



2017

PAH Centres for Health Research

Princess Alexandra Hospital's Centres for Health Research (CHR) is one of Australia's leading health research organisations.

The CHR encompasses more than 50 groups, engaged in leading research across the Princess Alexandra Hospital campus and helping drive the evolution of healthcare globally.

Under the stewardship of Metro South Health and its Chairman, Mr Terry White AO, Princess Alexandra Hospital has long been recognised as a leader in translational research, with a strong culture of collaboration between clinicians, scientists, university partners and industry.

This collaboration was on display at the 57th annual Princess Alexandra Hospital Health Symposium 1–4 August, featuring an expanded program and increased attendance that began with the opening by Minister for Health and Ambulance Services the Hon. Cameron Dick and Professor Ian Frazer AC. Professor Paul Aylin, Imperial College London presented the Keynote Presentation titled "From big to bigger: The potential for 'big data' to improve patient care". The 2017 Princess Alexandra Hospital Health Symposium was closed with a special session focusing on domestic and family violence titled "Let's continue the conversation" and facilitated by Ms Kay McGrath OAM, Chair, Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council.

Themed *Personalised Medicine – the future of healthcare*, the Symposium focused on current and future digital innovations benefitting research and clinical outcomes for patients. Ms Rabia Siddique's delivery of the Kurt Aaron Oration was inspirational and touched the lives of many as she spoke about her own personal journey with abuse, humanitarianism and life as a soldier and prisoner of war. She received a standing ovation on her presentation titled "Returning to our Core".

Our partnerships with the TRI and Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners, both located on the Princess Alexandra Hospital campus, is another example of a collaborative approach to healthcare. These partnerships are born from a shared desire to innovate and is critical for the CHR to continue to develop into a global exemplar of medical innovation, both now and in the future.

The CHR continued to build on the foundations established in previous years, strengthening ongoing partnerships and expanding the portfolio of research projects.

Enhancing research capacity and capability within Metro South Health.

During 2017, the CHR was able to implement a number of significant initiatives that enhance research capacity and capability within Metro South Health with direction from Executive and the support of the Metro South Health Study Education and Research Trust Account (SERTA).

>1000

active research projects

>300

clinical trials

659

research publications

\$18+ million

direct research expenditure
2016/17

Performance 2017

▲ 8.9%

increase in publications

355

new research
projects authorised

499

new human research
ethics approvals

Transition of the Leukaemia and Lymphoma Tissue Bank from Pathology Queensland to Metro South Health—an initiative that will not only sustain a valued resource for researchers, but also position the Princess Alexandra Hospital for future developments in personalised and precision medicine

Extension of Biostatistical Support from a half-time service to full-time – increasing the availability of this important service to researchers.

NHMRC Good Practice Process for clinical trials.

Metro South Health was, for the second year, selected by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to implement new *Good Practice Process for clinical trials*. As one of just eight organisations nationally, Metro South Health successfully completed Phase 2 of the Good Practice Process implementation. Clinical trials provide our clients and patients with access to new treatments and are an important step in translating research into clinical practice. The Good Practice Process aims to enable efficient and effective site assessment and authorisation of clinical trials, leading to a decrease in the time taken for clinical trials commencement.

Highlights 2017

Research Grants

Researchers based at Princess Alexandra Hospital continued their track record of success in securing National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and other competitive grants throughout 2017. These grants helped to drive innovation across a broad range of research areas, including Orthopaedics, Dermatology, Cardiology and more.

Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand (HSRAANZ) Impact Award

Professor Ian Scott, who became the first person to receive the HSRAANZ Impact Award, given in recognition of health services research that has had a significant impact on health and healthcare and to promote examples of outstanding research that has been successfully translated into health policy, management, or clinical practice.

Zika Mozzie Seeker Project

Metro South Health's Zika Mozzie Seeker Project took out the "pursuing innovation" award at the 2017 Queensland Health Awards for Excellence. The team behind the innovative project was presented with the award by Director-General of QH, Michael Walsh, at a special ceremony. The ground-breaking citizen science project encourages members of the public to contribute to important scientific research by taking part in backyard mosquito monitoring. Residents set up DIY mozzie egg traps at home, collect egg, and send them back to be identified in the lab. The project uses a world first method of DNA analysis for the presence of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito species. The aim is

to confirm the belief that this species, which has the potential to spread Zika and dengue viruses, have not invaded the Metro South region. The project is a collaborative of Metro South Health's Public Health Unit and QH Forensic and Scientific Services.

The Hopkins Centre launch

Establishment and official launch of The Hopkins Centre - Research for Rehabilitation and Resilience on 24th February 2017. The Hopkins Centre was launched by the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Cameron Dick, The Hopkins Centre – Research for Rehabilitation and Resilience and brought together almost 150 senior clinicians and researchers from Metro South Health and Griffith University, to produce impactful research in disability and rehabilitation. The Centre is committed to improving disability and rehabilitation practices, service delivery and systems by developing, translating and implementing interdisciplinary research evidence about real world problems and has premises at Griffith University Logan campus, Gold Coast campus and Princess Alexandra Hospital, Metro South Health. The combination of these locations facilitate opportunities for research exchange and excellence between clinical experts, practitioner researcher and academics. The Centre is ideally positioned to lead translation of research into policy and clinical practice as it brings together and formalises collaborations between experienced rehabilitation clinicians, expert academic researchers, community practitioners, policy-makers and consumers. The Centre focuses on research of relevance to people living with the long-term consequences

of acquired brain injury, amputation, persistent pain, and spinal cord injury as well as developmental, age-related and other life-long disabling conditions. By creating an environment for sustainable collaborations and partnerships, we will expand research potential and impact in Queensland and beyond.

Princess Alexandra Hospital Stroke Unit success story

Princess Alexandra Hospital stroke unit, in collaboration with Emergency and Radiology departments, has achieved a major reduction in "door-to-needle" at our hospital from 92 minutes to 25 minutes within hours and increased the proportion of ischemic patients receiving thrombolysis to 40% (previous local and national average 13%). This has also translated into 93% of patients getting the thrombolytic agent within 60 min of hospital arrival, a major improvement compared to the previous local rate of 3.5 % (30% nationally, 59% in USA and 62% UK). This work was well received at a recent international stroke conference and has positioned Princess Alexandra Hospital as a leading centre for stroke in Australia. Princess Alexandra Hospital media unit along with other media outlets have covered this great achievement by the unit.

Commendations for exemplary leadership

Professor H. Peter Soyer received a Commendation at the UQ Excellence awards for Leadership in 2017. This award recognises and celebrates exemplary leadership which create a positive performance-based culture and contributes to the achievements of the university.