Full-Length cDNA Gene Set –ARVEC. (Gonda T, Gabrielli B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$413,450</td>
<td>Australian Genomewide Association study in Osteoporosis (Brown, M)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td>CCRE in Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases (Marwick T, Prins J, Macdonald G, Isbel N, Hegney D, Stowasser)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$226,625</td>
<td>Interaction between PTH and Y2 bone anabolic pathways (Gardiner, E)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$351,000</td>
<td>Predicting the risk of invasive candidiasis in critically ill patients (Sorrell TC, Lipman J, Playford EG, Jones M, Iredell JR, Paterson D, Marriott D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$218,000</td>
<td>Antibiotic dosing in the ‘at risk’ critically ill patient (Lipman J, Roberts M, Paterson D, Kirkpatrick, C, Kruger, P, Roberts, J)</td>
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**Funds received in 2008, over $50,000 per grant**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>GEFOS - Genetic Factors for Osteoporosis</td>
<td>Brown, M</td>
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<tr>
<td>$198,450</td>
<td>Transition Care: Innovation and Evidence</td>
<td>Cameron I, Crotty M, Gray L.</td>
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<tr>
<td>$190,000</td>
<td>Can the needs of caregivers of patients with advanced cancer be improved by using a GP Caregiver Needs Toolkit?</td>
<td>Mitchell G, Poulsen M, Walpole E</td>
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<tr>
<td>$185,888</td>
<td>Randomised controlled trial of multi-media patient education approaches to preventing in-hospital falls</td>
<td>Haines T, Hill K, McKenna K</td>
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<tr>
<td>$174,500</td>
<td>Non-viral vectors for targeted delivery of RNAi nucleotides to cervical cancers</td>
<td>McMillan, N</td>
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<tr>
<td>$172,500</td>
<td>Role of obesity in impaired treatment response in chronic hepatitis C: mechanisms and therapeutic strategies</td>
<td>Powell E, Jonsson J, Clouston A, Ward S</td>
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<tr>
<td>$170,500</td>
<td>CDK4 activity in S/G2 phases influences mitotic fidelity</td>
<td>Gabrielli, B</td>
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<tr>
<td>$169,000</td>
<td>Hepatocyte replicative arrest, hepatic progenitor cells and the ductular reaction in hepatic fibrogenesis</td>
<td>Jonsson J, Clouston A, Powell E, Olynyk J, Knight B</td>
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<tr>
<td>$167,336</td>
<td>Pharmacokinetics and liver vascularity</td>
<td>Roberts MS, Hung D, Crawford D A</td>
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<tr>
<td>$159,250</td>
<td>Identification and characterisation of the way erythropoietin protects tissue from oxidant stress</td>
<td>Johnson DW, Gobe GC, Colditz P</td>
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<tr>
<td>$155,250</td>
<td>The role of mycophenolate mofetil therapeutic drug monitoring in renal transplant recipients</td>
<td>Staatz CE, Johnson DW, Tett S, Taylor P, Lynch S</td>
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<tr>
<td>$155,250</td>
<td>Improved patient outcomes through dosage individualisation of the newer immunosuppressant drugs</td>
<td>Staatz CE, Johnson DW, Tett SE, Taylor PJ, Johnson DW, Lynch SV</td>
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<tr>
<td>$154,250</td>
<td>IMPDH and lipid accumulation</td>
<td>Whitehead, J</td>
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<tr>
<td>$154,250</td>
<td>Adiponectin multimerisation, secretion and action</td>
<td>Whitehead J, Macdonald G, Prins J</td>
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<tr>
<td>$152,125</td>
<td>Identification of clinically significant subtypes of head and neck cancer cells</td>
<td>Saunders, N</td>
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<tr>
<td>$140,875</td>
<td>FGF-1 in human adipogenesis</td>
<td>Hutley, L</td>
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<tr>
<td>$130,250</td>
<td>Research Fellowship</td>
<td>Brown, M</td>
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### Cancer Council Queensland

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<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>$600,000</td>
<td>Novel nanoparticle-based biosensor technology for multiplexed detection of methylation profiles in breast cancer metastases NBCF/Cancer Council, (Trau M, Brown M. A, Francis G. ) Collaborative</td>
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<tr>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td>QCF Collaborative Research Grant funds Cancer Collaborative Group. (Gill D, Beller E, Burmeister B, Frazer I, Gotley D, Saunders N, Thomson D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$80,000</td>
<td>Histone Deacetylase Inhibitors can inhibit tumour growth via induction of an anti-tumour immune response (Gabrielli B; Leggatt G)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$80,000</td>
<td>Is the heterochromatin checkpoint a useful anti-cancer drug target? (Gabrielli B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$80,000</td>
<td>RNA Interference to Boost Immune Responses against Cancer (McMillan N)</td>
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### PA Foundation and Private Practice Fund

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<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>Chronic respiratory diseases (Upham J)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Arthritis complicating inflammatory bowel disease-Prevalence and genetic predictors (Brown, M)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Do human papillomaviruses participate in breast cancer genesis (Saunders, N)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>A randomised trial of intravenous versus oral iron supplements for post-transplant anaemia in renal transplant recipients (Mudge DW, Johnson DW, Tan K, Hawley CM, Campbell SB, Isbel N)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Management of patients with malnutrition (Ferguson M, Day S, O’Neill M, Vivanti A)</td>
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### Queensland Government and Queensland Health

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<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>$600,000</td>
<td>A pilot study of the value of multidisciplinary chronic kidney disease clinics (Isbel NM, Johnson DW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$230,000</td>
<td>Smart State Clinical Research (Upham J)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$174,250</td>
<td>Cofactors in Liver Disease (Crawford D, Fletcher L, Bridle K)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$110,000</td>
<td>A randomised controlled trial of exit site application of Medihoney for the prevention of catheter-associated infection in peritoneal dialysis patients (Hawley C, Johnson DW, Beller E, De Zoysa, Playford EG, Cass A).</td>
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### Other Grants and Funding

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<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
<td>Novel Strategies for Prediction and Control of Advanced Breast Cancer via Nanoscaled Epigenetic-Based Biosensors. NBC. (Trau M, Forbes J, Clark S, Francis G, Brown M, Dobrovic A, Scott R.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$2,960,000</td>
<td>Smart State Innovation Building Fund (Francis G, Nelson C, Gonda T, Beadle G, Marlton P.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
<td>Smart State NIRAP Prostate Collaboration (Nelson C, Clements J, Nicol D, Collaborator, Francis G.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$634,953</td>
<td>Confocal microscopy. University of Queensland (Gabrielli, B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$550,000</td>
<td>Innovation Skills Fund Smart State Premier’s Fellowship 2005-06 QLDGOV (Frazer, I)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>PO1-A Genome wide Association Study of Ankylosing Spondylitis Susceptibility (National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Skin Diseases (USA and Uni Texas). NIHUSA (Brown, M)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$438,000</td>
<td>Evidence Based Practice in Residential Aged Care – Falls Prevention. Department of Health &amp; Ageing (Hill K, Black K, Haines T)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$318,223</td>
<td>HONEYPOT (A randomised controlled trial evaluation of antibacterial Honey versus Nasal Eradication of staphylococci for the prevention of Tenckhoff infections in PD) Sponsed by Baxter Extramural Grant (Johnson D, Isbel N)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$263,669</td>
<td>Innovations in Clinical Education for Physiotherapy Students. ARC – Linkage / Physiotherapists Registration Board of Queensland (Jull G, Peterson R, O’Connor V)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$220,723</td>
<td>Interleukin 1 and tolerance in type 1 diabetes. Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (International) (Thomas, R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$210,756</td>
<td>PV-10 Clinical Trial. Sponsored by Provectus Commercials (Smithers BM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$178,600</td>
<td>The HONEYPOT Trial Sponsored by Baxter Extramural Grant (Johnson, DW Clark C, Isbel NM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$168,500</td>
<td>Professorial Chair - Sponsored by Arthritis Queensland (Thomas, R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$166,582</td>
<td>Respiratory rehabilitation or self management for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: What is the best management approach? Sponsored by MBF Foundation (Vicenzino B, Chang A, Haines T)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$165,000</td>
<td>Developing EZF inhibitors as a potential therapeutic strategy for the treatment of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma. Garnett Passe and Rodney Williams Memorial Foundation (Saunders, N)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$156,289</td>
<td>Induction of tolerance in memory diabetogenic T cells. Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (Steptoe, R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>Liposomal formulation as a cell free therapy to treat Rheumatoid Arthritis in an antigen specific manner QLDGOV + ARTHFA (Capini, C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$145,000</td>
<td>Application of a human bone engineering platform to an in vivo prostate cancer model. Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (Hutmacher, DW, Clements, J, Nelson, C, Nicol, D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$143,286</td>
<td>Phenotypic/Genotypic profiling in Breast Cancer. Study Education and Research Trust Fund (Francis GD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$126,031</td>
<td>Study of HPV 6L1 virus like particles as therapeutic vaccine for genital warts and recurrent respiratory papillomatosis. Wellcome Trust. (Frazer, I)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$101,818</td>
<td>A randomised placebo-controlled trial of Oxpentifylline (Trental) in erythropoitin-resistant anaemia (ERA) in chronic disease kidney disease. Sponsored by Amgen (Johnson D, Hawley C, Cass A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>The role of human papillomaviruses in the development of prostate cancer. PCFA (Antonsson, A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>New therapies for bone and joint disease through identification of novel disease causing genes. Queensland &amp; Northern NSW Lions Medical Research Foundation (Thomas, G)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>Fellowship. Sasakawa Foundation, Royal Children’s Hospital (Jonsson J)</td>
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$100,000  The HERO trial. Roche Foundation for Anemia Research (RoFAR) (Johnson DW, Hawley CM, Beller E)

$100,000  The HERO trial. Amgen (Johnson, DW. Hawley, CM. Beller E)

$94,027  Purchase of Tissue Microarrayer. Golden Casket Foundation (Francis GD)

$89,732  Anti-viral immunity in asthma. Asthma Foundation of Queensland (J Upham, S Yerkovich)

$85,500  UQPO1 Department of Health & Ageing (Lie, D.)

$81,000  Fellowship University of Queensland (Ward S)

$77,907  A randomised placebo-controlled trial of Oxpentifylline (Trental) in erythropoitin-resistant anaemia (ERA) in chronic disease kidney disease. Roche Anemia Foundation Grant (Johnson D, Hawley C, Cass A)

$74,000  Postdoctoral Research Fellowship. University of Queensland (Kherrouche Z)

$72,300  Prediction of lymph node status in breast cancer. Study Education and Research Trust Fund. (Francis GD)

$70,391  Postdoctoral Research Fellowship. University of Queensland (Danoy, P)

$70,000  Identifying the molecular basis for osteosarcoma metastasis. WESLEY (Saunders, N)

$70,000  Slide Path Distiller software. Study Education and Research Trust Fund, (Francis GD)

$60,000  Developing sustainable community-based rehabilitation approaches for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders with Acquired Brain Injury: identifying and strengthening resources with two remote Aboriginal communities. Health Practitioners Research Scheme: Princess Alexandra Hospital. (Gauld S, Smith S, Kendall M.)

$60,000  Study on Changes in Stress and Strain in the Left Atrium and Cardiac Neurohormonal Function Post Ablation for Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation. Sylvia and Charles Viertel (Doneva S, Marwick T, Gould, PA)

$60,000  The HONEYPOT Trial. Baxter CEC funding (Johnson, DW. Hawley, CM. Beller E)

$60,000  Improved quantification of spatial and temporal changes in plasma and tissue drug levels and tissue pathology. University of Queensland Major Equipment and Infrastructure Grant.

$57,744  Elucidating genetic mechanisms responsible for familial hyperaldosteronism type II. US Endocrine Society (Stowasser, M; O’Shaughnessy, K; Gordon, R)

$56,509  Determinants of successful community transition for individuals with acquired brain injury and their families. ARC – Linkage / QH (Fleming J, Worrall L, Cornwall P, Haines T)

$52,000  In Vivo Examination Of Neoplastic And Inflammatory Skin Diseases by Reflectance Confocal Microscopy. Epiderm (Soyer, HP)

$50,000  Targeting liver macrophages to prevent diabetes. Queensland Government (O’Sullivan, B)

$50,000  Investigation into the functional role of novel AdipoR interacting proteins. Diabetes Australia Research Trust (Whitehead, J)

$50,000  The role of FOXO transcription factors in Glucocorticoid-induced insulin resistance. Diabetes Australia Research Trust (Barry, J)

$50,000  The Australasian Kidney Trials (AKT) Network. University of Queensland. (Johnson DW, Hawley CM, Beller E, Hoy W)

$50,000  University Of Queensland (Barbour A)
Allied Health Research Committee

Dr Jennifer Lethlean, Chair; Speech Pathologist
Delena Amsters, Spinal Outreach Team
Annette Broome, Psychology
David Brown-Rothwell, Audiology
Julie Connell, Executive Director, Clinical Support Services
Judith Coombes, Pharmacy
Dr Petrea Cornwell, Conjoint Research Position in Speech Pathology PAH/UQ
Sue Cumming, Director, Social Work

Kirsty Davidson, Radiation Therapy
Dr Maree Ferguson, Director, Nutrition and Dietetics
Dr Jenny Fleming, Conjoint Research Position in Occupational Therapy PAH/UQ
Sue Foss, Prosthetics & Orthotics
Melissa Kendall, Transitional Rehabilitation Program & Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Service
Steve McPhail, Researcher, Physiotherapy
Kiley Pershouse, Spinal Outreach Team
Angela Vivanti, Research & Development Dietician

Cancer Collaborative Group

Associate Professor Devinder Gill, Chair; Director, Clinical Haematology
Elaine Beller, Director, Queensland Clinical Trials Centre (Biostatistics)
Maree Ferguson, Director, Nutrition and Dietetics
Professor Ian Frazer, Director, Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology & Metabolic Medicine
Areti Gavrilidis, Director, Research Development and Ethics, Centres for Health Research
Professor John Prins, Chair, Centres for Health Research
Associate Professor Nicholas Saunders, Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology & Metabolic Medicine

Associate Professor Mark Smithers, Director, Upper Gastro-Intestinal & Soft Tissue Unit
Associate Professor Damien Thomson, Director, Medical Oncology
Alexandra McCarthy, Senior Research Fellow, SAHSCCN; Senior Lecturer, QUT
Dr Peter Mollee, Haematologist
Dr Terry Haines, Conjoint Research Fellow
Associate Professor Sandro Porceddu, Radiation Oncology
Human Research Ethics Committee

The Committee is constituted in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007), section 5.1.29-5.1.33

Dr Jennifer Fleming, Chair
Jan Maxwell, Lay Woman (Until May)
Bev Ryan, Lay Woman (From June)
Colin Sutcliff, Lay Man
Denzil Scrivens, Lay Man
Dr John North, Surgeon
Dr Robert Zubershaw, Medical Practitioner
Dr Richard Roylance, Physician
Dr Daniel Varghese, Research
Dr Karam Kostner, Physician & Researcher
Rev Father Bernard Thomas, Minister of Religion
John Bennett, Lawyer
Associate Professor Carl Kirkpatrick, Pharmacist
Dr Eleanor Milligan, Ethicist

PA Foundation

Board of Directors
Michael T Wille OAM, Chairman, Chair Executive Committee and Company Director
William Deutrom OAM, Deputy Chairman, Chair, Marketing Committee and Company Director
Richard Bowly, Queensland Hotels Association
Dr Richard Ashby, Executive Director of Medical Services, PAH
Gareth Evans, Retired Newspaper Executive
Professor Ian Frazer, Director, Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology & Metabolic Medicine
Andrew Griffiths, Company Director
Lenore Guthrie, Former CEO
Linda Lavarch MP, State Member for Kurwongbah
Professor John Prins, Chair, Research Committee; Chair, Centres for Health Research
Professor David Theile (Snr) AO, Clinical CEO, PAH
Heather Tyrrell, Company Secretary; Manager, Governance, PAH
Michael Back, Honorary Solicitor
Phillip Sciacca, Honorary Accountant

Research Committee
Professor John Prins, Chairman
Professor Leanne Aitken
Professor Thomas Marwick
Professor Ranjeny Thomas
Associate Professor Mark Smithers
### Academic Unit in Geriatric Medicine

- **Professor Len Gray**, Director
- **Professor Steven Counsell**, Visiting Geriatrician, Illinois, USA
- **Dr Salih Salih**, Lecturer and Geriatrician
- **Dr Alison Cutler**, Senior Geriatric Registrar
- **Dr Catherine Travers**, Research Fellow
- **Dr Olivia Wright**, Research Officer
- **Sue Austin**, Project Officer
- **Nadine Krueger**, Research Assistant
- **Rochelle Vincent**, Research Assistant
- **Catherine Beverly**, Research Nurse
- **Bonnie Pimm**, Research Nurse
- **Vivian Cheung**, PhD student
- **Prabha Lakhan**, PhD student
- **Melinda Martin-Khan**, PhD student

### Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Service

- **Raymund Quinn**, Manager
- **Melissa Kendall**, Research and Development Officer
- **Jessica Staskiewicz**, Research Assistant
- **Areti Kennedy**, Project Officer, Pathways Home
- **Diane Clarke**, Project Officer, Pathways Home
- **Elissa Morriss**, Rehabilitation Co-ordinator
- **Judy Roser**, Rehabilitation Co-ordinator
- **Susan Gauld**, Rehabilitation Co-ordinator
- **Gina Black**, Rehabilitation Co-ordinator
- **Clarissa Wilson**, Rehabilitation Co-ordinator
- **Claire Schirmman**, Rehabilitation Co-ordinator
- **Sharon Smith**, Rehabilitation Co-ordinator
- **Ann Lancaster**, Rehabilitation Co-ordinator
- **Suzanne Wright**, Rehabilitation Co-ordinator
- **Marie Hollingworth**, Rehabilitation Co-ordinator

### Alcohol and Drug Assessment

- **Dr Gerald Feeney**, Medical Director
- **Sr Annie McPherson**, Nurse Unit Manager
- **Jane Tucker**, Social Worker
- **Professor Ross Young**, Visiting Senior Clinical Psychologist
- **Associate Professor Jason Connor**, Visiting Senior Clinical Psychologist
## Audiology

Evelyn Towers, Director  
David Brown-Rothwell, Audiologist  
Megan Haynes, Audiologist  
Tracey Ross, Audiologist  
Jillian Sellars, Audiologist  
Katie Stapleton, Audiologist

## Brain Injury Rehabilitation

Dr Ron A Hazelton, Medical Director  
Dr W Chan, Senior Specialist  
Paula Addis, Senior Speech Pathologist  
Janelle Gesch, Senior Physiotherapist  
Julie-Anne Ross, Senior Occupational Therapist  
Dale Fogarty, Neuropsychologist  
Julie Worner, Acting Nursing Unit Manager

## Cardiology

Dr Paul Garrahy, Directory  
Professor Tom Marwick, Professor of Medicine, University of Queensland  
Dr John Hill, Director of Cardiac Pacing and Electrophysiology  
Dr Gerald Kaye, Staff Cardiologist  
Dr Richard Lim, Staff Cardiologist  
Dr Sudhir Wahi, Staff Cardiologist  
Dr Dariusz Korczyk, Staff Cardiologist  
Dr Paul Gould, Staff Cardiologist  
Dr William Wang, Staff Cardiologist  
Cindy Hall RN, Manager Clinical Research Co-ordinator  
Ruth Calvert RN, Clinical Nurse - Clinical Trials  
Clare O’Neill RN, Clinical Nurse - Clinical Trials  
Desiree Gifford EN, Enrolled Nurse - Clinical Trials  
Dr Robert Fathi, Visiting Cardiology Interventionalist  
Dr Stephen Cox, Visiting Cardiology Interventionalist  
Dr Jeffrey Franco, Visiting Cardiology Interventionalist  
Dr Daljeet Gill, Visiting Cardiology Interventionalist  
Dr Bennett Franjic, Visiting Consultant Cardiologist  
Dr Harry Gibbs, Visiting Cardiovascular Consultant  
Dr Johannes Moolman, Visiting Consultant Cardiologist

## Cardiothoracic Surgery

Associate Professor Julie Mundy  
Paul Peters, Senior Lecturer  
Pallav Shah, Senior Lecturer  
Annabel Wood, Research Nurse  
Rayleene Griffin, Research Administrative Assistant

## Cardiovascular Imaging Group

Professor Tom Marwick, Director  
Associate Professor Karam Kostner, Leader – Lipid Research group  
Dr Sudhir Wahi, Leader – Valve Research  
Dr Matt Hordern, Post-Doctoral Fellow  
Dr Bruno Jesuthasan, Post-Doctoral Fellow  
Dr Sandhir Prasad, Post-Doctoral Fellow
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Chai-Keat See</td>
<td>Post-Doctoral Fellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr James Sharman</td>
<td>Post-Doctoral Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Tony Stanton</td>
<td>Post-Doctoral Fellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Haluska, Senior Research Officer</td>
<td>Sonographer</td>
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<td>Rodel Leano, Research Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carly Jenkins, Research Officer</td>
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<td>Leanne Jeffriess, Research Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Brown, Research Assistant / Database Supervisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Christine Staatz</td>
<td>Research Fellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Taylor, Senior Scientist</td>
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<td>Michael Franklin, Scientist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Professor Peter Pillans</td>
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<td>Paul Taylor, Senior Scientist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Franklin, Scientist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor H. Peter Soyer, Chair and Professor of Dermatology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Professor Stephen Gilmore, Associate Professor of Dermatology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Graham Stephenson, Senior Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole Lin, Personal Assistant to Professor Soyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Alan Stocks Emeritus, Physician (Visiting Consultant)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Merryn Thomae, Advanced Endocrine Trainee</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Amanda Love, Advanced Endocrine Trainee</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Judy Hadwen, Chief Medical Registrar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Janelle Nisbet, Research Fellow, PhD Student</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Cynthia Ong, Research Fellow, PhD Student</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Liza Phillips, Research Fellow, PhD Student</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephanie Ipavec Levasseur, PhD Student</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sally Skuthorpe, Nurse Unit Manager</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Denise Bennetts, Diabetic Educator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roisine Warwick, Diabetic Educator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Tony Stanton</td>
<td>Post-Doctoral Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Emily Mackenzie, Endocrinologist</td>
<td>(Part Time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor David McIntyre, Endocrinologist</td>
<td>(Part Time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Trisha O’Moore-Sullivan, Endocrinologist</td>
<td>(Part Time)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor John Prins, Professor of Endocrinology, Chair, Centres for Health Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Clair Sullivan, Endocrinologist</td>
<td>(Part Time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Margaret Williamson, Senior Visiting</td>
<td>Endocrinologist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Michelle Leong, Endocrinologist</td>
<td>(Visiting Consultant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Brian Hirschfeld, Diabetologist</td>
<td>(Visiting Consultant)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dr Bevan Lowe, Locum Staff Specialist
Dr James Collier, Staff Specialist
Dr Andrew Staib, Staff Specialist
Dr Iain McNeill, Staff Specialist
Dr Tina Stathakis, Staff Specialist
Dr Darren Powrie, Staff Specialist
Dr Hector Fuentes, Staff Specialist
Dr Sean Lawrence, Staff Specialist
Dr Ellen Burkett, Staff Specialist
Julie Finucane, Nurse Unit Manager, Adj Senior Lecturer
UQ, Executive Director College of Emergency Nursing
Australasia
Collette Owens, Nurse Manager
Jan Gehrke, Clinical Nurse Consultant
Nicole Mitchell, Clinical Nurse Consultant
Cathy Davis, Acting Clinical Nurse Consultant (Chair
Research Portfolio - Nursing)
Trina Cambourne, Acting Nurse Educator
Dr Roy Mulcahy
Dr Marianne Cannon
Dr Andrew Parkin
Dr John Isoardi
Dr Peter McSweeney
Dale Mason, Acting CNC, Trauma Registry (Part-Time)
Kerri Holzhauser, Nurse Researcher
Eleanor Hammond (Rose), Acting Nurse Researcher
Nicola Melton, Research Officer

Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Associate Professor Graeme Macdonald, Director
Dr Luke Hourigan, Clinical Director Endoscopy
Dr Leisa Barrett, Consultant Physician
Professor Darrell Crawford, Consultant Physician
Dr James Daveson, Consultant Physician
Dr Bradley Kendall, Consultant Physician
Dr Elizabeth Powell, Consultant Physician
Dr Rebecca Ryan, Consultant Physician
Dr Katherine Stuart, Consultant Physician
Dr Peter Whiting, Consultant Physician
Dr Linda Fletcher, Senior Scientist
Dr Kim Bridle, Scientific Research Staff
Dr Mandy Heritage, Scientific Research Staff
Dr Ingrid Hickman, Scientific Research Staff
Lesley Jaskowski, Scientific Research Staff
Dianne Jones, Scientific Research Staff
Geraldine Lipka, Scientific Research Staff
Therese Murphy, Scientific Research Staff
Amy Sobbe, Scientific Research Staff
Dr Lara Kane, Senior Gastrology Registrar / Clinical
Hepatology Fellow
Dr Dinesh Jothimani, Fellow in Hepatology and Medical
Education
Dr Griff Walker, Interventional Endoscopy Fellow
Dr Paul Clark, Advanced Trainee
Dr Caroline Tallis, Advanced Trainee
Fiona Giddens, Clinical Trials
Alison Cunnington, Clinical Trials
Leigh Horsfall, Clinical Trials
Cathy Moss, Clinical Trials
Sid Siddle, Clinical Trials
Leanne Foxcroft, Nurse Unit Manager Endoscopy Unit
Jo Sexton, Hepatitis C Shared Care Co-Ordinator
Eshter Drommel, Queensland Bowel Cancer Screening
Program
## Hypertension

- **Associate Professor Michael Stowasser**, Director, Hypertension Unit; Co-director, Endocrine Hypertension Research Centre and Associate Professor, University of Queensland School of Medicine
- **Diane Cowley**, Hypertension Nurse
- **Christine Ossenberg**, Hypertension Nurse
- **Dr Norlela Sukor**, PhD Student
- **Paul Taylor**, PhD Student
- **Dr Ashraf Ahmed**, PhD Student
- **Dr Sandie Staermose**, Hypertension Registrar / Clinical Research Fellow
- **Yvette Jeske**, Research Assistant
- **Alison Dowling**, Research Assistant
- **Corwin Willys - MBBS Hons Student**, Research Assistant
- **Emeritus Professor Richard Gordon**, Honorary Research Consultant, Endocrine Hypertension Research Centre, University of Queensland School of Medicine, Greenslopes and Princess Alexandra Hospitals
- **Dianne Robson**, Hypertension Nurse, Hypertension Unit, Greenslopes Private Hospital
- **Cynthia Kogovsek**, Hypertension Nurse, Hypertension Unit, Greenslopes Private Hospital

## Infection Management Services

- **Dr Michael Whitby**, Director
- **Dr David Looke**, Consultant
- **Dr Wendy Munckhof**, Consultant
- **Dr Geoffrey Playford**, Consultant
- **Dr Kate McCarthy**, Consultant
- **Dr Brian Dwyer**, Consultant
- **Dr Jennifer Broom**, Visiting Medical Officer
- **Dr David Jardine**, Senior Medical Officer, Sexual Health
- **Dr Cheryn Palmer**, Senior Medical Officer, Sexual Health
- **Dr Tony Morton**, Consultant Statistician
- **Dr Keat Choong**, Advanced Trainee
- **Dr Trent Yarwood**, Advanced Trainee
- **Kylie Selwood**, Acting Nurse Unit Manager, Ward 5D
- **Belinda Henderson**, CNC – Infection Control
- **Catherine Watson**, CNC – Infection Control
- **Rebecca Adams**, CNC – Infection Control
- **Peter Gallagher**, Nurse Unit Manager, Alternate Site Infusion Service
- **Dee Archbold**, Nurse Unit Manager, Sexual Health
- **Dr Margaret Lindsay**, Scientific Co-ordinator, Infection Control
- **David McDougall**, Pharmacist, ASIS
- **Barbara Johnson**, Quality Co-ordinator, Infection Management Services
- **Sean Unwin**, Pharmacist, Infection Management Services

## Intensive Care

- **Associate Professor Chris Joyce**, Director
- **Dr Peter Kruger**, Deputy Director
- **Professor Bala Venkatesh**, Director of Research
- **Professor Leanne Aitken**, Chair Critical Care Nursing
- **Dr David Cook**, Senior Staff Specialist
- **Dr David Fraenkel**, Senior Staff Specialist
- **Dr Anand Krishnan**, Staff Specialist
- **Dr Ros Purcell**, Staff Specialist
- **Dr Leo Nunnink**, Staff Specialist
- **Dr James Walsham**, Staff Specialist
- **Dr Gordon Laurie**, Staff Specialist
- **Dr Wayne Kelly**, Visiting Medical Officer
### Internal Medicine and Clinical Epidemiology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor, Director</td>
<td>Ian Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr, Senior Medical Officer</td>
<td>Golam Khadem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr, Senior Visiting Medical Officer</td>
<td>Graham Hall</td>
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### Liver Research

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<tr>
<td>Associate Professor, Head</td>
<td>Elizabeth Powell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Professor, Head</td>
<td>Julie Jonsson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Professor, Senior Staff</td>
<td>Andrew Clouston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr, Senior Staff</td>
<td>Scott Ward</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helen Barrie, Research Staff</td>
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### Medical Oncology

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<tr>
<td>Associate Professor, Director</td>
<td>Damien Thomson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor, Senior Medical Oncologist, Director of Cancer Services, Metro South</td>
<td>Euan Walpole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr</td>
<td>Natasha Woodward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr, Medical Oncologist</td>
<td>Alex Guminski</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr, Medical Oncologist</td>
<td>Elizabeth McCaffrey</td>
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<td>Dr, Medical Oncologist</td>
<td>Warren Joubert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr, Medical Oncologist</td>
<td>Victoria Atkinson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr, Senior Medical Oncologist, Visiting Medical Officer</td>
<td>Keith Horwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Stoneley, Research Unit Co-ordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Arnold, Research Nurse</td>
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<td>Mary Ashmead, Research Nurse</td>
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<td>Paul Baxter, Research Nurse</td>
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<td>Sharon Cox, Data Manager</td>
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Dr David Sturgess, Research Fellow, Intensive Care
Samantha Clayton, Nurse Unit Manager
Jennifer Robertson, Acting Nurse Unit Manager
Michael Abbey, Clinical Nurse Consultant
Sharon Wetzig, Clinical Nurse Consultant
Danielle Griffiths, Acting Clinical Nurse Consultant
Fiona Jennings, Acting Clinical Nurse Consultant
Alison Juers, Nurse Educator
Cheryl Buschel, Nurse Educator
Jane-Louise Cook, Nurse Educator
Leanne Jack, Clinical Nurse Researcher
Regina Boyce, Clinical Nurse Researcher
Meg Harward, Research Coordinator
Anne Hughes, Research Coordinator
Jean Helyar, Research Assistant
Liz Burmeister, Research Assistant
Jennie Abbey, Research Assistant
Professor Wendy Chaboyer, Visiting Scholar, Griffith University
Dr Marion Mitchell, Visiting Scholar, Griffith University

Dr Su Mien Yeoh, Visiting Medical Officer
Dr Catherine Yelland, Senior Staff Specialist, GARU
Associate Professor Peter Pillans, Director, Clinical Pharmacology

Karli McSweeney, Research Staff
Luani Barge, Research Staff
Dr Dinesh Jothimani, Research Staff
Leigh Horsfall, Research Staff
Cathy Moss, Research Staff

Dr Keith Horwood, Senior Medical Oncologist, Visiting Medical Officer
Dr Maree Colosimo, Senior Medical Oncologist, Visiting Medical Officer
Adam Stoneley, Research Unit Co-ordinator
Susan Arnold, Research Nurse
Mary Ashmead, Research Nurse
Paul Baxter, Research Nurse
Sharon Cox, Data Manager
Nephrology

Professor David Johnson, Director of Nephrology, Chair of Medicine, Professor of Medicine, Professor of Population Health, Head of the Centre for Kidney Disease Research

Dr Scott Campbell, Deputy Director of Nephrology

Associate Professor Carmel Hawley, Consultant Nephrologist, Chair of the Australasian Kidney Trials Network Operations Secretariat

Associate Professor Nicole Isbel, Consultant Nephrologist, Co-Chair of the Cardiovascular, Metabolic and Renal Centre of Clinical Research Excellence

Associate Professor David Mudge, Consultant Nephrologist

Dr Carolyn van Eps, Consultant nephrologist

Dr David Vesey, Senior Research Scientist, Renal Research Laboratory

Dr Jeremy Frazier, Chief Renal Registrar

Dr Katherine Barraclough, Chief Renal Registrar

Dr Rhianna Miles, Renal Registrar

Dr Sridevi Govindarajulu, Renal Registrar

Dr Brian Siva, Renal Registrar

Dr Omar Kaisar, Renal Research Fellow

Dr Will Petchey, Renal Research Fellow

Dr Carolyn Clark, Renal Research Fellow

Alison Martin, Nurse Unit Manager, Renal Clinical Research Unit

Joanna Sudak, Research Nurse

Kirsten Franzen, Research Nurse

Kylie Hurst, Data Manager, Renal and Renal Transplant Unit

Rachel Pidcock, Research Nurse

Diana Leary, Research Nurse

Venita Bali, Research Nurse

Suzanne Halbish, Clinical Nurse

Natasha Old, Research Nurse

Jennifer Edmunds, Research Nurse

Karen Sonnenburg, Research Nurse

Linda Orazio, Dietician

Bettina Douglas, Research Nurse, Dialysis & Transplantation Nurse Practitioner, Adjunct Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Queensland

Dr John Burke, Visiting Consultant Nephrologist

Dr James Petrie, Visiting Consultant Nephrologist

Dr Troy Kay, Visiting Consultant Nephrologist

Dr Steven McTaggart, Visiting Consultant Nephrologist

Dr Omar Kaisar, Visiting Consultant Nephrologist

Dr Robyn Caterson, Visiting Consultant Nephrologist

Dr James Swao, Visiting Consultant Nephrologist

Dr Jenny Wong, Visiting Consultant Nephrologist

Nursing Practice Development

Dr Sarah Winch, Nursing Director, Research

Kerri Holzhauser, Acting Nursing Director, Research

Dr Amanda Henderson, Nursing Director, Education

Eleanor Milligan, Clinical Ethics Co-ordinator
Ramon Shaban, Joint Research Fellow Infection Control
Eleanor Hammond, Nurse Researcher
Gillian Ray-Barruel, Nurse Researcher
Vikki Tomlinson, Nurse Researcher
Jean Hellyar, Nurse Researcher

Emma Eaton, Nurse Educator
Alison Trivella, Nurse Educator
Michelle Twentyman, Nurse Educator
Tim Michaux, Executive Support Officer
Elaine Bull, Executive Support Officer

**Nutrition and Dietetics**

Dr Maree Ferguson, Director
Dr Angela Vivanti, Research and Development Dietitian
Dr Winsome Abbott, Senior Advanced Level Dietitian
Azmat Ali, Acting Team Leader

Wendy Davidson, Acting Team Leader
Helen Porteous, Acting Team Leader
Nora Ramos, Foodservice Dietitian
Linda Orazio, Dietitian Nutritionist, Research Staff

**Occupational Therapy**

Mary Whitehead, Director, Occupational Therapy Department
Ruth Cox, Acting Director, Occupational Therapy Department
Geoff Lau, Acting Director, Occupational Therapy Department
Dr Jenny Fleming, Conjoint Senior Research Fellow, UQ and PAH
Suzanne Stirling, Evidence-Based Practice Champion
Jodie Carolan, Evidence-Based Practice Champion
Nicole Weir, Rehabilitation
Janelle Griffin, Rehabilitation
Kylie Bower, Rehabilitation
Julie-Anne Ross, Rehabilitation
Glenda Price, Spinal Injuries Unit
Mary Little, Hands and Plastics
Amanda Purcell, Cancer Services

Nicole Coffey, Cardiology
Cecile Prescott, Acute Services
Penny Whitelaw, Researcher
Annette Fisher, Researcher
Adrienne Slaughter, Researcher
Angela Boyce, Researcher
Laura Worley, Researcher
Ann Maree Collier, Researcher
Emily Nalder, Researcher
Emmah Doig, Researcher
Ben Turner, Researcher
Hannah Gill, Researcher
Celeste Glasgow, Researcher
Ea Stewart, Researcher

**Older Persons Mental Health**

Dr David Lie, Director
Carolyn Coombes, Team Leader
Janet Meadows, Nursing Unit Manager

Rebecca Parker, Policy Officer
Susan Austin, Node Manager
Pathology Queensland

Dr Glenn Francis, Head of Molecular and Clinical Pathology Research Laboratory
Sandra Stein, Research Assistant
Sarah Wagner, Research Assistant
Amy Chiang, Research Scientist
Helen McCosker, Student
Kathryn Salkield, Student

Pharmacy Department

Lynette Loy, Director
Lee Allam, Assistant Director
Frank Czajkowski, Assistant Director
Bryson Swan, Assistant Director
Robyn Hurley, Clinical Trials Pharmacist
Tina Patterson, DUE Pharmacist
Julia Bates, Senior Pharmacist Sterile Production Centre
Janet Weir, Oncology / Haematology Unit
David Wojewoda, Oncology / Haematology Unit
Vivien Chan, Oncology / Haematology Unit
Trang Le, Oncology / Haematology Unit
Judith Coombes, Senior Pharmacists Education, Conjoint Lecturer School of Pharmacy, University of Queensland
Karl Winckel, Senior Pharmacists Education, Conjoint Lecturer School of Pharmacy, University of Queensland
Jo Sturtevant, Senior Clinical Pharmacist Renal and Transplant
Cathy Lynch, Senior Clinical Pharmacist
Libby Donegan, Senior Clinical Pharmacist
Sean Unwin, Senior Pharmacist Infectious Diseases

Physiotherapy

Kathy Grudzinskas, Director
Cherie Hearn, Assistant Director
Suzanne Kuys, Research Fellow
Urszula Dolecka, Senior Physiotherapist - Acute Aged Care and Cancer Services
Janelle Gesch, Senior Physiotherapist - Neurosciences
Tony Cassar, Senior Physiotherapist - Critical Care
Sharon Chatterton, Senior Physiotherapist - Cardiac Sciences and Respiratory
Josh Simmons, Senior Physiotherapist – Acting Spinal Injuries
Brett Baxter, Senior Physiotherapist - Musculoskeletal Inpatients
Peter Tonks, Senior Physiotherapist - Musculoskeletal Outpatients
Louise Matthews, Senior Physiotherapist - Specialised Spinal Physiotherapy Clinics and Multidisciplinary Service
Greg Morrison, Senior Physiotherapist - Geriatric Assessment and Rehabilitation

Queensland Clinical Trials Centre - Biostatistics

Elaine Beller, Director
Dr Melissa Starfield, Manager
Charles Thompson, Junior Statistician
Dr Conrad Leonard, Data Manager
Mohana Rajmokan, Data Manager
Jan Alexander, Data Manager
Queensland Melanoma

Associate Professor B Mark Smithers, General Surgeon, Senior Lecturer The University of Queensland Department of Surgery, Chairman Queensland Melanoma Project Princess Alexandra Hospital, Chairman Upper GI and Soft Tissue Unit Princess Alexandra Hospital

Dr Stan Jones, General Surgeon

Dr Andrew Barbour, General Surgeon, Senior Lecturer The University of Queensland Department of Surgery, Specialist Surgeon Upper GI and Soft Tissue Unit Princess Alexandra Hospital

Dr Gerard Bayley, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon, Visiting Medical Officer Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Unit Princess Alexandra Hospital

Dr Christopher Allan, General Surgeon, The University of Queensland Department of Surgery, Visiting Medical Office Melanoma Unit Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Janine Thomas, Clinical Trials Co-ordinator

Ben Shea, Research Nurse

Sharan Burton, Research Nurse

Queensland Spinal Cord Injuries Service

Dr Tim Geraghty, Director Queensland Spinal Cord Injuries Service, Rehabilitation Physician

Dr Susan Urquhart, Senior Medical Officer, Rehabilitation Medicine

Dr Wilbur Chan, Part-Time Staff Specialist, Rehabilitation Physician

Alison New, Nurse Unit Manager

Tricia Fronek, Senior Social Worker

Josh Simmons, Senior Physiotherapist

Glenda Price, Senior Occupational Therapist

Karleigh Kwapil, Clinical Neuropsychologist

Rachael Jones, Clinical Nurse Consultant

Brooke Wadsworth, Physiotherapist

Spinal Outreach Team

Kiley Pershouse, Programme Manager

Delena Amsters, Research Officer

Sarita Schuurs, Research Officer

Dr Ruth Barker, Honorary Associate

Dr Pim Kuipers, Honorary Associate

Transitional Rehabilitation Program

Greg Ungerer, Manager

Melissa Kendall, Research and Development Officer

Michelle Myburg, Occupational therapist

Sue Booth, Social Worker

Jennifer Campbell, Physiotherapist

Melissa Wallace, Occupational Therapist

Jodie Harper, Clinical Nurse

Radiation Oncology Centre (Mater)

Associate Professor Michael Poulsen, Director

Dr Guy Bryant, Oncologist

Associate Professor Jonathan Ramsay, Radiation Oncologist

Dr Kumar Gogna, Radiation Oncologist
Dr Jennifer Harvey, Radiation Oncologist  
Dr Judy Cox  
Dr Tanya Holt, Registrar  
Dr Andrew Pullar  
Dr Tiffany Daly, Medical Officer  
Dr Helen Peres, Radiation Oncologist  
Dr Matthew Foote, Registrar  
Dr Pat Dwyer, Registrar  
Dr Nicolle Buddle, Medical Officer  
Dr Caroline Round  
Simon McQuitty, Director - Radiation Therapy Services  
Timothy Deegan, Radiation Therapist  
Adrian Gibbs, Principal Physicist  
Pauline Rose, Nurse Unit Manager  
Sally Whiting, Registered Nurse  
Jennifer Donoghue, Registered Nurse  
Kacy Baumann, Clinical Trials Co-ordinator  
Adrienne See, Clinical Trials Co-ordinator  
Narelle Wallace, Clinical Trials QA Co-ordinator  

Radiation Oncology Centre (PAH)  
Professor Bryan Burmeister, Director of Radiation Oncology  
Dr Andrew Pullar, Radiation Oncologist  
Dr Jennifer Harvey, Radiation Oncologist  
Dr Margot Lehman, Radiation Oncologist  
Associate Professor Sandro Porceddu, Radiation Oncologist  
Dr Tao Mai, Radiation Oncologist  
Jennie Baxter, Director of Radiation Therapy  
Alan Glyde, Lead Research Radiation Therapist  
Elizabeth Brown, Lead Research Radiation Therapist  
Heath Foley, Lead Research Radiation Therapist  
Helen O'Gorman, Lead Research Radiation Therapist  
Janet Ferrari, Lead Research Radiation Therapist  
Jenny Tran, Lead Research Radiation Therapist  
Kirsty Davidson, Lead Research Radiation Therapist  
Kylie Van Den Bosch, Lead Research Radiation Therapist  
Melissa Scott, Lead Research Radiation Therapist  
Michelle Mauro, Lead Research Radiation Therapist  
Natalie Barnes, Lead Research Radiation Therapist  
Shona Barry, Lead Research Radiation Therapist  
Simon Brown, Lead Research Radiation Therapist  
Thanh Bui, Lead Research Radiation Therapist  
Susan Golding, Radiation Oncology Nurse  
Amanda Purcell, Occupational Therapist  
Jenny Fleming, Occupational Therapist  
Adam Stoneley, Research Unit Co-ordinator  
Janelle Meakin, Research Co-ordinator  
Jen Suffolk, Research Co-ordinator  
Josephine Logan, Research Co-ordinator  
Kim Wright, Research Co-ordinator  
Mary Ashmead, Research Co-ordinator  
Nancy D'Arcy, Research Co-ordinator  

Respiratory and Sleep Medicine  
Professor John Upham, Head  
Dr Stephanie Yerkovich, Senior Scientist  
Dr Janet Davies, Senior Scientist  
Alisa Poh, Research Staff
Melanie Hunt, Research Staff
Darren Kirkegard, Research Staff
Hongzhuo Li, Research Staff
Michelle Towers, Clinical Research

Dr Daniel Smith, Clinical Research
Dr John Armstrong, Clinical Research
Dr Craig Hukins, Clinical Research

Social Work

Sue Cumming, Director
Margo Newman, Aged Care
Patricia Fronek, Rehabilitation and Disability
Sherryl Searles, Cancer, Oncology and Cardiac
Angela Tonge, Trauma and Critical Care

Patricia Harrower, Aged Care
Associate Professor Cheryl Tilse, Director Postgraduate Research Studies, School of Social Work and Human Services, The University of Queensland
Dr Margaret Shapiro (retired), School of Social Work and Human Services, The University of Queensland

Speech Pathology

Wendy McCallum, Director Speech Pathology
Dr Petrea Cornwell, Research Fellow, Speech Pathology – The University of Queensland / PAH
Kathy Clark, Senior Speech Pathologist, GARU
Kelli Hancock, Senior Speech Pathologist, Acute, and Advanced Clinician
Bena Riddle, Acting Senior Speech Pathologist, Acute
Paula Addis, Advanced Clinician, Rehabilitation

Dr Jenny Lethlean - Advanced Clinician, Stroke and Senior Lecturer
Kelly Beak (nee Read), Speech Pathologist
Brooke Duggan, Speech Pathologist
Carly Freebairn, Speech Pathologist
Joanna Rhee, Speech Pathologist
Leanne Smith, Speech Pathologist
Kerrin Watter, Speech Pathologist

Therapeutics Research

Professor Mike Roberts, Director
Dr Jeff Grice, Group Leader & Research Officer
Dr Tom Robertson, Group Leader & Research Officer
Dr Washington Sanchez, Research Officer
Dr Owen Jepps, Research Officer
Dr Xin Liu, Research Officer
Dr Yuri Dancik, Research Officer
Jenny Ordonez, Research Assistant
Dr Yuhong Zou, Research Officer
Dr PengTjun Choy, Group Leader & Research Officer

Dr Greg Medley, Research Officer
Camilla Thorling, Research Assistant
Dr Andrew Dalley, Research Officer
Dr Julijana Nikolovski, Research Officer
Dr Lingling Ren, Research Assistant
Genevieve Staines, Executive Support Officer
Ya-Ting Wu, Research Student
Dr Kanchana Ranasinghe, Research Student
Dr Peter Kruger, Research Student
Sukhpreet Kaur, Research Student
Upper Gastro-Intestinal

Associate Professor B Mark Smithers, General Surgeon, Senior Lecturer The University of Queensland Department of Surgery, Chairman Queensland Melanoma Project Princess Alexandra Hospital, Chairman Upper GI and Soft Tissue Unit Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Professor David Gotley, General Surgeon, Professor The University of Queensland Department of Surgery, Specialist Surgeon Upper GI and Soft Tissue Unit Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Dr Ian Martin, General Surgeon, Visiting Medical Officer Upper GI and Soft Tissue Unit Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Dr Andrew Barbour, General Surgeon, Senior Lecturer The University of Queensland Department of Surgery, Specialist Surgeon Upper GI and Soft Tissue Unit Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Dr Justin Greenslade, General Surgeon, Visiting Medical Officer Upper GI and Soft Tissue Unit Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Dr Cuong Duong, Senior Fellow

Dr Iain Thomson, Research Fellow

Emma Woodhall (PhD), Scientist

Janine Thomas, Clinical Trials Co-ordinator
## PhD Completions

- Abbott, Winsome
- De Kuyver, Rachel
- Fanning, Kent
- Haluska, Brian
- Hannawi, Dr Suad
- Hordern, Matt
- Jenkins, Carly

## PhD Commencements

- Ahmed, Ashraf
- Bower, Kylie
- Brooks, Kelly
- Davidson, Stuart
- Gannon, Orla

## PhD in Progress

- Abd Warif, Nor Malia
- Astuti, Puji
- Bennett, Nigel
- Brancato, Tania
- Broom, Jennifer
- Calleja, Pauline
- Cameron, Sarina
- Chan, Dora
- Chapman, John
- Charlton, Hayley

- Cheung, Vivian
- Clark, Carolyn
- Cohen, Dr Jeremy
- Davidson, Stuart
- Dissanyaka, Nadeeka
- Doig, Emmah
- Drabsch, Yvette
- Fronke, Patricia
- Gill, Hannah
- Glasgow, Celeste

- Hare, Dr James
- Harrison, Matthew
- Holland, David
- Ipavec Levasseur, Stephanie
- Irving, Aaron
- Jack, Leanne
- Jellis, Dr Christine
- Kaisar, Dr Omar
- Kanagarajah, Ash
- Kendall, Melissa
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### Masters Completions

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### Masters Commencements

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### Masters In Progress

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<tr>
<td>Bryce, Vivian (Graduate Diploma in Cardiac Nursing)</td>
<td>Fiorenza, Salvatore</td>
<td>Padget, Michelle (Graduate Certificate in Health Management)</td>
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</table>
Contact Us

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