



Metro South Research Weekly Update

Tuesday, 14 April 2020

To all MSH researchers and clinicians,

Metro South Research would like to thank you for your continued support during this unprecedented time. In order to ensure our community remains informed we'd like to provide the following updates:

Ethics and Governance Update

Annual Reports

- Where possible, please submit your Annual Progress Reports as close to 30 April 2020 as possible.
- It is understood that research teams may be deployed to clinical areas during this time, therefore Progress Reports will be accepted as soon as practical within a 3 month grace period.

COVID-19 Research

- Please clearly indicate within the data fields in ERM if your submission is COVID-19 related, to enable prioritisation of review.
- If you are considering conducting a study related to COVID-19 please contact the HREC Office via MSH-Ethics@health.qld.gov.au to ensure correct submission requirements are met.

HIRO

- The Queensland Clinical Trial Coordinating Unit are offering to assist COVID-19 researchers submit a new ethics or governance application. They can be contacted via QCTCU@health.qld.gov.au
- ARCS have launched a call out for volunteers (particularly non-clinical) with skills and expertise in Clinical Trials to help out sites during the pandemic disruption. ARCS will match skills to where skills are needed to ensure essential work continues in our industry. If you are interested in volunteering, please see the [ARCS Events Bulletin](#) for more information.

Research Funding

Grants

- In response to COVID-19 the [Australian Research Council \(ARC\)](#) is offering extensions to submit grant applications and extensions to post-award reporting obligations and variations to current research projects.

- [Advance Queensland Industry Research Fellowships](#) - The advertised fellowships program that was scheduled to close on 21 April 2020 has been closed. This round has been re-purposed to focus on fellowships that support COVID-19 research

NHMRC

- The NHMRC is providing regular COVID-19 updates via [NHMRC – Tracker](#) and [Update – Changes to NHMRC 2020 Funding Schemes](#).

Managing Clinical Trials

- Various organisations are providing helpful webinars related to clinical trials activities in the current climate:
 - [The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(RACGP\)](#)
 - PRAXIS [Australia Managing Clinical Trials in a time of uncertainty](#)
- The Department of Health has provided relevant information on their website regarding [COVID-19: Guidance on clinical trials for institutions, HRECs, researchers and sponsors](#)

Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners (BDHP)

- [BDHP](#) leveraging its partnership to support the progress of Queensland clinical research and innovations that provide treatments for patients with the new Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- To support research facilitation during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Western Australia Health Translation Network – RETProgram will provide Australian Health Research Alliance members, including BDHP and our partner organisations, with a discount to access the Good Clinical Practice (GCP) course.
- Until 1 June 2020, each participant will now pay only \$30 for this course. You can access this discount by selecting “AHRA members” as the primary workplace when enrolling in the RETProgram. Please direct any queries to the RETProgram Support Team by emailing researcheducation@retprogram.org or phoning (08) 6151 0878.

It is important to note that all non-clinical staff within the Metro South Research office are working remotely and should be contacted via email if required. If you need help or support during this time please contact the Metro South Research team via email MSH-Research@health.qld.gov.au



Professor John Upham
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Metro South Health

